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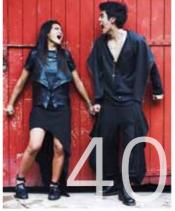
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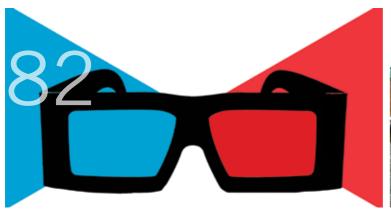


















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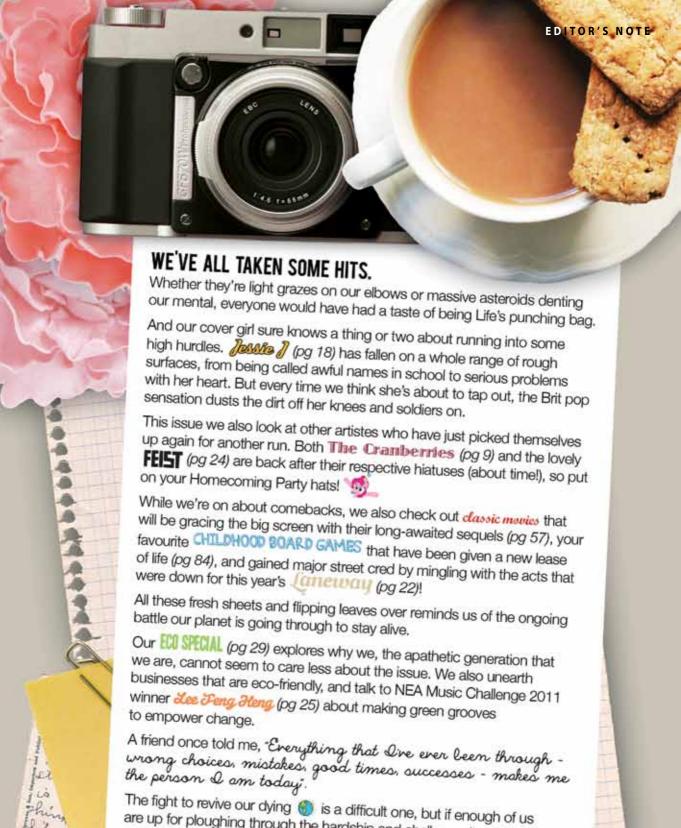
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Returning from their decade-long hiatus, this Irish rock group has a lot to share on love, family, and friendship. CARISSA ABIDIN finds out how the legendary band grew over their long break.

Gathering a whole generation of 90s fans with their hits "Dreams", "Linger", and "Zombie", The Cranberries were relentless in their early days, before going on hiatus.

Coming back from their break, The Cranberries are now renewed, refreshed, and ready to re-introduce themselves to a new generation of fans with their latest album, Roses, released this February. They will also be performing live in Singapore come Apr 2.

Front woman Dolores O'Riordan, guitarist Noel Hogan, bassist Mike Hogan, and drummer Fergal Lawler found that, though apart for many years, coming back together as a band felt natural. The band was their bed of roses.

"I always [knew] that there would be another album," said Noel, speaking on their reunion after years of hiatus.

The reason the band went on a hiatus at their peak was simple. When they talked about recording a new album in 2003, the band felt they had been trapped in an unhealthy cycle - all they did was record, perform, and record.

Then, Dolores' mother-in-law contracted cancer.

"The world, the music and the people aren't going anywhere; you can always go back on the road. But you can't always have time with the people you love," said Dolores in an interview with Paste Magazine.

With this revelation in mind, the band decided to take a break from their hectic schedules to concentrate on building their families.

Fergal tells HYPE, "It was a little strange at the beginning to fully realise we had so much time off, but gradually, I settled into the non-touring life.

Mike spent the break with his family in his hometown of Limerick, Ireland. With time on his hands, he opened a restaurant with his family. Called The Sage Cafe, this particular venture turned out to be extremely successful, with a full house at almost every meal.

He and Noel also grew closer as brothers, lending Noel a hand in his musical projects such as bands Mono Band and Arkitekt. Noel went on to work as a producer and composer for several local acts.

Brotherly love was also on Dolores' mind as she spent her break raising her three children, teaching the siblings to care and look out for one another.

During that time, her son persuaded her to become computer-savvy. While she was sifting through his iTunes playlist, Dolores found out that one of his favourite bands was Green Day. She was excited! Her little boy actually knew someone from her era!

The supposedly out-of-touch mother confessed, "Even though I know Green Day, I'm still just a corny parent."

At her son's Bar Mitzvah, Noel, Mike, and Fergal all came with their children. They then found themselves surrounded by 13 teenagers, all as tall as they were. It was only then did the band realise how long they have been apart for to the extent that they now had little "Cranbabies"!

In 2009, Dolores received an honoree degree from Trinity College. To commemorate it, they gathered for a small acoustic performance, nothing fancy and big. Even though they had not played together in years, they agreed that playing together again felt good.

They commenced a reunion tour in 2010, and have been touring across Europe, North and South America, and Asia, playing over 107 concerts.

Dolores said, "The minute we started playing [together again], it felt like we'd never stopped. There's something about playing with The Cranberries. It's like putting on a perfect pair of shoes. It just fits."

Roses is now available at all major record stores.

Catch The Cranberries live in Singapore on Apr 2 at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

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ZEE GIRL NEXT DOOR

Talent-spotted from her YouTube videos, Zee Avi's blazing success includes a well-received debut album and the release of her second. Overnight success may inflate one's ego, but definitely not Zee's. TAN QIU LING finds out that this upcoming songstress keeps herself well planted to the ground.

Dismissing the videos posted by 'KoKoKaina', featuring grainy footage of a girl clutching a guitar, face obscured by the lens, is easy.

And then, comes the voice – uniquely laidback, yet touching, strongly reminding the listener of jazz singers like Norah Jones and Billie Holiday.

The voice belongs to none other than 26-year-old Malaysian Zee Avi, whose sophomore album, *Ghostbird*, was released on Aug 23 2011.

She was in town for her Asia tour on Nov 22. Her third trip to Singapore sees her singing at concert venue, TAB where queues for her set snaked all the way to the next building.

WHO IS THAT GIRL?

From the lazy beach town of Miri, Sarawak, Zee Avi (born Izyan Allrahman) and her family moved to Kuala Lumpur when she was 12.

She started tinkering with the guitar at age 17, but dropped it when she left for the American InterContinental University in London so that she could enrol in the fashion design course.

She withdrew three years later. One day, motivated by boredom, she picked up the guitar again.

"I was trying to find a song that fit my mood and I couldn't. So I was like, you know what? 'I'm just gonna write my own one'. And I did," she says.

The result was "Poppy", her first YouTube video. Meant to solicit feedback from a friend who missed her gig, it didn't take long for people on the Internet to notice.

"... Within a few days I started getting other comments on it from around the world, from random strangers," she said in an interview with renowned music blogger, Heather Browne.

Among the 'random strangers' was Patrick Keeler, drummer for Detroit rock band, The Raconteurs. He then passed the link along where it ended up with Emmett Malloy, owner of Brushfire Records, who offered her a recording contract.

"So when I got the offer from the record label, I was like 'Hey Ma, Pa, this thing happened'," Avi recalls.

"So that's what you've been doing at 3 o'clock in the morning in your room with your guitar?" her parents asked.

"Yeah, pretty much," she would have replied with a cheeky smile.

CATAPULTING TO SUCCESS

Released in 2009, her eponymous debut album clinched second place on the Billboard Top Heatseekers Chart, and 6,000 copies of the album were sold in its first two weeks of release.

Over 300,000 copies of the album have been sold to date.

The 2010 International Youth Icon also got to perform at major music festivals such as SXSW, Outside Lands, Bonnaroo and travelling concert tour, Lilith Fair.

Some say the Asian singer's ability to penetrate the US markets lies in how American her sound is.

However, she believes differently. "I don't see colour and I don't think music does either. It's universal, it's the same language, and it's appreciated just the same," she says.



Immaculate self-taught guitar playing, effortless ukelele strumming, the ability to compose songs without prior training, recognised by and performed with renowned guitarists and musicians, sold out performances in many countries... The list goes on.

There is absolutely every reason for netizens to wonder where Sungha Jung's musicality limits lie, or whether they exist at all.

Since bursting into the YouTube scene in late 2006, the 15-year-old fingerstyle guitarist has been enthralling the Internet with his fine execution and interpretation of a wide array of songs on his guitar.

His cover of the theme song from *Pirates of the Carribean* was viewed, oh, only about 28 million times!

With his phenomenal success, the lanky charmer was here in town for a showcase last December. Every single ticket was completely snapped up, leaving disappointed fans flooding cyberspace with desperate requests.

For Sungha's ability to play the guitar at his tender age, many have the misconception that he was being forced by his parents to do it.

He sets the record straight through an e-mail interview with HYPE, "It isn't true at all. My parents are very supportive of what I choose. I think that there will always be people who are...doubtful of everything you do, especially if [you're] so young."

In fact, he could partly owe his success to his father, who was the one who posted up his videos on YouTube for the world to see. He was also involved in setting up Sungha's musical background.

Ever since he heard his father play the guitar at home, Sungha fell in love with the beautiful sound produced by the instrument. When he was ten, he took his own initiative and picked up the guitar.

With songs ranging from English pop songs like Maroon 5's "She will Be Loved", to popular classics like Pachebel's "Canon in D", the South Korean boasts over 400 recordings of his commendable playing till date, some of which includes his own humble compositions.

Sungha loves dabbling into different

genres of music, and he agrees that his appeal lies in the range of songs he chose to play.

He says, "I think I gained this success because I played a lot of different genres that reached audiences of different age and background."

While other YouTube stars may prove to be as versatile as him, what sets him apart from the pool of Internet wannabes is undeniably the large pool of talent that has been stuffed into his (then) tiny physique.

"Being young definitely drew lots of attention, which, I think, helped reach bigger audience than other guitarists on the Internet," he muses.

If you really like what you do, you will get there. Do not give up because you feel that you are not improving. You also need to listen to various kinds of music and artists if you want to develop your musical talents."

Sungha's YouTube channel acts as his own personal time-capsule, capturing and recording every aspect of his musical and personal growth.

Starting from a mere baby-faced boy with a few guitar techniques under his command, Sungha has since blossomed into a charismatic young performer who can proudly boast two solo albums over the span of six years.

It doesn't stop at his playing - with every song he plays, he exudes a natural magnetism that draws in the listener as he grooves along to his music.

That is not all - what is most staggering is that fact that Sungha is an immensely quick learner. It only takes him an hour to decipher the fingering and notes of a song, and about another five hours to practice.

Once he gets the hang of it, it is not long before YouTube hears about it.

It is no wonder that the gifted musician has won well-deserved praise from music veterans such as Brian McKnight and David Foster.

When asked about his most memorable moments in music, he shared, "There's a guitarist called Tomi Paldanius from Finland. He actually flew all the way from Finland [to meet me after] he saw me playing one of his own guitar arrangements on my YouTube channel. Now we are really good friends, and he has helped me a lot [when it comes to having] solo tours in Northern Europe."

In March 2011, the guitar virtuoso took a turn for the unexpected when he recorded his playing the piano for the very first time.

While some argue about his relatively lackluster performance on the keys, most of his fans overlook it. This is because witnessing Sungha master another instrument comes is a bonus.

Despite his dazzling achievements, Sungha has never once considered himself a child prodigy.

"If you practice till you get it, anyone can do what I do, I think."

For the other budding musicians out there, here's Sungha's wise shout out to you: "If you really like what you do, you will get there. Do not give up because you feel that you are not improving. You also need to listen to various kinds of music and artists if you want to develop your musical talents."

Upon seeing Sungha do what he does best in his videos, all we can say is that this endearing boy is just born to be a musician.





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Stop. Before you dismiss them as the remakes of the likes of girl bands Pussycat Dolls and Spice Girls, these girls - Victoria Chan from China, Lee Ji Hae from Korea, Angeli Flores from the Philippines, Alisha Budhrani from India and Natsuko "Nacho" Danjo from Japan - have definitely come a long way as the first pan-Asian girl band, Blush.

They debuted on Fox's *So You Think You Can Dance* along with Snoop Dogg, opened for Justin Bieber and the Black Eyed Peas, and their single, "Dance On" took the number one spot on the U.S. Billboard Dance Chart.

The girls will be touring with our cover girl Jessie J and will even be opening her show when the singer is in Singapore on Mar 20.

FOOD, GLORIOUS, FOOD

Even though their physical appearance equates to their success, the girls have an overwhelming love for food.

"We love food, it's number one!" exclaims Angeli.

"Balut (a fertilized duck embryo with visible chick) is cute," Ji Hae gives an unconventional take about the common Filipino street snack.

"[When you see it,] you go like, 'Haaai!' And then you're like, 'I'm sorry, but I'm going to eat you. OM-NOM!'" Angeli candidly describes how she enjoys the delicacy, much to the horror of everyone else in the interview room.

BOY TALK

While there is every reason for a guy to fall in love with them – sweet personalities, charming vocals and good looks - all of these girls are currently single.

Yet, they seem completely unaffected by it, for their friendship in the band triumphs over male company.

When asked, Victoria proclaims, "Friendship over relationship!"

She muses, "We're much more vocal and...we talk about everything. Guys are...clueless. You can't read their mind and they won't talk."

Still, the girls fondly recall celebrating Valentines' Day while they were still in school.

For Ji Hae, it is a tradition in Korea for girls to buy chocolates for boys, while the boys would get candies for the girls.

"I always complain. I like chocolate, not candy!" she exclaims.

HAPPY FAMILY

Being away from their respective families can be extremely hard for these girls, but the company of each other more than makes up for it. "We always remember stuff from way before, and we'll always...laugh about it," quips Angeli.

When you're with a group of people with a long enough time, you become a family. There's the motherly figure, a doting father, an annoying little sibling... just to name a few of them.

In a group so bonded, these roles take on an added air of responsibility in cementing their relationships together.

While the girls push the responsibility around on who's the "big sister" among them, Victoria admits, "I guess I've always been very maternal...I've always wanted a younger sister. Now I'm blessed with four younger sisters."

Quirky Angeli assumes the role of the loveable and huggable family pet.

"She'll suddenly come up to you and Igive you a koala bear-like hug]!" laughs Victoria. Nacho agrees with her sentiments, and laughter ensues among the girls when Angeli turns over to prove them right, giving Nacho her signature hug.

The amount of chemistry that these girls share reminds us that, after all, 'girls just want to have fun'. With their sunny personalities, it's pretty easy to see why the girls of Blush would make anyone's cheeks turn a deep shade of pink.



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ISSECHERSET 20-5 - ARK HUB BHG + BUGIS JURCTION CODIZON + CAUSEWAY FORT OF D - COMPASS POINT OF 48 + HOUGANG MALL OF D - REPORT OF DO - PARKWAY FARADE BHGAGU + FLAZA BHGAGUAR BHGAGU - RAFFLES CITY BHGD BUCHTEC CITY MALL 02-082/094 + TAMENES MALL OF DC - THE CLEMENTI MALL 02-09 + TONG BANKU FLAZA 01-30 + VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - VIVO CITY 02-98/000 + WEST MALL 02-09 WIGHA STREAM FLAZA 01-30 - WIGHA WIGHA



TRAINING WHEELS NOT INCLUDED

Before the band were on stage to receive fans' lingerie, Bombay Bicycle Club sat down with LINNETE LAU for a little chit-chat. (Curry and bikes were not involved.)

British indie-folk band, Bombay Bicycle Club, named after an Indian restaurant chain back home, was in Singapore earlier this year for The People's Party in January, playing alongside other international bands such as The Naked And Famous and Metromony.

Before pulling up on our sunny shores, the band had been touring all over Asia with most of The People Party's line-up. The boys were also playing sets in Hong Kong, Jakarta as wells as Taiwan.

Although they have been active for only about four years, the band already has some pretty sweet accomplishments to brag about.

On top of scoring the Best New Band award at the 2010 New Musical Express Awards, BBC has also joined the acclaimed list of artistes forming part of *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse* soundtrack.

Since the release of their third album, A Different Kind Of Fix, Bombay Bicycle Club has been touring.

Even though they were in Asia for the first time, it looked like the boys were quick to warm up to our *kopitiam* mannerisms. They took off their shoes and socks halfway through the interview when they got comfortable.

On their impressions of the Lion City, bassist Ed Nash has nothing but praise, "It's been incredible: amazing food, amazing weather!"

Compared to their European fans, lead singer Jack Steadman commented that their audience in Asia is not as rowdy and a lot more conservative. He observes, "You feel that they are listening more, and that they are concentrating on your music."

Ed concurs with examples, "In England, people fight during the songs, they shout a lot."

The experience of being halfway around the world is new to the band. This venture into virgin territory meant that they did not touch down on the airport runway properly equipped and prepared with any expectations of their fans here.

Jack says, "Its always surprising that you're on the other side of the world, people are singing your songs back to you. I don't think I ever expected that, even if I knew people liked us. It's a big shot to the system."

The band was first formed when they were just 15 and all were still studying in school. At the time, Drummer Suren de Saram recalls, "It was something we did for fun in our spare time."

"I think it's good that no one has ever pressured us into leaving school," said Ed in an interview with Newsbeat.

When asked if they had received the infamous 'rockstar treatment' demanded by rockers worldwide just because they were in a band, Suren shyly giggled.

In an interview with RazorTV, Jack revealed, "There were quite a lot of bands in our school, so it wasn't like a big deal."

Juggling their education and music (psst! Indie rock band Cajun Dance Party went to school with them!), the quartet took their time to build the band up. They only went full-force into their music career when their A-Levels were finally over.

The band has had three albums to date, each with its very own distinct sound. While I Had the Blues and I Shook Them Loose had people calling them "a cross between The Stroked and McFly", their second album Flaws felt like they were pursuing a kind of musical growth, evident with their acoustic tracks.

When approached for his comments on their latest album, Suren simply says, "[It is] THE Bombay Bicycle Club sound. It would best represent [us] now, at this moment."





Jessie J's life is strewn with learning experiences. From penning hits for teen queens to being banned from wearing heels, EDMUND ONG digs in to find out what it took to transform the British pop sensation from anonymity to all-mighty.

Stomping her way into the music industry with her first breakout single, "Do it Like a Dude", Jessie J is letting us know that she has arrived and it is not going to be so easy making her leave.

