

HYPE

AUG - OCT 2012 ISSUE 35



PINK
MISSUNDAZTOOD



IN THIS ISSUE
JEDWARD
DANIEL CRAIG
THE CLASSICS
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HYPE

Editor Teo Chyi Hui

Deputy Editor Grace Chan

Entertainment Editor/ Copy Editor Nawira Baig

Arts Editor Glenda Chia

Fashion Editor Hanis Khairunnisa

Designers Charlotte Tan
Zafira Adlyn

Contributing Designers Duane Ho
Tan Siew Kiang
Tan Wei An, Joshua
Stephanie Koh
Ong Joey

Cover Design Tan Siew Kiang

Klix Photography Phoebe Khoo

Contributors Ariel Tabitha Lim Shu En
Arin Alycia Fong
Brandon Tanoto Han-Wei
Chan Wei Ting Genevieve
Cheryl Low Kar Wai
Clarissa Sih Shu Ning
Elizabeth Shana Kamaldin
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Valerie Quek Huei Min

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Nadia Azuar
Sarah Yip
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Editorial Consultant
Mrs Sng-Fun Poh Yoke

Design Consultant
Mr Ahsan Uddin Shan
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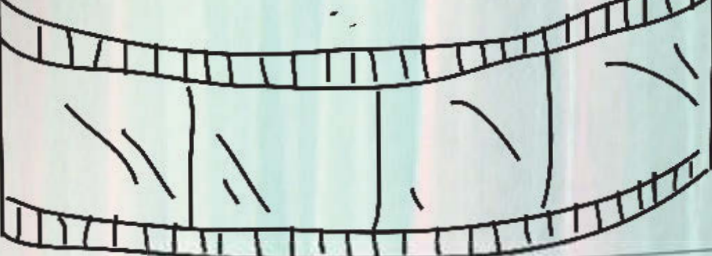
Photo Consultant
Mr William Aung

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

Published by
M:idea
School of Film & Media Studies,
Ngee Ann Polytechnic
Blk 53, #07-01,
535 Clementi Road,
Singapore 599489

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

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



"Sometimes life is hard. Things go wrong. In life and in love and in business and in friendship and in health and in all the other ways that life can go wrong. And when things get tough this is what you should do: Make. Good. Art."

- Neil Gaiman.



And to me, never a truer word has been spoken.

This issue, we take a look at the ones who've not necessarily had things go their way, because they go their own way. After all, as American author, poet and philosopher Henry David Thoreau once wrote, "Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty. The obedient must be slaves."

And cover girl **PINK (Pg 34)** is no slave. She just doesn't know when to quit, and good for us that she hasn't. With a new baby on her lap and a new album on the way, Alecia Moore has come a long way from being Missundaztood.

Similarly disobedient, **Daniel Craig (Pg 46)** is back this November with Skyfall. The anti-hero himself is not one to shy away from controversy, proving naysayers wrong, for the third time now, with his gritty portrayal of the smooth-talking, martini-drinking 007.

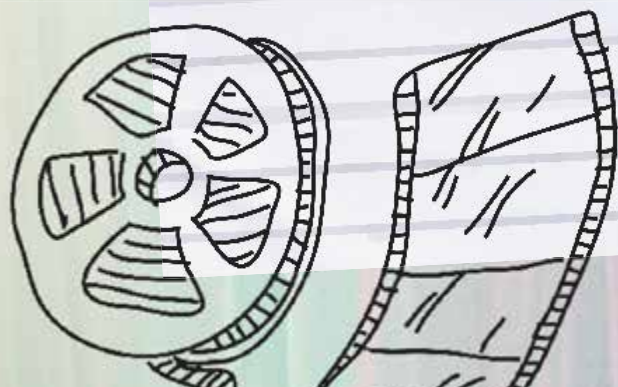
Back home, we've got our own bad boys. **NATHO (Pg 20)** has found a way to be what he wants to be, regardless of what you or I have to say about it. Ivan Heng and Shane Mardjuki are two men who've suited up in sequins, wigs and feather boas galore, critics and conservative, watch out. Take a peek backstage at the casts of **La Cage aux Folles (Pg 40)** and **PURPLE (Pg 43)** and see for yourself what going against the norm truly is.

While we're on the subject of going against the norm, join us on **The Great Alternative Weekend (Pg 84)**, where you can choose to get battered and bruised as you zip through the air or shop till you drop at prices even thieves would die for.

But wait, that's not all! In the last issue, we looked at classic movies that were spawning new sequels. This time, we're looking at classic books that have been adapted for the silver screen. Between you and me, **It's Gonna be Legen -wait for it- dary (Pg 63)**!

We've featured many creative minds in our 35 issues of HYPE. This time round, there's one thing special about them all. These local, regional and international artistes alike have made their names by going their own way.

And boy, have they made some good art.



"Chai"
Teo Chyi Hui
Editor



HYPE UP

WAVE HOUSE SENTOSA

12 AUGUST 2012

2PM-11PM

FLEA: 2PM-9PM

BEACH PARTY: 7PM-11PM

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JUICE IN MY GUITAR,
CASHEW CHEMISTS

SETS BY
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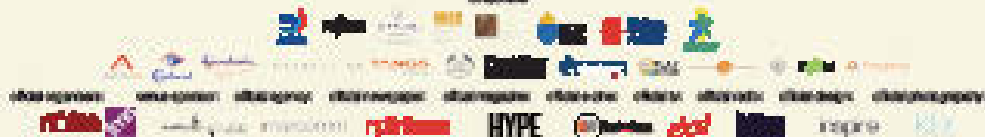
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HYPED UP

This year, m:idea is proud to present to you HYPED Up! 2012 – with a difference. For the first time, HYPED Up hits the shores of Singapore (quite literally). To be held at **Wave House**, this year's flea market is set to provide you with hours of fun in the sun, sand and surf, from **2 pm to 11 pm** on August 12.

Shopaholics and bargain hunters would be pleased to know that there will be 60 stalls for you to patronise. From thrift items, vintage trinkets, and even brand new clothes and shoes, you will be spoilt for choice by the variety.

You won't be shopping in silence either with a performance lineup that includes prominent names in the local music scene, such as **A VACANT AFFAIR, JACK AND RAI, FOR THIS CYCLE, JUICE IN MY GUITAR** and **CASHEW CHEMISTS**. Prepare to rock out and celebrate homegrown talent.

As if the prospect of shopping and watching your favourite local bands aren't enough to draw you in, you surely won't be able to resist a goodie bag worth \$245, including vouchers from Active Red, Jay Gee and Play Nation (among many other sponsors)! But you know what they say, the early bird gets the worm. So make sure you're among the first 200 to arrive to receive these goodies.

If you're unsure of what to wear, look to the ocean for inspiration. Turn up wearing **blue** with **2 or more of your friends** (the more the merrier!) and if you're spotted by the HYPE team, you could win a 6-month supply of **FreshKon Colors Fusion** cosmetic contact lenses! If you prefer having to work for your prize, we've got the perfect contest for you beach bunnies. Join the **FLOW-RIDING COMPETITION** and be the last man standing, to win a grand hamper with goodies you will have to see to believe. Everyone wins at HYPED Up!

The party doesn't stop as the sun goes down, however. Nightfall is when the real fun begins. From 6-7pm, catch magicians from ATOM and The Singapore Magicians roaming around, adding that little bit of magic to your night! Stay on past 7pm for the Sunset Beach Party, with fantastic drink promotions and musical accompaniment from hip-hop mix master **DJ KERNAIVA** and bombshell **DJ TINC** all the way till 11pm!

Not forgetting the reason for all of this: the launch of the 35th issue of HYPE! Grab a copy of your favourite lifestyle and entertainment magazine, hot off the press!

What are you waiting for? Clear your schedules and set aside **August 12** for **HYPED Up! 2012**. A fun-filled day (and night) awaits you. See you at **Wave House**!

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Raise Your Hands in the Air with

Jo Hamilton

Up-and-coming British folk musician Jo Hamilton has charmed many off their feet with her entrancing vocals. RACHEL PHAY finds out more about her stage companion and what local fans can expect in her upcoming Esplanade performance.

An ethereal voice armed with the almost magical AirPiano, her debut album "Gown" won three awards at the 2010 Recharged Radio Awards in London. Meet the enchanting British music wonder, Jo Hamilton.

Born Joanna Susan Hamilton, Jo is a vocalist and composer based in Birmingham, England.

Of the many experiences since her debut in 2009, her most memorable performance was in a small house in Devon, a county in Southwestern England. The owner of the house was only able to deal with his daughter's sudden death the previous year, after listening to his favourite track in "Gown".

"On hearing this particular song, he said he wept for the first time and was able to start talking about her," explains Jo, who adds that such experiences inspire her to make more music.

In 2010, she received the awards for Best Album ("Gown"), Best Single (for "Pick Me Up") and Best Folk Act at the Recharged Radio Awards, presented by the music station that supports new and independent music in UK.

That same year also saw her become the first musician in the world to use the AirPiano.

THE AIRPIANO

The AirPiano consists of 24 invisible keys and 8 faders that hover above a physical board. It is no wonder that Jo compares learning the art of playing the AirPiano to a game of virtual twister!

Yet, it was the simplicity of the AirPiano's display that first attracted Jo to the unusual instrument when she was looking for a substitute of the backing tracks to her songs for live performances.

It's "just a plank of wood that you wave your hands over and magically create sound," she says.

The variety of sounds that can be created from the AirPiano adds to the magic. The versatility of the instrument allows for customisation, whereby the musician can arrange the order of the sounds at their convenience and even assign multiple notes to each key.

The musician can also arrange different sets of sounds so that each set may be customisable to a song. With the right

settings, the AirPiano can also sound like a real piano despite being played differently.

As with learning any new instrument, time and patience is key. Jo explains that learning how to create magic with her hands in the air was no walk in the park.

"Learning to 'feel' the notes in the air and figuring out the best format of where to put each note that you want to play so you can actually play it was a puzzle," says Jo.

JO IN SINGAPORE

Without a big band accompanying Jo for her concert Aug 8, local fans will be treated to an intimate performance with the artist and her trusty AirPiano.

While she will be performing many songs from "Gown", Jo is most looking forward to showcasing "Mekong song", as it was written closest to our sunny island.

Meanwhile, she invites her fans to say hello on Facebook and read her photo blog for updates of her life and travels.

"I think of the music as celebrating life and the world, hopefully other people would like to join me in that celebration."

EXTREME DREAMS OF GIANTS

Though their snowball to fame can largely be attributed to their popularity amongst snowboarders on the slopes of the Alps, I Am Giant – while keeping extreme sports as a hobby they'd like to pursue – climbs higher and higher on the mountain of music.

By ELIZABETH SHANA KAMALDIN



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY MUSIC

With music regarded as “the perfect soundtrack to the Quiksilver lifestyle,” and with their debut album, “The Horrifying Truth” in 2011 being deemed “one of ... [the] year’s best albums,” by suite101.com, it’s no wonder that despite only having been formed only three years back, I Am Giant has already achieved a massive following with their popularity in many parts of the world, including the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Asia.

Former Quiksilver Ambassadors, the band, comprising Shelton Woolright on drums, Paul Matthews on bass, Andrew Kerr on guitar, and Ed Martin doing vocals, has played at countless sporting events: Brixton’s Skate and BMX Jam, and the Quiksilver Pro Tour in Biarritz, France. In their music videos, they’ve even featured big names in the extreme sports scene: pro skateboarder Tony Hawk, and 10-time world surfing champion, Kelly Slater.

Recently, I Am Giant even played at Singapore’s Wavehouse Sentosa, to a head-banging and cheering crowd. “It was good! And very consistent, how they actually progress, play and perform,” says Alan Mak, 38, a spectator of their performance, and a director of a corporate travel company. With all its four members having done extreme sports in the past, it’s no wonder that they are popular within the extreme sports market, one considered by Ed to be “massive”.

“If you’re into extreme sports, you’re going to want to put our music on when you’re riding down the mountain snowboarding or dropping into a half pipe on your skateboard,” says Shelton.

However, for I Am Giant, music comes first. Perhaps due to one too many falls or wanting to protect their limbs and bones from being broken again, the band places far more focus on their music rather than their sports.

“Extreme sports was never really a career path, it’s more of a hobby, cum a bit of fun,” says Paul. “We really just wanted to focus on the music and that takes a lot of time really,” agrees Andy.

For some of the members, they’ve been musicians even longer than they’ve practised on their skateboard. “We write our music from our personal experiences, thoughts, [and] philosophies. It just so happens that it affects extreme sports, because it’s high energy music,” Paul claims.

Still, being able to combine the two – to play at both festivals and being able to have “a little skate or a snowboard” afterwards, according to Shelton, is a win-win for the band, since it’s what they also do in their free time.

“It was amazing to have the opportunity to form a band together and start this journey that we’ve been on,” says Ed. Though they live every musician-cum-extreme sports athlete’s dream, it is as Shelton claims, “We haven’t reached the end of the rainbow yet.”

Currently working on their second album with around 15 tracks in the bag, I Am Giant promises to be even bigger and better, with an evolution of their songs and extension of tracks, in a liberation of their first album.

FROM NOISE

TO POISE



Very much similar to solo acoustic artiste Dallas Green, Ben Blondel, known under his alias of Death and A Cure, reveals to BRANDON TANOTO his experiences from his solo career.

PHOTO BY RYAN CHANG

Clearly unaccustomed to Singapore's humidity but still insistent on looking dashingly stylish, Ben Blondel sweats profusely while donned in a vintage Levis denim jacket and skinny chinos.

More popularly known under his stage moniker of *Death and A Cure*, and his position as keyboardist-cum-vocalist in Australian post-hardcore band, In League, the meek young lad is spotted inspecting the fun fact written on the flipside of his peach Snapple's bottle cap with an unexpected childlike eagerness in his expression.

Ben recalls, "It was in 2008, when I wrote my first five songs and I decided that I should make an EP (extended play) since my music garnered pretty good responses and people enjoyed it as much as I did writing them.

"And who would have known that *In League* would hit me up soon after on Myspace while I was doing my solo thing. Everything just looked up from then on."

It is indeed hard to imagine how Ben Blondel manages to juggle both his commitments.

Playing two completely varying genres of music, the differences in both projects are vast for the Australian singer-songwriter. However, he certainly enjoys the experience and exposure, such as his debut Singaporean tour

that happened from May 2 to May 6, at venues like Homeclub and The Pigeonhole Café.

"With *In League*, I could jump around and onto the audiences during our live sets, but I can't do that at my own shows cause people would get angry. But it's also really amazing because I can play intimate gigs and share a lot more of who I really am through my songs. As far as writing goes, writing for *In League* is tougher as there's more people putting down different ideas," Ben explains.

Drawing inspiration from the tranquil splendour of nature and social issues, Ben's debut full-length "Oceans, Lovers and Empires", released in May 2012, is an amalgamation of his sincere emotions and thoughts.

"The album's a summary of the last three years of my life. I don't really talk about it but the meaning behind the name, *Death and A Cure*, is how I desire to seek a cure for the many things that are so wrong in the world. The name also sounds a little provocative because many would think it's a metal band, since it has 'death' in it but when they take a listen, they're shocked because they get really mellow music that contrasts the name."

Like any other man in his twenties, Ben has his share of relationship problems and life's never-ending difficulties that

have changed him. Embracing these sentiments, he channels his feelings towards a healthy avenue, his music.

"A lot of my songs are quite melancholic, and often talk about the crappier things in life. As morbid as it sounds, that's where I usually get my inspiration from. It's not that I've had a super tough life but I find that people are able to connect with these things. Like how one loves but is never being loved back," chuckles Ben like a bashful lad.

With quirky interests that might surprise his fans, the singer feels that he has too little time to do the many things he wishes to.

"I'm part of a community of people that discuss about religion and philosophies, while trying to solve the world's problems, bettering ourselves and working hard to make the world a better place. It's definitely not something a lot of people my age do during their free time. But one thing that I can be really sure of, is that I will always be playing music," Ben shares.

Apart from that, writing new music and experimenting new things with his music are on Ben's to-do list.

"I'm hoping to create a live DVD with live footages and songs off my album so I can finally take down all the dodgy iPhone vidoes off my Youtube account and have something substantial."

BRANDON TANOTO unravels quirky details of My Disco's 10-year journey as a band as well as how the trio embraces the magnificence of minimalism in both their music and lifestyle.

Insouciant and clearly laidback, the lads of My Disco are slumped onto a snug couch in the restful interior of Homeclub as vocalist-cum-bassist, Liam Andrews, leans forward idly to lift his mug of chilled Tiger beer to his mouth.

He licks his lips and recalls, "It has got to be the teh tarik, it's such an oddly interesting and refreshing beverage that we would look forward to having plenty of in Singapore, since we could never find it back in Australia."

Having performed in Singapore in January last year, My Disco travelled miles to grace our shores once again, on Apr 28 in conjunction with the release of their latest record 'Little Joy', and part of their 2012 Australian/Asian tour.

Though they may appear nonchalant at times, the group are aficionados at what they do, evident from their dynamic performances. The blasé mannerisms of Liam and his brother, guitarist Ben Andrews, are reflected in the minimalist music that the band conjures. It is no wonder the band feels strongly towards the adage "less is more".

"It's a good saying in many aspects of life because some people simply talk too much and they get annoying, considering they tend to not translate their words into actions, which is pretty thwarting," Ben tells HYPE as he pets his fleecy beard casually.

"Quantity doesn't necessarily equate to quality, I mean we're pretty good for a three-piece band!" drummer, Rohan Rebeiro, adds jokingly.

Sparse yet dystopian vocals and droningly repetitive guitar riffs comprise the trio's bizarrely hypnotic yet gripping sound. Their cathartic live sets see them attacking their instruments ferociously, evoking sounds minimal enough to settle within listeners gradually, yet complex enough to quiver dust wherever it lands. However, for the band to get to where they are presently, was certainly not a simple feat.

Taking another sip from his ice cold brew, Liam shares, "We've been a band for almost 10 years, and I feel that with each record we put out, it evolves into something new that we've never planned for but something that just naturally occurs to us."

Having a sibling in the band has its benefits. "There's always someone I can count on and trust when we're on stage and on tour, I mean we've been playing music for more than 20 years," expresses Liam.

Rohan interrupts the awkwardly adorable brotherly moment, "I mean even if they do detest each other, they'd still have to go to family dinners together!"

On top of music and performing, as well as their bartender day-jobs, the outfit still harbours goals that they wish to achieve for themselves.

"Ever since we started the band, we've always wanted to travel all over the world to play to different people, and along the way, I've decided I'd like to learn more languages and become multilingual," Liam says.

Liam kids that we can all expect new material from the band once they've had enough teh tarik here in Singapore.

"It's something a bit different but you can be sure that it's something new, and it'll come as a pleasant surprise."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KITTY WU RECORDS

More To Jai Ho

Few know the man behind the hit song off *Slumdog Millionaire*, “Jai Ho”. But Sukhwinder Singh is not looking for fame or awards.

By REBECCA LIEW



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARINA PTE LTD

It's hard to shine in a place as glitzy as Bollywood: 2012 officially makes it a century old, and new young hopefuls and are frankly in surplus.

Sukhwinder Singh is one of those exceptions. At 40, he continues to remain one of Bollywood's most sought after singers. Remember “Jai Ho”, the widely famed song off 2008's *Slumdog Millionaire*, with its addictive hook and catchy chorus? It's hard not to — even the Pussycat Dolls did a rendition of it.

The original version was produced together with composer A.R. Rahman, and Sukhwinder knew he had hit gold when the song snagged an Academy Award for Best Original Song, and later a Grammy.

As a playback artist, Sukhwinder is best known for being the voice behind songs in many a movie—particularly for Bollywood star, Shahrukh Khan, in Bollywood blockbuster songs like “Haule Haule” (Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi), and “Marjani Marjani” (Billu Barber). 1998's *Dil Se* made fame out of “Chaiya Chaiya”, a song that spawned

a Filmfare award the following year and was later used as the title track in *Inside Man* (2006).

But Sukhwinder makes no bones about keeping things real. “Awards are fine and I respect them, but my biggest achievement so far has been the love and adulation from my listeners,” he says. “All I wish is that people keep listening to me, and [keep] giving [me] the encouragement to sing more.”

Fame is clearly not something the singer is after, either.

“[I keep a] low profile,” he agrees. “It's the work of an artiste that should speak, not the singer himself.”

The global appeal of his songs is without question too — he performed to a crowd of 40,000 in the United States once, despite the bulk of his songs being performed in Hindi. On his continual success, Sukhwinder's answer comes easily.

“I sing from my heart and not my throat. I respect [composer A.R.

Rahman] for being a great music maker, but my inspiration for music comes from great sufi saints and singers like Lata mangeskar, and Asha Bhonsle. I spent my childhood listening to them, and that's what has connected me to music on a spiritual level.” It's this tireless passion that fuels his spirited love for performing. Sukhwinder never used to sing more than 15 songs in a year, but has already sung close to 50 songs in the first half of this year alone.

Fans will be excited to know Sukhwinder Singh is making a comeback concert in Singapore, in true Bollywood fashion: expect an appearance from Shweta Pandit, a bevy of dancers and a full orchestra, complete with a 14-metre screen featuring 3D effects. It's every bit the no-holds barred concert experience, and proof that age has nothing on the singer.

