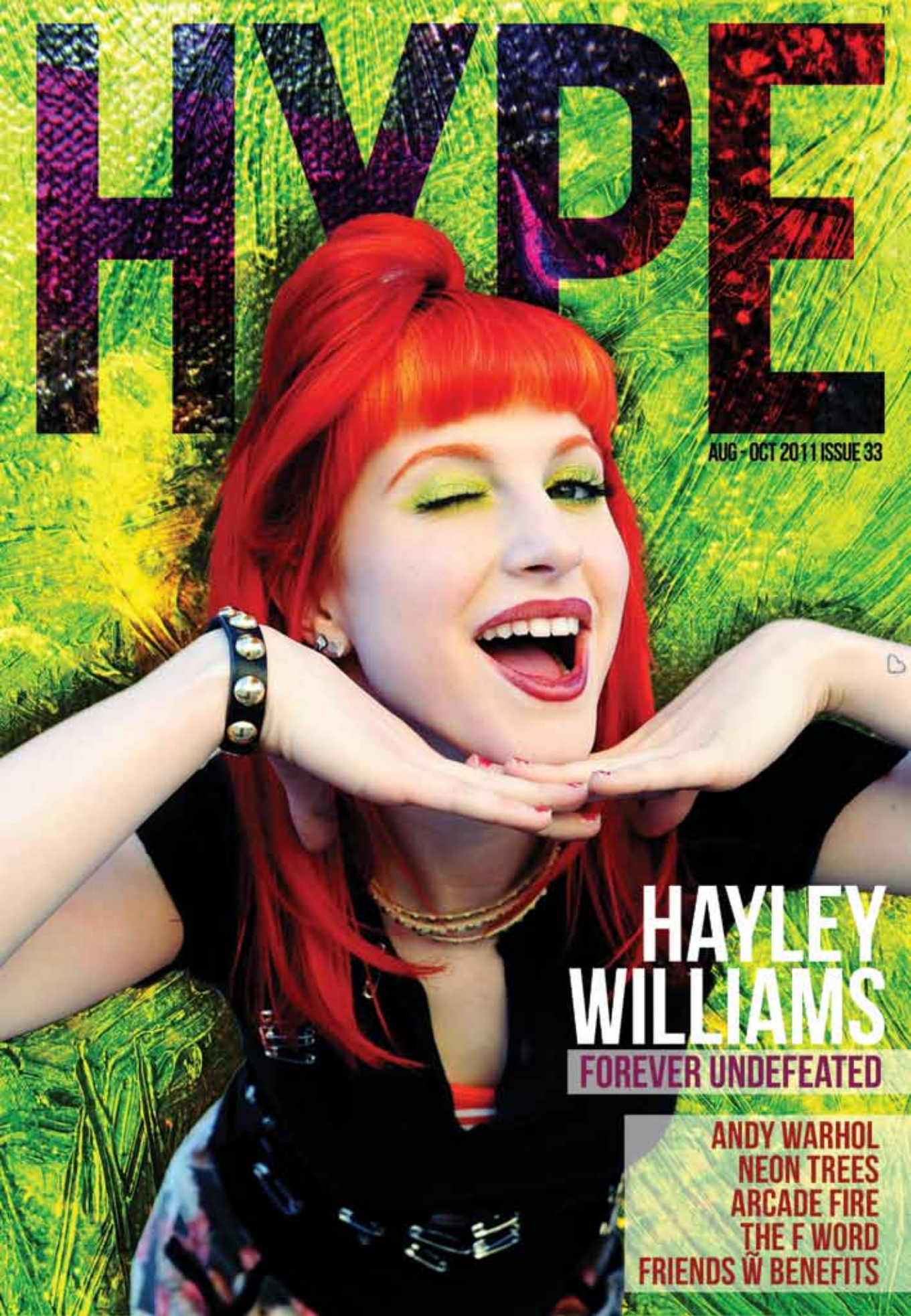


HYPE

A close-up portrait of Hayley Williams, the lead singer of the band Paramore. She has vibrant red hair styled in a high ponytail with bangs. Her eyes are closed, and she has a wide, joyful smile, showing her teeth. She is wearing bright yellow-green eyeshadow and red lipstick. Her hands are positioned near her face, with fingers spread. She is wearing a black leather choker with silver studs and a black leather bracelet with silver studs on her right wrist. The background is a textured, abstract painting in shades of green, yellow, and purple.

AUG - OCT 2011 ISSUE 33

HAYLEY WILLIAMS

FOREVER UNDEFEATED

ANDY WARHOL
NEON TREES
ARCADE FIRE
THE F WORD
FRIENDS W BENEFITS

NGEE ANN - ADELAIDE EDUCATION CENTRE

義安
The Ngee Ann Kongsi



A PARTNERSHIP SINCE 1998



★★★★★
5 stars

for staff-student ratio, research grants, research intensiveness and student demand in the 2009 Australian *The Good Universities Guide*

The University of Adelaide has consistently been ranked in the **top 1% of universities in the world**

Based on Times Higher Education, QS and Jiao Tong Rankings

A Reputation of Excellence
Associated with
5 Nobel Laureates
102 Rhodes Scholars
104 Fulbright Scholars
World Leaders

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE DEGREE



Postgraduate & Undergraduate Programs offered in Singapore @ **NGEE ANN - ADELAIDE EDUCATION CENTRE (NAA)**, a partnership established since 1998, between the **Ngee Ann Kongsi** & the **University of Adelaide**

ADVANCED STANDING
for Polytechnic Diploma Graduates

Undergraduate Programs

- * **BACHELOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**
- * **BACHELOR OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
- * **BACHELOR OF NURSING (POST REGISTRATION)**
- * **BACHELOR OF COMMERCE**
GENERAL OR SPECIALISATION IN
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT
OR MARKETING

NGEE ANN KONGSI BOND FREE SCHOLARSHIP

All applications for undergraduate programs will be eligible to apply for Ngee Ann Kongsi Bond-Free Scholarship

Terms and Conditions apply

Postgraduate Programs

- * **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**
- * **MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING**
- * **MASTER OF APPLIED FINANCE**
- * **MASTER OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE**
- * **MASTER OF EDUCATION**
- * **MASTER OF APPLIED PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

PROGRAM ENQUIRIES & CONSULTATION

e: registrar@NAA.edu.sg t: 6738 2910 97 Tank Road, Level 3 Teochew Building, Singapore 238066



WHERE TO FIND HYPE

COMPLIMENTARY COPIES OF HYPE MAGAZINE ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES

TIMBRE@ARTS HOUSE
1 Old Parliament Lane,
#01-04
TIMBRE@THE SUBSTATION
45 Armenian Street
TIMBRE@OLD SCHOOL
11A Mount Sophia #01-05

COLD ROCK
24A Lorong Mambong
313 Orchard Road #02-50
2 Bayfront Avenue #B1-60

BOOKSACTUALLY
No.9 Yong Siak Street,
Tiong Bahru

ST GAMES CAFE
2 Handy Road, The Cathay
#04-18/19/20

FROLICK@HOLLAND VILLAGE
241 Holland Avenue #01-02
FROLICK@KENSINGTON PARK
4 Kensington Park Road
FROLICK@HOUGANG
90 Hougang Avenue 10
#B1-K11

FROLICK@TAMPINES
10 Tampines Central 1
#B1-32

FROLICK@THE CATHAY
2 Handy Road,
The Cathay #01-02

FROLICK@ORCHARD
8 Grange Road, Orchard
Cineleisure #B1-07

**ONCE UPON A MILKSHAKE@
MAXWELL CHAMBERS**
32 Maxwell Road #01-08
**ONCE UPON A MILKSHAKE@
*SCAPE**
2 Orchard Link #02-03/04

**ONCE UPON A MILKSHAKE@
1 RAFFLES PLACE**
1 Raffles Place #B1-03 E

3.INCH.SIN
501 Bukit Timah Road,
Cluny Court #02-27

ROCKSTAR BY SOON LEE
8 Grange Road, Orchard
Cineleisure #03-08

WALA WALA
31 Lorong Mambong

SINEMA@OLD SCHOOL
11 Mount Sophia, Old School
#B1-12

VICTORIA JOMO
9 Haji Lane

VICTORIA JOMO DESIGNER
47 Haji Lane

ISLAND CREAMERY
11 King Albert Park
McDonald's Place, #01-02

BIRDS & CO.
8 Grange Road, Orchard
Cineleisure #03-05A

TOTALLY HOT STUFF
2 Handy Road, The Cathay
#02-13

SOGURT@BUKIT TIMAH
617, Bukit Timah Rd
SOGURT@UNITED SQUARE
101 Thomson Road, #B1-61
SOGURT@NEX SERANGOON
23 Serangoon Central,
#04-17

SOGURT@MARINE PARADE
Blk 87 Marine Parade
Central, #01-503

LEFTFOOT
14 Scotts Road, Far East
Plaza
8 Grange Road, Orchard
Cineleisure
Entrepot: 2 Handy Road, The
Cathay

DUNKIN' DONUTS
2 Orchard Turn #B2-17

ASYLUM
22 Ann Siang Road

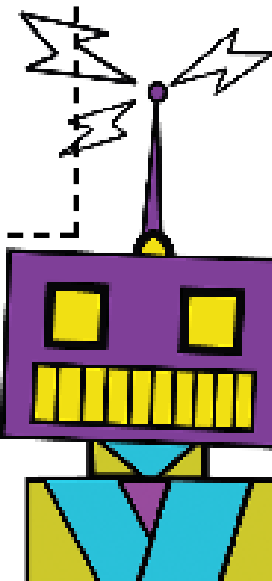
MINDS CAFE
60A Prinsep Street
Funan Digitalife Mall #02-16
68 Boat Quay, Raffles Place
1A Tampines Street 92
#01-00A

SWIRL ART
417 River Valley Road
1 Liang Seah Street
#01-13/14

VOL.TA
2 Handy Road, #02-09
8 Grange Road, #03-02

TAB
442 Orchard Road #02-29

m:idea OFFICE
535 Clementi Road
Ngee Ann Polytechnic
Blk 53, #01-01





I AM my own person

I AM my own boss

brought to you by **DBS**

YAY

woohoo!

ART PARK

QR CODE CHALLENGE

PLAY NOW & WIN!

ATTRACTIVE PRIZES FROM 1 AUG - 1 SEPT '11

FACEBOOK.COM/DBS.YOUTH

'LIKE' OUR PAGE TO PARTICIPATE!

WATCH OUT FOR MORE FUN ACTIVITIES WITH
THE NEW DBS BRANCH AT *SCAPE

***SCAPE IS AT
2 ORCHARD LINK
(BESIDE CINELEISURE ORCHARD)
ART PARK IS BESIDE GONG CHA**

HYPE

ISSUE 33 AUGUST-OCTOBER 2011

ON THE COVER

- 11 **HAYLEY WILLIAMS**
The blonde/orange/redhead
who never backs down
- 17 **NEON TREES**
- 23 **ARCADE FIRE**
- 52 **ANDY WARHOL**
- 56 **FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS**
- 67 **THE F WORD**
Celebrate Feminism!

MUSIC

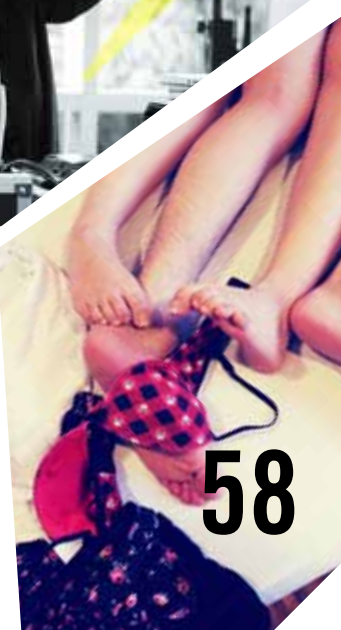
- 15 **WARPAINT**
- 16 **IMOGEN HEAP**
The EMA nominee doesn't
give a hoot about fame
- 18 **BALL PARK**
- 20 **SWEET JANE**
- 21 **SIMPLE PLAN**
- 22 **JAZZ MUSICIANS**
- 24 **DEAR WORLD... LOVE, SINGAPORE**
Local bands spread their
music across the globe
- 29 **THE ARRANT END**
- 30 **BAYBEATS**
The annual music festival is back!

PROFILES

- 34 **LIAO JIE KAI**
- 35 **KEVIN LESTER**
- 36 **MING BRIDGES**
- 38 **RUTH FLOWERS**
My granny can spin!

FASHION

- 40 **POP! GOES THE WEASEL**





CENTER FOR
AMERICAN
EDUCATION

Start your American degree in Singapore



O/A Levels | POLY Grads



Advanced Diploma in partnership with

- Broward College: Credits transferable to top US Universities
- Eligibility: O-level and A-level graduates, Polytechnic graduates



Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in partnership with

- University of South Florida
- Eligibility: O-level and A-level graduates, Polytechnic Business graduates

Graduate programs offered by Center for American Education



University of Minnesota
Leadership in Education M.Ed.



University of Florida
Master's Program in Sustainable Design



Graduate School of Education
University at Buffalo The State University of New York

University at Buffalo, SUNY
Master of Education in Counseling

CENTER FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION

12 Prince Edward Road, #01-03 Podium A Bestway Building, Singapore 079212
Tel: + 65 6223 4566 • Fax: + 65 6223 4533 • www.cae.edu.sg

Email grace@cae.edu.sg for Broward College & USF Programs; amanda@cae.edu.sg for Graduate Programs

CPE Registration number: 199703161Z • Period of Registration: 25 Aug 2010 to 24 Aug 2014



49



82



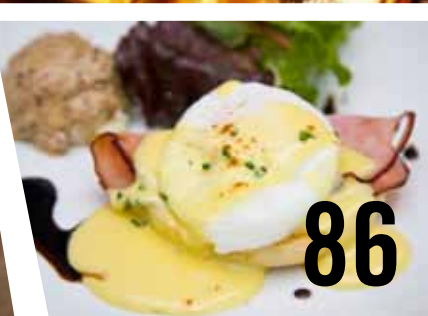
64



70



50



86

FEATURES

46 **SECRETS OF THE IPODS**

Who says skater boys can't listen to Justin Bieber?

56 **SPOOKY CREATURES IN THE DARK**

Onboard the tram ride of terror

57 **CAPTAIN AMERICA**

58 **FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS**

SHOP!

49 **CUSTOMISABLE GADGETS**

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

50 **TEA TIME AT ANN SIANG ROAD**

ARTS

62 **DANIEL JENKINS**

63 **FAT KIDS**

64 **INTO THE WOODS**

66 **PAPER BOAT**

68 + - 10

REGULARS

69 **PRINT TO SCREEN**

96 **CONTESTS**

TRAVEL

74 **THE OTHER LAND OF THE RISING SUN**

82 **ADDING SPICE TO TRAVEL**

APPETITE

86 **BRUNCH**

91 **GO GAGA OVER BABY FOOD**

92 **HEALTHY RECIPES**

94 **CREAM OF THE CROP**

Sweet treats from gourmet ice cream stores

HYPE

editor carissa abidin

deputy editors koh lee mei fanny
joseph murray

fashion and shopping editor rachel ooi

designers elise chia
maisharaqh mustajab
iskandar ruhaizat

photography tay wan lin

contributing photography samuel ow

contributors

collette claire miles
foo min valerie
germaine tan
ievan darwin
iffah rakinah
jenny ganeshrays
amanda lim
hannah wong

michelle marie
samuel ow
shana siow
gillian shen
jeanette tan
tessa mendez
tiffany sandrasageran
toh xin zhe

advertising sales nina alexy makil
nur amalina shalan
jeevan kularetnam
edward cheang
cheryl athena tan

editorial consultant sng-fun poh yoke

design consultant ahsan uddin shan

photo consultant william aung

HYPE is a free bi-annual publication by final-year Mass Communication (print journalism) students at Ngee Ann Polytechnic's School of Film & Media Studies. HYPE is part of m:idea, Singapore's first student-run media conglomerate.

HYPE
m:idea
School of Film & Media Studies
535 Clementi Road, Ngee Ann Polytechnic
Singapore 599489

T: 6460 8504 E: hype.midea@gmail.com

Printed by Times Printers Pte Ltd,
16 Tuas Avenue 5, Singapore 639340

EDITOR'S NOTE



Hey guys!

What a rush it's been putting HYPE together. A brilliant artist once said, "The idea of waiting for something makes it more exciting," and after these tedious months, boy are we thrilled! In fact, we've all gone mad, but aren't we all a little kuku on the inside?

That's why in this issue, we're celebrating the brave and the bold! These are your feistiest, most unconventional artistes, like the spunky firecracker **Hayley Williams (page 11)**, the fabulously eccentric artist **Andy Warhol (page 52)**, and **Neon Trees (page 17)**, the Mormons with an attitude that's got everyone chanting "Oh oh! I want some more!"

We definitely want more, with our homegrown talents leaving their safety blankys at home to show the world what they're made of. Find out about them and their shows around the globe in **Dear World... Love, Singapore (page 24)**.

Taking a step further into the bold, bold world, boo boo topics are being exposed in **The F Word (page 67)** and **Friends With Benefits (page 58)**

That's not all! **HYPED Up! Flea Market (page 9)** is back once again to cater to all your needs, yes, ALL. Putting all your favourite bands under one roof, rock out to the rad tunes by Cheating Sons, The Pinholes, The Sets Band, Constellation Rising and more. Oh and what is this, we've even got a magic show by the one, the only, Mega Magic! Come down to *SCAPE for shopping, live music, and fantastic giveaways.

Now that this baby is finally out, I'll do what **Ball Park Music (page 18)** does best – indulge in board games.

Carissa Abidin
Editor

FREE GUITAR[®]

WHEN YOU SIGN UP WITH US



First
250
Students
Only!

**CALL US NOW
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
6250 8987**

Why choose Academy of Rock?

1.

Academy Of Rock is registered
under the Ministry of Education

2.

We incorporate Rockscool's Exam
Syllabus, Europe's No. 1 Rock Music
Exam Board

3.

Our instructors are certified by
Rockscool Ltd and London College
Of Music (LCM)

4.

We conduct more than 800 lessons
weekly. One to One!

WWW.ACADEMYOFROCK.COM.SG

Terms & Conditions Apply

GOLDHILL CENTRE
189 Thomson Road,
Goldhill Centre,
S307630 T: 6250 8987

HOLLAND VILLAGE
24C Lorong Mambong,
Holland Village,
S277682 T: 6468 6896

PARKWAY CENTRE
1 Marine Parade Central,
#12-03, Parkway Centre
S449408 T: 6344 0838

SIGLAP
707 East Coast Rd
S459063
COMING SOON!

Sweet Lee Company
Established since 1961



HYPE PRESENTS HYPED UP!

flea market



SAMUEL OW is calling all flea lovers!
HYPED Up! Flea Market is here once again
to host the most awesome stalls, fantastic
giveaways and your favourite local bands!

Get ready for a fabulously fun-filled
shopping bonanza! Besides shopping, dress
to impress and express, as our paparazzi
will be snapping photos of you. Come
celebrate the art of uncontrolled self-
expression!

Last year's event was a whopping success
with local acts such as Trella, Run Neon
Tiger, Postbox and Duxton Plains.

This year's performances will definitely
impress as well. Catch the winner of this
year's Levi's Music Challenge, The Sets
Band, the psychedelic Pinholes, the
experimental Constellation Rising, and

peek into Baybeats with Cheating Sons!

Moreover, Mega Magic will be performing
a half-hour magic act on stage, including
street performers roaming to hype up the
crowd as well as to entertain the vendors
and youths with magic tricks.

Attesting to the magazine's entertainment
value, there will be hourly giveaways at
the event that include CDs, movie passes,
tickets to local plays and more.

Stand the chance to win passes to The
Butter Factory, a Samsung ST700 Camera,
and for all you soccer fans, we're giving
away Chelsea soccer jerseys worth \$99!

Taking place at the hippest place in town,
come celebrate youth with local bands
under one roof at HYPED Up! Flea Market.

Mega Magic



Date: 31 July, Sunday
Venue: *SCAPE
Time: 2pm - 9pm

Catch the flea, catch the HYPE!

The Sets Band



Tourism & Hospitality | Business | Environmental Science | Psychology | Information Technology | Education



Top 4%* in the world for Academic & Research performance
Top 12 Tourism Education Institutions in the world**

*The Academic Ranking of World Universities, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 2010 | **Top tourism education by World Tourism Organisation (WTO)

James Cook Australia Institute of Higher Learning | 600 Upper Thomson Road, (S) 574421 | Hotline: (65) 8222 6833 | Email: enquiries@jcu.edu.sg
 CPE Registration No. 200100786K | Period of registration: 13 July 2010 to 12 July 2014

[f/jcu_singapore.fanpage](#)

[t/jcu_singapore](#)



HAYLEY “DON’T-MESS WITH-ME” WILLIAMS

From nude picture scandals, to the loss of two core members from Paramore, Hayley Williams remains an unruffled redheaded warrior in the face of the battles in her life. TIFFANY SANDRASAGERAN finds out

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARNER MUSIC



Think Paramore and the first thing that comes to mind would be a flash of flaming red hair and an iconic, fierce female voice belting out in the top of the register. Three studio albums, two Grammy nominations and a couple of hit collaborations later (Hayley and rapper B.o.B's hit, "Airplanes", was nominated for Best Hip Hop Video for the 2010 MTV Video Music Awards), the dynamic redhead continues to shine.

Paramore has gone through a whirlwind of change, grappling with the loss of the Farro Brothers (the initial founders of Paramore) from the band as well as a hacker who posted nude pictures of Hayley on her twitter page. Paramore has gone through so much, especially Hayley.

The petite 22-year-old shocked the Twitterverse once in May 2010, when nude photos of her leaked on her twitter page, @yelyahwilliams. Paramore's members are Christian and most songs consist of Christian themes, so this incident might have cost them some religious fans. However, in today's entertainment industry, a nude scandal would definitely get a celebrity more... eyes. Hayley received nearly 50,000 more followers on Twitter that night.

**"I CAME HOME
CRYING ONE DAY AND
TOLD MY MOM I
COULDN'T BE AROUND
THEM ANYMORE."**

The charming front-woman dealt with the issue graciously and laughed it off with a comeback tweet, "Pretty much my day has consisted of folding and organizing clothes. You aren't gonna believe this.... but... I have a whole lot of shirts."

It might be hard to believe from the confident and unperturbed demeanour of Hayley, but she used to be bullied in high school and had to be homeschooled as a result. According to an interview in Cosmopolitan Magazine in May 2011, she used to be accused of being gay. She shared, "I came home crying one day and told my mom I couldn't be around them anymore. So we decided I would be homeschooled."

Late last year, the Farro Brothers decided to exit Paramore, claiming that the band was falling out. On Dec 21, Josh Farro made a statement in his blog (<http://joshnfarro.blogspot.com>), "Hayley claimed that this record (*Brand New Eyes*) reunited us as band and made us grow closer together, when in reality we were all growing further apart. Suddenly the band had split into two sides. Touring became more difficult since we couldn't agree on anything. The friendships our band once had were no longer existent."

Even with this breakup, Hayley is going strong, putting her fans before the band's personal issues. According to NME, she said, "The three of us are still here, we're not going anywhere... this is our way of showing that there's a future and we're stoked for it."

Three things you must know about Hayley and Paramore:

5 COLOURS (AND MORE) IN HER HAIR



Hayley has been flanked and revered by the fandom for having outlandishly bright hair colours and styles that are iconic of her. Since 2005, she's had a total of about 20 whopping changes in her hair colour, including a full red-head, yellow bangs, ginger, cherry red, purple, solid orange, bleach blonde, red and pink, and most recently, red hair again. Oftentimes, Hayley also customises her microphone colour according to her hair to give her performances and additional oomph.