The singer-songwriter is set to perform at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on Mar 20, and youths are more than ready to bust out a move or two during her show, known for its high-octane and dynamic atmosphere.

"I've trawled YouTube non-stop to see different performances of her live, so an actual experience would just be surreal," says Zyra Mae, 20, waiting to go into university.

"I've followed her since her YouTube days, and am very excited to see her grow into a full-fledged artiste!" Shah Malinda, 19, a Media and Communications student in Singapore Polytechnic, says.

But more than that, they are raring to finally be in close proximity of the 24-year-old who has been hit by some of the biggest rocks life has thrown at her, and lived to tell the tale.

"I respect her for staying humble but never letting up on the big vision and always believing in herself," Shah says.

SHAKY BABY STEPS

Hailing from Essex, Jessica Ellen Cornish, better known by her catchy stage moniker Jessie J, has been a performing artiste since a young age. She attended Colin's Performing Arts School, immersing herself in theatre.

She was the odd one out when it came to her siblings. Her two sisters were both head girls in school and were brilliant academically. She was nothing like them, and turned to music and the school choir instead.

Despite the slender shape she is in now (have you seen her in a catsuit?!), Jessie was not exactly a healthy child.

"At 11, I was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat. I had wires put in my shoulder, groin and heart to try and zap it to a normal rhythm, but it didn't really work," she confessed in an interview with Now Magazine.

Unfortunately for the "Do It Like A Dude" hit-maker, she was presented

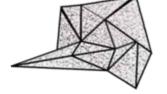


















with another life-threatening obstacle later down the road.

Jessie J suffered a minor stroke when she was 18. She admitted to Britain's Glamour magazine that she was terrified her serious condition would put an end to all her music-making dreams .

"I'd just been signed by Sony, had got back from America and I was sat in the hospital thinking, "Woah, hold up a minute. Why did I have a stroke?"" Jessie recalled.

Most recently, she acquired a serious foot injury. The singer tumbled during rehearsals in June last year while preparing for a tour with pop-singer Katy Perry.

SHUN THE NON-BELIEVERS

Like any other musician just starting out, Jessie J had her own share of naysayers, people who doubted her success.

She recounts her days as the struggling musician in an interview with The Independent.

When she was 20, she spent three months by herself in Los Angeles where she had the door of almost every studio being slammed in her face.

She was bullied in school a lot, being nicknamed 'Alien' by her schoolmates because the pills she took for her heart condition turned her skin green.

"It might be kind of funny now, but it was horrific at the time," she quipped in an interview with The Sun.

SUCH A TROOPER

Maybe she was crying all along and we did not notice, but Jessie has never allowed her physical or mental pain to get in the way of her flourishing musical career. If anything, they became fuel for her songwriting.

When Gigwise.com asked her what inspired her when writing songs, the sassy lass simply said, "Life."

As for the anti-fans from her early days, Jessie J's fourth UK single is dedicated to them. Entitled "Who's Laughing Now", the song is the singer's way of showing them that she has proved them all wrong.

She says, "I have had so many supporters but also many non-believers and this track is my 'haha' to them. As I say: 'Let the haters hate, they're, like, way too late!'"

On top of haters, Jessie J also flawlessly deals with all her physical injuries.

For the foot injury, for example, she went on to perform concerts anyway. At

she says, "I'm coming back and even harder."

Glastonbury 2011, she hobbled on stage with crutches and did her entire set on a regal throne specially designed for her.

"Having bad health has made me realise that you can't guarantee life every day. However old you are, however much you love life, however happy you are, however healthy you are, it doesn't matter, nothing's guaranteed," she said in an interview with ContactMusic.

In an interview with Newsbeat, she quipped, "It's slowed me down a bit but now I'm fighting. Now I'm getting better. I'm coming back and even harder."

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESSIE

From writing a musical to starting a clothing and perfume line, Jessie J wants to do it all. She revealed this to The Independant magazine, "I want to be at the top. I want to be a credible artist, not just someone here today and gone tomorrow. You're not going to get rid of me."

A second album is also already in the talks, and are fans can expect a different sound.

She explains, "For the seven years before I signed my record deal, I was in a bad place and I was scared that I couldn't get out of it. That's why I wrote such upbeat music, as a way of trying to escape how I felt. Now that I am happier, I won't be afraid to explore my pain. But in a good way; it'll be me saying that it's okay not to feel okay."

Jessie J shows that what does not kill her only makes her stronger, and is using that strength to firmly plant herself in a place where she belongs: at the top.

Catch Jessie J live at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on Mar 20. Tickets are available at SISTIC.

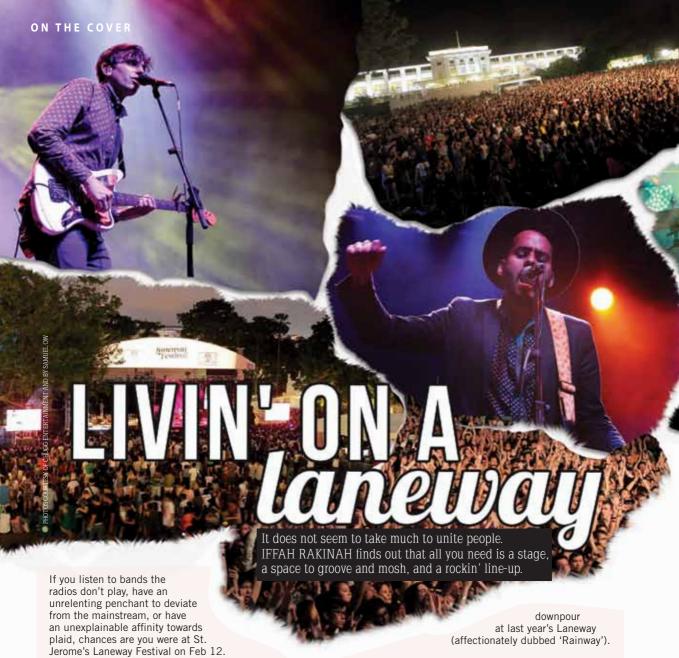
SEE JESSIE J LIVEL

HYPE Magazine is giving away two pairs of tickets to Jessie J's upcoming concert in Singapore!

Flip to page 93 to find out more!







Along with your other plaid-loving, norm-defying friends, you would have enjoyed a slew of 14 international acts, blissfully ignorant to the merciless Fort Canning Park sun.

Whether it was the Whitney Houston tribute by Girls, the Thai-esque choreography by Austra, or the sexy tunes of Toro Y Moi, the 7,800 strong crowd kept the hype up throughout the twelve hour long event.

Even though the gates were only due to open at $1\ pm$, masses of aptly dressed festival goers assembled outside as early as $11\ am$.

"I couldn't sleep last night! I've been waiting for this since they announced it last year," gushes Clara Lee, 21, shop assistant.

While most were decked out in sun-friendly outfits (crop tops, distressed denim shorts, floppy sun hats), some showed up in rain boots and ponchos, due to the

However, festivalgoers remained bone dry, although hardly anyone noticed. This was especially when indie pop band Cults kick-started the festival with a medley of their hits, including "Go Outside". Suddenly nothing else mattered except the music.

"I flew all the way here from Jakarta because I know that the music will be [so worth it]," Indonesian Marc Ismawita, 19, a student, says.

There seemed to be an endless supply of feel-good vibes from the crowd that the bands hungrily fed off, enhancing their performances and making them that much more exhilarating.

It was important that they got as much support and energy too. Singapore would be the festival's last stop after being on the road for about two weeks since starting in Auckland, New Zealand.

"Everyone's, like, so tired because we've been flying everyday," says Chairlift's Caroline Polachek.



if found out anything interesting about the other bands after travelling with each other for so long, lead singer of Austra, Katie Stelmanis, remarks, "I guess we kinda discovered that most bands are like us. We're pretty tame...We don't really party that hard or anything."

We're pretty sure the bands are all going to have a hard time saving goodbye to each other, but it seemed equally difficult for their fans to accept the fact that yet another Laneway has wrapped up.

"I want this moment to last forever!" shouts Derrick Hanz, 26, deliriously over the pounding beats of M83's "Midnight City". It looked like Derrick was not the only one who yearned for the prolonged instant, as seen by the magnificent sea of waving hands during the final act, all completely surrendered to the shoegaze magic of the French band.

For a group of people that stereotypically strives so hard for their own individualism, the hipsters at Laneway this year certainly know a thing or two about coming together as one for the love of good music.

St Jerome's Laneway Festival 2012's smashing line-up consisted of Anna Calvi. Austra. Cults. Feist. Girls. Laura Marling, M83, The Horrors, The Pains of Being Pure at Heart, Toro Y Moi, Twin Shadow, Chairlift, and Yuck. It was brought to you by Chugg Entertainment Asia.

It seems nigh-impossible for this Australian music festival to produce a setlist that fails to electrify an indie-lover's senses. LINNETTE LAU and HU JUNWEN asks some youth for their dream line-up.

ONE THING ABOUT YOU:



I always like to set my i?od volume to even numbers. WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO: Laura Marling - New Romantic





ONE THING ABOUT YOU: In the mornings I only drink milk from a WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO:

Go Outside - Cults
WHAT BANDS YOU WANT TO SEE IN LANEWAY 2013: Princess Chelsea, Club 8



CHARLES TAN. 19

ONE THING ABOUT YOU:

My haircut is inspired by Hurts, a Brit synthpop duo.

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO: Forever and Ever Amen by The Drums WHAT BANDS YOU WANT TO SEE'IN LANEWAY 2013: Phoenix. Very *shiok*!

FEIST'S FIRSTS

Every artiste remembers his first song, first fan, and first big break, but soon these "firsts" get old. CARISSA ABIDIN looks into the life of this Feist and her collection of "firsts".

After decades of taking risks and collecting first-time moments, Leslie Feist is finally, simply Feist.

Feb 12 marked Feist's first live performance in Singapore in St. Jerome's Laneway Festival at Fort Canning Park, adding yet another first for the accomplished singer's already extensive collection.

Famous for her dreamy, folky, delicate sound, some people may find it surprising that the 36-year-old Leslie Feist first started her music career with an all-girl punk band in high school.

Five years and a tour across Canada resulted in a voice so strained, that she was advised, on medical authority, to never sing again. In 1998, she resettled in Toronto to seek medical help and rest her overworked cords.

This turned out as a blessing in disguise for Feist. While resting, she spent most of her time in the basement crafting quirky new sounds with her guitar. This material fueled her first gig in front of huge stadium crowds as a touring guitarist with By Divine Rights.

Touring as a session musician, rather than a regular in a band, allowed Feist the space and time to record and self-release 1999's Monarch (*Lay Your Jewelled Head*

Down), her first solo album.

She also toured alongside Merrill Nisker, also known as electropunk musician Peaches, as a guest vocalist in promotion of his album, *Teaches of Peaches*.

In 2002, she injected herself into music collection, Broken Social Scene. With Feist's magic, their second album, *You Forgot It in People*, the band won their first Juno Award for the Alternative Album of the Year.

Outside of Broken Social Scene, she worked on her second album, Let It Die, including the hit single "Mushaboom". Playing across Canada, France, and America, her turn came when she received her first Juno Awards by the end of the following year.

In 2007, her single "1234" shot her up to fame after being featured in a TV commercial for the third generation iPod Nano.

The next step: appearances on talk shows, magazines, and Sesame Street. Feist sang the re-written version of "1234", teaching children how to count.

This was when Leslie Feist grew tired of Feist. She shared in an interview with SPIN magazine, saying, "It eventually supernova'd beyond me... and at that point

[the music] was speaking about me rather than about it."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC SINGAPORE

In 2008, Leslie Feist collapsed. Literally and metaphorically.

"After 7 years of touring I was totally depleted. Things weren't slowing down...When I hit that wall it was a dead stop, and I collapsed with my suitcase next to me," she said.

She shared, "After a year I hadn't learned how to be home, like on a vacation when it takes you a few days to learn how to relax, so I took another year."

By 2010, she was back to record, giving birth to her fifth album, Metals. In this album, she falls back on her original edgy rock sounds, only this time, she augments it with the quirky, unique sounds she had amassed over the years.

Metals can be found in all major record stores.

Win Feist's latest album, Metals! Flip to page 93 to find out more!



STRINGS OF CHANGE









Lee Fengheng, winner of the NEA ECO Music Challenge 2011, tells AMRITA KAUR how he intends to "re-build" the garden of yesterday.

Feeling the absence of hope over the damage and pollution done to our planet, Lee Fengheng composed a song of desire for a cleaner, greener and united world.

Since then, the 21-year-old's perception of the world and being green has changed forever.

Feng's interest in music sparked off when he was 14. He discovered an unexplainable love for music, playing the guitar and composing songs.

In an effort to make a name for himself as a musician, Feng slowly paved his way through the local music industry by performing at bars such as Timbre, One Rochester and 1Altitude, along with his band, Afterhours. The energetic young man also gives guitar lessons at Medley Music School and the School of Music and the Arts.

The inspired young musician created a milestone for himself when he won the National Environment Agency (NEA) ECO Music Challenge 2011, a national song-writing competition for talented individuals to express their appreciation for the environment through music.

On the day of the competition, Feng scored a victory with the song he composed, "World Without Fences". Feng came out among the top, beating more than 300 entries. The song idealizes a world where everyone puts aside what they think and helps build a clean environment.

An especially powerful part of the song includes the line, "re-build the garden of yesterday."

"The damage and pollution has been done. What we can do now is to protect it. To re-build the garden of yesterday is to re-build what we have literally erased," Feng explains

When asked to share a message on the importance of being clean and green, without hesitation, Feng replied, "It takes a little effort for everyone to do their part. You do a bit, your friends do a bit, look out for each other and look out for what you can do to save the environment. Awareness is the first step."

The ECO Music Challenge has made Feng more aware about the environment. After the competition, he started to pick up bits of his litter he sees on the ground, took shorter baths and started using recyclable bags.

The nature-loving musician considers Jason Mraz and Jay Chou people he looks up to.

Feng quipped, "My idols have a lot of conviction in the writing of songs and they are clear in the direction that they want to take the particular song to."

The avid performer has been accepted into Berklee College of Music in Boston, United States and will pursue his music studies come this August. Meanwhile, he is joining competitions to widen his contacts and receive exposure from the local music industry.

The outstanding musician feels that music is an excellent way to reach out to youths regarding an issue – in this case, the importance of being clean and green.

"If the song is good, people will check out the lyrics and will want to know what the song is about. Perhaps they will reflect on themselves and hence be more aware," Feng says.

Bruno By The River

In a quaint little apartment overlooking a big river, Bruno Merz spends his days with his guitar, paintbrushes, and his favourite cup of coffee. CARISSA ABIDIN takes a journey into this singer-songwriter's carefree world.

As a solo artiste, he calls his friends and family over to play a record, and sells his albums from his website. No agent required, no big corporation telling him how to market himself, nothing elaborate at all. This is how the musician remains honest with his art and maintains his beloved simple lifestyle.

This is New Zealand's singer-songwriter, Bruno Merz. It's an exciting year for the talented 36-year-old as he juggles between recording two albums and illustrating a new children's book.

Despite recently drawing attention for his emotive track, "For You Now", featured in the hit movie *Life As We Know It* (2010), Merz shows no sign of leaving his peaceful world to join the commercial music scene.

Merz pays little attention to what is popular in the industry, and works on what he truly enjoys.

"The next album will be recorded completely on my own with a few friends playing some extra instruments," says Merz.

He adds to this, saying, "I'm going to concentrate more on just putting out songs that I would want to listen to myself and see how that works."

The quality of honesty and sincerity is what makes his music deeply emotive and sentimental.

Along with his hushed vocals, moving lyrics, and dreamy arrangements, his music can transport anybody to the riverside where a magnificent sunset colours the sky and the birds sing while flying home.

"A lot of my songs were written for particular people in my life, though some of them don't know that. So I guess for me, songwriting is a way to reach out to people and try to help them through their problems," says Merz.

Teasing his fans with very little information about his new album, all he has released is that the album would be available "sometime in 2012", and that it would remain mellow like his previous albums, *Departing From Crowds* (2009) and *Through Darkness Into Day* (2006/2008).

For those who cannot wait for the release of his new album, keep your eyes peeled for his other musical project, The Boy and the Brook. The project sees him working closely with his sister Alicia, who also happens to be a musician. Fans would know her as Birds of Passage.

Their six-track EP is set to be released somewhere in the middle of 2012.

Apart from music, Merz is also illustrating a new children's book this year after the successful release of his previous fairytale, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

Drawing has been a part of Merz's life since his childhood. He shares, "I didn't fit in at school in New Zealand at all, but suddenly the cool kids would approach me and ask me to draw things for them things. So I guess they were my first commissions."

Before settling down in Leeds, United Kingdom (UK), Merz had to go through several countries and even picked up more than a few odd jobs.

Merz recalls, "I've lived in all kinds of places and had to start from scratch many times, doing all kinds of jobs to survive. I've worked as a bricklayer, selling things at a demolition yard, working for television, a projectionist in the cinema, illustrating for Hallmark, and as a postman to name a few!"

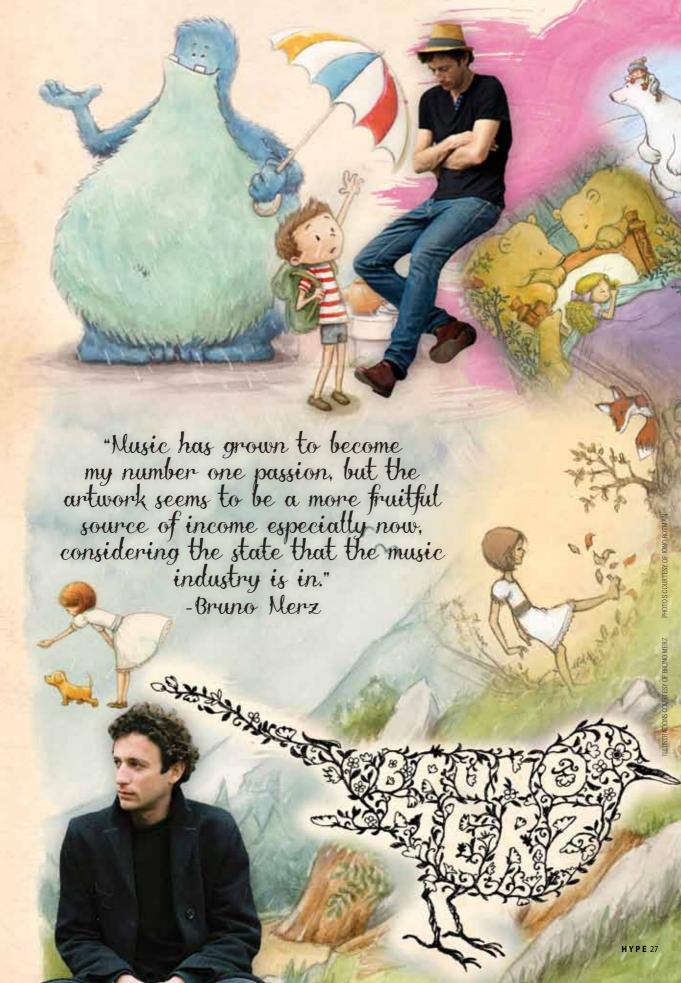
The biggest leap of faith he took was when he left New Zealand at 22, and moved to France with no plan and no money. All those tough times worked for Merz as life panned out nicely after all.