“A true artiste can never change,” Sukhwinder declares with feeling. “He just grows with experience.” With 26 years in the business and counting, we believe him.

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JEDMANIA

Jedward made an impromptu trip to Singapore and ARIEL TABITHA LIM caught up with the dashing duo as they talked “Young Love” and fan appreciation.

As I step into the Four Seasons Hotel lounge to meet John and Edward, the 20-year-old Irish twins who make up the pop duo Jedward, I am not expecting to be attacked. With my arm outstretched in anticipation of shaking their hands, I am instead almost lifted off the ground as John grabs me in one of the longest, tightest hugs I've ever been given.

But I should have probably expected it after watching a video of them on YouTube showing how they greeted fans upon arriving at Changi Airport. Instead of being surrounded by bodyguards that keep fans away, the *X Factor* stars ran towards their fans and dived right into the crowd, hugging screaming fangirls, and taking pictures with them.

The brothers grin at me, dressed in matching sequined, dogtooth jackets with shoulder pads that reach their eye level, and give their opening line, “Hi, we’re John and Edward, and together we are Jedward!” Edward then breaks into song, “Spikey hair with cool high-tops! Fun, cool twins so hot, we’ll melt your makeup!” in the tune of Katy Perry’s “California Gurls”. ‘Exuberant’ doesn’t nearly come close to describing how enthusiastic they are, a state in which they remain throughout the session.

Within the first 20 seconds of the interview, it becomes clear that very high on John and Edward’s list of priorities are their fans. Edward quickly corrects me for thinking that their 6-day trip here was to promote their new album, “Young Love”, which topped the charts in Ireland in its first week of release. “We didn’t come to Singapore to promote the album. We came here to meet our fans because they’ve been sending us tweets to come here!”

With some coaxing, I manage to get them to stop talking about how much they love their Singaporean fans for enough time to talk about their album.

What’s cool about “Young Love”, the twins say, is that it’s a concept album written around the story of a relationship — from its very beginning to its end. This album, unlike their first two platinum albums “Planet Jedward” and “Victory”, contains quite a few ballads. “Our last album was a real pop album, with the K-pop kind of sound. But “Young Love” goes back to basics. There’s the drums, there’s the guitar... that give the ballads a lot of emotion. They’re the kind of songs that won’t get old, that you can listen to over and over again.” John explains, and Edward adds, “The songs in “Young Love” are really good for performing live on stage in concert with our fans. We can’t wait to have a massive concert here for you guys!”

When I ask them how the songs can be appreciated across all cultures, the brothers collapse in gales of laughter. “That’s such a Miss World question! You’d be cool for Miss World,” Edward jokes. After they compose themselves, John says in his most serious tone of voice, “I think everyone can appreciate that the album cover’s black and white, cause white is the colour of rice, and everyone likes rice,” which gets us all in stitches again.

Finally, John tells me, “Everybody goes through young love no matter what culture they come from,” very much like the lyrics in the song that goes “all around the world, everybody in young love”.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC

The rest of the interview is littered with questions from them to me. “Are you in college now? How old are you? What music do you listen to?” It occurs to me that they might have forgotten they are the ones being interviewed and think we’re all just chatting as friends, but then I realise that they can’t help but be personable. It’s who they are.

Apart from how hilariously animated and energetic they are, it’s their overwhelming friendliness and genuine care for their fans that have garnered so many from all over the world. Fans that not only love their music, but love them — to the extent of sitting outside Four Seasons hotel just waiting for them to come out, because they know John and Edward will take the time to talk to them.

MTV WORLD STAGE BREAKING ATTENDANCE RECORDS

How do you get 16,000 people in one place at one time? Just get the Biebs, Mizz Nina, Kpop quintet Kara, and the oh-so-charismatic Jay Park on stage and you're set!
By GENEVIEVE CHAN

Justin Bieber asks if he can be your boyfriend. KARA performs a special preview of a song that has never been broadcasted live before. Mizz Nina wants to show you how to move. Jay Park declares that he's a huge Belieber and starts singing the chorus of 'Boyfriend' in the middle of his set.

MTV World Stage Live in Malaysia 2012 was a spectacular mix of awe and oddity. The line-up was so diverse — pop phenomenon Justin Bieber, K-pop acts Jay Park, and girl group KARA, as well as Malaysia's very own R&B star Mizz Nina — it shouldn't have worked, but it did. When you have over 16,000 people clamouring for tickets to your music event, you know you've got to be doing it right.

Back for its fourth year running, MTV World Stage 2012 proved to be a hit as its attendance broke all records. Fans from all over the world flocked to the Surf Beach at Sunway Lagoon on Jul 15 to be part of the biggest music event held in Malaysia.

Angie Johnson, 33, from the US, came to the event with her two daughters and husband to see Justin Bieber live. "My daughter loves Justin Bieber," she beams.

Despite the sweltering heat, the crowd — a mix of tween girls, teenagers and even a few families — waited patiently to catch a glimpse of their favourite stars. Some Beliebers, Jaywalkerz, Kamelias and Mizz Nina fans began queuing up for the concert as early as 7am that day, which may not be such a feat compared to what other fans have done.

"We went to Japan to see our favourite K-Pop artistes perform and we're planning to go to Taiwan later this year," giggles KARA and Jay Park fans, CY Chang, 19, and Nikki Au, 21.

"Most extreme thing I've done [to see an artiste] is probably to sneak backstage," chuckles Kevin Johnson, 37. When hosts, MTV VJs, Rich and Holly asked the crowd who they were here for, Justin Bieber and Jay Park garnered the loudest cheers.

"Who wants to be my baby?" The crowd went wild as the stage lit up and Justin Bieber started his set, performing his 2010 hit single, "Baby". The heat proves to be too much for the Canadian pop star as he requested for iced water in the break of his songs.

He goes on to serenade and tease the crowd, peppering his set with one-liners on his love for his fans. "To the ladies out there, this song is for you. For once, can I be your boyfriend?" He asked, making the Beliebers scream with delight as he ended his 8-song-long set.

South Korean girl group KARA took the stage next. Showing off their synchronised dance choreographies and girly pop songs, they kept the energy level high as they pranced around on stage against a backdrop of flashing colours and bright lights. They were upbeat and lively, pausing in between songs only to thank the crowd. In a bid to make this performance stand out from the rest, KARA gave their fans a treat as they performed 'Let It Go' live for the first time.

Perched in between two K-Pop acts is Malaysia's very own singer-songwriter Mizz Nina, best known for her collaboration with Flo Rida on her song titled "Takeover", which garnered over one million views on YouTube. The crowd was surprisingly receptive to her performance and many people even sang along to some songs, despite the fact that she has not yet made a name for herself on an international level.

More than two hours into the show, American-Korean singer, songwriter and dancer, Jay Park finally took the stage. If the crowd was tired, they definitely did not show it as they erupted in cheer to show their appreciation for Jay Park. Hit singles "Abandoned" and "Know Your Name" proved to be irresistible as the fans grooved along, all their tiredness forgotten.

His performance was stellar as he gave his all into every song, pouring his heart out and impressing the crowd with his sleek moves. Giving things a sexy twist, Jay Park apologised to the guys and warned that "this is strictly for the ladies" as he launched into "Turn Off Your Phone" and "Do What We Do", occasionally rousing the crowd by lifting up his shirt and flashing his abs. In response, the ladies swooned and cheered.

The performance ended on a high note with "Body2Body", as Jay Park closed this year's MTV World Stage as glittery silver paper rained down on the beach.

At a tender age of four years, MTV World Stage Live shows that it has potential to become one of Asia's best and biggest music festivals. One day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MTV ASIA, ALOYSIUS LIM

Natural dreamer

After entering the entertainment industry in the first season of Singapore Idol, Nat Ho has acted, danced, sung, and just recently, cooked! He shares his thoughts with CLARISSA SIH about his recent foray into the music industry, dishes out advice about love, and tells us what's cooking.

Dressed in a round neck T-shirt, faded jeans and sneakers, Nat Ho seemed like a shy schoolboy as he entered the m:idea studio.

He had just come from dance practice, and when asked about whether or not he was tired, he replied resolutely, "As an artist I have to keep on learning and improving. I'm quite competitive by nature, and just want to outdo myself all the time."

Many see Nat as "the boy next door" who made his acting debut in the Channel 8 drama Shooting Stars. He also starred in the memorable Polo Boys in 2009, a year before he left MediaCorp to pursue his ultimate dream — singing.

He spent two years working on his EP, *Unleashed*, which hit stores in April this year. However, his debut music video for the title track drew a huge amount of flack which he, surprisingly, saw coming.

"I expected it!" he exclaims. "A large part is because people didn't really understand what I was trying to do with it... I had lots of auto tune in it because I wanted it to be as robotic as possible."



PHOTO BY KUX PHOTOGRAPHY

His music video also features special effects in a futuristic setting, and looks like it was taken out of a science fiction movie.

"Singaporeans don't like change. At that point in time people had this idea that Nat Ho was the boy next door. A lot of people were expecting me to come up with a ballad or some slow songs based on that image," he adds.

As for the platinum blonde hairdo that he now sports (which some detractors have claimed is part of his effort to hop onto the K wave), he has this to say, "I was doing stuff like that even before Kpop was around!"

He confessed to making music videos with his Anglo-Chinese school mates and emulated bands like the Backstreet Boys and 'NSYNC. "I never really grew out of the boy band phase. Those were good, fun memories," he reminisces.

Despite making dance music, with his EP consisting of three other tracks -Brevity, Dance DJ and Psycho Love, Nat reveals that he never liked clubbing.

You'll never catch him at a club unless celebrating a friend's birthday or performing a gig. "I'll rather eat roti prata or have coffee," he laughed.

Although not in a relationship, (girls, take note!) Nat reveals that his friends see him as a love guru. "I don't know why I'm like some love doctor and my friends come to me and talk about their problems."

In the course of dishing out relationship advice, he concluded, "Too many people are obsessed with finding their other half. But it's really not about that. A relationship is supposed to be two whole people coming together, that's why it's called a couple."

With no backup plan in store and full focus on developing his music career, Nat aims to hold a world tour in five years. For now, his second music video is in the pipes and has already scouted out his female lead.

"I don't believe in plan B's because that means that you have set yourself up to fail. I don't believe in giving 50 percent. It's either 100 percent or nothing at all."

FINDING A VOICE OF HIS OWN



Nathan Hartono has come a long way since his big break in the music scene through Teenage Icon, in 2005, with three albums, and the rock musical *Spring Awakening* under his belt, but it's only the beginning for this teen heartthrob. By ARIEL TABITHA LIM



PHOTO BY KIX PHOTOGRAPHY

Dressed casually in T-shirt and jeans, with ruffled hair and a boyish smile, Nathan greets me as we walk into a small café where he will tell me about his journey in the music industry. Humming to himself and walking to his own beat, this jazz cover artiste turned singer-songwriter seems to be walking the line between this world and his very own.

It's been six years since his last album and as we sip our raspberry sodas, Nathan recounts the person he was at that time. "I was 15 and didn't know what the hell was going on," he shakes his head, pauses, then goes sombre as he recalls covering jazz songs at gala events – the period of his life that he is most well known for.

"I would go on stage and feel absolutely nothing. I would go on shows back to back and sing the same damn songs – I don't know what for, they weren't even my songs. It felt a bit pointless after a while."

His brows furrow as he continues, "I can't listen to my own CD. It's like listening to another person who doesn't sound very good."

Nathan quickly clarifies that he loves jazz and always will, but wasn't comfortable with singing other people's songs because they didn't represent who he was.

Now, six years later and no longer managed by a music label in Singapore, Nathan is producing his own extended play (EP) of original acoustic folk pop songs that take on a completely new direction from his jazz covers.

"These songs are my stories," he says. "A lot of them are about love. But there are different kinds of love. There's the heart-break kind of love, then there's the really deep kind of love that things like Valentine's Day can't express."

This self-titled EP released in mid-July is the mark Nathan intends to leave before he leaves for Boston in September,

where he will be studying at Berklee College of Music over the next four years. He assures me he's not leaving Singapore for good because he believes in the local arts scene and he's proud to be part of it.

"When I tell people I'm going overseas, they go, 'Oh, that's good, you're going overseas to pursue your music.' But no, I still intend to bring my music back here because I love this place."

"I meet tons of talented musicians here. I know in the years to come, there's going to be a huge change in the music scene. I don't believe that Singapore's music scene is hopeless. It's just a matter of time and dedication and I hope to be part of that change, alongside a whole bunch of amazing people."

Nathan's eyes burn with sincerity as he explains why he's in this industry, "It's not all about me. What I'm helping to push forward is the arts. Not just Nathan Hartono. That helped me a lot – realising I'm part of something bigger than myself."

The humble 21-year-old sitting before me wasn't always this modest. Running a hand through his hair, he tells me of a time when he let fame get to his head.

"It's a huge jump from starting out as someone who has never performed in front of anyone in his life to suddenly becoming someone who gets recognition and gets paid to sing on stage. I started realising that people like what I do, I'm in magazines, I have a CD – I'm a big deal. That messed with my ego."

What humbled him, Nathan reminisces, was the ACJC choir that he was in. "The conductors and my friends in the choir were very serious about music. It wasn't just a hobby to them – it's a life journey of getting better and better. There isn't a ceiling you can hit and say, 'Ok, I've made something perfect', because you can always do better. This made me realise I'm not that big a deal. I'm just a very small speck in a very huge musical spectrum of people improving their art."

Recognising that he hadn't reached a level of supremacy in his music, Nathan learnt that the music he makes isn't all for himself. This he learnt in the army, where he was part of an acappella group in the music and drama company.

"We did performances in primary and secondary schools under the Arts Education Programme. After some shows, there would be kids coming up to us, having no idea who I was, and saying, 'Thank you for that performance. I want to sing songs like that. I want to do what you do.' I realised, holy sh**, what I do is actually significant. It's not just for me; it's for other people."

What leaves a stronger impression than Nathan's powerful voice, rough-hewn face and disarming charm is his deep understanding of the influence of music, his passion and honour for a cause greater than himself, and the courage to pursue it.

A photograph of the band Monster Cat, consisting of four members standing in a row. They are positioned in front of a large, light-colored wall featuring a mural of a cat's face, which serves as the background. The band members are dressed in dark, casual clothing. The overall mood is artistic and moody.

prowling to the top

Local folk rock act MONSTER CAT has clawed their way up the local music scene. ARIN FONG reveals their struggles, their journey and their alter egos.

They come in forms of mysterious cats. Bassist, Copy Cat, stems from Jim Jarmusch's quote, "nothing is original... it doesn't matter where you take things from, but where you take them to."

Frontman, Hentai Cat, draws his pseudonym from an attraction to perversion, "The kind of response perversion elicits from a person is a particular kind of response that resonates with me."

Guitarist, Psycho Cat, comes from a place of paranoia and franticness.

"I've rarely slept well in my life," he speaks of the nightmares that haunt his mind.

Drummer, Zen Cat, is filled with stillness.

"While my band mates usually break out into sonic spasms and furry fits, I prefer to stay the calm eye within the disturbing storm," he muses.

It is the combination of these personas that create the emotive nature of dark folk-rock lineup, MONSTER CAT.

In June 2011, the band released their debut EP, "Mannequins". In less than a year, the music video for their single, "Underwater", was born, garnering over 76,000 views on YouTube and landing on MTV Asia. The album reaped about 150,000 unique hits when released on The Pirate Bay, earlier in April. Despite all this, the felines have a long journey towards success.

When MONSTER CAT was taking shape, the members were grappling with the uncertainty of pursuing music and the definition of success. Psycho Cat was torn between making music and getting a full-time job. Now that the band has clawed its way up, they aim to stay afloat.

"Success for me is that we can do this for a living; as long as we can sustain ourselves [and] we feel creatively fulfilled," says Hentai Cat.

But with their independently-produced EP and self-funded projects, the band foresees a financially rough journey ahead.

"Doing music is like being in a really long fight with a brutal boxer. Most of the days you end up getting punched and some days you're lucky - you get to land a punch in. A lot of it is about picking yourself up to fight again the next day," muses Psycho Cat.

Amongst the raving reviews, one punch to the band was the departure of female vocalist, Black Cat. Creative differences, and her plans to pursue acting and a solo career, mutually led them to part ways.

The band now lacks her gentle, haunting vocals, which worked especially well on tracks, "The Courier", and "Underwater".

Performance drummer, Zen Cat, has since been added to the official line-up and will contribute to the creative process for the full-length album.

The new album is slated to be a "different creature", with Zen Cat's progressive style of drumming, but still MONSTER CAT.

"He has a totally different dimension on the percussion side...it really forces us to think of what rhythm patterns to utilise," says Copy Cat.

The band has rocked popular local festivals this year: The People's Party, Music Matters Live, Fred Perry Subsonic Live, and Baybeats. One of their biggest performances yet was their 10-day tour in Tokyo, Japan, in Nov 2011. "It was the first time we were playing overseas... everyone felt that once they came back they kinda leveled up... it was good for our confidence," recalls Hentai Cat.

The band has more collaborations up their sleeves. They are set to play at The Substation on Aug 11, as part of music programme, The Tribal Gathering of the Tongue Tasters. Collaborating with Syndicate, Diphasic, and other local electronic artistes, a remix compilation release of "Underwater" is also a-brewin'.

But the biggest catch of them all has to be FILTER Magazine's Culture Collide Festival in Los Angeles, USA, where the band will be playing alongside other international alternative music sensations such as of Montreal, The Wombats, and Blood Red Shoes, from Oct 4 onwards.

The future seems promising for MONSTER CAT, but the question of sustainability constantly poses a challenge to them. They do not have a straightforward solution, but that does not mean it can't be done.

Hentai Cat stresses, "You gotta stay positive. That kind of confidence comes from a sense of belief, not only in ourselves, but also in what we're doing and in each other... We're in it for the long run."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KITTY WU RECORDS



PHOTO BY ALOYSIUS LIM

ALMOST NIRVANA

From a duo's hobby to the first Singaporean band ever invited to perform overseas, Caracal is on its way to gaining international fame.

By LYDIA PANG

First comes lead singer Kenneth Christopher "KC" Meals. His bespectacled eyes begin searching for us in the crowd, and as soon as he spots our frantic waves, he beams. As he walks closer, his chosen attire for the night is eye-catching: a dark brown fedora sits snugly on his head, and he has picked a black, casual but feisty graphic top to go along with his slightly muscled, tattooed arms.

The other members of the band start trickling in one after another.

Despite achieving international fame with various performances held in Canada and Taiwan, the boys are humble, never once letting their celebrity status get to their heads. They apologise sheepishly and profusely for arriving late.

Meet Caracal – one of the most respectable pioneers in the local music scene.

In 2005, Field Teo, the guitarist, and Martin Kong, the drummer, started Caracal as a hobby. The duo then met the remaining members of the band in secondary school. Even though the boys work through their busy schedules to meet up at least once a week, their amusing antics and taunting jokes targeted at each other never seem to get old. Upon seeing his band members, KC eagerly raises both his hands to flaunt the new tattoos he recently got on his knuckles.

Guitarist Gabriel De Souza pipes up, "KC loves getting tattoos on the most painful places." The whole band breaks out into explosive laughter. Gabriel and KC have been touted as the "nonsense guys" by the rest of the band. Having known each other for the longest period of time, both Gabriel's and KC's rapport and chemistry with each other is evident, even to a stranger.

The complete opposite from the rambunctious pair is drummer Martin also known as the band's diligent discipline master. "Martin can be a little playful at times, but when it comes to the band he knows when to be serious," proclaims KC, "He always puts us in the right place." Martin grins at KC's comments on him, as if silently agreeing with the band's frontman.

Field, on the other hand, is the band's musical consultant. "Field is always teaching the band about guitar, and we always make sure we consult Field regarding song ideas. He has good opinions on what works, and what doesn't," explains Gabriel. The band goes on to elaborate about how Field has commonly been teased about "attaining the ultimate nirvana level of guitar".

Last but not least, it seems that in every band, there is one ditzzy yet lovable member that completes all musical groups. In the case of Caracal, this member is none other than bassist Stephen (Steve) Kwek.

Capitalising on his absence, the members jump at every opportunity to expose Steve's little quirks. "Steve is the joke of the band. He just likes to repeat what other people say and rephrase it in his own words. He's always in his own world, it's quite cute and funny at the same time," Gabriel describes, and the whole band nods their heads in agreement.

Yet, when it comes to stage production, nobody beats Steve's skilful mastery of musical equipments.

Being involved in a band is no mean feat, and Caracal's stunning ability to stick out in our local music industry has most definitely proved their resilience towards hardship. This alternative rock band has not only played in local music festivals such as the Baybeats Festival in 2007, 2008 and 2011, and has also successfully conquered foreign ground as well.

With Caracal gaining so much popularity locally and overseas, it came as no surprise when the first pressing of their latest album *Bear.Shark.Wolf* was sold out. Earlier in July this year, Caracal released the second edition of "Bear.Shark.Wolf" again; this time complete with new album art and two rearranged and re-recorded tracks.

Caracal performs at the Kansai Music Conference, Osaka, Japan, from Sep 14-17.

LOOK OUT LOCALS

Tired of Gaga and pop? Opt for some Singapore pride as we bring you three exclusively local bands to check out. You'll be marching to a brand new anthem this NDP, so take your homegrown pick-Anechois, Pep Talk, or Rudra!