The imminently growing image of Haley as a solo entity from her band came during her big stint with B.o.B on the hit single, "Airplanes". As the undying, and oftentimes only face of Paramore, it has inevitably led to fact that the rest of the band members faded into the background, and the main identifying factor of the band would be Hayley.

"Airplanes" might be the biggest and most popular mainstream collaboration that Hayley has done so far, but the spunky lady has had her fair share of collaborations prior to that, and is no stranger to duets. In 2006, she had also teamed up with the pop punk band October Fall for the song "Keep Dreaming Upside Down". Also, she did "Tangled Up" with Newfound Glory and "The Few That Remain" with Set Your Goals in 2009.

FARRO-LESS PARAMORE



The departure of the Farro Brothers, Josh and Zac Farro, has also garnered some reservations amongst rabid Paramore fans that worry for the band's sound and direction of music.

Paramore fan, Nur Haafizhah Bte Khosni, spoke of how she worries about the change of the musical direction for Paramore. "After they (Farro Brothers) left, Paramore seemed incomplete. Paramore will still be Paramore, the band that had me hooked on their music the first time I ever heard of them, but with some slight changes. The music will probably change because Josh took part in most of the lyric writing and composing," said the 16-year-old.

The departure of the Farro Brothers was not all that smooth, as they claimed that their exit from the band was due to some differences and clash in the beliefs and their thoughts that Hayley "misrepresented the band". As stated from the Josh's blog post, "Hayley presented lyrics to us that were really negative and we didn't agree with. We fought her about how her lyrics misrepresented our band and what we stood for, but in the end she got her way. Instead of fighting her any longer, we decided to just roll over and let it go."

With a bitter departure and a vast hole in the band's future, fans had their doubts whether Paramore would disband altogether. Just as the fans had their reservations about where the band is heading, the new Paramore (where Hayley is flanked by drummer Josh Freese and guitarist Justin York) decided to turn up the offense and dive straight into the attack mode with the release of their first single, "Monster", on the *Transformers: Dark of The Moon* soundtrack, in June.



MUSIC

The song is a prelude to their new album set to release in 2012, and with its signature minor-key angst and lyrics like “I’ll stop the whole world from turning into a monster, eating us alive” and “Call me a traitor, I’m just collecting your victims”. But perhaps the deciding lyric “Now that you’re gone, the world is ours”, unanimously answered the world’s question as to whether the song was a direct hit towards the Farro Brothers.

THE EVOLUTION OF PARAMORE’S MUSIC

Paramore’s music has seen a steady change throughout their three albums. In 2005, their debut album, *All We Know Is Falling*, had songs that reflected their steadfast belief in God and Christianity, as portrayed in songs like “Playing God” and “Miracle”.

Two years later, *Riot!* was, as the band would like to call it, “an outburst of emotion” that Hayley and her band members had. Songs like “Misery Business”, “CrushCrushCrush” and “Hallelujah” garnered a lot more attention this time, landing the band a spot on stage at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards.

“...BECAUSE WE WERE ALL FRIENDS, AND THEN GOING THROUGH A BREAKUP AND GOING THROUGH ANY KIND OF TENSION AS A BAND REALLY AFFECTED ALL THE LYRICS.”

The band greeted 2009 with *Brand New Eyes*, a fresh album with slower tempo, emotionally vulnerable songs like “We Are Broken” and “The Only Exception”.

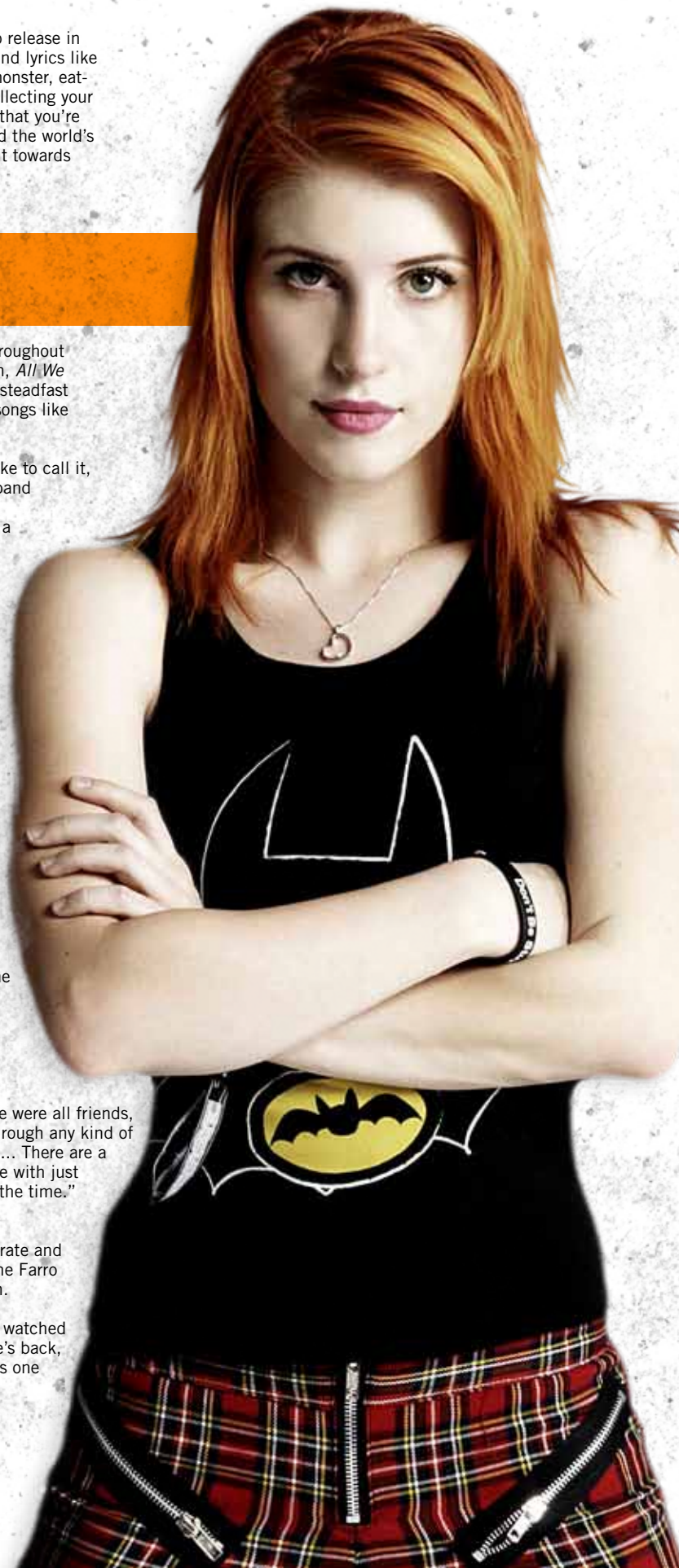
Apparently, this album unleashed the softer side to Hayley as it was about the heartache she went through. In an interview with MTV, she said, “I would say that a large majority of those songs, yes, have to do with the relationship we (Hayley and Josh) had and then that we had to mend.”

She added, “And it was really hard, because we were all friends, and then going through a breakup and going through any kind of tension as a band really affected all the lyrics. ... There are a lot of specifics that I pulled from my experience with just feeling like my face was underneath a boot all the time.”

With the sneak peek of via the angst-filled single, “Monster”, we can probably expect an irate and fury soundtrack of Hayley’s trying phase with the Farro Brothers, all cooped up in the upcoming album.

She’s been bullied, humiliated on the net, and watched as Paramore’s pillars took off. The fact that she’s back, better and stronger, proves that Hayley Williams one heck of a firecracker.

Catch the feisty lady in action as Paramore performs live at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, Aug 21. Tickets are available at *SISTIC*.



MICHELLE MARIE discovers that indie band Warpaint join the likes of Au Revoir Simone.

NOBODY’S FOOL



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHUGG ENTERTAINMENT ASIA

Amidst the hype surrounding their latest album, the all-girl quartet from Los Angeles (LA) has been busy living up to expectations.

Having been named one of BBC’s 15 Most Promising Artists of 2011, as well as MTV’s 9 Artists to Watch in 2011, these talented Californians have been stirring up quite a storm among fans of the indie music scene.

Their full-length album, *The Fool*, received an 8 out of 10 rating from Spin Magazine following its release last October, and the band was also named NME’s 50 Best New Bands of 2010.

Known for the powerful live performances, Warpaint has been touring since the release of their album, performing at gigs like the Reading and Leeds Festivals, and St. Jerome’s Laneway festival in Singapore last January. They’ve shared the stage with

other notable acts such as The xx, The Walkmen and Band of Horses, to name but a few.

The band’s wispy vocals and psychedelic rhythms give off a hauntingly beautiful feel, one that sets them apart from most bands in their genre. With all members contributing vocals to their sound, the girls have been able to recreate their four-part harmonies live on stage and staying true to their studio versions, a rather impressive feat to anyone who has heard their record, and an unmistakable explanation for their popularity.

“We were pretty conscientious of not doing too many overdubs,” said Emily Kokal in an interview with NME, “[we want to keep] the record as close to what we would be able to play live, so it sounds authentic to the record.”

Originally formed on Valentine’s Day 2004, the band underwent a number

of member-tweaks before settling on their current all-girl line up, consisting of Emily Kokal (vocals and guitar), Theresa Wayman (guitar and backing vocals), Jenny Lee Lindberg (bass and backing vocals), and the newest addition to the Warpaint family, Stella Mozgawa (drums).

Joining Au Revoir Simone as one of the very few successful all-girl indie bands, they feel that being in an all-girl band hasn’t given them any sort of advantage in the music industry.

Jenny explained in an interview with MTVAsia.com. “Being an all-girl band doesn’t mean anything if you can’t play your instruments well.”

*Warpaint is set to play at St James Power Station on Aug 2. Tickets are available at *SISTIC*, priced at \$65. Each ticket includes a free alcoholic/non-alcoholic drink.*



CLOSING IN ON *Imogen Heap*

Inviting fans into her home, buying them an apartment, and speaking with them among the clouds. Imogen Heap reveals to FOO MIN VALERIE her secret to maintaining a good relationship with her fans.

"I've never met anyone, or had any kind of weird stalkers... I'm really lucky that I don't seem to attract those people," says Imogen Heap.

The British singer-songwriter-producer strongly believes that being open about her life is the secret behind avoiding unwanted attention from potential fan stalkers.

"It didn't even occur to me that it may be unsafe or they may ruin the house. I just knew that it would be all right," she says as she recalls the time she invited everyone who was involved in the production of "Lifeline" to her house.

Written and recorded in a span of 14 days, Lifeline consists of a mixture of over 40 sounds recorded by Imogen's fans. Inspiration sparked from a man who was cycling for his life from a tidal wave during the tragic March 11 earthquake in Japan.

Unlike most music artists, 34-year-old Imogen maintains a close relationship with her fans by creating many opportunities for them to meet her.

Some of which include spontaneous Twitter meet-ups and even having them over at her house. "I guess if they really want to meet me, it's quite easy to. I always come out at the end of shows. I think I spent nearly an hour and a half after the Singapore show saying hello to everyone," she muses.

It is evident that she is sociable as she adds that she loves "connecting with real people" and feeling bonded with them.

Imogen is famous for including her fans in her music making process. She does this through crowdsourcing, which involves her openly asking her community of fans to submit sound clips and artwork via her website, <http://www.imogenheap.com>.

"A way my community can get involved in [my upcoming song] is sending pictures inspired by the sounds I'm going to be saying and recording," shares Imogen.

Another way she connects with her fans is present in the form of competition prizes.

"I've done things like... I took a girl up in a hot air balloon in Seattle!" she enthuses.

"Another one was a couple of girls who won another competition. I bought them a little flat in London for a weekend... I played a little show for them in their room."

"It's just so much fun! I'm sure if you speak to any artist who has lots of interaction [with fans], [they will agree that] it's really rewarding," she adds.

Being constantly on the move, she occupies herself by raising money for charities, such as the fundraising concert she performed to raise money for a heavily damaged school in Christchurch, New Zealand, in April.

Apart from that, travelling and making music with other artists are on her to-do list.

"I am constantly doing things. Everything feeds everything. It doesn't make sense to do an album in a confined solid space and time all together."

Ellipse is available in all major record stores island wide. "Lifeline" can be purchased from her website.

"I took a girl up in a hot air balloon in Seattle!"

ROCKING NEON STYLE MUSIC

Most bands that top the charts indulge in the extravagant "Rockstar" lifestyle with drinks, drugs, and girls. TESSA MENDEZ uncovers one band that proves it's possible to wow crowds, top charts, and stay straight edge.

The band has got every one chanting "Oh oh, I want some more", with their catchy and contagious beats. However, unlike most rock 'n' roll bands, they've chosen a unique lifestyle.

Being Mormons, the members of Neon Trees have sworn off partying, and have been living a good clean life as rockstars.

Tyler tells 411 Music, "We all kind of dabbled and did our own thing in the teenage years but we've decided we just want to keep things clean."

Neon Trees' sound is a hybrid of synth-pop and alternative rock, resulting in refreshing dance rock tunes such as "Animal", "1983" and "Your Surrender" that are undeniably catchy, making you feel like dancing and singing along.

When asked about the band's influences, Tyler tells Mishmash magazine, "I am really inspired by the Smiths, David Bowie, and New York Dolls."

He adds, "Branden is really influenced by Motown and everyone's got their different genres." Despite the rock 'n' roll influences, the band members of Neon Trees all keep to the straight-edge lifestyle.

Elaine Bradley, drummer and vocalist for Neon Trees, tells MTV News, "None of us drink or do drugs or anything like that, so it's fun to be the exception to the old rule of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll because this is our art and our passion."

Keeping in mind the band's influences, it is easy to see where they get inspiration for their fashion style.

Constantly clad in leather jackets, feather boas, ripped jeans, a pair of shades and combat boots as they take the stage.

The band has been known for having their own chic yet outrageous New-Wave fashion sense infused with a touch of the 80s punk look.

Tyler tells Creative Allies that although fashion is very significant to Neon Trees, because it allows the band to creatively express their individuality, it does not define them as an artiste.

"Fashion never overtakes the songs," he says.

He adds, "The songs are what we serve. In fact I might be the most fashion obsessed. We are bound by writing, creating and ultimately making music that we can stand behind."

At the Sunset Strip Music Festival in August 2010, during Neon Trees set, Tyler unzipped his leather pants to show off his Fruit of the Loom underwear waistband to the crowd, causing his fans to go crazy.

He has been declared a fireball of energy once he grabs the microphone.

With Elaine on drums, not only keeping energy as well as time with her beats, will throw you in to a state of awe, as she sings along with Tyler as backup vocals.

Tyler commented in an interview with Spinner on Elaine's talents, "Elaine is multi-talented. She is a guitar player, a drummer, and a singer, and she'd love people to know that. She could totally front the band!"

Having dominated our radio airwaves, MTV Top Charts as well as our iPod playlists with their infectious pop-synth dance-along songs, Neon Trees are finally coming to Singapore.

Thanks to LAMC Productions, we can experience the magic firsthand!

Catch Neon Trees in Singapore on Jul 26 at Fort Gate, Fort Canning Park. Tickets are available at SISTIC.





OUT OF THE BALL PARK

PHOTO: TAY WAN LIN

Unlike most bands, members of Ball Park Music couldn't be more different. **GILLIAN SHEN** finds out how this young band embraces individuality to create a harmonious tune.

Upon first glance, you wouldn't think that the members of Ball Park Music were remotely close. Three years ago, they were merely classmates pursuing a Bachelor in Music at Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

Today, Sam Cromack (guitar/vocals), Jennifer Boyce (bass, keytar, backing vocals), Paul Furness (keys, trombone), Brock Smith (guitar) and twins Dean (guitar, bass, backing vocals) and Daniel Hanson (drums, backing vocals), find themselves almost inseparable.

"I guess we never expected anything to happen. So it's kind of fateful," says Sam.

They've also been blessed with the magic number- six. "Most bands have four or five people. But in this age, there's a lot of diversity," says Sam.

He adds, "Sometimes it's hard, but I'd say most of the time, especially when we perform. It's a real advantage because there's lots of sound, so it sounds nice and full."

This number also has other benefits. Jennifer says, "It's really good for doing other things like sitting in threes on the plane, and having three pairs of buddies. Oh and playing board games like Scrabble and Scattergories, We love Scattergories!"

Yes, they love to play the same board games, but when it comes to music, they couldn't be more different.

"We'd play a game when we travel on the road, taking turns to shuffle our iPods. Every time it's Paul's turn, we put our plugs on," teases Brock.

Jennifer also says that Paul has the "scariest iPod of all", because he's the only one that loves "Hot N Cold" by Katy Perry.

The band plays a fusion of indie pop and folk. Crafting their music differently may just be the key to creating an identity of their own.

"It's good that we don't just sit along one genre, we just play what we want and merge it all together and make sure it sounds alright," explains Jennifer.

This band is probably the only one with the worst set of twins. Hardly identical, Daniel's long hair

screams 'Rocker' while Dean's short, neat do whispers 'Shy Boy'.

Having a sibling in the band has its benefits. "I guess I can always have someone I can trust on stage, no matter what. Because we've played with each other for like what, 22 years," says Dean.

In the sweet, brotherly moment, Brock interrupts, "They often wrestle each other and they're allowed to vent their anger on each other."

Jennifer adds, "For the rest of us, we have to keep it all in!"

While the band might have their fun teasing and wrestling each other, they've worked, and are still working, extremely hard to pursue their music career.

On top of having full-time jobs back in Brisbane, the band tries their best to seize every opportunity that comes their way.

"We're really poor, so we try to work as much as we can," Jennifer pouts.

Sure enough, their tenacity paid off when a couple of their songs hit the radio charts in Australia, including singles like the boldly written "iFly" and "Sad Rude Future Dude".

It's not all about money for Ball Park Music. Just this year, they covered a Beatles song, "Come Together", with another Australian band for the Brisbane Flood Relief.

"We all live there, we have friends and family here that were effected and this is just a natural thing anyone would do," says Sam.

Previously, Ball Park Music was Sam's solo

“Paul has the SCARIEST iPod of all because he can't get enough of 'Hot N Cold' by Katy Perry!”

project. He explains, "I travelled a lot with my family around the globe. We went to baseball stadiums, called ball parks, a lot."

Sam's Dad wanted him to do something to spread the word of baseball around, so Sam thought, "Ball Park Music sounds like a nice name."

However, when he found his other five members, he didn't think twice about playing music with them.

"I never really thought that I was giving up my solo. It was more like, 'Yay! I have a band now, I can actually play my songs'."

Since then, the six of them have never been apart. After 2 EPs a number of singles and ongoing tours, the young

band is aiming to launch their debut album late this year.

Sam kids that we can all expect "super hits and worldwide fame" from their upcoming album.

"I think we're going to sound much more consistent. I hope that people will just enjoy it. It's as simple as that."

Listen to Ball Park Music at <http://www.myspace.com/musicfromthe-ballpark>.





Her Own Sweet Way

PHOTO: TAY WAN LIN

Lydia Des Dolles, lead singer of rock band Sweet Jane, speaks with GERMAINE TAN about her bad rep as a teen, the birth of the band, and everything else in between.

Clearly unaccustomed to the humidity here, Lydia fans herself with a brochure despite us being in an air-conditioned room. She fumbles around her handbag and, to my surprise, produces a can of beer that's still slightly chilled.

She removes her oversized shades and recalls, "They had a rule in one of my old schools where all the girls had to wear skirts, but I was used to wearing pants and I refused to wear a skirt, so I got kicked out because of that."



Clearly unabashed by the fact that she got expelled, Lydia adds, "But then again if I hadn't been such a fool I wouldn't have started the band!"

This band, however, is anything but foolish. Hailing from Dublin, Ireland, the band was formed in 2008 by lead guitarist and songwriter, Danda Paxton.

With him was his brother Ruairi on bass, Donagh O' Brien on drums, and Lydia on vocals. In just one year, they recorded and released their EP, *Blackboots and Blackhearts*, leaving a mass of rave reviews from underground press.

The band was signed to Irish label Reekus Records in late 2009, and released their debut album *Sugar For My Soul* in Ireland last July. The

"Danda and I were dating when we first started the band, and a lot of the songs from our first record were pretty much about our relationship," reveals Lydia.

She adds, "[The album] is basically a collection of our experiences over the past two years and tells our story."

Instead of feeling lonely as the only girl in the band, Lydia admits that she feels more comfortable around guys, because she's used to touring with an all-male crew.

"The sound engineer, the lighting crew and the band are all guys, so I get treated better in a sense because I get to do all the interviews and stuff and they do the all the manual work like transporting the equipment," she chirps.

“ [The album] is basically a collection of our experiences and tells our story.”

album is currently finding its way around Asia, including Singapore, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.

As to why the name Sweet Jane (Lou Reed's 1970s hit single), Lydia explains that her dad looks a lot like Lou Reed, guitarist and vocalist of The Velvet Underground – one of their main musical influences.

"The first time we [Danda and Lydia] ever recorded together, we were setting up our equipment in my apartment when the song "Sweet Jane" began playing on the stereo, and we thought, "Hey what a great name! We should totally call our band that",," says Lydia.

Just like Lydia, the band's music stands out from the crowd. Pushing through cliché genres, the Irish press has given them their own genre, "dream pop-rock 'n' roll".

It's full-steam ahead for Sweet Jane. They will be touring the UK, finishing work on their second album, and performing at the Lodestar Festival in London come September.

Sugar For My Soul can be found at all major record stores. You can also listen to Sweet Jane online at www.myspace.com/officialsweetjane.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDED

No guards, no barriers, just them. Simple Plan never hides from fans. AMANDA LIM finds out how this band still gets hearts racing after more than a decade of making music.



Tired reporters soon turned into excited teenagers as they entered a room filled with multi-coloured beanbags and heart-shaped cushions. Music started to play as five superstars entered in bathrobes and sunglasses. Nobody else excites people like Simple Plan.

Back with their brand new album, *Get Your Heart On*, the Canadian pop-punk band of 12 years offers a track recorded with fans from all around the world, a French song, and their first collaboration with a female.

"This Song Saved My Life" is the closing track for the new album. It's

a testament to the value Simple Plan places on their fans. They asked fans over Twitter what their music has done for them over the years. Messages started to flood in as fans poured out their heartfelt words. The band took these words and turned them into their song dedication.

After sending out an invite on Twitter, 25 fans from all across the globe travelled to Vancouver to record the track. They came from South Africa, Poland, Russia and other countries.

Rhythm guitarist and backing vocalist Sebastien Lefebvre said, "The fans

keep us going. To them, music is really important, and we don't want to let them down." He added, "We want to be their Pearl Jam," This is also the band that's inspired them.

The band also had their first collaboration with a female. This definitely had some members' hearts pounding. Their single, "Jet Lag", features British babe Natasha Bedingfield and French Canadian Marie-Mai in an alternate French version, which garnered a fair bit of attention as Bouvier also sang most of the pop punk song in French.

"We all grew up speaking French so it was cool to do a French song... We were all nervous, but it ended up being great," said Lefebvre.

He added, "It's weird how a lot of fans that don't speak French say they prefer the French version... They find it exotic."

Bouvier said, "We're finally now able to take a step back and look at what we've accomplished and how far we have come."

Get Your Heart On is available in all major record stores.



Already obscure to the masses, jazz is slowly fading away. While others let this beautiful genre go, some continue holding on to it. SAMUEL OW finds out what keeps some jazz cafés going.

True Bluez Lover

Southbridge Jazz @7atenine and Saxophone Bar at Cuppage Terrace are two famous jazz bars that have played their last note and closed down. It seems that jazz no longer appeals to the masses, but those who have an ear for this niche genre can always depend on BluJaz Café and The Regent Bar.

"When I first came to Haji Lane, I fell for it. I love old buildings, and the trees on Bali Lane create a lovely boulevard," enthuses Aileen Tan, owner of BlueJaz Café. With this instant attraction for the heritage ground, one of the last jazz cafés in Singapore was built.