Life must have hit a little bump when a Hawaiian grenadecatching Peter Gene Hernandez decided to go by the stage name, Bruno Mars.

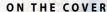
Regarding the common confusion between Merz and the pop musician, Merz good-naturedly quips, "Well, we have one thing in common – I want to be a billionaire too!"

Jovial and humble, Merz says, "I feel a bit settled for the first time in my life actually doing work that I enjoy. I'm really grateful to be able to spend my days the way I do."

To purchase Bruno Merz's albums, visit http://www.brunomerz.com/. For illustrations, visit http://cargocollective.com/brunomerzillustration.









Unlike Obama's famed presidential campaign in 2008, change is easier said than done when it comes to healing our Earth's putrid wounds. HAZEL TAN and TAN QIU LING talk about our apathy to the deterioration of the environment, why we are not doing anything about it and if change is really just about looking past the difficulties.

We all know the drill - the three 'R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) mantra that helps limit our waste production, how climate change is wrecking havoc on our fragile planet, and that we all have a part to play in fixing this environmental disaster.

Despite being told countless of times about our failing environment, we find ourselves reaching for plastic bags at checkout counters, paying for that polyester-based top at H&M, and even using disposable utensils because it's just easier.

In fact, the environmental issue that is plaguing us today closely resembles the story of the boy calling 'wolf'. Because so much has been said about this, we become jaded to this overpreached adage.

DON'T KNOW, DON'T CARE

Ms Olivia Choong, 32, founder of Green Drinks Singapore and Sustainable PR, suggests that the apathy stems from the intangible results of our environmental efforts.

"When you're talking about cancer, people are like, I've got to do something, I can put in some money. But when it's the environment, they are like, wow, where does the money

go to? Does it go to saving a bird? In Singapore, people want to see things immediately," she says.

"[Saving the Earth] is something they can easily get complacent about because they don't see the immediate effects," Ms Choong continues.

In Mr Lawrence Ko's case, founder of Asian Journeys, a social enterprise dedicated to promoting cultural and environmental causes to youths, the money is indeed channeled into planting trees in Inner Mongolia, China. The 46-year-old agrees wholeheartedly with Ms Choong.

"We often can't see immediate changes and we don't see who are the beneficiaries. Global warming, working to fight climate change, and desertification – in reality we don't see all of these happening instantly, so that's why people are more unlikely to support environment projects because it is hard to see where their money [and effort] goes," explains Mr Ko, who first started the organisation in 2002.

He goes on to touh on the topic, saying, "My own daughter participates in beach cleaning community involvement projects with her school, but when I ask her 'What do you do for the environment? So what happens after that?' She says, 'I don't know'."

Saw Kay Heng, a 23-year-old secondyear Environmental Management and Water Technology student at Singapore Polytechnic, says, "My friends are starting to take note [of environmental issues]. [Unfortunately,] they don't exactly understand what's the magnitude or consequences. Most of them don't feel like it's on their doorstep or something. They're still living in rather comfortable situations."

On top of a lack of understanding regarding the issue, it seems that youths today feel that the deteriorating environment is not a priority in their comfortable lives. As such, they feel a sense of detachment from the issue.

Juay Wei Tian, 20, a Law student at NUS who went to Inner Mongolia with Asian Journeys in June 2010, believes this is so.

"We are very much in our own world, and we are so consumed by school and other things that we don't really bother about the environment. I feel that it's inconvenient [to do things for the environment]. It's just not practical and it takes up a lot of time," he says.



The first step to making a difference is the right attitude. With spades in their hands and smiles on their faces, the team from Asian Journeys definitely know a thing or two about saving the Earth because you love doing it and seeing the change.

WHY DON'T WE CARE?

Ms Choong adds, "I would say that people still don't get it, and they still think that it's important to buy a nice car, and a really lovely handbag. I have friends that come to me and say, 'Hey I think its great what you're doing, but I am just doing what everyone else should be doing."

"The reason why I am running Green Drinks is because awareness is still not there...It's kind of like people have this [environmental issue] as the last thing on their lists," explains Ms Choong.

She first picked up recycling in 1997 when she attended boarding school in Perth, Australia.

Executive director of the Singapore Environmental Council (SEC), Mr Jose Raymond, 39, states that, actually, enough effort has been invested in raising awareness about the issue.

"Mass media has played a huge role because right now we're able to access information at our fingertips. We know what's happening, the discussions, what's going on, so there's greater awareness there," he says, explaining his opinion.

SEC is an independent non-profit organization that aims to connect communities, businesses and the government for the purpose of environmental sustainability.

"[Environmental sustainability] is about using our resources efficiently, and deals with saving and reducing our waste. The eco-town in Punggol is an example of living and creating environmental sustainability," Mr Raymond adds.

IT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING

Even with the media, awareness of the issue is not enough. According to the United Nations (UN) weather office, 2011 has been the 10th warmest year since 1850.

It is also the highest in a year that has experienced a La Niña event; a phenomenon where ocean surfaces across the eastern South American seas cool every four to 12 years.

"Concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have reached new highs," said Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organization, during a press briefing held in Geneva.

It is hard to believe that a slight change in temperature could make such a difference, but a mere rise of 2 to 2.4°C can cause irreversible damages to our Earth.

Even though we don't feel it in seemingly natural disaster-proof Singapore, the areas that are not as 'safe' as Singapore are heavily affected by climate change.

A severe drought in East Africa in 2011 resulted in a food crisis across Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. Hit with famine, the worst drought in 60 years claimed tens of thousands of lives in Somalia and displaced even more.

Nearer to home in Southeast Asia, November 2011 saw the unprecedented monsoon rains flood Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar. Worsened by the high tide. Almost 1,000 people died from the floods and Thailand's capital, Bangkok was submerged for several weeks, chalking up losses of up to \$\$46 million.

With country after country falling apart because of climate change, it is hard to ignore that there is something fatally wrong with the world we live in and that something needs to be done.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Youths can be preached copiously about how they should do something, but will only budge when they realize it affects them individually.

Mr Raymond says, "One thing which has not been communicated to the public about [going green] is that they can actually save money by doing small little things which will help mitigate climate change."

An example that Mr Raymond cites is the simple, yet much-neglected, act of switching off the lights when you are leaving a room.

"The fact that you're walking on a beach and there is no litter, it means a lot. They [youths] need to see beyond these acts...We need to help these young people see further," says Mr Ko.

He also points out the irony of Singaporeans who insist on consuming bottled drinks when potable water flowing from our taps can easily sate all our needs. For Wei Tian, turning awareness into action requires a shift in the fundamental mindset that is present in a community.

"I think it's the culture. [If our culture made a habit out of] bringing our own utensils everywhere we go, we won't feel weird or out of place if we actually do it," reasons Wei Tian.

IT'S NOT THAT HARD

Ms Choong feels that it we are majorly at fault, and that one of the solutions is easily within our reach.

"There is something fundamentally very wrong with our economic system. We have a lot of money in Singapore, and where is all this money going? ...We just have to live responsibly and within our means," she says.

Ms Choong continues, "There should be a fourth 'R' in place: refuse. When you decline to do things that are damaging to the environment, it goes a long way."

Essentially, making a difference to this enormous problem is really not that difficult. Each one of us could contribute in the smallest of ways, and it would make a big difference.

There is really no excuse when it comes to saving the Earth. If you say do not know anything about it, there are people and organizations more than willing to teach you. If you say you do not have the money, you actually do not need any. If you say

you do not have the time, it is as easy as using both sides of the paper.

So whip out your Little Green Books and let's start a Green Revolution.

GREEN DRINKS SINGAPORE

Green Drinks Singapore is an environment-centred networking group that hopes to plug the environment information gap in the local context They meet every last Thursday of the month, and these sessions see an average of 80 participants from all walks of life.

To learn more about Green Drinks Singapore, visit http://sggreendrinks. wordpress.com/

ASIAN JOURNEYS

Mr Ko started the Green Deserts Project, which takes students from various schools for a varied period of two weeks to plant trees in Mongolia, which is facing the risk of desertification due to rapid urban development.

To learn more about Asian Journeys, visit http://www.asianjourneys.org/



There's nothing quite like knowing what you did would have made the world a better place. If you say doing it alone is not enough to make an impact, there are those who are always ready to hold your hand. Over here, the Asian Journeys team can feel catharsis surging through their being. The glorious Inner Mongolian sun celebrates with them.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASIAN JOURNEYS



Food that is good to Earth does not necessarily have to be 'blah', tasteless, or unexciting. These good-lookers from eateries Real Food and Cafe Saladier are proof that eco-friendly food is not just great for Mother Nature, but for you too!

CAFES WITH A CONSCIENCE

HAZEL TAN discovers eco-friendly and healthy foods have long deviated from boring, traditional mock meat and have risen to a new level in invigorating taste buds and saving the earth.

Contrary to popular belief, environmental friendly and healthy foods are hardly boring or unappealing to taste these days.

Walk into Real Food, located at The Central @ Clarke Quay, and the first thing you will notice is the energy saving bulbs hanging from the ceiling by thick wires. The menu is filled with vegan food, all of which are produced using organic means.

"Organic [produce's]...production methods are...more sustainable compared to commercial farming. By using more local, fresh and unprocessed food, we are consuming [less] energy and reducing our carbon footprints," says Serene Tan, co-owner of the café which started in 2007.

While it may seem that the market for eco-friendly food is still very niche in Singapore, Serene feels otherwise.

"Many people might see the vegetarian route as a restriction but to me it is an area that is unexplored," she explains.

A similar establishment would be Café Saladier, started up in May 2011 by Christina Hardie who wanted to prove healthy food could taste good without adding any artificial ingredients.

"We use only biodegradable cleaning products for everything...They are mainly plant and enzyme based," explains Christina, 43.

She also stresses that besides reducing carbon footprints, organic food is good for the body.

"The fat in organic meats is omega oil, which is good for brain function and your heart," she shares.

As most of their foods are salads, there is no need to use fuel and oil. All their chickens are roasted together at the start of the day to avoid the need for reheating the ovens, therefore saving electricity.

The cafe also tries to use local food so that they do not contribute to the fuel consumption involved in importing food in from Malaysia or Thailand.

Both cafés do not provide carriers or plastic cutlery when their customers order take-out.

"This caused some displeasure at first, but people are now generally aware that they have to bring their own carriers and cuttery," says Serene, who believes that interaction with her customers is vital to spread the message in going green.

"This is our environment, our home. Everyone's effort counts even if it's a mere one percent."

Café Saladier

83 Farrer Drive, Sommerville Park, S(259256) Tel +65 96461645 Web http://tinyurl/cafesaladier

Real Food

The Central #B1-52 S(059817)
Tel +65 62244492
Web http://www.realfoodgrocer.com

ECO FASHION FOR ALL



As far as environment-conscious fashion goes, POOJAA DARSHAN finds out Etrican does a pretty good job of making green the new black.

In 2009, when couple Yumiko Uno and Dragos Necula first set up their eco fashion business in Singapore, they realised that there was a serious lack of awareness about going green.

That led them to quit their jobs in Japan and start a non-profit business here in Singapore, and Etrican, a green fashion label, was born.

The Director of Etrican, Dragos, 29, recalls getting weird questions such as, "What is organic cotton? Does it mean I can eat it or does it mean it breaks down when I wash it?"

This surprised both the owners of Etrican, thus justifying their need to promote the cause.

Luckily for them, East Asia is one of the biggest suppliers of eco-friendly materials and obtaining green supplies is an breeze for the pair.

Because a cheaper production cost would mean a more harmful impact on the environment, the two ended up spending more than they should in order to churn out the clothes.

"If I priced my items lower, I could have [more] customers, [but] that would ultimately have a greater impact on the environment. Eco fashion is all about the impact," explains Dragos.

The owner of the green business adds, "Being responsible and buying products that are kind to the environment should be made accessible for everyone. Eco friendliness can't be just for the rich, everyone should be able to do it."

To be more affordable, the clothes are produced in large quantities.

On top of creating a chic line of clothes that is carefully crafted not to harm our planet, Dragos and Yumiko continue spreading the awarness of the environment by dabbling in anything green they can contribute to. This includes spreading the word amongst the youth.

"We visit universities and give talks about eco fashion, eco business and green entrepreneurship," says Dragos.

While the duo's effort is highly commendable, the sad truth is that their fashion line does not generate as much income as mainstream labels such as Topshop or Cotton On.

However, Dragos does not feel like it is a competition, after all, they are in completely different leagues.

"We do business differently because we do things that do not help our revenue but instead help build awareness [about going green]," explains Dragos.

The lower income, while worrying for anyone else, does not bother the pure-hearted duo.

Even though this is so, Etrican has witnessed an increase in brand awarness over the past two years.

While Dragos and Yumiko would like to assume that this is because of the rising curiosity of eco-friendly products amongst Singaporeans, it may be too idealistic to do so.

The reason for the rise in their popularity may just be because of their chic designs. Etrican is, after all, a fashion brand.

Nonetheless, these initiatives will still help the environment, in a small but significant way.

Whether their customers realise the part they have played, is a different story altogether.



(From top) Owners Yumiko Uno and Dragos Necula want to get Singapore thinking green, fashion can be fun and friendly to the Earth, as seen in these two outfits by Etrican.

We get told almost every other day that there's a huge hole in the ozone layer, that our fresh water supply is rapidly depleting, or that the amount of unbiodegradeable waste is increasing rapidly. The problem is, this means nothing to us youths because there is no way for us to relate to it. We don't know exactly how big, how rapidly, or how much these things are. Here are some ways at looking at the damage we're doing:





02.G OF





20,000 HECT ARES 65



THAT'S 7.3MILLION HECT ARES/YEAR





PICKS HYPE visits Sin stores to scool inspect of the store of the sto

HYPE visits Singapore's thrift stores to scour through shelves and inspect items to present you with ten lovely gems that costs no more than \$15 each.





Eat, Pray, Love
paperback, \$6,
Praisehaven Family
Store
A top selling novel,
this paperback is
in mint condition

A top selling novel this paperback is in mint-condition and at a fraction of its original price.

Praisehaven Family Store Certainly an unusual find, there was a whole boxful of them on sale.



An eye-catching piece of electric blue décor, this piggy bank is a funky reminder for you to save up for those rainy days!



A4-sized shoulder bag bag, \$15

Hope Centre Family Thrift Store

Nudes and browns gives this

tote a vintage look.

Yellow Drawer, \$2, New2UShop
This sunny drawer has kiddy
drawings, which reminds you

of the good old childhood days

of playing dress up.



Pink satin tie, \$2, Salvation Army at Jalan Bukit Merah

A not-too-dramatic accessory will spice up your outfit for a costume party, cosplay convention or even for a project presentation (if you feel especially perky).



Reader's Digest Select Editions, \$2, Hope Centre Family Thrift Store

This hardcover comprises of four bestselling novels by Michael Duffy, Clive Cussler, Peter Lovesey and Richards Paul Evans.





*NSYNC album, \$2, Something Old Something New

A Justin Timberlake fan must-have, the band's 1998 debut album is great for a walk down pop music's memory lane.

why thrift?

GO ECO

As environmental issues such as global warming and climate change is felt more than ever in recent years, do your part for the Earth by practising the 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Shopping at thrift stores allows you to reuse and recycle items that are still in good condition, and in turn reduces our total product consumption.

POCKET-FRIENDLY

If you're a bargain hunter, look no further than thrift stores! Thrift store items are heavily discounted and definitely lower than retail prices. Price tags vary depending on the condition of the item but the irresistible prices are perfect for those (like students) on a tight budget.

CONTRIBUTE TO CHARITY

Give to charity and get something substantial in return! Most of the thrift stores support a good cause, such as the NEW2U thrift store where proceeds go in the Star Shelter, a crisis centre that puts up women and their children who are victims of family violence. On the other hand, proceeds from the Salvation Army stores support community outreach programmes that benefits children, youths, seniors as well as inmates.

UNEXPECTED FINDS

Apart from insanely low prices, the things thrift shops have to offer might go beyond your wildest dreams, dating back to your parents' era. Be in for some treasure hunting as one man's junk could be another's treasure.



thrifting haunts

SOMETHING OLD SOMETHING NEW

Started in 1999 to raise funds for the Singapore Anglican Welfare and help women in crises, the store today provides job training as a form of therapy for psychiatric patients under Simei Care Centre. Store revenue goes into running costs of the store, salary allowance for the workers as well as the care centre.

It's comprehensive collection of English and Mandarin CDs and DVDs. Expect albums from Jay Chou to Teresa Tseng and occasional box sets of Korean dramas.

Simei Care Centre, 10 Simei Street 3, Two other stores at Bedok and Pasir Ris, Mon – Sat, 9.30am to 4.30pm. Price range: \$0.20-\$150

NEW2USHOP BY SINGAPORE COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Started in 2000, the New2U thrift shop is entirely managed by volunteers and the proceeds from sales go to Singapore Council of Women's Organizations, which aims to bring attention to women's issues and those affecting women's community and voluntary sector. It also supports the Star Shelter, the local secular crisis centre in Singapore.

The assorted decorative ornaments for sale, which comes in all sorts of designs and sizes, from an antique vase to an adorable clay puppy.

96 Waterloo Street Singapore Council of Women's Organizations, Mon - Fri, 10.30am - 2.30pm & first Sun of each month, 1-4pm. Price range: \$1- \$500

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army receives donations from the public and companies and resells them at the The Red Shield Industries (RSI) Family Thrift Stores, which is a social enterprise by the organisation. These donated items are sold at extremely low prices and the money raised is used to support Salvation Army social and community programmes.