THE ROAR OF PASSION ECHOES

By BRANDON TANOTO

Having impressed the panel of judges at the Baybeats 2012 auditions, the aspiring outfit had managed to clinch the long-anticipated opportunity to perform at the esteemed festival. Resonating wispy vocals against a backdrop of multiple dreamlike guitar riffs, and forcefully rhythmic and complex basslines contribute to the band's distinctive sound.

"Sasha Grey! (American pornographic actress) No, don't put that down! If I had to describe our music as a person, this person would be humble, excep-

FROM ROCKSTARS TO LEGENDS

By EUNICE LOH

After having headlined countless music festivals all around the world, and produced six original albums, Rudra celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and is growing even stronger.

"Rudra is sort of a journey into the inner self as taught by the Vedic civilisation. It is truly a spiritual and philosophical journey where one sees oneself as not separate from the universe," Subash explains, as he tells of the concept behind the band.

The group was formed back in 1992 and its current members now include front man, Kathir, guitarists, Vinod and Subash, and drummer, Shiva. Rudra



was the founder of a sub-category of music under the Metal genre, known as Vedic Metal. This unique sound comprises a mix of Vedic and Metal influence, and is described by the band as a "perfect marriage".

The musicians draw influence from the Vedic philosophy of Advaita and have incorporated it into all of their music. Their sound also encapsulates lyrics filled with Sanskrit chants and traditional Indian instruments fused with heavy metal beats and guitar riffing.



tionally emotional most of the time, and not afraid to express himself," Dale Roswald, 24, bassist, shares.

Though the group may appear a tad bit goofy with their eccentric wisecracks at first glance, you wouldn't have thought that the boys of Anechois were remotely close.

It turns out that Justin Koh, Dale Roswald, vocalist Muhd Haziq, keyboardist Firdhauz Asyraft, and drummer Fadli Salim, treasure their relationship more than anything else.

"Friendship and the desire to make great music motivates us to do what we do," Dale tells HYPE.



Founded in late 2009, Pep Talk isn't just all talk. They are four very talented young musicians who met while studying in Singapore Polytechnic: Farhan, the vocalist; Nazili, the bassist; Haikal, the guitarist; and Hassan, the drummer.

But now, they're ticking off two milestones off their checklist, which is to play for Baybeats, Singapore's very own yearly alternative music festival and launch their debut EP. Their first EP, "Between The Devil and The Sea", which has a total of five songs, four penned by Farhan and one by Nazili, was launched on the very first day of Baybeats, on Jun 29.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAR

PREPPING THEMSELVES WITH PEP

By ELAINE HUANG

"Mostly, my songs are based on fictional characters but I try to make it seem real. I try to input real experiences from what I read in the newspapers and [watch on] television," says Farhan.

He shares, "It's a tale about ... parents' sacrifice for their kids, the love of husbands and wives, the unity of a band of soldiers, so overall, it gives motivation to people."

"I'll go for someone with a cool voice and collaborate with someone from another country, but not so far away. This Indonesian band called Mocca, I think she has a nice voice. Local artist wise, I think the girl from Pleasantry," notes Farhan.

REGIONAL

They have albums, accolades and ardent fans. They also have one thing in common—they're all from Asia. If you haven't heard of King Lychee, Stars and Rabbit, Pastel Lite, and Love Me Butch, then it's time to give a listen to these regional delights.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PASTEL LITE

Accidental SpotLite

Some bands strive for fame and some die trying. And then there are bands like Pastel Lite, who stumble upon it. ARIN FONG uncovers the story of the electronica duo's unexpected inception.

Equipped with a synthesiser, an electrifying voice, and an indescribable chemistry, Pastel Lite has been making quite a racket in the Kuala Lumpur indie music scene, and recently landed themselves in Singapore for the very first time.

Eff Hakim, and Mohd Faliq formed Pastel Lite earlier in January, yet the newbies have already been labelled 'band to watch out for' by Malaysia's JUICE Magazine.

"We decided that when we started this band, we're not gonna be anything else but ourselves. Its much easier to make music when you're being honest," says 21-year-old Eff.

Along with "Have Me", their popular softhearted dance track – "Heart Drum", sent the duo to release two other songs for their ever-hungry fans.

With the indie music scene still evolving and electronica still new in Malaysia, the duo was pleasantly surprised when people actually liked their sound.

"The funny thing is that we weren't expecting any of this. We're just like 'okay we're gonna chillax, lepak, make a bunch of songs, see who listens.' If nobody listens we don't care. But by the end of the day people listened, and we're really grateful," shares the duo.

To keep their fans dancing, the duo plans to experiment even further and start work on a new EP.

"There's still gonna be my voice and his synth there, its not gonna be entirely different," reassures Eff.

"We'll always sound like us even though we sound different in every song. At the end of the day you can only expect us to sound like Pastel Lite."

Reaching for the Stars (With a Rabbit)

Stars and Rabbit may be a strange name to call themselves, but nonetheless, the band, named after its singer's Twitter name, has won hearts in many parts of the world, making them a regional band for all indie lovers to keep an eye out for. By ELIZABETH KAMALDIN



PHOTO COURTESY OF STARS AND RABBIT

Despite only recently stepping out into the limelight, the year-old Indonesian folk music duo, Stars and Rabbit, made up of singer-songwriter Elda Suryani, and guitarist Adi Widodo, both 28, have already made a name for themselves not only in Indonesia, but also to fans from the UK and US.

After having received three nominations for Bite My Music Global Awards Finals 2012, and with their first hit, "Worth It," which was likened to early Coldplay albums on theindie.biz, getting airtime on US Radio Station, Butterflies Radio, the humble twosome aims for even greater heights.

As the duo complements each other perfectly in every musical sense, both in songwriting and performing, with Adi's strumming and falsettos that harmonise in sync with Elda's childlike, melodic voice, it is no wonder that their music has reached so many ears in such a short span of time.

Though having initially planned to finish their mini album in September this year, 'mini' no longer is in the picture; they've already 10 to 12 songs in the bag, but want to take time getting every track just right. With high hopes and aspirations for themselves, an album may be all it takes to make their dreams come alive – to perform one day with a full line up as Stars and Rabbit.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOVE ME BUTCH

butch powerhouse

Hailing from just across the Singapore Causeway, in the unruffled and ethnically-diverse city of Shah Alam, Malaysia, comes the zestful and dynamic post-hardcore outfit, Love Me Butch. By BRANDON TANOTO

Hailing from just across the Singapore Causeway, comes the zestful and dynamic post-hardcore outfit, Love Me Butch.

A quartet better known from their strikingly bold instrumental soundscapes fronted by robust yet delicate vocals, Love Me Butch's blend of heart-thumping heavy music channels a variety of emotions, that speaks out to the gentle giant in us all.

"We were playing jigsaw puzzle and the word 'Butch' came about. So we pieced everything together, added 'Love Me' and a band was formed," guitarist, Wing Meng, expresses in an email interview.

However, the 14-year-old journey as a band was not all smooth sailing and effortless for the lads of Love Me Butch. Insufficient efforts from the Malaysian government to nurture bands have made going to places an issue for the band when they first inception.

Currently riding on the wave of success following the release of their latest studio album "Worldwide Transgression", the band has grown as musicians. Despite the obstacles the diligent quartet has faced during the course of production, they have thrived and prospered through those tumultuous times, evident from the stellar qualities of the record.

"The band toured consistently around the South East Asia region for many years. We've shared stages with big and small bands alike. I guess we grew as performers and as persons," comments Meng.

Headbangers will be psyched to know that Love Me Butch will not be slowing down nor dwindling in their immense energy, taking the world by storm with their indelible sound and personalities, culminating with an euphony of fervent melodies, suave and harmonious!

Meng shares, "The band will be touring Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, and Japan again.

We'll try to play in countries we've never played before. Once we are done, we'll release another record!"

the dignified flavour of King Ly Chee

Easily the embodiment of frenzied chaos and raging intensity, Hong Kong hardcore punk outfit, King Ly Chee, has been setting off spirited mayhem wherever their arsenal of hard-hitting tunes graces, since their inception 13 years ago. by BRANDON TANOTO



PHOTO BY CHAI DONG XIN

Easily the embodiment of frenzied chaos and raging intensity, Hong Kong hardcore punk outfit, King Ly Chee, has been setting off spirited mayhem wherever their arsenal of hard-hitting tunes graces, since their inception 13 years ago.

"Hardcore saved my life through the relatable lyrics of bands like Sick Of It All and even punk bands like Bad Religion who both sang about real-life situations and not sugar-coating issues that people all over the world face. So if our lyrics resonate with people - it's the greatest thing in the world," expresses Riz Farooqi, vocalist of the hardcore quintet, in an email interview with HYPE.

Pitted against a backdrop of lashing drum beats and ravaging guitar riffs, Riz's furious vocals embedded with strong conviction and an earnest sincerity fronted songs off King Ly Chee's third and latest studio album entitled "Time Will Prove", released on January 2012, which underwent a production of 8 years.

The record is indubitably a representation of the band's ironclad beliefs of upholding the Asian pride, fortifying the almighty roar of the Asian hardcore scene.

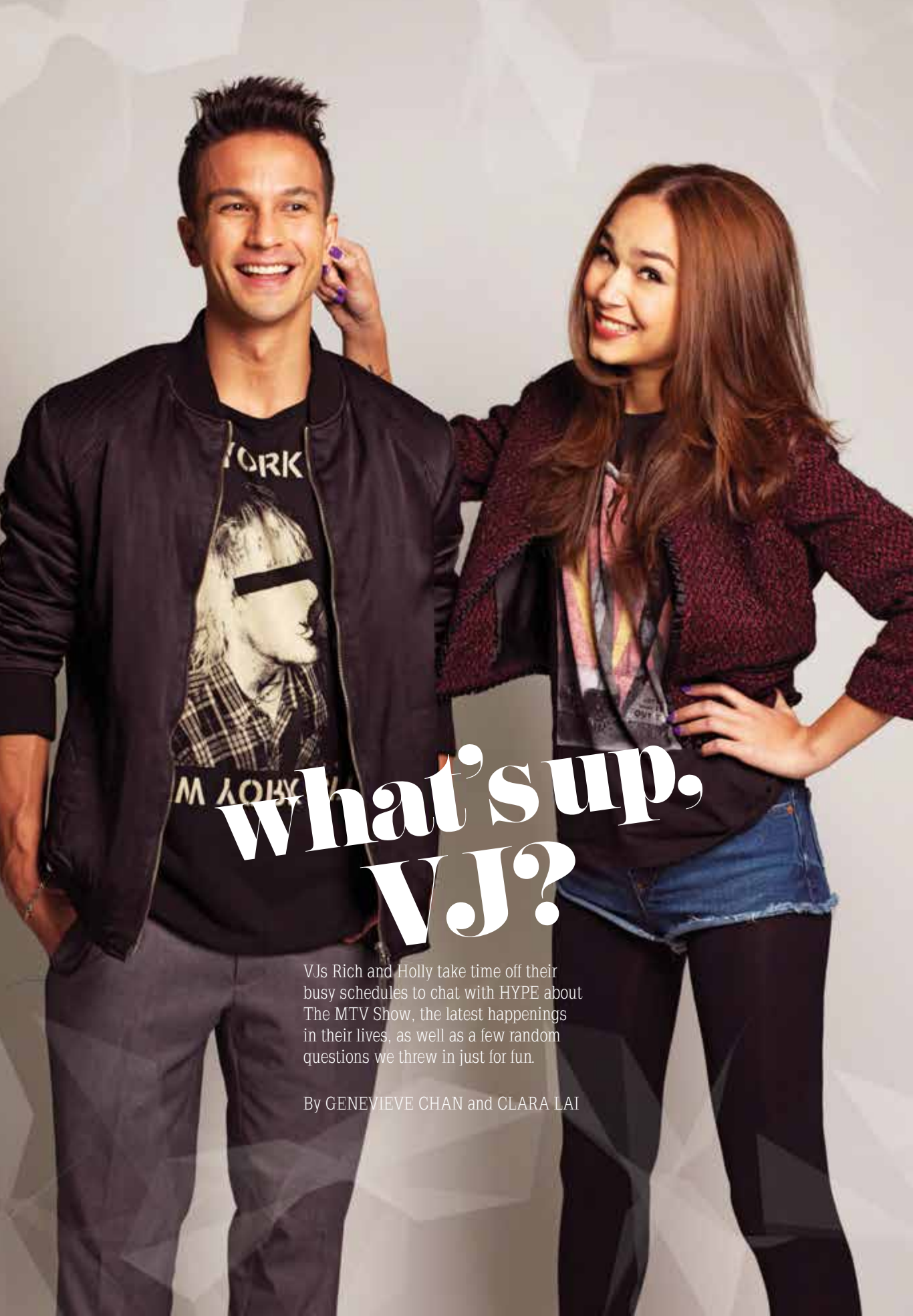
Riz indicated his hopes for the scene, "I wish Asian bands could go to the West and let them know what's up! We wish there was some sort of hardcore

scene in Hong Kong - it would make it a lot more fun for us and for everything that we have been trying to do for hardcore in Hong Kong for the past 13 years,"

Though the outfit has certainly endured the toughest of times against the lack of support from the Hong Kong government, they have unquestionably emerged victorious from the rubble.

"It's a great feeling and more proof that 'time will prove' if you stick it out," states Riz.

Riz revealed, "We're touring Japan in October, will be performing at China's first hardcore festival in November, and continue the plan for world domination!"



what's up, VJ?

VJs Rich and Holly take time off their busy schedules to chat with HYPE about The MTV Show, the latest happenings in their lives, as well as a few random questions we threw in just for fun.

By GENEVIEVE CHAN and CLARA LAI

Unless you've been living in a cave for the six months or so, you probably would know who Richard Herrera, and Holly Grabarek are. Better known as MTV VJs, Rich and Holly, it is hard to miss them and their larger-than-life personalities. The duo are the hosts of The MTV Show, MTV's newest offering which promises to help you "stay connected to what's happening here, in the super-now and in fast forward".

The lively duo took time out from their busy schedules to chat with us about The MTV Show, the latest happenings in their lives, as well as a few random questions we threw in just for fun.

They were as lively as ever, answering every question with ease and keeping the conversation replete with laughter. It is not hard to see why these two are the hosts of The MTV Show, dubbed by MTV as the "brand new place where anything can happen and probably will."

it was just their way of getting along. But this differs greatly from the first impressions, as Holly spills her initial opinion on her co-partner, newly minted after his audition to be an MTV VJ shone through.

She says, "[I remember] Rich came with long hair and was dressed in all black. He looked really cool but quite unfriendly [too]."

For Rich, it has been less than a year since he joined MTV. "It's like going back to school [and] learning new things," he says. What if someone had told him when he was young that he would grow up to be on MTV? Rich laughs and exclaims, "I wouldn't believe it!" Holly adds that she would probably reply, "You crazy?"

Yet, the both of them are living beyond their imagination as they take on shows after shows on MTV. What, then, are the best and worst parts of being a VJ?

Rich, on the other hand, goes on to describe Holly as your girl-next-door, musing that people can probably relate to her better. "Everything about her can be found on her Twitter," he adds.

Ever so playful, the two of them agree that their trademark phrase would probably be a really loud laughter.

"Like HAHAAHAHA," Holly demonstrates.

So, as VJs on MTV, a channel that focuses on music, just how musically inclined are Rich and Holly?

Unbeknownst to many, Holly is actually in a band known as Sunny Cloud, with band members Charlie Chong, David Wollenstein and Richard Greenwood.

Sunny Cloud makes experiential music "for when the sun is out and sounds for when the cloud covers the light", according to their website.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MTV ASIA

"[The MTV Show] is super random every single week, funny and always different – thanks to the hosts' short attention span," chirps Holly.

Indeed, the show has been anything but predictable, with past episodes featuring the hosts learning pole dancing, doing crazy things for the sake of YOLO, and Rich taking on a new persona – Dirk "The Rampage" Johnson.

So what's the most interesting thing that has happened in the show so far? "Christina Perri almost gave me a tattoo!" Rich gushes.

"When Rich got his leg waxed and was in pain," says Holly excitedly before bursting into laughter.

Despite having worked together for only a few months (since January this year, to be exact), the chemistry between the both of them seems comparable to that of long-time friends. Rich speaks of how they would be laughing one moment and the next moment, awkward silence, to which Holly adds that

"The best part would be that it's a job where it's not consistent, and it's exciting, [whereas the] worst part is that I have to work on Sunday and can't go to church!" says Holly. Rich quips that the best part is "friends thinking [that] I don't have a real job."

Most people have a routine to follow to prepare before they do something, and the MTV VJs are no exception. Rich and Holly exclaims together that their routine is to eat a lot of chocolates.

But before that, a lot of preparation work goes on behind the scenes before another episode. To decide what to feature, the VJs have production meetings to discuss what they think is cool and interesting. However, as much as they have prepared themselves, the VJs say that they have no idea what will be in the next episode, as it is, already mentioned earlier, totally random.

When asked to tell us something about each other that few people know, Holly shares with us the type of women Rich likes. "His favourite channel is CNN, and he likes news women."

"It's a super famous band in everywhere except Singapore," Holly jokes, later admitting that they've been having trouble promoting their Facebook page locally.

Rich joins in and shares that he taught himself how to play the drums in high school. "Other than that, I can also play a triangle," jokes Rich.

In all seriousness, Rich goes on to share with us that he used to be roadie back when he was young and had recently graduated from whatever, quoting U2, Backstreet Boys, and Britney Spears as some of the famous people he has worked with.

Holly reveals that if she could be featured in any artistes' music video, she would be "the lamb in Dr Wu's song called 'Lamb' ". Rich joins in and shares, "[I would be] a rapper, maybe in one of Beyonce's videos. Tell Jay-Z to take a break!"

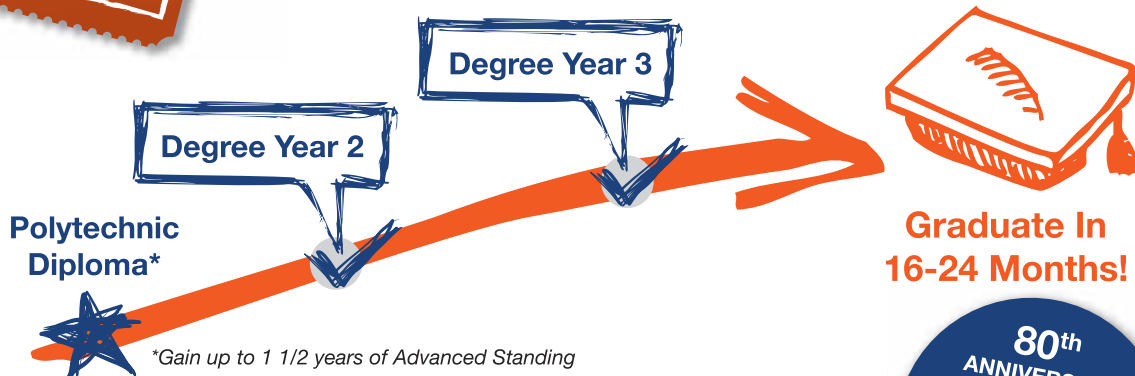
Despite the fame that they enjoy as MTV VJs, Rich and Holly certainly are down-to-earth and sincere.



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AIN'T YOUR ORDINARY KOOKS!

PHOTO COURTESY OF NOWLIVE

After their first concert in Singapore, and talks of a new album coming out next year, The Kooks' frontman Luke Pritchard, tells KEEFE WONG what being in the business for almost nine years has been like.

Flying knickers and skimpy undergarments are probably not an unusual sight on stage for heartthrob, and frontman of The Kooks, Luke Pritchard.

Performing for the first time in Singapore, the young but experienced band played it cool when a brazen fan threw her bra on stage towards Luke during the concert at the Esplanade.

Formed in early 2004, the UK band members, Hugh Harris (lead guitar), Paul Garred (drums), and lead singer Luke Pritchard, have known each other since their time as music academy students ten years ago.

"Our first album ("Inside In/Inside Out") came out when we were 18, so it's kinda weird to delve back into it and think of it like 10 years have passed.

Doesn't really feel like that," recalls Luke, sitting deep sunk into the sofa.

With the thought of growing old freaking Luke out, it seems like the boys are growing up as they seem to stay in better hotels on every tour, Singapore being one of the best.

The Kooks have already released three albums, with their latest album "Junk of the Heart" making it to several chart boards all over the world since its release in September 2011.

Insanely catchy yet meaningful, their music proves to stay in your head for weeks on end like mind numbing earworms.

Coming onto their ninth year together, the band has gone through several ups and downs, especially with the departure of their original drummer Paul Garred, resulting in them

having to find constant guest drummers.

But this has not stopped them from exploring a new album due for release sometime next year.

Currently, the album is still work in progress but he mentions that he wants the record to be "looser," he says, "As well as in my song writing y'know, I want to make it a little less melodic and less formulated. I want to make it subtler."

But then again, we won't know until it's been produced because he indicates that he might be working with Mark Foster from Foster the People.

"Mark's a really great mate of mine, he's quite a big influence in a way. More of an influence on "Junk of the Heart" so I don't know on the next one, but I think we might work together," says Luke as the two were on tour together early this year.

As the songwriter for most of The Kooks' songs, the 27-year old says honestly, "I don't particularly like to be inspired by bands, then you end up sounding like everyone else. Try to draw influences from places outside what you do."