She's shocked to hear about the jazz scene in Singapore fading away. As if it's a brand new revelation, she comments, "Really?" She claims not to know much about the scene, but she realises that a few established clubs have recently closed down.

"Jazz happened to be a big part of our live music scene," says the jazz lover, dismayed about the current situation.

The reason for this devastating closure is the masses' change in taste. "Much of the local music scene today has been dedicated to suit the coming generation of the young people out there, which are going more for techno, electro and indie genres," says BluJaz Café's regular customer, Petrina Lee.

The 24-year-old finds that jazz music eases her "tensing" muscles. She says, "Listening to such music while talking to companions and eating

[creates] the mood to chill and relax." She adds that such music is much harder to find today as compared to when she was much younger. Nowadays, people are listening more to contemporary and catchy tunes, forsaking the slow ones like jazz. Petrina states, "That is not doing any justice to jazz."

One of the biggest loss is the closing of The Saxophone Bar, where American maestro O'Donal Levy used to play. Maestro O'Donal Levy is currently living in New York City.

The Singaporean Jazz scene is still surviving largely due to the American expat musicians who are playing jazz

given to the remaining numbers of jazz listeners out there because they are the ones that are keeping the scene going on in Singapore. Without them, the jazz scene would probably be extinct."

Nicholas Tan, 22, who is undergoing National Service, said that his fellow NS men have exposed him to the genre not too long ago.

He felt that "jazz music is subtle and not too distracting when it comes to talking and bonding with [his] fellow friends."

He adds, "BluJaz is just one of the

“Jazz Music is subtle and not too distracting when it comes to talking and bonding with my fellow friends.”

Nicholas Tan

here, and a couple of local musicians such as Jeremy Montiero, Aya Sekine, Greg Lyon, Md Noor, Fendi, Casey, and Alamay.

Other guest artistes have fought against the odds of the generation's genres that are uprising today.

Nicholas Tan, a frequent listener of jazz music, says, "Credit has to be

clubs that have not closed down and he hopes that they would not change the genre just to suit what their customers want but rather the customers to come because they really enjoy the essence of jazz music."

Together, the local surviving passionate fans or the local and Expat musicians still form a small but active jazz community here in Singapore today.

CAN'T STOP THIS FIRE



After brushing aside Lady Gaga at the Grammys and topping album charts, they've shed their underdog personas and are now poised to take on the world. JENNY GANESHRAYS unravels the works of Arcade Fire.

Interview Courtesy of Warner Music.

"Who the hell is Arcade Fire?" Or better yet, "What is Arcade Fire? Sounds like some video game!"

These were just some of the indignant outbursts flooding social networking sites, when the then-relatively unknown Canadian indie rockers snagged Album of the Year for *The Suburbs* at this year's Grammy Awards, leaving stalwarts like Lady Gaga and Eminem in the lurch. A

"It's the stuff that you see with a really low expectation that usually blows your mind," says lead singer Win Butler.

Together with jazz singer Régine Chasagne, this husband-wife duo formed the seven-piece band in Montreal back in 2003. Multi-instrumentalists Richard Reed Parry, Tim Kingsbury, Sarah Neufeld, drummer Jeremy Gara, and Butler's youngest brother Will complete the line-up.

"It's not like everyone needs to be excited about our album (*The Suburbs*), but for those who are, it's a special little moment," says Win.

Despite the doom-laden undertones of their material (2004's *Funeral* deals with the deaths of family members in Win's and Régine's families, while

2007's *Neon Bible* touches on violence, paranoia and hypocrisy), their music remains curiously euphoric, favouring uplifting, lush arrangements and an eclectic assortment of instruments from the French horn to the hurdy-gurdy, just to name a few.

Their gloriously evangelistic sound soared to greater heights, enabling *The Suburbs* to occupy simultaneous #1 spots on both the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK) album charts and innumerable spots on Top Albums of 2010 lists.

If the mass endorsement on both sides of the Atlantic wasn't enough, they can also count on the blessings of predecessors U2, who have invited them on tour. Arcade Fire walked onstage with "Wake Up" as their opening song. As Bono himself told the *New York Times* last year, Arcade Fire's discography "contains all the big themes and ideas that make all around them seem so vapid".

Their thirst for making a deep impact extends far beyond the stage. They've recently launched the charitable organisation Kanpe (meaning "to stand up" in Haitian Creole), providing aid to needy communities in Haiti.

With such a heady, larger-than-life vision, it seems that nothing can stand in Arcade Fire's skyward trajectory to music domination, à la U2 and Bruce Springsteen. But underneath it all, one thing still smoulders: the group's collective commitment to their music.

"We're trying to make it [our music], so that people experience what we do through what we care about," Will reveals. His brother Win agrees, "We really are a band, and something special happens when we play together."

The deluxe re-issue of The Suburbs, with two previously unreleased tracks is available at all good record stores.

“It's the stuff that you see with a really low expectation that usually blows your mind.”

Dear World... Love, Singapore

Immerse yourself in the world of Singapore's music with JEANETTE TAN as she speaks with three highly successful artistes with an international fan base, and finds out what being Singaporean truly means to them.

Dear World,

This little red dot is set to paint you crimson. No longer quiet about our talents, we're ready to spread the love of music. We're so much more vibrant than you know, we've traveled to so many places to share our passion, and we've got fans from across the globe!

There's one-woman electronic band The Analog Girl, Charlie Lim, folk-rock extraordinaire, psychedelic soul lovers The Pinholes, and the metalheads Fall Of Mirra. Perk up your ears and listen up, World! You just might be duly rewarded with three outstanding artistes.

Love,
Singapore.

ic Chick

al Man

The I

Dark S

Electronic Chick

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIUS LANDAU

Armed with synthesisers, a keyboard, and electronic beats, there's no stopping this homegrown mega-force. Named by TIME Magazine as one of the 5 Music Acts To Watch in 2008, Mei Wong, who goes by the name The Analog Girl, has performed in numerous foreign lands including New York City, London, Paris, Jakarta, Berlin and Japan. Most recently, this dynamic lady even opened for critically acclaimed indie-rock group, The Whitest Boy Alive, during their 2011 concert in Hong Kong.

It doesn't take much to be smitten by Mei's music. Give one of her dreamy avant-garde tracks a listen and you'll be sure to fall hook, line, and sinker. Her richly textured songs are always complex and elaborate, and they strike just the right note with fans. Sort of how the local dish rojak is like - discordant, yet strangely delicious.

"My music stems from the clashing of ideas, textures and rhythms all coming together to form something else, something different," says the effervescent 37-year-old.

She adds, "I have always been interested in all types of music, so even though I have been working with electronic instruments all my life, the music I make is not purely dance or electronic once you start stripping the layers. The feel of my songs vary as I soak in new music, new experiences and exploring new tools," Having performed at so many international events, Mei professes to be an avid traveler who loves nothing more than playing to an enthusiastic crowd overseas.

"I once played to an overwhelming reception at RRRECfest in Jakarta, and it got so intense that the crowd started splitting onto the street," recalls Mei.

That being said, she loves her "shy" Singaporean audience all the same and credits the country's peace and stability for nurturing a habitable environment in which creativity can materialise.

"To me, something that is very 'Singaporean' is the conscientious pursuit of creativity and the spirit of discovery."

So, what great things can we expect next from The Analog Girl? Well, she's currently mixing songs from her upcoming full-length studio album and hopes to have a completed record by the end of this year.

"It's been three years in the making, but it's well worth the wait!" We can already hear the sweet sounds of a cosmic dreamscape beckoning forth towards us!

To win The Analog Girl album, answer the following question:
Which magazine named The Analog Girl as one of the 5 Music Acts to Watch in 2008?

Email your answer to hype@fmsmidea.com!



The Soul Man

PHOTO COURTESY OF AIMEE HAND

His tunes get you in the mood for groovin' and he doesn't shy away from big, brassy instruments, yet his sensational pipes are the perfect accompaniment to a simple acoustic guitar.

No, he isn't Jason Mraz, nor is he John Mayer. His name is Charlie Lim. Born in Singapore, Charlie was only 14 when he moved to Melbourne, Australia to study, supposedly to follow in his father's footsteps to study medicine. That never worked out. Eventually, it was there that Charlie ended up finding his true calling – music.

Currently in his fourth year at Monash University studying Jazz, 23-year-old Charlie has since received rave reviews for his delicate balance of folk-rock sensibilities with swanky groove-based soul music. Most recently, his music has even made it to the Top 10 charts in PBS 106.7 FM Melbourne, an Aussie radio station.

Currently, Charlie's self-titled EP is being retailed at local Starbucks outlets. Though Charlie has certainly fit in well into the Australian culture now, he admits that homesickness strikes him sometimes.

"But as long as you know you're not stranded, there's nothing a phone call or email can't fix," he says.

Given the pressure of performing in a country where the independent music scene is so substantial, Charlie is undoubtedly surprised at how well received his music is in Melbourne. He feels that he isn't just representing Singapore, but Asians in general. With this much weight on his shoulders, Charlie didn't begin his music career with the highest self-esteem.

"I used to be very self-conscious about being different from my peers on stage because you can't deny certain stereotypes that exist."

He adds, "But then you start to realise that if you're good enough, you could turn that around and make it work for you. Chances are you'll end up impressing people more because they didn't expect that from you."

Plans are in the pipeline for a quick tour back in Singapore at the end of the year, and then it's back to the studio to record new material, which would hopefully translate to a full-length album release early next year.

Digital downloads are now available at <http://charlielim.net>

To win a Charlie Lim EP album, answer the following question:
What is Charlie Lim's YouTube channel name?

Email your answer to hype@fmsmidea.com!

The Mod Squad

PHOTO: SAMUEL OW

It's hard to miss The Pinholes. Clad in a riotous mix of 60's psychedelic prints topped off with John Lennon-esque shades, countless pairs of eyes follow The Pinholes right up to the moment they sit down at the table. Oblivious to the stares, lead vocalist Famie Suliman shakes my hand with a remarkably infectious grin plastered across his face. It's impossible to feel gloomy with these guys around.

Made up of Famie, Di Di, Qush, and Is, The Pinholes could very well be Singapore's answer to The Beatles. Identifying themselves as "Singapore Rock & Roll" on their Facebook page, this four-man band has been described as "trippy, sun-kissed, and refreshingly angst-free" by The Straits Times. They take it upon themselves to bring back the golden decade of good ol' rock 'n' roll from yesteryear.

"There is too much sadness in the world! We have to move on to a brighter side of life and just let loose," says Famie.

It's this fun spirit of blitheness that's propelled the band's success, leading them to rock out in Malaysia, Indonesia, and most notably, the prestigious South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival 2010 held in Austin, America.

Although they love playing in foreign lands, their love for our motherland still blazes as fierce as the hot Singapore sun. It has become a "thing" for The Pinholes' fans and groupies to bring along the nation flag to every performance that the band performs at. Why so extreme, though?

"It's our form of repayment towards Singapore for supporting and backing us up... if we don't love our own country, who will?" Di Di, the guitarist teased. Collectively, the band feels that they embody the Singaporean identity of harmony and 'togetherness'.

"We're all very chill. Like Singapore, our band's a hub where everyone gets together," jokes Qush, the drummer. That being said, the guys all feel that Singaporeans are too strait-laced. Qush adds, "We really need to let loose, get down, and boogie!"

Sadly, the band doesn't believe in producing good ol' CDs anymore, as the expensive cost of production wouldn't match the amount that people would be willing to pay to listen to music. Famie adds, "Although we may be retro, we have to keep up with the technology."

Their new EP is slated to be released by October 2011. For digital downloads, visit <http://thepinholes.net>

To win a free coloured badge from The Pinholes answer the following question:
Who is the lead singer of The Pinholes?

Email your answer to hype@fmsmidea.com!

The Dark Side

PHOTO COURTESY OF FALL OF MIRRA

Fall of Mirra is not for the faint-hearted. And why should it be? After all, this progressive metalcore band has been indulging fans worldwide with its brand of fist-pounding, heart-thumping music that speaks out to the savage beast in us all.

Having performed in locations such as China, South Korea and Indonesia, as well as having travelled to Malaysia, Manila, Australia and New Zealand as part of their promotional tour of their debut EP (extended play), *Prelude to Destruction*, Fall of Mirra is not expected to fall flat in the metal scene anytime soon.

This five-man band is made up of Hadirman (lead guitar), Fadzly (drums), Julius (keyboards), Imran (bass) and Brandon (vocals). With every member of the band being inspired by a different genre of music, Fall of Mirra, does not subscribe to preconceived notions of what a "hardcore" or "metalcore" should sound like.

"Our musical influences range from trash metal, punk music, to classical symphonic music, and even jazz," says Hadirman.

"Hence, with each of our individual preferences in mind, this forms the basis of how our music sounds like."

It certainly seems that this blend of diverse sounds forms the backbone of Fall of Mirra, and these guys will have you know that despite their international successes, they are still pretty much Singaporeans at heart.

"Just like the pledge says, 'it doesn't matter what race or religion you belong to'. But rather, what matters to us most is that we, as a band, can make great music together, regardless of our differences in either race or musical influences."

"We know most of our local fans on a personal level, and sometimes we even hang out with them. Singapore is so small and everyone practically knows each other, on a personal level in some way or another," says the band.

Headbangers will be excited to know that Fall of Mirra is not slowing down. "Right now, we are dedicating most of our time to recording our full-length debut album, but as to when the album will be out, we can't give a definite answer yet as we're still in the early stages of recording," says Hadirman.

For updates and sample tracks, visit <http://www.myspace.com/fallofmirra>



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARRANT END



Laidback THE METALHEADS

Some metal bands express the angst within on stage; some even spew vomit off the stage. The Arrant End, however, tells SHANA SIOW that they're a completely different band of metalheads.

It's a blazing hot Wednesday. Justin Heng, 20, guitarist of The Arrant End, strides into Starbucks with a rather sleepy gait.

"Sorry," he mumbles, "I stayed up too late playing *WoW* (*World of Warcraft*). It seems like Online Role-playing Games (RPGs) make the core of the band, right down to the foundations of how they started.

"We formed the band due to DoTA," Justin laughs, referring to the popular online RPG, *Defence of The Ancients*. Adrian Chai, 19, the band's vocalist, shakes his head at first, but after constant insistence by Justin he amicably agrees to this fact, and they both recline on the chairs, in a rather lethargic manner.

The Arrant End, comprising Adrian Chai, Justin Heng, Mark Ambrose, Keith Arriola and Emmanuel Martinez, are used to making self-deprecating shots at themselves, even regarding their music.

Justin and Adrian agree that they're "dull" on stage as compared to off-stage, which isn't usually the case for most performers. Adrian adds, "We get mixed reactions from the audience," Adrian adds, and furtively looks at

Justin out of the corner of his eyes, "But most of it is positive."

"Hopefully," Justin cracks up just then, and mentions about the time them getting booed at DXO (a club situated beside the Esplanade).

They were the opening act for "a clubbing atmosphere" and the audience, all ready to dance, wasn't receptive to their heavy music.

It is hard to tell if they're serious about themselves, as they joke about how the band's name came about.

They wrote down random words and picked the ones that sounded best together. "When you're 14 and 15 years old, all you want to do is come up with a cool name," Justin picks at his napkin sheepishly, "You know, you just really want to look cool in front of everyone."

"We kept contemplating changing the name, but since people recognised us by the name when we went for shows, we just stuck with The Arrant End."

When asked what impression they wish to give their listeners, "The spirit of racial harmony," Justin ventures with

a tinge of seriousness, and then bursts out into comical laughter yet again.

Adrian adds, "we would want to make an impact, perhaps cause a shift in ideology and perception."

They are working on a new concept album, which will be based loosely off the Book of Enoch from the Bible. "There are interesting stories of angels and titans in the book," says Justin.

Adrian adds, "The sound is more raw, it's heavier, faster in a way... yet more melodious."

Tracks are available at <http://www.myspace.com/thearrantend>

To win an Arrant End album, answer the following question:
The _____ At Stake is the name of The Arrant End's latest album.

Email your answer to hype@fmsmidea.com!

CRAZY BEATS

The annual three-day music festival is back once again and TOH XIN ZHE scoops the dirt on the rad bands performing this year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEAR CULTURE



BEAR CULTURE

MAD MATES: Nur Thahira Taslim, Jayme Lim, Muhammad Shahrin Syazwan B S, Muhammad Khair bin Safaruan, Niki Koh Zheng Hao

EARWAX: Rock/Metal/Progressive

LOST CONTROL: "The craziest thing so far has to be round 2 of the Baybeat's audition! Where Jayme 'Kicked' Thahirah over during one of our songs and she continued singing from the ground."

LAST WORDS: "Play our fullest or not play at all"

CRAZINESS FACTOR:

PHOTO COURTESY OF WE THE THOUSANDS

WE THE THOUSANDS



MAD MATES: Bryan, Dhany, Lewis, Yip

EARWAX: Rock/Alternative/Progressive

LOST CONTROL: "We do a lot of stupid things. I'm always annoying the rest of the guys, Lewis goes missing sometimes, Yip keeps pumping his fist too much during performances and Dhany is just clumsy."

LAST WORDS: "Stand strong. It wouldn't take long."

CRAZINESS FACTOR:

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARAJUA



ARAJUA

MAD MATES: Abdul Hakim, Md Fazly, Sessionists Ashek Ali, Fadlee Salim, Jufri Price, Erik

EARWAX: Experimental/Post-rock band

LOST CONTROL: "We had a gig once without having jamming sessions before show day. We eventually had our jamming sessions a few hours before the show. It turned out not too bad!"

LAST WORDS: "Never give up your passion to anything."

CRAZINESS FACTOR:

PHOTO COURTESY OF AVALANCHE



AVALANCHE

MAD MATES: Kammal Vojodi, Cashvin Christopher, Charlie Liu, Ash Perez

EARWAX: Hardcore/Alternative

LOST CONTROL: "When we were in Perth, we were partying at a friend's place and got pretty smashed. Our producer cabbied home because he was too drunk to drive and we wrapped his entire car in cling wrap and aluminum foil, giving him a shiny car with chrome wheels."

LAST WORDS: "Learning as we grow, writing what we believe in."

CRAZINESS FACTOR:

PHOTO COURTESY OF YOU AND I COLLIDE



YOU AND I COLLIDE

MAD MATES: Amin, Boon, Man, Zad

EARWAX: Guitar-driven melodic rock

LOST CONTROL: "Hmm... Nothing crazy. Really."

LAST WORDS: "Believe in what you want."

CRAZINESS FACTOR: (Try harder!)

PHOTO COURTESY OF RUINS AND REMAINS



RUINS AND REMAINS

MAD MATES: Melvin, Axel, Nick, Jon, Qijian

EARWAX: Dark, Heavy, Mellow, Progressive

LOST CONTROL: "Craziest thing we did... nothing much really, we just drank quite a few beers before the show and was pretty tipsy!"

LAST WORDS: "Write music with all your heart, have a goal for where you want your band to be, dedicate your heart into it and you will do just fine."

CRAZINESS FACTOR:

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEYRA



SEYRA

MAD MATE: Seyra

EARWAX: Indie folk pop

LOST CONTROL: "Driving onto the wrong side of the road accidentally! Luckily the headlights shining from the oncoming traffic jolted me to my swift senses."

LAST WORDS: To create with sincerity, put in the hard work, and practise!"

CRAZINESS FACTOR: (points deducted for unintentional act)

NOT RE-JEKTED

Young, carefree, and with an upbeat tempo, The Rejeks rock their curly-hair head with much love and passion for music. HANNAH WONG finds out more about these brothers-from-a-different-mother.

"Hello! I'm Haqim," says The Rejek's lead guitarist chirpily as he takes a seat with Fareez (vocalist, bassist) and Amalu (drummer).

The Rejeks are surprisingly young (19 and 20 years old) to be mature musicians. Their curly hair is the only shared physical characteristic among them.

Curious, I ask if any of them have had their hair chemically curled. Instantly, they roar in laughter. "They are all natural curls," says Amalu.

Childhood friends from the same neighborhood, they only started playing together in 2008 after watching the rise of other local bands.

"2008 was the prime time for local gigs, so we got influenced, and decided to form a band and teach ourselves how to play," Fareez remarks. He adds, "We learnt by watching YouTube videos and playing covers."

The Rejeks are best known for their love of "experimenting with sounds" and they aim to make listeners dance to their refreshing blend of rock, pop and other genres.

Following EPs *Cheap*, *Modern Love* and *Undress To Impress*, they've given in to fans' un-quenchable thirst for more.

Today, they're rewarding fans with a full-length album. What's new is that they are "re-recording and changing their sound". It sounds like their ardent fans are in for a treat!

“ We just write whatever interests us. Mostly about love.”

"We'll have 10 full tracks, from our previous EPs, as well as new songs," says Haqim.

As I ask them about their songwriting technique, they look at each other and laugh once again.

"We all contribute (to the lyrics), but we compose the tunes before we write

the lyrics," Haqim confesses.

Fareez chimes in, "We don't have a background in poetry. We just write whatever interests us. Mostly about love."

Speaking of sound, Haqim adds, "It's hard to stick to one thing. I'm always trying out different sounds and playing different solos as I can't decide."

The Rejeks say they are "brothers from different mothers", a close-knit musical brotherhood forged with a common interest in making music and "making people dance".

SONS OF SINGAPORE

Every song is a story, and their stories lie here in Singapore. Cheating Sons reveal to FOO MIN VALERIE their love for this culture.

Seated in an *atas* (local slang for classy) café with the classic Beatles t-shirt and "too-cool-to-care" mop hairdo, Cheating Sons' frontman Wang Renyi and lead guitarist Leong Chee Shan could possibly pull off a cool look in singlets, drinking kopi in a coffee shop.

"If I'm going to tell a story, why should I tell a story about something that I'm not familiar with? We're all familiar with life here and that's all we're familiar with. We're not trying to be someone else," says Renyi.

Renyi (lead vocals, rhythm guitar, harmonica), Chee Shan (lead guitar, banjo, bass), Don (bass, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, backing vocals), and Andy (drums, percussion) make up Cheating Sons.

With a deliberate negative connotation in their name, the Sons acquired their name from the "angst of the artist in Singapore".

"A lot of our songs are narratives so they are stories, but they are inspired

by life in Singapore," shares Renyi.

He adds, "I think we're very entrenched and engrained, and we really like all the aspects of our culture. A lot of people slam Singapore for a lot of different reasons, but I think they fail to realise the unique side of our culture. You only fully appreciate it when you leave this place for a while, which we did when we went overseas [to study]."

Local references are dominant in their music, with song titles like "Ah Long On The Run". When asked about their favourite song off the album, Chee Shan points to Renyi, who appears to be deep in thought. Chee Shan snaps, "He is the lyricist!"

They burst into peals of laughter as Chee Shan takes out a copy of their album for Renyi to refer to. Renyi takes a moment to look at the titles of his work, and comes to a decision after some thought.

"I think lyrically, it would be "Tales Of Glory", that would be one of the songs I am most pleased with in terms of the stories I was trying to tell and the lyrics I've written," he muses as he takes a sip of coffee.

Chee Shan smiles as he recalls the band's "most significant event", which is the launch of *Masters, Wives, Daughters*. It took the band 19 months to produce the album.

Renyi shares, "Our goals are simple – to play better, gig more extensively, write with greater inspiration and creativity. Also, we want to spread our music to markets beyond our shores."

Masters, Wives, Daughters is available at all major record stores. Cheating Sons will be playing at Baybeats, and catch their opening act for Two Door Cinema Club on Aug 11, Esplanade.

5 autographed copies of Cheating Son's latest album to give away! Simply tell us the name of their latest album.

Email your answer to hype@fmsmedia.com!

A NEW TAKE ON LOCAL FILMS

Amidst the scene of formulaic Hollywood films with predictable plots, JEANETTE TAN chats with one Singaporean director who stands out with his sincerity towards filmmaking.