A huge collection of bridal gowns and vintage clothing awaits you here. Also find boxes of new personal care items priced affordably.

Blk 133 Jln Bukit Merah #01-1530 Singapore (Bukit Merah branch) 160133, Mon - Sat 9 am - 6 pm Price range: \$1 - \$3000

HOPE CENTRE FAMILY THRIFT STORE

One of the Salvation Army branches, the Christian, non-profit organization's community programmes serves children, youths, seniors and even inmates. The thrift stores provides a source of income for the under-privileged and assist them in integrating into society.

The collection of paintings and wall hangings tucked in a corner just beside the books section.

7 Upper Changi Road North , Mon – Sat, 9.00am to 6.00pm Price range: \$1-\$300





don't bite.

www.hdders.com.sg



BEYOND BORDERS

With Borders now gone and digital versions of books rising, GARY LIM rediscovers the lure of the physical bookstore.

Many book-lovers would remember being greeted by rows of paperbacks and friendly staff as they step into their favourite bookstore. However, the number of these bookhavens is quickly diminishing.

With physical bookstores comes the atmosphere of the place; with each one offering you a different experience. Picture the artfully designed Prologue with its dim lighting and homely retail space. Then imagine Kinokuniya with the comforting smell of paper that fills your nose, and row after row of smooth wooden shelves.

With the closure of the Borders bookstores here in August, it seems that nobody really wants to travel all the way to a brick-and-mortar store for a book anymore.

One possibility for this is the rise of online websites selling books. These websites include online stores such as Book Depository, Amazon, and Select Books.

Convenience is the most commonly cited reason for purchasing online. Instead of having to scour through shelves in a bookstore, people can simply go online and enter the book's name in the search bar.

However, Christine Lim, 18, a Junior College student, agrees that online shops are convenient, but prefers browsing at a physical bookstore.

"Since books are meant to be a sort of food for the soul, I prefer [them] for even the process of obtaining the book to be more organic," she says.

With regards to consumer tastes, people apparently do not want stores that cater to the masses anymore. Places like the independent bookstore, Books Cellar, recognises this and cater only to a niche market.

"We are the only bookstore in Singapore that offers signed, limited edition horror and thriller books featuring Stephen King, Anne Rice, Clive Barker, to name a few," proclaims Mr Chang Hon Vie, the director of the Books Cellar.

Simply offering books is also not sufficient to draw in customers, "Customers can enjoy coffee, wine, sandwiches, and cakes to go with a book in hand, or shoot a round of pool or game of darts, all under one roof," Mr Chang adds.

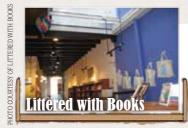
Other independent bookstores like Woods in the Books are also heading the same direction as Books Cellar.

The co-owner Shannon Ong remarks, "The physical presence makes book-buying a social interaction experience, rather than a lonely experience online."

Alif Zaini, 19, an avid reader, takes a neutral stand, "The feeling of being surrounded by books is an indelible experience, even now. I love books and I'll never give them up for their e-book cousins, but I have to be monetarily pragmatic. My favoured retailer, Book Depository, offers much cheaper prices, up to 70 per cent."

Though the number of people flocking to online bookstores is supposedly rising, the thrill of finding a book on its shelf, to the satisfaction of purchasing it, would maybe keep some patronising physical bookstores; brick, mortar, and all.

CHECK OUT THESE INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES THAT KEEP THE 'OFFLINE' BOOK ALIVE



20 Duxton Road

Specialises in: Fantasy, Nonfiction, Sci-fi, and Thriller books

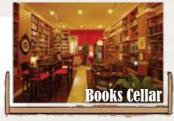


52 & 53 Duxton Road

Specialises in: Old, Second-hand, Rare books

19 Bukit Pasoh Road

Specialises in: Horror and Thriller books (with signed copies by Stephen King and Clive Barker)



58 Club Street

Specialises in: Picture books



A POGALYPSE

The Mayan calendar dictates that the world will end in December 21, 2012.

Whether you enter Nirvana or Niflheim, Spring Awakening leads NATHAN HARTONO and JULIA ABUEVA show that it wouldn't kill to dress and impress the heavenly (or hellish) guardians.

photography

Samuel Ow & Joel Lee

art direction & styling

Iskandar Ruhaizat,

Linnette Lau & Iffah Rakinah

design

Amanda Lim Min Huii

art direction asst.

Lim Jia Qi, Amanda

make-up artist

Linnette Lau

text

Iskandar Ruhaizat







EMMI REPLACED ANARCHY. The survivors, inquisitive that they are, explore this new dystopia. In crumbling walls of Petra, the Jordan horn framework for Dandors's how remains trumpets. The quest for Pandora's box remains.

on julia: DRESS, THE EDITOR'S MARKET \$99.

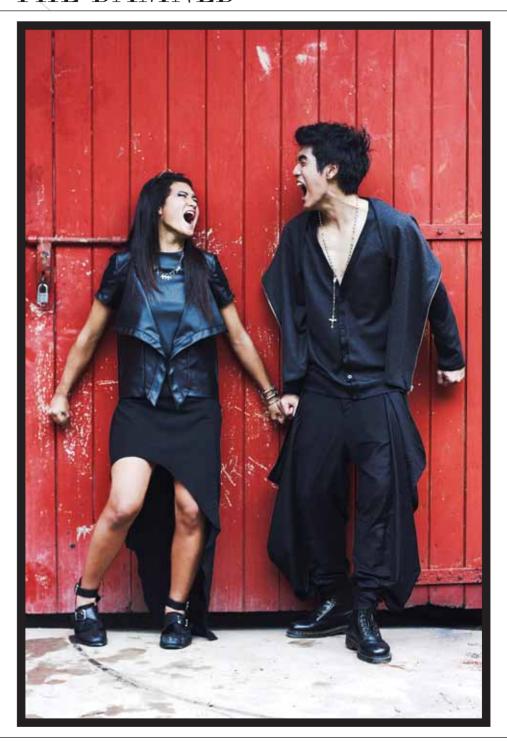
NECKLACE, STYLIST'S OWN. SHOES, STYLIST'S OWN.

on nathan: BRAVE NEW WORLD T-SHIRT, A CURIOUS TEEPEE \$34.90. PANTS, A CURIOUS TEEPEE \$169. BOOTS, DR MARTENS STYLIST'S OWN.



THE DAMNED

pounded on Hell's gates. The demon lord roars. Trapped in a limbo, the damned lament.



ON JULIA: FAUX LEATHER TOP, A CURIOUS TEEPEE \$239.ASYMMETRICAL SKIRT, THE EDITOR'S MARKET \$39.SHOES, DEPRESSION, STYLIST'S OWN. NECKLACE, STYLIST'S OWN. BANGLE, THE EDITOR'S MARKET \$159. ON NATHAN: CARDIGAN-JACKET, SABRINA GOH, STYLIST'S OWN. PANTS, RECKLESS ERICKA \$279. SHOES, DR MARTENS STYLIST'S OWN. NECKLACE, STYLIST'S OWN.

Off The Runway

ISKANDAR RUHAIZAT shows you how you can model some looks off the catwalk with affordable pieces.



To emulate Miu Miu's girly grunge look, try on a black brocade kimono cardigan. Pair it with a pussy bow blous pale pink shirt and a black skirt for that unexpected edge to the brocade.



Does Galliano do anything less than over-the-top? Tone it down for a wearable outfit. With a muted dress underneath, you can carry off this season's plaid without looking hungry for attention.



Gotta love that school boy chic look! Have fun playing with different shades of blue by layering pullovers over polos. Now see if you can get away paying student fare for public transport.



Termed "Afriluxe", referring to luruxy wear while on an African safari, channel the look with faunistic colours. Guaranteed to go well with the sound of jungle drums.



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No Stopping the **POSH**

Street style sites are a dime a dozen on the Internet. But ISKANDAR RUHAIZAT can spot Poshism a mile away as it stands out from all the fashion clutter.

One might think that the founding fathers of an emerging fashion culture website are decked entirely in designer wear: intimidating well-tailored Armani suits, complete with a neatly folded pocket square.

Well, that's only half true for the creators of Poshism. Ngee Ann Polytechnic students Sarveen Chester, 19, and Felix Loo Jia Yi, also 19, dress to impress, but not to the point where they look ready to walk for the next Dior Homme show.

"We initially wanted to start a hoodie business," Felix laughs. But because of a lack of funds, they decided to forego the now-ridiculous idea.

Poshism came as an epiphany to Felix a year ago, while he was browsing through street style sites.

He had felt that although they were aplenty, there was not one site that stated where he could find the different clothing items for himself.

The solution he came up with was to put together a site that would document street style, which would also serve as as a go-to place of fashion inspiration.

For example, should you be hesitant to buy that gorgeous toga dress, Poshism will have a collection of looks that incoporate said toga dress, reassuring you your buy would not end up as a one-hit wonder.

The idea was already concrete. Now for the excecution.

"We managed to get funding from the school through the Ideawerkz Innovation Fund," Felix says.

Upon its launch, the site was quick to grow in popularity amongst fashion-savvy youths. Looks were streaming and, suddenly, a fashion community had been created.

While sites like lookbook.nu only allow you to post pictures of yourself

in elegant ensembles, Poshism enables a user to submit photos he or she has taken of other fashion aficionados.

"[Submitting just pictures of yourself] kinda limits the inspiration you can post. Besides, some people rather take pictures of fashionable people that inspire them," explains Felix.

This then has additionally turned Poshism into a ground for aspiring street style photographers to flourish.

"Currently the website is doing fine...We even have international contributors as well!" Felix excitedly shares.

Felix and Chester are also coming up with another function for the Poshism: as a platform for local fashion designers to showcase their work.

This will be possible through the addition of an online shop, selling clothes from local talents.

Users who have bought from the shop can then upload looks of them in the clothes for all to see and be inspired.

As for future plans, a fashion competition is in the works.

Dubbed Fashion Feud, the contest seeks to find the chic-est polytechnic campus. Users upload their looks onto the site and the school with the highest 'Poshes' (similar to Facebook's 'Likes') will win the title.

Poshism's tomorrow is both exciting and very promising, and will continue to be so if it does not deviate from its initial objective of providing a common space for like-minded individuals.

"We strongly believe that everyone has their own fashion sense and [a way to express] their individuality...What we are doing is bringing people and communities together," Felix says.

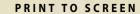
For more about Poshism and Fashion Feud, go to http://www.poshism.com/



FASHION

"We strongly believe that everyone has their own **fashion sense** and [a way to express] their **individuality**.." - Felix Loo





RIVIDADIR -2008 MIQUINITES 27 MIQUINUTE -2708 MIQUINITES 28 MIQUINITES 2

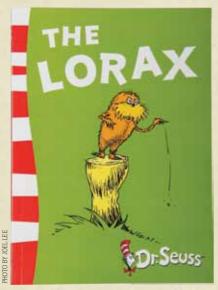
The Lorax/The Hunger Games/ Perks of Being A Wallflower/Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close/The Raven

PLAY THE RHYME GAME

Want to win *The Lorax*by Dr. Seuss book,
courtesy of { prologue } bookstore

to find out more.

With Horton and The Cat in the Hat out of the way, KHAMNEE THRUMALINGGAM explores the newest Suess on the block, one that touches on the issue of the environment.



Mention the name Dr Seuss, and you'll get a variety of responses depending on the recipient's age.

Those who grew up in the new millennium will remember *The Cat In The Hat* and *Horton Hears A Who!*, while older ones will be reminded of the cartoon classic *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. All of them are members of a long line of adaptations of the works of Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr Seuss.

Well, completing the collection of timeless children's classics adapted into timeless children's movies is one with an environmental message attached: *The Lorax*.

The original story stars the Once-ler, a very unsubtle portrayal of an industrialist who devastates the environment around him in order to furnish his business of Thneeds, which he insists, in classic Seussian rhyme, that everyone needs. This is all in spite of the warnings of the Lorax - a guardian of the forest who tells him that he will eventually destroy everything. All is not lost, however, as when a boy comes to visit him, he gives him the last seed and charges him with a mission: "Grow a forest. Protect it from axes that hack. Then the Lorax and all of his friends may come back."

The movie, on the other hand, looks to be slightly different in the sense that it appears to be a sequel, rather than an adaption.

After all, it focusses more on the boy, played by Zac Efron, in search of the affection of the girl of his dreams, played by pop-singer Taylor Swift. To do this, he needs a seed, for the one thing his dream girl wants to see is a tree (more Seussian rhyming).

The only seed in existence, however, is in the hands of the Once-ler, played by Ed Helms, who as in the above story is the cause of the deforestation. However, in the film he is potrayed as a human, rather than a faceless creature. Ultimately, the boy is entrusted with the seed, and the task of bringing the environmental message home again.

Unfortunately for this fairy tale, villainy comes in the form of a new character, O'Hare (Rob Riggle), who wants to erase the Lorax's (played by Danny Devito) world forever.

The movie is directed by Chris Renaud, famous for directing *Despicable Me*, another film starring a villain who turns over to the side of good. Much like the Once-ler, the film's 'anta-protagonist' Gru at first falsely adopts three girls to fuel his evil schemes, but ends up knowing the importance of family later.

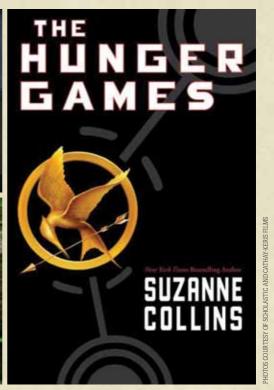
He was also the writer for *Horton Hears A Who!*, proving that his experience with Dr Seuss is, for one, not lacking.

The movie will be released in Singapore on Mar 8 in 3D.

"I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues. And I'm asking you sir, at the top of my lungs - that thing! That horrible thing that I see! What's that thing you've made out of my Truffula tree?"







SATISFY THE CRAVING

AMRITA KAUR predicts that The Hunger Games will gain a following and obsession that will mirror that teenagers (and the occasional mom) had with a certain irisdescent vampire and hunky werewolf.

Enough of Twilight.

As the franchise wraps up with the first part of its last movie, *Breaking Dawn Part I*, there already is a new contender for the pop culture throne: *The Hunger Games*.

The Hunger Games is based on a series of best-selling young adult science fiction novels authored by Suzanne Collins. To date, more than 800,000 copies of the book have been sold around the world.

"I read the books and was quite drawn into the characters so I am hoping the movie will be just as good", says Hafiz Ishak, a 20-year-old nurse.

Set in a futuristic environment that has turned into a dystopian nightmare, the book follows protaganist Katniss Everdeen and her adventures in the Games.

The Games is an annual tradition where participants battle in life-threatening elements until a sole winner remains.

As with any other series with a riveting plot involving youths: a love triangle between the main characters. In this case Katniss goes back and forth between best friend Gale Hawthorne and fellow particpant Peeta Mellark.

We can only imagine how epically the story will unravel on the big screen, a challenge that has been taken on by director Gary Ross (*Pleasantville*).

It has been set that the trilogy will be screened into four movies. This is following the pattern of two recent successful movie franchises: Twilight and Harry Potter.

The roles of Katniss, Peeta, and Gale have been filled by actors Jennifer Lawrence (X:Men: First Class), Josh Hutcherson (Journey to the Centre of the Earth), and Liam Hemsworth (The Last Song) respectively. Other familiar faces that will be in the movie include Stanley Tucci (Devil Wears Prada) and even rocker Lenny Kravitz.

While the movie has yet to be released, it has been revealed that fans should prepare themselves for numerous unalignments between the book and movie, which is unsurprising, after seeing every book-turned-movie.

For example, Gale is immediately introduced in the first movie, whereas his character only surfaces in the second

book of the series. Ross' decision to do so is due to the fact that it will build up the problematic love triangle between him, Katniss and Peeta.

Whether these discrapencies will affect full impact of the movie remains a mystery. Fans can only find out the answer when the movie is released.

The Hunger Games will begin on Mar 23.

Win The Hunger Games book (courtesy of { prologue } bookstore)!

Win The Hunger Games movie tickets (courtesy of The Cathay)!

Flip to page Ca

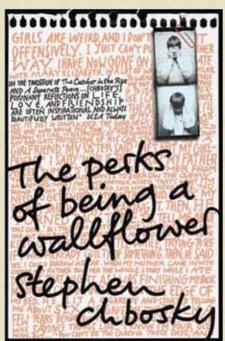
HYPE 53

A CELEBRATION OF ANGST

Want to win *The Perks of Being A*Wallflower book
courtesy of { prologue } bookstore?

Flip to page 93 to find out more!

The book often hailed as "our generation's Catcher In The Rye" is finally getting its big screen adaptation. HU JUNWEN sees for himself.



The painful, awkward teenage phase is a path well-trudged, as decades of media portrayals and individual experiences would have us know. Yet, none of these portrayals come close to describing the literary genius that is *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.

This famous piece by Stephen Chbosky's is a work of fiction that pulls no punches in its raw, genuine and powerful depiction of life as a high school student.

The novel, published in 1999, chronicles the pains of growing up through the eyes of the protagonist Charlie, an introverted yet sincere boy who struggles with school after his best friend's suicide. As Charlie tries to cope with life, he forges close ties with older friends who eventually introduce him to a strange new world of drugs, sexuality, violence and teenage angst, yet ironically giving him guidance and love.

A 'wallflower', as Charlie is referred to several times throughout the book, is described as a shy loner who often prefers to observe relationships and interactions instead of being part of them.

As a testament to the book's uncanny ability to empathise with teenagers all over the world, *Perks of Being a Wallflower* is also known as a lifesaver, as Mr Chbosky would claim after receiving letters from readers so depressed during their teenage years, they were on the verge of suicide – but, as Mr Chbosky remembers, "They said that they read the book and chose not to."

The book itself has sparked controversy and outrage by parents in America over its themes dealing with homosexuality, abuse, rape, and drug use. The upcoming movie adaptation, however, will instead focus more on the emotional experiences of the characters.

Fans can expect the movie to be faithful to the source material as Stephen Chbosky, the author, will also be directing this film in his second directorial effort (the first being a 1995 indie film, *The Four Corners of Nowhere*).

The cast has been carefully hand-picked, and the result is a star-studded ensemble that includes the likes of Emma Watson (*Harry Potter*), Logan Lerman (*Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*), and Nina Dobrev (*The Vampire Diaries*). Adult cast members consists of funnyman Paul Rudd (*I Love You, Man*) and even Kate Walsh (*Grey's Anatomy*).

