

# HYPED

FEB - APR 2011 ISSUE 32

## TAYLOR SWIFT

ARTFUL DIVA  
FAIRYTALES RETOLD  
VAMPIRE WEEKEND  
WEST GRAND BOULEVARD  
MEALS ON TRACKS  
ADRIAN PANG

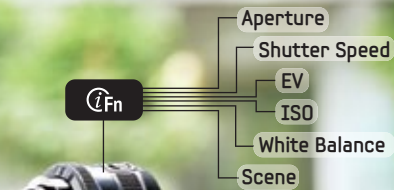
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ISSUE 32 FEBRUARY - APRIL 2011

## ON THE COVER

### 9 **SWIFTLY (AND SHREWDLY) DOES IT**

How pop country star Taylor Swift became a media darling

### 27 **THREE CHEERS FOR FIVE YEARS**

This band from shallow New York displays a worldliness beyond their years

### 14 **ROX SOLID**

The EMA nominee doesn't give a hoot about fame

### 36 **THE REINVENTION OF THE FAIRY TALE MOVIE**

### 18 **THE WAY WE WANT TO BE**

West Grand Boulevard tells the secret behind their success

### 64 **MEALS ON TRACKS**

Dump the tasteless buns – HYPE tells you what to grab when on the go for a taste bud-stimulating meal

### 56 **UP CLOSE WITH REAL PEOPLE**

## MUSIC

### 17 **SONGS FROM SCRAPS**

No longer a back-up singer, Kewei's coming into her own and pursuing her own causes

### 21 **TEMPER STILL SWEET DESPITE SUCCESS**

### 22 **SCINTILLATING SOUNDS**

## FEATURES

### 28 **FOREVER LOVING FILM**

### 24 **KOREA KRAZY**

We explore the trend in which f(x) isn't mathematical, it's pronounced "Effects" and a power band

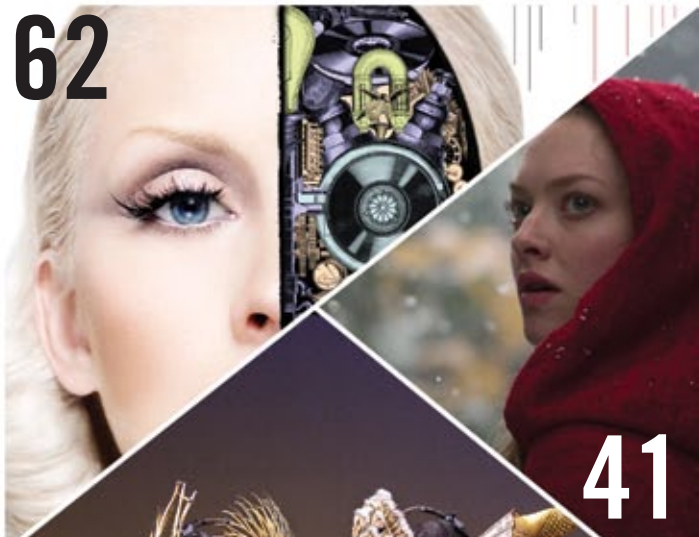
### 30 **A DECADE OF IDOL**

### 32 **SHE'S GOT YOU HIGH (AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YET)**

Find out more about this quirky woman-child taking over our movie screens

### 35 **RETRO REINVENTED**

62



41

60



18



17

30



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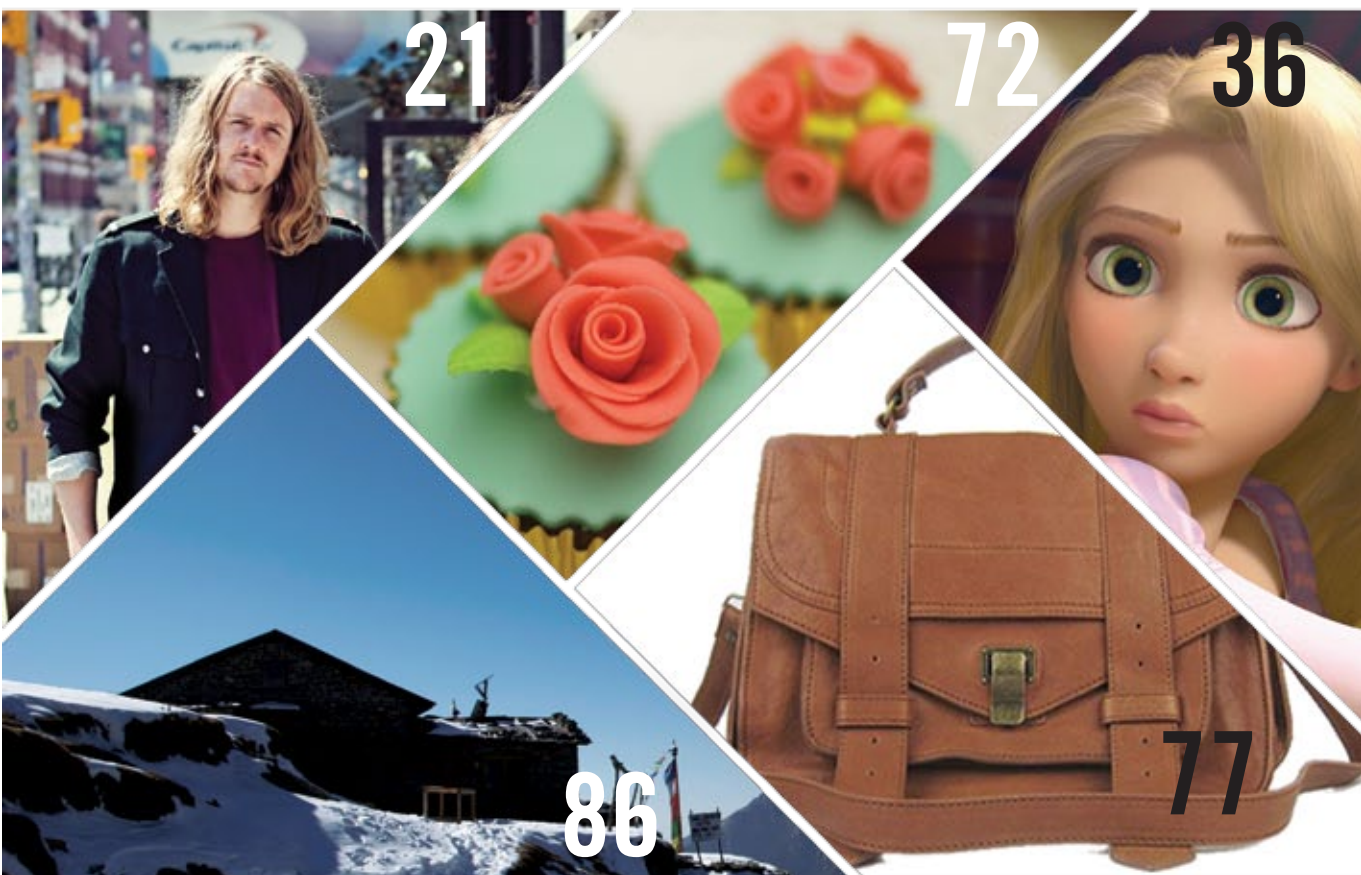
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21

72

36

86

77

## FASHION

46 **THAT GIRL IN RED**

52 **FASHION GOES GREEN**

## SHOP!

77 **STYLE SMART**

Refer to high couture for inspiration,  
then refer to our article for clever  
implementation

78 **MAKING A LASTING (GOOD) IMPRESSION**

81 **GOING NICHE TO STAND OUT**

82 **CRAFTS FOR CASH**

## REGULARS

41 **PRINT TO SCREEN**

91 **THE BUCKET LIST**

92 **CONTEST/SUMMARY**

## ARTS

58 **MACBETH: STILL DARK & DELICIOUS**

59 **MS EMILY AND MR HENG**

60 **LION KING FOR ALL SEASONS**

62 **CURIOUS COVERS UNCOVERED**

## APPETITE

72 **JUST 'ME' IN A CUPCAKE**

74 **FOOD TO SAVE THE EARTH**

## TRAVEL

84 **LET'S GET PERSONAL**

85 **SOUNDS OF SUMMER**

86 **CELEBRATING GRADUATIONS NEXT DOOR**

Exotic travel doesn't have to mean  
exorbitant bills

90 **QUIRKY HK CAFES**

# HYPE

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

The other night, a friend got hold of my favourite cashmere sweater and snipped it in the name of fashion.

The reason for that spate of insanity was, according to her, that reusing a wardrobe goes towards helping the environment. I can't wait to show her this issue of HYPE – there's a better way of saving the Earth than the ludicrous idea of reusing your wardrobe by ripping it. We've sussed out the trend of eco-fashion for you, which is an imminent local fashion movement (pg 52).

Yup, we're provocateurs this time round, subtle ninjas out to change your life with the possibilities within this issue's pages. Entering the new decade, there has been change all round. We see the rise of the Manic Pixie Dream Girl in cinemas, a welcome distraction from the placid damsels in distress (pg 32), and explore the possibility of creating your own accessories instead of cringing when someone with a replica of yours walks by (pg 82).

Some things remain though – only better. We revisit icons that have been present in our pop culture for decades (pg 35) and look at how our innocent childhood fairytales have gone through a sexy revamp (pg 36).

Instead of leaving the singletons out by focusing on just romance this Valentine's, we touch on relationships in our arts section, be it with family or that significant other.

Speaking of relationships, this issue has been an absolute joy to produce, with an experienced team and the most dedicated designers. We've made it through every mini heart attack, and present to you Artful Provocateur.

Have a grand year ahead and be sure to fulfill your personal bucketlist (pg 91) before 2012 dawns upon us!



Renu Begum  
Editor



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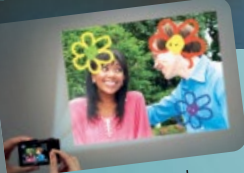


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A full-page photograph of Taylor Swift. She is wearing a black, strapless, pleated dress with a sweetheart neckline. Her hair is blonde and wavy. She is wearing a silver, textured headpiece with a black band and a small black mask-like detail. Her arms are raised behind her head, and she is looking towards the camera with a slight smile.

# swiftly (and shrewdly) does it


She may be known as the country singer who writes and sings about her famous ex-boyfriends breaking her heart, but Taylor Swift is having the last laugh now. By **Veronica Koh**

INTERVIEW COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC SINGAPORE



**“those songs go out into  
the world and they become  
whatever the person listening  
to it wants it to become.”**





To say that singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has hit the big time would be putting it mildly.

Known for her dreamy love songs, this award-winning songbird was Billboard's most-played artist of 2010, beating even Lady Gaga and Katy Perry. The 21-year-old was also the youngest ever performer to be crowned Entertainment Weekly's "Entertainer of the Year".

In an era where CD sales have been steadily dipping, her latest album, *Speak Now*, sold a record-breaking 1.47 million copies within the first week of its release.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, the singer started out performing minor gigs back home, but moved to Nashville when she was 14 so that she could focus on her burgeoning country music career there, subsequently signing a record deal.

In 2006, she released her first self-titled album that climbed its way to the top on the Billboard Top Country Albums, eventually winning four Grammys.

Along the way, she must have done something right, for this media darling has set the world abuzz. Careful step by careful step, she's planned a revolution all around her, transforming usually angst-filled pre-pubescent girls into girly, lovesick teenagers.

For one, she's made the effort to have her head firmly stuck on her shoulders. When a deal was made to recreate her style of dressing in a clothing line, she waved off credit as a designer, saying in an interview with *US Weekly*, "I don't look at it like I'm branching out as a designer... It's not the Taylor Swift designer line."

In a similarly down-to-earth decision, she became the celebrity spokesperson for the National Hockey League. She maintains the same dignified poise in the glitzy world of pop. She doesn't cover herself in meat and dress up in outfits that can only be described as weird at best. Nor can she be accused of indecent exposure ala racy Disney sensation Miley Cyrus. At press time, she's not traipsing down the route to rehab like Demi Lovato.

Instead, the 21-year-old hits all the right notes as the girl who doesn't talk about her love life, but instead writes songs about it. A perfect balance of class and lethality.

Of her tendency to bring in her love life into her songs, she said in an interview with *Wall Street Journal*: "The only thing I can say about that is that this is not a surprise that I do this. Everyone has had fair warning. This is my third album. I've never been shy or secretive with the fact that if you walk into my life, you may be walking onto a record."

Having stated that her albums are like her diary, she says, "It's really crazy to think that my personal stories that I just thought were things only I went through and I just happened to write a song about – those songs go out into the world and they become whatever the person listening to it wants it to become."

While her songs are extremely relatable, just know that the guys she croons about are not your ordinary everyday folk. How many of us can attest to singing about relationships with Hollywood stars?

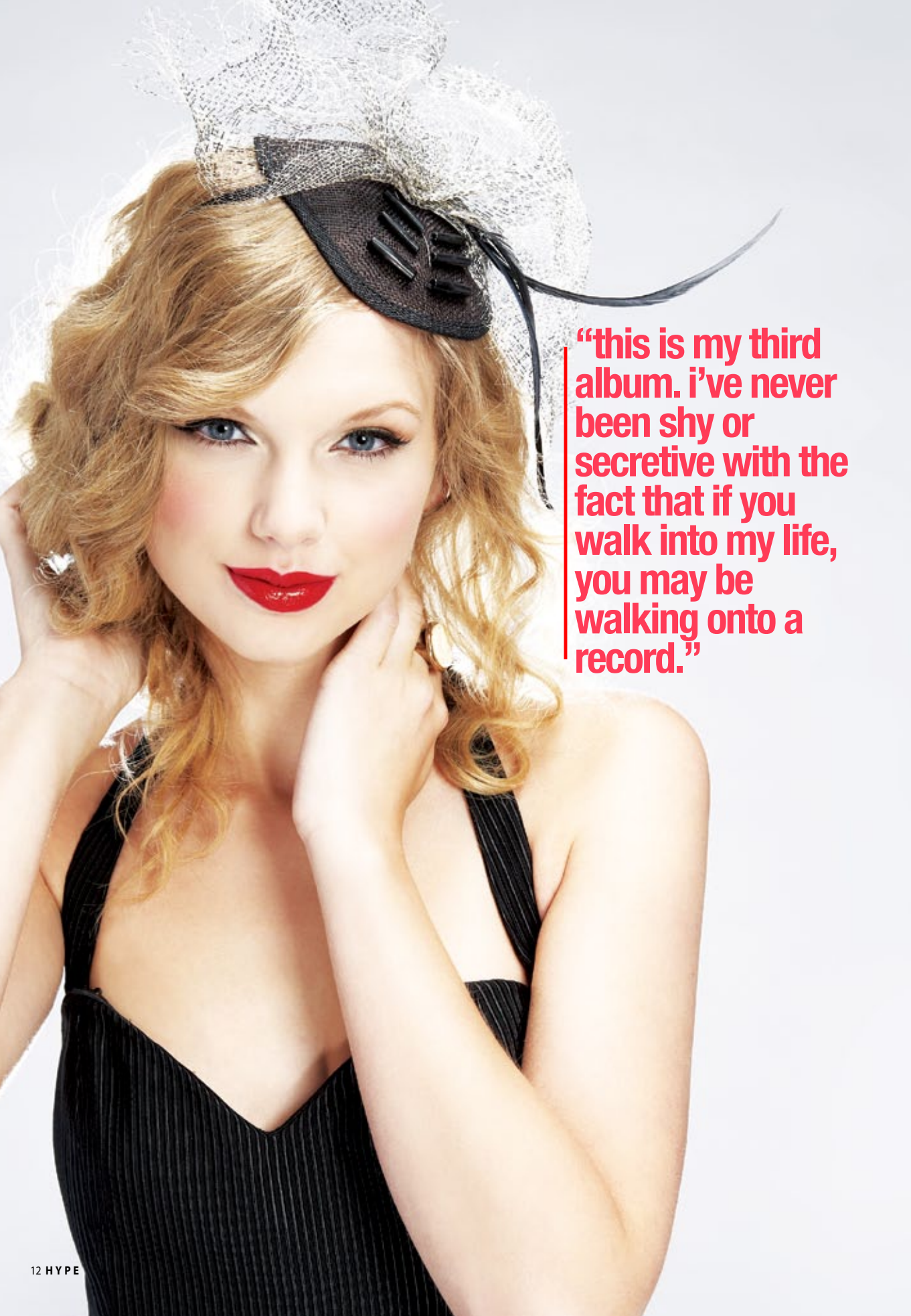
With a dating record that consists of singers Joe Jonas and (rumour has it) John Mayer, chief *Twilight* werewolf Taylor Lautner and most recently, 30-year-old hunk Jake Gyllenhaal, these "personal stories" have long fed speculation and excitement among fans and the paparazzi alike.

Of course, there is the occasional controversy. Who can forget the infamous incident at the 2009 Video Music Awards, when rap star Kanye West stormed onstage and interrupted Taylor's acceptance speech for Best Female Video, declaring that Beyonce was the deserving winner? Taylor handled it with panache though. Sure, she stood there in mortified silence at that moment, but she also got her revenge in the classiest (and most profitable) way possible later by singing a hilarious monologue about it on comedic sketch show *Saturday Night Live*.

She later told *Entertainment Weekly*: "I wasn't given much choice in the matter, but the one choice that I do have, that I continue to make, is to not talk about it."

Her latest offering, *Speak Now*, took two years to produce with country music producer Nathan Chapman, and all the songs are penned solely by her. It looks like her third album is marking a change, with her mellowing a little.

Come her concert in Singapore, we're hoping she'll have a Jake Gyllenhaal song ready.



**“this is my third album. i’ve never been shy or secretive with the fact that if you walk into my life, you may be walking onto a record.”**





# Taylor tells all

Be careful if you are involved with Taylor Swift's love life - you might just end up being penned down. Siti Syazwani sniffs out the three most prominent guys in her career so far.

## *Taylor Lautner*

Back to December

The two Taylors began dating during the movie set "Valentine's Day" on December 2009. We doubt that the song title is a coincidence.

In "Back to December," Taylor sings, "Tell me how's your family? I haven't seen them in a while" giving away that she gets along well with his family. However, Swift and Lautner parted ways soon after.

In the song, Swift sings, "I'd go back in time and change it but I can't, So if the chain is on your door, I understand. But this is me swallowing my pride, standing in front of you saying I'm sorry for that night". Obviously there's gonna be a chain on his door if you broke his heart, Taylor!

Looks like Little Miss Innocent isn't so innocent afterall.

## *John Mayer*

Dear John

The song "Dear John" seems to be the most obvious title in the new album. It is said to be aimed directly at John Mayer.

In her song, she sings, "It was wrong, don't you think nineteen's too young to be played by your dark twisted games." Sounds like John pulled Taylor into his games and left her shattered in the end.

Nobody knows exactly what happened between John and Taylor, but we are sure that they were involved in a little drama. Many believe that the song is about how John Mayer slept with her and left her right after. In other words, yes, she has been played big time.

Well too bad for John, he can save his songs and start listening to what could be, his favourite song of all time, "Dear John" and thank Taylor for having his name as a hit single!

## *Joe Jonas*

Forever and Always

Joe Jonas is infamous for dumping Taylor over the phone for 27 seconds for actress Camilla Belle.

Taylor thought that her relationship and Joe was going to be forever and but there is a hint that Joe did not treat her well during the time they were together. She sings, "And I stare at the phone, he still hasn't called."

"You didn't mean it baby, you said forever and always, I don't think so yeah," was the ending of the song.

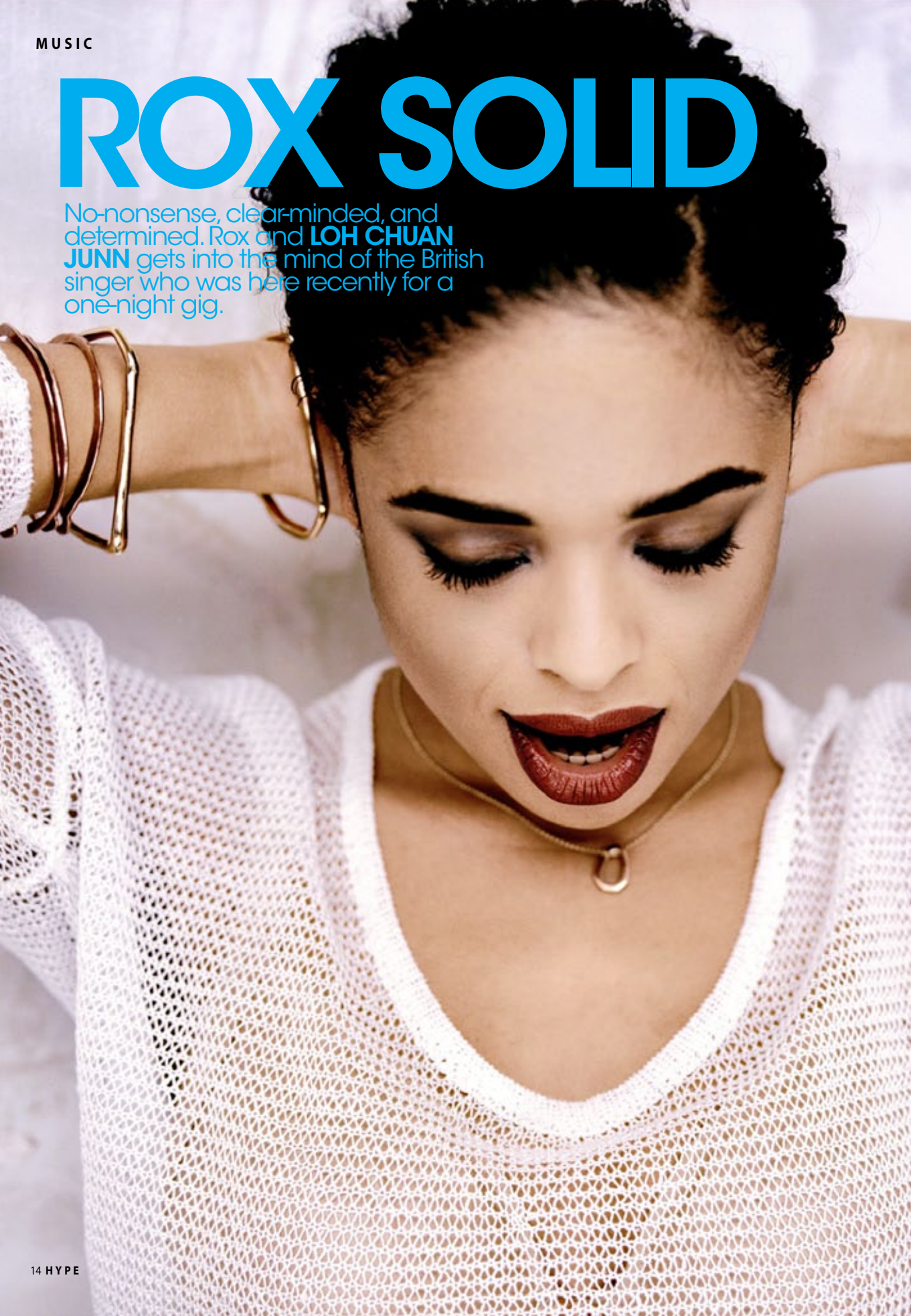
All we can say is, Taylor is better off without Joe, and we know this, forever and always.

Despite going from one guy to another, Taylor seems to have made light of it all, as proven by her soaring album sales.



# ROX SOLID

No-nonsense, clear-minded, and determined. Rox and **LOH CHUAN JUNN** gets into the mind of the British singer who was here recently for a one-night gig.



Simply clad – denim jeans, crew-cut T-shirt, minimal make-up, and a pair of dangling feather earrings – Roxanne Tataei,

better known as Rox, is a picture of ease and peace.

Perhaps, if anything, her palpable comfort is a reflection of her unwavering conviction that what she's doing is right.

Lauded as one of 2010's brightest prospects, the 22-year-old British soul singer is mature beyond her years. She may be a newbie in the music scene but Rox has no plans to fulfill the demands of glitzy showbiz and is bent on doing things her way without conforming to labels.

Rox was in town recently as part of her Southeast Asian tour to mark the release of her debut album, *Memoirs*.