But despite all the talks, the band will still be a "guitar band" even as they work in their own way. Luke says, "the way The Kooks work, you don't really know what it's really gonna be like until you get into the studio."

For now, the boyish bunch will continue their tour, stopping by Japan, and Australia after having taken the Singapore crowd wild with their suave and lady-killer moves.

Check out The Kooks at [facebook.com/thekooksofficial](https://www.facebook.com/thekooksofficial). "Junk of the Heart" is available at all major record stores.

Youtube's Top 12 IN '12

What are the top tunes rocking 2012?
LYDIA PANG checks the Youtube 100
chart and discovers the top 12 songs
people are humming to.



1 CALL ME MAYBE, CARLY RAE JEPSEN

Sweeping across the entire globe is this ridiculously catchy song, "Call Me Maybe", by 28-year-old Canadian pop singer Carly Rae Jepsen. After placing second runner-up in the fifth season of Canadian Idol in 2007, she released this lead single through her debut EP "Curiosity" in September 2011. After pop singers Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez tweeted about the song, Jepsen catapulted to international fame.

This song is an anthem for girls who have fallen in love at first sight and are deliberating making first contact with their crushes!

2 PAYPHONE, MAROON 5

"I'm at a payphone trying to call home, all of my change I spent on you."

After huge radio hits such as "Moves Like Jagger", and "Misery", Maroon 5 does it again. Nobody can deny "Payphone"'s unforgettable melody. After first listen, you're bound to be hooked. In this song, Adam Levine croons about a guy's last attempt at salvaging a souring relationship with his partner.

Featuring American rapper, Wiz Khalifa, "Payphone" is the first single from Maroon 5's fourth studio album, "Overexposed", released on Jun 26, 2012.

3 BOYFRIEND, JUSTIN BIEBER

From his time singing "Baby", there is no doubt that Justin Bieber has grown as a singer. His third single from his third album "Believe", "Boyfriend" is a musical departure from all his other usual pop ballads. This song boasts simple, repetitive club beats to showcase Bieber's rapping abilities. It finally culminates at the chorus where he finally unleashes his matured singing vocals.

4 SOMEBODY THAT I USED TO KNOW, GOTYE

This has got to be Gotye's most popular and successful song. It first went viral when Canadian indie rock group Walk Off The Earth made their own rendition of the song – all five of the band members playing on a single guitar simultaneously. Written by Gotye himself, this song is a collection of all his past experiences being in a relationship.

"Somebody That I Used To Know" is the second single from Gotye's third album, "Making Mirrors".

5 WIDE AWAKE, KATY PERRY

The closing chapter of pop singer Katy Perry's "Teenage Dream" would be her eighth single, "Wide Awake". The first of its kind, "Wide Awake" is a power ballad and has tinges of electronic music. Lyrically, it talks about the pain received from a break-up and learning how to pick your self up after.

Katy Perry said, "This song in particular is a dose of reality. You've been on cloud nine for so long, and it can't always be so sweet and sometimes, you need to realise that."

"Wide Awake" debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at #3, making it Katy Perry's 11th single to have hit top ten in the United States.

6 DANCE AGAIN, JENNIFER LOPEZ FT. PITBULL

If you're looking for a new beat to groove to, then look no further. "Dance Again" is the latest single from Jennifer Lopez's "Dance Again... The hits" album. It is an upbeat dance-pop song and features Cuban-American rapper, Pitbull. This is the third time Lopez and Pitbull have collaborated after "Fresh Out The Oven", and "On The Floor".

Since its release, this song has reached the top #17 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts, and has placed top ten in other countries such as Brazil and Spain.



7 WE ARE YOUNG, FUN. FT. JANELLE MONÁE

Covered by the cast of American television show *Glee* as well as licensed for usage in a Chevrolet Sonic commercial, “We Are Young” is the recipe for a musical success. Infusing influences from various genres such as indie pop, alternative rock and power pop, this song is the second single from Fun’s second album, “Some Nights”.

With its infectious chorus, it’s no wonder this song received over more than 300,000 digital units of sales in seven weeks, breaking the record previously helped by Eminem’s “Love The Way You Lie”.

8 WHAT MAKES YOU BEAUTIFUL, ONE DIRECTION

The first single of One Direction’s debut album “Up All Night”, “What Makes You Beautiful” is the kind of song that puts a smile on any girl’s face. Sung by British-Irish boyband, One Direction, this track is one boy’s ode to his girlfriend who doesn’t know she’s beautiful.

After winning second runner-up in the seventh season of *The X Factor*, One Direction has gone onto debuting number one on the UK Singles Chart with this amazing single.

9 AI SE EU TE PEGO, MICHEL TELÓ

It’s okay if you don’t understand any Portuguese, because this is a song that transcends all languages. First written in 2008 by Sharon Acioly, and Antônio Dyggs, the latter then discovered the potential of his song and offered it to Brazilian singer, Michel Teló, to sing.

The final result? The #1 song in various countries around the world such as in France and Sweden. The song also peaked at #81 on the Billboard Hot 100, making Michel Teló the first Brazilian musician to have accomplished such a feat after Sérgio Mendes’ “The Look of Love” in the 1960’s.

10 WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, RIHANNA

Interposed between the genres of trance, R&B and hip-hop, “Where Have You Been” is typical Rihanna style. The third single from her sixth album “Talk That Talk”, this track, alike her first single “We Found Love”, contains simple lyrics of romantic longing. Rihanna has also been praised by critics for the deeper choreography in this song.

Jesslin Tan, an 18-year-old student, says, “I love this song! Even in the music video, Rihanna dances very well.”

11 WILD ONES, FLO RIDA FT. SIA

This song opens with Australian singer Sia’s warm Wild Ones, Flo Rida ft. Sia, sugar-soaked voice. Later, Flo Rida comes in with his impeccable rapping skills. The second single from Flo Rida’s fourth album, “Wild Ones”, this song is undeniably a good dance tune. Along with “Good Feeling” also by Flo Rida, “Wild Ones” has also been selected as the official theme song for WrestleMania XXVIII, an annual professional wrestling pay-per-view event.

12 DON'T WAKE ME UP, CHRIS BROWN

Last on the 12 in '12 list is Chris Brown’s fourth single, “Don’t Wake Me Up”, from his fifth album, “Fortune”. In January earlier this year, a leaked demo of “Don’t Wake Me Up” appeared online. Even then, nothing has stopped this song from claiming its rightful position on the music charts.

After its release, this track has placed #78 on the Billboard Hot 100, as well as peaked within top ten in other countries such as Australia and Ireland.

A full-page photograph of the singer Pink. She is wearing a black leather motorcycle jacket over a black lace bodysuit. Her blonde hair is styled in a short, spiky updo. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is an industrial setting with metal structures and a white perforated metal sheet hanging in the upper right.

PINK

is the love
you discover

As Steven Tyler so graciously sings in the hit Aerosmith song Pink, "it's like red but not quite." Similarly, the rambunctious Pink is just not quite like anyone else.

By BRANDON TANOTO and GENEVIEVE CHAN



Rebellious, edgy and simply sensational, 32-year-old Philadelphia's Alecia Beth Moore is back with a thunderous bang! Better known by her stage moniker Pink, the new mom's return to the studio early last year sent waves of anticipation through the music industry and fans alike.

Her sixth studio album "The Truth About Love" is scheduled for release on Sep 18 and has got her fans maniacal with suspense, following the launch of the record's first saucy single, "Blow Me (One Last Kiss)".

Despite a four-year break from music, the American pop rebel still garners a devoted fanbase who has been awaiting her resurgence, evident from the colorful grab bag of sanguine tunes off the follow-up to 2008's "Funhouse".

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Pink is known for her outbursts and crude lyrics as much as she is recognised as the wild child, topping the charts by mixing grit with glamour.

Indeed, Pink was riotous in her teenage years and encountered more than her fair share of high school drama.

In an interview with *FAZE* magazine, she confessed that she was unfortunately stereotyped as the troublemaker in school. "The problem was, I was labelled as trouble - so I was like, 'trouble? I'll show you trouble. You want trouble, well here it is!' It's like the label they give you; you end up growing into it, anyway. They treat you bad, so you act bad, and I feel I just conformed to the label they gave me."

The rebellious Alecia Moore gradually found herself getting into hot soup with the authorities, but she had never once felt obliged to compromise.

"When they would say it had to be a certain way I would ask 'why?' They'd

say, 'Because it always has', so I'd try to prove them wrong. And besides, I never changed just to fit in."

Apart from her unruly eccentricities, the American singer-songwriter yearns to be brutally honest and sincere and to never be two-faced about things.

"Sometimes I put my foot in my mouth, but at the same time, it is like my motto. Well if you are truthful and honest, you might not have many friends, but you will never have any enemies because everybody will always know where you coming from."

"And the only problems I've ever had with being honest is telling people how I feel about them or saying how I feel about other people. I've also learned I'm not lying by not saying anything, so I just don't say it anymore."

However, it is the surprisingly tender and affectionate side of this rugged warrior that has evaded the sight of many. "The Truth About Love" is the perfect representation of this sensitivity

that lies subtly between the lines of Pink's façade.

Doors have also been opened to welcome other artistes to collaborate with the pop icon, now that Pink has started to soften up.

"For the last 14 years, everyone has said no to collaborations. But this album, everyone said yes! And I think that's because people think I've softened. I think people, maybe, think I bite!" she told AMP Radio. She announced that British singer Lily Allen will be featured on the record and is thrilled about the new ventures.

However, it seems that at the present, the new mom is still as 'Missundaztood' as she was earlier in her career.

"And it is kind of funny with 'Blow Me', because people are like, 'Oh right, another "f--- you" song from Pink. Awesome.' I did not actually realise that was my theme, but that has been my life, so that is what I write about," Pink added.

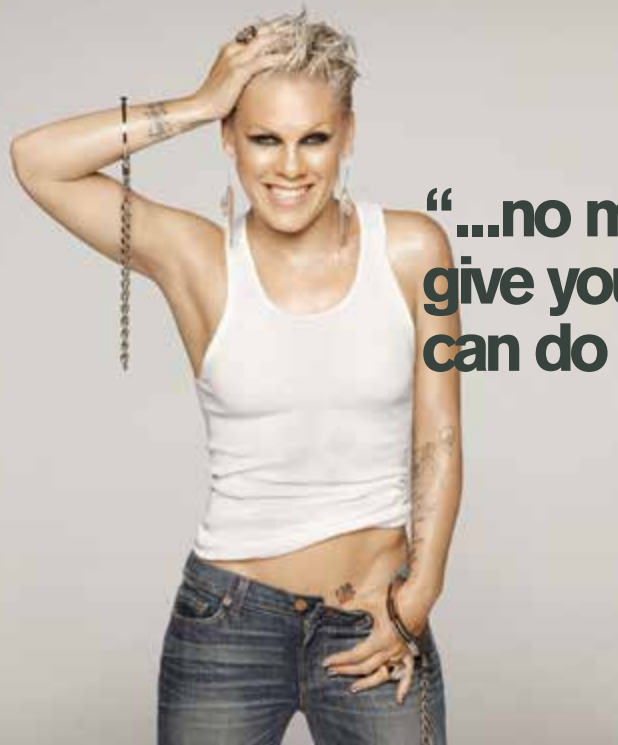


PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY MUSIC

“...no matter what label they give you, the best thing you can do is prove them wrong.”

ENTERING THE REALM OF MOTHERHOOD

Much has changed since the fiery pop star first burst onto the scene with her shocking pink hair. Now, more than a decade later, Pink has sold more than 40 million albums and received a multitude of music awards from all over the world. More significantly, she is now also the wife of freestyle motocross rider, Carey Hart, and the proud mother of daughter Willow Sage Hart.

The feisty songstress has been showering her baby with love since she gave birth last year, and admitted in an interview with *The Sun* that she is now “one of those parents who talk about nothing else other than their kids”.

“Having a baby changes you. You immediately become a lightweight. You are actually responsible for something. It's not as fun to feel out of control,” she added.

Partying takes on a whole new meaning as well. Speaking to Philadelphia's Q102 radio station, she revealed, “It used to be whiskey, tears and cigarettes. Now it's [my baby's] kind of tears, no cigarettes and the colour of poop. Pure joy.”

However, the *Get The Party Started* hit maker proves that that doesn't hinder her from having fun. “[Carey, Willow and I] wake up and dance. [We] party naked in the hotel room,” she quipped.

Despite her entering the world of motherhood, the 32-year-old pop star insists that it has not changed the way she makes music. In a phone interview conducted by Ryan Seacrest on *On Air with Ryan Seacrest*, she noted, “I think some people are worried [my new album's] a bunch of lullabies. It's definitely not.”

“[Lyrically] I'm more aware of the cursing. It doesn't stop me, but I'm aware of it. It's a very fun, fun, dancey, rock and roll record.”

Themes of love and of the pop star's lifelong struggles to be accepted and connect with people run deep within the album. Although she now has everything she was looking for – love, marriage and a child – Pink still finds it hard to believe she is happy.

THROUGH THICK AND THIN

For Alecia Moore, the road to glamour and stardom was a rocky one. Pink has had her legs buckle under the hefty burden that smoking brought on, hampering her career's progress and jeopardising her health.

In 2009, however, the *So What* singer called upon her family and friends to help her kick the habit. In an interview with *ViewLondon.co.uk*, the star explained her decision to quit smoking. “Smoking isn't cute at all. It's awful. I hate the smell, the taste. I hate everything about it.”

Pink took slow but steady steps by getting her friends and family to “ration” the amount of cigarettes she smokes. But it was, perhaps, the life of the late Janis Joplin who tragically lost her life to heroin, that impacted her the most.

“I relate to her a lot and I know a lot about her life. I hide my pain, that's why I'm always laughing, and she was kind of like that. She was very funny 'cos she was in a lot of pain. She made me realise that I hope to survive. I didn't want to die at 30. I've already been down that road, that dark road, and I've come back from it and done really good sh--. So I don't think I'll repeat the same mistakes,” Pink shared with *MusicOMH.com*.

That being said, Pink doesn't regret a single thing and said she wouldn't have done anything differently, even if she could.

“To change that would change who I am. Having faced so many difficulties at a young age is a good thing. And to experience the good you have to have seen the bad. Plus, it makes you appreciate blessings more.”

With all the demons she has fought, she has become a force to be reckoned with.

“It taught me to be a fighter, which you need to be if you want to get into the music industry. My record label wanted me to record my album a certain way and I wanted to go another way, I just didn't want to conform to everyone else – I think I did the right thing,” asserted Pink, in her interview with *FAZE*.

A full-page photograph of the singer Pink. She is standing outdoors on a paved surface, holding a large, black, vintage-style megaphone horizontally across her shoulders. She is wearing a black leather jacket over a black lace bodysuit and black high-heeled boots. She has short, spiky blonde hair and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a clear blue sky.

GEARING UP FOR WORLD TOUR

After having spent time away from music to focus on her baby, the pop icon is planning to explode back onto the scene with her new album, "The Truth About Love" as well as a world tour. She admitted on the Australian radio show Kyle & Jackie O Show that she is still in the process of getting back into top shape for her upcoming tour, but that there are also times when she couldn't bring herself to exercise.

"I have the time [to exercise] but I have this thing where I look at Willow and I go, 'Should I go to the gym or hang out with you? I think I'm going to hang out with you,'" she cheekily said.

The loving mother confesses that she has trouble staying away from Willow, often bringing her along to the recording studio. It is no wonder that Willow has taken to music, and her musical talents can even be heard on her mother's new album.

Speaking to MTV, Pink revealed, "[Willow] plays bells on 'How Come You're Not Here', and she plays bass on a song called 'Timebomb'. She's actually quite talented for a 13-month-old!"

"There was a basket of sh--, and she came over and pulled out the bells and started banging on them, and I was like, 'Record it!' And then she went up to the bass guitar on 'Timebomb' and started plucking away. She's actually pretty good! She's better on bass than I am! She plays piano, she bangs sh--, she's either going to be violent or a percussionist ... or a violent percussionist," she joked.

Besides being in the studio and preparing for her upcoming tour, the pop rockstar has also been busy honing her acting skills. Having done cameo appearances in films such as Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle, and Catatombs, Pink will officially kickstart her acting career with her first leading role in the film, Thanks for Sharing. Directed by Stuart Blumberg, the film stars Avengers alum Gwyneth Paltrow and Mark Ruffalo, and will be released later this year.

It comes with no surprise that Pink is back and here to stay, in a bid to encourage others to always believe in themselves, regardless of the critics.

"I think we all feel misunderstood, and our main goal is to be appreciated for all that we are. Just wait, give it a couple of years, then it won't matter. Because no matter what label they give you, the best thing you can do is prove them wrong."



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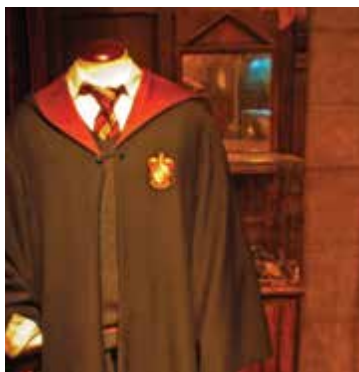
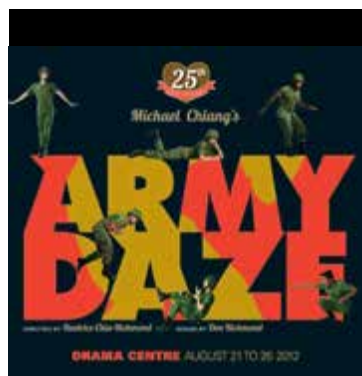


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ARTS





PHOTOS COURTESY OF SIRIUS ART

LACRAFT AUX PASSION

CHERYL LOW and AUDREY TAN chat with Seong Hui Xuan and Aaron Khaled of *La Cage Aux Folles* and learn about love, passion and determination on and off stage.

On-stage couple Aaron Khaled as “John”, and Seong Hui Xuan as “Anne” of the recently staged musical *La Cage Aux Folles*, takes the couple’s chemistry off-stage as they cozy beside each other, requesting to be interviewed “together”.

As they tease each other, we are surprised that it’s only the third time the duo have met.

When they can’t describe themselves in a sentence, they find the perfect solution - “Why not you describe me and I’ll describe you,” Khaled volunteers with a playful smile.

“Aaron is sweet, humble, easy to work with, has a great sense of humour and is not too serious, which is nice,” Seong’s saccharine voice is clear, as she tucks her long wavy hair over her shoulder.

Khaled coos, “So sweet. I think Hui Xuan is determined and driven, I see qualities in her that I see in myself... that’s why... we have the connection when we work together.”

This pair were part of the star-studded cast of *Wild Rice*’s restaging of the acclaimed French production, which included veterans Hossan Leong and Ivan Heng.

La Cage is set in a glamorous nightclub in Tanjong Pagar, helmed by owner, George and his life partner, Albin. All hell breaks loose when George’s son, John, announces his

marriage to Anne, the daughter of a politician who wants to close down the local colourful nightlife.

25 year-old Seong graduated from La Salle College of the Arts and is a rising star, yet hardly a diva.

She says, “I’ve been really fortunate to be getting work, so [I’m] not a complete struggling artiste which is nice and reassuring for my parents.” It took Seong’s parents a while to be receptive of her career choice.

Her laughter fades as she explains how she relates to her character, Anne, about making choices.

“It’s that same process of maturing and learning... [it] doesn’t mean that I can’t still love my parents...while having our differences... that to me hits home.”

However, just like Anne’s story, “the power of love to transform any situation” bridged the differences between Seong and her parents, and they have started to watch her recent works. When asked if they will be watching *La Cage*, she grins, “I hope so, definitely.”

Khaled, on the other hand, grew up entrenched in the arts. Khaled counts his father as “the backbone of what I do today”, and his mother as the inspiration for perseverance.

The 24-year-old Malaysian actor seemed destined for the spotlight,

having been exposed to music and dance. Deeply rooted in classical music, the voice major graduate never expected to become a theatre performer. However, he decided to give a shot, and fell in love with the stage after his first musical in 2010.

“Ever since then ... I’ve been doing productions all year ... and I love it,” he says.

The steely drive that Khaled cultivated from home is also found in his character, John. John is bent on marrying Anne no matter the cost.

Perhaps it is this determination that binds the couple in the musical.

They don’t feel that they have to compare themselves to the original musical, but they believe that “you have to bring what you want and what you feel the character needs.”

Besides this, the pair divulged that in every musical, it’s crucial to adapt to new personas. “A part does not belong to an actor, an actor belongs to a part... we try to shape ourselves... [and] be more versatile,” says Seong.

To the duo, the best thing about *La Cage* is how love “conquers all”.

And as Seong quotes George’s words from the musical, “I’ll tell you a secret, if [Anne] really loves you, no matter what happens tonight, you will not lose her.”

By ABIGAIL TAN

Judee Tan may be known for her outrageous comedic characters, but there's more than meets the eye with this veteran stage actress

"Anyhowsay-yo, greetings from Pyongyang!" or so would Kim Bong Cha from popular Channel 5 comedy *The Moose*, say it.

Judee Tan, popularly known for her portrayal of foreign caricature, Kim Bong Cha, has caught the eye of the public with her eccentric character and quirky accent. The hearty individual may be a new on television, but she has performed professionally in more than 22 theatre productions since 2006, with *La Cage aux Folles* by Wild Rice being her latest play.