"A filmmaker once said you shouldn't *feel* about a film. You can feel about a woman, but a film is not a woman. Rather, you should *think* about a film."

Quoting famed French New Wave director Jean-Luc Godard, what strikes me most as I chat with local independent filmmaker Liao Jie Kai is the sense of pensiveness that he exudes, especially so for a man only in his 20s. Also present at the interview was Tan Bee Thiam, 33, friend and producer of Jie Kai.

Just 27 years old, Jie Kai has already amassed a number of accolades under his belt. His most-recognised short films, *Clouds in a Shell* and *The Inner City* have received rave reviews at the 13th Asian American Showcase in Chicago and the 2nd Asian Berlin Hot Shots in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

This multi-hyphenate's (read: director-writer-producer-lecturer-visual artist) most recent debut feature length film, *Red Dragonflies*, was exclusively screened at Filmgarde Cineplex, Illuma in May 2011.

To him, *Red Dragonflies* is a symbolism for adolescence, and an acceptance of passing relationships.

"One of my inspirations for this movie was the experiences with old friends from school... I feel that when we talk about things that happened in school

before, our relationship seems to be stranded in those periods of times," says Jie Kai.

He's quick to object when I mention the nostalgia, though.

"It's almost as if we are re-living this relationship, but it's not just purely nostalgic, which is something that comes more naturally when you spend long periods of time together, but because your real relationship with these people is confined to a certain period, you cannot really say it's nostalgia."

He adds, "I think the point is that while we remember old things, new things will eventually become old as well," he says, "It's this process that is life. It's very inevitable."

Bee Thiam interrupts, "You can almost feel a certain sense of 'zenness' and calmness to his works. It doesn't move or manipulate you – but yet if you are patient enough, it draws you into his world where he genuinely wants to share something close to his heart."

At this point, Jie Kai leans forward and explains that he feels commercial films lead audiences towards a particular emotion and tells them how to interpret the movie.

The young Jie Kai's take on films was vastly different from his indie mentality

today, having watched only two movies in the cinema— *Jurassic Park* and a Jackie Chan film.

It wasn't until Junior College and enlisting in the National Service that he was exposed to the world of cinemas.

Local independent film enthusiasts will have something to look forward to from Jie Kai in the near future.

He's currently developing his second feature film, *There Was Once A Mountain*, about Chinese communities in Singapore in the 70s.

Jie Kai cites his parents, Singapore Polytechnic's Chinese Society members, as the main source of inspiration for this up-and-coming project.

Though he has spent a number of years studying abroad in Chicago, it seems that he's still pretty much Singaporean at heart, seeing how most of his films are based in the local context.

"At some point in America, I felt like the stories I wrote were not natural."

He adds, "I knew that if I wanted to make films, I had to come back to Singapore... this is where I grew up in, and this is where I have stories to tell."

As we wrap up our interview, Jie Kai seems to have reached a revelation.

"It is really because of Singapore and Singaporeans that we make these films for," he says thoughtfully, while taking a final sip of his cappuccino.

PHOTO COURTESY OF 13 LITTLE PICTURES

OUR LION CITY BOY

Joining Singapore's league of hip hop masters, this artiste is talking about world domination! RACHEL OOI uncovers this local talent.

Thoroughly charismatic and simply winsome, Kevin Lester exudes the vim and vigour that is probably instrumental in his widespread recognition. But that's not all there is to our homegrown international artiste.

"I'm taking it upon myself to be Singapore's hip hop ambassador if you will," he laughs.

Ever since Lester's debut album *Let's Talk About Kevin Lester* was released last November, his work has garnered high rotation and rave reviews by critics locally and worldwide.

In the wake of bustling international attention, he has scored gigs in places like Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Indonesia and Malaysia, putting Singapore on the map in the global music arena. He's also a rap artiste, emcee, songwriter and producer.

"[Hip hop is] more than just in songs, it's a culture."

His trip to Rotterdam left a deep impression of Singaporean music to industry veterans from around the globe at the international hip hop and R&B conference, *New Skool Rules*.

"It was probably the first time most of the attendees at the conference had heard music from Singapore, much less hip hop," says the dynamic hip hop dreamboat.

"I respected that and knew that for many, my music would be their first impression of [Singaporean] music."

With the rapturous reception of his works and technical abilities as an artiste and performer, doors were opened for him to join forces with distinguished musicians from Switzerland and New York.

At home, Lester, also known as the Lion City Boy, is hard at spearheading a musical revolution. He formed his nine-piece R&B band, SIXX, in 2008 albeit the initial hurdles of breaking into a scene in where alternative and indie rock seemed to prevail.

Yet, nothing will sway this unflinching Indian-Eurasian from sallying forth. He dauntlessly led his band in reaching out to all and sundry.

"We're not afraid of just busking in the streets to put our music out there. We've done that, bringing our music into trains and cafés around town."

And as it happens, they were discovered.

SIXX has been invited on stage for music festivals and events like the Mosaic Music Festival 2011, ZoukOut 10th Anniversary, and Roktoberfest with Timbre.

The band was also given opportunities to work side by side with international acts such as N*E*R*D, Korn, and David Guetta. Their upcoming EP is slated for release this August.

"I'm always striving to get people involved with my music. I believe that's what we, as musicians, must achieve to have - a movement toward [our] music. I believe that listeners want something more. They want to be part of our journey."

Lester's journey didn't quite start out music-centered. Before composing original verses and tunes, he made his first step by tendering his resignation letter as a marketing executive in an IT firm. He's never looked back since.

His first big break was when he became part of Bonafide Vintage Flav'r (BVF) in 2006 where he recorded a radio hit single "Feels Good". The band was later nominated for Best Local Band by SAFRA Radio's Power 98FM.

Lester's music speaks volumes for his talent, which stands out from the other young Singaporean-born hopefuls.

"I plan to show everyone that you don't have to throw on a fake accent or pretend to be someone you're not to be involved in hip hop. There's so much to it. It's more than just in songs, it's a culture."

Digital tracks are available at <http://thelioncityboy.bandcamp.com>

PHOTO COURTESY OF SWHEED



MING THROWS HER HAT IN THE RING

From acting to singing to modelling, she's got it all covered. RACHEL OOI discovers how London chick Ming Bridges continues to stray away from her comfort zone while keeping her dynamic and positive personality.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAWRENCE NG



Despite coming from the torrential rain outside, actress-singer-model Ming Bridges maintains a dainty gait in all her poise as she walks into the room. Exuding warmth and geniality, the 18-year-old extends her immaculately manicured hands with a winning smile and introduces herself.

Amidst her hectic travel schedule travelling between Singapore and the United Kingdom (UK), Ming has been pulling out all the stops for a bilingual album.

"It's very special to me as the songs mark a lot of my growing up. I do hope that others can find their own way of relating to them as I have," says Ming.

Remarkably, the damsel of British decent composes and records her own Mandarin songs on top of her regular English ones. The songs, she explains, are a reflection of her feelings and experiences from being away from home the past two years in an environment relatively foreign to her.

When asked about her ability to hold a conversation in Mandarin, Ming replies cheekily, "yi dian dian", which means "a little bit".

"I'm hopeless with the pronunciation of certain words and it drives me crazy. I will practise, practise and practise and I'd still be stuck," she exclaims.

Yet, even in the face of such a challenge, Ming's face lights up at the thought of Mandarin songs, especially those to do with romance. "I love them and I'm so excited about having my own. I'm very lucky to have a lot of people helping and supporting me."

While she maintains her humility, many would find her online release of the Mandarin timeless classic, "The Moon Represents My Heart", extremely endearing as she sings it in almost perfect intonation. "It's a crowd pleaser and everyone looks at me with such shock!"

Better known as "Roxy", the lead character in MediaCorp's Kids Central-turned-okto show *We are R.E.M.*, or the winner of the Teenage Icon 2006, Ming received rave reviews in 39 countries, such as the United States (US), Australia and the UK for her debut album, *Merry Little Christmas* from Ming.

Ever since, Ming has blossomed from a budding starlet to an individualistic and multi-talented artiste with her own flavour. Be it donning the looks of "Alice in Wonderland, an Indian princess or a rock & roll chick", she relishes in dressing up outlandishly, especially for fashion shoots.

Her favourite part about modelling is "getting transformed and being able to put on something beautiful and crazy", which explains her extensive portfolio consisting of creative projects.

"It's so much fun being experimental and adventurous. To me the quirkier and crazier the fashion, the better," she asserts.

Ming's bilingual album will be released this December. Digital tracks are available at <http://www.myspace.com/mingbridges>.





RUTHLESS RUTH

When it comes to the intoxicating world of clubs, DJ Ruth Flowers shows that she gives little to no care about the fact that she is old enough to be your grandmother! IFFAH RAKINAH dishes the details on how this 69-year-old rules the scene!

If not for the outstanding silvery curls and weathered hands, DJ Ruth Flowers, or Mamy Rock when she is on full DJ throttle, is easily able to camouflage amongst the flashily dressed glitterati that dominates today's club scenes.

She dubs her attire "casual bling", a look achieved by donning tracksuits that are almost iridescent, chains around her neck to rival Buddhist monks and of course cooler-than-you sunglasses.

However, Flowers keeps her ba-bling-ba-bling away from her everyday wear, which is largely dominated by a much tamer selection of jeans, sweaters, casual jackets and hats.

Ruth Flowers started blooming (look, Ma, a pun!) as a regular in the scene when she attended her grandson's birthday party at a club after initially being denied entry.

While most her age would hustle away making disapproving tuts and probably with migraines thanks to the pounding beats, the 69-year-old revelled in the mind-blasting hodgepodge of fun, energy and youth. It fascinated her, enough for her to want to supply the club scene one of its main fuels: music.

It was not long for Flowers to be noticed. And it really is not just the cloud of white hair that makes her easily recognisable, but her remixes and songs ("Still Rocking" and electro remixes of Lady Gaga's music), that show maturity beyond throbbing basses and cliché beats, have moulded for her an identity in the scene.

The England-hailed DJ was recently in town for MoveMove Singapore (MMS), where she shared the stage with names like Kumar and DJ Andrew T from The Butterfactory.

However, MMS is only one out of Flowers' now-extensive DJ-ing portfolio, which includes playing sets for fashion royalty at the Chanel Official Party during the Cannes Film Festival and at one of the music industry's biggest events, the Glastonbury Festival 2010.

Obviously age is hardly a factor for Flowers, who cites having more exposure to music as one of the few advantages of being older than other DJs.

"The only advantage age gives me is that I have lived longer and heard more music. Some of the older music is now re-surfacing and being remixed," she says through an e-mail interview with HYPE.

With about six decades of different kinds of music in her memory, Flowers talks about how she is "privileged to live through [fantastic eras]" and how she finds it hard to pick a favourite style of music.

"I have a versatile love...from the male duet from *The Pearl Fishers* to jazz, soul and musicals. [The music I know] reaches as far back as Gracie Fields, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra...I knew every song written when I was a teenager and still recall most of them now," she says, listing names that are probably completely foreign to the average teen.

The playlist of a younger DJ may be incomparable in terms of variety and spread, but Flowers admits that they

"I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
READY TO ACCEPT A
CHALLENGE, THIS IS
JUST ONE MORE"

have something that she probably will never acquire: youth.

As to whether or not she sees the young DJs as competition, Flowers says, "I have always been ready to accept a challenge, this is just one more."

She adds, "I do not consider measuring up to them. They do their thing and I do mine, it is as simple as that."

When she's not 'doing her thing' behind DJ consoles about two times her size, Flowers has a very typical life of a sweet old grandmother.

She gets up earlier than the world, at 5 am to be exact, and spends the day cleaning the house and tending to her garden, apart from immersing herself in her own little music bubble of course.

Her charisma and impressive stage presence can be credited to her being a public speaker who regularly gets invited to talk about historic events.

Flowers has only one grandchild, who she loves and dotes on immensely. She refers to herself as a very "hands-on Grandma", apparent in the times they spend

together (they play football, cricket, tennis, swimming and even toboggan together).

"The time is fast approaching when he will be out in the world on his own. I like to spend this few precious months talking with him, making him realise what a great person he is, giving him confidence in his own ability."

She adds, "[This is] advice I hope will stay with him for as long as he lives."

So what's next for this grandma who has the full support of family and friends to do what she loves? Global domination, that's what.

Flowers has sets coming up scattered all around the globe (from Ibiza to Paris to Tokyo), so the world better be ready Mamy Rock.

She is also still working on her upcoming album, *69*, and has just released a new single entitled "DigaDigaDoo".

DJ Ruth Flowers may be the breath of fresh air the youth-centric scene has always needed.

Even though she parties blissfully oblivious to the glaring age gap



PHOTOS: TAY WAN LIN

between her and party-goers, it seems that it is pretty hard to completely let go of the caring, concerned grandmother that she is.

"Kids these days are not so different from the youth of my age. They enjoy a night out and expending the pent up energy of youth dancing. [Drugs and alcohol] have been [around] for as long as time has existed...Youth will always experiment, that is how we develop. Too often we learn by our mistakes, sometimes too late."

We can only wish all our grandmas were half as cool.



POP! GOES THE WEASEL

WHOOOSH!

Styling & text: Rachel Ooi
Design: Iskandar Ruhaizat
Photography: Tay Wan Lin,
Daryl Pee
Make-up artist:
Julyen Z. LaVerne
(www.wocmakeup.com)
Hair: Sherman Wong,
Xuu Weilun,
Desmond Chia Zhi Xian
Models: Ming Bridges,
Charles Phua,
Brandon Chong

GIVE SOME OOMPH
TO A BORING
AMOIRE BY
DONNING THE
MOST SMASHING
WARHOL-APPROVED
COLOURS.


FROMLEFT

Charles: T-shirt, \$25, from **spin the bottle** Cardigan, \$49.90, from **New Look**,
Ring, \$39.90, from **Fourskin**
Ming: Dress, \$49, from **Club Couture**
French Cap, \$29.90, Wristcuff, \$19.90 from **Fourskin**
Brandon: T-shirt, \$29.90, and Bermudas, \$49.90, from **New Look**, Nike Dunks,
\$149, from **Leftfoot**



Cardigan, \$49.90, Shirt, \$34.50, Khaki Pants, \$79.90, from **New Look**
Nooka Watch, \$210, and Supra Shoes, \$130, from **TANGS**

Singlet, \$49.90, from **Reckless Ericka**
Necklace, \$23, and Shoes (comes in two colours), \$69, both from **New Look**
Shorts, \$39.90, **Fourskin**



Layered Blouse, \$79, Jeans, \$145, and
SCANDI Phone, \$136, from **Egg3**
Shoes, \$69.90 from **New Look**

Charles: Coat, \$79.90, from **New Look**
Fred Perry Polo T-shirt, \$149, and Nooka
Watch, \$210 from **TANGS**
Nike Dunks, \$129 from **Leftfoot**

Secrets Of The iPods

TESSA MENDEZ and MICHELLE MARIE find out how music influences the way youth dress, and what guilty-pleasure songs they have on their iPods.

They say you cannot judge a book by its cover, and youth who hang out around *SCAPE are no different. From "scene" to "chic", they seem to dress according to the music they listen to, but their iPods reveal otherwise.

Radh,
19



Style:

I'm very artistic and I dance. I mix and match my clothes according to current fashion trends and fads. I look at magazines to see who's wearing what. I shop at various stores, River Island being one of his favourites. Looks up to Rihanna, his favourite artiste.

Music: Pop. Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Rihanna

Odd Music: House music

Justification: "I do a lot of dancing!"

Lochie
White,
17



Style:

When I go out, I dress to impress! I wear button up shirts, tight jeans. I look for the trends, and I like the skater boy look, I also tend to dress like a surf bum. I'm Australian so I pull that look off pretty well.

Music: Electro, Hardcore, Indie.

Odd Music: Cheryl Cole, Keri Hilson.

Justification: "Keri Hilson is in there because my sister messed around with my playlist!"

Germaine

Lim,
22

Amanda
Tham,
20



Style:

G: I tend to dress more smart casual, because I have to look professional at work, and at the same time fashionable for when I go out after work.
A: Chic fashionista

Music: G: Indie, Electro, Pop. A: Trance, Indie, Electro

Odd music: G: Bob Marley. A: Paul Twohill

Justification: G: "It's very chilled out, music. I have a closet hippie in me!" A: "I don't know! He sings really well, so I just kept it in my iPod!"

Michael
Hutchinson,
17



Style:

I'm quite lazy with my dressing, so I'll wear whatever I can find. I like wearing tank tops in Singapore because of the weather.

Music: Electro, Hardstyle, Post-Hardcore. I have band t-shirts, Asking Alexandria is pretty cool.

Odd Music: Calvin Harris, B.O.B., S Club 7.

Justification: "It's from a long time ago!" — On why he still has S Club 7 in his iPod

Inez
Goh,
19



Style:

Smart casual, street style. I look at the way my favourite artistes tend to dress in their music videos and I try to follow their dressing because I find it inspiring.

Music: RnB, Hip Hop, KPop... like Brown Eyed Girls, Pitbull, Snoop Dogg and Usher.

Odd Music: M2M, The BeeGees.

Justification: "I listen to different genres of music!"

Helmi
Rostam,
22



Style:

Indie fashion. I usually just wear what I feel like on certain days. Some days I feel preppy, other days I feel like just wearing t-shirt & shorts.

Music: Hardcore, Metal, Indie. I also like old school Techno, it's my guilty pleasure!

Odd Music: Aqua, Jennifer Lopez.

Justification: "I heard that song around a lot, so I downloaded it!" — on why he had J. Lo's On The Floor.

Got what it takes to strut down Orchard Road in your own style? **Street *SCAPE** is looking for you! This is a project on local street style and youth dressing in various ways to represent who they are. Head down to *SCAPE between Jul 2 and Aug 8 and you just might get spotted!



PHOTOS: TESSA MENDEZ

24 Sep, 2011
Open House@SIM
www.simge.edu.sg/openhouse

Alan Dang
Bachelor of Computer Science
(Digital Systems Security)
University of Wollongong, Australia
Alumnus of Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Developing his social network.
Living to the fullest.
He's bringing out his best at SIM.

IM practical

Alan is proud to be connected both digitally and socially at SIM. By pursuing a specialised programme, he gains highly sought-after skills while enjoying an enriching student life on campus. Like him, you too can bring out your best at SIM.

Global partnerships with acclaimed universities, worldwide.

ifs School of Finance, UK

IMI International Hotel Management
Institute, Switzerland

RMIT University, Australia

The George Washington University, US

The University of Manchester, UK

The University of Sheffield, UK

The University of Sydney, Australia

The University of Warwick, UK

University at Buffalo,
The State University of New York, US

University of Birmingham, UK

University of London, UK

University of Wollongong, Australia

T (65) 6248 9746 E study@sim.edu.sg W www.simge.edu.sg

SIM GLOBAL
EDUCATION

Members of The SIM Group



Singapore Institute of Management Pte Ltd
CPE Registration Number: 199607747H
Period of Registration: 20 May 2010 - 19 May 2014

Bags With *An Alter Ego*

With the likes of luxury brands like Louis Vuitton and Longchamp embracing customisations, personalising bags and cases is all the rage this season.

Timbuk2

Born and handmade in San Francisco, Timbuk2 bags are made for people who believe in practicality without having to compromise on style. Made from ballistic material, which is proven to be bulletproof, Timbuk2 bags are probably the hardest bags in the market. With five sizes to choose from, they are perfect for traveling and the outdoors. Choose your own colour panels, logo, binding and inner lining of the bag, type of fabric used, and even the type of reflector panels.

Timbuk2 bags have become so popular among Singaporeans that they have recently opened their first store at Cathay Cineleisure Orchard.

Prices start from S\$123 for a messenger bag.

Tagger

Similar to Timbuk2, Tagger also specialises in colourful, customisable messenger bags. Having opened their first flagship store in VivoCity in 2007, Tagger has gained popularity amongst youth and adults alike with its elaborate designs and graffiti imprints.

Tagger bags can be bought both online and on-site, and it allows customers to choose from a variety of bag flaps, straps and bag bases from a cornucopia of colours and designs. Since the bags have detachable parts, accessories like bag flaps and bag straps can be bought separately. It's the ideal bag for those who are fickle-minded or enjoy change and variety.

Prices start from S\$58 for a messenger bag.

Caseable

Apart from their 86 designs and limitless possibilities, Caseable, a Brooklyn-based laptop case company,



PHOTO COURTESY OF SNUPPED

Customise your bag with these affordable labels! COLLETTE CLAIRE MILES shows you how.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASEABLE

lets you create your ideal laptop sleeve by adding your own images. Besides handpicking your own designs and colours for both the front and the back of the laptop case, customers can also choose the colour of the sides and zipper. To maintain their standards, they use only the highest quality materials and top-notch image rendering process, so you can be rest assured that that the final product will far exceed your expectations.

Even with so much variety, Caseable recognises the importance of constantly updating their designs with current trends.

Prices start from S\$85.

Snapped

Closer to home, Snapped is a Singaporean-owned online store specialising in customisable laptop

sleeves. It offers customisations for gadget cases of all shapes and sizes.

Snapped, the brainchild of Bryan Lee and Darcy Li, both only 22, was developed when the two were looking for laptop sleeves for themselves but couldn't find any because those in the market were simply uninteresting. They then decided to purchase fabric to sew their own case.

Customising your ideal gadget case is incredibly easy with just four steps. First, choose from a zipper sleeve, sock sleeve or mini sleeve, depending on which cutting best suits your gadget. Then, list down the gadget that the sleeve will be housing and pick a design that suits you for both the exterior and interior of the case and finally, choose whether or not you want handles on your gadget case.

Prices start from S\$14.90.



Tea Time at Ann Siang Road

TESSA MENDEZ takes you a walk down this treasuretrove of cosy café joints and Indie shops, which are tucked away in its row of well-preserved of shop houses.

This year marks the 120th death anniversary of Chia Ann Siang, whose name rings bells for youngsters and grownups alike because Ann Siang Road was named after him when he bought it in 1984.

KKI CAFÉ

Kki Café is a quaint and serene little cake shop; just the kind of place to sit down, grab a book and have a nice cup of tea. There's limited seating space to ensure that it remains this way. Kki Café is known for its fine pastries, such as The Noisette, a layered cake consisting of hazelnut mousse and chocolate praline crème, as well as The Antoinette, a white chocolate cake made in the shape of a tear drop, with hints of mango bits in the filling.

Delphine Liao, wife of the owner of Kki Café, says, "Most of the people who come in comment on how they feel quite relaxed here at Kki Café. The environment is extremely warm and cosy, which is also why I really love working here."



THE LITTLE DRÖM STORE

Linked to Kiki Café is its neighbour, The Little dröm Store, which is a concept store where the word dröm, translated from Swedish, means 'Dreams'. Selling trinkets and knick-knacks that most of us would probably bring back childhood memories, the Little dröm Store is an extremely whimsical place that makes one feel as though they have stepped in to a dream, and it is not even that pricey either!

The Little dröm Store also specialises in lomography, a type of photography, where lomographers can find their film cameras and film that have stopped being manufactured. Albeit a novelty, this shop definitely catches the attention of most passersby.



SHOTS

Shots is one of the most striking shops at Ann Siang Road, with the bright red painted walls. It's hard to miss if you are taking a stroll along this hill. Step into Shots and the first thing you will notice is probably its walls which are adorned with paintings, giving a very tranquil and serene ambiance, making it a great place to just sit down with a coffee and relax.

Shots has a great variety of coffees and sweets, such as the standard Cuppa Joe, Cappuccino, Café Mocha, and other treats to satisfy your sweet tooth. The signature Tiramisu cake allegedly takes you as close to heaven as you can get.