"I don't know what you mean by pop music. I am just doing music that represents me. I'm not living my life for money. I'm not living to get rich,"

she reasons without apology, in a thick British accent.

Growing up singing in a church choir, the artiste who hails from Norbury, North London, got a break in the spring of 2007, when she was noticed by Rough Trade Records, also home to high profile artistes such as Duffy and The Strokes.

However, it is clear that the female crooner's mind is anywhere but near the pressure of album sales and pleasing her record label – a rarity in rookie singers today.

"I want to have a career in music as a singer, but I can't live my life thinking about how to get my name on the charts. That's pretty self-destructing," the spunky lass says, her voice swelling with the force of her belief.

Rox's clear-cut passion and determination also saw her dropping out of college three years ago, despite faring well in her studies.

She says she has asked herself many times, "Why am I doing this [studying]? Am I doing this because it's the next step?"

Motivated by her interest in charity work and children, she then saved up some money, packed her bag and embarked on a journey to Mexico,

where she spent her days teaching English to rescued street kids.

The unprecedented decision was met with detractors from people around Rox, but she remained unfazed.

"I didn't need to prove anything to anyone. To me, I just needed to know that I could step out of my comfort zone," she says.

With the release of her album, Rox is now beginning to take flight, and she hopes her works will inspire women to be confident about themselves.

"What saddens me is when I see girls trying to change themselves by going through with surgeries ... Asian girls cutting their eyelids. Just celebrate who you are because that's what makes us unique," Rox implores.

And for now, the young lass has her hands full working on the production of her next album.

"I'm just going to lock myself in my room and write... and write... and write..." Rox says with a dry laugh.

**Rox's debut album, *Memoirs*, is available at all major record store now.**

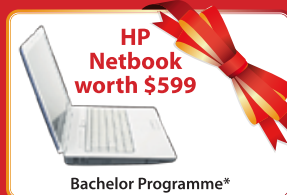


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# SONGS FROM SCRAPS

In a scene filled with loud rock and shameless pop, Singaporean newbie singer Tay Kewei, with her soulful brand of eco-music, stands out like a breath of fresh air, **Loh Chuan Junn** reports.

She's a singer, a songwriter, an entrepreneur and an *erhu*-player. That isn't something to scoff at, especially since Tay Kewei is only 27 years old.

A musician's works are freely exposed to the scrutiny of the public; this, she understands and unlike the teenybopper singers of today who easily sell out, Kewei wants to use the stage to spread important messages that are close to her heart.

The self-confessed nature lover says that she tries to do her part by using recyclable chopsticks when she eats out, and writing blog entries to encourage her fans to go green. The song "Plastic Mannequin Love" from her album is also said to be inspired by an article that Kewei read about the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch".

"I'm a person who doesn't believe in throwing stuff away and I basically 'psycho' friends around me to bring recyclable chopsticks like me," she laughs.

Starting out in 2005 as a backup vocalist for popular Mandopop singers like A\*Mei, David Tao and Wang Lee Hom, Kewei is finally embarking on a full-time solo singing career with the release of her debut album, *Come Closer to Kewei*, in September last year.

Yet, growing up, singing was never part of the Singaporean's plan. In fact, the Nanyang Technological University Communication Studies alumnus says that she would probably have forged a career in public relations, if not for a crucial audition for a back-up vocalist that she attended during her final year of studies.

"I only started singing after completing junior college. I've never taken part in competitions before that, and I was never a performer," the sassy girl-next-door explains.

The album contains five original tracks, in addition to a mix of English and Japanese covers. She hopes that the variety of songs will expose her to an international audience.

"We want to cater to not just the Chinese audience, but other regions as well," says the petite crooner, who reveals that come March, the album will be released in Japan and Korea as well.

International dreams and recyclable chopsticks aside, how does she feel about having moved from playing second fiddle to bigger stars to solo artist now?

"I didn't have a name to live up to previously. But now that I do, I've to be in tiptop condition all the time," she asserts.

**We've got 5 autographed copies of Tay Kewei's debut album, *Come Closer with Kewei* up for grabs. Just answer this simple question for a chance to win!**

***What is the title of Kewei's eco-song?***

**Send in your answer along with your name, IC number, and contact details to [hype.midea@gmail.com](mailto:hype.midea@gmail.com). Contest closes 1 Apr 2011.**

“I'm a person who doesn't believe in throwing stuff away and I basically 'psycho' friends around me to bring recyclable chopsticks like me.”





# the way we want to be

FIVE FRIENDS, FIVE YEARS AND TWO ALBUMS ON, WEST GRAND BOULEVARD REVEALS WHAT KEEPS THEM GOING STRONG, THEIR NEW ALBUM, AND EVERYTHING ELSE IN BETWEEN. TAINA TERAVAINEN FINDS OUT MORE.





If you had told them five years ago that they'd be releasing a full-length album under Warner Music, you would have been met with a resounding "No way".

What started as an idea to pass time has transcended beyond a mere hobby. The guys of West Grand Boulevard (WGB) — vocalist Bryan Gamboa, guitarists Dharma Sadasivan and Erik Evangelista, bassist Jude Man Lee and drummer Syed Hyder — are quick to identify friendship as the core of the band's existence, not just the chase for fame and fortune.

"Whether we play music or not, we will always be the same group hanging out," says Erik. "It was Dharma who pushed us to take the band to the next level. We all want to keep it going as far as we can."

This doesn't mean that they're in it for the money though — the band positively blanched at the suggestion of WGB being a business or brand.

"We play what feel like, and what we like. If other people think it sucks, we don't care." Cheeky grins and nods all around the table affirm Erik's statement.

Bands looking to emulate West Grand's balance of business and fun while surviving our tough local music industry might find it surprisingly simple.

"I think the secret is that we never did consider ourselves a business or brand. We base our charges for corporate shows on the highest pay we've gotten for one," Erik says matter-of-factly.

Over the years, the band has become a fixture at local gigs. Playing high-energy alternative rock, the band has garnered loyal fans.

"We've seen our fans grow up, from being in secondary school to university," says Bryan. A lot of these fans eventually become their friends.

This month, the band will be releasing their sophomore effort, *Life, Love and a Loss for Better Words*. The album has been sitting on the backburner for three years due to conflicting schedules, school and work responsibilities, as well as difficulties in booking recording slots at the immensely popular Snakeweed Studios.

"We were sick of waiting around. We had always wanted to make a record but everyone was busy. Even though we have some old songs (due to extensive live play), we feel like the crowd will be receptive to an album," says Jude.

However, the band finally got together and will soon put out, as Jude calls it, their "second first album".

This time round, Bryan Gamboa, who replaces ex-vocalist and *Singapore Idol* alumnus Daphne Khoo, will be singing on the album, unlike their previous

effort, 2007's *Waiting For You*.

"We're just trying to be truthful with this record. The main message is that this is us, this is the way we want to be," Erik explains.

When asked about the future of the band, the quartet have a firm resolve. "If our fingers and legs can still work 50 years down the road, we'll still be playing," says Jude.

**To win an autographed copy of WGB's latest album, answer this simple question:**

***What is the name of WGB's latest album?***  
(Flip to our Contests page to find out more)

**"We play what we feel like, and what we like. If other people think it sucks, we don't care."**





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PHOTO COURTESY OF FULFORD PUBLIC RELATIONS



# TEMPER STILL SWEET DESPITE SUCCESS

What do we really know about the Australian indie quintet The Temper Trap besides that one almost ubiquitous single? **Sylvia Koh** finds out.

I was greeted with tired smiles when I sat down with the boys from The Temper Trap at local pub TAB.

Touring has indeed taken its toll on the five member alternative rock band from Melbourne who achieved overnight success with "Sweet Disposition", a hit single released in 2009 that made the top 10 in charts in the United Kingdom, America, Australia and Ireland and won them Best Group & Most Popular Single in the 2010 ARIA Music Awards.

You might also have heard them — Dougy Mandagi, Lorenzo Sillitto, Jonathon Aherne, Toby Dundas and Sebastian Kirwan — on the *(500) Days of Summer* movie soundtrack, UK teen drama *Skins*, and the video game *Pro Evolution Soccer 2011*.

Wearing his long flaxen hair up, Aherne, the good-natured bass

guitarist leans in to share a surreal incident about living together in the same house.

"There were some people in the neighbourhood who jumped over our fence and threatened to break into the house ... At the same time, a man was at the front door freaking out, screaming for water because his car was on fire."

"So welcome to London," Dundas says to riotous laughter around the table.

Alongside the crazy domestic antics were the crazier antics on tour that showed the boys were not immune to being star struck themselves.

Like at a post-gig party, where Dundas and guitarist Sillitto met Beyoncé.

Sillitto smiled at the memory. "Toby ended up going over to Beyoncé and

shaking her hand and didn't wash it for about five weeks, to the disgust of everyone else."

It is not all fun and perhaps, the heaviest burden falls on vocalist Dougy Mandagi from Indonesia.

Think of Asian-led bands with international success and one will think of Karen O's Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Kazu Makino's Blonde Redhead, and Yuki Chikudate's Asobi Seksu — all Asian women.

"I never used to think I was representing Asian men until people started saying that to me," Dougy said through furrowed brows, preoccupied with rolling the piece of card-sized paper between his fingers.

When I asked if he felt any pressure from it, he blurted a little too quickly, "No!" Before starting again, "I mean... I think it's nice that people feel that there's something from [Asia] representing them, but I don't take it seriously."

Rather, he chooses to focus on their music. The band has been working on the new record, and so far two songs have been finished. "We're definitely experimenting with more instruments. We don't want to do the same thing twice," said Johnny.



# Scintillating Sounds

The annual MOSAIC Music Festival is back and set to be a rockin' affair! **Yogashree Koteswar** and **Natalie Koh** give you the lowdown on this year's festival.

Happening from Mar 11 to Mar 20, the six-year-old festival has since expanded from its genres of world and jazz.

Now known for its exclusive multi-genre music, Mosaic Music Festival 2011 will be held at various locations throughout the Esplanade, including the theatre studio, recital studio and smooth acoustic aura of the concert hall.

It brings to you musicians of varying popularity from the world of sexy gold-world tango, straight-ahead jazz, fusion funk, electrifying math-rock, booty shakin' R&B, folk-pop, gypsy jazz, pop-rock and electronic.

The festival also offers musical workshops for those eager to be a part of the music, ranging from vocal coaching with names like The Manhattan, the saxophone, piano and drums with Charlie Haden's Quartet West and more.

Esplanade has consciously kept ticket prices to an all-new low this year, with popular act Joanna Newsom gig at the 1600-seater Concert Hall at a starting price of only \$25.

Even internationally-renowned acts The National and Gotan Project have their tickets priced at \$120, as compared with last year's most expensive ticket, which was capped at \$148 for R&B singer Brian McKnight.

Coupled with the array of cuisine the Esplanade offers, the fun and eclectic atmosphere of the festival is a sure-fire way of recharging after the mendacity of work!

**Tickets are available at the Esplanade Box Office and SISTIC.**

## *Music is serious business*

Local songbird **Sarah Cheng De-Winne** takes the stage at the MOSAIC Music Festival 2011, but she's no newbie amidst international acts.

She's a critically acclaimed local musician with an EP out and a solid fanbase, but that doesn't stop her from doing her homework.

The graduate of the National University of Singapore (NUS) aims to write at least

two songs every month. "It doesn't

mean all these songs will be on the new album, but it's good practice," she reasoned.

Sharp and mindful of targeting a niche market, the 22-year-old has been quick to brand herself as a jazz-pop artist. Sarah's phenomenal vocals and upbeat tracks have pushed her swiftly into the local jazz scene.

The past year was a strenuous one, split between producing her six-track EP *Let's Pretend* and meeting academic requirements. Her summer break was spent in the studio and her semesters were filled with late-night gigs at bars and corporate events, leaving her either sleep-deprived or a little behind on her grades.

"It was really difficult... I admit that I let [my studies] take a back seat... but it was at a point where it wouldn't have affected the overall grade," she says.

The self-funded EP cost nearly \$20,000 in the making, something she did not advise. "You have to be very sure of yourself as an artist. It's better to establish your craft before [investing]... you could always do the acoustic Youtube thing first to get your name out," she shares.

Sarah takes feedback seriously, musing with maturity that one cannot truly be objective towards her own work. "I had some people tell me that I should go into the [Chinese Jazz scene] because I have a very 'Chinese face'," she says lightheartedly. "But I don't think in Chinese, so it may be difficult... to express myself as a singer/songwriter."

She does, however, agree with the sentiment that her voice is better suited for the soul and R&B genre — something that will likely surface in her upcoming projects.

Sarah's 2011 is already promising. With deals in discussion, and a bunch of other shows lined up, it won't be a surprise to see her reach her goal of touring regionally in two years.

Catch Sarah every Wednesday night at the Esplanade rooftop bar, Orgo, or watch her performance this Mar 15 at the MOSAIC Music Festival.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH CHENG DE-WINNE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ESPLANADE SINGAPORE

**18 Mar 2011, Fri, 7.30pm**

**Concert Hall**

**Jamie Lidell**

**UK**

You would think that blending retro funk, gospel, disco and soul music together would create a jarring mishmash of noise but Lidell manages to blend in a pleasant diversity of moods and feelings.

The 38-year-old's second solo effort, *Multiply* (2005), propelled him to fame, and some might even recognize the title track from the hit television series, *Grey's Anatomy*.

Jim, his album released in 2008, won the 8th Annual Independent Music Awards for Best Pop/Rock Album, but it is a mere appetizer to his latest album, *Compass*.

The album features guest performances from Grizzly Bear's Chris Taylor to Wilco's Pat Sansone, and promises to feed your soul with songs from his previous album for his upcoming concert.

**18 Mar 2011, Fri, 11pm**

**Concert Hall**

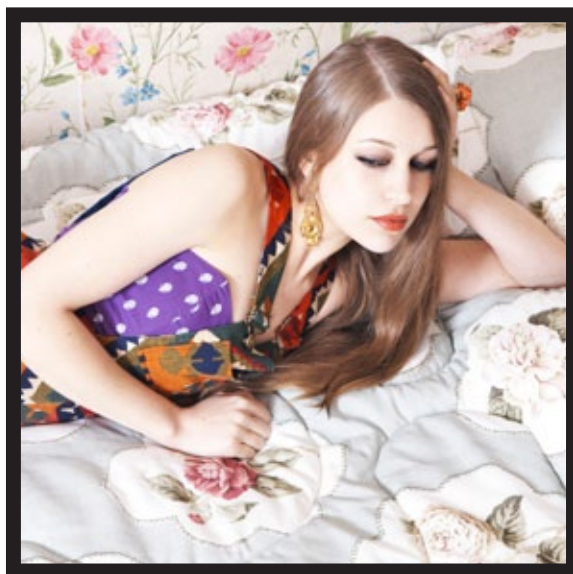
**11th Hour - Joanna Newsom**

**USA**

Combine the classical sounds of a harp with the quirky voice of Indie music and you have Joanna Newsom. The American harpist, pianist and singer-songwriter is said to be one of the bravest new voices to have emerged from the Indie-music scene in recent years.

Her second album, *Ys*, which received high acclaim with her second album in 2006, titled *Ys*. Its success gave Newsom the confidence to fill her latest album, *Have One on Me*, which was released last year.

As impressive as her albums are, they cannot compare to the live sounds of her unique voice accompanied by her harp music and the support of her own band of strings and trombone.



**19 Mar, Sat, 7.30pm & 9.30pm**

**Recital Studio**

**Tap Guitar with Erik Mongrain**

**Canada**

Instead of strumming on his guitar, Mongrain taps on the strings, producing sounds which have caught the attention of world-renowned musicians like guitar legend Paul McCartney.

Mongrain's story is truly one from streets to fame. Playing for change in the Montreal subway not three years ago, he was saved from the clutches of poverty with his debut album.

Titled *Fates*, the album gave him instant fame and he suddenly found himself in high demand all over the world.

His Youtube video, *Airtap!*, earned Mongrain two film contracts and caught the attention of the Japanese National Television, who flew in to Montreal just to introduce his talents to the Japanese population.





# Kinematics of KOREAN KRAZY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOOPL.COM

Fuelled by good-looking performers that make up for the South Korean entertainment industry, Korean pop (K-Pop) has crept its way into our sunny isle in recent years. LOH CHUAN JUNN and SOPHIE HONG reports on the Korean Wave.

They can do cute. They can do sexy. They can do macho. They can do annoying.

But whether you like them or not, they are here to stay.

Who are they, you ask. Hallyu stars of course.

Arguably one of the biggest imports to hit shores in recent times, the hallyu, or Korean Wave, is a term first coined by the Chinese media in 1998 to denote fans of now defunct popular South Korean pop trio H.O.T. It is now commonly used to refer to the surge in popularity of the K-Pop culture all over the world.

From dramas to electronics, music to fashion trends, it's almost impossible to walk down a street without relishing a piece of Kimchi Land these days.

Korean pop idol groups are now the rage across Asia. From mega boy bands to sugary sweet girl groups, these Kpop idols have dominated, with their thicket of bright colors and plastic faces, the hearts of young uns' alike.

Locally, audiences got such a kick out of watching a certain five member girl band sing about wanting "Nobody, nobody, but you" that it soon escalated to a full-scale K-Pop cult in Singapore.

When ticket sales to the Korean Pop Night Concert first opened last year, throngs of eager fans had swarmed to the HMV outlet at 313@Somerset, causing chaos along the streets of Orchard Road.

And no, the fans, and their idols alike, are certainly far from feeling "Sorry Sorry" about the inconvenience their fellowship have caused.

As one of the leaders of the K-Pop wave, 13-member boyband Super Junior debuted with their first single "Twins (Knock Out)" in 2005 to lacklustre interest from members of the audience.

However, things soon took a positive turn for the largest boy band in the world when dance tune "Sorry, Sorry" was released in 2009 to rave reviews worldwide.

With over 150,000 copies of the album pre-ordered in less than a week after announcement, the song has become Super Junior's best-selling album to date.

Leader of Super Junior, Leeteuk, once said in an interview with the Korean media, that the band was "going to continue on until the day that Pearl Sapphire Blue balloons cover the entire world."

Pearl Sapphire Blue is the official colour of the pop group's international fan group.

The group obviously meant what they said. Having launched a series of widely acclaimed Super Show concert tours in recent years – Super Junior's Third Asia Tour, Super Show 3 was held on 29 January in Singapore – the band has been touring various parts of the world, reaching out aggressively to foreign fan bases.

Tapping onto their sheer numbers, Super Junior also formed sub-units to appeal to a wide plethora of audience. Ballad trios K.R.Y, and China-based Super Junior M, were some examples of such sub-units created.

Similarly, Korean girl groups also seek to capture hearts with their innocent and cute image. Dressed in angular uniforms, tight skinny jeans or hot pants, and much given to winsome smiles, girl groups dance and sing to seamless choreography of dances, completed with dainty movements of hands and feet.

So just what makes K-Pop so good that even people who don't even speak the language get so into it?

Korean pop songs are more often than not, catchy and easy to sing along – though the lyrics are in a half-breed language that makes no sense in any tongue (does "gee, gee, gee" even have any real meaning to it?). The singers have rock-hard bodies and perfect skin and their fashion and hair is always on the edge.

To sum it all up, addictive musical beats, stunning imagery of music videos coupled with glamorous packaging of idols, makes for the winning formula of K-Pop.

**"[The band is] going to continue on until the day that Pearl Sapphire Blue balloons cover the entire world."**  
– Leader of Super Junior, Leeteuk

## KICKING IT OLD SCHOOL

It is always easier to travel on a road where others have trodden before. Likewise, Korean pop acts would not be where they are today without these seniors who helped set the stage first.



**SEO TAIJI AND BOYS** It is almost rude to talk about Korea's music scene without mentioning the legendary Seo Taiji (real name Jung Hyun-Chul), who single-handedly shook up the music industry with his revolutionary fusion of rap and pop. Together with the "boys" Lee Juno and Yang Hyun Suk, the trio was the ultimate symbol for angst-ridden teenagers in their rebellious stage, mainly because of their lyrical content and different music sound, both of which gained the disapproval of older audiences. After their breakup in 1996, Seo Taiji moved on to release albums in the rock genre while Yang Hyun Suk started his own company, YG Entertainment, which produced a new wave of hip-hop artistes such as 1TYM, Big Bang and 2NE1.



**PARK JIN YOUNG** The younger fans of K-pop know him as the producer of successful idol groups such as Wonder Girls, 2AM, 2PM and Miss A, but before he earned his reputation as one of Korea's top star-churning machines, Park Jin Young was burning up the music charts with hit singles such as "Holiday", "Honey" and "Kiss". Known for his outlandish outfits and suggestive dance moves, this performer's provocative stage image seemed to have passed on to his protégés, most notably in Rain and 2PM.



**H.O.T** If Fin.K.L was the Girl's Generation of the 90's, then High-five of Teenagers, or H.O.T. for short, would be the 2pm of the 90's. Formed by head of SM Entertainment Lee Soo Man in 1996, this group is often credited for starting the idol group trend in Korea and remains well-loved by fans even after their official breakup in May 2001. It is interesting to note that the events following after their breakup is eerily similar to what Dong Bang Shin Ki, their juniors who are also contracted under SM Entertainment, is going through now, with the team splitting into separate units of three and two members to carry on with promotional activities.

**BOA** There is no denying BoA's talent, having debuted as a solo artiste in 2000 after only two years of training while other trainees at SM Entertainment had to endure a training period of up to seven years. Note that the diva was only 14 years old then. Besides releasing chart-topping albums in her homeland, BoA also forayed into the notoriously difficult Japanese market to much success, having made her mark on the Oricon charts with tracks such as "Listen to My Heart", "No. 1" and "Do the Motion". Since the start of her career 10 years ago, BoA has released 14 studio albums in Korea, Japan and America.



Fine Killing Liberty, or Fin.K.L for short, is a four-member girl group that debuted in 1998 and catapulted to fame shortly after the release of their second single, "Nae Namja Chingu Ehgeh" (To My Boyfriend). They enjoyed immense popularity, especially amongst the male crowd, and were even affectionately nicknamed as the "National Fairies". Since their breakup in 2002, the members have moved on to successful solo careers, most notably Lee Hyori, who now enjoys the status as Korea's top solo female performer.





## FROM STAGE TO STREET

Remember the hoodies craze that emo poster boy Pete Wentz caused? And how every other teenager along Bugis Street was wearing a necktie with their t-shirts or tank tops à la Avril Lavigne? Here are five unisex fashion trends that the Hallyu wave has washed upon our shores!

### MILITARY-INSPIRED JACKETS

Let's admit it. Military men are irresistible and at least half of the credit should go to the uniform that they wear. The stylists of the pop idols have noticed this as well and are starting to favor sharply cut angles and metallic details on their outerwear. To complete the tough look, pair the jackets with high combat boots.

Spotted on: Hyoyeon (Girl's Generation), T.O.P (Big Bang), Minzy (2NE1), Thunder (MBLAQ).

### THICK-FRAMED GLASSES

They used to be associated with highly unattractive nerds and geeks, but on these good-looking megastars, thick framed glasses have risen to the status of a so-chic-it-hurts fashion accessory. For the more adventurous fashionistas, try going for a funky coloured frame instead of the usual black ones.

Spotted on: Nichkhun (2PM), Narsha (Brown Eyed Girls), Kikwang (B2ST), Jia (Miss A).

### RIPPED JEANS

Jeans are often seen as a timeless and "safe" clothing item, but slash a few holes in them and voila, instant fashion statement! Once seen as a sign of poverty, ripped jeans have resurfaced from time to time in history and was last seen flourishing in the late 90's. Isn't it amazing how running a penknife through your clothes can gain you an exponential amount of street cred?

Spotted on: HyunA (4minute), CL (2NE1), Ga-In (Brown Eyed Girls), Jonghyun (SHINee)

### THE APPLE HAIRSTYLE

This popular hairstyle among children aged five and below is more commonly known among Singaporeans as the "onion head". Idols often keep their hair up this way during dance practices and it wasn't long before they start adopting this cute style for stage appearances as well.