Judee plays the role of a fun-spirited 'Kopitiam' Aunty. "It is one of the oldest roles I've ever played," Judee says, "and it is important not to restrict yourself and worry about looking silly. I had to do a sardonic laughter for a particular production and for all of its three shows, the whole Esplanade theatre laughed at me. My face burned so bad, but I went through it and learnt from it."

In 2010, Judee performed the role of a rich spoilt brat, Meng Yu, in *December Rains*. She says, "I didn't grow up like that, so it was very fun and challenging to play someone who was very far away from myself."

The high-spirited actress shares that while rehearsing for *December Rains*, she was also involved in the production of *Chestnuts 3D*. "I had to cry a lot for my role in *December Rains* and on the other hand, I had to laugh and laugh (in *Chestnuts 3D*). I've never been in this situation before, but in the two worlds of schizophrenia, I felt okay, and it was very liberating."

Despite her jocular personality, the jolly thespian is dead serious about acting. Judee related that she would like to star in a biographical movie in the shoes of the late theatre veteran, Emma Yong. "To go into someone else's shoes, someone whom I have deep respect for and affected me personally, it's very humbling," says Judee.

THEATRE AUNTY STRIKES AGAIN



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SIRIUS ART

"It was my third show as a new actor then, and I had to slap a fellow actor and do an evil laughter. I really wanted to follow the script closely. Only Emma recognised why I wanted to do it and told me 'you've got balls Judee, you've got balls' and walked away. That was my motivation."

According to Judee, having the passion for arts is pivotal to sustaining a career as an actor. After acting *La Cage*, Judee will travel to Umbria, Italy, for a two-week master-class to study acting before beginning rehearsals for Dream Academy's annual production of *Crazy Christmas*.

MANAGING THE STAGE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SIRIUS ART

GWEE YI XUAN hangs out with Brendon Fernandez who plays a stage manager in W!LD RICE's biggest production to date, *La Cage Aux Folles*.

Held at a small dance studio where the cast and dancers just ended rehearsals, I got to know Brendon, whose role in the musical is Francis, a stage manager at La Cage Aux Folles.

While the Tony Award winning Broadway production based on the 1973 French play, was set in Saint-Tropez, this local adaptation transports the glitz and glamour of the French Riviera to the streets of Tanjong Pagar.

"The first day, when I walked into the room, when I walked through that door, [there was] a sea of people, [in a] big circle, [and] 24 of us were on stage." Brendon says in astonishment. "[There were] tonnes of people in the crew. It's huge! I've never been in a show this big!"

To prepare for his role as Francis, physically, Brendon jokingly says director Glen Goei told him to work out and get bigger arms. But acting-wise, "I have an idea of who this character was but we just had the rehearsal and it has changed completely," Brendon says. "That's what happens at rehearsals. You get thrown different ideas and you just have to try to adapt [to] them, try to figure out who your character is and how he or she works."

He goes on to say that it is important to try anything and not be shy during rehearsals. "You can't be worried about looking silly. You just have to try it. In rehearsals, you will fall, you have to fall, then [you] just have to pick up and [continue to] work with other people."

Ironically, Brendon realised that acting was his calling in life while he was doing something else. "That job made me realise I cannot be anything else but an actor. That's why I'm doing it."

Moreover, he considers himself lucky for every role that he has done, as it stretches him as an actor. "I had roles that really take me out of my comfort zone."

"The first professional show I did, I actually went to Los Angeles to rehearse... and I had to learn an American accent, [which] I found very challenging," Brendon recalls.

Having first come into contact with theatre and acting when he took Theatre Studies as an 'A' Level subject in

Victoria Junior College (VJC), Brendon thrives on passion without prior training in these areas.

Since then, he has been involved in many other theatre productions, the last one being *Romeo & Juliet*, also a W!ld Rice production, directed by Ivan Heng. Ivan is also part of *La Cage Aux Folles*, as Zaza, and Albin.

"The best thing is when a director asks you to do something that you'll never think of."

"I wanted to be Friar Lawrence [because] I liked his lines the best," Brendon says, but Ivan cast him as Tybalt, a role that requires more action than dialogue. "He saw something [in me] and wanted to let me play it."

For the first time in 10 years after graduating from VJC, he will be attending a two-week acting masterclass supported by the National Arts Council, in Umbria, Italy. "We'll be there to study acting, which is very exciting, because I've never studied acting," Brendon says in good spirits. "I'm finally getting some kind of training, so I'm excited about that!"

Brendon also laments the fact that his dream role won't be in theatres. "I'd love to be Captain of the Starship Enterprise, [a] sci-fi fantasy, which would most probably be a movie, [and] is quite hard to do on stage."

He also has advice for young people who want to get started in theatre. "Do something else first. Get a job, in some other field, that you think you'll like. Try it out, because you never know, you might like it."

Glen Goei, who also directed the 2009 film, *The Blue Mansion*, starring Lim Kay Siu, Adrian Pang, the late Emma Yong, Tan Kheng Hua and more, is also at the helm of *La Cage Aux Folles*.

"[Glen] had specific choices in mind. He has a very good idea of who he can [work with]," says Brendon. "He [has] a real vision for how something looks, especially [for] a large production. It's very choreographed."

The way Brendon describes it, *La Cage Aux Folles* is more than just "fabulous!"

THE PURPLE CIRCUS

By PATRICIA KARUNUNGAN

Charming, funny and just a touch naughty, the cast of *Purple* is bringing sexy back with circus acts and eggplants.

The circus is coming to town and you'll never guess who the main attraction is —actor Shane Mardjuki in drag (again). Complete with waxed legs, tweezed eyebrows and fake boobs.

After more than ten years, *Purple* is staged once more, this time literally transforming Bugis Street back into the cross-dressing Mecca it used to be. With a new director and a fresh cast, this staging of *Purple* is a circus spectacle that turns the life story of Maggie Lai, Singapore's most famous transexual, into a freak show that is both naughty and heartwarming.

"I look forward to seeing if we'll spank each other on stage," says Rebecca Spykerman, with a straight face. She acts as Prisercillia, one of the three nurses in the play. "Maybe we'll drag Rayann [the director] on stage and spank her."

"Becky's really into the whole spanking thing," provides Matilda Chua (Mademoisella), with a sweet smile.

Completing the unholy trinity of nurses is Elizabeth Loh as Verinimolisa. The three, torture and train Maggie in the ways of cross-dressing, strip-ping, pole-dancing and even — supposedly — juggling a giant testicle. But at the crux of this sexy, envelope-pushing play is a father-son relationship struggling to survive the test of unconditional love.

The cast of *Purple* is like a family itself. The girls could pass off as telepathic sisters with the way they finish each other's sentences. Shane is the younger brother they love to tease for his blonde moments, yet he's strangely also like an older sister with his alarming wisdom of girly things. "That bra is crap," he says of his new wardrobe addition. "It looks really weird. We need to find, like, better boobs."

"What does [the colour] purple mean to me?" muses Shane, touching his bare leg, absently. He forgot to shave today, saying that rehearsals started way too early. "Wow, man, I don't know. Purple's an..."

"Eggplant," quips Elizabeth.

"I think purple foods are the best foods in the world! Have you ever eaten a mangosteen? My God..."

"The inside is white!" interjects Matilda.

"But the outside's purple," reasons Shane. "Purple foods are very nutritious."

"Like eggplant," supplies Elizabeth again.

"Therefore nature must be trying to tell us something," Shane says decisively. "Purple's good."



Photos courtesy of SIRIUS ART

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Date: 2-18 August
 Venue: Joyden Hall at Bugis+
 Time: 8pm (Tue-Sat),
 3pm (Sat and Sun)
 Language: English
 Rating: R18
 Duration: 2 hours
 (with no intermission)





PHOTOS COURTESY OF SIRIUS ART

ARMY DAZE



BACK FOR RESERVIST

By RACHEL CHAN

To mark the 25th anniversary of *Army Daze*, our favourite National Service (NS) recruits are putting their uniforms back on in the brand new production.

The comedy, which chronicles the experiences of Singaporean male teenagers from wildly different backgrounds who undergo basic military training in NS, promises a good time with a star-studded cast and fresh jokes. Audiences can expect to see local actors such as Shane Mardjuki, Chua Enlai, and Dennis Chew (better known as Auntie Lucy), who will be cross-dressing, once again, to play recruit Malcolm Png's mother.

Dwayne Tan will take over the role of Malcolm Png, the pampered mummy's boy, and the play will see the inclusion of its first female sergeant, brought to life by prominent theatre actress Siti Khalijah.

Noting that there are very few female sergeants in the armed forces, Siti says, "It's nice to know that these strong, powerful women are being acknowledged as well, and I'm proud to play this role to represent them."

Directed by Beatrice Chia-Richmond, the production will also feature dance numbers and original songs, penned by her brother-in-law, Don Richmond.

Writer Michael Chiang, 57, is quick to reassure audiences that the song and dance sequences will not disrupt the narrative. He explains that they would be used to enhance the show, likening it to "3D- there will be more stuff to look at, more things coming at you!"

The quintessential coming-of-age story has grown, along with its audiences. "The challenge is not just about updating the references,

but to make the storyline and situations feel fresh, so that the audience finds it relevant and appealing," he says.

Every cast member also brings his own brand of humour to the table, and one can only imagine the explosive dynamics that will be witnessed on stage.

Illustrating this cheekiness is Shane Mardjuki, who plays the effeminate soldier, Kenny. The 33-year-old says in mock disgust, "Just like Kenny, I, too, am aghast that MINDEF has not commissioned Ashley Isham to design the new SAF uniforms. What is this digital camouflage rubbish?"

However, beneath these playful jabs lie a supportive cast – being one of the few cast members that has had no prior military training, Siti, shares that she could rely on the boys to guide her with unfamiliar terms used in the army.

In an interview with Yahoo! Singapore, Siti encouraged "people who grew up watching this show, those who are still in the army and those who have ORD-ed (completed National Service)" to watch the show. "And bring their wives and girlfriends along," she added.

Simply put, "Army Daze is one of those plays that all Singaporeans can identify with in some way or another," says Chia-Richmond.

Army Daze will show from Aug 21-26, 2012 at the Drama Centre Theatre. Tickets are priced from \$32 - \$69 and are on sale at www.eventclique.com.

A black and white photograph of Daniel Craig as James Bond. He is wearing a dark suit and is holding a handgun, pointing it directly at the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

DANIEL CRAIG –

The Best Bond Ever?

007 is one franchise that has withstood the test of time, spawning hit after hit after hit. ISAAC KEH takes a look at the actor who has reinvented the series, and finds out more about the upcoming James Bond movie.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

Eyes so piercing they seem to go right through to your soul – check.

Able to handle his signature shaken, not stirred, drink – check.

Looking suave and cool in a suit – check.

Alas, who could it be but our favourite British superspy?

Secret Intelligence Service Agent, code name 007, has returned again to wrestle with the bad guys. This time, he'll be bringing the danger to Istanbul, a familiar sight for old-school Bond fans.

Daniel Craig will be portraying James Bond for the third time in the upcoming film, *Skyfall*. Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the franchise, the 44-year-old actor has said that the movie would have an “old-fashioned Bond” feel. In addition to the classic guns-and-espionage, if rumours are to be trusted, we'll get to see a new side to the famous secret agent.

In an interview with *ComingSoon.net*, Craig shares, “He has more of a conscience to him in this one. I've always been interested in that side of him, only because I think that there are consequences from actions, less so than maybe it used to be. [But] it's not to say this movie's become a piece of drama.”

“He's a killer, that's what he does for a living. To have a conscience about that, I think, is interesting, or to have some sort of effect on him that's interesting.”



IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN

After speaking so energetically about his new role, one can only imagine the intensity *Skyfall* will bring. In fact, it is this charisma of Craig's that compelled former 007 actor, Pierce Brosnan, to praise him in a CNN interview.

"[He] is one great Bond. Certainly does a magnificent job. He's a tough dude. They have to. Big competition with *Bourne Identity*, and one thing or another. He'll be right as rain."

However, the question has to be asked. Is Craig the best Bond ever?

Indeed, he has a body any man would kill for, along with the classically chiselled jawline. As the first and only Blonde Bond, Craig brings a fresh look to the franchise, and with it, a significantly different approach to the character as compared to his predecessors.

Yet, Craig had to fight tooth-and-nail to get the role, a problem never faced by any of the previous actors.



Casino Royale director, Martin Campbell, has said that Craig's "terrific charm" in the indie thriller *Layer Cake* was what convinced him that Craig would be the right choice as Bond.

Despite votes of confidence from Campbell and producers at EON Productions, he was still severely criticised by numerous Internet fan groups, with some even threatening to boycott the film.

Dissatisfaction continued to plague the actor, even after endorsement from former Bonds Timothy Dalton, Roger Moore, Pierce Brosnan and Sir Sean Connery, with *The Daily Mirror* even writing a front-page story slamming his lack of fan appeal.

They thought he wouldn't fit the role, that he wasn't handsome enough or

that his hair was just too blonde. But it was Craig, and the producers, who had the last laugh. All the way to the bank.

Despite critics initially denouncing the film, *Casino Royale* was an immense success and grossed more than US\$594 million worldwide.

It is the highest grossing Bond movie to date. Craig received critical acclaim and was nominated for a BAFTA Award (Best Actor in a Leading Role). His second Bond film, *Quantum of Solace* did notably well as well, earning more than \$586 million worldwide.

The success of his portrayals shut most of his nay sayers up. However, there were still detractors who felt that Craig was not able to fit the stern and handsome Bond image made famous by Sir Sean Connery, with him

preferring to play a character with significant emotional depth, making him somewhat of an anti-hero.

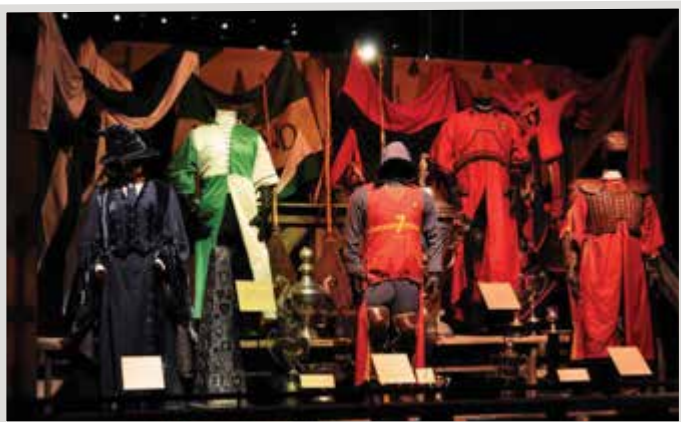
But try asking Craig to imitate another actor, and be prepared for a swift response.

"I'd never copy somebody. I would never do an impression of anybody else or try and improve on what they did. That would be a pointless exercise for me," he said in an interview with suicidegirls.com.

Whether he is the best Bond ever is tough to say. What's clear as day however, is the true dedication to his craft.

This Bond doesn't get shaken, but definitely stirs things up.

The movie is slated for an island-wide release on Oct 1, 2012.



LIFE AFTER HARRY

GWEE YI XUAN
and SOON WEI LIN
take you to the world
after Harry Potter, beyond
paperback and films.

It's a global phenomenon. Children, teenagers and adults alike are all caught up in the book series and film adaptations chronicling the life and adventures of the wizard, Harry Potter. For some, tears were shed after the final film installment wrapped up, but just a year on, Potterheads in Singapore have yet another outlet to channel all their excitement. Harry Potter™: The Exhibition is in town for the first time in Asia-Pacific.

On display at the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, until the 30th of September this year, the exhibition boasts hundreds of actual costumes and props used by the actors, including stars, Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson, across all eight films. It's a perfect opportunity to have a taste of the magical world without having to travel out of the country.

The exhibition is split into nine different sections, each with equally fascinating exhibits and attractions. The first room, 'Hogwarts™ Arrival', aptly welcomes visitors with a replica of Hogwarts™ Express, the train that ferries wizards and witches to the wizardry school. Like the book series, the exhibition grows darker in tone according to rooms, such as, 'The Forbidden Forest', and 'Dark Forces'. Fear not though, for it culminates in 'Great Hall' where costumes from the Yule Ball and food exhibits, colourfully fill the room.

Interactive exhibits speckle the various rooms to make the magical experience even more real. While there won't be any flying on a broomstick or casting spells from a wand, you can, however, pull out a mandrake from its pot to hear it scream. Or perhaps, you'd fancy practising your Quidditch skills with some Quaffle throwing? Well, rejoice! You can do all that! There's even Hagrid's chair for you to sit on and revel in his half-giant size. The star attraction is, of course, the authentic items from the films.

From Severus Snape's robes to the Hungarian Horntail dragon, and the the infamous Horcruxes to a Petrified Collin Creevey, the numerous props are all

fighting for attention at the exhibition. To be surrounded by actual costumes and objects featured in the films is quite a surreal feeling, especially if you're a fan of the series. It's as though the magical world has indeed come to life.

And while it's possible to have a glimpse of every exhibit within half an hour, it's advisable to get your money's worth by paying a closer look at the intricate details, such as phoenix Fawkes' carefully crafted feathers. A short description also accompanies every exhibit, but there's an optional audio guide at an additional \$6. It helps give a better appreciation of the design and technical aspects that go on behind the scenes of the films.

The gift shop bears replicas of the props used in the films. If you've ever fancied having a wand or a broomstick, they are all available for sale, along with sweet treats such as the notorious Bertie Botts' Every Flavour Beans, and Chocolate Frogs. But be warned, they don't come cheap.

Open from 10am to 10pm daily, the tickets are timed for every hour of entry but visitors can stay for as long as they like in the exhibition. It's advisable to go early to avoid the crowd, or simply just to have more time. Each ticket is priced at \$24 (but there are special discounts!) enjoy special discounts), so head down now to experience the magic.



ARTS



PENGUIN BOOKS SINGAPORE PRESENTS...



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PENGUIN BOOKS SINGAPORE

50 HYPE



THE CLASSIC REVAMP

By LYDIA PANG

Fans of the Penguin Classics, rejoice!

Earlier in April this year, Penguin announced the inauguration of the Penguin English Library, as well as the revamp of the covers of the top 100 books in its *Penguin Classics* collection. 20 titles were released upon launch and subsequently, 10 new titles were slated to come out every month. To date, Penguin has re-issued 50 classics.

Even if you're not a big fan of reading, the *Penguin Classics* is certainly not a term unheard of. The distinctive, orange paperback spine, coupled with a cute penguin on the front cover, has always been the hallmark of a Penguin Classic.

Individually crafted by designer Coralie Bickford, each book now looks stylish and modern. But fret not; the famous orange spines still remain.

Before the 1930's, books only belonged to the field of the rich and the elite. Cheap paperbacks were available then, however the quality left much to be desired.

Allen Lane, the then director of The Bodley Head, an English publishing house, was at a railway station looking for a choice book to read while on his journey back to London, back when he discovered only popular magazines and reprints of Victorian novels.

Appalled at the lack of variety, he decided that quality contemporary fiction should be made available not just in traditional bookstores, but also in railway stations, tobacconists and chain stores.

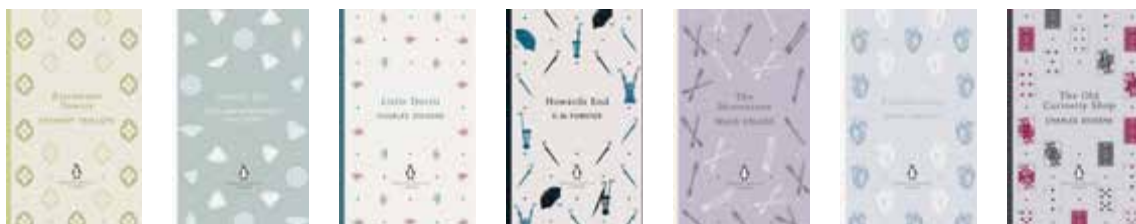
In the summer of 1935, the first Penguin Classic paperbacks made their way to the front of many bookstands. True to his own words, Allen Lane kept them as affordable as possible – just six pence a book – the same cost for a pack of cigarettes.

The paperback revolution has begun.

Now, the Penguin Classics are shadows of their former selves, but in a good way.

Simon Winder, publishing director of Penguin, said in an interview with e-zine, *The Irish World*, "For many the series was a magic door, the start of a lifetime's engagement with the most vivid writing imaginable. Now the spirit of the Penguin English Library has inspired a fresh, contemporary series."

Even with the revamped covers, Penguin's motto of affordable reading still stands.



MISS ADDY TAKES STOCK

By ELAINE HUANG

To Adelina Ong, an actress as well as the associate producer of the Youth Division within Little Arts Academy, passion is nothing short of plunging right into what you love, come hell or high water.

Adelina Ong was still in her National Junior College uniform and performing in 10 plays while studying for her A Level examinations. To some, that'd be a nightmare, but to this petite 33-year-old, it was the perfect remedy to de-stress.

Born to a family with a opera-performing grandfather, Adelina was always using her imagination and creating characters out of thin air.

However, it was a specific musical that sparked the thespian in her.

"I watched Rent. I'm not if many young people know this musical but back then, it was pretty

sure

controversial." The musical revolved around a group of impoverished artists trying to stay alive with HIV and was a big hit back in the day.