P.S. CAFÉ

Shots is one of the most striking shops at Ann Siang Road, Planning for a birthday or an anniversary dinner? There is no better way to show a loved one that you care than by bringing them here. Despite the price tags of the entrées you will find here, everything from the ambiance to the fairy light decorations, food and wines, is absolutely delectable here. The moment you enter P.S. Café, you are in good hands as the staff there really know how to take care of their customers' needs.

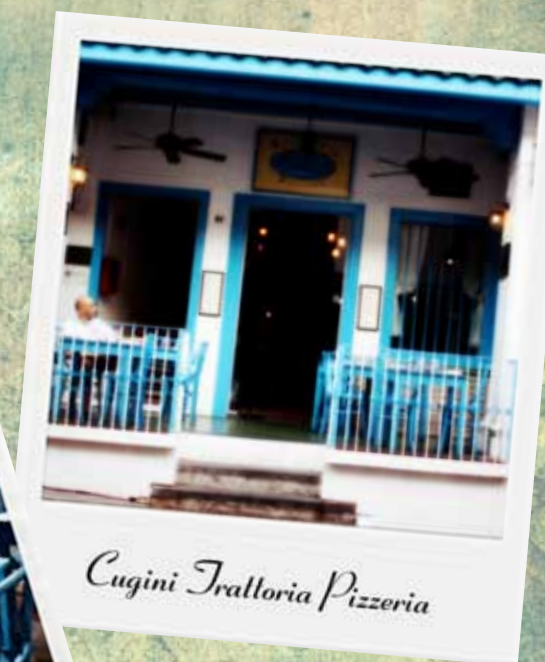
P.S. Café waitress, *Alex Helen, said, "We mostly get older crowds at P.S. Café, but during lunch hour, it's not unheard of to have a couple of teenagers walk in either. It is slightly pricey here, admittedly, but the food here is absolutely delicious."

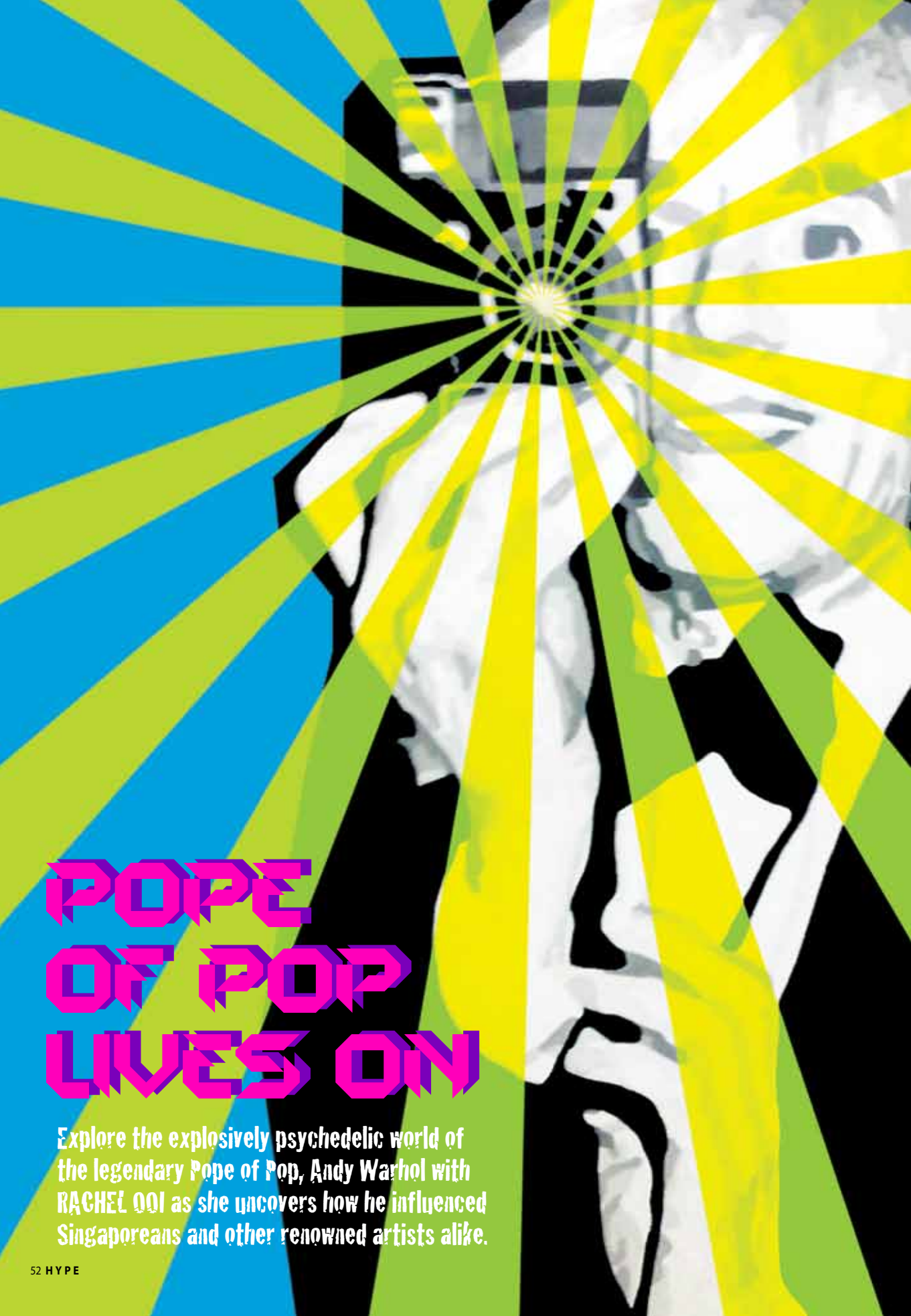
CUGINI TRATTORIA PIZZERIA

It may not look like much from the outside, with its blue and white walls, and matching blue tables sets, but food at Cugini Trattoria is both affordable and delectable. Some reviews mention that eating here is like eating at an Italian restaurant in Italy itself! The service staff are both friendly and efficient here, as they put in effort to chat with the customers while taking orders.

Cugini Trattoria is well known for their homemade Seafood Pasta, consisting of squid, mackerel and shrimp, it is definitely worth a try. Instead of pasta, if you travel in a group, you could order a pizza. One of their tastier pizzas would be their Parma Ham with Melon Pizza, pizza adorned with slices of ham and balls of honeydew. It is a great place to sit and enjoy comfort food with friends.

*name changed for she would prefer not to have her name mentioned.





POPE OF POP LIVES ON

Explore the explosively psychedelic world of the legendary Pope of Pop, Andy Warhol with RACHEL OOI as she uncovers how he influenced Singaporeans and other renowned artists alike.

WARHOL IMMORTALISED

A famous commercial artist, avant-garde filmmaker, printmaker and record producer, Andy Warhol has left an ineradicable influence on the global pop culture and consciousness. Even after 25 years of his demise, his legacy burns on globally and locally.

One notable product of his many aficionados can be seen in the setup of 15 minutes, a café that not only dishes up a mean chicken guacamole cream pasta, but also puts up live music performances and art exhibitions.

This chic café quotes Warhol's well-known saying, "In the future, everybody will be world-famous for 15 minutes." It fulfils this conviction by acting as a platform for artistes who seek after their 15 minutes of fame.

Located at LASALLE College of the Arts, this music, art and design bistro was set up by a few artistically inclined individuals: Jef Koh, Kelley Cheng, Sandy Oh, Richard Koh, Randy Chan, and Jocelyn Goh.

When not at the forefront of the café, owners Kelley and Jef are the editors-in-chief of the Singapore Architect magazine.

Kelley also works as an experiential designer, and Jef, an interactive digital media researcher at the Mixed Reality Lab.

Jef is particularly moved by Warhol's approach to art and the world around him and he admires the artist for the way he "pushed the boundaries of his day, applicable even up till now".

"With new technologies in the media like YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter, everybody is getting their 15 minutes of fame," Jeff adds, "Andy Warhol's vision is indeed relevant to the world today."

The café has proven to be a platform for artistic entertainment by youth and adults holding regular day jobs with the desire and talent to perform. Jef holds auditions for the café's tri-weekly performances and has received good responses from a spectrum of talents, ranging from independent bands to poetry reciters.

For one, when drummer and songwriter, Vijesh Ghariwala isn't busy pursuing his diploma in Popular Music and specialising in drumming at LASALLE College of The Arts, he gives avid performances at the café.

The sanguine 20-year-old attests, "The café provides aspiring performers, like myself, exposure as a musician and it's a great place for sharing talent with fellow music enthusiasts." Vijesh is part of a band with his classmates, playing the hottest radio hits for minutes whenever they are given the opportunity to.

Adding on to the list of Warhol-inspirees, Zouk named its part-club part-art gallery after one of the most influential bands in American rock history which Warhol managed.

Located on 17 Jiak Kim Street, the Velvet Underground was founded in 1994 by Mr Lincoln Cheng, executive chairman and chief executive officer



PHOTO COURTESY OF 15 MINUTES CAFÉ

(CEO) of Zouk Club Singapore. Being a religious fan of Warhol, the CEO created the outlet with the intention of establishing a club that doubled as a gallery for Pop Art.

Mr Cheng was a good friend of the owner of London's famous club of the same name, and decided to have a joint membership with his overseas counterpart. However, having adopted the Warhol's out-of-the-box mentality, he had a perspective that was different from other club owners'.

Velvet Underground Singapore is well known for its lush cosmopolitan décor and walls, which showcase Andy Warhol's iconic artwork.

Over the years, the club has received rave reviews by local and international media and was recently awarded by arts and entertainment I-S magazine for "Best Nightspot, Best DJ Gig and Best Theme Party". In addition, it was the winner of the Singapore Tourism Board's "Best Nightspot Experience" in 2009 and 2010.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 15 MINUTES

“
*In the future,
everybody will be
world famous for
15 minutes.*”

Andy Warhol

Moving on to the art scene, the artworks of locally-renowned artist Andre Tan, 33, are inspired by Warhol's emphasis on repetition and colors.

By exploring and studying Warhol's methods and the aesthetics of his paintings, Andre gradually progressed into developing his own visual language. Like Warhol, he used existing images to further glamourise subjects he showcased in his art.

Andre is taken with how Warhol's works defied the notion of what art should be, and introduced the idea of an artistic life by glamourising the ordinary.

Andre also took after his idol's “I just do it because I like it” personal philosophy towards art-making.

The marketing manager vouches, “Everything about Warhol inspires me. His approach and thought



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZOUK

process towards art making... are original and refreshing even till this day.”

Beyond Singapore, American artist Burton Morris, famed for his artwork for hit US sitcom, *Friends*, was one of Warhol's artistic successors and his works resonates strongly with his forebear's influence.

Morris gave vitality to images of ordinary objects like coffee cups and popcorn boxes, bringing them come alive. His artwork can be seen in galleries and museums, spanning across 20 cities in eight countries of three different continents.

Apart from Morris, Warhol also has an impact on Pop celebrities, like multi-

platinum dance-pop craftswoman Lady Gaga, who believes that she has spoken to Warhol beyond the grave.

Known for her idiosyncratic mannerisms and out-of-this-world fashion sense, Lady Gaga revealed that Warhol, her “hero”, inspires her every day outfits and music direction.

Warhol's philosophy and approach have made an impact in terms of art, photography, film, magazines, design, and fashion. He definitely is apparent in our daily mass consumption.

“All department stores will become museums and all museums will become department stores,” declared Andy Warhol once. You know what? He just might be right.

The Legend's Life Story

More than just a Pop artist, Andy Warhol, born Andrew Warhola, Jr on Aug 6 1928, was also an adept social commentator, an uncontested innovator and a revered celebrity.

In hopes of becoming a commercial illustrator, he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Pictorial Design from Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was born.

His legendary career started out during the 40s in New York, where he did illustrations for advertisements and magazines. He then moved on from commercial art to fine art, fusing the two contrasting forms into a complementary whole.

It was during the 60s when his unorthodox silk-screen versions of regular items like Coke bottles,

Campbell's Soup cans and his popular multi-coloured portrayal of Marilyn Monroe received a lot of hype from the media and public. As a result, Warhol was seen as the icon and pioneer of the Pop art movement.

During this time, he also made a name for himself through his eccentric and experimental movies.

Warhol owned a studio in New York, The Factory, where famous meetings and parties were held. It was the favourite haunt for the artists who made up his entourage.

However, things weren't exactly smooth sailing. In 1968, ardent feminist Valerie Sonalas tried to kill Warhol with three shots from a .32 Automatic Colt Pistol (ACP) because of his seemingly blatant lack of interest to produce *Up Your Ass*, a script she had written herself.

According to <http://www.warholstars.org/>, when asked about the reason for Sonalas' attempted murder, she replied, “[Warhol] had too much control over my life.”

Warhol was proclaimed dead for 90 seconds but was miraculously revived by medics. His condition was severe, but he survived nonetheless.

He passed away on Feb 22 1987 due to complications after a gall bladder operation. His death brought about the set up of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. According to his will, the foundation was to be funded by most of the estate he had left behind.

Till today, Warhol's great significance on the creative culture is evident, especially through his charitable body, addressing the needs of the visual arts community.

Review:

America by Andy Warhol

At times steely-eyed and unflinching, and at others, chatty and confidential, America shows the story of a nation in flux, in a way only Warhol could. By JENNY GANESHRAYS

Reading *America* is like going on a road trip with Andy Warhol. In this black-and-white photo collection, rereleased by Penguin in soft cover, Warhol gets deep and personal - even if he's talking about the superficial. It's like walking by his side in the streets of New York on a grey winter morning and listening to him express his dysfunctional, love-hate relationship with America.

Sure, in typical Warhol fashion, famous people shamelessly parade through the pages: Ronald Reagan in the White House, a nude Keith Haring at the beach, a bleary-eyed Sean Lennon captured in the full innocence of childhood. However, *America* goes beyond just being another catalogue of Warhol's obsession with celebrity culture. The ten years of images, taken by Warhol from 1975 to 1985, are raw at best, with a whiff of paparazzi. However, pairing them with his blackly humorous and disarming personal commentary is what makes this book so moving.

Here, Warhol attempts to distil what it means to be American, and nothing

escapes his unflinching journalistic eye - not even himself. Images of grey New York City monoliths and what was once the World Trade Centre segue into scenes from rural farmland in Kentucky. He documents everyday people on the street, and details newborns pouting in their prams. These are juxtaposed with transvestites and homeless people on the street.

This is the same man who once said “Everything's plastic... I want to be plastic” but here he gets visceral.

He bleeds. Besides a photograph of crumbling tombstones in Lenox, Warhol meditates on own his morality, candidly recalling the attempt on his life by Valerie Solanas, and even wishing he had not survived that shooting.

At other times, *America* reads like a Warhol pictorial bible on the American dream - he tells you the key to finding your other half, how to navigate social circles, and even dishes out advice to politicians on how he thinks America should be run. Always the entrepreneur, Warhol is so



convincing in his attempt to sell you his point of view that the danger here isn't to be swept away by his rhetoric.

Even if Warhol wished to recede into the background, preferring America to speak for herself (he said, “Land is really the best art”), his singular vision and legacy is sealed in the pages of *America*. Rich with never-before-seen Warhol-ian warmth, this isn't just a coffee table book made by a member of the superstar elite—it's a priceless, layman's documentation of the American panorama over the span of a vibrant decade.

America (\$41.50 without GST) is published by Penguin and is available at Kinokuniya.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UTTERLY ART. ARTWORK BY ANDRE TAN



SPOOKY CREATURES IN THE DARK

RACHEL OOI susses out the human beings behind the kooks and spooks at Night Safari's Halloween Horrors.

Creepy clowns, circus zombies, tormented nightclub performers and ghostly street hawkers; these are the freaks who will greet us as we step into the Night Safari-turned-Carnival of Fear, testing our true grit. But little do we know about the faces behind the artistic makeup, realistic costumes and hair-raising sound effects.

Kudos to a team of terrorisers, Night Safari's premier annual event, Halloween Horrors, received rave reviews last year for engaging its visitors in a night of gruesome amusement, in conjunction with Halloween.

Consisting of 17 dynamic students from Singapore Polytechnic (SP), the Halloween Horrors team conceptualised and executed the entire event last year as part of their final-year project (FYP).

According to their website, <http://www.halloweenhorrors2011.wordpress.com>, the fascinating crew comprises

a "mighty, fearless leader" and a "really annoying yet entertainingly funny" right-hand man. They also pride themselves in being "very nice people".

However, being scare actors doesn't seem like a bed of roses. In the face of patrons with different definitions of good fun, they sometimes have to deal with bullies.

For instance, Nathaniel, a water polo player who attended the carnival last year, says cheekily, "We almost fought [with the scare actors] because we brought in water pistols to spray at them, which made them react."

The muscular 21-year-old (who just got accepted to University Of Manchester) adds, "It was just for kicks. We were [enjoying ourselves] during Halloween and we didn't intend to spoil the fun." The situation was handled when a manager intervened.

Despite the challenges, the team, most of whom had graduated with a Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM), had evidently made the grade for their major assignment. This is in view of the fact that they managed to make

customers shake in their boots and garnered plenty of media attention, particularly for the local flavour in the last year's theme.

In the most talked-about Train of Terror and Haunted Village, the students took care of the logistical aspect, passed off as vicious ghouls and used lifelike props such as phony decapitated heads and floating pontianaks (a folkloric Malay female vampire) to scare visitors. What's more, the set up of the village closely resembled the days of yore when kampongs (Malay villages) were as rampant as scary fables.

Prior to working with SP, the organisers of Halloween Horrors were accustomed to using their own staff or hiring external people.

This year, the crew was called back once again by Wildlife Reserves Singapore Pte Ltd to put together another round of spectacular spooks.

In store this Halloween is a brand new line up including *Dr Freako's Lab*, where bloody gore is abound as mad scientist fails in his many animal-human experiments, and *Graveyard Haunts*, home to otherworldly animals and ghastly carcasses.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SINGAPORE WILDLIFE RESERVE



THE DAY IS SAVED

This super hero film required more than just super powers. IFFAH RAKINAH uncovers the series of unfortunate events that nearly killed the first Avenger movie.

A lawsuit, a writers' strike and a reluctant lead actor. The three-part string of disruptions was a case even the entire league of Marvel super heroes couldn't solve. However, Captain America: The First Avenger was definitely worth the fight.

The script that was to bring this classic superhero comic from the good pages of Marvel Comics to the big screen was written in 1997. The first bump came in the form of a rights tug-of-war between Marvel Comics and the co-creator of Captain America, Joe Simon, in 2003.

According to The SmartMarks Forums (TSM Forums), Simon claimed that he alone created Captain America and other supporting characters. According to him, Martin Goodman had agreed to pay him a 25 per cent cut of the profits and a per page rate of US\$12 for the comic book. When Goodman requested he edit all Timely comic books, Simon moved in as a freelancer.

Timely held the rights to Captain America when the first issue was published in December 1940. A year later, Simon was fired from the company. He claimed that the full 25 per cent cut hadn't been given to him and that he didn't earn anything from his creation.

It's also stated that Simon signed over his rights to Marvel in 1969, though he stated that he didn't understand the legal implications that came with it. In the end, the Court asserted Marvel as the sole copyright holder.

Despite being smoothened out in Marvel's favour in the end, it was as if someone pulled the carpet from under Marvel as the development of the movie took a critical blow.

The second portion to this three-part series of disruptions came in the form of the 2007 - 2008 Writers Guild of America strike, commonly known as Writers' Strike.

Writers were being paid meager sums of money as compared to the huge profits the larger studios earned.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNITED INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

The strike was set up as was seen as an injustice to America.

It spanned over 100 days, costing Los Angeles (LA) to lose around US\$1.5 billion. The previous strike was in 1988, lasting 153 days, the Guild's longest.

Because of the resistance by writers to do any work until the demands of the labour union were met, any progress that the script was about to make was stunted. It was only after they had lost a surmountable amount of working hours did writers Stephen McFeely and Christopher Markus resume writing.

When it seemed like the worst was over, their lead actor nearly failed them.

Chris Evans was the top choice for the lead, but unfortunately the Fantastic 4 alumnus was not enthusiastic about donning the signature red, blue and white body suit.

In a phone interview with ComicBookMovie.com, Evans cited the inevitable rise of his popularity as one of his main de-motivations of taking up the role.

"The problem with films is that it comes with celebrity. If I could somehow make films without having my personal life change in any way, I'd be the happiest man on the planet,

but it just doesn't work that way," said Evans, fully aware of the media attention that comes along playing a role as big as Captain America.

Evans added, "It's a lot of responsibility and it's very life-changing in ways that I wasn't sure I wanted my life to change. It just took a while to be comfortable with it... I'm not a huge fan of losing my anonymity."

An impressive league of actors was considered for the role of Captain America (Will Smith, Channing Tatum and Ryan Phillippe), but Evans remained at the surface of the crew's minds.

With endurance and a healthy amount of coaxing, they finally managed to rope the actor in.

After the most impossible scenario for any filmmaker, the superhero comic will finally be hitting the screens.

We can expect the film to engulf us in the best way possible, making us very willing to submit to the marvel that is, well, Marvel Comics.

Captain America: The First Avenger reaches our shores on Aug 4 2011

Best Friends Forever?

(with benefits)

IFFAH RAKINAH delves into the intriguingly odd Friends with Benefits, pals who not only provide a dog-like loyalty and the usual shoulder to cry on, but with an additional obligation to sexually satisfy.

Enter the gravity defying, norm breaking, sex-hungry world of the Friend with Benefits (FWB).

Researchers from Wayne State University and Michigan State University discovered that out of 125 American college students, 75 (60 per cent) of them have been in a FWB relationship.

An FWB is a person you have sexual relations with, but contrary to romantic relationships, an FWB relationship is devoid of emotional attachments of any kind.

This means skipping the whole game of courtship and love; no awkward movie dates, no walks on the beach at sunset, no candlelit dinners, and most definitely, no handholding. It's straight to the fornication, and you can forget about spooning afterwards.

It may seem alluring, however, here in Singapore, it does seem that both sexes are equally iffy about the idea. With 80 per cent of the boys and 73.3 per cent of the girls surveyed in a poll conducted by HYPE wagging their fingers at the thought, it seems that both sexes of the Singaporean youth are on the same page.

2 out of 3 students thinks otherwise, citing their inability to keep it emotion-free as one of the main factors behind the reluctance to adopt the idea of having an FWB.

Contrary to popular culture portrayal of the FWB relationship as a norm (apparent in the rom com *No Strings Attached* and upcoming film *Friends with Benefits*), it may seem that the reason Singaporean youngsters are not as enthusiastic about having an FWB as compared to our glitzy Hollywood *compadres* may be due to our innate Asian values and upbringings.

"I think it's hard to have something like [FWBs] in Singapore because we're like that," says Mervin Chan, 20, a student in Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS).

However, as a nation moving at such a fast pace and with an increasing need to have everything and anything at

warp speed, who has time for the slow, traditional ways of courtship and romance?



As Alexis Lee, 19, a student awaiting to start her journey at polytechnic, says quite as a matter of factly, "We (youngsters) want things quick and we don't like to wait. It's all wham, bam and thanks, ma'am!"

makes it hot," he says, smirking slightly.

Having no kind of emotional attachment is one of the most important rules when it comes to having an FWB, but when there are rules, there will undoubtedly be people who break them, which is what exactly Marie*, 22, a student of the National University of Singapore (NUS), did.

"At first it was a physical connection, but we ended up spending a lot of time together and we got to know each other [better]. And then I wanted all of him," she confesses.

"The only sounds that are allowed are moaning and dirty talk..." - Marc*

"This may sound really dumb, but we keep it professional. The only sounds that are allowed while we're doing it are moaning and dirty talk... not even allowed to say each other's names," details Marc*, 19, a student from Republic Polytechnic.

According to Marc, the formula to the upkeep of an FWB is the drive to always keep things light and emotion-free. Whenever he is down, he channels his negative emotions into a primal kind of rampage that heightens the heat of his sessions between the sheets.