Fans of the book have only high expectations and praises to sing. 19-year-old Keith Lim says, "Charlie tries very hard to grow and mature as an adult, but growing up is never easy for a teen. I feel the exact same way, and I think the movie will show Charlie's experiences with much greater clarity."

What else can you expect?

Well, if Stephen Chbosky's directorial skills are anything like his writing abilities, expect a fantastic movie.

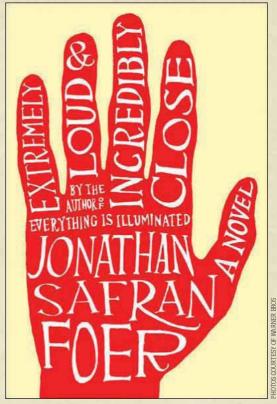
The Perks of Being a Wallflower is set to be released in 2012.











OSKAR'S INCREDIBLE PURSUIT

Another title joins the likes of films based on the Sep 11 attacks. However, CARISSA ABIDIN discovers that this film is less about a vengeful USA and closer to a young boy's quest to find answers.

Based on Jonathan Safran Foer's novel of the same name, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* follows the journey of a 10-year-old boy, Oskar Schell (Thomas Horn), who lost his father in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Unable to accept his father's sudden disappearance, he clings on to the one thing his father left behind in hopes of understanding the truth behind his father's death – a key.

The journey sees him meeting different characters in New York, all with their personal story of survival and victory, and every individual with a peculiar quirk. With only one goal in mind, to find the lock in which he believes the truth beholds, he introduces himself to lies and restricted zones. This puts a strain on his relationship with his mother.

Jonathan Safran Foer is has received rave reviews everywhere with almost every book he's written. From The New York Times to Esquire, reviewers simply love his work.

Besides a having good writer, the star-studded cast compromising of Tom Hanks (*Forrest Gump*), Sandra Bullock (*The Blind Side*), and Max von Sydow (*Shutter Island*) acts as an inspiration and support for child actor Thomas Horn. With their respective industry experiences, little Thomas is definitely in good hands and can event count on them to impart useful acting knowledge.

Adapted by Oscar winner Eric Roth (Forrest Gump), this film seems almost as good as gold, with previous screenplays including *The Insider* (1999) His take on Forrest Gump even landed him an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay. It is almost definite that this new adaptation would turn out as excellent as the rest.

Although director Stephen Daldry is not as well known as his other crew and has not directed a film since *The Reader* (2008), he also has a number of Academy Award nominations and a Tony Award win under his belt.

One difference between print and screen is that Oskar's father will be featured more, as Roth has tweaked the timeline so that he appears more than just a few times. Thia ia to further develop the on-screen relationship between father and son.

The only thing the movie will lack is the last few pages of the book, which contains a twist those who have read the book will remember as simply haunting.

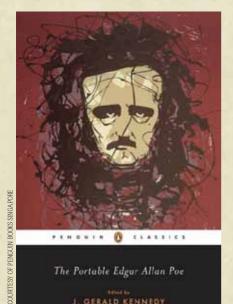
Despite the loss of creative images, it seems that the movie will compensate with a great director, composer, cast, and writer. With that it goes without saying that Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close will certainly be a stunning, heartwarming film fans of Foer cannot miss.

Join Oskar on his adventures as the movie premieres on Feb 23.



TELL-TALE SIGNS OF POE

FANNY KOH snoops around the upcoming film adaptation of Poe's beloved poem that may leave movie-goers and Poe lovers screaming for more.



The Portable Edgar Allan Poe J. GERALD KENNEDY

"Then this ebony bird beguiling my sad fancy into smiling, By the grave and stern decorum of the countenance it wore... Quoth the Raven, "Nevermore.""

Poetry aficionados would probably have heard of Edgar Allan Poe and his most well-known narrative work to date, The Raven - set in a supernatural atmosphere that records a raven's visit to a forlorn man, before documenting his mind's degradation.

Though named after what is largely acknowledged as his magnum opus, the 2012 film is not a straitlaced adaptation but rather, a horrordetective mystery that chronicles Edgar Allan Poe's (starring John Cusack) pursuit of a serial killer who makes use of Poe's work as inspiration for his murders.

If the trailer is anything to go by, with its unique brand of gothic-horror and scenes of heads severed by straight razors, The Raven may very well be the next detective-mystery blockbuster, right after the success of Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (2011) that according to BoxOffice. com, grossed more than US\$337 million (more than S\$434 million) worldwide, as of Jan 8.

Seeing as the cast travelled to farflung places like Belgrade, Serbia and Budapest, Hungary, where filming started in 2010, it appears that the luscious scenery will also act as an attraction for pulling in the crowds.

Weaving macabre and mystery, The Raven is directed by James McTeigue (V for Vendetta) and stars John Cusack (John Malkovich) as Edgar Allan Poe and Alice Eve (She's Out of My League) as his wife who serves as a key plot device when she get kidnapped which forces Poe to go through a series of hoops, in a typical thriller movie climax.

As with Sherlock Holmes, the filmmakers of *The Raven* gave Poe a sidekick in the form of Inspector Emmett Fields, starring relatively new actor Luke Evans who made his acting debut in London's West End productions.

The actor will also be starring in Peter Jackson's two-part adaptation of J.R.R Tolkien's *The Hobbit* as Bard the Bowman. The movie is set to be released in 2013.

If big names are not your thing, movie-goers with a voracious reading appetite and a stomach for mystery novels will be glad to know that according to an interview with John Cusack, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle drew inspiration from Poe's work to create his Sherlock Holmes series.

To commemorate his death, the trailer for the film was released on his death anniversary on Oct 7 2011, keeping us on the edges of our seats with the prospect of more twisted and quirky marketing gimmicks to come before *The Raven* flies in on our little island.

The Raven is slated for release on the big screen Apr 26.



Classic movie favourites hit our screens once again! CARISSA ABIDIN and GARY LIM find out if the new old movies can fill the big shoes of their past successes.

About three things of which we are absolutely positive: first, teens believe that vampires glitter in the sun instead of turning to ash. Second, the old classics have come back to us like a familiar friend. And third, we are unconditionally and irrevocably in love with films from 10 years ago.



AMERICAN PIE

TITLE: AMERICAN REUNION DIRECTOR: JON HURWITZ, HAYDEN SCHLOSSBERG Main Cast: Jason Biggs, Seann William Scott, Eugene Levy Release Date: April 5 2012

"This one time at band camp"... we watched the seven movies of the *American Pie* series back to back. Now, we are all ready for more ridiculous antics as the original cast reunites once again in the series' eighth installment, *American Reunion*.

High school buddies from the class of 1999 will be taking time off their new lives to return to East Great Falls for a sure-to-be-hilarious school reunion. Yes, Steve Stifler (Seann William Scott), the butt of the jokes and the perpetual comedian will be back to entertain. The latest film promises what it has faithfully provided for years: bottles and bottles of perverted laughs.

The excitement continues even with the next generation. Jim (Jason Biggs), the protagonist of the first *American Pie*, now has a two-year-old son with the flute geek Michelle (Alyson Hannigan) who he marries in the third film American Wedding. In the years that passed, the couples Kevin (Thomas Ian Nicholas) and Vicky (Tara Reid) as well as Oz (Chris Klein) and Heather have said goodbye, but Finch (Eddie Kaye Thomas) still waits longingly for Stifler's mom (Jennifer Coolidge).

The first film in the franchise was first released in 1999, conceived by Adam Herz. The screenplay was originally

titled East Great Falls High, which he wrote over a winter ski vacation in 1998. It's a good thing he decided to work during a holiday (none of us would), for *American Pie* immediately became a pop culture legend, spawning two sequels released at two-year intervals. From 2005 to 2009, four more spin-off films were created.

Interestingly, different people directed each of the films in the series. Let us hope that Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg will come through, although with credentials including *Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle*, they are sure give us a film that will have the town talking for months.

Getting the original cast to return did not turn out to be much of a problem. Jason Biggs, Seann William Scott and Eugène Levy (Jim's Dad) were the first to sign on to reprise their roles in March 2011. They then went on to help convince the other-old-east members to join in. By May, most of the previous cast signed on, inlcuding Shannon Elizabeth (Nadia) and Natasha Lyonne (Jessica). John Cho, who went on to star in Flash Forward and Star Trek, returns as the perverted John. In line with the whole high school and football theme, the movie is expected to feature a brief cameo of New England Patriots star Chad Ochocinco.

It was once the hot summer of 1999 when four boys from Michigan took a pact to lose their virginity by graduation. Let us look forward to that single weekend at East Great Falls where we will discover what's changed and who hasn't. Be warned that *American Reunion* will be full of suggestive references and connotations in the movie, but we suppose that's where the fun lies.



GHOSTBUSTERS

TITLE: GHOSTBUSTERS III
DIRECTOR: IVAN REITMAN
MAIN CAST: DAN AYKYROD, HAROLD RAMIS,

ERNIE HUDSON, ELIZA DUSHKU Release date: TBA 2013

The Ghostbusters are finally passing on the reins, and iconic proton packs to the next generation. More than two decades after the second movie, Ghostbusters III will revolve around the not-so-new lives of the old.

Like in the previous two movies, Ivan Reitman will be taking the directing helm once again, with valuable help from writers Dan Aykroyd (as Raymond Stantz), Harold Ramis (as Egon Splenger), Gene Stupnitsky and Lee Eisenberg (*The Office*).

Reports state that the concept for *Ghostbusters III* will revolve around Aykroyd's script *Ghostbusters in Hell*, where the parapsychologists find a portal to hell in an abandoned warehouse. Ray, Egon, and Winston (Ernie Hudson) struggle to keep the ghost-busting business alive after Peter (Bill Murray) leaves to be with the love of his life, Dana (Sigourney Weaver).

In this installation, because the original team is now too far over the hill to hunt for ghouls, a younger troupe has been called in. The heroes of the day are a new generation of childish cadets shooting their neuron splitter and inter-planet interceptors. What is not to like?

One issue now is that Bill Murray (who plays the all-important Peter Venkman) may not be coming back as he claims he does not like sequels. In fact, Murray was the only original Ghostbuster not interested in a third sequel.

Funnily enough, Murray appeared at the *Spike TV Scream Awards* to accept an award for *Zombieland*, and got on stage in full Ghostbusters gear. He also supposedly shredded the draft script to pieces after reading it, saying he doesn't want moviegoers see old men like him running around in suits. This man seemed to be awfully adamant, even appearing on *Late Show with David Letterman* and saying "I'd do it [return for *Ghostbusters III*] only if my character was killed off in the first reel."

As for who might be the new Ghostbusters, no casting information is currently available. However, Aykroyd is supposedly fond of one particular young actor. "I like this guy Matthew Gray Gubler from the *Criminal Minds* show", adding that "there's going to be a casting. We're going to see everyone that wants to do it. We're going to need three guys and a young woman."

It has been in the talks for at least a decade, but years of rumours later (including it being a fully animated film), it appears that *Ghostbusters III* is finally moving forward and alive. Will the film be as good as the previous two without its front man? Only time will tell. The plan is to starting filming soon and the release date is set for end-2012.

Until then...Who you gonna call?



TITLE: DRACULA 3D DIRECTOR: DARIO ARGENTO MAIN CAST: RUTGER HAUER, THOMAS KRETSCHMANN, ASIA ARGENTO RELEASE DATE: TBA 2012

While Stephenie Meyer single-handedly sucked out all the terror from vampires and turned them into ideal boyfriends, the formidable vampire Count Dracula is back to instil fear into us mortals.

Irish author Bram Stocker introduced the vampire Count Dracula in his 1897 novel, *Dracula*. It tells the story of the battle between professor Abraham Van Helsing, with his small army of commoners, and Dracula.

First portrayed on the big screen by the legendary Bela Lugosi 81 years ago, the film was a huge success. Lugosi spoke very little English during that time, and had to learn most of his lines phonetically. Despite this obstacle, he was known as "the father of all vampire movies". Some even say that the role of Count Dracula was written for him. Lugosi's creepy and atmospheric character in *Dracula* (1931) still lurks in the minds of many today.

The 1992 remake of the film was another hit with Gary Oldman playing the eerie vampire. Famous for his role as Sirius Black in the movie series that shaped a generation, Harry Potter, Oldman never fails to always be part of the magic of iconic films.

Film reviewer Phil Hubbard said, "Oldman, of course, is the film. His performance is unique, eerie and spellbinding, as he almost overacts his way through the sets, but most definitely adds his own touch." 10 years after *Dracula* hit our screens, German heartthrob Thomas Kretschmann (*The Pianist*) will be taking on the role as Count Dracula in the upcoming Dracula 3D.

Be warned that Kretschmann is nothing like the pale, cold vampire he's playing. Tanned and buff, he was a professional swimmer and even trained for the Olympics.

Kretschmann said, "From [when I was] 10 to 18 I've been swimming 20 km a day. And then I quit when I was 18, right before the Olympics in Moscow."

Is the world ready for a hunky Dracula? Well one thing's for sure: he would have no problem playing a killer.

Having played a ruthless major in *Resident Evil: Apocalypse* (2004), a Nazi officer in nine different and unrelated films like *Valkyrie* (2008), and a topnotch assassin with Angelina Jolie in *Wanted* (2008), Kretschmann has played every cold-hearted killer in the book. He should feel at home sinking into the skin of a cold-blooded vampire.

Fans of the book will be ecstatic to know that director Dario Argento (Opera) has promised to deliver a faithful rendition of Stoker's gothic novel. With his long history of grotesque horror movies and an even longer history of Italian folk tales etched onto every film he has made, we have every reason to expect 2012's Gount Dracula to make Edward Cullen look like a piece of tofu. Then again, one can be sure that anyone can accomplish that.

Seems like Count Dracula has evolved from creepily unsettling to downright fearsome. I predict us all getting nightmares with Kretschmann's inner killer and Argento's scary Italian roots.



MEN IN BLACK

TITLE: MEN IN BLACK III
DIRECTOR: BARRY SONNENFIELD
MAIN CAST: WILL SMITH,
TOMMY LEE JONES, JOSH BROLIN
RELEASE DATE: 24 MAY 2012

Before aliens made crop circles like they did in *Signs* (2002) and mysteriously transformed into cars a la *Transformers* (2007), they coexisted perfectly with humans. They owned pizza chains, walked around in human skin, and saw Earth as a refugee camp.

The Men in Black (MIB) started as a comic book, created and written by Lowell Cunningham and illustrated by Sandy Carruthers. First published in 1990, the comic exposed us to a world with aliens. A secret organisation, The Men in Black, monitors the supernatural activity on Earth while keeping the human race ignorant to the paranormal beings.

Agents from this organisation have to sever all ties with their previous lives, and they do not exist to the rest of the world. Two of these agents were Jay and Kay.

Seven years after the comic book release, Barry Sonnenfeld directed a darkly humorous and slapstick hilarious adaptation of the book. The Oscar-winning Men in Black (1997) was a big hit with the talents of Will Smith (Agent Jay) and Tommy Lee Jones (Agent Kay).

Then, Smith was known for his role in *Independence Day* (1996). Reviewer Jeffrey M. Anderson called him "the only spark of life" in *Independence Day*, and was thrilled to see him "shine in brighter, smarter material". Also a saviour in his previous film, *Batman Forever* (1995), Jones was the man with charisma that people looked out for. With these big talents, the first film adaptation of this alien comic was an absolute success.

Unfortunately, the sequel was less than impressive. While the talented Agents Kay and Jay remained, *Men in Black II* (2002) was nothing fresh.

Reviewer Rob Gonsaives said, "[MIB II was] about the most uninspired rehash of a popular hit I've ever seen." Perhaps that's the problem with most iconic movies - the sequels always disappoint.

Hopefully ten years of new technology might have given Sonnenfeld some new ideas.

Men in Black III will see the likes of New Zealand comedian Jemaine Clement who is from the band and cult HBO series Flight of the Conchords, as well as Josh Brolin (True Grit).

Taking place in 1969, Agent Jay teams up with young Kay to stop Boris from destroying the world. Once again, Smith plays the hero who saves the Earth (shocking!).

What is the 60s without Jimi Hendrix, Andy Warhol and Yoko Ono? These legends will be in alien form, lending a nice touch to the third installment of the *MIB* series.

Now, let's get our numbers right. Jones is 65 years old, and Brolin, 43. In the movie, Brolin plays a 26-year-old. As talented as this Oscar-winning actor is, there is just no realistic way he can shed 16 years of his life. With his George Clooney-ruggedness, he could even make a believable stepfather to Smith.

The goofy storyline is no problem for fans, because that drew them to the first movie in the first place. However, based on the casting alone, the movie has already had its share of being slammed.

Joshua Tan, diehard fan of MIB since he was a teen, says, "The movie worked because of the Will-Jones combo! It's lame to have Brolin play Kay. I'd rather see Jaden Smith up there with his dad."

It's going to be interesting sitting through 100 over minutes of Brolin's desperate attempt to fill Jones' big shoes while convincing the world that he is, 26 years old. Hopefully Clement is as good as an actor as he is a comedic musician.

YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS, YOU CAN F BUY MILKSHAKES. AND THAT'S KIND OF THE SAME THING.







Forget picnics and try tea parties instead, which are (possibly) less messy and just as delicious. FANNY KOH and GARY LIM tell you what to drink and what to eat, in three settings that will excite even the most devout picnicker.

Tea parties may seem like a thing of the past, belonging in the pages of a Jane Austen Novel.

But this may not be so given the rise of tea boutiques in Singapore. As reported in an April 2010 The Telegraph article, master baker Dan Lepard raved about the Singaporean high tea.

The award-winning artisan cited a "much better experience than in London, in the quality, quantity and variety of the food on offer, while the settings in which you can

enjoy it are in a league of their own."

And if you thought that tea parties are only reserved for airy-fairy events, think again.

As Dan Lepard said of tea-time, "And that's what afternoon tea should be: a mixture of grandeur, folly and flippancy, playtime for the taste buds and a feast for the eyes."

We've put together three tea party themes
- Dreamy, Country and Rainbow, so you and
your companions can enjoy a frou-frou day of
Earl Grey tea and english scones.