She says, "Homosexuality wasn't something that you could openly talk about back then. When I watched it, I was really moved by the ability of something which most people would consider popular entertainment."

"Ever since I was 17, I knew I wanted to act. ... I knew that theatre had the potential to change people so back then, ... I wanted to do performances that changed lives."

When she joined The Arts House in 2007, she had no idea she was going to start a school with a team of two others and even lead a youth division. She shares, "I wrote in and said, 'I really believe in the Business Times Budding Artists Fund! Can I please join?' and they said, 'We don't have an opening. You wanna be an arts programmer?'"

"It's not that I wanted to, but the truth is, back then, it was very difficult to find a job. ... Given my experience, that's where I naturally ended up," she explains.

"I still try to create shows that mean something to me about topics I can't do under the company. ... Recently, I went to Tokyo to do a show about feminism. It's called W and I wrote it myself."

Before diving into work at The Arts House, she was part of Community Partnerships with the National Philanthropy Centre, helping to match donors to non-profit organisations.

She says, "I wanted to find out who the needy in society were because at that point, theatre was getting too commercial for me. I knew I started on this path because I wanted to help people but I wasn't able to find the people I wanted to help."

Currently, there are around 50 youths in Little Arts Academy but those who have grown closest to her are, unsurprisingly, in theatre.

"I used to say that if I had my own children, [they'd] be like them. I would want them to," says Adelina.

"She's like a second mother to me," says Rohan Gustaf Aziz, 17, a student at Saint Andrew's Secondary School, who has known "Miss Addy" for more than a year.

"It's not done yet," says Adelina Ong, as she answers emails, chats with the youths and reads scripts, reminding herself that there's still work to be done – in the lives of many.



LET THE CREATIVE RELAY BEGIN!

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK DE WINNE

For some energetic youths of Generation Y, the thought of a desk-bound job in a towering office building just doesn't tickle their fancy.

In the past, few dared to take the plunge into the creative realm of art and design as they were viewed as less lucrative professions.

However, creative director Mark De Winne, believes otherwise. The 27-year-old founded Relay Room - a homegrown graphic design studio and creative agency that specialises in designs led by typography.

"Stability is what you make of it ... it's very subjective," says Mark in response to the stereotype that creative jobs provide unstable income.

In his formative years, the thought of becoming a designer never crossed Mark's mind. He only realised design was something he enjoyed, after completing his secondary education.. He then went on to pursue design in Temasek Polytechnic, and LASALLE College of the Arts.

Mark's growing interest eventually led to the birth of Relay Room, in 2010, which he set up together with his wife, Sarah-Cheng De Winne, 24. She currently helps to manage the agency's clients and business projects.

Like her husband, Sarah's creative streak is hard to miss. The talented singer-songwriter is also a radio presenter and has an impressive portfolio as a freelance photographer.



The creative bug has started spreading all around the world, and it seems that youths have been hit the hardest. KEEFE WONG finds out more with The De Winnes.

In a span of two short years, Relay Room has seen diverse and prominent clients, such as the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, and the National Library Board.

While many of their peers are still struggling to climb the corporate ladder, Mark and Sarah have already been featured in The Business Times for Relay Room - a mean feat for an agency as young as theirs.

When asked about his sources and creative influences, Mark says that he has "too many to name". He says, "Clichéd as it sounds, I find inspiration in a lot of places, things and people."

As Relay Room grows as a business, the De Winne's have also started

organising bi-monthly creative mixers to help bring together people from the creative industry, entrepreneurs, and those in technology, so that they can collaborate and learn from one another.

"These creative mixers provide platform for networking and they organise really interesting and diverse talks; not to mention the awesome food (especially the cookies)," says Andrew Lai, 25, a former project executive at a digital marketing agency.

Of course, running his own business comes with its own ups and downs, and Mark is fully prepared.

It's an "interesting ride, but not for the faint hearted."

MARK DE WINNE'S 3 ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR THE CREATIVE MIND.

1. A GOOD EYE

You have to know when your own work is not cutting it and be willing to trash and re-do.

2. AN UNWAVERING WORK ETHIC

Every job is hard work and you will have to push yourself, after all, it takes 10,000 hours of practice to be successful at anything.

3. HEART

You have to love what you do. This is not to say that you should do it for free.



Dearth of CREATIVE AVENUES

Street art aficionados tell all as NADRAH ROZMAN and ONG JIE WEI explore the perceptions of graffiti art and its repercussions.

"What is this?" – Those were the words murmured with uncertainty by a young child as he pointed his fragile fingers towards the colossal walls smothered in spray paint along the alleys of Arab Street.

Graffiti art has always been a questionable act in society, especially so in a rigid community like Singapore.

With a Nominated Member of Parliament, Janice Koh, proclaiming that graffiti is done by "vandals or those uneducated in the culture of street art" in 2012, as well as SingPost's publicity stunt in 2010, where its attempt to engage with the society innovatively via graffiti-sprayed post boxes led to the public's criticisms of blatant vandalism, it is never easy to dictate graffiti art's position in the lion city.

"What many people will relate graffiti art to is 'rebel' or 'vandalism'," shares 31-year-old graffiti artist, Rozaimie Bin Sahbi, alias SlacSatu, who created the graffiti clique, Zincite Crew (ZNC), in 1998.

Constantly awaiting an increase of acceptance from the public, graffiti art often finds itself crippling at the borders of street art.

"We (graffiti artists) only hope for some form of national recognition ... that graffiti is a serious art form that can be performed on its own," reveals 27-year-old graffiti artist, Shah Rizzal, best known by the pseudonym Asno.

With the objective of seeking understanding for their art pieces, these artists exercise maturity by painting within the boundaries, and educating the society through interactive art expressions.

Rendered in colours oozing from the cultural environments they are geographically situated at, the interesting graffiti-decorated walls are usually personalised with the artists' perceptions of surroundings.

That is why you might always spot various Muslim ethnic elements across the vibrant corner of Arab Street, such as vivid murals of personages decked out in traditional garbs.

"The community and shop owners liked it", expresses Asno as he beamed broadly.

Deonn Yang, a supportive 18-year-old Singaporean student also notes that it is "exciting to see graffiti work with meaning behind it".

Social responsibility is revealed to be another aspect that is never negotiated with these early adopters of graffiti.

By acting from the public's perspective, there is a constant initiative to keep their art free from sensitive issues, as well as "safe for the public to consume".

Also doubling as art instructors at various institutions, both Asno and SlacSatu advocate to their students and aspiring graffiti artists the significance of possessing a self-instilled responsibility instead of rehashing the well-known limitations.

"We know the system we are in ... [and] we work around it," declares Asno as he emphasises the balance of painting artistically and sending a message through graffiti art.

"Moreover, we're not anti-government... [but] pro-society."

Despite regulated executions for commissioned graffiti work, transfiguring these artists to designers, the act of self-censorship is not as involuntary as it seems.

"As artists, we'd definitely respect ourselves [as] we wouldn't want to spoil our reputation," shares Asno as he recalls 2012 as his 13th year into graffiti art.

Still appreciative, these happy-go-lucky dudes are grateful to be part of the efforts their clients - prestigious corporations such as Coca Cola and Adidas - are doing to promote graffiti art.

Indeed, street art in Singapore has grown for the better, which is evident within strong communities of artists like ZNC.

Starting out with a shared passion for art, these graffiti artists are leaning towards teaching and grooming the “new blood”, however they can.

“We only want more walls. If you want to banish illegal graffiti, you might as well make it legal,” beseeches SlacSatu, “when there’s not enough resources, the new guys will [turn to] illegal ways.”

Similarly, Singaporean student, Goh Took Kee, 19, also attributes the reason artists resort to using public properties to showcase talents to the dearth of opportunities.

Contradictory to the current efforts our country is pumping in to promote arts and culture, the future of street art is seemingly deteriorating nationally, ascribed to the scarcity of legal creative avenues.

“Yes, the government provides creative avenues (Scape Skate Park and Haji Lane)... but it is also imposing constraints that limit artists’ expressions,” claims Tiong Zhong Cheng, 19, student.

SlacSatu adds with a tinge of dismay, “Even at the skate park, the new generation is afraid to paint on the wall (for fear of getting profiled and tracked).”

As such, rather than being a supposed tool for the freedom of expression, graffiti art is fast becoming suppressed and subdued.

“For a start, change the vandalism laws because [they don’t] make sense at all,” laments Faris Abdulkadir Basharahil, 25, Chief Executive of Social Creatives, a social enterprise that aims to promote artistic expression amongst youths and the community.

“Visual arts have changed,” divulges Asno who reckons that the Vandalism Act introduced in the 1960s may not be appropriate for the present day.

There will be no growth if there is a lack of breathing space and mutual understanding. Herein lies the root of an aggravating problem: the dearth of creative avenues.

Why stifle art when art is the very basis of form, content and self-expression. Art is, inevitably, the very essence of life.

Take it from the street-smart Asno, “I learnt a lot about the society from graffiti art rather than a social studies book.”



FEATURE

MEDIA METAMORPHOSIS



The worldwide media landscape is changing the way we consume and produce entertainment, and these exciting times are here to stay.

BY
PATRICIA KARUNUNGAN
and RACHEL PHAY

GRAPHICS BY AMIRA AZMI

There's something comforting about the smell of freshly printed paper that wafts out as you thumb through the pages of a book you just bought.

There's also something sacred in the act of balancing a new music CD on your fingertips (careful not to leave any prints on its shiny surface) as you pop it into your CD player to listen to it for the first time.

However, the advent of new media has paved novel ways we can consume our entertainment and soon, these simple rituals will become novelties from the past.

Case in point: 2011 was rocked by the permanent closings of bookstore giants Borders and PageOne, mirroring the sudden string of Barnes & Noble closures in the United States, earlier the same year.

Singapore seems ready to jump onto the eReader bandwagon that put so many Barnes & Noble bookstores out of business. After all, according to a study done by digital strategy company Incitez, 85% and 23% of Singaporean households already own smartphones and tablet devices, respectively.

It seems only natural for Singaporeans to pick up eReaders, portable electronic reading devices such as the Amazon Kindle.

eBooks are also far cheaper than their physical counterparts — why pay \$20 for the latest Paulo Coelho bestseller when its electronic version costs only \$1?

Music can be downloaded online too at a fraction of the price that CDs command. The Apple iTunes store typically sells music at US\$0.99 (SGD\$1.27) per song and US\$9.99 (SGD\$12.80) per album,

way cheaper than the \$20 we usually fork out for a single album at local record stores.

But, of course, this leads to the question of piracy — are we so used to getting our entertainment for cheap that we now expect it to be free? It's no secret that music and movies are illegally downloaded all over the world.

In line with global efforts to stop piracy, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) held "The Originals IP Spectacular!" on Apr 25 to demonstrate the importance of protecting intellectual property.

Local singer JJ Lin, who was appointed Singapore's IP Ambassador at the event, says that respecting artistes is not just about paying for their music but also about acknowledging the creator.

Spotify is an upcoming platform where we can get our music fix for free without stepping on artistes' toes. The Swedish music streaming service lets you access more than 16 million songs worldwide. It's also social, letting you build playlists with your friends. Spotify has made this possible by collaborating with record labels so that with every stream, royalties still make it back to the creators.

Spotify has been launched in fifteen countries with the latest being Australia. There's talk of Spotify Singapore in the works, but no launch date has been announced yet.

New media is a two-way street: it's just as easy now to self-publish music and eBooks as it is to stream and download them. For example, on Kickstarter.com, you can crowd-source for funds to record your band's CD instead of waiting to get noticed by a record label. It's also the platform for designers and inventors to get funding. Kickstarter has been around for three years and nearly half of all projects have met their funding goals.

Smashwords.com is an eBook publishing platform where anyone can upload his or her works and have them downloaded by readers all over the world. Smashwords also links the eBooks to literary agents, publishers and book retailers. Amanda Hocking is a fairytale example of how a self-published author found fame and success.

After repeatedly being turned down by literary agents, the American author turned to self-publishing her young adult novels

on Smashwords. Her eBooks enjoyed 1 million downloads before getting the attention of Pan Macmillan.

The publisher reportedly paid Hocking US\$2 million for the rights to re-edit and re-publish her fantasy series, The Trylle Trilogy. Media Rights Capital also bought the film rights. Hocking's success is unprecedented amongst self-published authors.

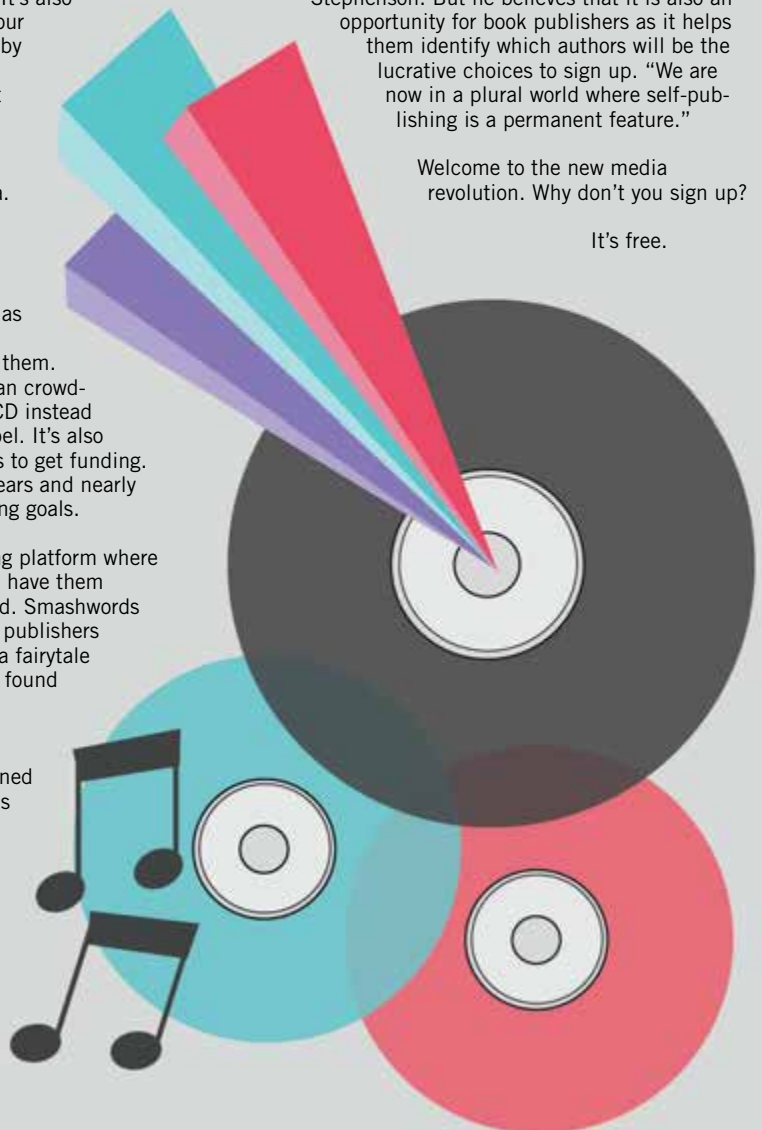
However, more fairytales come true are bound to come as self-publishing is a rapidly growing medium that won't look back on its past.

"In the past, the cost of producing a book was very considerable. Now all has changed," says Mr Richard Stephenson, CEO of digital publishing company YUDU. "The cost barriers have crashed and self-publishing online opens up a new world."

Self-publishing seems to be "a huge headache" for traditional media like newspapers, quips Mr Stephenson. But he believes that it is also an opportunity for book publishers as it helps them identify which authors will be the lucrative choices to sign up. "We are now in a plural world where self-publishing is a permanent feature."

Welcome to the new media revolution. Why don't you sign up?

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FROM PRINT TO SCREEN

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

A DAY IN APRIL FOR ERIC PACKER

by ELAINE HUANG

Perhaps the upcoming drama film *Cosmopolis* is more than just its title - based on the same name novel by American author, Don DeLillo, it was directed by Canadian filmmaker, David Cronenberg, and stars English actor, Robert Pattinson, known for his role in the *Twilight* series.

First published in 2003, the book received many mixed reviews. It revolves around Eric Packer, a 28-year-old asset manager who doesn't even care if he gets assassinated.

Sometimes rather incoherent, the story in both book and film sets out to be a day where Mr. President comes to visit and Packer wants to travel across New York City in a white limousine to have his hair cut. He meets with various individuals; mostly his business associates, loses a huge deal of money and behaves in a weirdly nonchalant manner for a man whose world revolves around dollars and cents.

In the multi-billionaire league, the man comes off as insensitive, indifferent and un-relatable. He has a poet for a wife, Elise Shifrin, yet they act like strangers albeit being newlyweds.

Don DeLillo seems to be putting a lot of importance on the sexual relationships Packer has with other women to the

point where the dialogues are blatantly indecent and X-rated.

The book has been described as a novel about the future of New York, descending into a state of decadence and decline.

The film, however, manages to capture this point in a more straightforward manner. With the post-modernist theme and special effects to emphasise how affluent and sadly opulent Packer is, Cronenberg also manages to zoom in on the finance sector globally.

DeLillo focuses far too much on the dialogue, albeit being totally necessary, and too little on the characters themselves. It paints an icy cold picture of this yet no one really knows what each of them are like. The 224 pages are way too short to immerse yourself in the futuristic sense of the novel.

Not quite the page-turner which keeps you glued, *Cosmopolis* isn't a terrible read. However, be warned that you might have to constantly flip to the previous page so that you could understand what or who DeLillo is talking about. The film, however, draws your attention with Gucci suits, cool limousines and pretty convincing acting. But the storyline begs to differ.



ON A LIFEBOAT ALONE WITH A BENGAL TIGER?!

by GWEE YI XUAN

Despite difficulties getting a director and budgeting constraints, a story of an Indian boy and a Bengal tiger floats to the big screen after a decade since the novel's release in 2001.

Yann Martel's award-winning novel, *Life of Pi*, tells a story about Piscine Molitor Patel, also nicknamed Pi, a shipwrecked survivor afloat on a lifeboat with a spotted hyena, an injured zebra, an orangutan and - the most ferocious of all - a Bengal tiger.

The winner of the 2002 *Man Booker Prize For Fiction* opens with an author's

note that tells the audience how Martel, played by Tobey McGuire in the film, got the idea for this novel. It is narrated by Pi himself, and is highly effective in its storytelling.

Akin to any relationship that has just ended, reading the book once isn't enough: you have to go back to its first pages looking for the tiny details that enhance the plot; all the inconspicuous subtleties that we tend to miss on our first reading.

What makes or breaks this book is Pi's understanding of how an animal thinks.

The entire book rests on the premise that it is possible to survive in a confined area, for an indefinite amount of time, with a dangerous carnivorous animal - the Bengal tiger. This is a testament of the author's ability for making it believable.

Helmed by Academy Award winning director, Ang Lee and based on a screenplay by David Magee, the film sees 19-year-old Suraj Sharma in his big-screen debut. Sharma was cast by Ang himself, from a total of 3,000 hopefuls who auditioned for the role.

Ang's credentials range from the award-winning 2005 romantic drama *Brokeback Mountain* to the superhero film *Hulk*, and even to the critically-acclaimed martial arts film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and the 1995 period drama *Sense and Sensibility*. It will be compelling to see how his unique directing style translates the celebrated

THE WETTEST COUNTY IN THE WORLD

by NADRAH ROZMAN

"You could spend years in [Franklin County] and never see [moonshine drinking], even as it is all around you."

Inspired by the life story of his grandfather and granduncles, author Matt Bondurant's words continue to form vivid descriptions of the series of events, unfolding precariously, page after page.

Set in Franklin County, Virginia, John Hillcoat's *Lawless* takes to you to an era of misdemeanors where corrupt and greedy-eyed authorities take prey on the unlawful.

A promising film, you would find yourself drawn to *Lawless* for the sheer joy of seeing tough men battling it out on the field especially if you are into lead actor, Shia LeBeouf.

A tale of the infamous Bondurant brothers and their deep involvement in the business of illicit liquor during Prohibition, *Lawless* is promised to set hearts ablaze with audiences rooting for their heroes' survival.

Eldest brother Forrest (Tom Hardy) stands strong as the pillar of support for his family, though with a wavering disposition on their bootlegging business. Then comes along tenacious Howard (Jason Clarke), the brawny

one whose loyalty is like none other to his brothers. Filled with dreams and aspirations is youngest brother, Jack (Shia LeBeouf), who lets his ego become the better of him in a forbidden pursuit of impressing Bertha (Mia Wasikowska).

Eventually consumed by their own greed, the brothers find themselves in a whirlwind of a mess when they started supplying moonshine to mobster Floyd Banner (Gary Oldman).

The Bondurant brothers' thriving business is then brought to the attention of newly arrived mercenary federal agent, Charlie Rakes (Guy Pearce).

Unscrupulous choices are given to them, all of which, end with the brothers getting the shorter end of the stick.

In the helter-skelter of it all, the Bondurant brothers soon find themselves in a brutal confrontation with the corrupt law forces, determined to bow down to nobody.

A gripping story of American gangsters, better known as the "Franklin County Conspiracy", *Lawless* is well suited for moviegoers with an inclination towards dramatised action-packed scenes.

According to a book review of *The Wettest County In The World* by Lauren



Bufferd at *BookPage.com*, if the movie is anything like the book, moviegoers will be treated to a movie that is "extremely graphic, with multiple descriptions of physical injury, brutality and sadistic behaviour."

