

FEATURE | The Last Beat: Venriel Agaran's Dance Between Triumph and Sorrow

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In the heart of every beat and every step, there's a story that refuses to stay still. Among the powerhouse performers of the College of Engineering's champion hip-hop team, one dancer stands out—not because he tries to, but because his energy commands the stage. His movements, sharp yet fluid, seem to pull the audience into a rhythm that's both fierce and freeing. For **Venriel Niño Agaran**, a 4th year Civil Engineering student and proud member of COE's LIMITLEZZ Crew, dancing is not merely a talent but a form of therapy, a way to translate his energy and emotions into movement.

For two consecutive years, their team has dominated the dance floor, bringing home the title and redefining what it means to move with purpose. Yet beyond the trophies and cheers lies the unseen effort—the long nights of rehearsals, the bruises disguised by bright smiles, and the quiet moments of doubt that fuel determination. Through all of this, he remains one of the group's most impactful presences—a dancer whose commitment transcends choreography.

Agaran shared that the governing force that keeps pushing him to dance for the college is the grit to bring back the third consecutive championship in Streetdance. *“COE has set a winning culture in the past decade, and we want to maintain that excellence,”* he stated. His words mirror the ethos of the College of Engineering—a culture of discipline, resilience, and triumph. Yet, behind every polished performance lies the demanding life of a student-engineer. For Agaran, balancing academics and dance takes clarity and control. *“Know your priorities,”* he said simply. ***“When it is time to be a student, keep your focus on being a student. When it is time to be a dancer, show your skills and be a dancer.”***

Representing a college known simply as the “College of Champions” naturally carries a crushing weight. When he first took the stage for the College of Engineering (COE), he battled a profound mental challenge, where the possibility of failure loomed large. However, that immense pressure did not remain a burden. Through the unwavering support of the COE community—the roaring cheers and encouragement that filled every performance. *“Their support slowly revved up my confidence,”* he said. *“They made us feel like we could win every time.”*

And for two consecutive years, they did.

Agaran became part of the two-peat champions in Streetdance—a feat that symbolized not only skill, but the triumph of a dancer who once doubted his own capabilities. These hard-earned recognitions, for him, encapsulate every hurdle and challenge overcome on the path to this victorious moment. He hopes that this achievement will establish an unforgettable legacy for the College of Engineering: a reminder that a once-doubtful individual, who initially underestimated his own abilities, ultimately delivered two golden awards for the College.

For Agaran, the victory belongs not to one, but to many—to every teammate, coach, and supporter who moved in sync with the rhythm of ambition. Together, they’ve proven that in the College of Engineering, excellence extends beyond equations and blueprints—it dances, it performs, and it inspires.

But legacies, even the brightest ones, can end in moments that cut deep.

This year, the COE hip-hop group finished in third place—ending their two-year reign. And for Agaran, the loss was more than a result; it was a wound. “*A cruel Unigames exit for me,*” he said—a sentence soft in volume but heavy with meaning.

The loss stung not because the glory slipped away, but because he knew how much heart his group had poured into the craft. He had danced with people he admired, people who trusted him, people who believed they could push COE’s name higher once more. To carry disappointment for himself was one thing; to carry it for the team and the college was another weight entirely.

Yet even as the curtain fell on their two-peat journey, what remained in him was not defeat, but devotion—proof that his love for dancing, for his team, and for his college runs deeper than victory alone. Because losses reveal something victories often hide: the depth of a person’s love for what they do.

For Agaran, that love remains intact.

But this year, *it hurts.*

And through it all, Venriel Niño Agaran continues to move—fueled by passion, shaped by discipline, and strengthened by the unwavering beat of a champion’s heart.