KITCHENWARE COURTESY OF TANGS HOME
PHOTOS AARON LEONG & JOEL LEE
STYLING & ART DIRECTION KOH LEE MEI FANNY, GARY LIM, IFFAH RAKINAH





RAIN BOW

Is bold and beautiful your cup of tea? Laze around on a fuchsia picnic mat while sipping some lady grey tea from a bright orange tumbler.



FOR DRINKING:

Twinnings Lady Grey Tea - \$5.75 for 25 tea bags, ThreeSixty Marketplace

Itoen Ooi Ocha - \$3.35 for a bottle, Isetan Lido Supermarket

Kurin Afternoon Milk Tea - \$3.30 for a bottle, Isetan Lido Supermarket





Raspberry Cupcakes

To prepare, you will need:

Mini Muffins (8 pieces) - \$2.00, FairPrice Xtra Driscoll's Raspberries - \$6.95, FairPrice Xtra Avoset Dessert Topping - \$4.36, FairPrice Xtra

Step 1: Spray desired amount of dessert topping on the muffin.

Step 2: Place a juicy raspberry on top.



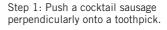


FOR BITING:

Sausage Cocktails with Cheese cubes

To prepare, you will need:

Chicken Cocktail Sausages, \$2.90, FairPrice Xtra. TLC Belcubes, \$3.95, FairPrice Xtra. Dill herbs, \$3.50, FairPrice Xtra. Toothpicks



Step 2: Push a good amount of dill herbs on top of the sausage.

Step 3: Place one Belcube on top of the dill herbs.







FOR BITING:

Lemon Shortbread Thins - \$5.90 for a box, Marks & Spencer



DREAMY

Have you always loved that whimsical feeling that Alice (from Wonderland) exprienced? Try your hand at setting up a fun and flirty set that is set tickle your eyes.



FOR DRINKING:

Creme Caramel Tea - \$23.00 for 15 tea bags, TWG

Chamomile Dream - \$16.70 for 20 tea bags, ThreeSixty Marketplace

Strawberry Cheesecake

To prepare, you will need:

Hanae Light Cheesecake, \$4.70, FairPrice Xtra. Korea Strawberries, \$6.95 for a 250gm box, FairPrice Xtra. Philadelphia Mini Cream Cheese, \$5.60, FairPrice Xtra.



- Step 1: Using the back of a spoon, spread the cream cheese on top of the cake.
- Step 2: Set strawberries in your design of choice on top of the cake.
- Step 3: Slice cake with a knife to serve (or simply dig in with a fork).









Apricot Ceylon Tea - \$13.60 for 20 tea bags, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf



COUNTRY

If neither rainbows nor whimsy is not your thing, try some country lovin' with tunes of Taylor Swift lulling in the background.



Smoked Salmon and Cream Cheese

To prepare, you will need:

FAS Smoked Salmon Original - \$6.95, FairPrice Xtra Philadelphia Mini Cream Cheese - \$5.60, FairPrice Xtra Meiji Plain Crackers - \$1.50 for a box, FairPrice Xtra Dill herbs - \$3.50, FairPrice Xtra

Step 1: Using a spoon, place a dollop of cream cheese on top of a cracker.

Step 2: Tear off a slice of smoked salmon and set on top of the cream cheese.

Step 3. Sprinkle some dill herbs on the smoked salmon.







Windowsill Pies chooses to specialise and concentrate on a simple menu,

beauty: the Morello Cherry (\$6.50),

The Morello is an unmistakably good choice as it is chockfull with sweet morello cherries. The shortcrust lends a neutral and not-as-sweet balance.

#01-206, 2 Pandan Valley, Pandan Valley Condominium Tel: 9004 7827

Good Ol' Chicken Pie

Tucked away in the basement of CK Tangs, here's why Baker's Oven's pie resonates with every pie-lover's dreams.

The crusts are proportionate to the amount of filling in them, ensuring that's there is just enough bite for the rightly seasoned, utterly delicious chicken gravy. The \$1.50 price tag is just the icing on the pie!

CK Tangs Orchard Basement 1 Market Place Tel: 6836 3951

People's Park Complex 32 Market Road #01-1006 Tel: 6553 1770

For 40 years, Balmoral Bakery they have been readying their piecrusts. Their pies are definitely testament to how they have managed to perfect their craft.

Coming in at an affordable \$1.30, their chicken pies contain quality chicken chunks, and 'al dente' peas that burst with delicious gravy are sure to leave you hankering for more.

Blk 105 Clementi St 12. #01-06 Sunset Way Tel: 6779 2064

Bottomless Pies

The Shepherd's Pie's golden brown pies are packed neatly into shiny aluminum tins and are easily bigger than the palm of your hand! The crust of smooth mashed potato is a filling made out of lovingly stewed beef with ears of crunchy sweet corn.

This pie (\$3.90) is the perfect lunch buddy and can be counted on to satisfy any pie cravings you may havein a jiffy.

> 6 Eu Tong Sen Street #B1-56, The Central (Above Clarke Quay MRT) Tel: 6789 0707



Bottoms & Down

If you're tired of quenching your thirst the same 23 ways you do every Friday night, it's a sign that you could do with a change in scenery. EDMUND ONG introduces you to some unconventional watering holes guaranteed to leave you shaken (or stirred).

It actually is not that hard to look for good, alcohol-fuelled fun here in Singapore. The run-of-the-mill clubs and bars are aplenty, but at The Chupitos Bar, Beer Market and Bar Stories & Café Fables, you can be sure that getting a drink is not as easy as shouting your order over the bar.

Throw Your Head Back

Amongst the many bars and pubs in Clarke Quay, The Chupitos Bar (chupitos is Spanish for 'little drinks') is one place you would not want to miss. The bar is the first and only tavern in Singapore serving a variety of more than 130 shooters on their menu.

It is hard not to feel like you are on the verge of an epileptic seizure as you step into The Chupitos Bar. There is something electric about the place, probably largely due to the flashy colours splashed on the walls to form an urban mural. It makes you dizzy with excitement, ready to have down some shots.

The shooters are sorted into four categories: Dare, Deadly, Yummy and Fruity – ranging from ones with raunchy names like Cum Shot to delectably flavoured ones called Bubble Tea – there is something for every quirky need.

You might be overwhelmed with the immense variety of shots they have, so be sure to ask their Hot Shots (bartenders) for some brilliant recommendations. We say a round of their bestsellers – Paddle Pop, Milo Dinosaur, Pandan, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups – would definitely be the perfect start to a fun night.

Their shooters range from \$10 - \$30.







OS BY EDMUND ONG AND FRANCESCA TAY

Up to You



In the day, it operates as Café Fables. When the curtains go up at night, the upper level of the two-story shophouse on Haji Lane turns into Bar Stories.

Visit the bar on a non-busy day, and the friendly mixologists would be more than willing to have a chat and joke with you as he or she prepares your drink.

The cosy bar may seem normal enough, but that changes when you ask for a drink menu.

Instead of providing you a list of cocktails, Bar Stories customises your drinks according to your preference.

For example, when asked for something spicy and chocolate-y, we were served up a Spicy Chocolate (\$22) – a blend of butterscotch and vodka with a dose of chili padi that made our taste buds dance.

If you have always been a fussy-drinker, challenge the bartenders with any ridiculous list of pre-requisites you may have. You might actually find something you like.

Buy Low Drink High

First impressions of Beer Market include a place that offers only beer (as the name suggests) at exuberant tourists prices, just like any other bars you find along Clarke Quay. However, it is far from that.

"Buy low, drink high!" says the Beer Market logo. There is an LCD screen in the area. If you care enough to check it out, you would realise that the numbers on the monitor are actually prices of the beer.

Beer Market adapts the concept of a stock exchange where drink prices move according to the demand at intervals of 30 minutes.

For example, a bottle of Tiger Beer can cost \$8 one minute and \$10 the next!

Beer Market also offers a laid-back vibe for a post-work chill. Local bands such as duo Jack and Rai also come here to play.



Note: Responsible Drinking



According to the National Health Survey 2010, binge drinking has risen among young adults aged 18 to 29 from 14.1 to 15.5 per cent. As much as we like to party, we should be drinking responsibly. Nobody likes a sloppy drunk! Here are some tips for a clean AND fun night (we promise that exists!).

- Pace yourself there's no honour in being the first one to finish your drink and, as a result, be the first to have to call it a night and miss out on all the fun.
- Have a "spacer" by alternating between non-alcoholic drinks and alcoholic ones – but don't tell your friends.

- Eat before and during drinks (it isn't cheating!), but try and avoid eating food that makes you thirsty. Basically, anything with high levels of salt.
- Work that drink. Move around, dance or chat with people instead of sitting down and just drinking.
- Avoid playing drinking games. But, if you
 decide to take the risk, be sharp stay
 within your limit and bow out when you
 need to!

These tips are brought to you by The Health Promotion Board



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ARTS



M1 Fringe Festival: Iraqi is Flying Spring Awakening Noise Singapore Expert Panel



The hit musical from Broadway is set to rock our shores! ISKANDAR RUHAIZAT checks in with the cast.

The tale of young lovers, a slew of friends with issues, add in repressive parents with an insular view on life, and you get a really intensive, tragedy-filled musical.

From Feb 4 to 26, PANGDEMONiUM! now brings the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical to our shores, directed by Tracie Pang with a stellar cast of young talents like Nathan Hartono, Julia Abueva, Eden Ang, Rebecca Spykerman, Raeza Ibrahim, Seong HuiXuan, Rayve Tay, Erwin Shah, Rachel Marley, Dwayne Tan and Kluane Saunders with Adrian Pang and Candice De Rozario.

Teenage angst is all the rage in this musical. This universal rite of passage everyone's been through (or are going through) makes the musical relatable.

"Teenagers will understand because it's something they're going through. Adults will understand because it's something that they've already gone through," lead actress Julia Abueva explains. Lead actor Nathan Hartono agrees, saying that finding little nuances to relate to these characters is not that difficult and makes the play to understand, He almost does not believe how something set in the 19th century is still relatable.

"No matter who you are, as long as you've passed that stage in your life, you'd have gone through some form of teenage angst, some sort of rebellion whether it'll be like an all-out or an inner rebellion. We've all been there," he says.

Based on the controversial 1892 German play with the same name, *Spring Awakening* adds a rock element to it. Alternative rock is incorporated into the songs, composed by Duncan Sheik together with lyrics and book written by Steven Sater.

The local adaptation contains characters with names like Melchior and Wendla. Set in 19th century Germany, one might wonder why the names and setting are not changed to please the local palate and also to modernise it to make it more relevant to the 21st century.

"I don't feel it's necessary to adapt the play to Singapore. What the characters are going through are relevant to teenagers and anybody who's gone through that whether you come from America or Asia it actually doesn't matter," says director Tracie Pang.

For Nathan and Julia, who play the main star-struck, lovey-dovey teenage couple Melchior and Wendla respectively, *Spring Awakening* is a really amazing experience for them.

Julia, who has been involved in musicals ever since she was nine, feels that Wendla is a really inquisitive character that wants to know more about mature topics, being in a rather conservative society.

"I talked about everything with my mum. That exact curiosity is what I've in common with my character. But sadly, her mum doesn't tell her as much as mine did," she says.

Nathan, on the other hand, admits that Melchior's character is very different from him.

"[Melchior] is actually different from me...I'm slightly more introverted while he has loud opinions and wants to be heard...I was never a bad kid; I'm the quiet kind. But this guy, he's a hell-raiser. He likes to question the system and see how everything fits," he says.

Once in a while, however, Nathan admits that he does have his 'Melchior moments'.

"In secondary school...I did a couple of weird things like climbing up the air vents and scaring the people in the auditorium," he recalls.

"Teenagers will understand because it's something they're going through. Adults will understand because it's something that they've already gone through." - Julia Abueva

Mischief or not, we are pretty sure that PANGDEMONIUM's much-anticipated adaptation will strike a chord with anyone that watches it, whether you are the rebel or the quiet computer geek.

Join the casts of Spring Awakening on a tumultuous journey through their quarter-life crisis to discover themselves and who knows, the inner you might awaken as well.



THE MATRIMONY OF ART AND FAITH

Get bitten by the art bug again with the 2012 incarnation of the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival. GWENDOLINE SIM rolls out the welcome mat for our four favourites.

This February the eighth season of the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival will prepare for a collision of art and faith, a seemingly unlikely duo. One, seen as an unpredictable, entropy of creative energies, the other, an unwavering belief in certain things or concepts.

Managed and put together by The Necessary Stage, the festival returns with featured works by local and international artists of various genres from dance to the visual arts.

In this year's marriage of mismatched misfits, HYPE lists out four events that made our top four.



CANE BY LOO ZHIHAN

Since the 1993 controversy over local artist Josef Ng's *Brother Cane*, the ensuing public debate led to a ten-year limitation on the approval and endowment of funds to performance art here.

Re-enacting *Brother Cane* in *Cane*, a lecture à la performance art that reconstructs the

IRFA N KASB

events using firsthand accounts from the people involved in the original work, artist Loo Zhihan attempts to pay tribute to it and to also examine the ephemerality of performance art.

19 February 2012, 8pm The Substation Theatre, \$19 R18 (Mature Content)

HANTARAN BUAT MANGSA

A three-part series of plays that draws inspiration from the three leading incidents that resulted in the founding of Islam, *Hantaran Buat Mangsa Lupa* is set in a dimension that faith excludes and questions.

The trilogy seeks to explore the questions that have long been left unanswered, sometimes ones that puts faith to the test.

Presented by a talented trio of familiar faces from the theatre and television industries, namely Sani Hussin, Mastura Ahmad and Rian Asrudi.

16 – 18 February 2012, 8pm 18 February 2012, 3pm The Substation Theatre, \$19 Like Tokyo's Levitating Girl, Jamal Penjweny likes to take lots of photographs of people up in the air. Literally.

For him, it is a hark back to the carefree days of childhood, where he used to do jumps with his friends, enjoying the sliver of happiness in the pocket of suspension between air and ground.

Inspired by an image of three children jumping at a farewell party he stumbled across while going through his archives in 2006, he decided to do similar shots of everyday people who walk the Iraqi streets.

His aim was to give Iraq a more positive image, away from the one the awful one the media has so oftenly portrayed.

15 – 26 February 2012 5.45am – 12.15am Esplanade Tunnel Free admission

SINGAPORE

Following its highly successful run at last year's Singapore Arts Festival, The Necessary Stage is bringing *Singapore* back again for this year's Fringe Festival.

The Necessary Stage looks to examine this by throwing historical characters into the Singapore of today. Part fact, part history, part imagination, the impossible becomes the possible.

Focusing on the themes of migration, harmony and identity, *Singapore* is an exhaustive inquiry



that explores a country's past and the people's psyche. Humorous and candidly caustic, the play's multi-racial cast will have you coming back for more.

15 – 18 February 2012, 8pm 18 & 19 February 2012, 3pm Esplanade Theatre Studio, \$30/\$19 NC16 Mature content/Some coarse language



SITI KHALIJAH (SINGAPORE)

Along with Singapore, Siti Khalijah has tons of things on her plate. KHAMNEE THRUMALINGGAM gets some bites from this bubbly and humble thespian.

ON HOW SHE GOT INTO THEATRE

"When I heard that the drama club comprised of the ten other ITE campuses, and that they were putting up Mid-Summer Night's Dream, I just decided to do it."

ON HER FIRST PERFORMANCE

"[Why Did the Cat Get So Fat?] was the performance that got me recognised and acted as a platform for my future."

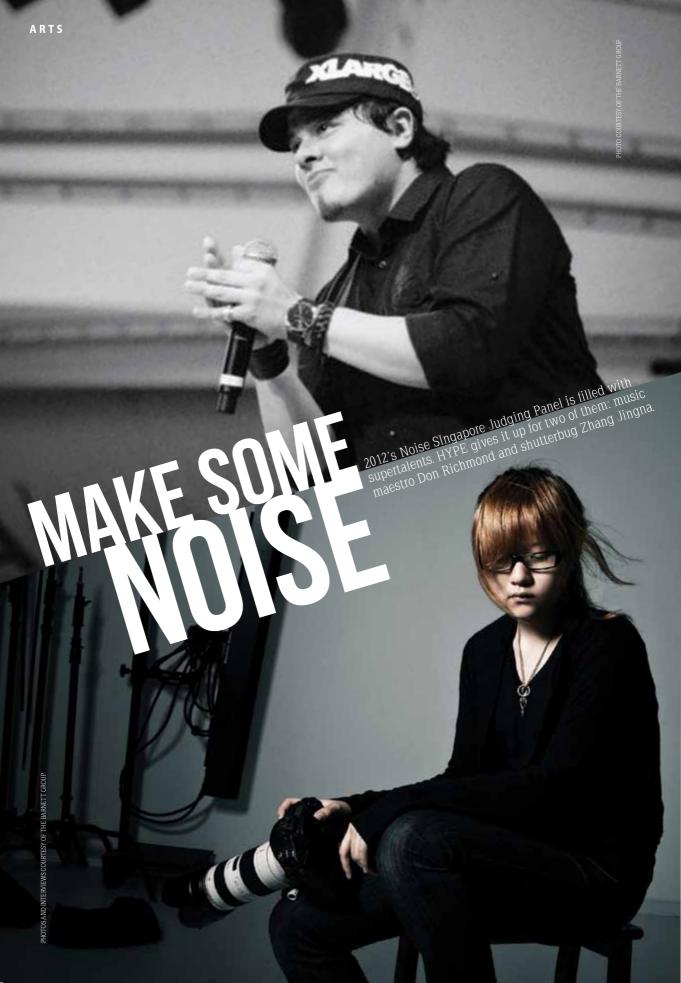
ON ANY PRE-SHOW DIVA DEMANDS

"I am no celebrity, I do not have any such demands!"

ON ADVICE TO ASPIRING THESPIANS

"It may take awhile to be recognised, there will be numerous rejections, but simply strive on and you will later reap your reward."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NECESSARY STAGE



ZHANG JINGNA

DON RICHMOND

It's hard to classify Don Richmond as an artist.

After all, his works have encompassed nearly every aspect in the realm of music - from being a music producer, to singersongwriter, to composer.

But it was only with Skrooloose, his debut album, that Don finally became known. This eventually landed him a gig as composer for the soundtrack for 2003's local film City Sharks. Since then, he has won numerous awards as music producer and artist, and a long list of collaborations with local artists such Sezairi Sezali.

To the laidback, charismatic 35-year-old, however, it does not really matter how people recognize him. "Fundamentally. I am a singer-songwriter [and] music producer. That's how I started. It would be best if people knew me that way, but honestly, it doesn't matter," he muses.

