

alumni spotlight

Ellesse Tzinberg

Class of 2008

The Alice Smith School



Ellesse Tzinberg completed her Primary and Secondary education at **The Alice Smith School**, a COBIS Accredited Member School in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. After graduating in 2008, Ellesse pursued a degree in Communications Studies at the University of San Diego. Today, Ellesse is a successful **international equestrian**, representing her home country of The Philippines in **international dressage events** around the world.

Ellesse was **passionate** about horses all throughout her time at The Alice Smith School. Ellesse became the **highest ranked** dressage rider in her age group and region in the FEI World Dressage Challenge at age 12 and the Young Rider World Cup champion in Asia at age 15. Whilst studying at university in the US, Ellesse was scouted and offered a **professional modelling contract**. She has featured in many music videos alongside international recording artists like Travie McCoy and Taio Cruz. However, it was her **lifelong passion** for horses that brought her back to the show ring after a four-year hiatus, initially as a jumper and then into the dressage ring. She competed in several jumping events from her base in California before moving to Europe to train with **renowned** dressage coaches Charlotte and Rasmus Haid-Bondergaard. In 2015, Ellesse debuted her **international dressage career** and continued to compete in several international events. In 2016, Ellesse became the **first rider** from Asia to compete in the prestigious Adequan Global Dressage Festival in Florida, USA as well as winning her first Grand Prix. This year Ellesse has already received **personal bests** and high scores, with the flag of the Philippines waving in the Top 3 of a CDI event for the first time in the Adequan Global Dressage Festival history!

Ellesse's favourite memories of The Alice Smith School trace back as far as Year 1, where she can remember being one of the main characters in the Year 1 production. She is grateful for how the school encouraged her **creative development**, saying "*whether it was being in the school production, or singing in the school's chamber choir or jazz choir, being in the movers & groovers club and keyboard club, and spending hours in the Art and Design Technology rooms, I loved having those outlets to develop artistically and creatively!*" Ellesse also had the opportunity to represent The Alice Smith School at a number of FOBISIA and SEASAC sports competitions in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Every alumnus of The Alice Smith School each makes their own **unique contribution** to the school's history and reputation, taking fond memories and lifelong friendships with them, and Ellesse's story shows just how many different things students can get involved in while they are at school.

Ellesse is working towards **improving her scores** in Grand Prix International CDIs and national shows in the near future. Her longer term goals include the 2018 World Equestrian Games, future World Cup finals, and the **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games**. Additionally, Ellesse hopes to grow her already strong young team of horses for herself, as well as take on special sale horses and clients.