Lawless is slated for an island-wide release on Oct 25, 2012.

novel into a film, while staying true to the characters, along with the heavy use of computer-generated imagery (CGI) that suggests a big budget film of an estimated US\$70 million (S\$87 million).

"It has a gigantic visual effects component," said Elizabeth Gabler, president of Fox 2000. "You can't put a live tiger in a boat with a child," she reasoned. Glaber fought hard to find a director for the film after fallouts from a few others like M. Night Shyamalan, and also faced budgeting issues that further delayed the production of the film.

Thus far, Ang has no doubt set his eyes on the tiger. A 11-second teaser trailer of the film was shown in theatres before the showing of 3D films, such as *Prometheus* and *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*. One thing's for sure, we can definitely expect more of these trailers in the upcoming months.



Can the success of this great literary work of art, coupled with the hype that it has generated, ensure a spot at the top of box office charts? Find out when it paws through the silver screen on Nov 21, 2012, 3D goggles included.



SIX WORLDS IN A FILM

by SOON WEI LIN

Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell is not a book for the impatient. Not only is it more than 500 pages, it is also intricately weaved to hold six very different tales which are subtly interlinked. Spanning from the Pacific Ocean in the 1850s to the post-apocalyptic 22nd century, the main protagonists of each story are equally vast in terms of their lives and characters. They are, however, each other's passageways to the next story.

The novel is full of suspense with five of the six chapters being interspersed before completion. It later reverses itself to conclude the chapters after reaching the crux of the narrative, the sixth and final story 'Sloosha's Crossin' An' Ev'rythin' After', making it especially unique in its format.

Cloud Atlas is also thought provoking, forcing the reader to question humanity through an array of different generations and genres. Generously peppered with extensive vocabulary throughout, it's a spectacularly dizzying read.

Nominated for multiple awards including the *Man Booker Prize* in 2004, it's no surprise that it has finally been adapted into a film. It's perhaps a blessing

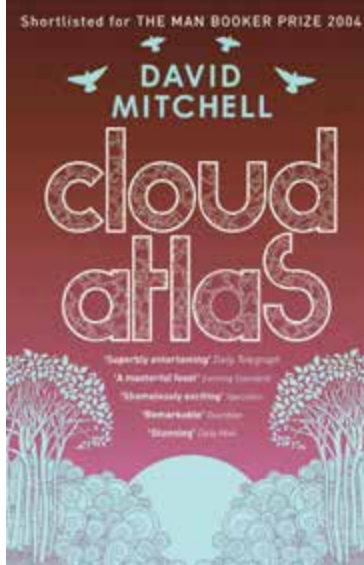
too, as the film will probably be easier to understand than the book itself. However, fans of the book might beg to differ – will the crew and cast of the film be able to translate the prose accurately onto screen? Will the stories be showcased in their full glories?

The same sentiments are being echoed throughout the film industry. The film first struggled with its finances as it was deemed too risky an adaptation. Subsidises and Asian investors, among others, later contributed to the film's budget of US\$100 million (\$125 million) when the producers refused to give up. It is now in the good hands of directors Tom Tykwer and The Wachoskis, the two brothers who are most well known as the creators of *The Matrix* series.

The film adaptation even boasts a cast that includes Hollywood A-Listers Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Hugh Grant, and Chinese veteran Zhou Xun, with many of them portraying multiple roles. And all the effort just might pay off.

After watching a six-minute sneak peak, international film distributor Victor Loewy said, in an interview with *The New York Times*, "It's so unlike anything I've seen in 40 years in this business."

Cloud Atlas is definitely a challenge to adapt for the screen. Should the film accurately portray the various settings, it will definitely be a thought-provoking masterpiece like the novel itself.



Cloud Atlas is slated for an American release on Oct 26, 2012.

IT'S GONNA BE LEGEN-WAIT FOR IT-DARY

Romance, struggles and sacrifice, 5 legendary classic books will be hitting our screens in the coming months.

ARIEL TABITHA LIM, ARIN FONG and VALERIE QUEK took a look at the all-time favourite classic books and found out what to expect of the film adaptations as they make their way to the big screen.



A Dream In Time Gone By

by ARIEL TABITHA LIM

Victor Hugo's 1862 French novel *Les Misérables* tells a captivating story of undeserved compassion, sacrifice and redemption in the midst of social injustice and reform in nineteenth-century France. The commercial success of the epic novel birthed the hugely popular musical adaptation that went on to be the longest running show on the West End and the third longest running musical in Broadway history. The 2012 film, to be released at the end of the year, will be the adaptation of the Tony Award winning stage musical, not to be confused with the film adaptation of the book made in 1998.

In this year's highly anticipated film, Tony Award-winning film and theatre actor Hugh Jackman leads the stellar cast as Jean Valjean, a reformed ex-prisoner relentlessly pursued by the merciless police chief Javert, played by Academy Award-winning actor Russell Crowe. The story delves into Valjean's search for redemption and his hopes of escaping his criminal past, while Javert constantly thwarts his good deeds.

Rachel Getting Married star Anne Hathaway plays Fantine, a poor woman driven to prostitution, who Valjean befriends and helps along the way. Valjean adopts Fantine's daughter

Cosette, played by Amanda Seyfried of *Mamma Mia!* and *Mean Girls* fame. The story escalates as the father-daughter pair flee from Javert and brave the uncertainty and instability posed by the political revolutions of late 18th and early 19th century France.

Ultimately, *Les Misérables* sheds light on the strength of humanity and the power of love in times of trial and tribulation.

Eager fans of *Les Misérables* got a glimpse of the look and sound of the film when the trailer was released, spiking interest and anticipation for the Christmas opening of the film. Anne Hathaway's wistful version of

the musical's famed song "I Dreamed A Dream" haunts the one-and-a-half minute preview and has received praise from *The New York Times* for being "simple and emotive".

Fans took to Twitter to express their excitement and share their hopes for the film shortly after the release of the trailer, leading to 'Les Mis' trending in the UK and worldwide. Discussions on Anne Hathaway's performance are still swirling on YouTube, with many of those who were doubtful about her winning the role of Fantine over established musical actresses expressing their approval.

The unique, winning factor of this big-screen musical is the integrity of the singing performances. *The Huffington Post* reported that there was no fixing or fine-tuning in post-production, a tactic rarely used on such large-scale musical adaptations. That means no auto-tune – just pure, raw emotion.

Expectations soar even higher with the Academy Award-winning director of *The King's Speech*, Tom Hooper, at the helm. It looks like it's not too much to reach for the "Castle on a Cloud."

***Les Misérables* is slated for an American release on Dec 14, 2012.**



A Public Affair

The need for love and happiness is undeniable. ARIN FONG explores a tale filled with passion, betrayal, and soul-searching.



There was a woman named Anna Karenina, who risked everything she had in the pursuit of love, happiness and independence.

Set in 19th century high-society Russia, Leo Tolstoy weaves a beautifully tragic love story that critics call the greatest Russian novel of its time.

The female protagonist, Anna, is shunned by the Russian aristocratic society when she leaves her respectable husband, Alexei Karenin, for the wealthy Count Vronsky. Her story of loss and passion is interlinked with the tale of Levin, who finds happiness and fulfillment in his romance with a young lady, Kitty.

This thought-provoking novel is not just about love affairs and living the high life. Tolstoy thoroughly explores relatable themes of family, sexuality, societal values, and the human desire for love.

And who could portray Anna better than the beautiful English sweetheart, Keira Knightley? Fans of *Pride & Prejudice*

and *Atonement* are in for a treat, as this marks the third time Joe Wright directs the actress.

Knightley told *HitFix* in an interview that her title character was the hardest part she ever had to play. She says, "It's [the novel] really looking at the best of humanity and the worst of humanity, often in one character. And trying to balance all those things in the one person was really hard. And, hopefully, it's worked."

The film promises an attractive cast, with the charming Jude Law as Anna's husband Alexei Karenin and Aaron Johnson as her affluent lover Count Vronsky. Other cast members include Kelly Macdonald, Knightley's *Pride & Prejudice* co-star Matthew MacFadyen, and Domhnall Gleeson.

Expect to be awed by the lavish costumes and lush theatrical settings. Knightley's luxurious gowns and coats are every woman's dream, and Jude Law is hardly recognisable behind the bushy beard, glasses and receding hairline.

Though it is a challenge to condense all eight parts of the novel into the film, this version aims to give equal coverage of Anna's affair with Vronsky as well as Levin's romance with Kitty.

This is unlike previous adaptations of the novel, which focused more on the tragedy of Anna's affair and insecurities, leaving the story of Levin's difficulties in managing his estate, his eventual nuptials and personal life all but untold.

Oscar nominee predictions are already starting to roll in for this highly anticipated film. Whether it is for Knightley's lead performance or the film's dreamy cinematography, The Huffington Post predicts that the prestige picture will indeed collect a bunch of nominations.

If the critics are right and both Knightley and Wright live up to expectations, you can certainly look forward to a captivating performance.

***Anna Karenina* is slated for an American release on November 9, 2012.**



An Unexpected Journey

Fans of *The Lord of the Rings* are in for a trip back to Middle Earth as ARIN FONG gets acquainted with the hobbit that started it all.

A prequel to the epic trilogy, J. R. R. Tolkien brings us back 60 years prior to *The Lord of the Rings* (LOTR), revealing how the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, found himself on a quest with a wizard and 13 dwarves to reclaim their stolen treasure from the fiery dragon, Smaug.

And what's an adventure without danger? Tolkien keeps you constantly fretting over how Bilbo Baggins and his friends escape sticky situations and survive the perils of the land in *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*.

Most importantly, *The Hobbit* uncovers how Mr Baggins had found the powerful One Ring, and his near-death encounter with the hissing creature, Gollum.

LOTR fans have many things to be excited about in *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. Firstly, award-winning director of the trilogy, Peter

Jackson, will again direct the 3D blockbuster. Secondly, a handful of the memorable cast from the previous films reappear, including Cate Blanchett as Galadriel, Elijah Wood as Frodo, Andy Serkis as Gollum, and Ian McKellen as the iconic Gandalf the Grey. Martin Freeman, the newest addition to the cast, should be a familiar name to fans of the BBC's television adaptation, *Sherlock*.

Jackson has divided the film adaptation into two parts to include as much action as possible; part two being titled *The Hobbit: There and Back Again*. You can be assured that the film will be of epic proportions, with the familiar New Zealand setting bringing the mythical lands of Middle Earth back to life.

For fans who are devoted to having the film be as faithful to the novel as possible, do note that there is a minor difference between book and film. Instead of the lost treasure, the dwarves are now reclaiming the Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor. But rest assured that there will still be heavy action sequences and fearsome creatures galore.

However, critics are sceptical of the decision to film at 48 frames per second (fps), instead of the typical 24, which can make it look jarring and even fake. According to *IGN Entertainment*, the 48fps footage is supposed to create a more realistic



quality. This is not the case here, however, as it makes the film look even more artificially enhanced.

Despite that, fans are still excited to embark on Bilbo's adventure. As 19-year-old Abelle Wee, enthuses, "I expect the movie to be better than *Lord of the Rings*!"

Even if you haven't read or watched LOTR, you can still enjoy the film. With a star-studded cast and a classic storyline, it's sure to be an adventure like no other!

The adventure begins December 13, 2012, in 3D.

Pip's Great Adventure

VALERIE QUEK snoops around the upcoming adaptation of Charles Dicken's classic, *Great Expectations*, which may bring about a mixed reaction from fans.



The heartbreak and pain associated with a breakup is a path we all cross at least once in our lives. Yet, no matter how hurt we feel, that pain pales in comparison to the daunting uphill battle for love, trudged by Pip, in this classic novel, *Great Expectations*.

Written by the master of Victorian prose himself, *Great Expectations* is one of Charles Dickens' most well-known novels. Famous for Mr Dicken's ingenious plot, the book so vividly paints a masterpiece of how the British class system was constructed in the 19th century.

The book, which was first published in 1861, depicts the trials that young orphan, Pip, has to go through on a daily basis, and how he remains unfazed through it all.

Through the generous donation of an anonymous benefactor, Pip travels to London in hope of cultivating himself into a gentleman for the blue-blooded girl of his dreams, Estella.

Unfortunately, he is faced with an onslaught of problems, some of which includes losing his newly inherited fortune and Estella being married off to a wealthy country bumpkin.

Throughout the novel, Mr Dickens subtly shines a light on the disparity between the socio-economic classes back then, clueing readers in on the true value of life – far away from the greed and corruption of money.

Having been dubbed by many as a “timeless story where vindictiveness and guilt clash with love and gratitude,” one can only imagine what wonders await us on the big screen.

Upon its release in November, this new adaptation of *Great Expectations* would be the fourth remake, with the first being a black and white film dating all the way back to 1946.

The screenplay is written by David Nicholls, the author of hit novel, *One Day*, and stars much-loved actress, Helena Bonham Carter, as Pip's wicked, cold-hearted guardian, Ms Havershaw. Not a far cry from her turn as Bellatrix Lestrange in the Harry Potter series.

Eager moviegoers can, however, expect the movie to differ from the book in various aspects, with Mr Nicholls saying that compromises had to be made when cutting the 500-page novel into a 120-minute film.

For one thing, the book ends with Pip meeting Estella in a graveyard, implying that they lived happily ever after. However, David Nicholls has planned for something darker up his sleeve. He plans to retell this classic tale in a “thriller” fashion, with plans for a never before seen ending.

“[The movie] will be very fast moving, with all kinds of twists and turns,” said Mr Nicholls at an interview with BBC news.

Whether or not this darker portrayal and series of compromises will do justice to the legendary Charles Dickens' novel remains a mystery, but one thing is for sure, *Great Expectations* will be a film that will keep you rooted to your seat for 120 minutes of suspense.

***Great Expectations* is slated for release November 20, 2012 in the United Kingdom.**



The Richest Man Wins

The classic novel, which has been dubbed, “the most quintessentially American novels ever written” is seeing the big screen for the fourth time in 86 years. **VALERIE QUEK** delves into this literary brilliance to find out more.

Since the dawn of time, all have envied the life of the rich and famous. Everyone wants a taste of what it is like to have everything money can buy. Yet, none of these ideals and dreams are penned down in the literary genius that is, *The Great Gatsby*, which portrays the life of the wealthy in a very different light.

First published in 1925, this renowned novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald is an in-depth piece of art that so aptly depicts the luxurious lifestyles of the affluent in New York, through the eyes of Midwestern Yale graduate and war veteran, Nick Carraway.

The novel is set in the Jazz Age, a period in the 1920s that was deemed as a time of freedom, wealth and youthful exuberance. It zeroes in on the ostentatious lives of Tom and Daisy Buchanan, Jordan Baker, Jay Gatsby, and their rotten characters that accompany their excessive fortunes.

With great attention to detail in the description of each character, *The Great Gatsby* begins with a long but descriptive prelude, allowing the readers to grow an attachment to the characters before they delve deeper into the book and unravel the dark secrets that each seemingly perfect character holds.

The book, which paints a masterpiece of extravagant living, has been a hit in America since it was first published 86 years ago. To date, it has been made into a major motion picture thrice and the fourth adaptation coming out this December will be the latest remake.

Usually, whenever a classic book is adapted into a film, its core audience is made up of fans of the novel.

However, the upcoming *Great Gatsby* film already has girls all around the world shaking and squealing with anticipation, considering that former teen heartthrob and Golden Globe-winner Leonardo DiCaprio is playing the elusively shady Jay Gatsby.

Academy Award nominated director Baz Luhrmann is known for creating heartfelt, bombastic classics like 2001's *Moulin Rouge!* and 1996's *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet*, and it is this experienced hand that breathes new life to the Roaring Twenties.

From the trailers alone, it's apparent that the movie has forgone the need for an authentic representation of the Jazz Age in America, with fashion, lifestyles and technology being too liberal and modern for the 1920s. Instead, Luhrmann

focuses on an over sensationalised portrayal of the characters' lifestyles, in hopes that moviegoers would be able to relate to the lavish party-hard culture portrayed in the movie.

Apart from other minor discrepancies, like a Jay Gatsby with a British accent (he's American in the book), and a blond Daisy Buchanan (she's brunette), this major motion picture abides strictly to the novel, so devout fans of the novel can breathe a sigh of relief.

Without a doubt, with the critically-acclaimed Luhrmann at the wheel, audiences will be wowed and wanting more of this Great American Novel.



***The Great Gatsby* hits theatres island-wide on Christmas, December 25, 2012.**



a shopping extravaganza around the world

The recent trend of budget shopping has VALERIE QUEK checking out international factory outlets for bargain-hunting travellers.

For the vogueish youth who are always at the cutting edge of fashion, money and individuality are often perceived as a constant dream.

However, you can easily skirt about this issue by visiting factory outlet malls abroad, where sales are promised round the clock.

With over 130 shops, and just half an hour away from the shores of Singapore, shoppers can now make their way to the newly built Johor Premium Outlet (JPO) in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

"I've been there twice already, it's really convenient as I can just cab across," says Siti Shyuhaila, 26, a compliance officer.

Products there are slated at 25 to 65 percent off its original pricing. And paired with the added bonus from the conversion rate, shopping there is a complete steal.

"It's everything you want compacted into one huge mall," says Siti, genuinely impressed by the 44-acre mall, which is home to a wide range of brands from designer labels such as Salvatore Ferragamo and Coach, to sport shops like Nike and Adidas.

The downside, however, is that although some brands specially tailor

products for the factory outlets, the bulk derives from leftover stock from previous seasons. Also, JPO is often crowded over the weekends and public holidays.

For those who disdain having to jostle among throngs of other shoppers, Citygate Outlet Mall in Tung Chung, Hong Kong, is the place for you.

Situated on the outskirts of Hong Kong, Citygate Outlet Mall allows you to enjoy the serenity of the countryside, all while shopping to your heart's content. It houses over 80 international brands, from Burberry to Mango, and even Giordano, sells their products at a discount ranging from 30 to 70 percent off market rate.

"The items there are sold much cheaper than outside, making it a good buy!" says Jian Hao Tan, 19, whose family owns a house right beside the mall.

Despite being on the outskirts, the mall is easily accessible by bus and subway, which makes it a hit destination for tourists and locals alike.

However, like JPO, most of the stocks at Citygate Outlet Mall are leftovers from previous seasons.

"Although it's cheap, the average Hong Konger has to travel so far only to be

greeted with last season's fashion," explains Jian Hao matter-of-factly.

For the bargain hunters who will go the extra mile for a good deal, head down to Outlet Marketplace in Orlando, USA. Comprising of four annexes, the mall's 180 shops are divided into two sections, an indoor retail outlet, and an outdoor lifestyle centre.

"I love the concept," says Koh Ching Na, 19, who is currently there on vacation with her family, "but because it's summer now, the outdoor areas are a little too hot for comfort."

Catering to both the upscale and average consumer with brands ranging from Tommy Hilfiger to Reebok, Outlet Marketplace brands itself as the "World's finest outlet shopping", with discounts of 25 – 65 percent off all products sold there.

"Besides convenience, the mall (also) has everything I want to get in Singapore," chimes Syaridzwan Hasni, 18, who has been there three times so far, "things were so cheap that I just went into a shopping frenzy."

Outlet Marketplace is highly accessible through various modes of transportation, including a trolley ride that stops at the mall every 15 minutes.

Satisfactory stores

FASHION OUTLETS

Month after month, budgets are blown out of proportion to satisfy the craving to shop for new clothes and accessories. But there is a way to feed the urge without compromising on style and quality. By FRANCINE LIM

"Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society," wrote Mark Twain, definitively describing our relationship with the world of fashion and its countless trends. After all, first impressions count and to dress differently would only invite stares and the ever possible humiliation.

According to the Department of Statistics Singapore, \$13,091.5 million dollars were spent in Singapore's wholesale and retail trade alone, in the first quarter of 2012. Somewhere in the millions of dollars spent in wholesale and retail, lies the money that our consumerist nature spends on clothes and accessories.

With the many eye-catching designs and trends that we struggle to follow, many a time have our budgets been blown, leaving us scarred until our next allowance or paycheck. One solution to minimise the impact of our shopaholic tendencies is to shop at factory outlet stores.

The concept of factory outlet stores began in the United States where excess or damaged goods were sold at price discounts to employees of factory stores on the East Coast. Eventually this practice was extended to include customers as well. These pioneer outlet stores were usually located on the same grounds of the factory which produced the goods.

In the beginning, the main function of outlet stores was to dispose of excess or damaged merchandise. Today, these outlets have transformed into a wallet-friendly abode where shoppers can find items from both current and past collections.

"Most items that are sold here come straight from the main shops and others come from our main branch – the warehouse which transfers the stock here," says Ivy Tan, 35, the assistant manager of Billabong's outlet store at Anchorpoint Shopping Centre.

There are over 20 outlet stores in Singapore, with most of these outlet shops sitting in plain sight at Changi City Point and Anchorpoint Shopping Centre. The latter was the first to introduce the concept of various "premium brand name" outlet stores in Singapore.

Some of the outlet stores at the mall include Billabong, G2000, Charles & Keith and Pedro.

The main presumption about outlet stores is that the items sold are heavily discounted or are considerably cheaper as compared to their regular-priced counterparts.