"I'm irrational, and I don't put so much thought into things, which

Maintaining FWB relations requires a toughened interior and be approached with a caution and clarity of each other's intentions.

Maybe the idea needs time to set root in Singapore, but it does not look like that would happen in the near future. If anything, this Hollywood-fuelled fad will dissipate as quickly as Lindsay Lohan's pristine, girl-next-door image.

In the mean time, it looks like the *good ol'* ways of courtship, romance and slow-moving loving is here to stay.

**Names have been changed to protect identity*

The FWB relationship might be a relatively obscure branch of the BFF, but there have also been other kind of relationships that are pushing relationship norms. Prudes, beware.

Romantic Friendship

This is an intimate yet non-sexual relationship between two people, physical intimacy only stretches to the point of handholding, kissing and sometimes sharing the same bed.

These are precariously close to homosexual relationships.

See: Xena and Gabrielle in *Xena: The Warrior Princess*

Friends with Advantages

A lesser extreme of the FWB, Friends with Advantages merely make out. This usually under heavy intoxication or when they have been friends for a long, long time.

See: Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell

Bromance

A relationship between two or more men unrelated by blood that mirrors that of brothers. They often help each other out in terms of sexual escapades. Also referred to "wingmen" or "bros".

See: Barney Stinson, Marshall Erikson and Ted Mosby in *How I Met Your Mother*

PURSUe A HIGHER EDUCATION WITH MELIOR INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE (MIC)



MIC is a high-quality Private Education Institution partnering CQUniversity Australia, a highly rated, fully accredited university with multiple campuses in Australia.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

- Certificate in Business Administration (Foundation)
- Advanced Diploma in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Business (Management)
- Bachelor of Business (Marketing)

SCHOOL OF TOURISM & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

- Certificate in Tourism & Hospitality Management (Foundation)
- Advanced Diploma in Tourism & Hospitality Management
- Bachelor of Tourism & Hospitality Management

SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES

- Certificate in Biomedical Science (Foundation)
- Advanced Diploma in Biomedical Science
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

- Certificate in Psychology (Foundation)
- Advanced Diploma in Psychology
- Bachelor of Science (Psychology)

To register for workshop/information sessions or request for more information, please **call 6533 3356** or **email to enquiry@mbs.edu.sg**

Melior International College
108 Robinson Road, Levels 1 & 2 Singapore 068900
Tel: **6533 3356** | Website: **www.mic.edu.sg**

CPE Registration No. 2004285700
Valid: 07 July 2010 to 06 July 2014



Arts



p.66



p.68



p.64



p.67



p.62



p.63

Tales of A Not-So-Grimm Man

Hailing from the United Kingdom, actor-director Daniel Jenkins finds his home in a theatre house in Singapore. TOH XIN ZHE finds about his career and his project with The Young Co.

His yellow home, also known as Telok Ayer Performing Arts Center, is an aged, four-story building. Yet this building is not entirely dead and condemned yet. Different rooms burst with noise as various orchestras, concerts and dramas are being rehearsed. Behind a thin wooden door on the second level, Daniel Jenkins and 11 people of all ages sit in a circle on the carpeted floor, reading handouts.

After being trained in the United Kingdom (UK) where he worked as an actor for ten years, Jenkins and his wife arrived in Singapore. They had planned for a two-year hiatus from work, before returning to the UK. 13 years later, Jenkins remains in Singapore with work on his hands and little intention to return.

The 41-year-old lectures at LaSalle College of the Arts and directs The Young Co., a two-year theatre programme for youth and a division of The Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT). Making a living through the arts comes naturally to him as it runs in his blood.

"My father was a director with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and my mother was always interested in theatre, and so I was encouraged to have an interest in arts. It just became the path I was going to take," says Jenkins.

Best known for his role in SRT's comedy psychodrama play, *The Pillowman*, he remains ever faithful to his home at SRT as he leads The Young Co. with other veterans and alumni. There is much to be explored in Singapore's theatre scene, and perhaps this is what drew Jenkins to the sunny island.

"The theatre scene [in Singapore] is also very small, so it is far easier here. [In the UK] every other person is an actor, and so whatever job you go for, you're up against 5,000 people," he laughs.

He describes the UK scene as "being successful in one week then going hungry for six months after that." His latest project with The Young Co. is *Grimm Tales*, a

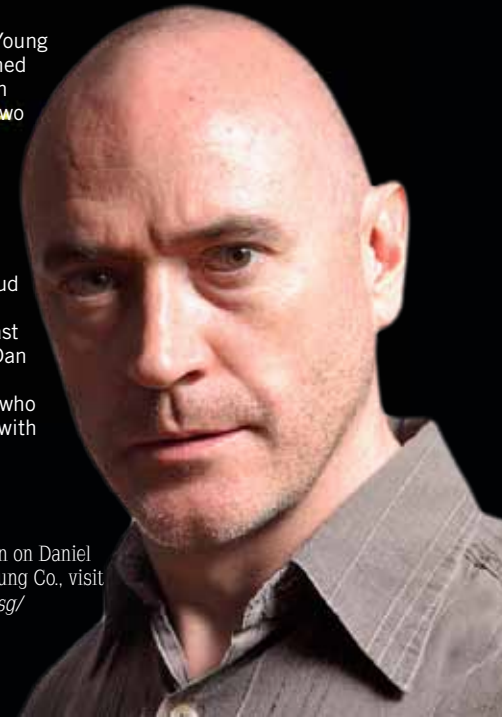
rendition of the timeless compilation of stories first brought about by the Grimm Brothers. This modern interpretation of the fairy tale contains mischief and rather terrifying acts. In fact, most of the Grimm Brothers' original tales were along these lines. Jenkins says, "These stories were originally written as parables and morality stories, to encourage children to grow up well."

He jokes that if you can't control them, "then scare them into good behaviour". Jenkins enjoys going against conventionality with this project. "I love it, and I think it is incredibly exciting and interesting, trying to empathise with other characters and understand what it is like to be them. The scene also attracts interesting people who are slightly different from the norm."

Members of The Young Co. have established a strong bond with Jenkins over the two years of working together.

Member Carol Chia, 29, says, "We're one big happy family, proud of how we have grown over the past two years under Dan (Jenkins), who is like the cool dad who laughs at us and with us."

For more information on Daniel Jenkins and The Young Co. visit <http://www.srt.com.sg/>



Roleplaying With You

As COLLETTE CLAIRE MILES finds out in *Fat Kids Are Harder To Kidnap*, audience members get a chance to be part of the play too!

Fat Kids Are Harder To Kidnap is not your run-of-the-mill comedy production. As the saying goes, life is but a stage, and in *Fat Kids*, the audience members are given a role to play as well. Armed with a "menu" of 31 plays in hand, they are kept on their toes with the task of deciding the order of the play while the enthusiasm level in both the actors as well as the audience never die down.

Producer of *Fat Kids Are Harder To Kidnap*, Althea Lim, 25 explains, "Due to the light-hearted nature of the play, we can afford to incorporate audience interaction to connect with the audience and make the play more engaging."

The concept is a simple yet captivating one. The audiences refer to the play menu and shout out the play numbers as loudly as possible to capture the actors' attention. Once the play number is chosen, one of the actors will pull that number out from a line of dates from an old-school flip calendar hung above them. The actors will then proceed to act out the play. Every performance is always a pleasant surprise because there will not be any instances where the play would be in the same sequence.

"...the content is largely comical and associable to everyday life."

The performance consists of 4 actors performing a collection of 30 plays in an hour and for the actors, it is a race against time. One scene will take up a maximum of two minutes, and the goal is to finish performing every single scene in the script. Needless to say, it is nerve-wrecking for both the audience and the actors.

Fat Kids Are Harder To Kidnap is a production by How Drama, a theatre company founded by Melissa Sim, 29, a journalist by day and play director by night. Along with her team of playwrights and actors, they brainstorm topics that touch on current affairs before translating them into parodies in the form of a play. These topics range from the stereotypically overdramatic Korean soap operas to the highly addictive iPhone craze, Fruit Ninja. The hilarious performances and madcap antics of the entire crew are wholly sustained throughout.

"I believe that *Fat Kids* is the best avenue for first-time theatre goers because the content is largely comical and associable to everyday life. Due to the fact that the plays are excerpts of everyday life and current issues with its simplistic tonality, the audience are able to grasp and understand the content reflecting and drawing from their own experience," explains Goh Mia Hiang, 22, the ever versatile actor of *Fat Kids Are Harder To Kidnap*.

Althea ends off, "The show is full of quirky random observations of life, and the title really embodies that!"

Fat Kids Are Harder To Kidnap will be held at the Esplanade from Sep 24 – 25.



Tales

Retold

GERMAINE TAN sniffs out an Asian twist to Stephen Sondheim's moving musical, *Into The Woods*.

Once upon a time, there lived a baker and his wife who wished for a child, Jack the Giant-killer wished to keep his pet cow, Cinderella wished to go to the King's Festival, and Little Red Riding Hood was on her way to her Grandmother's house.

It might sound like a random miscellany, but there is one element these and many other fairy tales have in common – the woods. In each tale, each of the characters have to journey through the woods in order to fulfill their wishes and quests. This recurring theme is what the musical, *Into The Woods*, is based on.

The Tony-winning musical by composer Stephen Sondheim and Broadway writer James Lapine, was staged by The Dream Academy at the Esplanade from Jul 29 to Aug 7. Directed by Glen Goei, it featured some of the best-known local thespians like Selena Tan, Adrian Pang, Sebastian Tan, Emma Yong and Denise Tan, as well as well-known regional international musical theatre stars, Sheila Francisco and RJ Rosales.

Glen Goei, 49, says it's "exciting and thrilling" to work with a stellar cast and that he takes great pride in having gathered only the best talents for the musical.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE

RJ Rosales (as Cinderella's Prince) and Robin Goh (as Rapunzel's Prince) in the middle of the shoot

Emma Yong (as Cinderella) pining for her prince

"Other than the music and the wit of the lyrics, I think the true appeal of the musical lies in the humanity of the story and the characters," says Glen, associate artistic director of the theatre company W!ld Rice.

Into The Woods debuted in 1986 in San Diego and premiered on Broadway in 1987. The musical has been produced many times over the last two decades, from London's West End to television productions.

Audiences would have noticed that the characters this time round appear different from the ones depicted in the other productions and original fairy tales – *Little Red Riding Hood* looks more like a gothic Lolita with an edge.

Glen explains that he had drawn from anime influences, resulting in getups along the lines of "Cosplay meets manga and couture", something familiar to the younger audience in Singapore.

Into The Woods explores issues about growing up, parent-child relationships, marriage, morality and community. It is

a musical that has the ability to enchant both the young and old, because it is profound in its simplicity.

"The themes are so universal that I believe they mirror everyone's lives. Sondheim has this genius that observes and just puts into music and lyrics what life is all about," says Selena Tan, 40, founder of The Dream Academy, who also played the baker's wife.

Stephen Sondheim, 81, is a multiple Tony Award-winning American composer and lyricist for stage and film. His most famous works include *Company*, *Follies*, *Sweeney Todd* and the scores for *West Side Story*.

As to what they hope to see change in the local theatre scene, both Glen and Selena agree that funding is the most pressing issue faced by local theatre companies.

"We need to encourage people to pen their commentaries, their points of view, and to push the envelope. More funding is definitely needed for more opportunities for new works to be created," she adds.

Adrian Pang (as Baker) and Selena Tan (as Baker's wife) posing for the shoot

Sebastian Tan (as Jack) and Goat (as Milky White) spend quality time together



Paper Confessions

Following a slew of successful shows in Brazil and Myanmar, the acclaimed Paper Boat will showcase its performance in Singapore. SHANA SIOW shares how the play continues to touch audience across the globe.

Ever since the boom of social networking sites, we've heard practically everything about everyone's exhibitionistic sides. With such an extroverted view on life, anonymity is even more treasured in Theatrestrays' upcoming avant-garde performance, *Paper Boat*.

The deeply moving and self-intrinsic performance is about two characters discovering a link that mysteriously connects them through time, either through memory or experience.

Both the audience and members of the cast take an active stand in the "part performance, part installation" nature of *Paper Boat*. Those who attend are encouraged to write down personal secrets that can range from memories to hopes and dreams, all of which will be done anonymously.

The pieces of paper will be folded into paper boats to create the both the setup and performance of the show. Ms Elizabeth De Rosa, director of *Paper Boat* and founder of Theatrestrays, drew idea for this confessional play from a distant memory during her childhood years.

"When I was a child, I would make paper boats with my father, especially when it rained, and we would watch the boat float down the drain-- I used to wonder where the boats went... [In the same way,] many of our memories are constantly being re-written or disappearing, so we are looking at how this memory stays alive in us."

When asked how the shows differ from country to country, Ms Rosa notes that every nationality reacts differently every time they put up a performance.

"In Myanmar, the uncertainty of the country had an impact on the way the young people wrote their hopes and dreams, and many were moved as they felt that they were given a space to share."

"Many of our memories are constantly being re-written or disappearing, so we are looking at how this memory stays alive in us."

Regarding Brazil, Ms Rosa has a different take on how the audience reacted to their performance. "The impact was different because the audience was slightly older, but they were appreciative as they were brought back to their childhood—a memory that they had forgotten."

She adds, "At the end of the performance [in Brazil], we would gather the boats together, and I had accidentally left one boat out. An audience member went on stage and took her boat to be part of the pact."

The audience can expect the performance to touch more than an emotional note within them. Says Ms Rosa, "I hope that Paper Boat will be able to resonate deeply, to bring the audience back on this collective journey to a space they have forgotten—and for us to listen and to be listened [to]."

Paper Boat will run from Aug 25-27 2011, 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm at the Esplanade Theatre Studio. Tickets are priced at \$25 without concessions and/or saving packages.

FUN, FLIRTY AND OTHER F-WORDS

Join COLLETTE CLAIRE MILES as she takes you on a sneak peek into *The F Word*, a play inspired by the success of *The Vagina Monologues*.

Directed by Dr Loretta Chen and produced by 360 Productions, *The F Word* is a 21st century remake of Eve Ensler's multi-award winning play, *The Vagina Monologues*. Since its debut in 1996, it's been revised over the years with various international reiterations.

In October 2006, Loretta was given the privilege of directing this critically acclaimed play in Singapore. The play was such an overwhelming success that it was brought back again in 2007 and 2008. However, while directing *The Vagina Monologues*, Loretta felt that there was so much more material untapped in that play. Thus, *The F Word* was born.

The 33-year-old director said, "*The F Word* celebrates femininity and highlights the injustices that have been disregarded by people of our time. It will make you think, laugh, cry, and laugh some more till you pee!"

The Vagina Monologues was made up of anecdotes describing the joys and woes of being a woman in the 90s. Similarly, *The F Word* aims to present women's stories in a 21st century setting, in the most entertaining and gripping manner.

Ross Devan, 33 year-old drama educator exclaimed, "Issues like these are better put across through a play because everyone likes to see what happens behind the fourth wall!"

This play uses completely different presentational forms, of song, dance, burlesque and acting. It portrays the different roles that women are tasked to play in the 21st century.

Each of the seven to eight monologues in this 70-minute play evokes emotions that range from the euphoric to the melancholy, but they all revolve around the recurring theme of women.

One of the short episodes, "Face" shows the extent women go for beauty. It shows the contrast between two different women - one who goes under the knife for vanity, and the other who opts for reconstructive surgery after being disfigured by her spouse. At the same time, it highlights the oppressive nature of patriarchy.

On the other end of the spectrum, "Fantasy" is a more tongue-in-cheek vignette, poking fun at the frivolousness of the 1950s wives. Dialogues with dark humour will leave the audience gagging and laughing at the edge of their seats.

"Don't look at your home as a prison but as your husband's castle!"

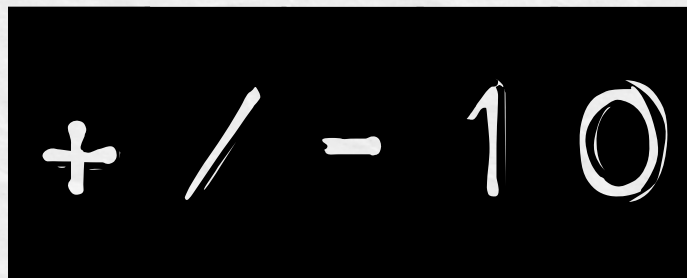
When asked if men are encouraged to watch this play, Loretta exclaimed, "Yes, men should! The play isn't at all man-bashing, and men would be intrigued since *The F Word* is made up of an all-women cast on stage."

"The local theatre scene is expanding at a healthy rate. International theatrical productions influences the quality of local theatre on the whole and when they intertwine, it gives local theatre a fresh approach," said Pavanjeet Singh, 32, a full-time Malaysian actor who has been acting in Singapore for the past five years.

The F word will make its debut premiere in Edinburgh from 5 Aug to 27 Aug this year, followed by Toronto on 6 Mar to 8 Mar 2012 and finally, Singapore in the third to final quarter of 2012.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACK TAN



10 is the number to look out for this November at the plusminusten exhibition as TIFFANY SANDRASAGERAN discovers.

20th century art is starting to become more prominent today with the new partnership of contemporary cult music and the 10 artistic principles of Dieter Rams during an arts exhibition.

Termed *plusminusten*, the exhibition pays homage to Dieter Rams', work and his 10 ideas on what makes good design. It might sound like your typical arts event, but what makes plusminusten so different from your regular arts festival event is the fact that the local cult music producer, Muon, composes the soundtrack to the works of art on exhibition.

According to Muon, the composition will stay true to Muon's roots in the cult music scene, as the soundtrack is composed based on the image the pieces of design brings to mind for the band. Participants can expect electronic experimentation and a combination of genres like jazz and ambient trip-hop (a fusion of hip hop and electronic

beats) that would give the soundtrack a contemporary and unique feel to complement the exhibited designs.

Another interesting thing about the exhibition is that 10 designers are coming together to design the poster. Second-year design student at LASALLE College of the Arts, Julian Futanto said "There's gonna be a lot of brainstorming and bouncing off of ideas. Working in such a large team might be difficult as I find designers tend to be adamant at times, but [at] the end of the day we would learn to accept other's opinions, preferences and styles."

Apart from the *plusminusten* exhibition that promotes 20th century arts, the government is also opening the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) campus, which will be open in April 2012. The SUTD aims to become the leading hub in technology-intensive design, by placing heavy importance on research & development.

PLUSMINUSTEN

When: 11 – 24 Nov

Where: Old School
11 Mount Sophia
Singapore 228461

Visit: <http://www.plusminusten.com/>

plus
minus
ten



THE MODERN MUSKETEER



MOVIE STILLs COURTESY OF SHAW RENTERS MOVIES



BOOK COVER COURTESY OF PENGUIN CLASSICS



Alexandre Dumas' classic *The Three Musketeers* meets the dark, magical hands of director Paul W.S. Anderson as explored by IFFAH RAKINAH.

Long before the days of *kopi kakis* and *Bros*, brotherhood came in the form of three men brandishing their swords whenever their honour was at stake. The pioneer advocates of the saying "all for one, one for all", *The Three Musketeers* consisted of Aramis, Porthos and Athos, three men regarded to be the epitome of brotherly friendship, capped with their signature feather in hats.

In the book, Dumas artfully crafts the adventures of d'Artagnan, a feisty Musketeer hopeful, weaving a reader through 17th century France by chronicling the tale of d'Artagnan and the Musketeers with immense vividness.

While the book remains as one of the most appreciated classics of time, many have attempted to recreate the brilliance of Dumas to film. With about 20 adaptations dating all the way to 1903, director Paul W.S. Anderson (*Resident Evil*) extends the list by adding his own take of the classic tale.

Unlike the 1993 Hollywood adaptation that starred Chris O'Donnell (*Batman & Robin*) and Charlie Sheen (*Two and a Half Men, Hot Shots!*), this upcoming version will not leave any of the characters in the book out, a move every book-turned-movie should never make so as to remain as faithful as possible to the original tale.

"I'm so glad that every single person is going to be in, the 1993 took about half of the characters (like the Duke of Buckingham and the Musketeers' servants) of the book out. It was horrible," Ho Ming Hui, 24, a student

at National University of Singapore (NUS), says.

The feisty d'Artagnan will be played by Logan Lerman, of *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* fame. The boyishly good-looking actor had to don hair extensions for the role, much to the amusement of his vast female fan base while the roles of Athos, Aramis, and Porthos were filled by veteran actors Matthew Macfadyen (*Death at a Funeral*), Luke Evans (*Clash of the Titans*) and Ray Stevenson (*The Book of Eli*) respectively.

The actors went through extensive fighting and fencing training, which Anderson taught was extremely crucial to have, especially in a movie that would be heavily reliant on the high-impact fight scenes and nail-bitingly good sword duels.

Although only a mere 84-second trailer has been released, the movie already has accumulated a pool of critics around the Internet.

One of the shots in the trailer showed a flying ship gliding across a quiet, stunned crowd, and this was the spark that heated a discussion questioning Anderson's art direction skills. "This is 17th century France, for God's sake. What is he doing trying to make it look like *The Matrix*," a comment posted on YouTube read.

If there is anything about *The Matrix* that *The Three Musketeers* should mirror, it should be the success and approval it received within audiences. But that is something that we will only be able to tell when we hear the swift draw of swords into the air and a unison chorus of "all for one, one for all" blasts from our movie screens.

The Three Musketeers is slated for release in the United States in October 2011.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX ENTERTAINMENT STUDIOS, 2011

PRETTY (NOT SO) LITTLE LIARS

Creating a new identity is an easy feat for these ladies, but a web of deceit may prove to be a sticky situation to get out of as SHANA SIOW finds out.

Even the most romanticised chick-lit fiction out there will not be able to beat the complexity of this book that is *Headhunters* by Jules Bass.

The book exploits the stereotypical take on the female dream of living the high life with champagne and wine, together with the must-have accessories of the season: diamonds and rich, handsome men – whatever it takes to get them to the top of the societal ladder.

In *Headhunters*, the usual characters of bored, middle-aged ladies from the suburbs, decide to spice up their rather mundane lives by creating new glamorous identities for themselves. Planting themselves in Monte Carlo, they strive to find some well-to-do bachelors that will serve them at every beck and call.

Unfortunately, the bachelors that have been picked are also con artists, though a seasoned chick-lit reader will soon realise that love is sure fated between these couples. Think *Desperate Housewives* crossed with

Gossip Girl, but with a lot more borrowed money and jewels.

The movie *Monte Carlo* (2011) is loosely adapted from *Headhunters*, but the on-screen drama is really not as fiery as the drama in the novel. The movie took a year to produce and is co-directed by one of Hollywood's A-list celebrities, Nicole Kidman, who was actually rumoured last year to be one of the actresses in the movie.

There is no way that a reader of *Headhunters* will be able to tell that *Monte Carlo* was adapted from the book, as it gives a very watered down version of how the novel is really like. Fans probably will not be happy at the way the plot has been twisted to suit a wholesome image on screen.

Instead of three middle-aged wannabe-divas, Grace (Selena Gomez), Emma (Katie Cassidy) and Meg (Leighton Meester) are three high school graduates who decide to go to Monte Carlo for their graduation trip. Things go awry when they decide to creep into the lobby of a renowned five-star hotel that a famous heiress, Cordelia, is expected to stay in.

When Grace is mistaken for Cordelia, the three friends decide to put the case of mistaken identity to good use

by using Cordelia's name to get the fantasy vacation that they intended to have in the first place.

Even the hype of *Monte Carlo* makes a more-than-obvious nudge towards the fans of the "Disney Touch". The movie's promotions included an event where pre-pubescent girls could get their "royal makeovers" done by professionals and be photographed against a "royal backdrop", with more than a thousand of Selena's fans turning up to see the singer perform.

The only thing the movie doesn't seem to promise is originality, and yet again we have teenagers flying off to cool new countries to sort out who they are.

