



## KINO SOH HIGHBALL SINGAPORE

It all started with that cocktail, one that *finally* did not taste like cough syrup. It opened Kino's eyes to the world of craft cocktails, and she was instantly entranced by the splendid difference fresh ingredients could make to a drink. This discovery birthed Kino's fascination and fastidiousness with fresh ingredients.

Her first step towards bartending as a career started with bar-backing in Disgruntled Chef in 2011, where the talented chefs at the restaurant/bar taught her how fresh produce and food elements could be seamlessly incorporated into drinks.

Kino continued to learn on the job while working as a bartender for three years at Bar Stories, a cocktail bar that did not feature a basic menu, and every drink order was bespoke. The constant challenge was to find more and better ways to push her own limits in customising cocktails to suit each guest's preference.

The opportunity in the form of a pop-up bar venture ignited Kino's entrepreneurship spirit, and along with a group of like-minded industry friends, she started Hopscotch bar, a cocktail bar that specialises in creations stemming from local cuisine- and dessert-inspired drinks.

Kino's next chapter at FRESH! as the Head-Bartender and 'Flavourman' provided her with a platform to further hone aspects of her bartending skills to cater to a different type of clientele.

As part of her lifelong learning journey, Kino started joining bartending competitions, and in addition to being the top two contenders in the Bar Awards 2015, she was the champion of Giffard East Cup 2015, where she went on to represent Singapore in the Giffard West Cup Finals 2015 held in France. CityNomads.com had singled her out to be one of the top two Best Female Bartenders in 2015, which she proved rightly so, when she wound up being the only female finalist in the Diageo World Class Competition Singapore 2016.

In 2016, Kino decided to step out of her comfort zone, and materialise her dream of starting a place of her own, Highball. In this cosy bar, she helms an all-female crew, in a vivacious celebration of femininity in a male-dominated industry. Kino is determined to shatter the glass ceiling, erase the stigma of gender bias in the industry, and make it friendlier for ladies to join the ranks of bartenders. She hopes for bartending to one day become a profession that even the most conservative of families will embrace!