Spotted on: G-Dragon (Big Bang), Sohee (Wonder Girls), Dara (2NE1)

### OVERSIZED T-SHIRTS

Skin-tight clothing is a thing of the past as Korean celebrities choose dress down in ultra-comfortable oversized t-shirts. But that doesn't mean a compromise on style, as the shirts, which come in all sorts of loud colours and bold graphic imprints, look good with a casual jacket!

Spotted on: Junhyung (B2ST), Victoria (f(x)), Sooyoung (Girl's Generation), Heechul (Super Junior).

### ASIDE: EYELINER

While the small-eye stereotype may not apply to all Koreans, it still holds true for a percentage of the population. This applies to their starlets as well, who choose to pile on copious amounts of eyeliner to conceal their mono-lidded eyes. The males in the industry also swear by eyeliner as it adds more definition to their eyes, all the better to smoulder at the camera with.

## SAY WHAT?

So your grasp of the Korean language is limited to only "Bae Yong Joon" and "Kimchi", but don't fret! HYPE is here to help you upgrade your vocabulary list with words that are not usually found in Korean language guidebooks.

### Daebak (say: Day-bak)

**Meaning:** Huge win, great success. Often used by the younger crowd to describe something that is epic.

**Example:** Have you seen TVXQ's new music video, "Keep Your Head Down"? It's total daebak!

### Babo (say: pa-bo)

**Meaning:** Fool. Can be used affectionately... or not.

**Example:** Lee Joon failed his mathematics test again, what a babo!

### Selca (say: sel-car)

**Meaning:** Realising that there was no word to describe the action of taking one's own photo, they coined the term selca from the words "self" and "camera".

**Example:** Junhyung is such a narcissist. He won't stop tweeting his selcas.

### Skinship (say: ske-een-ship-u)

**Meaning:** Expression of feelings through intimate physical contact, which includes hand holding, hugging and kissing.

**Example:** You two have been dating for a month now, it's about time you initiate some skinship with her.



PHOTO COURTESY OF XL RECORDS

# WONDER WEEKEND

**THE WORLD RAVES ABOUT THE METEORIC RISE OF VAMPIRE WEEKEND, BUT THEY WOULD REALLY RATHER FOCUS ON THEIR MUSIC THAN PLAY THE FAME GAME, REPORTS JUSTINE CHNG**

Around February in 2006, four students busy finishing up their undergraduate studies at Columbia University, New York, created Vampire Weekend.

In mere weeks, the indie-rock band, comprising of Chris Baio, Rostam Batmanglij, Chris Tomson and helmed by Ezra Koenig, went from playing at social events and parties to recording and producing their own music and playing gigs around New York.

"We started recording as soon as we were a band," says Rostam, 27, producer and multi-instrumentalist of the band. "We went on tour with just the four of us the next summer."

Soon, the band was gracing the covers of magazines, playing at music festivals in the US and UK and producing chart-topping hits such as "A-Punk" and "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa", the latter of which was featured in Rolling Stone magazine's "100 Best Songs of the Year (2007)".

Preppy attired lead singer Koenig, 26, is still wearing the trademark boat shoes he wore as an eighth-grade English teacher before forming Vampire Weekend, the band remains the same modest Ivy League college students they were five years ago.

While the rest of the world concentrates on their speedy rise to worldwide acclaim, it's clear that the band is still in the business purely for their love of music.

"Sometimes when people write about our band, we get kind of down because of the fact that they are writing about how fast we had risen as opposed to writing about our music, our lyrics, the things that we actually care about," says Rostam.

Describing their style as "Upper West Side Soweto", Vampire Weekend's music seems to be an eclectic mix ranging from Afro Pop to Western Classical. Their daringness and willingness to experiment is best exemplified in songs such as "Horchata" from their debut eponymous album, *Vampire Weekend*. One obvious example is the heavy African musical influence that can be seen in their works.

"I don't think we see African music as being unconnected to other music like classical music and Indian music or Jamaican music. I think you know, a lot of people will hear something and say, oh that sounds African but inside of that there are connections to all different kinds of music," says Rostam.

The diversity of the band is apparent in their second album, *Contra*, where their music is as eccentric and captivating as ever. In it, they've dropped the (African influence) for louder, more pulsating drum beats in a sharper staccato as well as the swelling of rich violins accompanied by Rostam's creative use of the synth.

**"Sometimes when people write about our band, we get kind of down because of the fact that they are writing about how fast we had risen as opposed to ... the things that we actually care about."**

Speaking about the swirl of different elements used in the second album, Ezra says, "It doesn't necessarily make it better or worse, but it's fundamentally different, and I think that's what kind of distinguishes the form of the modern band, and that's certainly the case in our band."

Working together and being on tour for months can be a drag, but Vampire Weekend insists that the dynamics between the members are better than ever.

"When you spend time with a lot of people, you're going to learn a lot about them, and I think you're going to become closer. You also learn a lot about yourself and what you need to be happy," says Ezra.



# FOREVER LOVING FILM

As her second feature film is all set for a March opening, award-winning filmmaker Wee Li Lin tells **Michelle Ng** how she continues to channel her abundant energy into creative works.

She has a stack of colourful, quirky notebooks in her cupboard, all containing hand-scribbles of interesting random stories and scenarios that she's been caught in, but Wee Li Lin is no rookie writer waiting for a big break.

In fact, with 10 short films and two feature films under her belt and multiple awards from film festivals accumulated over 14 years, Li Lin is one of Singapore's most accomplished female filmmakers.

The journey into filmmaking came naturally to the 36-year-old, who used to make up short stories to entertain her younger cousins at family gatherings.

"I grew up watching a lot of movies during my childhood days. I decided I wanted to be a part of them instead of just sitting back and watching," says Li Lin.

Her second feature film, *Forever*, is set to hit the big screens in March. Similar to her first feature film *Gone Shopping* in 2007, *Forever*, at first glance, seems set to be a chick flick with a happy-go-lucky female protagonist and a fairytale

ending, but Li Lin reveals otherwise.

To her, a typical chick flick storyline has the sweet, likeable female protagonist advancing through a certain predictable (read: boring) journey before eventually meeting the man of her life but in *Forever*, it is a whole new ball game.

"The female protagonist is a highly flawed character that might be seen as the villain in other films," explains Li Lin.

The production follows Joey (played by newcomer Joanna Dong), a woman who found the love of her life, Gin (played by Taiwanese actor Mo Tze Yi), and lost him to another woman.

Joey goes on to stalk and harass Gin in the hope of gaining back his love. The dark and subversive underlying touch to the satirical movie has been cleverly masked with humour to help resonate with the audience.

Drawing inspiration from a real-life character she met in her short stint producing a government short film to encourage marriage, her decision to script *Forever* in a romantic comedy setting is "to make the audience feel more sympathy for her, because I feel that everyone, at one point in our lives, is also capable of stalking."

Besides scripting and directing, Li Lin has another fervent interest in

filmmaking – one that lights up her face as she gushes, "I love picking the wardrobe for all my films. I handpicked every single outfit in this film!"

Admitting that she has a streak of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) when it comes to perfecting her films, it is interesting to note that her films are her "creative outlets" to unleash all this energy.

A firm believer in setting and attaining her own high standards, Li Lin embarked on her Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing at Tisch-Asia in 2008. Her goal: to improve on her scriptwriting skills.

"Besides, 30s is a good age to do your Masters! It's always helpful to have some life experience to bring to the table," chuckles Li Lin.

This motivated woman isn't going to stop learning and improving anytime soon as she dreams of directing films outside of Singapore in the future.

For now, we will be content with Li Lin's feature films on Singapore spiced up with a pinch of fairytale magic.

**Post your funniest or most original comment on Forever's youtube channel and stand a chance to win movie tickets. Refer to our Contests page for details.**

**"I grew up watching a lot of movies during my childhood days. I decided I wanted to be a part of them instead of just sitting back and watching."**





## JOVIAL JOANNA

Michelle Ng talks to Joanna Dong, who is the psychopathic stalker in *Forever*.

### Tell us how you got started on your film acting career?

Someone recommended me and I went for the first audition, the call back and afterwards, they told me I got the part! I was kind of apprehensive at first but you have to trust the director. Li Lin had faith in me and I had faith in her that we would make this work.

### Do tell us more about how you eased yourself into the character, Joey.

Joey experiences unrequited love and I believe that's something that most of us identify with. The only difference is that Joey takes it to the extreme. Playing her was about amplifying those feelings within me to a much greater level.



### How similar or different are you to Joey?

Well, like Joey, I really love music. Like her, I can be really intense in relationships, even though I don't think I will be as drastic. My most significant difference with Joey is in our outlook on love and romance. She's the kind of girl who's really single-minded as she thinks if she found the one, it can be him and no other person.

### What are your plans for the near future?

I'm in a musical called *881 The Musical* which is an adaptation of Royston Tan's film *881*. Also, I'm working on a full-length mandarin jazz album and hopefully I can get that done by this or next year. I'll be writing some of the lyrics and I hope to bring the to the mandarin-speaking audience.

### What advice would you give to aspiring young talents in Singapore?

When you're starting out, you feel like you need to take whatever work comes your way. But be careful not to compromise your artistic integrity though it means you'll be surviving on less. It will keep your artistic integrity in a healthy condition which helps you survive longer in this sometimes cruel industry.







# A DECADE OF IDOL

It's been 10 years since the first episode of *American Idol* had Americans and many more around world fixated on their television screens weekly. **Melvin Poon** looks at 10 memorable moments that had people talking.

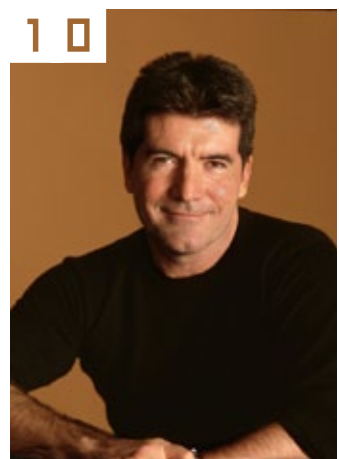
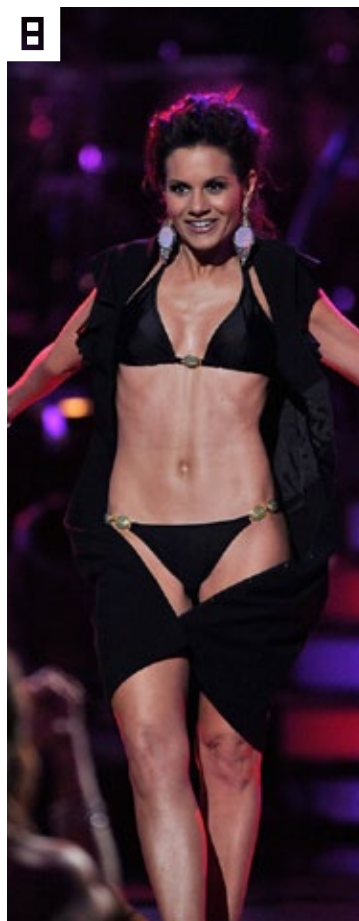
**1 Beating the Beatles** - Pardon the pun, but Kelly Clarkson, the first *American Idol* winner, released a single that broke a 38-year-old record held by The Beatles – instant god-like status. Okay, not really, but Kelly Clarkson is undoubtedly the most successful *American Idol* to have ever existed, with four studio albums each achieving Platinum status.

**2 Simon's Little Affair** - Tension between two beloved *American Idol* judges Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul manifested in make-out scenes onscreen in multiple episodes. Steamy and scandalous though they might be, it wasn't a real affair. Rumours about the both of them being together were dismissed after news broke that Simon got engaged to his girlfriend Mezghan Hussainy. Still, we can't help but to long for Simon to get together with Paula. Sigh.

**3 Joke of the Decade** - Seriously? William Hung, you telling the judges you've no professional training during that hilariously gut-wrenching rendition of *She Bangs* just isn't going to cut it with the judges. All's fine though, after William Hung got himself into the limelight; wasn't that what he wanted?

**4 Sorry Pops** - Oldest contestant to ever grace the stage (the audition room, that is), Sherman Pore exceeded the age limit by 36 years for *American Idol*. Honestly, what was he thinking? Pore didn't make it through, but you've gotta give him credit for earning himself respect from Cowell and the rest of the judges, saying this old man's "a class act".

**5 Seacrest's Face-off** - Someone had to stand up to the bully, right? Ryan Seacrest stepped up to the task,



and stands up to notoriously mean Simon Cowell when he commented, "There's a certain irony for you, singing a song about climbing when you actually fell off", after a contestant butchered the song "The Climb". Seacrest rebutted by questioning how his comment helped or kept it from being worse, to an awkward silence. Annoying as he might be, you've got to say, that was daring.

**5 Daughtry's Vote-off** - Chris Daughtry's fans claimed that vote-lines were misrouted to other contestants, with some hearing Katharine McPhee's thank-you message after making a voting call. He got voted off that same week. Daughtry fans, lament.

**7 Barely Legal** - Somebody get this kid a diaper. Okay, he isn't that

young, but young enough to earn himself a spot in the Remarkable section of *American Idol*. Youngest contestant David Archuleta wowed audiences at the tender age of sweet sixteen. David Archuleta went on all the way to the final, and although he didn't win *American Idol* in the end, he's definitely earned a spot in our hearts.

**8 Bikini Girls** - *American Idol*'s full of sexy. There's the Paula and Simon scandal, and then there's judge Kara Dioguadi. Kara got on stage to sing alongside ex-contestant Katrina Darrel (also known as Bikini Girl, for auditioning in, you guessed it - a bikini) and in a climactic twit, rips off her dress to reveal her black string bikini. Hot.

**9 Respect** - awe lôl, noun: a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear

or wonder : they gazed in awe at the small mountain of diamonds; the sight filled me with awe, etc. Or, you could describe awe as a standing ovation from Simon Cowell on Adam Lambert's rendition of "Mad World". Adam Lambert performed impressively enough to impress Simon Cowell, who's probably one of the hardest people to impress ever.

**10 Departure of the Mean One** - Simon Cowell leaves *American Idol*. Mean as Simon was, it's undeniable that his tough love and sharp, acid-laced words have helped shape the entire American (and for the rest of the world, in a way) entertainment industry. Goodbye Simon, we bid you a sentimental *sayonara*.

*The tenth season of American Idol premieres in Singapore on 20 Jan.*



# She's got

Move over damsels in distress, we want that quirky one with the bangs. They've been lingering in the shadows of our cinematic halls for decades, but now enter the Manic Pixie Dream Girl. By **Justine Chng**

Males love her, and females, even if they will never admit it, want to be her.

Appearing in award-winning movies played by Hollywood high-flyers such as Kate Winslet, Manic Pixie Dream Girls have bumped the demure female lead character into a status of near obsolescence over the past decade.

The term 'Manic Pixie Dream Girl' was coined an emerging stereotype in cinema by film critic Nathan Rabin after watching Kristen Dunst's performance in *Elizabethtown*.

Rabin defines this character as a "bubbly, shallow cinematic creature [who] exists solely in the fevered imaginations of sensitive writer-directors to teach broodingly soulful young men to embrace life and its infinite mysteries and adventures".

With their flighty personalities, they move from state to state, jumping from one job to another on their eco-friendly bicycles. Exuding quirky-cool means they manage to pull off moss-green hair and powder-blue vintage dresses without looking out of place.

There's just something bewitching about Scarlett Johansson nonchalantly sporting a pink wig while singing at her karaoke bar in or Zooey Deschanel running in wild

abandon for her passion of taking blurry photographs.

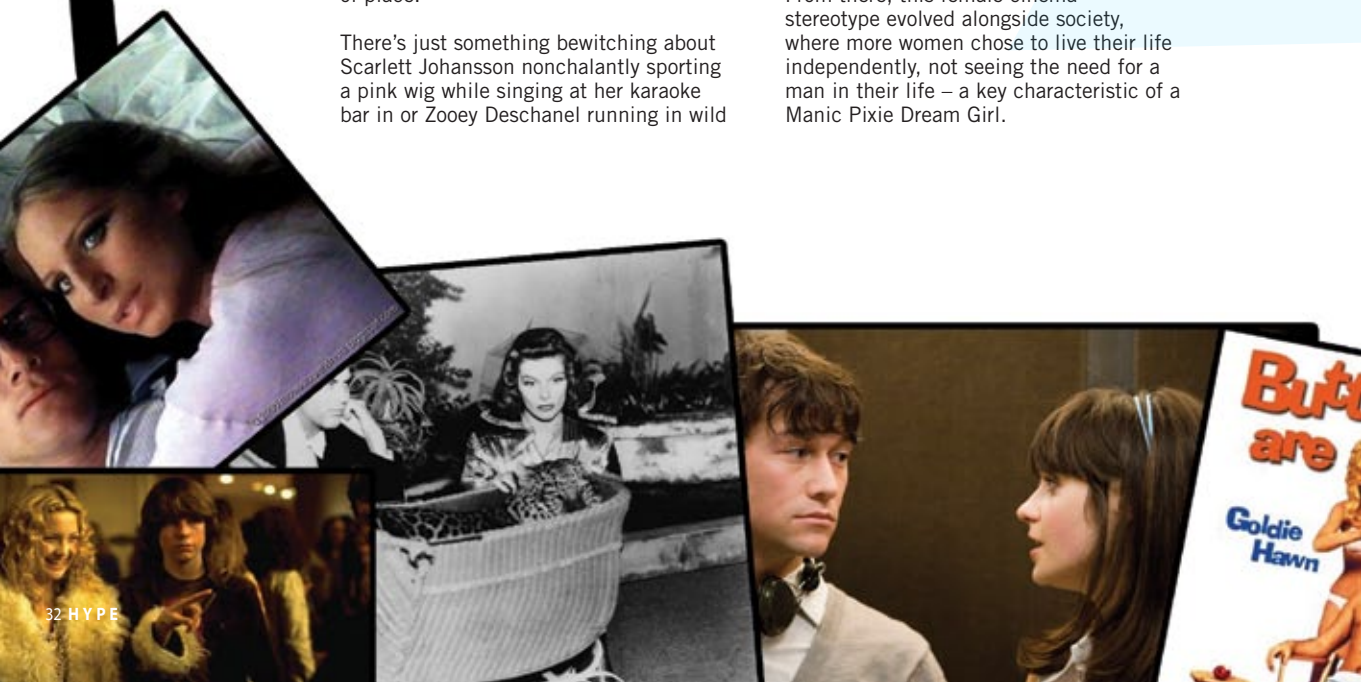
It could be the warmth that radiates from her carefree personality, her ability to keep life exciting with her sheer impulsiveness or her adorably opinionated nature that gives us that kick.

You can't put a finger on it. And maybe, that's just it. She's that enigma that clings to your brain so tight you can't shake her off.

"Life is predictable and having someone that's able to inspire and motivate you to take risks in life is fun," says Gerald Toh, 17, a student. "It's like life nudging you to tell you to do something about get a fresh breath of air, and in the form of this girl."

However, the Manic Pixie Dream Girl is far from being a new phenomenon. Signs of the shift from the traditional female characters, the romantic damsels in distress, began in the 60's with Audrey Hepburn's idiosyncratic character, Holly Golightly, in the classic movie *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

From there, this female cinema stereotype evolved alongside society, where more women chose to live their life independently, not seeing the need for a man in their life – a key characteristic of a Manic Pixie Dream Girl.



# you high

(and you don't even know yet)

What separates the older versions of the Manic Pixie Dream Girl like charming, witty party girl Holly Golightly from the ones today is how vulnerable those characters ultimately are after opening up.

Holly Golightly starts off as an independent character without substance, seeming to care only about money and fun. It's only deeper into the movie that the audience sees her rough past and buried emotions, which is eventually revealed to trusted love interest Paul Varjak.

This is very unlike Summer Finn of *(500) Days of Summer*, who from the start to the end remains stagnant about her ideas of love and doesn't show anyone her emotions. Even at the end, when male lead Tom seeks closure, she refuses to be swayed.

Melanie Oliveiro, who used to be a film critic with Channel NewsAsia, thinks otherwise. Describing them as a neurotic character she feels that the Manic Pixie Dream Girl could simply be a role reversal of the two genders as part of men's attempts to "decode women in film".

"She assumes the traditional male role in that she is emotionally unavailable, unlike her codependent love-starved contemporaries in other romantic films," she says, "So it is the S.N.A.G (sensitive

new age guy) who assumes the role of the 'needy' woman in this film genre."

The big question that remains is that if Manic Pixie Dream Girls exist in reality.

Is it even possible that such a fleeting character with no ultimate goal in life gets through today's society, prancing around, performing unproductive activities of her own eclectic taste, picking up and changing the lives of awkward depressed males on the sidelines?

“It’s about the chase. She’s not a straight forward kind of girl and it takes effort to crack her up, plus she has dreamy eyes,” says Muhd Fahmy, 23.

"It's nice to indulge in fantasy once in a while, but she seems unreal," says Ashley Hong, 19. "We need to come out of the theatre reminding ourselves that we're back in reality, and if we want change in life we need to make it ourselves because that's how it works."

On the other hand, males seem to be less skeptical, choosing to believe they do

exist, and are looking to find their very own Summer Finn.

"It's about the chase. She's not a straight forward kind of girl and it takes effort to crack her up, plus she has dreamy eyes," says Muhd Fahmy, 23.

Keep scouting, because she might just be at the next corner you turn.





A man with dark hair and glasses is shown from the waist up, looking down and adjusting the buttons of a grey and white vertically striped jacket. He is wearing a blue and white horizontally striped shirt underneath. He is also wearing light-colored trousers and dark loafers with a tan strap. The background is a plain, light-colored wall, and the floor is made of light-colored wooden planks.

# *Salford Lads.*

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# Retro reinvented

Pop culture icons come and go, but we celebrate the ones that have triumphed and improved through the test of time to become an integral part of our culture. By Justine Chng



## Ray-Ban Wayfarers

Designed in an era where glasses were made of thin metal frames, the Ray-Ban Wayfarer stood out with its squarish design, plastic frames and thick arms.

Originally catered to men in the 1950s, it soon caught on with the women who fell in love with the design after Holly Golightly, played by Audrey Hepburn, of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* sported them throughout the movie.

Credited as one of the best selling sunglasses in history, the instant classic enjoyed a vast popularity amongst celebrities like Michael Jackson and Madonna in the 1980s, especially after Tom Cruise donned the iconic glasses in the 1983 classic *Risky Business*.

After losing out to wraparound frames for over decade, the Wayfarer finally made a comeback in 2000 when fashion icons like Mary-Kate Olsen brought the vintage shades back. It caused a shift in style for sunglasses, from small thin frames to larger, bug-eyed ones, with designer labels such as Marc Jacobs and Kate Spade starting to produce wayfarer-inspired pieces.

Since then, the "New" Wayfarer and Folding Wayfarer have been introduced as an evolution of the classic Wayfarer to give a more modern feel.

## Polaroid Cameras

We have all experienced the thrill of shaking that rectangular piece of film to reveal your instant photo.

However, it was not long ago that Polaroids were in danger of becoming extinct. The impact of editing programmes being able to replicate the vintage feel saw the Polaroid Corporation announcing the discontinuation of its instant film products in 2008.

A group of Polaroid enthusiasts bought over Polaroid's old machinery and factory to recreate the instant film products from scratch with the start of the "The Impossible Project" that same year. Their new instant films are available for Polaroid lovers via their website or their growing number of "Impossible Project Spaces" worldwide.

Lady Gaga, who was appointed creative director, topped herself with the Polaroid Grey Label Line. The line, which has a three-item range, includes a spruced-up version of the iconic Polaroid camera, offering digital and physical copies, and sunglasses that feature a built-in camera and have the ability to display photos on its LCD shades.



## Coca-cola

In 1886, the creator of Coca-cola, John Pemberton, claimed that it could cure addictions. Fast forward to today, and most of us are addicted to the drink instead.

The drink was first sold at five cents a glass, during a time when belief was rife that carbonated water was beneficial to health.

This classic product of the American Dream has gone beyond conquering the world of carbonated drinks, in which they managed to chalk up years of bitter feud with Pepsi, and effectively progressed to greener pastures.