Knock knock, Lizzie McGuire wants her movie back.

Monte Carlo is slated to be released in Singapore in June 2011.



BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER

JEANETTE TAN susses out the highly anticipated comedy of the year that is making birdlovers everywhere chirp about.

Fans of our feathery friends would probably have read one of the most famous books that centres on the theme of birds – Mark Obmascik's *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession*. It's a story that seamlessly interweaves the competitive sport of birdwatching with the complexities of the human nature.

That being said, this is neither a stale nor strait-laced book.

In this hugely entertaining novel, there are plenty of hilarious bird-related jokes and anecdotes.

The Big Year in the title refers to the North American Big Year, a contest which sees obsessive birders everywhere competing to spot the most number of species, as well as compiling the lists of these feathered creatures, all during the entire course of a year.

The three title characters are as diverse as can be, unified only by their love of all things birdy. Enter Al Levantin, a wealthy tycoon and hobbyist, Sandy Komito, a construction business retiree from New Jersey who is trying to recreate his previous win of the North American Big Year title, and the dark horse of this competition, Greg Miller, with only his diehard passion for birds to see him through to this competition.

Expect plenty of fowl play in this upcoming comedy which stars crowd favourites Owen Wilson as Sandy Komito, Steve Martin as Al Levantin, and Jack Black as Greg Miller, the three obsessive birdwatchers, each with their own idiosyncrasies.

Directed by David Frankel of *The Devil Wears Prada* and *Marley & Me*, the Hollywood appeal of this comedy is further heightened by its star-studded cast, including Jim Parsons, who plays the hilarious Sheldon in *The Big Bang Theory*. With Ben Stiller (*Tropic Thunder*) on board as one of the producers, be prepared to laugh your tail-feather off when you watch it!

Looks like the world cannot wait to get its hands on this blockbuster, judging from how stills from the movie were leaked online, even before the movie trailer is released.

Let's hope the ingenuity and wit of Mark Obmascik's soaring debut does not fall flat on the silver screen. After all, the last thing movie enthusiasts (or birding hobbyists, for that matter) would want is another birdbrained comedy.

The Big Year is slated for release in Singapore in October 2011.

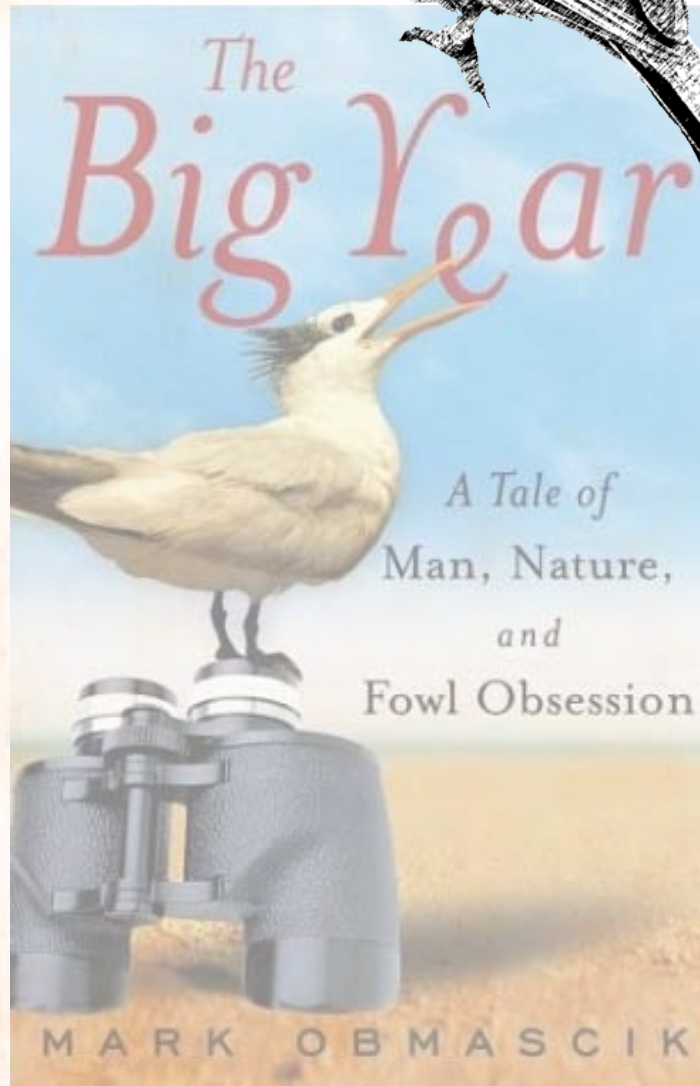


PHOTO COURTESY OF FREE PRESS

ORPHAN, CLOCK-KEEPER, AND THIEF

GERMAINE TAN finds out how an unconventional best-selling children's book written by Brian Selznick takes to the silver screen.

Set in Paris in the 1930s, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* is a historical-fiction book written and illustrated by Brian Selznick. It tells the story of an orphaned boy named Hugo, who secretly lives in the walls of a Paris train station and tends to the clocks there.

However, an encounter with a bitter old man who runs a toy booth at the station and an eccentric, bookish girl turns his world upside down. Hugo gets caught up in a mystery adventure when he attempts to repair a mechanical man or "automata" – as they are called in the book.

The true appeal of this book is the 284 pages out of the book's 526 that are made up of original drawings by the author. As such, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* is not exactly a picture book, a graphic novel, or a film, but a combination of all these things.

Each illustration takes up an entire double page spread and Brian Selznick is genius for breaking open the novel form to create an entirely new reading experience.

The book was inspired by the true story of pioneer filmmaker George Melies, his surviving films, and his collection of mechanical, wind-up figures. In 2008, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* was the first novel to win the Caldecott Medal – an award only given to illustrations.

The film adaptation will be helmed by Martin Scorsese, best-known for screen hits like *Gangs of New York* (2000), *The Aviator* (2004), and *The Departed* (2006). It will be the first 3D film in the family-adventure genre Scorsese has ever made.

"The geometry of it, everything, you're really redefining. You're trying to figure out how to tell the story again in pictures with this 3D, which is really interesting," Scorsese said, in a special question and answer with Leonardo DiCaprio called Leonardo DiCaprio and Martin Scorsese in Conversation.

Shot entirely in 3D instead of converting from 2D through post-production techniques, this resulted in the filming process being stretched by slightly over a month.

The biggest difference about the screen version as compared to the book is that the film's title will be shortened to just *Hugo Cabret*. This is because Scorsese wishes to place more



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCHOLASTIC

emphasis on the protagonist, similar to how he always does in previous works like *Goodfellas* (1990).

Asa Butterfield (*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*) will take on the lead role of Hugo, with Chloe Grace Moretz (*Kick-Ass*) as Isabelle, Sacha Baron Cohen (*Borat*) as the station inspector, and Sir Ben Kingsley (*House of Sand and Fog*) as Papa Georges.

The film also features the likes of Jude Law (*A.I. Artificial Intelligence*), Christopher Lee (*Star Wars: The Clone Wars*), Emily Mortimer (*Lars and The Real Girl*), and Richard Griffiths (*Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*).

It is a little known fact that Johnny Depp was one of the producers of the film, and hopefully, will inject his own brand of quirk into it. The film also promises to be an exciting ride for the whole family, a departure from the more adult fare audiences are used to seeing from Scorsese.

Most of the filming was done at London's Shepperton Studios. However, some scenes were shot on location in Paris, which meant that *Hugo Cabret* still attempted to stay true to the setting of the book.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret is slated to hit the big screens in the United States in late November 2011.



CURRENT

CONNECTED

People
Nightlife

Sports
Webcasts

Food
Fashion

Events

Music

Film + TV

Books

Webcasts

Technology + Games

THEURBANWIRE.COM

The sun rises at dawn, spreading its light near the shore of Timor-Leste, signifying the start of a new day.

The Other Land Of The Rising Sun

Most people only recognise it as the youngest country in Asia, struggling to redeem itself from decades of armed conflict and civil unrest. Unfamiliar grounds are usually feared, but join LEE XIAN JIE on a discovery of Timor-Leste, and be charmed.

“Mister! Picture! Mister!” the boys screamed for my attention. One after another, they teetered to the edge of the metre-deep fountain,

somersaulted, and plunged headlong into the cool water. Never mind that the azure and cerulean mosaic-lined water feature was in a church abandoned for decades in Baucau, the second-largest town in Timor-Leste.

It’s hard to believe that as recent as 5 years ago, this country was embroiled in armed conflict and civil unrest. Yet when the protests quietened in 2006, the economy has seen double-digit growth each year. President José Ramos-Horta proclaims, “The country is at peace as never before.”

“Timor, land of the rising sun”, is what the locals call their country. Foreign investors pump cash into the oil and gas fields off the southern coasts, and on land, businesses trickle in. The dark times seem to finally be over.

Unlike Bali, just under two hours away by jet, Timor-Leste’s beaches, even those in the capital Dili, are untouched (cynics would say undeveloped). For years there have been plans to build a US\$500 million

(S\$618.1 million) resort in the bay area near the iconic 27-metre tall Cristo Rei (Jesus Christ) statue, but for now Timorese beaches are in their natural, beautiful state.

Timor-Leste must be for extreme backpackers who yearn for solitude. Flushing toilets, running showers and electricity are scarcities outside major towns, and only the hardest of four-wheel drives or trail motorcycles can take the impact of the pot-holed roads and rocky paths.

On the 8-hour trip back to Dili, one of the SUVs in the convoy I travelled with saw its suspension falling out. Even representatives from Air Timor, which charts a thrice-weekly SilkAir Singapore-Dili route, admit that they find it difficult to market this country to tourists when it is “raw”, to say the least, “and costly at the same time”.

Apart from the intrepid few who make their way through on the land border on an Indonesian visa run, most visitors make a bumpy landing into the country on the ultra-short runway at the Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport, where only mid-sized planes like the Airbus A319 may land.

Fewer than 58,000 foreigners stepped into the country last year, a far cry from the million that visit Bali. It’s just as well that the country may never see tourist



The Cristo Rei of Dili, which signifies hope, is a 27-metre tall gift from the Indonesian government to the people of East Timor. Resting atop the edge of the Fatuneama peninsula facing the Banda Sea, it is accessible by ascending 500 steps.



Young girls making daily trips to the river to lug back containers of water back to their homes for their basic amenities like cooking and washing. Each child may carry up to 9 heavy containers of water.



Boys herding water buffaloes using long branches and sticks. These beast of burden are a huge asset for an East Timorese. They are used to plough the fields for agriculture and also as a mode of transport.



A young boy enjoys a moment with his father on a cool day's afternoon, sitting on a rock and watching the world go by. They smile toothy grins.



In a world disconnected from the digital world, happiness can be found in simple pleasures - like playing tag while basking in the sun.

continued from page 10

numbers that come even close. José Quintas, the director of the National Directorate for Tourism, says he wishes to attract high-value tourists instead of the masses because he wants to preserve the environment. It's not clear however, which tourist would visit eco-lodges where they would have to bear with the inconvenience of bathing in sticky sea water.

But others, less moneyed and more adventurous like the thousands of United Nation (UN) workers on the island, probably would. After viewing the majestic sunset view from the Cristo Rei statue, probably the only real tourist attraction in the dusty city where just 250,000 Timorese live, UN and Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) workers find themselves bored after a day or two. It gets worse when the only thing to do at night is to go the gym or cloister in the handful of pubs and watering holes every night.

On Saturdays, a handful take the two-hour ferry ride on the Berlin Nakroma to Atauro Island, a mountainous island opposite Dili, and stay at one of the three lodges. On weekdays, you may be the only visitor on the island.

Most nights, the only other foreigner on the island is likely to be Barry Hinton, 40, who is now married to Lina, a Timorese interpreter and has twins, Micky and Mardy. An initial voluntary service trip to the island a decade ago made him decide to stay. Today he runs an eco-lodge, where for US\$30 (S\$37), visitors can spend a night in one of four huts naturally cooled by the sea breeze, living barely 10 metres away from the sea,

shower with water from wells, enjoy three meals, and ease into life in the slow lane.

Timor-Leste wishes to attract investors for environmentally-conscious lodging, like Barry's, and coffee plantations may be next. Singaporean 'Coffee King' Bill Tan, who exports 20,000 tons of raw Timorese coffee beans to Europe, intends to open his 3,000-hectare plantation to tourists who dream of waking up high up in the mountains amid the whiff of freshly roasted Arabica coffee beans.

For now, the Other Land of the Rising Sun is still rough and tumble, unsuitable for tourists who imagine themselves wading through infinite pools in luxurious resorts, but the authentic experience and genuine smiles all around will endear Timor-Leste to the young adventurer.

Lee Xian Jie is a documentary filmmaker and was editor of npTribune, the student newspaper of Ngee Ann Polytechnic. He is working on *Before We Forget*, a campaign to foster conversations about dementia.



GOA

Go “ahh!”



There's something about this beach-hugging state that has kept tie-dyed backpackers coming back since the 60s. Nearly 500 years of Portuguese rule has left its mark everywhere, from Goa's flavourful cuisine, to its colonial architecture. It is also the most westernised state in India (most Goans speak English), so first-timers here need not fret about not being able to speak a word of Konkani, the state language of Goa.

PRIME TIME TO VISIT:

It's best to visit during November to March, when the weather is cooler with little rain. Don't miss out on Christmas and New Year's celebrations, which are done in grand style!

HIT THE SACK:

Shariff recommends staying close to the beach, in a rented hut or a seaside motel to fully plug into the laid-back vibe.



FOOD FACTS:

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANUSHRUTI RAVIKRISHNAN

Goa's unique cuisine is the love child of Portuguese and Hindu sensibilities (left), so you'll be in luck if you love seafood and coconut milk. Tuck into delicious *caldeen* (fish

cooked in ginger, cumin and coconut milk), and treat yourself to a generous serving of *bebinca*, a multi-layered Goan favourite, rich in ghee and coconut milk.

GETTING THERE:

A direct, all-inclusive flight from Singapore to Goa starts from approximately S\$700 via Jet Airways. Alternatively, you could take a S\$400 flight to Mumbai via AirAsia X in Kuala Lumpur, and then transfer to a cheap domestic airline such as SpiceJet, Indigo and GoAir (45-minute flights) to Goa.

DON'T MISS: - - - - -



1. **Flea fun:** Head to the flea markets at Anjuna on Wednesdays for some retail therapy like no other – be treated to a mind-boggling array of goods on sale, ranging from handcrafted trinkets to peacock-feathered headgear.

2. **Goa Zen:** Sign up for local yoga, Reiki and Pilates classes. “I did *tai chi* on the beach at sunset, facing the Arabian Sea, almost everyday,” says student Shariff Burke, 21. Delve into Goa's rich history by exploring many age-

old marvels such as the Basilica of Bom Jesus, a UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) world heritage site that houses St. Francis Xavier's mortal remains.

3. **Party animal paradise:** When in Goa, one of the party capitals of the globe, it's only natural to let your hair down. Whether you crash a full-moon trance party on Vagator Beach, or watch the sun set while sipping on feni or fenny (the fiery local brew), it's



bound to be a good night. Music aficionados will love Sunburn Goa, a three-day electronic dance music festival held from Dec 27 to 29, featuring local and international DJs such as Armin van Burren.

Adding Spice to Travel

When the going gets tough, the tough go backpacking. And so, many students choose to unwind by saving up and heading to countries like Bangkok or Hong Kong. However, instead of jostling with other tourists at these done-to-death destinations, why not go off the beaten track and head to India and Nepal? As JENNY GANESHRAYS finds out, these countries can be radically refreshing travel options, that won't break your bank.

Nepal's matryoshka dolls staring at you from their owners' stalls



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX CANAZEL



PHOTO COURTESY OF YUN NG



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX CANAZEL

RAJASTHAN



Land Of Kings

This vast state of 56.5 million people was where Russell Brand and Katy Perry decided to tie the knot in grand style last year - they made a wise choice. Home to some of India's most exquisite art and culture, Rajasthan abounds in majestic forts, colourful festivals and bazaars which are sure to titillate your senses.

PRIME TIME TO VISIT:

It's best to visit from mid-October to mid-March when it's festivals galore. This is also when the climate segues from post-monsoon to winter.

HIT THE SACK:

You can choose to bed down in a palatial hotel, a basic guesthouse or an *ashram* (a spiritual hermitage). We suggest checking the local tourist office for homestay options, or CouchSurfing (<http://www.couchsurfing.org/>) with a local family, as it's a great way to assimilate into the rich local culture Rajasthan has to offer.

DON'T MISS:



PHOTO COURTESY OF BENGALFOAM



PHOTO COURTESY OF PREETI & BARAT SINGH



FOOD FACTS:

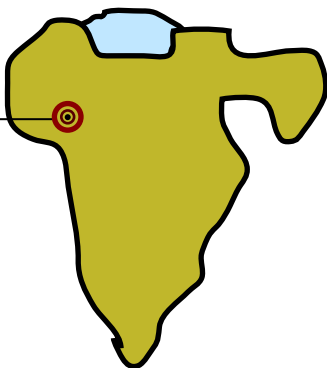
PHOTO COURTESY OF SUDHAMSHU HEBHAR

The arid Rajasthani climate has borne food fare that is rich with meat, cooked in plenty of ghee, with little water. *Kacher maas* which is dry lamb cooked in spices (above, right), and *achar murg* (pickled chicken) are some tasty

examples. Then snack on some *churma*, fried wholewheat flour balls with butter and sugar (above, left) and cool off with *makhaniya lassi* (sweet yoghurt with cream, saffron and dried fruits).

GETTING THERE:

Round-trip airfares to Rajasthan start from approximately S\$630 — this includes a stopover in New Delhi and transferring between AirIndia to Kingfisher Airlines at New Delhi. Alternatively, Air India and Jet Airways offer direct flights from Changi Airport to Jaipur International Airport, from S\$1000 onwards.



Rajasthan



1. The Pink City: Jaipur offers a comfortable mix of chrome-and-steel orifices paired with crumbling temples and hole-in-the-wall bazaars. Whatever you choose, you can't escape Rajasthan's cultural wealth — unique arts and crafts, intricate textiles and precious stones abound. The Johari bazaar is recommended for traditional goods.

2. Royal rendezvous: Explore the magnificent Mehrangarh fort (middle) in Jodhpur, one of the largest in India. Built in 1459, this soaring fort overlooks Jodhpur and contains seven gates and is home to palatial courtyards, temples and museums. It's still run by the descendants of the Maharajah (or King) of Jodhpur.

3. Desert trippin': "Visiting the Great Thar desert on a camel safari was a great experience. I enjoyed my overnight stay with the sand dunes under the star-filled night sky," says Rohit Kumar Gautam, 27, founder of Hangout Adventures.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM THAI



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX CANAZEL

KATHMANDU

Top of the World

Enclosed by the majestic Himalayas and sandwiched between India and Tibet, Nepal's stunning scenery and mystic aura are the stuff of legends. But you don't have to be a *sherpa* to enjoy this hilly terrain with its holy sites, unspoilt natural wonders and friendly locals that bid you an eager welcome.

PRIME TIME TO VISIT:

The start of the dry season (from October to November) is ideal—the Himalayan setting is picture-postcard perfect, thanks to the crisp air and lush greenery that's fresh off the monsoon.

GETTING THERE:

All-inclusive airfares from Singapore to Kathmandu start from approximately S\$690 by Jet Airways, with a stopover in New Delhi, a 17-hour air affair.

DON'T MISS:

1. All-in-one Kathmandu: There's something for everyone in this little kingdom. Head to touristy Thamel for its nascent nightlife, good food, cheap accommodation and great bargains, crammed in hundreds of colourful stalls. Best of all, the city's finest sights are free: step into the picturesque Boudhanath temple, or Durbar Square, the bustling architectural marvel, at no extra cost.

2. View from the top: For stunning views that no bus tour can offer, trek the Annapurna Circuit, one of best trails in the world. You can cheaply secure all that you need: just a local guide and trekking equipment, in Kathmandu. Lasting 17 to 21 days, this trek takes you through lush flora and fauna, Buddhist villages, holy Hindu sites and mountains. It reaches a peak of 5416 m at the Thorung La pass.

3. Buddha's beginnings: Lumbini is the birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism. Unlike other holy pilgrimage sites around the world, visitors to Lumbini come in trickles, enforcing its serenity and tranquillity. Sit beneath the sacred Bodhi tree and meditate on life as you take in the sprawling expanse of monasteries across this UNESCO World Heritage Site.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESS CHENG



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW MILLER

FOOD FACTS:

Nepalese food is as diverse as the region itself— influences from Hindu, Tibetan and ethnic village people intermingle. Look out for *momos* (vegetable or meat-filled dumplings not unlike Chinese dim sum), and wash them down with

jaand or *chyaang*, often called the "Nepali beer". *Rikikul* is another *Sherpa* treat - these hot-off-the-griddle potato pancakes are smothered in *dzo* butter of the female yak and sorma sauce (made from mature cheese and spices).

HIT THE SACK:

You can get a roof over your head in Nepal even with the thinnest of wallets, whether it's a budget hotel for US\$5 (S\$6.16) a night in Kathmandu or a US\$2-a-night (S\$2.46) dormitory room in Pokhara (look on hostelnepal.com for good deals). While trekking, you can lodge cheaply at guesthouses, or set up a tent under the stars and sleep for free.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JESS CHENG



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESS CHENG



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAJAT SHARMA



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESS CHENG



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS DE RAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOHUMIL CAP



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAI CACHORRO



All About Brunches

Brunch away, all the way from the am to the pm, with **JOSEPH MURRAY**, as he journeys about Singapore on a hunt for restaurants that offer the hottest and yummiest brunches.



Brunch is an ambiguous midpoint between breakfast and lunch, but there's just so much more behind this delightful new expression that is sneaking into the verbal dictionaries of young adults.

When you do have yearnings for some breakfast but the clock says it'll soon be lunch, you'd be glad to know that breakfast can come anytime you fancy, at these three new places for brunch.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HATCHED



Step in and be amazed at Paulaner Bräuhaus's building. It's a triple-storey restaurant that includes an outdoor corner for those who like to bask in the sun, though patrons flock here for their fill of authentic Bavarian food.

While bratwursts and pickles often come to mind when one thinks of German food, sausages are in plain bounty at this brunch joint.

Meet the juiciest sausages you'll have the greatest pleasure eating, the Thüringer, (Cheese, and without), Debreziener, and Nürnberger.



PHOTO: TAY WAN LIN

WÜNDERBRUNCH



Paulauner Bräuhaus
9 Raffles Boulevard
#01-01 Millenia Walk
Tel: 6883 2572

Sunday (Brunch): 11.30 am - 2.30 pm
Mon-Fri (Lunch): 12 pm - 2.30 pm
Mon-Sun&PH (Dinner): 6.30 pm - 10.30 pm

Slap on some authentic German mustard made with freshly ground mustard seed to balance the savouriness with some zest, or drench your bratwurst in curry sauce and enjoy.

Don't get too full on the sausages though, because there's always more room for their crispy pork knuckles. As big as two of your fists put together, this culinary delight is sure to send your taste buds into overdrive.

Sink your teeth into the tenderness of the knuckles and be delighted by the unexpected juiciness that squirts out of the flesh.

Wash everything down with a mug of beer straight from their brewery and please don't be afraid to let out a belch – that's your stomach thanking you for all that glorious food!



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULANER BRAUHAUS



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHOUPINETTE

Tucked away in a corner between Bukit Timah Rd and Princess of Wales Rd sits a quaint café, Choupinette (that's 'sweetie-pie' in French). Tiptoe pass the out-of-worldly decorations on the patio, and take a trip down the rabbit hole.

Such unconventional interior design was carefully thought up and selected by owner cum Parisian art dealer Agnes Verrier. She switches up the furniture regularly to keep her sweetie-pie relevant and trendy.