One thing is for sure, however: considering his many accolades and achievements, Don's place on the Noise Singapore expert panel is more than qualified. While he has a good sense of humour, apparent from hosting clicknetwork's Now You Know, Don is also a hard worker and believes in a constant journey for improvement.

He believes that a good music artist is one who "satisfies themselves artistically," offering advice for budding performers: "Be true to vourself, but at the same time, vou should have the ability to go beyond your own space to bring the audience in, through your performances.'

As a judge on Noise Singapore's expert panel, Don does not at all expect perfection from the performers, as he believes that there are plenty of "diamonds in the rough". He goes on to explain, "You rarely get someone who's so good they make you go, "Wow!" but you can recognize bits and pieces that can be worked on.'

This sentiment is echoed in Don's attitude towards his work - constantly working towards a greater level of excellence. He claims, with humility, "As much as I would love to strive for perfection, I know it's unattainable, but it's comforting at the same time."

HE PHOTOGRAPHER
SHOOTS Her bright yellow hair and a full-black outfit made her stand out from the rest at the crowded Starbucks Coffee where we met. While the stylish woman may have caught a couple of eyes, few would have recognised her as Zhang Jingna, the Los Angeles-based photographer known internationally for her beautiful photographs.

The 23-year-old already has a portfolio boasting names like Harper's Bazaar, ELLE and Flare, despite being in the industry for only five years. The avid traveller's work has often been likened to paintings and fantasy and even been described as pre-Raphaelite.

Jingna was born in the suburbs of Beijing, and moved to Singapore at eight, where she studied at Raffles Girls School and then LASALLE College of the Arts. At the same time, she was also a national athlete with the Singapore Shooting Association, having broken the national record for air rifle. She was only 14.

Halfway through a Degree in Fashion Design and the air rifle national team, she dropped everything to pick up the camera full-time. "I can put together the whole image, rather than just contributing to part of it. After a while, I felt like this was all I wanted." she says.

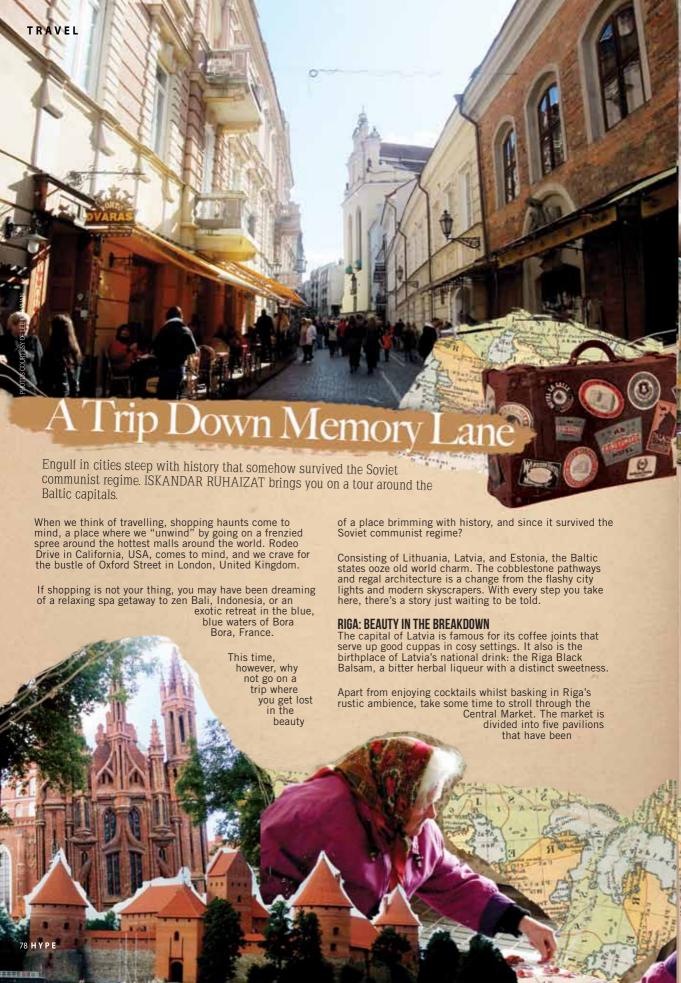
It so happens that Jingna is a judge under the Noise Singapore Expert Panel's 'Photography' category. On how she judges a piece of work, she stresses that impact is all-important, "Even travel photos can be really impressive. and it all depends on how the photographer presents it...It doesn't matter what genre it is if the image is striking."

Jingna is also enthusiastic in sharing tips. "Study light and shadows!" she says, "A lot of times people just try to frame a shot and hope it turns out nice.'

The photographer is mostly working overseas and is in Singapore for only a few months each year. She proclaims "I love chilli crab, and I always miss Singapore a lot when I'm overseas."

While she already has a whole slew of achievements to her name, Jingna's ambition is nowhere near satisfied.

She aims to shoot for huge names like Vogue and Chanel, "cause that's just prestige and recognition." For the time being, photography is still her love and she hopes continue for a long time, "but I would love to try other things, perhaps go back to school and study something."





constructed out of old German airship hangars, lending to the historical appeal of the market.

And don't worry if you find yourself lost while meandering the pavilions, the friendly locals will be more than willing to help you out and point you to the right way.

The largest city amongst the Baltic States is also home to the finest *jugendstil* (art nouveau). This is mostly evident in the architecture of the buildings in Riga's Old Town, which are adorned with intricate etchings romvantic in nature. The effect is an opulent-looking city, a refreshing contrast to today's sleek city silhouettes.

Behind the gorgeous facade, Riga has a turbulent past. To find out more about the beautiful city in its darker days, head over to the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia. Trawl through artifacts that have been recovered from the

51 years that Latvia was ruled by the Soviets and Nazi Germany to relive its tragedy. You'll definitely appreciate the city more once you understand the amount of tragedy and turmoil it has gone through.

VILNIUS: RELIVE THE RENAISSANCE

The first thing that will strike you the most about Vilnius, Lithuania, is its buildings. You could almost imagine artistic geniuses Michaelangelo and Da Vinci living in them, musing and dreaming up their masterpieces.

Again, a distinct architectural design is echoed throughout the city. Divine and even romantic, churches, schools, and houses look like they withstood the test of time, maintaining the elegance of yesteryear.

One such building is the St Anne's Church, a tribute to Vitautas the Great's love to his first wife, Anna. Vitautas was one of the more famous rulers of Lithuanian and had





commissioned architect Michael Enkinger to excecute his love profession. The Roman Catholic church is made up of 33 different kinds of clay bricks painted red to create a look that has been termed 'Flamboyant Gothic'.

Its grandeur was rumoured to impress even Emperor Napolean who, after seeing the church during the Franco-Russian War in 1812, expressed a wish to carry the church home with him to Paris "in the palm of his hand".

The Gates of Dawn is the only city gates of Vilnius that remains. It contains an iconic portrait of the Black Madonna (a portrait of virgin Mary), said to have miraculous powers. This might be true, seeing how it has been spared while the other eight gates were destroyed by the Russian government in the 18th Century.

Another attraction is also the Trakai Castle, which is situated on an island in Lake Galve. From an important military outpost to a royal summer residence to a prison, the castle is now a major tourist attraction in Lithuania. One can expect beautiful frescoes lining the castle walls with yards and their wooden stair galleries.

TALLINN: LEGEND...WAIT FOR IT...DARY!

First of all you might wonder why the Danish flag was conceived in a land that is around 840 km away from the country it actually represents.

In the year 1219, the Danish King Waldemar II conquered Estonia and built Tallinn. In fact, Tallinn means 'Danish Town' in Estonian.

The scenic Danish King's Garden is said to be the birthplace of the Danish flag. Legend has it that that a red flag with a white cross fell from the sky during the Battle of Lyndanisse, when the Danish army was at the brink of surrendering. It was after the fall of the mysterious flag that the Danes made a miraculous recovery and claimed victory.

Spend a day soaking in the history of Tallinn. From the ancient Toompea Castle to the towering St Olaf's Church, Tallinn is full of old world charm, with many a rustic building scattering the area.

After a day of exploration, why not try some bear meat for dinner? Olde Hausa's bear meat is a Tallinn favourite. Created in honour of Waldermar II, and marinated in rare spices and cooked over fire. Not for the faint-hearted!

Take a stroll around old town Tallinn after dinner to visit the Cat's Well. During the Bubonic Plague period of the Dark Ages, the superstitious locals threw black cats down in hope of ridding bad luck. Unfortunately, by doing so it aggravated the spread of the plague instead.

Lesson learnt, don't throw cats down a well.



HOW TO BE A GOOD TOURIST

They come in dreadful mobs, rowdy and with a blatant disregard for local customs and social norms. We've all seen these misfits before - we know them to be annoying tourists, and we dislike them. HU JUNWEN gives some tips to make sure you don't fall into that category yourself.

NEW YORK



DON'T

Look up perpetually at all the skyscrapers around you. It's a sign that you are, unequivocally, a tourist. Sure, the buildings look nice, but try to avoid stopping in the middle of busy sidewalks.



DO

Have a go on the New York City subway. Considered to be the most efficient train network in the world, it has its good share of bizarre occurences too, as a simple search on YouTube will reveal.

FRANCE



DON'T

Go looking for Moulin Rouge. The movie may have been charming, but Pigalle, the red-light district it is in, is populated by sleazy sex shops, brothels and the like. NOT for the kids.



DO

Dress your best. You're in the fashion capital of the world, so fanny packs, old ratty tees and neon-coloured visors are pretty much frowned upon. Parisians put in effort dressing up. You should too.

LONDON





DON'T

Go about calling everybody 'mate'. The British accent is also significantly difficult to master, so it would be wise to not even try, lest you sound ridiculous, or worse, offensive.



DO

Have a walk up Primrose Hill for an amazing view of London. The best thing? It's free and you can even have a picnic while you are at it. Beats the overpriced London Eye any day.

BANGKOK



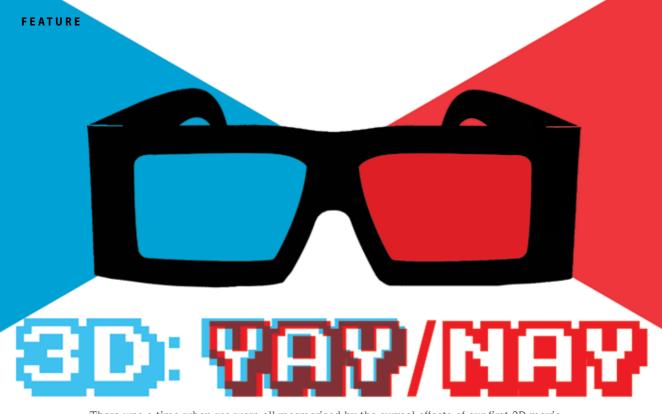
ימחח

Step on any coins. The King of Thailand's face is imprinted on every coin and placing your foot on it, even to stop it from rolling into a drain, is a sign of utmost disrespect.



DO

Remember to give wai greetings. Want to impress a local? The wai is a customary greeting, a sign of respect in Thailand, and Thais vastly prefer it to grabbing your sweaty hands in a handshake.



There was a time when we were all mesmerised by the surreal effects of our first 3D movie. CARISSA ABIDIN sees if this visual spectacle is a revolution or just another fad.

Those paper red-cyan glasses fascinated us once upon a time. We held our hands in front of us only to be disappointed by the fact that we could not catch the objects flying towards our faces.

Isn't that how we react to all things new? We're so captivated by our shiny new toy that we make complete fools of ourselves.

However, time has caused the natural death of our excitement towards 3D effects. With the thrill of a new discovery gone, will this effect be appealing enough to remain in our cinemas, or will the rise of less-than-impressive 3D films cause us to turn away completely?

While it broke almost every box office record that has existed, *Avatar* (2009) stunned the world with his brilliant use of 3D technology. Since then, blockbuster movies have cashed in on the hype and hopped on the 3D bandwagon.

"What worries some 3D trailblazers is that studios might see the format as a way to punch up a mediocre story," said Rebecca Winsters Keegan, a reporter at TIME Magazine.

It seems like 3D effects are no longer a privilege for the artistically gifted like James Cameron (*Avatar*) and Dean Deblois (*How To Train Your Dragon*). Any ordinary film can exploit the technology to make their production look fancy.

Keegan predicted this trend and reported in TIME Magazine, "This shortcut (3D effects) may work for a while, but eventually the hope is that 3D will become just another weapon in a filmmaker's arsenal."

The youth HYPE polled agreed on this, with 70 per cent of them stating that 3D effects should only be used for good animations.

They felt that when 3D is forced upon a film that is not already impressive on its own, it's like having fresh paint dragged across a rusty pipe.

As HYPE spoke with youth on the streets (see next page), they agreed that plenty of movies should never have been made into 3D. The movie that was almost unanimous amongst youth was *Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience* (2009).

Popular movie review site Rotten Tomatoes gave it a mere 23 per cent, stating that this movie "should please the brothers' adoring followers, but for non-converts, this concert film is largely flat and unenlightening".

Furthermore, movies where 3D effects are merely used to mask mediocrity, chances are that the technical work in it would be extremely slipshod and disappointing. This causes the audience to experience giddiness and even nausea.

72 per cent of youth said that they would choose a 2D film over a 3D one because the effect gives them a headache. There is even a technical reason for this, as pointed out by Eric Eisenberg, film editor at Cinema Blend.

"This happens when directors fail to establish a focal point and your eyes are left constantly searching the screen for what you're supposed to look at," he said.

With the 3D release of James Cameron's classic *Titanic*, HYPE found that a whopping 66 per cent of youth prefer the good ol' classic 2D, and are not interested in watching *Titanic 3D*, the supposedly-much-anticipated movie event of the year.

This group of youth said that 3D effects should only be used for animations and would not work out for a classic movie like Titanic. They also agreed that the 2D version was good enough, and they didn't see the point in paying for a ticket to watch the same movie again.

It seems that the rise of rusty pipes are devaluing the fresh coat of paint. With the high cost of production and probable lack of interest form the public, 3D movies might not be around for long.

31 MOVIE: 31 MOVIE: 31 MOVIE:



Cassandra Jean Spykerman, 21

Last 3D movie you watched? Alice in Wonderland.

Which movies don't work in 3D? Alice in Wonderland and concert movies like Glee. There's nothing much going on for 3D effects.

Which movies should have been made 3D?

Animations like *Disney's Alice in Wonderland* and *Tarzan*. It'll be cool seeing him swing from tree to tree. 3D doesn't work in real life movies, the effects don't pop out.



Syah, 19

3II MUVIE

Last 3D movie you watched Step Up 3D. It was awesome the dance moves and graphics worked well with 3D.

3D MOVIE

Which movies don't work in 3D?

3D doesn't work on action movies, and Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience was nonsense. Tron: Legacy in 3D was the best, though.

Which movies should have been made 3D? Spider-Man.

HYPE TAKES TO THE STREETS

some teens have to say about 3D effects in movies.



Benjamin, 26

Last 3D movie you watched? Final Destination 5. It was okay, quite blurry.

Which movies don't work in 3D? Shrek wasn't such a great idea.

Which movies should have been made 3D?

The Batman series, and maybe a few of Clint Eastwood's movies.



Would you watch Titanic 3D?

No, 3D movies makes me giddy. Whatever the system is now, the view is not working out right.

Lyron Ang, 17

Last 3D movie you watched? The Three Musketeers. It was good, the 3D effects were very

The Three Musketeers.
It was good, the 3D
effects were very
exciting for me.
I like 3D.



Which movies should have been made 3D?

Love and Other Drugs.

Would you watch Titanic in 3D?

Yeah, sure. I want to see the part where they stand on the tip of the ship. I'll pay the price for a 3D movie.



IS IT GAME OVER FOR THE VETERANS?

How can childhood possibly be complete without the good ol' board games like Monopoly and Scrabble? With the wave of revamped versions in the market, LIM YING TING checks out what the deal is behind them.

At the grand old age of 60 years old, *Cluedo* could have been your grandparent's equivalent in the board games sense.

However, despite the game's legendary status, Hasbro is not about to let it collect dust on the shelves.

Attempting to stay relevant to its players, Hasbro redesigned and modernized the game in 2008.

Long gone are the days where wrenches, lead pipes and revolvers are used as murder weapons, and a select choice of artillery which consists of a pistol, poison, baseball bat, dumbbell and an axe replaces them.

Modification of game settings aside, big players like Hasbro and Mattel are also aware of how the attention spans of players aren't as long as before, or that they don't allocate as much time to board games anymore, according

to Sean McGowan, a toy analyst with Needham & Company.

In a bid to keep up with the times, game formats are gradually being modified. For games like *Scrabble* and *Cranium* which could take hours on end to finish a game, Hasbro has adapted it such that they can be played in speedy five-minute spurts.

Of course, when it comes to revamped games, the one that usually springs to mind first would be *Monopoly* and its hotter, newer counterpart, the card game *Monopoly Deal*.

Where the original *Monopoly* was a board game and could burn away hours with a single game, *Monopoly Deal* is now a card game that can be finished in a relatively speedy 20 minutes to half an hour.

However, the flashy new format does not seem to endear everybody.

"For me, I definitely like to feel involved in the game - dealing with cards in *Monopoly Deal* just doesn't seem as thrilling as handling the paper Monopoly money," says Chee Zhi Guang, 22, a first-year Advanced Diploma in Business Management student from the Management Development Institute of Singapore.

Seconding his opinion is Er Si Jia, a 19-year-old final-year Early Childhood Education student from Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

"Although I like how Monopoly Deal is very handy to carry around, I still prefer the original version. With the bank notes, adorable green hotels and red houses, it actually kind of makes me feel like I'm dealing with real business!" she says.

When asked, though, Zhi Guang admitted that *Monopoly Deal* did do something right. He explains,

"There's one thing I really like about Monopoly Deal, though, it takes much lesser time to finish a game."

While revamped games can be rather controversial among the fans, not all of them are entirely unwelcomed. For example, where the original Taboo, involved trying to describe a word without using a set of words, Big Taboo introduced new ways of guessing the words, similar to charades and Pictionary.

"Big Taboo was a tad confusing at first... But after I got the hang of it, it actually becomes somewhat addictive! I love how it tests other skills...rather than just on language alone," says Siti Nur Atiqah Binte Jumad, 19, a second-year Applied Drama and

Psychology student in Singapore Polytechnic.