From being involved in entertainment, with *Ugly Betty*-designed bottles, to having fashion designers like Karl Lagerfeld and Manalo Blahnik produce special-edition bottles, Coca-Cola has reached an all-new high by producing Coca-Cola's Clothing, a fun and trendy line right in tune with their image. Released in Brazil at the start of the year, you can be sure it'll be spread around the world soon.





# THE RE-INVENTION OF THE FAIRY TALE MOVIE



In their bid to attract more viewers, more fairy tale films are adopting popular movie themes and changing the storylines of the tales they were based on.

By Ng Yang Han & Bryan Toh





**Y**ou know times are changing when you can actually go to a bookstore and pick up a pornographic book based on the fairy tales you loved as a child.

Such an incident almost happened in December 2010, when publishers had to recall a collection of translated Brothers Grimm fairy tale books in China after mistaking an erotic reinterpretation of the stories for the real, puerile thing.

Among the recalled book's contents was a re-imagining of the popular fairy tale, *Snow White and The Seven Dwarves*, with the prince falling in love with Snow White's corpse.

What lovely bedtime story material.

Thanks to their commercial potential, fairy tales are no longer limited to the playpen, and instead, have been altered to appeal to a wider range of audiences as was seen with the recalled books in China.

It is a subtle trend that is most evident on the big screens, with an increasing number of films taking fairy tales and retrofitting them to fit popular cinema trends of the day, in a bid to appeal to a wider audience base.

Locally based director Kevin Sng, whom we spoke to, agreed that this was the case.

"In film, there are formulas that filmmakers follow to make



their movies appeal to the general audience," he explains.

Expounding on his statement, the managing director of Kelvin Sng Productions Pte Ltd says, "Fairy tale films have generally followed these formulas, but differentiate themselves by making various changes to the story line".

Kelvin feels that this is down to the fact that today's movie-goer is more mature and dislikes wholesale rehashes of the fairy tales they are already familiar with - hence the filmmakers' need to make tweaks.

One only has to look at some recent and upcoming fairy tale movies to gain a better understanding of this phenomenon.

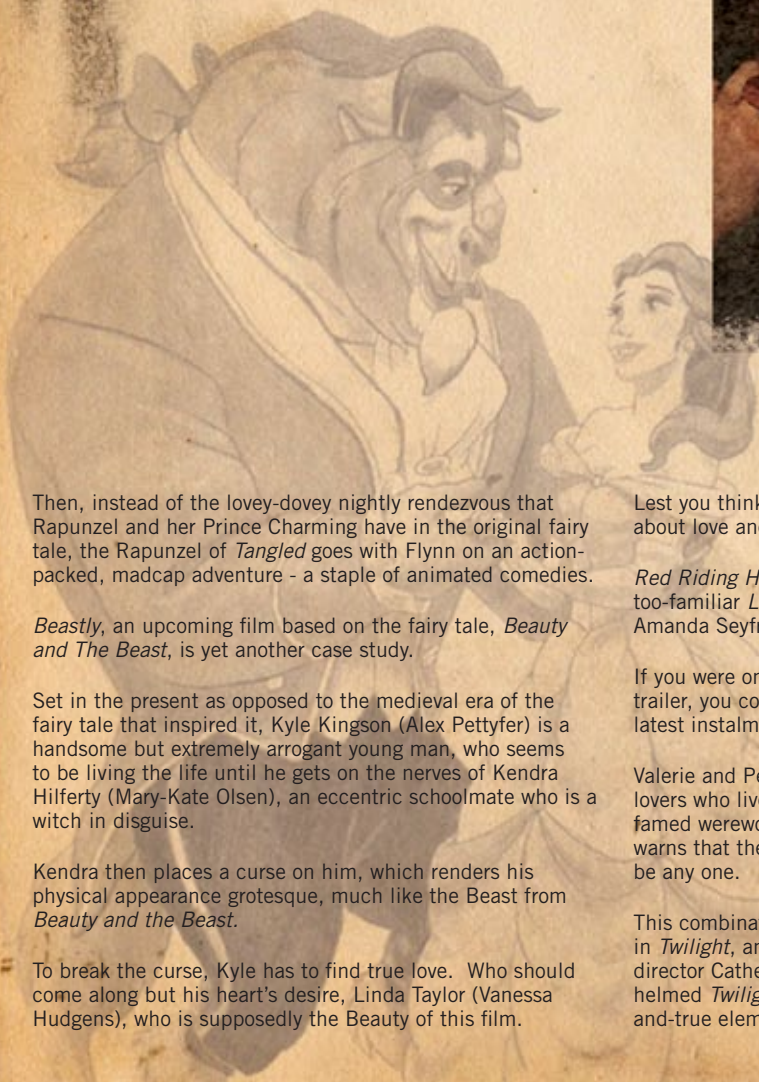
Take the recently released *Tangled* for example.

Largely based on the fairy tale *Rapunzel*, the film jumped on the animated comedy bandwagon, which includes films like *Despicable Me* and *Megamind*, as such films are wildly popular with audiences, and by positioning itself within that genre, *Tangled* could only appeal to a greater crowd.

That aside, *Tangled* also made significant changes to the plot of the fairy tale it was based on.

In the movie, Rapunzel (voiced by Mandy Moore) has been given much more spunk and character than the original ever evoked, and manages to take Flynn Rider (voiced by Zachary Levi), the kingdom's most wanted bandit, hostage.





Then, instead of the lovey-dovey nightly rendezvous that Rapunzel and her Prince Charming have in the original fairy tale, the Rapunzel of *Tangled* goes with Flynn on an action-packed, madcap adventure - a staple of animated comedies.

*Beastly*, an upcoming film based on the fairy tale, *Beauty and The Beast*, is yet another case study.

Set in the present as opposed to the medieval era of the fairy tale that inspired it, Kyle Kingson (Alex Pettyfer) is a handsome but extremely arrogant young man, who seems to be living the life until he gets on the nerves of Kendra Hilferty (Mary-Kate Olsen), an eccentric schoolmate who is a witch in disguise.

Kendra then places a curse on him, which renders his physical appearance grotesque, much like the Beast from *Beauty and the Beast*.

To break the curse, Kyle has to find true love. Who should come along but his heart's desire, Linda Taylor (Vanessa Hudgens), who is supposedly the Beauty of this film.



Lest you think these new breed of fairy tale films are all about love and sunshine, think again.

*Red Riding Hood* is an upcoming movie based on the all-too-familiar *Little Red Riding Hood* fairy tale, which stars Amanda Seyfried as Valerie, the girl in the scarlet cape.

If you were only half paying attention while watching the trailer, you could be forgiven for mistaking it to be the latest instalment of the *Twilight* series.

Valerie and Peter (Shiloh Fernandez) are star-crossed lovers who live in village terrorised by a werewolf and famed werewolf hunter, Father Solomon (Gary Oldman) warns that the wolf takes human form by day and could be any one.

This combination of adolescent love and supernatural in *Twilight*, and judging from *Red Riding Hood's* trailer, director Catherine Harwicke, who incidentally also helmed *Twilight*, seems to have borrowed those tried-and-true elements that audiences love for the film.





Good girls don't talk  
to werewolves

# RED RIDING HOOD

New &  
major motion picture  
from the director  
of *Fantasia*

introduction by CATHERINE HARDWICKE

These three films are prime examples of how fairy tales have been treated to appeal to the masses.

The filmmakers' attempts seem to be working too, with average movie-goers whom we spoke to saying that the re-vamped versions of their childhood fairy tales were much more realistic and believable.

"Instead of the usual Prince Charming and his white horse that we are used to, today's fairy tale movies put a twist on the story and give modern day traits to the characters," said Alger Chua, 18.

The second-year Logistics Management student at Ngee Ann Polytechnic felt that this made the films more relatable, and thus more attractive.

Others, like Vinna Yip, 19, are glad that the films are not wholesale adaptations of the fairy tales.

"I think a few tweaks here and there would make the movie more attractive as a whole," said Vinna, who is reading law at

the National University of Singapore.

She adds, "Adopting the fairy tales wholesale might result in a more boring film, as we are already familiar with the original fairy tale." Of course, there will be purists who argue that this reinvention ruins the fairy tales that the movies were based on.

Kelvin, however, says that because the films in question are "still based on the principles and fundamentals of the fairy tale", they do not spoil the fairy tale.

"These films provide inspiration as to how far we can stretch the original story to fit the modern world," says Kelvin.

With upcoming flicks like *Beastly* and *Red Riding Hood* set to hit cinemas in 2011, this trend of re-invented fairy tale movies sees no sign of dying down soon.

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# FROM PRINT TO SCREEN

Film adaptations of best-selling books are a common sight in Hollywood today. *HYPE* brings you five books that will make their way to the big screen in the months to come. Grab them before they fly off the shelves.



## LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER, MY DEAR

By Bryan Toh

If you've read the tale of Little Red Riding Hood, you might recall that because she ignored her mother's warning to stay on the path, our crimson-caped little girl and her grandmother got eaten up by the Big Bad Wolf.

Retold over the centuries with various versions, the story starts off with Little Red Riding Hood setting off to visit her ailing grandmother, armed with cakes and wine for nourishment. She meets a wolf along the path and unwittingly divulges her destination to the cunning creature, thus putting her grandmother in danger.

Of course, the watered-down version of the story by Brothers Grimm reimagining has a happy ending, with a huntsman passing by and rescuing them from the wolf's belly, and all ends well with Little Red Riding Hood promising to never leave the path again.

Our caped heroine, starring Amanda Seyfried (*Letters to Juliet*, *Mamma Mia!*) as Valerie in the upcoming gothic thriller, *Red Riding Hood*, however, isn't so little.

Directed by Catherine Hardwicke (*Twilight*, *Thirteen*) and seemingly drawing inspiration from the darker versions of the fairytale, Valerie is a young medieval woman who has

fallen in love with a rebellious orphaned woodcutter, Peter (Shiloh Fernandez from *Skateland*).

Much to their dismay, they discover that Valerie's parents have already arranged for her marriage to the well-bred son of a blacksmithing family, Henry (Max Irons from *Dorian Grey*). The star-crossed couple plans their elopement, only to find that a werewolf that haunts the forest surrounding their village has murdered Valerie's older sister.

Given the film's combination of forbidden romance, love triangles and mystical creatures, you can be forgiven for thinking it to be a rehash of Hardwicke's *Twilight*.

Don't make the mistake of thinking the cast will be anything like that from the wimpy glittering vampire movie, however. With Oscar-winner Julie Christie (*Away From Her*) playing a "sexy bohemian grandmother [who] lives outside the walled town in a cool tree house", Gary Oldman (*The Dark Knight*, *Harry Potter*) starring as the famed werewolf hunter, Father Solomon, we're expecting some pretty solid acting from these old-timers.

The film is also accompanied by the eerily haunting melodies of Swedish electronic band, Fever Ray, as the increasingly volatile paranoia and fear of the villagers swirl to a maddening climax with our heroine chained to wooden stakes as an apparent sacrifice to the prowling predator... or perhaps, a test of her humanity.

"There's a different kind of fear we're hoping to deliver here," said Hardwicke in an online interview with EntertainmentWeekly.com in April 2010.

We're hoping you deliver on that promise too, Hardwicke.

*Red Riding Hood* is slated to hit the silver screens in 2011 on Mar 11.





# THE INTRIGUE OF LONDON BOULEVARD

By Lavinna Kaur



Set in the districts of South London, *London Boulevard* is written by prolific crime author Ken Bruen about Mitchell, a toughened criminal who has just been released after doing three years of prison for assault.

Inspired by the 1950 classic film noir, *Sunset Boulevard* (hence the name), Mitchell intends to keep straight and narrow path, but is pulled back into his old way of life involving crime and violence when he meets Billy Norton, a former associate with schemes of violence and vengeance on the day of his release.

Wit, charm and some luck found him a job as a bodyguard at a mansion in Holland Park, where fading 60-year-old actress Lilian Palmer lives. In the mansion, Jordan, the European butler with a mysterious background, greets Mitchell suspiciously and a whole series of drama unfolds as people close to Mitchell start getting hurt. Compelled to act, he finds himself in more trouble than before as ruthless

and bloody scenes unwind.

From his style of writing, it is obvious that Bruen is a huge fan of crime fiction, and constantly references and namedrops characters and quotes from real crime novelists such as James Ellroy, John Harvey and Charles Willeford.

It is no surprise that a book whose characters seem almost alive has been adapted into a movie. The upcoming crime film is directed by William Monahan, an Academy-award winning screenwriter who is more well known for his screenplays like *The Departed*, *Kingdom of Heaven*, and *Body of Lies*.

However, in the upcoming adaptation, the script seems to have been adapted by Kiera Knightley instead of seeking out an actress more suitable for the sexagenarian Lilian, like Helen Mirren, who would be more likely to pull off the role.

Famous for her big screen roles like

*Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Pride and Prejudice*, we wonder if Knightley will be able to pull off the young actress supposedly haunted by her fame and pursued relentlessly by the paparazzi.

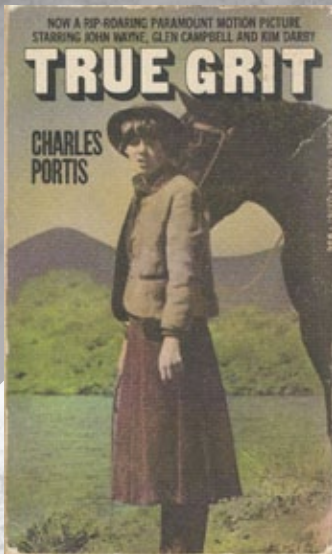
Colin Farrell, who's starred in several action films like *Daredevil*, *S.W.A.T* and *Minority Report*, should have no troubles playing tough guy Mitchell, apart from needing to shed his lovely Irish accent for a "Sauf Landan" one. This would also be the first time the duo appears on screen together, so we're not too sure if they'll be able to pull off the on screen romance.

Legendary British film gangster Ray Winstone also makes an appearance as Rob Gant, the crime boss who has greater plans for Mitchell beyond collecting debts.

We'll just have to wait and see if the film adaptation manages to pull off the solid job its book counterpart had delivered.

*London Boulevard* is set to be released on May 26.





# VENGEANCE — WILD WEST STYLE

By Mark Leong

At first glance, *True Grit* isn't like your regular novel. Rather than starting from the top with a detached, third-person narrative, *True Grit* is read completely from the first-person by the main "protagonist" of sorts, spinster Mattie Ross, a rather different woman for the roaring 1920's, with more gut and grit than you'd expect from a far more timid age.

One of the main hooks for this book is Mattie Ross's plain, frontier-woman styled form of narrative, which resounds with readers not only with its simplicity, but also its down-to-earth, homely feel that was quite unlike the gun-slinging-gung-ho cowboys of an Old West novel. The 1969 film though, is the opposite, eschewing the narrative in favor of a simple depiction of Mattie's youth.

Mattie Ross (Kim Darby) is on a quest to avenge her father's death at the hands of drifter Tom Chaney, and to bring him to justice for a unforgivable crime, she enlists the help of Marshall "Rooster" Cogburn (John Wayne) and Texas Ranger LaBoeuf (Glen Campbell) to do just that.

As she trawls the desert hunting down Chaney, Maggie learns much from her companions and antitheses LaBoeuf and "Rooster" Cogburn, who come to value her as not only an ally, but as equals, going so far as to save her life at the very cusp of what looks to be a gruesome death.

The original film adaptation, however, splits screen-time between Rooster and Mattie, and depicts their relationship as a more reciprocal one in nature, particularly paying attention to the contrast that makes them a veritable motley crew – Mattie, a prim, proper, dry-humored girl, versus Rooster, an alcoholic, gun-swinging, shoot-first-think-later loose-cannon cowboy. What most fans will notice, however, is a distinctly lighter feel, missing the novel's trademark dry humor and grim undertones.

With the Coen Brothers, masterminds behind hits like *No Country for Old Men* and cult classic *The Big Lebowski*, behind this year's adaptation, the movie promises to be a far more faithful adaptation than the 1969 film, as well as filled with dark-humour, much like the novel of its namesake.

Ethan Coen, half of the two-man pair directing the film, also commented that two of the biggest problems of the 1969 adaptation, such as the lack of Mattie Ross's future persona and the lack of the tough, hard-as-nails feel found in the book, will be addressed.

While Paramount still retain the rights to this film, it looks like they're pulling out all the stops on this one.

Jeff Bridges (*Seabiscuit*, *Iron Man*) takes on the role of one-eyed, no-nonsense, gun-toting Marshall Roster Cogburn while Matt Damon (*Saving Private Ryan*, *The Bourne Identity*) and Hailee Steinfeld form the rest of the motley crew of *True Grit*, playing LaBoeuf and Mattie respectively. Meanwhile, Tom Chaney, the ever present target of Mattie's blood hunt and common enemy of the trio will be played by none other than Josh Brolin (*In the Valley of Elah*).

We're guessing this might just be one shoot out you don't want to miss.

*True Grit* is slated to hit the big screens in 2011 on Feb 17.



# ALL EYES ON HIM

By Dawn Lazaroo

In *Water for Elephants*, Sara Gruen's third novel, the relationship between a lemonade-stealing elephant and a young man lies at the heart of a richly detailed tale that brings to life a travelling circus complete with toothless tigers, disgruntled dwarfs, and even a 400-pound fat lady named Lovely Lucinda.

A slight departure from her previous two books (both of which were about horses), her latest novel transports readers back in time to when Jacob Jankowski's 23-year-old self unwittingly found himself part of a second-rate circus after the sudden death of his parents in a car accident.

Just short of graduating with a veterinary degree from Cornell University, Jacob (played by Robert Pattinson) is given the dubious task of handling the circus animals under the guidance of the very charming but schizophrenic chief animal trainer, August (played by Christoph Waltz). There is of course the prerequisite love interest, Marlena (played by Reese Witherspoon), a dazzlingly beautiful performer who just happens to be August's wife.

Instead of the familiar red-and-white big top and glittery acts most people are used to, Gruen delves straight into the grittier stuff behind the scenes. The Benzini Brothers Travelling Circus is full of secrets: the circus director uses underhanded means to attract more acts to join his stable of performers; unwanted workers are unceremoniously and discreetly thrown off the circus train in the middle of the night; and both animals and humans alike are not spared from abuse.

A nasty tragedy occurs towards the end of the tale, but as the saying goes, "The show must go on", and Jacob has to gather his wits to start anew.

Expect the rich details in the book to be translated on the silver screen as well, under the capable hands of director Francis Lawrence, who previously helmed movies such as *I Am Legend*. He should be no stranger to bringing the strange and wonderful to life, having directed the music video for Lady Gaga's *Bad Romance*, which was nominated for a Grammy award.

The movie also looks set to be an authentic portrayal of the travelling circus life in Depression-era America. One of the locations, a town in Tennessee called Chattanooga, got an estimated \$1 million boost to its economy during the movie's production, as the filming involved the town's vintage trains, tracks and beautiful landscapes.

It should also be interesting to see the chemistry unfold between Robert Pattinson and female lead actress Reese Witherspoon, given the 10-year age gap between them. Witherspoon has reportedly said that Pattinson is "extraordinarily attractive", even going so far as to compare



him with Leonardo di Caprio from the *Titanic*-era.

This also isn't Robert Pattinson's first time stepping out of his now iconic sparkling vegetarian vampire Edward Cullen (of the famed *Twilight* saga) role which propelled him to dizzying fame.

With some pretty decent acting in the indie flick *How to Be*, we're hoping we'll get to see another side of Pattinson that isn't constantly broody. Even Gruen herself says that he is "going to shine in this role".

Will Pattinson sparkle? We're holding our breaths.

*Water for Elephants* is set to reach a cinema near you on Jul 7.





# \$60 MILLION BET ON NUMBERS

By Ng Jian Yang

If you haven't already heard of *I Am Number Four* by James Frey (who wrote the New York Times bestseller *A Million Little Pieces*) and Jobie Hughes you will soon.

Written under the pseudonym Pittacus Lore in the first of their Lorien Legacies series, the novel for young adults is slated for a movie release later this month and has been generating a fair bit of buzz, not least for its clever mash up of familiar plotlines, high-octane action, and easily accessible characters.

The premise of the book is certainly intriguing. A group of aliens from Lorien flee to Earth after malevolent Magadorians of the neighbouring planet, Magador, invade their home planet and annihilate much of their species. Not unlike Superman, Nine Loric Garde infants are placed on a spaceship and sent to live hidden among humans in a last-ditch effort to preserve the "Loric" race.

To give them a fighting chance against the villains, who pursue them still, a Lorien elder places a charm on the nine children that makes them nigh invincible unless killed in an ascending numerical order, sequentially. The charm is broken if any of the children come into contact with each other.

Each Number has a "Cêpan" (guardian), who protects and guides the Loric Garde. One, Two and Three, have already been murdered, and Number Four, is next on the list.

Number Four - or John Smith as he is known in the novel - is lightning fast on his feet, has jumping abilities that would leave Bob Beamon weeping in shame and of course, incredible strength.

John, and his Cêpan, Henri, have been moving all over America to evade the Mogadorians. He has always remained emotionally detached from these transitory places but the latest, Paradise, Ohio, threatens to be



different. For once, John has the chance to make a few new friends and fall in love. He is tired of running, and believes he has a fighting chance against his adversaries.

Understandably, John's decision does not sit well with Henri. His tumultuous relationship with his guardian evokes poignant sentiments of the struggles teenagers face to constantly define and redefine their relationship with their parents.

For what the novel lacks in character development, James Frey and Jobie Hughes more than make up for it with a heady cocktail of nonstop action, high school drama and teenage romance.

The sequel, titled *The Power of Six*, will be available in June. But between then and now, fans of the Lorien Legacies can slake their thirst for all things "Loric" on the silver screen adaptation.

The film directed by D. J. Caruso (*Disturbia*, *Eagle Eye*) and produced by Hollywood heavyweights Michael Bay (*Transformers*) and Steven Spielberg (*War of the Worlds*) through Walt Disney Studio to the tune of a budget of about US\$60 million promises to be an unforgettable action blockbuster. If the past movies of Bay and Spielberg are anything to go by, *I Am Number Four* will be replete with stunning special effects and epic fight scenes on a grandiose scale.

Up-and-rising star Alex Pettyfer (*Alex Rider: Stormbreaker*, *Beastly*) takes on the role of the eponymously titled lead protagonist, and promises to breathe fresh appeal into the recently jaded superhero scene. Critically acclaimed Dianna Agron (*Quinn Fabray in Glee*) stars as Sarah Hart.

We are not betting against this movie being Number One.

*True Grit is slated to hit the big screens in 2011 on Feb 24.*



FASHION



Styling

Michelle Ng

Photography

Clifford Loh

Text

Sophie Hong

Makeup

Xara Lee


Hair

Norah Salazar

Models

Nastya S, Margaret W / Upfront & Alando / Shine





Red tutu with one sleeve dress,  
M.B. Marshellina Rahardje,  
Wire necklace, Blackmarket.

# that girl in red

Red. The colour of passion and womanhood. It is believed that the red hood worn by Little Red Riding Hood symbolises her metamorphosis from innocent girl to alluring woman.

“Once upon a time, there was a dear little girl who was loved by everyone who looked at her, but most of all by her grandmother.”

*The Brothers Grimm.*



“And if there’s a beast in men, it  
meets its match in women too.”  
*Mother, The Company of Wolves*





◀ White blouse (worn underneath) and black geometrical dress, Max Tan Red sleeveless dress, La Belle, Gems cuff \$89 and feather necklace \$43, River Island Ring \$19, bangles set \$29 and nude strap heels \$159, Aldo.

▼ Navy blazer, Furrmuse, Red tail vest, June Lim, Beige shorts and wire necklace, Blackmarket, Red tutu with one sleeve dress, M.B. Marshellina Rahardjo, Brown boots \$189 and black wedges \$169, Dr Martens.