However, amazing décor doesn't always translate to fantastic food and the quickest way to vanquish (or confirm) doubts is to put the fork to the test.

BONJOUR!

Choupinette
607 Bukit Timah Road
#01-01
Tel: 6466 0613

Tues-Fri: 9 am - 10 pm
Sat: 8 am - 10 pm
Sun: 8 am - 6 pm
Brunch is offered till 6 pm.



Their Eggs Benedict (left) might come across as slightly expensive (\$20+ with a glass of fruit juice and any hot drink), but if you haven't taken the clue from the disproportionate chairs and the avant garde décor, the servings here are fit for giants!

Served atop two hefty freshly toasted slices of bread, airflown from France, are slices of honey-baked ham and sizably huge poached eggs, topped with generous servings of Hollandaise sauce.

Other mouthwatering offerings are the Chocolate Chouchou (their signature chocolate doughnut), as well as their macaroons, which are handmade and polished to lofty French standards.



Who said brunch had to be Western? The Chinese have been getting up at noon and peeling wax paper off *char siu* buns for ages. If you're sick of heavy and extravagant Western fare, but you need a heart-warming Chinese entrée to start your day, you're at Victor's Kitchen, the right place.

Start off by getting a basket of Victor's signature Golden Egg Yolk Lava Bun (\$3.50 for 3), and be careful when you split it the middle to let steam out, because the glorious golden filling might just ooze out (and make a mess!). When it's cool enough to eat, savour the sweet-salty and gooey salted egg yolk-based custard.

While we're still talking buns, a basket of Milky Custard Buns (\$3.50 for 3) is sure to delight both *pau* & dessert fans with its decadently smooth custard interior and melt-in-your-mouth silky skin.

And what's Yum Cha without *har gow* (\$3.50 for 4)? Bite into one of these steamed prawn dumplings and be surprised by the crunch - whole shrimps and delicious pork filling, wrapped in skin that is steamed in a bamboo basket until the skin turns crystalline. Another dumpling that is a must-have is their Tasty Queen Size Siew Mai (\$3.50 for 4). Larger than your average *siew mai*, these bundles of joy are sure to put a smile on your face.

Order a cup of Hong Kong Summer Ice Tea (\$2.00) to accompany the baskets of buns and dumplings, and be impressed by their genius - the tea is served in a cup in a bowl of ice, so you won't have to worry about diluting the delicious of the tea!

YUM-MY CHA

Victor's Kitchen
91 Bencoolen Street
#01-21 Sunshine Plaza
Tel: 9838 2851

Open daily: 10.30 am - 8 pm



PHOTO: TAY WAN LIN



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THINK "FOOD"

Food For Thought at SAM@8Q
8 Queen Street
Tel: 6338 9887

Mon - Sat: 9 am - 10 pm
Sun&PH: 9 am - 9 pm
Breakfast is offered till 5.30 pm.



Prefer something sweet and tangy? Go for the *Mixed Berries Pancakes (bottom)*, a heavy stack of pancakes topped with fresh raspberries and blueberries, before being drenched in *gula melaka* (their Singaporean twist on maple syrup) and to finish, a dollop of whipped cream.

Looking down on their placemats reveal more. They have five world saving mission statements that they uphold; the most remarkable being the \$2 donation that is donated in support of Living Water International (<http://www.onedollarwater.com>).

A pretty nice play on Singaporeans that grumble about having to pay for iced water at restaurants.





PHOTO COURTESY OF HATCHED



Which came first, the brunch or the egg? Eggs have played a fundamental role in breakfasts since forever – sunny side ups, poached and scrambled and served on toast are only just some of the ways they are prepared.

And because they are just so versatile and scrumptious, there are just too many egg-enthusiasts who can't live without their egg-fixes in the mornings. If you happen to be one of them, you're going to have a ball of fun at Hatched.



EGG-TASTIC

Hatched
Evans Lodge
26 Evans Road #01-06
Tel: 6735 0012

Sun-Thu: 8 am - 10 pm
Fri-Sat: 8 am - 12 am
Closed on Monday

A highlight of their menu is *Papillote* (bottom left), scrambled eggs enwrapped in smoked salmon, topped with chive cream and served with a side of sautéed potatoes and caramelised onions to seal the deal. You won't regret it.

Who could have forgotten eggs benedict? Hatched put an exciting twist on the ever-popular brunch item with Burly Benedict (top left), topping the usual English muffin and poached egg with oodles and oodles of prime-grade corned Wagyu beef that will have your eyeballs rolling back in their sockets the very moment you stick that fork into your mouth.

And for those who want to stand out amongst all the egggy dishes at the brunch-table, or those who just can't stand eggs, Where's Waffle is the perfect way to go! Served with fresh blueberries, butter, fresh cream and maple syrup, these waffles are as good as waffles can get.



Sir Benedict

“GOO GOO GAA GAA”

IEVAN DARWIN finds out how celebrities and models eat to own that itty-bitty waist commonly seen on runways and red carpets... and it has to do with babies, and what they eat.

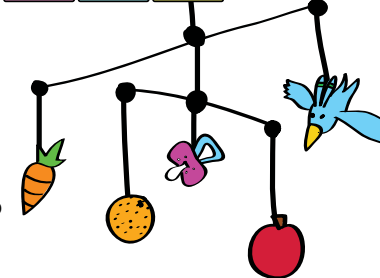
Who knew what X-Factor judge Cheryl Cole, eccentric songstress Lady Gaga, actress Jennifer Anniston and supermodel Abbey Lee Kershaw have in common with babies are what they eat? These celebrities snack on baby food to keep them full, in order to look good, and to maintain their size zero Barbie-doll-esque figures.

This new Hollywood fad of consuming of baby food, instead of a proper full meal, is on a rise. The trend has now reached the United Kingdom, with sales of baby food soaring by a staggering 20 per cent, compared to last year, according to upmarket web grocer Ocado.

According to Tracy Anderson, 36, a personal trainer to the stars such as Cheryl Cole, Madonna and Gwyneth Paltrow, “Baby food is a mix of carbs and proteins, with “good fats” and no salt or sugar. It's all totally healthy.”

A diet that Lady Gaga reportedly abides by is that she eats one meal a day and fulfills the rest of her daily food needs on baby food. So could this be her secret to her toned and skinny body that showcased in her video for “Born This Way”?

Baby food is most definitely safe for consumption as they are subjected to strict nutrition controls, made from



mashed up fruits and vegetables in their pure states, therefore, limiting the presence of salt, sugar and other additives.

So, it's healthy, and it might help you lose weight if coupled with proper exercise and included in the right diet. But how does it taste?

BABY FOOD TASTE TEST

Habibah Moszay, 17

First-year Ngee Ann Polytechnic Business Studies student

I like the way I am!

The Pumpkin Fan

I wouldn't mind snacking on baby food at home!

The Rotten Curry Expert

I would not eat baby food like some celebs just to stay thin and to lose weight!

Jerein Sandrasageran, 20
Singapore Polytechnic graduate awaiting enlistment into National Service

Sharifah Nur Amalina Shahirah, 19

Junior College graduate currently awaiting university admission

PHOTO: TAY WAN LIN



Gerber Mixed Vegetables

HABIBAH: I love the smell. No really, I really do! It's tasteless, maybe because I hate vegetables to begin with, but I still like the smell though.

JEREIN: The smell and the look of it are not nice at all. It tastes like rotten vegetables.

SHARIFAH: OMG this looks and smells like rotten curry! It tastes disgusting. This is so bad. The smell is puke-inducing and the taste is just horrible.

Gerber Mixed Vegetables can be obtained at most departmental stores islandwide at \$1.95.



Gerber Applesauce

HABIBAH: I think it tastes very sour. I wouldn't snack on it at all. The smells make you want to try it, but after trying it I wouldn't eat it.

JEREIN: Tastes like McDonald's Apple Pie! Definitely a good snack option!

SHARIFAH: It tastes very nice and I think I might want to buy it later!

Gerber Applesauce can be obtained at most departmental stores islandwide at \$1.50.



Heinz Pumpkin & Sweet Corn

HABIBAH: The smell is strong and stinky! It tastes like pumpkin soup. It's not that bad actually; I really like it, maybe because I am a pumpkin fan.

JEREIN: The smell is not that enticing and it tastes okay. Do I taste corn?

SHARIFAH: Oh it smells like rotten curry. Oh my god, it tastes gross and bad! I don't even know what to say!

Heinz Pumpkin & Sweet Corn can be obtained at most departmental stores islandwide at \$1.55.



Sweet Switch

GERMAINE TAN discovers how switching unhealthy ingredients with healthier options in desserts helps relieve the stress on your waistline.

Whenever the word “dessert” is mentioned, images of sinfully sweet and calorie-laden treats like cakes, chocolate and ice cream often come to mind – treats we can only afford to indulge in occasionally.

Well, here’s some good news for you dessert lovers. There are actually many dessert options available that won’t make you put on the pounds, yet don’t compromise on taste, so you don’t have to say goodbye to your cakes and frozen desserts.

The secret lies in substitution.

For instance, Soyato, a local food and beverage concept, offers a “premium

frozen dessert” made of soymilk as a healthy alternative to ice cream.

It was founded last year by undergraduates Alan Phua, 27, a Business Management undergraduate of Singapore University’s (SMU) Business Management, and Verleen Goh, 25, an undergraduate of National University of Singapore’s (NUS) Food Science & Technology.

According to an article in the Business Times, the concept came about when Ms Goh experimented with using soymilk as a substitute for milk and cream.

“I use soy or nut milks instead of coconut milk, and vegetable

oils in place of lard for desserts such as orh nee (sweetened yam dessert),” says Ms Sylvia Tan, a freelance writer of the Mind Your Body section of The Straits Times.

She recommends fruit-based desserts for people who are health-conscious but don’t wish to give up on the sweet stuff. Being wheat and dairy-intolerant, she improvises on dessert recipes to create healthier versions of her own, tailored to people with similar dietary patterns.

Let’s get our chef hats on!

This is a delightful recipe for a healthier version of eton mess, a delicious but otherwise calorie and sugar-laden English dessert, made normally with whipped cream. We will be substituting the whipped cream with low-fat yoghurt.

The yoghurt might not taste as good as the whipped cream, but it adds a slight sourness that helps balance the sweetness of the dessert.

By using low-fat yoghurt, you are cutting down on 4 times the amount of calories, about 10 times less total fat and cholesterol, while imbuing your dessert with almost twice the amount of calcium for strong bones and teeth!



Lemon Yoghurt Pot



What do you need?

- 100g low-fat plain yoghurt
- 1 tbsp good quality lemon curd (Available from Jasons Market Place and Cold Storage online)
- 1 mandarin orange, peeled
- 1 or 2 ready-made meringues or macaroons, available at Bakerzin or Canelé)

Time to start the fun!

- 1) Fill a third of a glass cup with yoghurt.
- 2) Add in a tablespoon’s worth swirl of lemon curd.
- 3) Fill up the rest of the cup with another layer of yoghurt.
- 4) Add orange segments, deseeded, and if preferred, cut into smaller pieces.
- 5) Top with meringue (or macarons), crushed into crumbs.
- 6) Serve at once and instruct guests to mix everything together before plunging in with a spoon.

This recipe demonstrates the versatility of the fresh pineapple in making sweet but healthy delights – you should always opt for fresh fruits instead of the canned variety. Here’s why.

By substituting syrupy and sugary pineapple with fresh pineapple, you are not only cutting down on calories, but you are consuming less than half of the sugar, and getting more vitamin C from the fruit.

You don’t have to worry about losing the sweetness, because pineapple is naturally sweet!



Three-Day Pineapple Dessert



PHOTOS: TAY WAN LIN

What do you need?

- 2 cups (about 230 ml each) of fresh pineapple juice
- ½ small honey pineapple, chopped
- 3 tsp gelatine powder
- 1 tsp pineapple jam
- 2 star anise segments

Time to start the fun!

- 1) Warm 50 ml of pineapple juice in a saucepan over a small flame for just about 20 seconds
- 2) Add 3 tablespoons of gelatin powder to soften, and then stir briskly into the remainder of the first two cups of pineapple juice until gelatin dissolves.
- 3) Divide mixture among 4-5 clear shot glasses.
- 4) Leave in the refrigerator to set for 30 minutes,

and if you like your gelatine to be firm, leave it in for an hour.

5) Place the other two cups of pineapple juice in and freeze.

6) Every half hour, rake up the ice with a fork to make pineapple ice or granita.

7) Peel and cut half a pineapple into small chunks, just about the size of your thumb.

8) Place the chunks of pineapple into a small pot and heat together with the star anise segments, and stir often to avoid then from sticking to the pot. When it caramelises to a rich golden colour,it is ready.

9) To serve, remove glasses of jelly from the fridge. Add a layer of pineapple ice or granita, and top with a layer of pineapple jam. Serve garnished with a mint leaf.

Compare and Contrast!

Serving Size:
One Cup
(About 30g)

Canned in syrup

VS

freshly cut

Serving Size:
100g

Whipped cream

VS

Low-fat yoghurt

Calories	198	80
fat	0.29g	0.5g
Carbs	51.31g	19g
Sugar	42.93g	17g

Calories	257	63
fat	22.2g	2g
Sugar	8g	7g
Calcium	101mg	183mg

CREAM OF THE CROP

Forget about rainbow sprinkles and chocolate rice. Get ready to get the finest biscuits and loveliest bars of chocolate slabbed into your scoop of ice cream with GILLIAN SHEN.

With demands burgeoning, ice cream parlours have been popping up islandwide to cope with the ravenous appetites of frozen dairy dessert fans. To survive in the onslaught of new establishments, being different is a must, and these creameries choose to stand out by offering customers the decision of how they want their ice cream to turn out. Let your creativity and the endless permutations of ice cream fun unfold atop the marble slab.



ONE IN TEN MILLION

Imagine visiting an ice cream parlour every single day for 10 years and being able to try a new creation every day – that's definitely a possibility over here at the Cold Rock! They claim that they offer a gobsmacking total of 10 million possible delicious ice cream and mix-in combinations.

While we're still talking numbers, Cold Rock offers 30 flavours of premium ice cream and over 40 mix-ins. There are also four sorbets and one low-fat yoghurt flavour.

Unlike other vendors, their ice cream is not particularly sweet or rich, leaving the mix-ins like Tim Tams and Cadbury Chocolate Flakes to compensate for it. Their signature flavour, *Bubblegum*, is as close as you can get to the real deal, except that you don't have to be afraid to swallow after chewing!

Prices: Kiddie (\$4.50), Regular (\$6.50), Large (\$8.50)



Locations: 313@Somerset, Holland Village, The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA KHOO

THE ALL-AMERICAN FAVOURITE

Marble Slab Creamery aims to create a memorable experience by spoiling their customers with choice. Pick from their 24 flavours and just about 40 high quality mix-ins, like Health Bar and Butterfingers.

It is no surprise that ice cream junkies keep coming back for more of the rich, creamy texture of their ice cream, which is loaded with 14 per cent cream and made with natural ingredients and the least amount of preservatives possible. So you can expect nothing less than fresh.

Apart from their trademark American flavours, Marble Slab Creamery is also coming up with flavours that like unique to Singapore, so keep your eyes peeled for *Lychee*, *Gula Melaka* and *Calamansi*.

Sizes: Kiddy (\$6), Original (\$8) and Big Dipper (\$10)



Locations: The Central, Cluny Court, Iluma, Junction 8, Kallang Leisure Park, Marina Bay Link Mall



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARBLE SLAB CREAMERY

GOTTA HAVE IT!

Since Cold Stone Creamery started scooping at Orchard Central, it's not unusual to see long, snaking queues extending beyond the doors of their store.

Despite their unique and fun approach, they haven't forgotten about the crux of the show – the ice cream itself. Having classics like vanilla, chocolate and coffee alongside the wide selection of mix-ins (Brownies and Graham Cracker Pie Crust being standouts) they create the perfect balance between simple and rich.

In addition to all that ice cream, Cold Stone Creamery also offers a range of smoothies, cakes, and signature shakes, but before you move on to those; remember to first get a scoop.

Choose from three sizes: Like It (\$5.90), Love It (\$8.30) Gotta Have It (\$10.30)

Locations: 520 East Coast Rd, No. 12 Jalan Kuras (off Upper Thomson Rd)

Rating:



BERRY BERRY GOOD

With flavours like *Panna Cotta*, *Golden Vanilla* and *Extra Berry*, the Japanese creamery adds a little twist to the game. Their creations have a more fruity and lighter feel to it, thanks to their mix-ins ranging from frozen fruits to chunks of sponge cakes.

Prices: Regular (\$5.90), Large (\$8.80)

Locations: 313@Somerset, Ion Orchard



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARVELOUS CREAM

Marvelous Cream is an especially good example of the Japanese fastidious nature. From the milk right down to chocolate sauce, every ingredient is imported from Japan.

They prefer putting on a classy front, rather than the typical family-friendly image of many other ice cream parlours.

On the menu are 34 *Original Cream* creations, some with quirky names such as *Berry Scented Candle*. No, you won't be eating a waffle bowl full of scented wax.

Rating:



BE YOUR OWN CHEF!

To the local-born Ice Cream Chefs, there is absolutely no limit to creativity.

Ice cream lovers can now turn into chefs instantly, making your very own creation. At Ice Cream Chefs, you get to bring in any kind of mix-ins and get them folded into your scoop of ice cream free-of-charge.

With more than 50 interesting flavours, all made in-store a day in advance by the homegrown ice cream parlour, you definitely won't be able to resist. While obscure flavours such as *Apple Cinnamon* and *Durian Surprise* stand out, the company manages to make classic flavours unique to themselves, adding honey to the green tea flavour. The creamery also doesn't compromise on quality – even if it means shipping apples from France and using D24 Durians.

For the *kiasu*, it only gets better – head to the store on a Tuesday, you and get your first mix-in for free!

Price: Regular (\$3.10), Large (\$4.80)

Rating:



PHOTO: KENNY ZING



CONTESTS

PAGE 31
CRAZY BEATS

PAGE 56
**SPOOKY CREATURES
IN THE DARK**

PAGE 94
CREAM OF THE CROP

Stand a chance to win Avalanche's album, *Bring On The Search*, by answering the following question: What is the name of the Avalanche bassist?

Email your answers to contests@fmsmidea.com!
Contest ends on Oct 1.

Stand a chance to be scared witless at this year's Halloween Horrors by answering this simple question: Where will Halloween Horrors be held?

Email your answers to contests@fmsmidea.com!
Contest ends on Sep 1.

To win vouchers worth \$10 each at Marble Slab Creamery, answer the following question: Is Marble Slab Creamery's ice cream made fresh locally?

Email your answers to contests@fmsmidea.com!
Contest ends on Sep 1.



TMC
Academy

Every Step With You



Cert No.: EDU-2-2006
Validity : 20/05/2010 - 19/05/2014

Courses Available:



- BA (Hons) Business & Management
- BA (Hons) Hospitality Industry Management



- BSc (Hons) Internet Computing Systems*
- BA (Hons) Mass Communications*
- BA (Hons) Tourism, Leisure & Hospitality*

Fees include 14-week Summer Semester Programme in Liverpool



- BA (Hons) Tourism Management*
- BA (Hons) Marketing & Tourism*
- BA (Hons) Mass Communications*



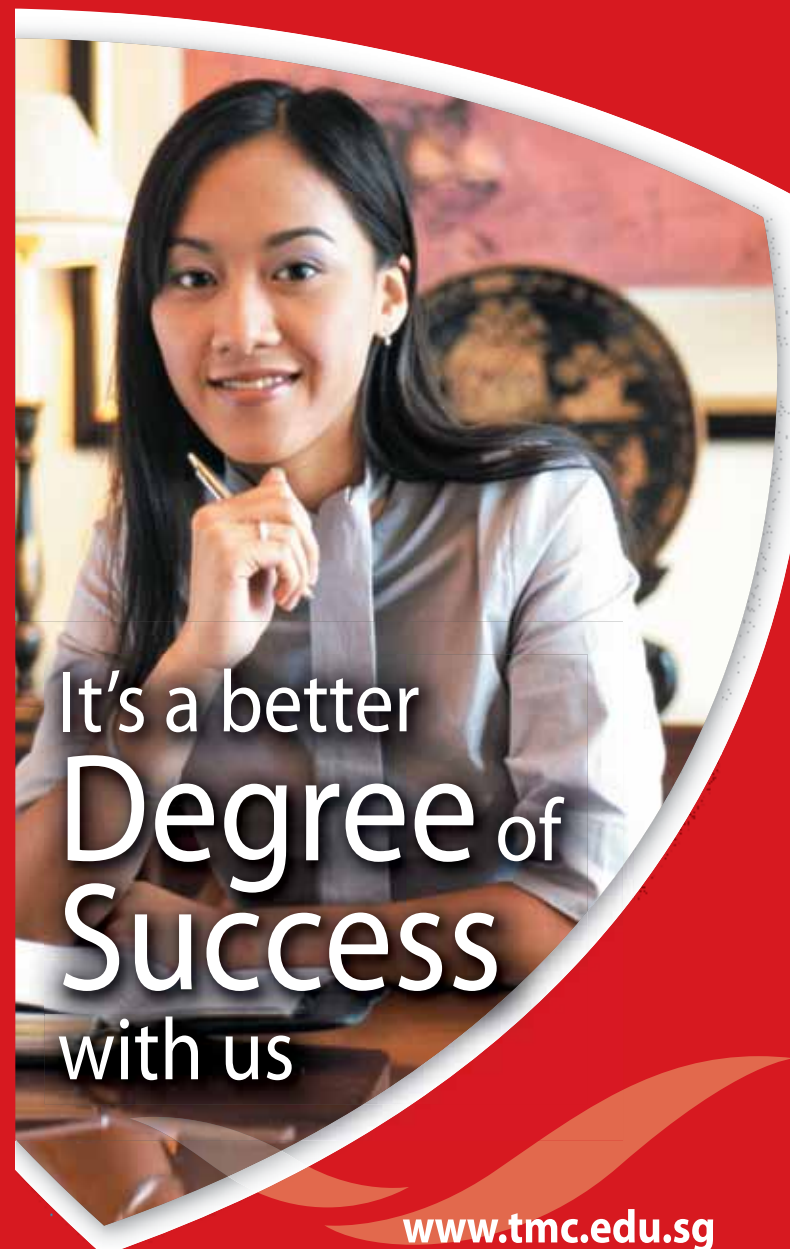
- MSc Information Systems Management
- BSc (Hons) Computing
- BSc (Hons) Games & Multimedia Technologies
- BSc (Hons) in Psychology with Counselling*



- Preparatory Course for University of London Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

Get a chance to meet our academic team and learn more about the programs. Strictly by appointment only.

* Final Year Top-Up Degree



It's a better
**Degree of
Success**
with us

www.tmc.edu.sg

0% Interest Free Installments for all UOB and OCBC credit card holders. Contact us for more information on other education loan schemes available.*

* Terms and Conditions Apply.

Off City Campus:

Hotline: **6671 2799**
38C Jalan Pemimpin (Off Bishan St 21)

City Branch Office:

Hotline: **6337 0922**
111 North Bridge Rd, Peninsula Plaza Level 6

Email: enquiries@tmc.edu.sg



TMC Academy
Registration No.: 201003953Z
Registration Period: 20 May 2010 - 19 May 2014



SCAPE

LIVE IN
COLOUR

*SCAPE BAZAAR



ATRIUM & ALFRESCO EVERY FRI, SAT & SUN


Sniff out chic quirky finds at *SCAPE Bazaar! Come on down and support young entrepreneurs peddling their creations!

Email: scapebazaar@gmail.com

www.scape.com.sg

*SCAPE is at 2 Orchard Link
(beside Cineleisure Orchard)

Tel: 6521 6565
Fax: 6521 6566
enquiries@scape.com.sg

For more exciting happenings
add us on  facebook:

www.facebook.com/scapesg

www.scape.com.sg