Zhi Guang agrees with her view. "Big Taboo definitely trumps *Taboo* any day! ...When *Pictionary* and charades enter the picture as well, the game is 10 times more enjoyable!"

So what exactly makes or breaks a revamped game?

For Monopoly Deal, it cannot be said that it was unpopular - gangs of youths could be seen feverishly clutching the cards. However, it seems to be unable to appeal itself to the fans the way the original did.

According to Siti, the number one reason why *Monopoly Deal* has failed

to impress her is that it is vastly different from the original.

"I guess I'm just too used to the old version which I've been playing with for years," she says.

For Brian Au Yong, 17, a student from Raffles Institution, the classic version will always hold a sentimental value that the new version will never have.

He fondly recalls, "I remember fighting with my sister over who gets to use which token. We both always wanted the dog!"

It seems that unless the revamps complement the old game of changing it totally, it is unlikely that youths will be over the moon about them.

ADAPTED TO APP

With great technology comes new ways to adapt games for it. What follows is a little list of classic games TOH XIN ZHE has put together that have been revamped for your swanky smart phones.







BOGGLE: BOGGLE (IPHONE)

A plastic 'waffle' that ranges from four-by-four to five-by-five squares, an hourglass, a plastic cover and dices with letters on them. All you need for a rousing game of *Boggle*. The traditional game sees players shaking the dice around, then trying to form as many words as possible from the resulting configurations.

Rest assured, there is still shaking involved in the e-version of *Boggle*, and doing so will jumble up all the dice. There are two versions of play available in this game, Classic and Advanced, which mixes in a few elements for more fun. For example, portal cubes exchange the positions of letters. This spices up the game, allowing more words and more fun.

Price: USD\$0.99

Get It: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/boggle/id327836363?mt=8

SCRABBLE: SCRABBLE (IPHONE)

Of course, when people talk about word board games, there can only be one. The world has been charmed by *Scrabble* and its lettered tiles players pick at random and try to form a word with. This, of course, had the unforeseeable side effect of an entire generation of adults going around insisting that 'zqyvx' (rhymes with 'Bob') was a word.

Despite powerful visuals and strong features, the single-player mode in *Scrabble (iPhone)* is rather dull. Multiplayer, on the other hand, is where the game really shines. It utilises the pass-and-play system. The controls for laying pieces mimic real life, and the words are even checked against an in-built dictionary.

Price: USD\$0.99

Get It: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ scrabble/id284815117?mt=8

MONOPOLY: MONOPOLY. HERE & NOW

Hoard the money - all the money! That, of course, is the tagline for *Monopoly*. In this board game, which many have in their closets, children step into the role of a corporate master who deals exclusively in land and properties. The winner is the one with the most properties on the board.

With 15 million units of currency in his hand, the game is now different. The fate of the player is controlled by the block he lands on. Also, the interface is now animated. The dice shaking relies on the oscillator in the iPhone, so shaking it will send the dice rolling and the avatar scrambling forward. There is wi-fi multiplayer version, as a single-player *Monopoly* is simply unthinkable.

Price: USD\$0.99

Get It: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/monopoly/id337021781?mt=8







FIXIE

fixation

Whether it is for fitness, fun, or fashion, AISYAH PUTERI JUNADI goes on a quest to discover just why single-speed fixed-gea bicycles are all the rage right now.



















For years, fixies, or fixed-gear bicycles to purists, have been widely popular and almost synonymous with bike messengers in San Francisco.

While it has taken more time for the elegant two-wheelers to arrive on our shores and catch on here in Singapore, the single-speed and brakeless bike seems to be the ride of choice for many today.

If you have ever seen one, you would probably understand its appeal. These bikes usually come in a spectrum of colours and in some cases, are decked out with rims with cool and unique paint jobs.

Mr Lynten Ong, 43, owner of TR Bikes, says that he saw a 50 to 80 per cent jump in sales since two years ago.

TR Bikes, which opened in 2007 at Jalan Batu, was one of the first shops in Singapore that specialised in fixed-gear bicycles. According to Mr Ong, some 20 to 30 custom bikes are sold each month.

He explains, "The attraction of the fixie lies in its simplicity. It's a bicycle stripped down to its bare minimum."

For something so minimalistic, these bikes do not come cheap. A custom-built fixie can cost \$1,000 or more.

Mr Idris Muhammad, 26, one of the founders of Crank Arm Steady, a fixie crew here, spent about \$1,800 on his fixie. However, the demand seems to be increasing, so potential buyers can look forward to a cheaper price.

More bike shops have since started to bring in fixed-gear bikes in order to cater to the rising trend.

"When we first started out, there weren't any proper shops so we just used whatever that can be used. We would use old bike parts and modify them- we just had to make do with what we have," explained Mr Yasin Rahim, 28, co-founder of Crank Arm Steady.

Crank Arm Steady is one of the biggest names in the fixie scene here in Singapore. Hailed as THE fixie guys, the crew was formed by mutual friends who had a common passion for cycling and has seen a steady growth in membership since it started three years ago.

According to Mr Ong, celebrities who are seen riding fixedgear bicycles also help 'promote' the fixie culture.

 \mbox{Mr} Ong explains, "It's a trend, so people tend to jump on the bandwagon."

"I kinda blame 30 Seconds To Mars for 'creating' the fixie craze," Mr Idris chuckled.

The band, mostly known for front-man Jared Leto, shot a music video for their single "Kings and Queens", which saw an army of fixed-gear riders cycling on the empty streets of Los Angeles at night.

Other celebrities spotted with their fixies include footballer

David Beckham, top model Agyness Deyn, and even rap artist Kanve West.

Apart from the celeb influence, the appeal of a fixie comes from its flexibility in its appearance.

"People want a bike which can show off their personality," Mr Ong says, "[Fixies are perfect as] there's no limit to what you can do with [it]. [Even] if you want the seven colours of the rainbow. it can be done."

However, even its pretty pedals cannot hide the fact that they are notorious for being unsafe. These bikes come...wait for it...without any brakes. In spite of that, Mr Ong believes this can be overcame. He says, "I wouldn't say fixed gears are unsafe. It's only a perception. I mean, you must know what you're doing if you want to ride a fixed gear."

Mr Yasin concurs with the view, "People always ask 'how do you brake?' I ask them in return, how do you stop running? ...you just know. When you ride long enough, you'll know."

"You have to look far ahead and 'predict' the best you can which route is the safest or fastest way through all the cars and people. If you take the wrong route, well... you might get pretty messed up," shares Dan Heng, 25, computer analyst and fixie fan.

Fixies definitely have more to offer than what meets the eye. Besides being an expression of the rider's personality, it is ultimately about having a good time. Mr Ong explains, "The whole idea of a fixie is for you to have fun. You can build it according to your comfort zone..."

For Mr Yasin, it is the adrenaline rush that got him hooked.

"On a scale of one to ten in terms of thrill, I give it an 11!" he exclaims.

He went on to add, "When we see new riders, we always tell them this is certainly dangerous, so just be aware of your surroundings. Fixies are dangerous...but it's fun."

The attraction of the fixie lies in its simplicity. It's a bicycle stripped down to its bare minimum.

- Ivir Ong

SOUL by Ludacris

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SL100RB



SL99





HAVE YOU NTune On-Ear Headphones HEARD?

Your music playlist will sound spectacular with these headphone collaborations with celebs. AMRITA KAUR checks some of these out.

It feels like we have heard it all. Celebrities with their own clothing, perfume, and even homeware lines. The latest trend to hit Tinseltown, it seems, is to have your very own headphones.

The biggest names in music are trying to revolutionize music-listening, and HYPE takes a look at some of them.

Signeo SOUL by Ludacris SL49

SOUL by Ludacris is a great example of design and performance fused to perfection. Driven by his famously artistic vision, and supported by an award-winning design team, the line dons a sleek form factor and presents an array of eye-catching colors and uniquely designed styles. The set of headphones provides the elite sound caliber of a professional hearing device and a distinct flair for self-expression and style. There is no way one could feel soul-less when he dons this headphones!

50 Cent for Sleek Audio



Rap star Curtis Jackson, more commonly known as 50 Cent, has recently designed a new brand of headphones named 50 Cent Headphones in conjunction with Sleek Audio. Made of a combination of military-grade metals with a technology called 'wireless hybrid', the headphones are sure to be a groundbreaking hit for everyone from the casual listener to the professional studio user.

Like all Ncredible products, this set of headphones combine superior performance with style all in a hip and compact package. It is designed to empower music lovers with energy, vitality and optimism.

Produced by Monster and Nick Cannon, this set of funky looking headphones boasts total comfort and precision tuning for all kinds of music. What is interesting is that they feature tangle-free cables for total ease of use.



AKG Q460

Quincy Jones, producer behind Thriller and We Are The World, a man who has won 27 Grammy awards has come up with some amazing sounding and looking headphones that is sure to capture your heart.

The headphones are portable and boasts a distinctive



AKG-build quality. It is engineered into a contemporary portable design. With a blend of sophisticated design and perfect sound.

it is exactly what you would expect from one of the most gifted, successful and admired music icons the world has ever heard.

Skullcandy Roc Nation Aviators

The thing about Skullcandy is that they put their design as their utmost priority. This set of headphones is cross-branded with Jay-Z's and LiveNation's Roc Nation promotions outfit. True to the name, they are reminiscent of the iconic aviator sunglasses. They are light, comfortable, can fold up and slip into an elegant travel case, and we are pretty sure you'll be able to turn some heads with these bad boys.





YOU CAN'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF THE CD — YOUJUST PUT IT IN THE PLAYER. BUT WITH THE VINYL... YOU OPEN [IT]...SIT DOWN, LOOK AT THE ART, AND ADMIRE IT. THERE'S ALSO SOMETHING ABOUT IT THAT YOU MISS.



"[Gentlemen], that is a band. This is the first time I have ever heard music with any soul to it produced by a mechanical talking machine," said American composer and conductor John Philip Sousa.

He was, of course, referring to gramophones and vinyls. Associated with the very image of music itself, these legendary devices are now making a comeback in a world saturated by digital music.

Like the return of film cameras or vintage clothes, the resurgence of the vinyl is due to the rising popularity of all things 1960s and 70's today. It is the favourite format of indie music collectors and audiophiles due to the higher sound quality.

However, vinyls are bulky and expensive, so why do people still collect them?

Alagiry Alagirisamy, 62, who owns a mass collection of more than 25,000 albums says, "I have been collecting vinyl records since I was 17. I think it's the artwork that attracts people. When you have a CD, you can't get anything out of the CD – you look at it and just put it in the player. But with the vinyl, it's like you open [it]...sit down, look at the art and admire it. There's also something about it that you miss. When you have a CD, it's so clean; and your vinyl, it sounds a little bit more raw in the recording. Sometimes when I'm at home doing my work, I just put a record on and it fills up the room with a big fat sound."

Calvin Phua, 21, who owns more than 100 albums, says, "There's something about holding the vinyl, placing it on the turntable and finally laying the stylus down on it that makes it a cathartic experience. Rather than clicking on a song that you single out in an album, listening to a record brings the music listening experience to a different level, in a way, to sit down and listen to the album from start to end."

Under Calvin's influence, his girlfriend, Sheryl Yeo, 21, also started collecting vinyl records. Being an audio enthusiast herself, she enjoys listening for details in the sound quality





of the music she listens to. "There's something about that crackle and knowing that at any moment of time if there's a scratch on one of those waves, it can go array and it's nostalgic, man," explains Sheryl about her draw to vinyl.

More young listeners are keen to pick up this hobby as they rifle through their parents' collections looking for oldies. 17-year-old, Lee Jia Kang, is an example. He has close to 80 albums and is not quite yet finished collecting. "My parents had a vinyl collection gathering dust at home, so I might as well take care of this collection due to its sentimental value," quipped Jia Kang.

He also added, "at the same time, I recently discovered music from old artists such as The Beatles and Pink Floyd and thought that their music should be listened on vinyl, as they were first produced on this medium."

Of course, as mentioned previously, collecting vinyl records can be quite an expensive hobby. Excluding the need to buy a turntable and a good pair of speakers, the prices of the albums can range from five dollars to \$8,000 (for the rarer records). Having said that, your only worry about dabbling in this hobby is the cost of it.

Maintaining a vinyl is really simple. Clean the vinyl regularly to prevent a buildup of dirt and grime, as it could affect the sound. The most common technique would be to manually brush the record with cleaning solution and use a tube vacuum to clear out the solution and residuew. In addition, they must be stored upright to prevent warping, which will render them absolutely unplayable.

Speaking from his experience, Calvin says that time and patience are very important factors. "You have to be dedicated to keeping your records in the appropriate conditions for it to last it's maximum life span. The greatest motivator in this hobby should be your passion for music!"



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CONTESTS

Email all your answers to contests@fmsmidea.com. Include your name, NRIC number and contact details in your entry.

Want to win Feist's latest album, Metals?

Answer this question:

What is the name of the indie rock group which Feist is in?

Contest ends Apr 30.



The Lorax

Want to win the book, *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss, courtesy of { prologue } bookstore?

Answer this question: Who is Ted's love interest?

Cut out

Coupon!]

Contest ends Apr 30.



HYPE Magazine is giving away 2 pairs of tickets to Jessie J's upcoming concert in Singapore!

To win a pair of tickets, simply answer this question:

When will Jessie J be performing in Singapore?

Contest ends Mar 10.

Win Blush autographed notebooks and wristbands!

Answer this question: Name the five members of Blush!

Contest ends Apr 30.



prologue

books-stationery-café

Present this coupon at { prologue } bookstore to enjoy 20% off any fiction title. Promo ends April 30 2012. Terms and Conditions Apply.

Where to find { prologue }: ION Orchard Level 4.

Want to win the book, *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky, courtesy of { prologue } bookstore?

Answer this question: Who is Charlie's first love?

Contest ends Apr 30.



Want to win Zee Avi's latest album, Ghostbird?

Answer this question:
Zee Avi is a Malaysian singersongwriter, guitarist, and ukulele
player. True or False?

Contest ends Apr 30.

The Kunger Games

Win *The Hunger Games* book courtesy of { prologue } bookstore!

Q: Who is the author of The Hunger Games?

Contest ends Apr 30.

Win a pair of *The Hunger Games* movie tickets courtesy of The Cathay!

Q: Who is the actress for Katniss Everdeen in the movie?

Contest ends Mar 22.



Win Sungha Jung's latest album, IRONY, and his autographed poster, courtesy of UKULELE MOVEMENT!

Answer this question:
Which Youtube video by Sungha Jung
has over 28 million views?

Contest ends 30 Apr.

Win Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close book courtesy of { prologue } bookstore!

Q: Who is the author of Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close?

Contest ends Apr 30.

Win Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close '1-for-1' complimentary movie pass courtesy of Warner Bros.!

Q: Who is the actor for Oskar Schell in the movie?

Contest ends Mar 5.

CUTEST MALE PERSONALITY I WANNA BRING HOME: NATHO

























Celebrity Duo I Wanna Chill With:

Michelle Chong & Alaric Tay

Coolest Comedian I Wanna LOL With: Michelle Chong

Favourite Restaurant: Astons Favourite Dessert: Ben & Jerry's Favourite Beauty Brand: The Body Shop

Favourite Tech Brand: Apple









GUEST PRESENTER FOR BAND I WANNA THROW MYSELF AT: JACK & RAI

FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: ZOUK

BANDIWANNA THROW MYSELF AT: WEST GRAND BOULEVARD

EST OMG! MOMENT: MR. YAM AHMEE























Returning for the 3rd time, the m:idea Youth Choice Awards 2012 drew an overwhelming 91,000 votes, trumping over 58,000 votes in the previous year!

The m:idea Youth Choice Awards is a month-long campaign organised by m:idea that invites youths to vote for their favourite personalities and brands. The voting campaign culminates in a fun and casual awards show where youths, celebs and brands nominees get together for some merrymaking in the spirit of carefree and hyper youth.

In keeping with the vibrant and cheeky tone of the awards show, celebrities like Irene Ang, West Grand Boulevard, Felicia Chin and Nat Ho were in full force to receive their awards and provide a witty quip or two.

m:idea (pronounced media) is a youth-led media conglomerate from the School of Film & Media Studies in Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

HYPE magazine is proud to officially be part of the m:idea family! Here's a visual review of the night of splendid fun!

















CUTEST FEMALE PERSONALITY I WANNA BATE : FELICIA CHIN



Forget the gender-specific "Bro" and "Chick" codes. Whatever happened to gender equality? AISYAH PUTERI JUNADI gives you a fusion of both the Bro Code AND the Chick Code, very originally named "The Brick Code".

In the most perfect world, girls keep all comments about their best friend's unfortunate-looking new boyfriend to themselves, and boys openly discuss their emotions with each other without being labeled a 'softie'.

Most of us single-tons would have our own group of lasses or lads for friends, but platonic relationships with each other can be as tricky as romantic ones.

So what are some codes of conduct a true bro or chick should never breach?

~ Article 1 ~

Thou shall drop whatever you are doing and rush to help your friend dump his/her girlfriend/boyfriend.

This is when your friend needs someone to remind him or her that there are plenty of fishes in the ocean, and that a breakup need not be hazardous, stressful, or time-consuming. But of course ultimately, it is your chance to smirk and say 'I told you so'.

~ Article 2 ~

Thou shall check out your friend's blind date and report back with a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

When your friend scores a blind date, it's your job to scope them out beforehand. Even if you give a bad review, you have to make sure he or she keeps his word! You should stick around too. Who knows, maybe you'll bump into your date's hot cousin!

~ Article 3 ~

Thou are required to go out with your single friends every Feb 14.

I mean come on, what are (single) friends for?

The bond between two (single) friends is stronger than the bond between a man and a woman because, well...let's just use that as self-consolation for our lonely souls, shall we?

~ Article 4 ~

Thou shall always spell-check

Punctuation and grammar is not a lifestyle choice. For everyone's better understanding and for the love of the Grammar God, stop tYpiNg aNd sp3lLin IYk dlz!!11! It really hurts our eyes!

~ Article 5 ~

Thou are not obliged to alert your friend of a mega hottie within your radius. It's okay to be selfish sometimes.

EXCEPTION: You are attached and therefore are not entitled to the cheap thrill that is hottie-searching. Tough luck, buddy!

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ALL THESE YEARS TO FIND THE BALANCE BETWEEN THESE TWO WORLDS."

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Goldsmiths

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