“ I’d like to hold you if I could, but you might think I’m a big bad wolf so I won’t.”  
Lil’ Red Riding Hood, Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs

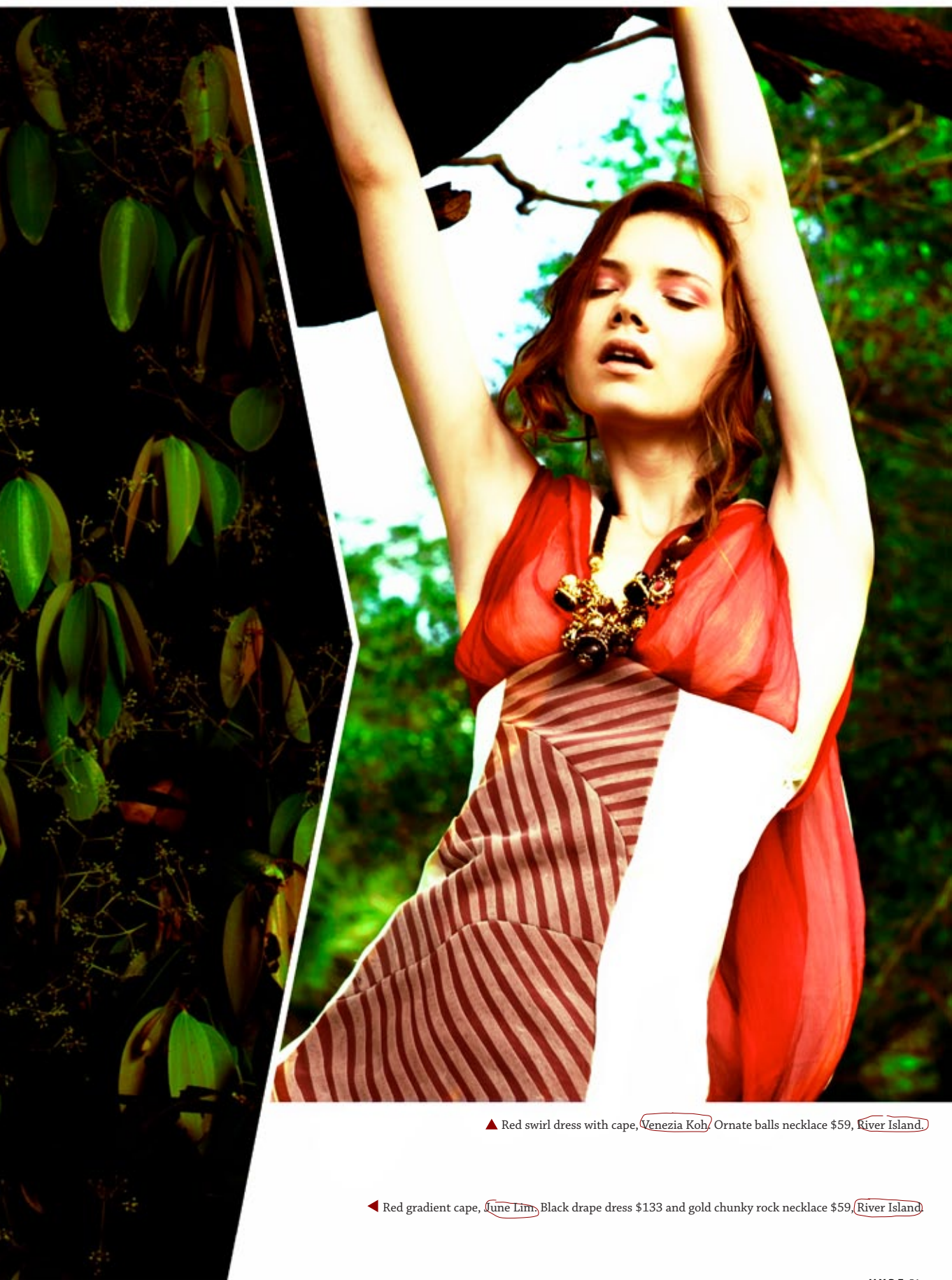




“What a tender young creature!”

*The Wolf*





▲ Red swirl dress with cape, Venezia Koh, Ornat balls necklace \$59, River Island.

◀ Red gradient cape, June Lim, Black drape dress \$133 and gold chunky rock necklace \$59, River Island.



# Wearing the cause

**GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN FASHION WAS ALL ABOUT THE EVER-CHANGING FADS THAT EVERYONE HAS A HARD TIME KEEPING UP WITH. LAVINNA KAUR DISCOVERS THAT ECO-FASHION'S THE NEW CRAZE IN TOWN.**

In the words of Coco Chanel, "Fashion is not something that exists only in dresses. Fashion is in the sky, in the street; fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening."

She just might have hit the nail on the head as eco-fashion, which involves reducing of the use of chemicals, the support of fair community trade and the use of recycled or organic fabric, looks set to change ideas and the way we live.

International fashion brands like Topshop, Zara and Timberland have embarked on going green, with eco-friendly collections available seasonally. Even celebrities like Emma Watson and Natalie Portman have launched their own eco-fashion lines.

The green trend also seems to be sprouting in Singapore. The Workforce Development Agency recently collaborated with the Textile and Fashion Federation in a Sustainable Fashion Seminar to encourage local fashion businesses to develop more eco-friendly business models.

Local fashion consumers are also becoming consciously eco-friendly. A recent survey of 1000 shoppers by the Readers' Digest showed that 75 per cent were willing to spend more for an eco-friendly product.

Arveen Sandhu, 22, a frequent shopper, claims, "I wouldn't mind spending more for an eco-friendly product, if the design is nice. Or else, I might look like Lady Gaga in a dress of cans!"

## Actually... you can save the earth too

One of the three stores in Asia that features Freitag bags is 'Actually', located at Seah Street.

These cult bags were created by a pair of Swiss brothers, Markus and Daniel Freitag, in 1993 using truck tarpaulin, old bicycle inner tubes and reused car seat belt webbing.

Actually was founded in March 2006 by Paul Khor who, while travelling, discovered that there were not enough of such shops in Singapore.

The brand was a success and there has been a steady sale over the years.

Another eco-friendly brand you might find in Actually is A Question Of. The brand features a series of tee shirts made of African organic cotton and produced under fair trade working conditions.

"In Singapore, the whole recycling thing isn't as conscious as other countries like Korea or Japan," says Dawn Lin, the merchandiser in Actually. She says the eco-fashion market in Singapore is rather niche but having a "good brand story" like Freitag might help in spreading the green message.





## Logo sets eco tone with bamboo fibre

Angelynn Tan, designer of Logo, a local eco-label launched in 2005, shares that the idea of starting an eco-fashion line sprung from a hobby.

"I used to collect curtains from the 1960's because of the prints and the materials they are made from. So I get a lot of inspiration from the materials," she says.

Her favourite collection is the eco-fibre collection, where she had women's apparel made out of biodegradable bamboo fibre after she discovered the art of making a satiny cloth out of the material.

She admits, however, it was a challenge getting the "eco-fashion" word out, as it was hard to believe. Over the past year, the bamboo fibre collection proved a hit, as it was sold out.

Previously a fashion designer, she feels that eco-fashion is not a trend, but an awareness.

"Singaporeans are supportive and trying to be part of the eco-friendly lifestyle. When they buy a garment, it's just to buy a garment. It plays a small part when they are aware that there is eco-fashion going on."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOGO

## B-Diff with eco fashion tote bags!

Started in 2008 by Albert Ser, B-Diff features tote bags with high quality material that allows you to save the environment.

Explaining how the trend was initiated in Europe with people carrying their own shopping bags to supermarkets, Albert saw the opportunity to come up with designer tote bags.

"Our customers would be able to do their part in saving the Earth and at the same time carry a designer tote that represents their personality!" he says.

In the past two years, B-Diff has released eight series and seen sales pick up with every series.

"Singapore is still in the growing stage of eco-fashion. So the focus now is to promote awareness in the market. Once consumers are aware of the benefits, it would be easier for eco-fashion to penetrate the mass market," he says.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF B-DIFF





# SCAPE

\*SCAPE is a talent and resource hub that congregates young Singaporeans through different programmes and initiatives. 360 Without Borders is a community of young people connected to \*SCAPE's ecosystem of venues, resources, corporations and organizations, coming together to make things happen.

Find out more at [www.scape.com.sg](http://www.scape.com.sg) or join us to create, collaborate and showcase at [www.360withoutborders.com](http://www.360withoutborders.com)!



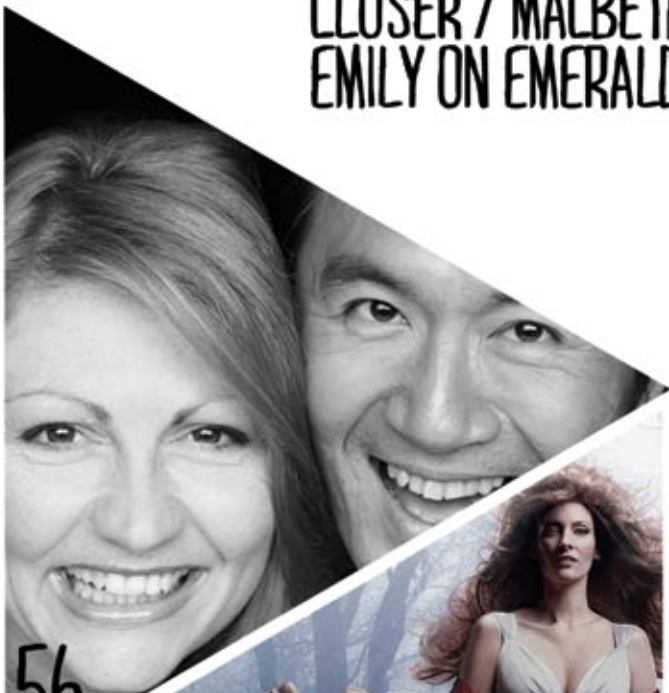
[www.facebook.com/scapesg](http://www.facebook.com/scapesg)

music, arts,  
dance, sports,  
entrepreneurship,  
new media & more.

**what will you  
do with this  
space tomorrow?**

# ARTS

CLOSER / MACBETH / ALBUM ART /  
EMILY ON EMERALD HILL / LION KING



56



58



59



60



62



ARTS / THEATRE

# UP CLOSE WITH REAL PEOPLE



HYPE talks honesty, in relationships and theatre, with actor Adrian Pang and his wife director Tracie Pang with their latest offering, *Closer*. By Nathaniel Ng and Taina Teravainen

It's easy to fall in love, but the reality is that it's just as easy to fall out of it.

At the core, *Closer* explores the unhappy relationships of four people, the bad choices they make and the devastating consequences that seem inevitable.

Actor Adrian Pang says, "People sometimes find themselves stuck in an unhappy relationship, where obviously there's something deeply wrong, and they stay because it's easier than to get yourself out of it."

The Patrick Marber play marks the debut of Pangdemonium!, the theatre company set up by actor Adrian and his wife, Tracie, who is also the director.

The main cast, apart from Adrian, include Tan Kheng Hua, Keagan Kang and Emma Yong,

For most, knowledge of *Closer* extends only to the 2004 film starring Natalie Portman, Julia Roberts, Jude Law and Clive Owen. *Closer* actually premiered as a stage play by in London in 1997 and was subsequently adapted for the screen, with its lines having been referenced even in songs by Fall Out Boy and Panic! At the Disco.

When asked about the continuing appeal of *Closer* with its melodramatic, tragic nature, Adrian says, "Everyone likes to voyeuristically look at other people suffer. It's slightly darker but also rooted in reality. We wanted it to be our next piece because it's about real people and real relationships."

Adrian and Tracie intend to open up a discussion among the audience with *Closer*.

"Just because it's not talked about doesn't mean it doesn't happen," Tracie says, on the audience's possible reaction to the risqué topics *Closer* touches on, such as the blasé attitude towards infidelity. "People have affairs. *Closer* isn't moralistic; it just tells the story."

Adrian adds that this is a play that requires some thought. One of his gripes is that theatre-goers often expect a good laugh or to be entertained by an extravaganza.

"*Closer* isn't one of them. It is not spectacle. It's a story we wanted to tell. It's about real people with real problems. In essence, it is about these people leading very desperate lives," he says.

Tracie and Adrian both agree, albeit laughingly, that their tastes tend to veer toward the darker end of the spectrum. Tracie's personal favourite scene in *Closer* involves the simultaneous breakup of the two couples on stage, which she describes as a magical piece of writing.

"It's not a pretty scene, but the dialogue is so real and it doesn't at all feel scripted."

Adrian finds the same "magic" within the play's language. He says, "[It] is full of these succinctly put lines that are so true, that expose the human condition in very simple, beautifully simple lines like, 'I don't love you anymore. Goodbye.'"

Regarding their own relationship, however, Adrian and Tracie are both incredibly at ease. While most shy away from mixing business with personal relationships, this couple seems to have made this seemingly dangerous equation work.

Pangdemonium!, referred to as their third child from a marriage of 15 years,

has been kept simple, honest and open. Their shared affinity for material that other theatre companies reject kick-started their desire to claim ownership. "Basically, to varying degrees, we're both control freaks," jokes Adrian.

The most pressing challenge for Pangdemonium!, as well as the rest of the theatre community, would be to maintain the quality audiences expect from theatre.

"It's been a huge learning curve for me," says Adrian about his shift from being on stage front to handling work behind-the-scenes. "Tracie has been holding my hand through it all." Working under his wife has taught him to recognise his own flaws and deficiencies, and it is she who is there to rescue him at the end of the day.

"We only argue about the small stuff now," says Tracie.

At the time of the interview, the pair was holding auditions for the musical *Spring Awakening*. As we wrapped up, Adrian pontificated (with tongue firmly in cheek) about what they would like to see change in the local theatre scene.

"I would like to see more people in the audience," says Adrian, smirking. "And no coughers. Coughers should be banned."

***Closer* runs from 17 Feb to 6 Mar at DBS Arts Centre. Tickets are available through SISTIC. For audiences aged 18 and above only.**

**Enjoy 50% off when you watch *Closer* with a friend and a student ID.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PANGDEMONIUM!



SRT's intentionally ambiguous poster aims to leave it open to interpretation.

# MACBETH: STILL DARK & DELICIOUS

PHOTO COURTESY OF SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE

**AFTER SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTIONS OF SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS, THE SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE RETURNS WITH MACBETH, FORT CANNING STYLE, REPORTS KYLE NEWU**

What a perfect setting for murder and mayhem. Imagine witches and apparitions joining you as you and friends prepare for a picnic.

Shakespeare's poignant play about ambition, betrayal and the subtle workings of conscience, originally set in Scotland, will be transported to Fort Canning Park.

Having previously tackled Shakespeare's famous comedies, the Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) will head in the opposite direction and present one of Shakespeare's major tragedies, *Macbeth*, this year.

Charlotte Nors, the executive director of SRT, explains, "We hope to give audiences a new exciting experience with every Shakespeare in the Park. *Macbeth* is such a powerful and potent play with themes that will resonate well with today's audiences."

Local actor Adrian Pang, who will play *Macbeth*, says outdoor theatre has its own unique set of challenges such as background noise and the huge space of the performance and audience area.

He adds, "The performers have the extra challenge of playing to the person right at the very back of the audience, without compromising the integrity and nuance of the characters and story." Adrian jokes that to bring across the dark allure he will "get a tan and pout a lot".

To enhance the quality of the production, the SRT has enlisted the help of director Nikolai Foster and award-winning production designer Morgan Large who previously collaborated on *Flashdance* in London.

Mr Foster describes the production as a "contemporary exploration of this bloody play".

He says, "We are treating the play like a Hollywood thriller. It will be a four-dimensional production, with sound, light, music and murder happening all around the audience. I don't want to think of this as a revival of a play by Shakespeare, but a new play."

Without giving away anything, Mr Foster only hints that this production might connect partially with Singapore's history, especially the military aspects of the play, with the setting being Fort Canning Park. However, he emphasises that the focus would be on the characters and the relationships between them.

"This is very much a domestic tragedy. It is the study of a very specific, violent and highly charged relationship between two people, their ambitions and how they achieve their desires."

Adrian adds, "It [*Macbeth*] has such dark and dirty elements, all the magic and mysticism, and blood and guts, I love it."

**Tickets available from SISTIC.**

**Answer this question to win a pair of tickets:**

***When will Shakespeare in the Park (Macbeth) in Singapore be held until?***



# MS EMILY & MR HENG

PHOTO COURTESY OF SIRIUS ARTS PTE LTD

Various accomplished actors have played the role of the nonya matriarch with great aplomb. Veteran actor Ivan Heng is set to revive the role every decade, as Lavinna Kaur finds out.

It was 10 years ago when Ivan Heng brought to life Emily, the domineering and unforgettable nyonya, whom you'd love to hate. Yet, she means more to him than ever.

The allure of reprising the role of Emily and the opportunity to one-up his past performance proved irresistible.

"Ten years ago, when I did Emily, I said to myself that I would do this role every 10 years. That was the plan. Only because in this play, it's such an interesting thing; she starts at the age of 14 to 84, in that span."

Ivan Heng's 2001 interpretation of the protagonist in Stella Kon's classic one-act play is still much admired and deemed to be "the Emily of the new millennium".

Eyes glistening with unshed tears, the man, who is clearly defined by his art, continues, "I mean, as an actor, I am my own instrument and I just thought that it would be a very interesting and enriching way to look at a role."

He feels that acting empowers him to capture humanity. In a startling moment, he gazes out of the window for a long while, turns back and says,

"I have four children; Richard, Charles, Edward, Doris." It is a line from the play, of course.

He explains how single lines said by a good actor can tell an entire story. An audience can tell which of these four children is Emily's favourite, which is the problematic one and which she likes. Richard, her favourite son, is someone Ivan thinks today's youth can relate to.

He adds that "his" role remains relevant despite having been previously played by seven actresses over almost three decades because it expresses universal concerns like the place of women in society.

Speaking affectionately about Emily, he says that in a span of two and a half hours, the audience would see her switch roles from naive bride to controlling mother to grandmother. He describes this experience as "seeing the many facets of a diamond".

"We never get to see our mothers in that light. It's only through photographs that you can guess, 'What was my mother like when she was a young woman, what was she like when she was courting, what was she like when she was the belle of the ball?'"

Getting into the psyche of Emily is no mean feat for the thespian. Ivan admits to investing all his time in gently immersing in the character by reading, surfing the Web, eating in Peranakan restaurants, going to the museums and

talking to women.

He also reveals that *Emily of Emerald Hill* would be set in a contemporary setting, so the audience, he adds, can look forward to loads of interaction and the multimedia projections incorporated by Brian Gothong Tan.

"We've re-worked the seating. We've taken out the first five rows of the Esplanade, so I'm in the lap of the audiences," he whispers with a saucy wink. He likens this new production to a forum, where people from all walks of life and races and nationalities gather together onstage.

"You'll laugh, you'll cry, you will leave rolling in the aisles and crying in the dark with Emily," he declares.

**EMILY OF EMERALD HILL**  
**MAR 3-13**  
**ESPLANADE THEATRE**

**Want a sneak peek into how this matriarch keeps a tight rein on her household?**

**Answer this question:**

**Who stars as Emily in *Emily of Emerald Hill*?**



# LION KING FOR ALL SEASONS

The *Lion King* musical, promises to be grandly different from the rest of the existing productions, will still thrill audiences of all ages. Put in another 10 words and all make it. By Natalie Koh.

It has been around for 14 years, been seen by over 50 million people around the world, won over 70 major international theatre awards and it's coming to town.

But it's not going to be like any other *Lion King* musical, according to John Stefanuik, the Associate Director of the show.

"Whenever we create a production of *The Lion King*, it's not a redo of previous productions or a copy of a copy of a copy," he says.

Based on the 1994 Disney animated film, *The Lion King* musical makes its Southeast Asian debut at the Sands Theatre in Marina Bay Sands in its full-scale Broadway grandeur – budgeted, designed and developed specifically for our theatre.

The musical has specific elements that will appeal to its Southeast Asian audience. Incorporated by director

Julie Taymor, certain parts of the show were inspired by Indonesian art forms such as topeng (masked dance/drama) and wayang kulit (shadow puppetry).

Ms Anne Quart, Associate Producer of Disney Theatrical Productions, shares, "The Southeast Asian audience will absolutely connect with these elements. The Americans would, obviously, think they're beautiful but the audience here would really be able to connect with their origins and history."

Even though *The Lion King* has been around for 14 years, being the eighth longest musical on Broadway, Mr Stefanuik says that each production is different in its own way.

"Each time, we have different actors who will bring their different experiences and stories to the show, giving a whole different quality to it," he says.

This Singapore production sees the largest variety of international artistes *The Lion King* has ever seen, which means that the production could be richer than any other.

"The story is universal, and then you have all the different people with different cultures bringing in their own stories into the picture. All the actors come from very rich cultural backgrounds proving that *Lion King*, as it has many many times before, transcends culture," Ms Quart says.

The actors are from all over the globe, with a majority from South Africa and the rest from Philippines, Belgium, Brazil and France, just to name a few.

"What I love about *The Lion King* is that it was created to appeal to a lot of different people. You have the love story for romantics, the father and son relationship to remind you of how it is like being a child and a parent, for example," Mr Stefanuik says.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BASE ENTERTAINMENT ASIA



# GETTING TO KNOW SIMBA & FRIENDS... ONCE MORE

Watch your Best Friend Forever (BFF), most cunning frenemy, that incessantly-preaching elder or the silently gallant friend in the story you grew up with, *The Lion King*. By Roxanne Lim



If you've ever wondered why this story evokes such strong feelings of warmth and familiarity on mention, wonder no more with this character guide.

## **Mufasa, King of Pride Lands**

Regardless of the long hours we stay away from home, hanging out with friends and whiling our hours away, there will be that pang for a parental figure when you're down. Mufasa, who died saving his cub, is the epitome of the protection of a parent, and watching him chide Simba gently for each of his misadventures is one of the highlights of this story.

## **Simba, son of Mufasa**

What is there not to love about Simba? The cub, who is an adorable mix of reckless trouble and precocious innocence, is that cheeky childhood friend we know inside out, inevitably trouble-bound but well-meaning at heart. Told to remain in the area where "where the sun shines and not travel into the shadowed area" where the blood thirsty hyenas live, his curiosity gets the better of him, resulting in the climax of the story.

## **Rafiki (mandrill-baboon), the old and wise one of Pride Lands**

Most of us have that special grandparent who shields us from a livid parent, or offers kind, wise words when we have lost our way. Rafiki is one such character. The wizened baboon, who blessed Simba at his birth, is the king's advisor and cares for Simba like his own.

## **Timon (meerkat) & Pumbaa (warthog), Simba's sidekicks**

The outcast duo of the story, Timon And Pumbaa are the friends you

wouldn't bring to that posh social gathering, but who will be there to lift your spirits and lend a listening ear when you're down. Their antics burgeon your mood and optimism and humour they radiate are an integral part of *The Lion King*.

## **Shenzi, Banzai & Ed (spotted hyenas), loyal followers and minions of Scar**

In every group of friends will exist the followers. Whether lacking of minds of their own or influential power, they are content with their circumstances. Promised that they will "never go hungry again", the spotted hyenas readily agree to help Scar kill Mufasa and Simba despite having never been abused under his reign.

## **Scar, younger brother of Mufasa**

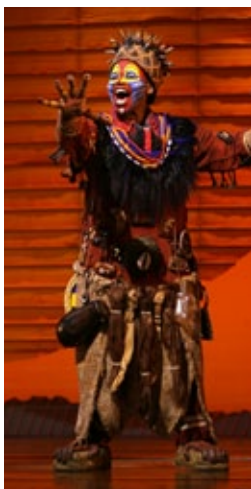
Scar is the wickedly ambitious colleague – be prepared for elaborate lies and scheming tactics just so he can get his way. Mufasa's brother and Simba's uncle, he disregards their blood ties and viciously leads his brother to his death, even attempting to lead Simba to the hungry hyenas. However, as with all backstabbing characters, sit back in satisfaction as he comes to a bloody end.

## **Zazu (red-billed hornbill), secretary to Mufasa**

In the mad rush of various projects, where would you be without the help of these people, who, in their hysteria, have prepared material way in advance? Tasked with protecting the kingdom to babysitting Simba, watch Zazu flap in agitation as Mufasa's trusty aide whilst efficiently coming out on top.



PHOTO BY: JOAN MARKUS





# curious covers uncovered

With a dizzying amount of new artistes and albums invading the music scene, it takes the creative edge to stand out (think Lady Gaga) in order to grab the eyeballs. Dawn Lazaroo looks at 5 albums with quirky covers that set them apart from the rest on the shelves.



## Pouring the heart out about *Terrible Things*

Artist: *Terrible Things*

A young boy and girl sit back, relax and enjoy their little tea party, a picture of serenity, while a raging fire engulfs a dollhouse right beside them. This sinister concept is a nod to the dark tone of the album. *Terrible Things* is rather personal, with lead guitarist and vocalist Fred Mascherino pouring his heart out about the fires that once ravaged his hometown in Pennsylvania.





## Sex sells in *Hands All Over*

Artiste: Maroon 5

Sex sells, and this alluring image of a naked woman in bed would make anyone do a double take. In a very literal take on the album title, she has an extra pair of hands around her. Photographer Rosie Hardy says it represents the sadness of leaving someone behind, but could be open to "so many different" interpretations, just like the music of Maroon 5.



## Horsing around *Under the Iron Sea*

Artiste: Keane

Artist Sanna Annukka used horses as a symbol of "coping under difficult circumstances" in this dark album cover. The imagery of horses as waves in the sea brings to life the "sinister fairytale-world-gone-wrong" feeling that Keane frontman Tom Chaplin says is evident in most songs on the album.



## Sugar-sweet *Teenage Dream*

Artiste: Katy Perry

Painted, ironically, by a guy named Will Cotton, this confection of cotton candy clouds is both sugar-sweet and provocative at the same time. He also brought the candy theme to life on the set of Katy Perry's "California Gurls" music video. "I wanted to go out with a bang for people to remember this," says Katy. Who could forget such a vision?

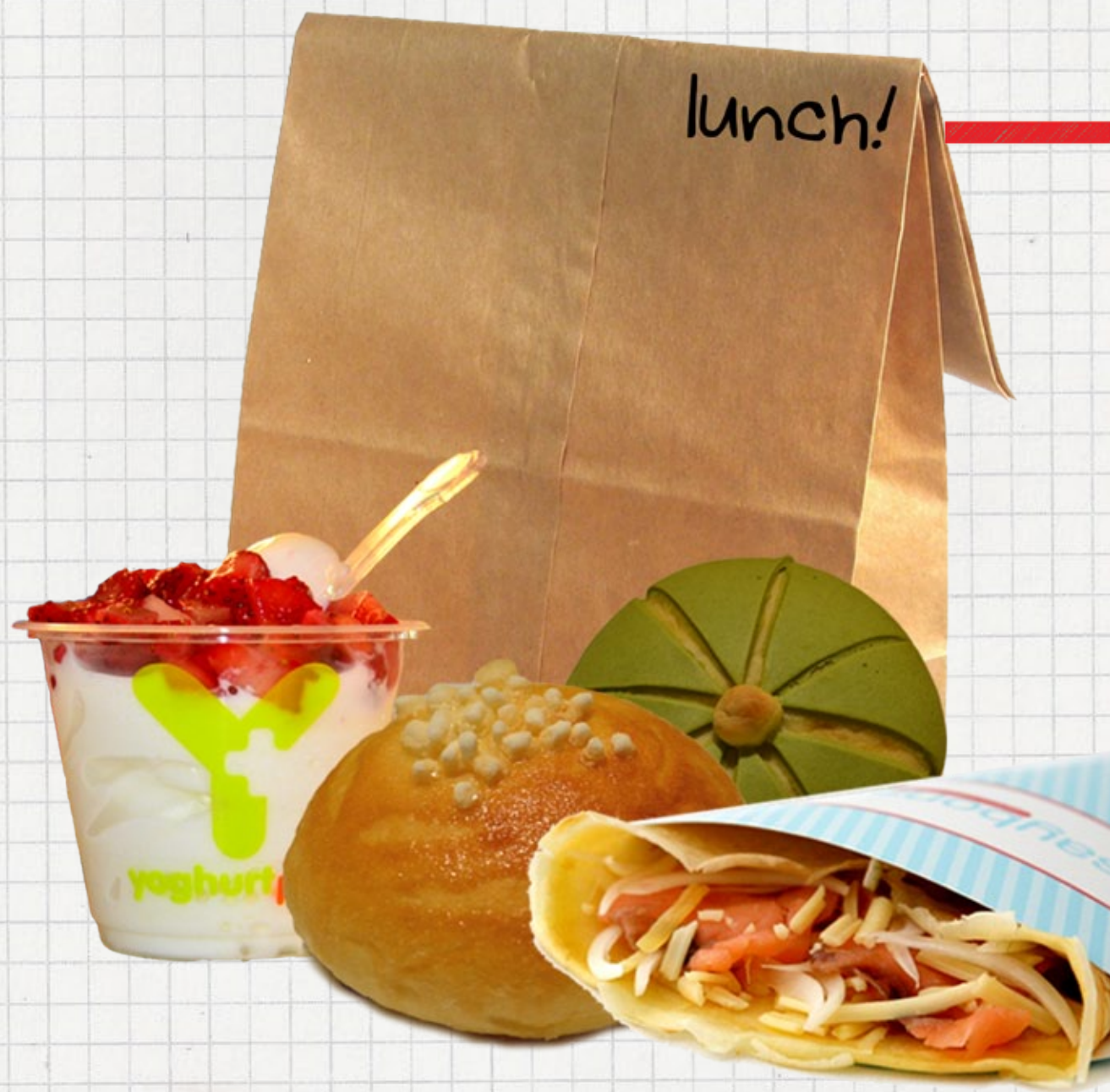


## Exploring personalities in *Bionic*

Artiste: Christina Aguilera

In *Bionic*, Christina Aguilera explores different sides of herself – resulting in an album cover where half of her face is covered with strange, metallic parts. The fake-looking pair of lips planted on her face could be a sign of how little her vocal talents matter here – the album has been criticised by Rolling Stone magazine for the overuse of Auto-Tune.







# meals on tracks

Being a teenager is not easy, we know. In between school, work and keeping up with our social lives, very little time is left to actually sit down at a table and have a good meal. But don't worry, with the expansion and renovation of our Mass Rapid Transit system going on, our train stations have been upgraded to become a quick solution to those who can only afford to spend five minutes on meals.

PHOTOS: GERALDINE LEE



# FAST PLANES & FAST FOOD ROUND THE CLOCK

## changi airport - terminals 1 & 2

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and boasting 40,000 square metres of commercial space stretched across four terminals, Changi Airport is more than just a landing area for tourists or a stopover during transit flights. Equipped with amenities for almost every need, it is no wonder that news reports of people channeling Tom Hanks in *The Terminal* spring up from time to time.  
By SOPHIE HONG



### YOGHURT PLUS

Where: Terminal 2 (Arrival Meeting Hall), #016-008, Level 2

When: 24 hours daily

You may not have the time to stop and stare, but you can always make time for a cup of frozen yoghurt and unlimited usage of an iPad. Yoghurt Plus is the latest addition to the horde of frozen yoghurt shops that are mushrooming all over the nation, with nothing new to offer in terms of product – it's just yoghurt with the usual toppings after all.

The main star of the show here would be their 10 iPad kiosks, that customers are entitled to use for an unlimited period of time with every purchase. Applications for newspapers such as the *New York Times* are already downloaded onto the device, so customers can catch up on current affairs as they eat while those with time to kill can occupy themselves for a good hour or so with games such as *Doodle Screw* and *Air Hockey*.

Besides the **Original Flavour** yoghurt which carries the Healthier Choice logo from the Health Promotion Board, the shop also offers a **Special Flavour of the day**, which includes raspberry and chocolate (we hear that it is a hot flavour).

Their cups come in three different sizes, small (4oz), medium (8oz) and large (10oz), at \$3.20, \$5.20 and \$6.40 respectively. It costs an extra \$1 to add a topping, \$1.50 for two toppings and \$1.80 for three.





## KEDAI KUE KUE

**Where:** Terminal 2 (Departure/Check-In Hall), #026-034, Level 2

**When:** Daily from 7 am to 11 pm

**Tel:** 6214 0020

The first thing that greets you when you step into this quaint little kueh shop is the colourful array of traditional Indonesian desserts and sweets on display. They taste as good as they looked too, judging by how the company has been supplying their kuehs to various hotels and establishments such as Mandarin Oriental, Hilton Singapore and Shangri-La Hotel.

Practically everything that they offer here are available in small and easy-to-eat portions, but we recommend the pink and white **Kueh Bandung** (\$0.70 per piece) to inject a vibrant splash of colour to any lunchbox.

To complete the authentic Indonesian gourmet experience, wash the desserts down with a packet of **Teh Botol** (\$2), a favourite tea beverage among many Indonesians. Although a little on the pricey side, they are one of the few retailers here that sells it.



The kuehs go for half of its original price after 8 pm every Monday to Friday but is subjected to availability, so do call to check first to prevent making a wasted trip.



## RUYI

**Where:** Terminal 1 (Departure/Check-In Hall East), #021-034, Level 2

**When:** 24 hours daily

Fast food and Chinese food are hardly ever mentioned in the same breath, but people might start associating the two with Tung Lok group's latest venture, Ruyi.

Developed by the brains behind Lao Beijing and My Humble House, its menu consists of traditional Chinese fare such as fried rice, noodles, soup and dimsum.

There is no difference if you choose to dine in or takeaway here, as items are served in fuss-free containers and eaten with disposable utensils.

An interesting dish is **Dumplings with Tomato and Egg Soup** (\$6.20). Although the unusual combination might raise a few eyebrows, the tangy soup complements the poached minced pork in a surprisingly delightful way that will tantalise even the pickiest of tastebuds.

The true measure of a dumpling lies in its skin, and while Ruyi's dumplings may not be delicately translucent or paper-thin, it is a modest offering that reflects its equally modest price. Rather reasonable, we think.

Another dish worthy of mention is the *zha jiang mian* or **Stewed Minced Pork Noodles** (\$6.90) that comes with a generous serving of meat and freshly shredded onions. The fun part is mixing the ingredients, so remember to give it your best swirl!

For a set meal, just add on \$2.50 to any main dish order for a drink and dessert.





# NEX UP, JUST FABULOUS FIRSTS

## serangoon - nex mall



Recently opened to much fanfare, nex, Singapore's first heartland mall, boasts too many firsts to name, including the SkyGarden, a hub that offers Singapore's first dog park within a mall, and new franchises brought to Singapore for the very first time. With close to 100 food outlets, commuters on the North-East Line and the newer Circle line will be spoilt for choice whether they want to sit down for a nice meal at the end of the day or grab a quick bite on the way to work. By DAWN LAZAROO



### GREEN PUMPKIN JAPANESE BAKERY

Where: nex, 23 Serangoon Central, #B1-80

When: Open from 7 am to 10 pm daily

Tel: 6634 7437

Website: <http://www.greenpumpkin.com.sg>



With its huge green pumpkin-shaped lampshade displayed at the storefront, Green Pumpkin Japanese Bakery, located within the Japanese food street (Shokutsu 10) in the mall, is easily noticeable from afar.

The bakery serves up freshly baked breads and cakes with chewy textures and unique flavours. Its signature bread, the **Green Pumpkin bun** (\$1.60), is an adorable confection decorated to look like a real pumpkin. The bun is a perfect balance of a lightly sweet green tea exterior, and a flavourful filling with generous pumpkin chunks.

True to its name, most buns in the bakery are either green in colour or include pumpkin prominently in their recipe. Those who prefer other flavours will not be disappointed though, as there are alternatives such as the **Ham and Potato bun** (\$1.30) and the **Sakura cake** (\$6.30), a cherry-blossom butter cream cake.







### NAN XIANG EXPRESS

**Where:** nex, 23 Serangoon Central, #03-K17

**When:** Open from 11.30 am to 10 pm daily

**Tel:** 6634 4833

**Website:** <http://www.nanxiang.com.sg>

Think of *xiao long bao* and the first thing that comes to your mind would probably be the dish being served to you hot in a bamboo steamer in a Chinese restaurant setting, not a white takeaway box from a kiosk.

However, for those pressed for time, Nan Xiang Express, the first kiosk concept for the internationally-established Nan Xiang Steamed Bun Restaurant chain from Shanghai, provides the chance to enjoy Shanghainese favourites on the go. Despite the express nature of the food, quality is not compromised as chefs make the food on the spot behind a glass-walled counter.

The **Fresh Pork Xiao Long Bao** (\$5.50 for 6), their signature dish, is certainly worth a try, while the **Shanghai Pan-fried Pork Bun** (\$3.80 for 3), served with vinegar and ginger, is a more filling option. There are also sweeter dishes such as **Yam Pastry with Sesame** and **Sweet Bean Paste Pastry** (both \$1.30 per piece).



### GLACIOUS

**Where:** Nex Mall, 23 Serangoon Central, #B2-57

**When:** Open from dawn, right till the cows come home! (10am to 10pm on Mondays to Fridays, 10am to 10.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays)

**Tel:** 9834 3390

**Website:** <http://www.glacious.com.sg>

Yet another chain is hopping on the frozen yoghurt bandwagon. This outlet of Glacious promises “pure delight, zero decadence” - their frozen yoghurt is 99 percent fat free, which would certainly appeal to weight-watchers.

Perhaps that is the reason why their Yoghurt (\$0.30 per 10 grams) tastes much less creamy than the usual variety you’d find at more established chains such as Frolick. While the slightly sorbet-like consistency of the yoghurt may not please everyone, the yoghurt is nevertheless smooth and fresh. Glacious also offers a huge variety of toppings, from the usual rainbow sprinkles and M&M’s to healthier options such as fresh fruits.

The store operates on a self-serve concept, where you pick a cup, dispense the yoghurt, and add the toppings on your own. Flavours include blueberry, mango, and original; however, we feel the original flavour complements the toppings best.



### FRESHNESS BURGER

**Where:** nex, 23 Serangoon Central, #B2-48/49

**When:** Open from 10 am to 10 pm on Mondays to Fridays, 10 am to 10.30 pm on Saturdays and Sundays

**Tel:** 6634 4439

**Website:** <http://freshnessburger.com.sg>

Freshness Burger finally arrived on Singapore shores last December, satisfying many fans who had been raving about and eagerly awaiting the arrival of this Japanese burger chain locally.

As a burger joint that prides itself on providing food of the freshest quality, all their burgers are made-to-order. Their buns are also made with pumpkin to give them a natural yellow colour. The **Classic Burger** (\$5.90), which consists of a juicy beef patty and is piled with onions, tomato and lettuce, is a must-try as it manages to be satisfying as a meal yet refreshingly light.

For something sweeter, try the **Popover** (\$3.30), a pillowy bun that comes with cream cheese on the side. Served warm, the cream-puff-like roll melts easily on the tongue and is a perfect way to end your meal.



# DHOBY SURE HAS GHAUT IT ALL



## dhoby ghaut - plaza singapura

When the Circle Line opened in April 2010, Dhoby Ghaut not only became the largest MRT station in Singapore, but also a major interchange station connected by three lines five levels deep – the North South line, North East line and the Circle line.

A vital nexus point with 24 years of history, the station, literally translated as “washerman’s place” in Hindi, is located right next to Plaza Singapura, where all manner of food, fashion and shopping are available. ilable. By GERALDINE LEE

### SAYBONS BY FRENCH FACTORY

Where: Plaza Singapura, 68 Orchard Road, #B2-32.

When: Open from 9 am to 10 pm on Mondays to Fridays, 11 am to 10 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Tel: 6884 9018

Website: <http://www.saybons.com>

Run by a Le Cordon Bleu-trained owner and executive chef, Daphane Loke, 32, this no-frills café, Saybons, serves “simple, fuss-free and delicious” French cuisine accessible at affordable prices.

Inspired by the French phrase “C’est Bon”, which translates to “It’s good”, the café sells a variety of French foods such as bread, soup, crepes and the ever-famous escargots.

If you’re pressed for time and looking for a quick bite, try the **Salmon, Onion & Cheese crepe** (\$5.90), a top favourite with patrons, thanks to its yummy combination of smoked salmon and onions topped with cheese and wrapped in an eggy, stretchy pancake that somehow manages to be both firm yet tender.

We also like the **Mushroom & Cheese crepe** (\$4.20). Crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, the crepe is stuffed with delicious sautéed mushrooms and gooey melted cheese. They come in sturdy triangular cardboard sleeves, and are great if you’re in a rush. Be swift, though, because sometimes the fillings run out before the day ends.

For those looking for something more substantial, there is also the option of upgrading to a combo meal. For \$3.50, you get the Bread combo, which comes with four pieces of bread and a choice of chips, fruits or an iced lemon tea. For a dollar more at \$4.50,



the Soup combo comes with a regular sized soup with similar options.

However, if you have time to take a breather, get the baked escargots. The **Garlic Herb Escargots** (\$7.50) are extremely fragrant and comes with a basket of bread that you can use to soak up the juices in the ceramic pan that left us craving for more.

These chewy morsels of snails are baked for about 10 minutes in the oven before being served, and come in half dozens (\$7.50 to \$9) in six different flavours – Garlic Herb, Blue Cheese, Pesto Parmesan, Tomato Relish, Mushroom Duxelle and French Onion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAYBONS





### GONG CHA

**Where:** Plaza Singapura, 68 Orchard Road, #01-K1.

**When:** Open from 9 am to 10 pm on Mondays to Fridays, 11 am to 10 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Website:** <http://www.gong-cha.com>

We gave in when we came to this one. While it may be one of the few gourmet drink shops from the newly revived bubble tea fad, Gong Cha can certainly put the milk in milk teas when it comes to their signature drink, the **Gong Cha Alisan Milk Tea** (\$2.50).

Unlike other bubble tea shops, they make the milk tea by adding the foamy milk on top after the tea is brewed, instead of blending the brew together. This gives the drink a creamier texture that lingers in the mouth for a long time afterwards.

Other favourite to try is the **Earl Grey Milk Tea with 3JS** (\$3.60). That might sound a bit dubious, but the 3JS really just refers to the killer combo of herbal jelly, pudding and pearls in addition to the original **Earl Grey Milk Tea** (\$2.40).



### BRATWURST SHOP

**Where:** Plaza Singapura, 68 Orchard Road, #B2-39.

**When:** Open from 8.30 am to 9.30 pm from Sundays to Thursdays, 8.30 am to 11 pm on Fridays and Saturdays

**Tel:** 6884 4093



If you don't already know, the Bratwurst Shop (located next to Chippys) is related to the famous Bratwurst Shop from Melbourne in Queen's Victoria Market, and is the only franchised store in Singapore.

We got the **Swiss Cheese Pork sausage topped with Mushroom & Cheese filling** for \$6.50. The casing has a nice bite to it, and cheese practically oozes out from the specially made sausage with every other bite. The bread is firm and crispy, holding its shape without turning soggy, which is a big plus.

Prices range from \$5.50 to \$7.50, depending on the type of bratwurst and filling you pick. With nine types of sausages and six kinds of fillings available, ranging from the Beer Bratwurst to the Spicy Italian sausage, with toppings like Bacon & Cheese to the Chilli Beef, there are no limits to the different meal combinations you can make.

If your appetite's only just been whetted, you can upgrade your meal to a Combo Set for just \$2.90, which includes a drink and a choice of fries, chips or a hearty minestrone soup.



# just 'me' in a cupcake

Say goodbye to plain old vanilla cakes for your birthday parties and say hello to bite-sized cupcakes topped with rainbow rice instead. **Phoenix Leow** and **Roxanne Lim** check out the hot new thing in town.



They're small, cute and colourful, and hot in demand everywhere. With their wide range of flavours and the simplicity of customising them, cupcakes have taken over Singapore by storm, and out of the 100 youths polled by HYPE, 80 agreed that cupcakes were the hottest new thing in town.

"Cupcakes fit right into the 'Me' culture, where people want things specially customized to the individual," says Maria Wilson, 21, owner and founder of Whips Cupcakes.

"In addition, it is a more convenient alternative as compared to a regular cake at parties, as you can forget about the hassle of cutting and serving a slice of cake on a plate with a fork. The host can also choose a variety of flavours, such as a combination of chocolate, strawberry and coffee flavoured cupcakes, instead of a single flavoured cake, like vanilla."

Maria was influenced by the cupcake culture when she was studying in the United States. Her passion for cupcakes made her start out her very own business, Whips Cupcakes, last year, which is doing very well at the moment.

Another possible reason for the trend could probably be attributed to Tumblr, a popular micro-blogging platform notable for the photos of food, fashion and fails uploaded daily by users – which are then reblogged by millions more.

"I honestly think it's Tumblr and the droolworthy pictures appearing in the news feed non-stop that started out this trend," says Leow Yi Ning, 20, a final-year Ngee Ann Polytechnic student who frequents Tumblr everyday.

Word of mouth also plays a part, she says. "Sometimes when we attend a party and see cupcakes specially ordered to complement the occasion, we tend to get pretty excited. It makes you feel like baking a cupcake just for fun." Although Yi Ning isn't an avid baker, her friends are and they often bring their creations to school to share it with her.





# technology-inspired designs

As interest in cupcakes escalate to a whole new level, so does creativity! Here are the coolest and geekiest.



## WEDDING CUPCAKES

Leong Kok Yuen decided to propose to his future wife by the beach with flowers, photographers and cupcakes inspired by the movie *Up*.

It took Eunice from dolace.swaymyway.com a month to plan the project, but baking it finished in 90 minutes. And if you can guess, yes, she said yes.



## IPHONE CUPCAKE

This was the winning entry for the 2008 Cupcake Decorating Competition held in the cupcake central of the world, New York City, United States.

Made by Nick and Danielle Bilton, this iPhone cupcake set sure looks functional and very edible. Get us one right now, we say!



## PERIODIC TABLE

This periodic table is edible, never mind the elements.

Created by Jennifer McCafferty of JPM Catering, it was invented to celebrate the first anniversary of the museum at the Chemical Heritage Foundation.

Even geeks need some sugar love too.

Valerie Teong, an Anderson Junior Collage graduate, says, "I have seen mouthwatering cupcake pictures everywhere on Tumblr, Facebook and even Google Images. They all look so pretty that it makes me want to learn to bake!"

The relative small size of a cupcake as compared to a conventional cake also allows room for creativity by the baker.

"I won't be able to finish decorating a whole cake because it's so big, I will get bored of it pretty easily. Unlike cupcakes, I can vary my decoration on individual pieces. Besides, the "cute" look of the cupcake motivates me to finish the whole batch," explains Michele Lee, 28, a financial consultant who enjoys baking as a hobby.

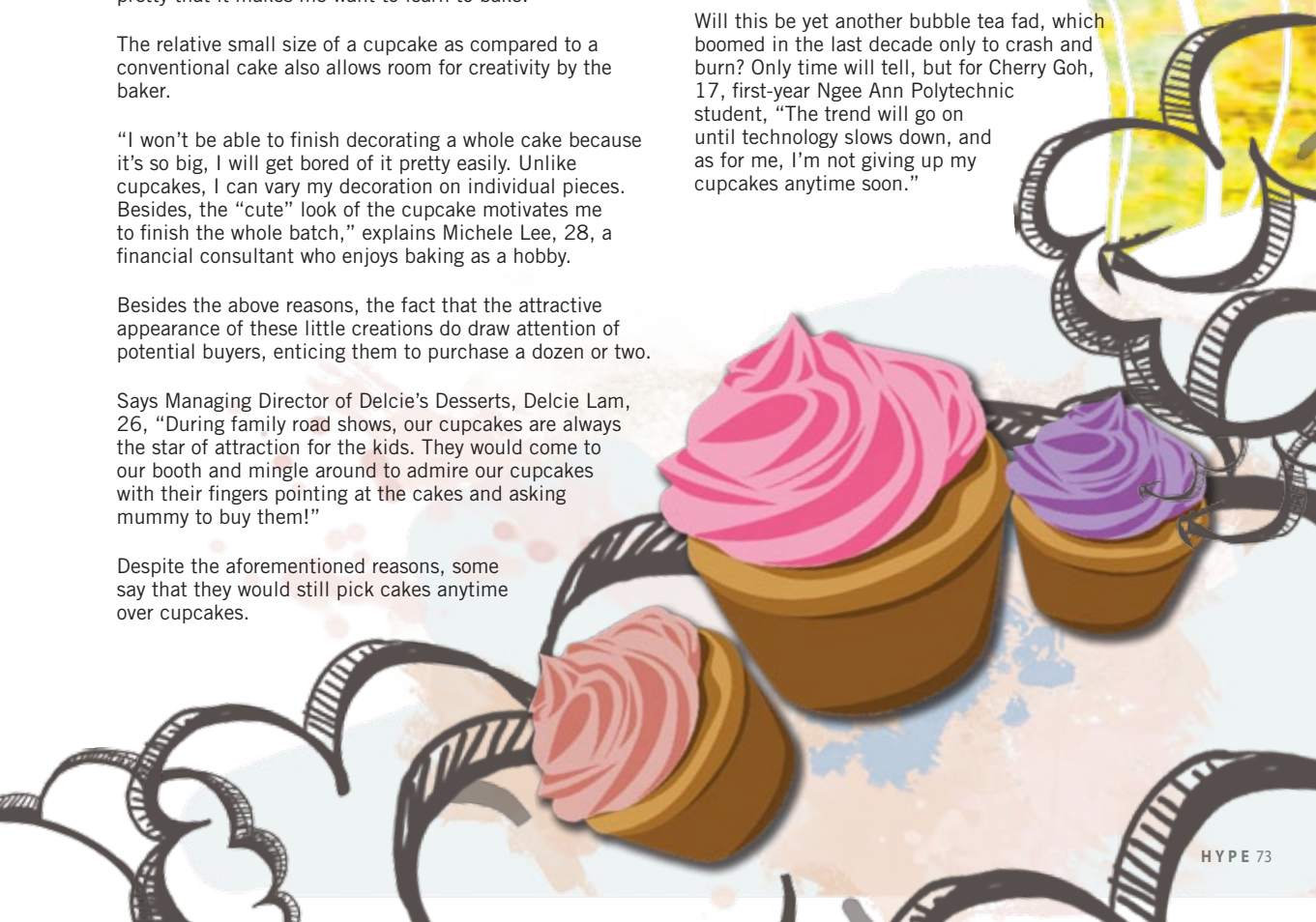
Besides the above reasons, the fact that the attractive appearance of these little creations do draw attention of potential buyers, enticing them to purchase a dozen or two.

Says Managing Director of Delcie's Desserts, Delcie Lam, 26, "During family road shows, our cupcakes are always the star of attraction for the kids. They would come to our booth and mingle around to admire our cupcakes with their fingers pointing at the cakes and asking mummy to buy them!"

Despite the aforementioned reasons, some say that they would still pick cakes anytime over cupcakes.

"Cupcakes are too sweet and small to satisfy my appetite. I need something more satisfying to fill me up," says Thomas Chen, 29, an IT consultant.

Will this be yet another bubble tea fad, which boomed in the last decade only to crash and burn? Only time will tell, but for Cherry Goh, 17, first-year Ngee Ann Polytechnic student, "The trend will go on until technology slows down, and as for me, I'm not giving up my cupcakes anytime soon."







# food to save the earth

70% of global freshwater and 19% of global greenhouse gas emissions can be traced back to animal products. Sylvia Koh combs the city for vegan outlets, while Taina Teravainen goes through a three-day vegan challenge.



## First thoughts:

Going vegan hasn't exactly been imperative for me as there is nothing that motivates me to do so, be it the ailing environment or support for animal rights. It was with slight trepidation that I took up this challenge.

### Day 1:



**Breakfast - (10am)**  
Nature Valley Cinnamon Granola bar, available at all major supermarkets

I had to forgo my favourite Fruit and Nut bar as it was held together by honey. The whole grain rolled oats and rice crisps marked my first meal as a three-day vegan. It was biscuit-like and a bit dry but was sweet and managed to perk me up.

**Lunch - (12pm) Subway:**  
Veggie Patty Parmesan Oregano 6-inch Sandwich - \$6.50

I decided on a Veggie Patty sandwich from Subway (Google search reveals that I was foiled all along - Subway's

Veggie Patty contains egg whites). Before it was my turn, I was suddenly seized by panic. Does bread contain milk? When I was brusquely told to keep the queue moving, I blurted out my usual: Parmesan Oregano bread. Lunch was a failure, but a tasty one.

**Dinner - (8pm) Veganburg:** Char-Grilled Satay burger (\$6.85) and Vegan Franks (\$3.80)

This meal was extremely filling and the fact that it was a burger made me forget that there was no meat involved. Sure, there was a slightly chewy texture to the Vegan Franks but the rich peanut sauce slathered over the patty was perfect.

### Day 2:

**Breakfast - (11am)** A cup of watermelon and grapes

I badly wanted to fry up some vegan pancakes, but I was too lazy to go out for soy milk.



**Lunch - (3.30pm)**  
Loving Hut: Sweet Sour Nuggets with brown rice and soup (\$5.80)

The food was comforting and the "meat", while slightly crunchy, was on par with what you'd find at any zichar. The sauce was sweet but not overly so and the clear soup was a tasty mix of carrot and corn.

**Dinner - (10pm) Porridge (\$1.20), Mixed vegetables - mushrooms, carrots, corn and bok choy - and tofu in vegetarian oyster sauce (\$12), Fried Tofu squares in salt and pepper (\$5)**

I ventured out with my friend Elise, but we found our choices very limited as everything was closed. We found the 24-hour Old Hong Kong Tea House (86 East Coast Road #01-09/10 Katong Village, Tel: 6345 1932), but our extreme hunger resulted us ordering \$40 worth of food. I think I was trying to compensate for how my lunch had left my stomach gurgling a mere two hours later. The porridge had a thick consistency and I didn't even have to ladle in soya sauce like I usually do.

### Day 3:

**Lunch - (3pm) LivinGreens:**  
LivinGreens Lasagna (\$8.50)

I was impressed with how creamy the lasagna tasted, being dairy-free. Mushrooms were layered in between the sheets of pasta and tomato paste. However, it was still rather light for me. I was really craving something more substantial, as the lack of protein was getting to me.

**Dinner - (8pm) Genesis: 7 Layer Haystack (\$7.90)**

I love Mexican food so this was heavenly. I didn't even mind the absence of meat in my food - the tortilla chips, Mexican rice, lettuce and black beans worked perfectly together. The chips provided a crunchy texture and the herbs in the rice were tasty without being overpowering.

## Final verdict:

Taina maintains her position that she would readily become vegan if she had a personal chef. She's now more aware of the existence of vegan restaurants in Singapore, but making the transition to being fully vegan sounds way more involved than what her current dedication level is at.

## Veganburg

Cost: \$8 - \$12/person  
Address: 44 Jalan Eunus, Singapore 419502  
Opening Hours: Daily from 11 am to 10 pm  
Contact: 6844 6868

This young and eco-friendly fast food joint is a must-try. Among the quirky fare is the odd but delicious Hawaiian Pineapple burger (\$6.85). The juicy chunk of pineapple bursts in your mouth to colour the nut-filled bread and soya patty with distinct zing.



## Livingreens

Cost: \$13 - \$15/person  
Address: 325 Beach Road, Singapore 199559  
Opening Hours: 11:00 am to 20:30 pm (Mon - Sat), Closed on Sundays  
Contact: 6396 5523

Livingreens is an authentic vegan restaurant that uses an assembly of wholesome ingredients to make up the most surprising vegan alternatives. The simple ingredients potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, mushroom, and fresh herbs used in the Shepherd's Pie (\$8.00) belies the intensely rich flavours produced.



## Loving Hut

Cost: \$6 - \$11/person  
Address: Suntec City Mall Tower 2, Sky Garden, #03-016  
Opening Hours: 11am-10pm daily  
Contact: 6238 6755

This inexpensive eatery serves up innovative and appetising Asian dishes. The Au Lac Pho (\$4.80) is deeply aromatic and calming to the senses and the fragrant Lemongrass Curry rice set (\$5.80) could rival any food court's.

## Genesis

Cost: \$9 - \$14/persons  
Address: 1, Lorong Telok, Singapore 049014  
Opening Hours: Mondays to Thursdays, 8am - 8pm  
Fridays and Sundays 8am - 3pm  
Closed on Saturdays and Public Holidays  
Contact: 6438 7118

This homely vegan outfit offers an uncommon mix of delicious Asian and Western cuisine, from organic mee sua to Almond basil. The claypot rice (\$6.50) is a favourite despite the simple ingredients.





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# STYLE SMART

You may not have the budget of Hollywood stars, but **Michelle Ng** shows you how the cheaper alternative to highly coveted fashion items can still help you stay trendy without hurting your pocket.



## TAN SATCHEL BAG

**Lust: Proenza Schouler PS1 Large leather satchel \$2,615**

The roomy schoolbook bag highly favoured by Mary-Kate Oslen, Jessica Alba and Leighton Meester is designed so you can lug all your essentials around. Price aside, you won't be able to keep your hands off the luxurious buttery-leather texture of the satchel.

## ANGEL WING RING

**Lust: CC Skye Gold Crystal Angel Wing Ring, \$295**

Every girl needs jewellery that makes a statement. With a contrast colour stone detail set in gold, this highly coveted statement angel wing design ring by CC Skye, made famous by socialite Nicole Richie, is bound to dress up any outfit and make you stand out among the crowd.



**Must: Miss Selfridge Angel Wing Knuckle Duster Ring, \$17**

This similarly designed ring available in silver retails for only a fraction of the price - without the pretty crystals. Yet it still gives you a splash of style and is a good adaptation, design-wise.



## BLACK SUEDE WEDGES

**Lust: Jeffrey Campbell Ninetynine Black Suede, \$140**

Black shoes, with their classic simplicity, are heaven-sent. Put it on a wedge and we're totally sold, as Ashley Tisdale shows. This pair from Jeffrey Campbell comes with a black zip and its 4-inch wedge heel is balanced with a 1-inch platform in front.



**Must: Forever 21 Suedette Wedge Dress Shoes, \$34**

Also made in suede, this pair from Forever 21 has a tie-up front instead. With a slightly higher wedge heel of 4.5-inch, the comfort level of the shoes is questionable though.



## CANVAS BOAT SHOE

**Lust: Sperry Top-Sider 'Authentic Original' Canvas Boat Shoe, \$90**

With boat shoes now the norm for city slickers, even for extra sleek actor Ed Westwick, the shoes owe their laidback vibe to the hand-sewn moccasin and traditional detail like its leather laces.



**Must: Vans 'Zapato del Barco' Sneaker, \$55**

Essentially a sneaker, it has been updated in a boat shoe style, although the laces and material are of cotton for breathability.





# making a lasting (good) impression

Unfair though it may seem, the first impression is almost always based on physical appearance. Roxanne Lim finds out how young men can put their best face forward.

About 60 percent of youths base their impressions of people on their looks while only 35 percent will listen to how people speak before they make their judgment.

Here are findings from a HYPE poll conducted among 200 youths.

And to look great and leave a good first impression, women spend hundreds of dollars every month on facial treatments, skincare and make-up products. Most men, on the other hand, are unwilling to spend even \$10 for a tube of facial foam to clean their faces. In fact, most men are ignorant about their skin woes.

"My skin is really oily, and I tend to break out easily. However, I do not really know the root cause for it because I do cleanse my face daily," says Henry Law, 18, a polytechnic student.

Dr. Karen Soh, medical director of Privé Clinic, says that common skin problems among male youths include acne and clogged pores.

"Males tend to have thicker and firmer skin, but their pores are larger and sebaceous glands are very active, so their skin will be much more oily compared with females," Dr. Soh explains. "And with regular shaving, the skin will be dehydrated and even clogged, if shaving is not done properly," she adds.

Having thicker and firmer skin means that improper skincare can easily lead to various skin problems such as acne and ingrown hairs, which are not only painful, but also unattractive.

Dr. Soh recommends the following steps to help keep skin clear and healthy.



**Cleanse.** Cleaning helps to remove dirt, sweat sebum and bacteria from your face. Look for a suitable cleanser for your skin. A cleanser that contains essential oils is good for oily skin, and one that contains salicylic acid is good for acne-prone skin.

Try Nivea For Men Oil Control Face Wash (\$9.20) is a soap-free cleansing gel enriched with seaweed extracts that helps to control the oil balance in the skin. You can try Neutrogena Men Face Wash (\$9.90), an oil-free cleanser with salicylic acid to help prevent breakouts.

**Nourish.** Use a serum that works beneath the skin to hydrate your skin. As serums have a lighter texture and higher concentration of active ingredients such as vitamin C and glycolic acid (a chemical used to improve the skin's appearance and texture), it is very good for treatment.

Serums are usually more pricey than basic cleansing items. For example, a 30-ml vial from Kiehl's costs about \$42.



**Moisturize.** Moisturizing protects the skin from moisture loss, softens the top layer of the skin and prevents it from being too sensitive when dry. Men's Bioré Double Hyda Action Gel Facial Wash (\$9.85) is a non-scrub, 2-in-1 cleanser gel that not only cleans but also locks the moisture in the skin. You can also try Nivea For Men Oil Control Moisturizer (\$13.90). This moisturizer regulates facial shine while protecting the skin against harmful UVA & UVB rays.



**Protection.** Applying sun block not only blocks out the harmful rays that can cause skin problems like pigmentation and skin diseases, but also prevents photodamage, the breaking down of the skin's pigments which lead to skin discolouration and wrinkles. However, if you think it is too much of a hassle to apply an additional product during the day, then look for a product that can double up as a sunblock.

Nugeno Men Oil Control Cooling Moisturizer SPF 25 (\$15.90) is a non-greasy formula that hydrates the skin and protects it from environmental aggressors and damage from shaving. You can also try Garnier Men TurboLight Oil Control Moisturiser SPF 25 (\$14.90), which has a six-hour oil-absorbing action and is also anti-grease.

## quick DIY remedies

If you are too lazy to head down to your nearest supermarket to purchase one of the above recommended products, then you might want to try these DIY remedies that Renee Lorentzen, beauty writer and founder of Beauty Fool, shares with us.

**Sunburns:** Apply some aloe vera gel on the burnt area, and leave it to heal by itself. "To avoid sunburns, always apply sunscreen, with at least SPF 30, after your moisturiser," advises Renee.

**Break Outs:** Crush a Panadol with a bit of water to create a paste, then apply it on the pimple. "The salicylic acid in the Panadol can help to calm your break outs," explains Renee. She also warns youths to never pick or squeeze the zits as it will cause scarring.

**Blackheads:** Beat an egg and dip some cotton in it. Place the cotton on your nose and allow the egg to dry. Once dry, pull off the cotton, it should pick up some blackheads. Renee says, "Cleansing and regular exfoliation could help unclog pores and remove dead skin cells."

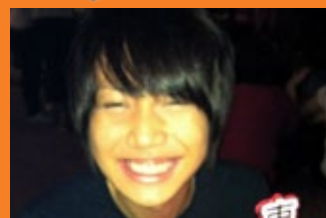
**HYPE** invited some youths to try out NIVEA FOR MEN Oil Control Face Wash, and this is what they have to say.



**Benjamin Liew, 21, student**  
"Other facial foams tend to dry out my skin and give it an uncomfortable feeling of tightness, but this product made my skin feel fresh and supple."



**Dinesh Ajith, 19, student**  
This gives me the kick-start I need in the morning. I left the bathroom feeling fresh, so I feel better about facing the long day ahead."



**Zayar Tint Shwe, 20, Student**  
It left a cooling and clean sensation on my skin. It doesn't leave my skin dry at all. However, I don't like the musky smell of the facial foam."



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# GOING NICHE TO STAND OUT

Competition is rife in the online store industry today, and more stores are going niche so as to stand out from the rest. By Natalie Koh

Ms Huiyu, a 28-year-old, started Spectacles Spectacular out of passion.

She says, "I'm extremely anal about picking only authentic vintage frames and not the new productions modeled after the originals, so the hand-picking process takes a long time."

Describing her rare love for spectacles, she says, "The choice of specs tells so much about the wearer. It's the first accessory on your face that someone sees. It's very interesting to see how all this is silently articulated just by your choice of eyewear!"

She works hard to find each pair, but mostly, it's by chance, from wandering the streets overseas or through her open approach. "I'm always talking to people about their specs and where they picked it up from, so I've made a few contacts through these chance meetings," she shares.

Regardless of the type of goods that each store offers, it is undeniable that each store is one-of-a-kind and this exclusive quality is more than necessary to stay afloat in the sea of online shops.

Visit Spectacles Spectacular at <http://spectaclespectacular.wordpress.com>



Chromaki owner, Ms Tania Su, started her business with information from a shop-owner she met in Bangkok selling designer shoe knock-offs for more than S\$300.

At her online shop, the shoes' prices range from \$49 to \$180.

She carries designs are inspired by shoes worn by celebrities such as the Olsen twins and Alexa Chung, amongst designs inspired by brands. Ms Su places strong emphasis on exclusiveness, so she maintains a 20-pair cap on each design.



Amidst the hundreds of shops that import items from wholesalers from Korea, Taiwan and Bangkok, some have been offering extremely exclusive items, so as to stand out from the sea of mushrooms.

Speciality design house, Rose Citron creates intricate custom-made fashion bags, accessories and home soft furnishings.

"I love designing," gushes Ms Zoe Borie, the chief designer and manager of Rose Citron.

The French-born designer draws inspiration from, well, everywhere. "You just have to open your eyes. Nature gives a lot of inspiration and humans give the rest," she says.

Her products carry different pattern and colour combinations from French as well as Asian influences, along with collages of fabrics.

Also offering customisation services, she commented on the appeal of her products, saying, "People are looking to have their own identity. They don't want the same style that is designed by somebody else all the time."

Find Rose Citron at <http://rosecitron.wordpress.com>

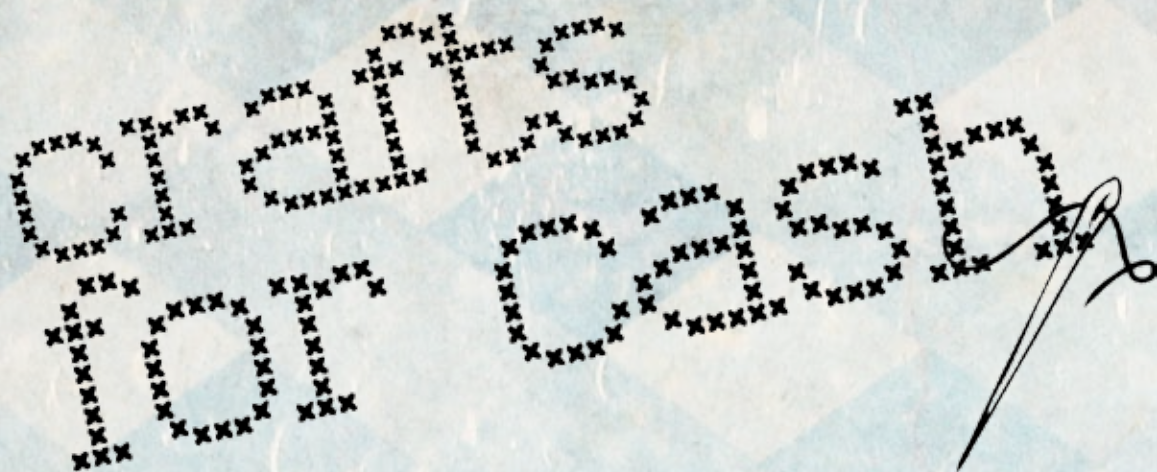
"In Singapore, it's easy to bump into another person wearing the exact same clothing or accessory as you. I believe most people absolutely loathe that awkward feeling of seeing another person wearing the same thing as them," she says.

Perhaps her personal belief is what drives her business: "I have a knack for such shoes because it feels great to have people staring at my feet – and yeah, I do genuinely want to stand out," she laughs.

Browse through the shoes on offer at <http://www.chromaki.com>



# crafts for dads




Most of us enjoy dabble in crafts of some sort, but some have turned their passion into a business. **Nathaniel Ng** talks to two such youths.

For **Heng Kang Yong**, making accessories simply happened.

The 22-year-old started working on paper for an assignment in LaSalle College of the Arts, where he was a student, and gradually became more comfortable working with the material.

What started out with a simple woven ball for an art piece turned into an elaborate, full-frontal necklace, or “wearable art”, as he puts it.

Enjoying hands-on work as well as having a strong interest in fashion, crafting accessories was a natural progression for him. His confidence buoyed by the success of working with paper, he tried making bangles out of colourful labelling tape, and it was from there that he found that he loved experimenting with designs using unused materials.

Stumbling upon an obscure tutorial in a book, he decided to try the idea of making wrist cuffs from old LP records.

He cuts these records into strips, heats them and shapes them into curves to form a wrist cuff. Kang Yong then realised that they had commercial potential and decided to sell them at flea markets.

It seems that the history behind the materials he uses adds on to the items’ popularity. “When I started selling them at flea markets, the responses

were really good. I mean, they really appreciated the whole idea behind it. When people realise the cuff is made from vinyl records, they are surprised and they appreciate it more, and that’s a form of satisfaction on my part,” says Kang Yong.

Since then, Kang Yong has been actively taking part in flea markets, while at the same time selling his more recent creations, including chainmaille accessories, which are made by meticulously connecting small metal rings, hoop by hoop. “I can do it quite quickly now, but it was a very slow, tedious process at first,” he says.

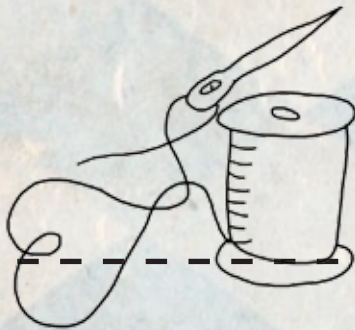
One of the challenges that Kang Yong faces is pricing his products, which he describes as “a sensitive topic”. The flea market crowd, who attend with the intention of looking for a bargain, do not part with their money easily despite the intricacy of his products.

He says, “I stand my ground. I have to explain that this is all handmade and original”. He explains that he is not willing to lower his prices although it might increase the rate of sales. “It’s not mass produced. I put in effort into all the tiny little details, so this is what they are actually paying for.”

*Items range from \$10 to \$30. Get updates on where to find Kang Yong’s next booth at <http://www.facebook.com/theKANGcraftster>*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HENG KANG YONG





The first thought that comes to mind looking at **Keziah Quek**, 18, may not be that of a hard sell businesswoman, but an experienced one this petite lady is.

The creator of crafts such as headpieces, pouches, soft toys and bags, says of her clientele, "The people ask a lot of questions, and then after asking about shipping, they might cancel their orders."

Her business started out of the simplest of reasons, however, with her explaining that it was through the joy that she got from making small gifts for others that she started to venture into profitable projects.

Keziah remembers that the very first item that she made was a gift of a simple clear plastic box with rocks and pebbles and a fake plant, which she made because her brother didn't know how to take care of his plants despite buying many.

From there, Keziah developed her hobby of making little crafts from various materials like felt, yarn and paper-mâché.

"I noticed that for a while, there was a trend of feathers being used for veils and lace, similar to the kind that the women in old England used to wear. I had just finished my 'O' levels, so I was looking for something to do."

Teaching herself how to make feather fascinators from online tutorials, Keziah started making them for her friends and when they turned out to be quite popular, she decided to commercialise her hobby.

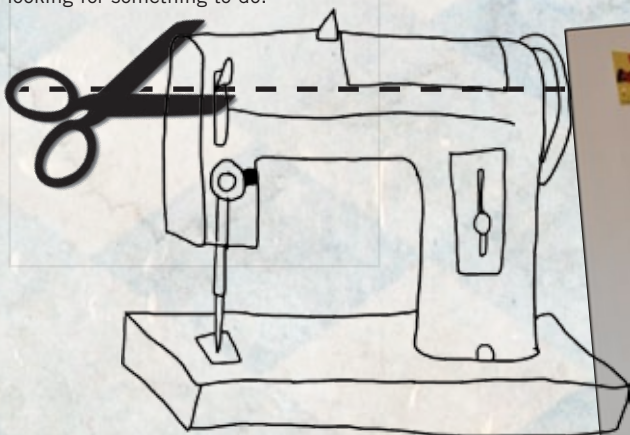
Using colourful feathers of various hues and iridescence, Keziah carefully arranges them on felt and uses a hot glue to fasten them to a metal fastener or crocodile clip.

She had to ask her friends for favours, advertise on Facebook, and even use Google's search term services, but Keziah's online blogshop eventually turned out to be quite popular, and she sold out most of her pieces.

Keziah remains optimistic. "I think anyone can start their own business, and just learn on the job." It is evident that she enjoys her work, although school might interfere with her schedule. "It'll be nice to make a living out of this. I mean, it's also a form of self-expression."

"Having a business sense, yeah, maybe it will get you further from the get-go, but if you have no sense for it at all, and you just jump into it, why not just learn on the job?" chirps Keziah.

*Items range from \$3 to \$30. View Keziah's products on [www.hotwhale.blogspot.com](http://www.hotwhale.blogspot.com)*







# LET'S GET PERSONAL

In this digital age of the Internet, Facebook and Twitter, the joy from a surprise postcard could be exactly what we need, says Kyleene Wu.

"You have XXX unread messages in your inbox."

How often do we see this line? In the current connected age that we live in, that very line represents a combination of many things. At any given time, those unread messages could mean school projects, work related matters, Facebook notifications, random spam or all of the above.

A pen pal used to mean paper, pen and postage. Now with the Internet and an email account, it means typing and clicking 'send'.

This is where the Postcrossing Project comes in. Started in 2005 by Paulo Magalhães, the continuously growing postcard exchange project currently spans across 202 countries and over 200,000 members with several millions of postcards exchanged across the world.

Where is the draw in this project? It sounds like snail mail and besides, writing and sending postcards are nothing new. The answer is in the surprise element. As the tagline of the project goes: "Send a postcard and receive a postcard back from a random person somewhere in the world!"

Apart from the cost of postage and postcards, the project is free and very simple. Sign up, request an address to send a postcard to, mail it out and wait for another to arrive in your mailbox.

With each postcard received, a postcrosser never knows what to expect. A postcard could bring beautiful images of another country, cultural tidbits from the sender, or even chancing upon potential pen pals.

Ms Stella Tan, 23, an administrative officer, describes postcrossing like "travelling across the world from the comfort of your home, and collecting cheerful, colourful mementos from various countries."

Ms Tan, who enjoys discovering more about different

cultures and people in other parts of the world, is glad that the Postcrossing Project enables her to do so.

"It's wonderful that a simple postcard lets me have a peek in to another country, culture and what goes on in the typical life of the people there," she says, "You get to know people from all walks of life from an eight-year-old boy from Finland who likes soccer, to a university girl from Russia who travels out of the country every year on her birthday and an 70-year-old grandmother from America who likes lobster."

Just like how youths today enjoy being connected online through Facebook and Twitter and sharing on blogs or Tumblr, postcrossing represents a similar form of sharing and connection, only held offline and through snail mail.

"Postcrossing shows us the world through postcard photos and people's words," Tincy Chan, 22, a Commerce, Hospitality and Tourism undergraduate from Kaplan Singapore says.

"I enjoy the feeling of surprise most. And I love to prepare a special postcard for each postcrosser based on their preferences," she adds.

Valerie Chua, 19, a Landscape Architecture student from Singapore Polytechnic likes shopping for postcards and sending them out all over the world, while discovering countries that she has never heard of.

"[It (postcrossing)] brings closeness and smiles to people. The thrill of receiving a postcard makes anyone's day," she says.

In the midst of all the emails, tweets, Facebook posts and blogging, may the simplicity of a postcard in the mail bring a smile and a little cheer to your day.

Happy postcrossing!

The Postcrossing Project can be found at <http://www.postcrossing.com>

## WARPED TOUR

**Dates:** Jun 24 – Aug 14

**Tickets:** Around US\$35 (S\$50)

**Website:** <http://warpedtour.com>

Since its inception by Kevin Lyman (co-founder of the Taste of Chaos and Mayhem tours) as a small punk rock festival in 1994, it was revived when Vans, the BMX/skateboarding shoe-brand, sponsored the tour.

It has grown into a 43-date travelling tour spanning across the United States and part of Canada, with nearly 100 bands hitting the tour circuit each year. Most head to the merchandise booth for meets and greets after sets, so backstage passes aren't

necessary if you're hoping to get up close and personal with your favourite band.

Previous alumni include My Chemical Romance, Avenged Sevenfold and The Academy Is.



## SUMMER SONIC

**Dates:** Aug 7 - 8

**Tickets:** ¥15,800 to ¥29,000 (S\$247 -S\$453)

**Website:** <http://www.summersonic.com/2011>

Japan seems light-years away from Singapore in terms of music sensibilities. The term "Big in Japan" really does hold some weight – the Japanese know their tunes and bands.

Last year's festival drew nearly 160,000 people who came to watch country-pop sweetheart Taylor Swift, Courtney Love's recently reunited grunge band Hole, the ethereal Icelandic band Sigur Ros, post-hardcore Japanese band FACT, rapper Jay-Z and the legendary Stevie Wonder, all in the space of 48 hours?

With the Red Hot Chili Peppers and The Strokes headlining this year, we can't wait till the rest of the line up's released.



# sounds of summer

Every summer, bands around the world pack up their buses or jets and hit the tour circuit. If you live and breathe the live concert experience, it's time to take it to the next level – welcome to the true summer music festival. **By Taina Teravainen**

## JAKARTA JAM!

**Dates:** Feb 22 & 23

**Tickets:** 1 day – Rp.325,000 (S\$46) (elevated), Rp.375,000 (S\$53) (free standing)

2 days – Rp.550,000/day (S\$78) (elevated), Rp.650,000 (S\$92) (free standing)

**Website:** <http://www.javamusikindo.com>



Still in its infancy, this two-day festival, soon to be hitting its 3rd anniversary, has a name that serves an integral purpose – promoting Indonesian bands as much as the overseas acts they bring in.

Pop-punk and rap/R&B acts alike grace the stage, usually three in a day, within an indoor tennis stadium. Mainstream rock bands like New Found Glory, power/synth pop band Hellogoodbye, rapper Flo Rida have graced the stage together with Indonesian rap rock collaboration band Bondan Prakoso & Fade 2 Black and Andra and The Backbone.

Jakarta Jam '11 will be seeing the return of New Found Glory as well as the comeback of The Starting Line (recently emerging from hiatus), sunny pop band We The Kings, post-hardcore I See Stars and one-man acoustic pop act, 19-year-old Never Shout Never.

## SOUNDWAVE FESTIVAL

**Dates:** Feb 26 (Brisbane) & 27 (Sydney), Mar 4 (Melbourne), 5 (Adelaide) & 7 (Perth)

**Tickets:** AUD\$160 (S\$205)

**Website:** <http://www.soundwavefestival.com>



Started in 2004 as a one-day event in Perth with 5 bands, it soon exploded into a hefty yearly lineup boasting international names like Paramore, Jimmy Eat World, Incubus and AFI.

Late February means particularly muggy weather, much like "being packed into a bus at 40-degrees while being swarmed by hyperactive 15-year olds boys". Ah, the joys of a 12-hour rough-and-tumble rock concert.

There are, however, free water stations and booths giving out sunscreen, so make sure to take advantage of them.

You don't want miss out on this year's lineup, with Iron Maiden, Bullet For My Valentine, and Coheed and Cambria promising to bring the house down.



# Celebrating Graduation Next Door

Nowadays, an inevitable question, among the invariable queries about your future plans after graduation would most probably be, "Where are you headed to for your graduation trip?"

Indeed, such trips are becoming a common occurrence among youths. 78 per cent of the 200 youths surveyed indicated an intention to go on a graduation trip. Common dream destinations include London, New York, and Los Angeles, most of which are idealistic, but unaffordable by the average graduate fresh out of school.

While this probably isn't that glamorous trip you daydreamed about while, here are four alternative destinations that'll give you a good time regardless of whether you're an adrenaline junkie, avid party-goer or simply looking for an idyllic getaway!

## NEPAL

Home to the mighty Mount Everest, Nepal is a hotbed for activities to get your blood pumping. Ng Yang Han takes you through one of its most popular.

### LANGTANG VALLEY TREK

Scaling the Himalayas – The stuff of legends, and nigh impossible to conquer for the average desk-bound paper-pushing man. But if you can settle for a little lesser, why not try a trek through Langtang Valley?

A narrow valley that lies south of the Tibetan border, Langtang is sandwiched between the main Himalayan range and the slightly lower range of snowy peaks to its south.

The 10-day trek (S\$821) might put a strain on your wallet, but the breathtaking views of the towering peaks – 10 of which are over 6 kilometres high – will more than compensate for that.

Keep your eyes peeled as you trek through the Langtang National Park because you might just spot the pika, a small, rabbit-like animal, that lives in the mountainous regions, or the colourful danphe, which is also Nepal's national bird.

If you love the outdoors, this might well be the perfect getaway for you to immerse yourself among the picturesque Himalayan peaks and refresh your senses.



PHOTO: BENJAMIN SIM

Visit [http://www.nepaltrekkinginfo.com/nepal/trekking/langtang/langtang\\_valley\\_trek.html](http://www.nepaltrekkinginfo.com/nepal/trekking/langtang/langtang_valley_trek.html) for more information.





PHOTOS: AMANDA TAN

# BALI, INDONESIA

Already a tourist hotspot renowned for its beaches and water sports, we find that Bali's quaint cafes, shopping, and thriving nightlife are worth a mention as well. Veronica Koh introduces four eclectic locations to you.

## CAFÉ BALI

*Where: Jl. Laksamana (Oberoi), Seminyak, Bali*  
*Tel: 0361 736 484*

Tucked along a sleepy road of Seminyak, this cosy colonial-style cafe is perfect for English breakfast, or a lazy afternoon of tea and cake with your girlfriends.

Their prices are pretty reasonable as well, with a set of poached eggs with buttered toast, chocolate pancakes, and milk setting you back by only S\$5.

Make sure to try their scrumptious Eggs Florentine with Smoked Salmon (S\$4.50).

For dessert, go for their Chocolate Molten Cake (S\$3.50), a magical concoction that crumbles in your mouth to unveil warm melted chocolate.

## BIKU

*Where: No. 888, Jl. Petitinget*  
*Tel: +62 361 857 0888*  
*Website: www.bikubali.com*

Apart from its laid-back atmosphere, extensive tea menu and scrumptious lunch sets, a notable mention would definitely be its one-of-a-kind Mystical High Tea set (S\$22).

With generous servings of delectable scones, quiche, finger sandwiches, butter cookies, and fruit tarts and a pot of tea of your choice, this is definitely value-for-money.

What makes the Mystical High Tea set so unique is that you get to choose either a tarot card or tea-leaf reading to go along with your food.

A pretty interesting meal, we say. Just don't get too disappointed if your foretold future is bleak.

## JIMBARAN BAY SEAFOOD

*Where: Jimbaran Bay, Kedonganan Beach, Bali*  
*Tel: (62) 361 701517*  
*Website: www.jimbaranbayseafod.com*

It doesn't get more magical than this: washing down a hearty seafood meal with coconut juice or beer at the beach while the sun sets and makes a postcard perfect picture.

We highly recommend the place for couples planning to keep the romantic vibes going, but be prepared to shout your sweet nothings to one another over the crashing waves.

A group of cheery buskers will usually surprise diners with an impromptu serenade, which probably is just about as cliché as you could get, but why not savour this one-of-a-kind experience?

A meal more than enough for four consisting of barbecued lobster, snapper fish, tiger prawns, spicy kang kong vegetables, and mussels will set you back by about S\$45.

## COCOON BEACH CLUB

*Where: Jl. Double Six, No. 66, Blue Ocean Boulevard, Seminyak*  
*Tel: +62 361 731266*  
*Website: www.cocoon-beach.com*

The first thing that strikes you when you step into Cocoon Bar is the feel of luxury and opulence, as expatriates dressed in their evening smart-casual best mill about the bar while earnest waiting staff first-class treatment you get from.

Surprisingly, the prices here are pretty reasonable, with drinks at least 30 per cent cheaper as compared back home, with a refreshing glass of Peach Bellini champagne drink costs about S\$14.

## When in Bali...

### Traveller's Tip 1:

Aside from walking, you will probably find yourself taking a cab to get to pretty much anywhere you go.

Check that the meter is switched on before your taxi drives off, as there have been cases of drivers overcharging tourists with off-hand quoted charges.

Be careful to hail only for the Blue Bird taxi (there is a picture of a bird on the taxi sign), as they're considered to be the most reliable of the various taxi groups in Bali.

### Traveller's Tip 2:

Check out discount hotel booking site [www.agoda.com](http://www.agoda.com) for great deals on resort and villa stays. The prices quoted on Agoda are at least 20 percent cheaper than the prices stated on the resort's website.



# VIETNAM

Conjuring images of quiet paddy fields upon mention, Vietnam hardly seems like the place to get your adrenaline fix. Think again however, as Ng Yang Han introduces you to a tour that is more than exciting.

PHOTOS BY: ER YAN BING & FELIX TAN



## MIGHTY MEKONG CYCLING

Weaving down the Mekong Delta is idyllic itself, but do it on a bicycle and it becomes an exhilarating experience.

That is what the Mighty Mekong Cycling tour seeks to give you. The four-day tour is priced at US\$379 (S\$498) and takes you through the various attractions the Mekong river and delta have to offer.

The tour kicks off with a homestay at Binh Hoa Phuoc island. There, you can enjoy the view from the top of Sam mountain as the sun sets and gaze across the vast plains of the Mekong Delta, which stretches into Cambodia.

Subsequently, you get to cycle leisurely through various fruit orchards and past rice fields, experiencing the lush landscape of the Mekong Delta as you do.

The highlight of the tour is surely the cruise down Mekong River. They will take you through a riverside market to visit the Islamic Champa village and fish breeding houses, as well as introduce you to the Cai Rang and Phong Dien floating markets.

Cai Rang, the busier of the two markets, offers various farm products and local specialties from Cai Rang Town, Chau Tanh District and the vicinity. Interestingly, samples of goods for sale are hung on a long, upright pole on each of the floating market's boats' bows as a sign of what wares its owner is hawking.

The Cai Rang waterway can turn also into a maze of hundreds of boats in the early morning, as peddlers try to sell a myriad of goods from fruits to smuggled cigarettes.

Not a fan of the hustle and bustle? Phong Dien, the other floating market, is less crowded but sees its own fair share of goods on offer too. There are even floating gas stations and restaurants.

If you want to experience the vibrant culture of the Mekong river and feed your inner adrenaline junkie at the same time, then this tour is definitely for you.

Visit <http://www.vietnambudgettour.com> for more information.





# CAMBODIA

With its shadowy past involving the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia is a land steeped in history, culture and natural beauty. Bryan Toh presents three highlights among the many attractions there.



## ANGKOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Home to the remains of the Khmer Empire, one of the most powerful empires in Southeast Asia, the park is a must-visit site for its famous Angkor Wat, and the structurally magnificent Bayon Temple.

Entry to the park requires a pass, and must be kept on hand at all times for random spot-checks. There are 1-day (S\$26), 3-day (S\$52) and 7-day (S\$78) passes available, and we recommend the 3-day pass if you are looking to visit all of the major temples at least once, as well as check out some of the minor structures.

However, if you're pressed for time, a 1-day pass will be able to show you the highlights of the most famous spots, but little else.

For the history buffs, a guide can be hired for around US\$20 (S\$26) to explain the history behind the temples as well as show you around the park, which can be intimidating with it stretching over 400 square kilometres. However, many transport options from tour buses to bicycles are available for hire. If you are feeling adventurous, travel via elephants or hot air balloons.

One thing to keep in mind would be the equatorial weather, so be prepared to get sweaty while visiting the various temples.

If you intend to stay in the area for more than a day, there are guest hostels nearby, although staying in the nearby Siem Reap City is another option.

Visit <http://www.canbypublications.com/siemreap/srstarted.htm> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/668> for more information on the park.

## SIEM REAP

One of the two most visited cities in Cambodia, Siem Reap is more commonly used as a base camp for visits to the Angkor Archaeological Park.

However, it has its fair share of attractions too, most notably Phsar Chas, a must-visit site for the souvenir hunter when in town.

Located near the Siem Reap River, Phsar Chas (literally translated to Old Market) is a large collection of stores selling everything from colourful textiles to spiced frogs. Think Bangkok's famous Chatuchak market, except with a distinctly Cambodian flavour.

Also worth visiting are the Angkor National Museum and Banteay Srey Butterfly Centre, where one will get to experience the best of Cambodia's culture and nature.

Transportation in the form of buses, taxis, tuk-tuks (sheltered motorcycles), or even boat rides down the river is widely available. Accommodation is also aplenty.

Visit <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/cambodia/siem-reap> or <http://www.canbypublications.com/siemreap/srhome.htm> for more information on the city.



PHOTOS: BENJAMIN SIM & FELIX TAN

## PHNOM PENH

The capital city of Cambodia, Phnom Penh is home to the Royal Palace grounds and is the go-to point for those interested in learning about the country's recent dark history.

The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum – a former Khmer Rouge prison – and the Killing Fields of Cheung Ek stand as reminders of the horrors of the Khmer Rouge regime, which took place in the mid-1970s.

A 40-minute drive away from the city, the Killing Fields were once the site of Khmer Rouge mass killings. The sights there are not one for the squeamish, for they include empty pits that were once mass graves.

Apart from those landmarks, Phnom Penh has its fair share of nightlife and culinary offerings as well. There is a wide variety of transportation and lodging in Phnom Penh available that can cater to different budgets.

Be sure however, to keep a look out for touts and the notoriously dodgy, and sometimes fatal, traffic system in the city. Staying out late at night is also not recommended.

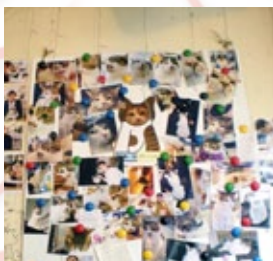
That aside, Phnom Penh is an insight into the best and the worst of Cambodia's recent past and is very worth visiting.

Visit <http://www.phnompenh.gov.kh/> for more information on the city.



# Going back in time to hairballs

Famed for its dim sum borne on trolleys by quaint old ladies and as the fashion capital of Asia, Hong Kong is also lesser known to have a bustling teashop scene to rival Parisian coffee houses. **Kylene Wu** checks out two quirky cafés that the Hong Kong locals are raving about.



## An Ailurophile's Avalon: the Cat Store

**Where:** 3D Po Ming Building, Foo Ming Street, Causeway Bay  
**Tel:** +852 2710 9953  
**Website:** <http://www.ahmeow.com/mainpage.html>

Affectionately nicknamed Cat Café by loyal patrons, the Cat Store was founded in 2001 by cat lover Diana Hui as a place where fellow feline lovers can dine with their furry companions in peace away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Small and tastefully furnished with cat-inspired paraphernalia, the café is a favorite hangout not only among ailurophiles, but also students. Visitors can play with 13 of the adopted namesake animals, all of whom are not afraid of humans and roam freely throughout the café.

Prices range from HK\$15 to HK\$100 (\$2.50 to \$17) and the menu includes all day meals, afternoon tea, snacks and drinks. Lunch and dinner items, which include Western, Chinese and Japanese cuisine include rice, spaghetti and noodle dishes are priced around HK\$35 (\$6) and HK\$80 (\$13) respectively.



## Starbucks Bing Sutt Corner

**Where:** Shop M2, Mezzanine Floor, Baskerville House, 13 Duddell Street, Central  
**Tel:** +852 2523 5685  
**Website:** <http://www.coffeeconcepts.com.hk/bingsutt/en/bingsutt.asp>

Walking into Starbucks Bing Sutt Corner, you would be forgiven for thinking that you had gone back in time. Literally translated from Cantonese as "ice room", it is conceptualized by Hong Kong lifestyle brand Goods of Desire (G.O.D) with Starbucks, and has a decidedly anachronistic feel, not least in its name.

"Ice Room" refers to a particular dining establishment popular in the 1950s and 1960s, where diners gossiped and feasted on inexpensive Western-inspired fare and sipped coffee or tea amidst tiled walls and laminated booths. Sadly, most of such cafés have disappeared, thanks to the relentless march of urban redevelopment.

Birdcages dangle from the ceiling in a cozy space lined with wooden chairs and benches, while false windows open up into photographs of scenes from a bygone era. Antiquated Hong Kong-style memorabilia like plastic fly swatters and porcelain teacups that are strewn around the premises provide interesting conversation topics. Also of note is the menu, which is written on strips of paper and pasted on the walls.

The range of food and beverages available is similar to any other Starbucks outlet. However, staying true to its theme, Bing Sutt also offers old favorites given a coffee-twist. Must-tries include the coffee cocktail buns and egg tarts with coffee-flavored crust, which are priced at an affordable HK\$10 to \$12 (\$1.70 to \$2).



# THE BUCKET LIST

REGULARS

2012 looms, and The Apocalypse beckons. MELVIN POON takes to the streets to find out what the kids have on their bucket lists.



"I want to visit all seven continents of the world." - Xanthe Ang



"I would like to immerse myself into a whole new culture and visit the historical sites in Germany and Russia. I've always wanted to experience Greece too!" - Nur Hazirah



"I would like to go down the Niagara Falls in a barrel." - Marissa Mir



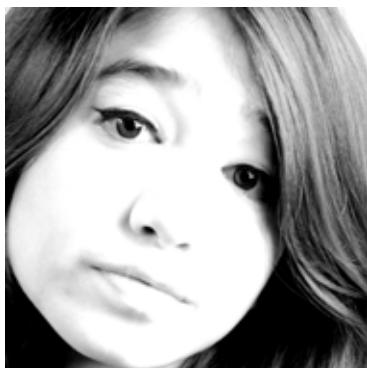
"I want to get into a real Muay Thai fight in a professional boxing ring." - Jean Goh



"I want to travel around the world with Karen O to all their gigs, and most importantly, I want her hairstyle!" - Sonia Chew



"I want to play the guitar like Adam Levine and make girls swoon." - Zayar Tint Shwe.



"I wanna see the Northern Lights." -Tessa "Glitterdoll" Mendez



"To have at least three kids and many many grandchildren before I die." - Steph Micayle



"Punch someone really important, and then run away." - Elijah Underhill



# CONTESTS

Email all your answers to [hype.midea@gmail.com](mailto:hype.midea@gmail.com). Include your name, NRIC number and contact details in your entry.



Stand the chance to watch complimentary tickets to *Forever* (P28-29), the latest movie by Singapore director Wee Li-lin.

Simply post a comment in 20 words on the official trailer's Youtube page. Email the same comment to HYPE's email.

**Contest ends 21 Feb.**

Get your hands on a 20-dollar voucher for Whips Cupcakes by completing this line:

All I want for Valentine's Day is \_\_\_\_\_ (P74-75)

**Contest ends 28 Feb.**



Get 10% discount in general cakes and desserts ordered from [www.delciedesserts.com/order/cake-order](http://www.delciedesserts.com/order/cake-order). (P74-75)

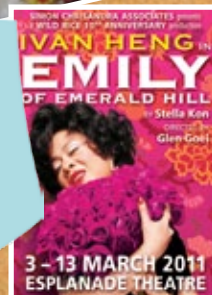
**Promotion ends 1 Apr.**



Catch *Emily of Emerald Hill* by answering the following question:

Who stars as Emily in Wild Rice Production's *Emily of Emerald Hill*? (P59)

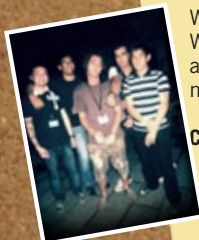
**Contest closes 1 Mar.**



Catch the grand outdoor theatre production at Fort Canning by answering the following question:

When will Shakespeare in the Park (*Macbeth*) in Singapore be held until? (P58)

**Contest ends 1 May.**



We have five autographed copies of West Grand Boulevard's (P18-19) latest album to give away! Simply tell us the name of their newly-released album.

**Contest ends 1 Mar.**

Win an autographed copy of Tay Kewei's (P17) debut album! Tell us who Tay Ke Wei sang a duet with for the song 'Please Be Careful With My Heart'.

**Contest ends 1 Apr.**







[www.jcu.edu.sg](http://www.jcu.edu.sg)

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Photograph by: Roy Sari Putra Gunawan, TMC Student

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