"The prices would be about the same. Whatever sales items you see here, they would be the same. But regular stores only sell new stocks. So, ours are all old stocks," says Ms Lavana Gunaraj, 24, the manager in training for Cotton On's outlet store, "Most outlet stores do the same thing."

For Charles & Keith's outlet store, it's a different story. With stocks coming in every Wednesday and Saturday, there is a price difference as compared to the regular stores.

"The prices start from \$12.90 onwards, depending on the shoes you are looking for," says Xiao Yun, 25, the assistant manager in training.

"Members will still get 10 percent discount only for regular priced items."

Even if outlet stores are meant to clear out the brand's old collections, do-it-yourself fashionistas and hipsters who customise your clothes, take note! The age-old concept of selling damaged goods is still alive and kicking!

Call your favourite brand's factory outlet store and ask if they sell faulty items from the current or past collections before heading down for your next purchase. You'll be able to choose from a select pile of faulty clothes,

"Some people actually reuse the spoilt items," says Ms Gunaraj. "We've got regular customers who call up to ask us if there are any faulty items and they'll come down and get it. It's all going at about \$2."

This cheaper alternative to sourcing for clothes not only adds a one-of-a-kind piece to your wardrobe, but it also recycles clothes and keeps the money you spend on clothes down.

The only downside to factory outlet shopping is that you might not get the sizes you want for a particular item. Bear in mind that majority of the items come from the other regular shops which have moved onto the latest season's clothes.

If you're out to be at the forefront in today's fashion industry, your chances are better with the standard stores. However if you're looking for a favourite old design, an economical DIY project or simply to save a few dollars, the world of factory outlets awaits your arrival.

From Runway To Hallway

ABIGAIL TAN and RACHEL PHAY suss out Billabong, Esprit, Giordano, Pedro and Skechers factory outlet stores to show you how you can bring haute couture runway looks to your mundane school hallway without burning a hole in your pocket.




Belt from Esprit (\$24.90)

Blazer from Esprit (\$39.90)

Dress from Billabong (\$62.93)

Red wedges from Skechers
(price unavailable)




Faux leather jacket from Esprit (\$49.90)

Scarf from Esprit (\$14.90)

Jeans from Billabong (\$25)

Cognac Platform peep toe slingback heels from Pedro (\$79.20)

A collection of clothing and accessories is laid out on a white background. At the top center is a short-sleeved shirt with horizontal red and white stripes and a V-neckline. To its right is a pair of light blue jeans. To the left of the shirt is a bag with a yellow body and a multi-colored striped upper section, featuring a wooden handle and fringe. Below the shirt and bag are a pair of multi-colored wedge shoes. Each item has a small white label with text and a price.

Shirt from Billabong (\$15)

Bag from Billabong (\$25)

Multi-coloured Wedges
from Pedro (\$89)

Jeans from Giordano (\$49)



Billabong Anchorpoint (Outlet Store)
#B1-14/15
370 Alexandra Road, Anchorpoint
Contact: 6476 0129

Giordano Anchorpoint (Outlet Store)
#01-10/11/12
370 Alexandra Road, Anchorpoint
Contact: 6513 7260

Esprit Changi City Point (Outlet Store)
#02-43/44
5 Changi Business Park Central 1, Changi City Point
Contact: 6297 1211

Skechers Changi City Point (Outlet Store)
#02-42
5 Changi Business Park Central 1, Changi City Point
Contact: 6636 1078

Pedro Changi City Point (Outlet Store)
#01-34
5 Changi Business Park Central 1, Changi City Point
Contact: 6636 2187

HAM AND CHEESE ANYBODY?

With French bakeries and cafes dotting our sunny shores, join CHERYL LOW as she dishes out the most sinfully delicious Croque-Monsieurs, a French interpretation of a ham and cheese sandwich, in Singapore.



PHOTOS BY CHERYL LOW

CHOUPINETTE

607 Bukit Timah Road #01-01

Opening Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday: 8am–8pm

Sunday: 8am – 6pm

Contact: 6466 0613

For a Croque-Monsieur with a twist, Choupinette gives you the luxury of choice, where you can choose your grilled sandwich with ham, chicken or eggplant – which is great for vegetarians – with Emmental cheese and béchamel sauce (\$17).

The crust of the bread lets out a pleasant crisp when bitten into, revealing a gush of melted cheese that coats your choice of generous filling. The cheese filling also gives the sandwich extra moisture to make it more appetising.

Choupinette also cooks up a variety of other delectable dishes such as Eggs Florentine and the classically unforgettable Eggs Benedict.

PAUL BAKERY

391A Orchard Road #03-16/17

Ngee Ann City Tower A

Opening Hours:

Sunday – Thursday: 8:30am–10pm

Friday – Saturday: 8:30am–11pm

Contact: 6836 5932

If you like a perfectly balanced sandwich, indulge yourself with Paul's Croque-Monsieur served up with Turkey, Emmental cheese, cream and Paul's signature "pain de mie", also known as soft bread (\$16.90).

With a crispy piping hot exterior of toasted bread and a crust of cheese, accompanied by the warm gooey centre of turkey and cream cheese, the contents of Paul's Croque-Monsieur come together as one. The elements of the sandwich merge to create a full-on burst of flavour with each bite.

However, if you prefer something sweet, Paul bakery also provides an array of pastries to choose from, leaving you spoilt for choice.

HEDIARD

123-125 Tanglin Road

Tudor Court

Opening Hours:

Everyday: 9am – 8pm

Contact: 6333 6683

Calling all cheese lovers! This is the ultimate sandwich for you, with a thick layer of hot melted cheese blanketing the face of the Croq' Ferdinand.

Underneath the exterior of rich cheese is a thin layer of parma ham sandwiched in between two pieces of delicious chewy grilled bread that soaks up all the goodness of the cheese and sauces.

Inspired by its founder, the Croque-Monsieur is specially named after him as the Croq' Ferdinand (\$16).

Doubling up as a boutique, the cafe allows you leisurely peruse the store that sells an assortment of condiments, wines, jams and other European products.

ART IN A CAFE

COVE

by ELIZABETH KAMALDIN

The cafes that have sprouted across the island offer not just grub to please the plate but a feast for the eyes and ears as well. It's an exciting marriage of food with music, photography and paintings – and we hope it'll last.

BROUN CAFÉ

Situated in the middle of North Canal Road, a mere 5-minute walk from Clarke Quay MRT Station, lies the humble Broun Café, distinctively made known not only by its dark brown painted walls, but also by its array of strange and wonderful offerings that not only include good grub.

Patrons would be spoilt for choice, as the café offers, among other things, delectable pasta, stew, and luscious "Homemade Signature Brownies". The café even has a mini shop which "sells books, stickers, and a number of other strange ... [and] wonderful items from local creative folk," they describe on their website.

With the two café founders being musicians themselves, it is no surprise that when you pay a visit to the café from Wednesday to Saturday nights, you'd be treated by tunes from talented local musicians who play in a corner titled "Broun Sessions". "I adore Broun for its love for the local arts, music and cultural scene," says Juliet Pang, vocalist of jazz quartet White Noise who recently played at Broun Café.

Address: 268A South Bridge road

Website: <http://broun.sg/>

Opening Hours:

Tue: 12 Noon – 3.30 pm

Wed – Sat: 12 Noon – 10.00 pm



TALENT CAFÉ

Along Tras Street stands what looks like a 4-storey whitewashed shop house, better known as Talent Café Singapore. Initially started over 15 years ago in Kuala Lumpur, the franchise opened in Singapore last year.

Though its exterior may seem plain, the interior of the café exuberates an ambience of classy art, in an environment where "photographers can collaborate with models, graphic artists with poets, chefs with artists," as stated on their Facebook page.

Stairways and walls are lined with works of art and exceptional

photographs of all kinds. "They are changed every few months," says a staff member. "Next month, we'll feature photographs from local art students!"

With great cuisine, coupled with mini bars that serve a diverse range of alcoholic drinks and desserts, Talent Café achieves a unique eating experience unlike any other.

Address: 34 & 36 Tras Street

Tel: 6536 7077

Opening Hours:

Mon – Tue: 11.00 am – 10.00 pm

Wed – Fri: 11.00 am – 1.00 am

Sat: 6.00 pm – 1.00 am

TCC (PANTONE MY ART)

Amidst paintings and illustrations hung from wall to wall, a mirrored wall lined with books, and with soft cushions to rest your tush, this two-storey TCC outlet offers a great environment for one to sit back, enjoy great food, soups, salads, pasta, dessert cakes, and not forgetting their signature offering, listed in almost every page of their extensive drinks menu- coffee.

The outlet even plays host to art exhibitions, most recently, *Pantone*

My Art, held in collaboration with art- management.com, which opened on Jul 11. The exhibition features artwork from "ten Singapore-based artists," as stated on their webpage, <http://www.pantonemyart.com/>, tasked with creating works of art in one main colour.

Address: 51 Circular Rd

Tel : 6533 9033

Opening Hours:

Sun – Thurs & Public Hols: 11.00 am –

Midnight

Fri – Sat & Eve of Public Hols: 11.00am – 2.00 am



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A CUP OF JOE

By Cheryl Low



Coffee lovers take it one notch higher with latte art and barista lessons.

As more cafés dot her shores, Singapore's coffee culture is expanding rapidly, with an increase in demand for specialty coffee and barista lessons to refine the craft.

Infusing piping hot steamed milk into espresso allows one to quickly form a pattern on the surface of the coffee, creating what is known as latte art. We owe this discovery of pretty patterns in our cuppa to David Schomer, the owner of Seattle's Espresso Vivace.

In 2004, the art form crept into Singapore with the help of Phil and Cedric Ho from Highlander Coffee who established themselves as the pioneers of barista coffee training in Singapore.

"We did things people did not think of," says Phil as he speaks about Highlander Coffee as an Honoree of the 2010 Sprit of Enterprise award.

Specialty coffee was not always popular in Singapore, as most locals would indulge in a cup of local black coffee, but when advertisements for barista lessons appeared in newspapers, Singaporeans started to become more intrigued by the art of the barista.

"People were curious when they saw an advertisement for barista lessons and wanted to learn for fun."

The influx of cafés and specialty coffee shops such as Sarnies, and Yahava KoffeeWorks from Margaret River in Australia, goes to show that there is demand for specialty coffee in Singapore.

As Singapore's society becomes more affluent, a cup of Joe with white swirls of art on the surface also becomes a luxury that is desired and loved by many.



Boutique-ful Hotels

Glamorous and one-of-a-kind boutique hotels are the new 'in' place to be to party or just chill out. NADRAH ROZMAN, FRANCINE LIM and KEEFE WONG suss out the best spots to hit for that homely feeling.

The concept of a boutique hotel is not new. In fact, boutique hotels have been in the limelight for being an alternative form of a getaway without leaving home. The staycation is thus created. With just a few clicks, a hotel room can be easily booked from the comfort of your own bed. As you delight in the great deal you have secured, the reality is, a single bit of planning is yet to be done. A bout of regret and disappointment soon sets in. What's there to do in a hotel room in Singapore?

HYPE uncovers the different doses of fun that awaits you at staycations.

Staycation Packages

Boutique hotels may provide purse string friendly packages that bundle up more activities and promotions under a discounted price.

Uncover the quieter streets of Singapore as you find yourself sipping on some good old traditional *teh* or even rummaging through vintage items in a forgotten shophouse. Staycations are inevitably there to encourage adventure seekers to step out and explore The Lion City in a more relaxed manner.

Even more so, programmes that include a full day of activities, from meals, nightlife and even souvenirs taken care of, are being considered by the boutique hotel, The Sultan. For a one-time payment, guests will be treated to an escapade that is truly uniquely Singapore.

Staycation packages are the current trend so keep your eyes peeled for them or ask if you have to. These bundles are a sure fire way to have a memorable staycation for you and your family and friends.

Rendezvousing With Restaurants

A hungry man is an angry man.

Every staycation has to have an adequate amount of planning in the food and drinks department. Whether you want to grab a succulent beef burger or pop a bubbly bottle of Chardonnay, boutique hotels will meet your needs.

Whether you're dining alone, hosting your 21st birthday or simply having a night out with your besties, most boutique hotels will be able to recommend something for you.

For instance, Klapsons Boutique Hotel has an alfresco sky terrace bar, Fabrika, 17 floors above the busy streets of Tanjong Pagar. Your will have the time of your lives with the sun setting over the city skyline as your backdrop. Hotel staff will help organise a myriad of customisable parties upon your request.

Feeling adventurous? Other boutique hotels that are located at the more traditional parts of Singapore, like Little India and Chinatown, boast a variety of ethnic food. Whether you want to get in touch with your cultural side or try something new, the hotel staff will be able to guide you there.



Home Away From Home

These hidden treasures provide a serene environment for those who want to do some soul searching, seek refuge from the constant buzz of daily life or even a girls' get-together to nurse a broken heart. Removing yourself and maybe even a few choice friends from the chaos of work or school provides isolation unlike any other and you will leave relaxed and refreshed, come what may.

Boutique hotels such as Hotel Re! are often located away from Singapore's hotspots, yet these hotels are 20 minutes away from any favourite hangout in town. This sense of familiarity allows for you to fully immerse yourself in your activities without the fear of getting lost in a foreign land.



The Sultan

Best Value for Money

The Sultan offers loft suites that guarantee a never-ending holiday with friends as you drink toasts to each other, or just to life.

Packages such as the Loft Suite Extravaganza are made available for that unforgettable birthday bash or even a night out with the girls, with prices at a relative steal. Be the talk of the town as you play host to a party that promises to forever be etched in your guests' minds.

Current promotion:

Skylight and Sultan Suites at \$299 (only for weekends of July-August)
Room prices starting from \$145 ++
For more details visit:
www.thesultan.com.sg

Hotel Re!

Best Hideaway Staycation

The Psychedelic interior at Hotel Re! is more than just a blast from the past.

Located at the base of Pearl's Hill, this isolated hotel encloses guests in a serene environment for a relaxing getaway, yet still keeping you within a stone's throw away from Chinatown, Clarke Quay and Orchard Road.

It also offers shuttle bus transport for those of you intending to explore!

Current promotion:

Relaxing Staycations (for couples) at \$200 ++
Room prices starting from \$168 ++
For more details visit:
www.hotelre.com.sg

Klapsons Boutique Hotel

Best Hangout Bar

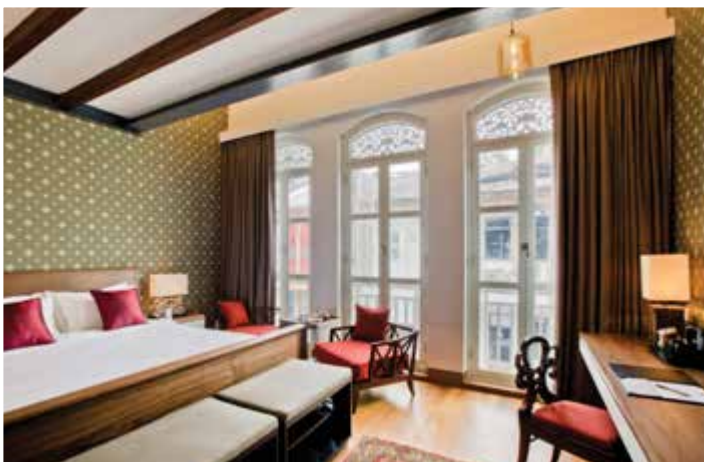
Kick it up a notch, grab a bunch of friends, and enter a whole new world at Fabrika the sky bar on the 17th floor.

Enjoy smooth tunes and a cozy ambience high above the bustling streets of Tanjong Pagar, and treat yourself to a day of chilling and moving to your own beat.

Current promotion:

1 for 1 birthday promotion (for all house pour bottles at Fabrika)
Room prices starting from \$280++
For more details visit:
www.klapsons.com

Information is accurate as of 10 August 2012. Prices are subject to change without prior notice.



Win A Staycation!

Want a day of fun and relaxation at The Sultan, Hotel Re! or Klapsons Boutique Hotel?

Be one of three lucky winners and you just might!

Answer this question:

What are the THREE "doses of fun" that await you at staycations?

Go to page 99 for more details on this and other contests!

Hello Heritage!

by AUDREY TAN and KEEFE WONG

Nowadays, it's all about out with the old and in with the new. As Singapore develops its skyline, do we have to sacrifice our heritage to make way for the "intelligent" generation?

Long gone are the days of kampongs, anachronistic cathedrals and railway stations in this modern metropolis as countless iconic and fondly remembered areas make way for Singapore's urban redevelopment.

Since 2010, the Kallang National Stadium, Tanjong Pagar railway station and Geylang Serai Malay Village have been demolished, just to name a few, while modern structures and skyscrapers have replaced our skyline.

While this progression indicates a healthy national growth – the International Human Development Indicators ranked Singapore 26th out of 187 countries in terms of national development in 2011 – rediscovering our heritage helps us to remember our identity in this globalised society.

As defined by the Oxford dictionary, "heritage" includes the "valued objects and qualities such as historic buildings and cultural traditions that have been passed down from previous generations" and objects "preserved for the nation".

Besides the loss of iconic buildings, intangibles like the free spiritedness of our past seems to be evaporating away as well, as HYPE learns from three Singaporeans, each born in the 80s, 70s and 60s, respectively.

Ms Johannah Ang, a 24-year-old primary school teacher, shares, "I

miss playing with anything using our imagination." She laments that children nowadays are "too tech savvy" and that they "don't do any of those role plays anymore." Now, "all [her] kids give [her] the same answer" about how they stay entertained – they engage in virtual gaming on their various "i" devices.

Ms Jennifer Tay's childhood in the 70s consisted of kinship, now rare in our modern society. The 40-year-old describes, "There was trust and great neighbour relations."

"I miss playing with anything using our imagination."

Johannah Ang

For Ms Winnie Low who is in her 50s, some of her favourite memories are of "visiting friends who stayed in [the] kampong where we plucked rambutans and mangosteens from the trees". Unfortunately, such hands-on learning about the environment is perceived as obsolete in today's society. Most children learn through structured curriculums.

To prevent our heritage from being buried under the products of a fast-progressing nation, the National Library Board (NLB) initiated the

Singapore Memory Project (SMP) in 2011, an online campaign that "collects" Singaporeans' memories. The project's main site, singaporememory.sg, hopes to "tell the Singapore Story" and ultimately be a digital museum, safekeeping 5 million Singaporean memories by 2015.

Mr Yee Yeong Chong, a research associate at the NLB, explains how this project aims to encompass anyone's memory of Singapore, regardless of nationality. He says, "some of the stories do come from ex-British military personnel who lived in Singapore in the 60-70s. Their perspective adds a nuance to the stories provided by citizens too." While the NLB is occupied with storing Singaporeans' memories, local heritage buffs put their passion into action.

Mr Chong, a 36-year-old professional in the finance industry started an independent blog, remembersingapore.wordpress.com in 2010, inspired by Royston Tan's documentary, *Old Places*. He says, "I realised things and landmarks in Singapore were disappearing at an alarming rate, therefore I should act fast to document those places, even if it was an [through an] unofficial blog."

Mr Yeo Hong Eng, a retired teacher, shares Mr Chong's sentiment. To him, remembering Singapore's history is





not just all fun and games. Having lived through the kampong days where he had to depend on farming for a livelihood, he feels that things from the past are more valuable to him.

He explains, "My parents seldom bought toys for us. We made our own toys using whatever materials we had, so what we made was precious to us."

Nowadays, as the third or fourth generation of Singaporeans, youths are privileged to have most of the things they want. They do not understand the hard work that has been put into making it.

At 64 years old, Mr Yeo believes that the future generations must understand "how come they are here or why things are made this way".

Remembering Singapore's history might not be the most interesting thing for most youths, who would prefer staying indoors and reading about heritage on their computer screens, but learning through heritage tours adds a different dimension to history.

Places such as Katong, Emily Hill, Joo Chiat, Balestier and Tanjong Pagar are potential tour places with architecture that lend a touch of nostalgia to the bustle of modern living.

Mr Yeo complements his active involvement in official heritage initiatives like the Singapore Memories Project and the Okto programme Sitting-in-pictures with a fair bit of "personal curation".

Collecting antiques such as old cameras and matchboxes, he believes that "things from the past once destroyed, cannot be replaced."

Singapore Uniquely Singapore will soon be forgotten.

As 19-year-old LASALLE College of the Arts student, Millicent Wong, says, "If we forget our past and only look at the tall buildings and mega tourist attractions that Singapore has today, we'll be no different than any random city in the world."



PHOTOS BY KEEFE WONG AND AUDREY TAN

THE GREAT ALTERNATIVE WEEKEND

Sick of doing the same things every weekend? Join ISAAC KEH and KEZIAH QUEK as they suss out the more interesting alternatives to dinner and a movie. One guy, one girl, and one heck of a weekend.

Weekends can hardly be thrilling in Singapore. Catching a movie, picnicking at Marina Barrage, sunbathing on our island's island Sentosa? Been there, and done that. But instead of us hanging up your bags and calling it a day, gear up and embark on a completely different weekend! Step into an alternative-Singapore (or alt for short), because we've been swimming in mediocrity for far too long.

We've scoured the island and found lesser-known activities that most of us might not have been aware of, or would have hesitated to try. What has resulted is a make-your-own adventure guide that will have you either strolling through the weekend at a leisurely pace or hurtling through it with your adrenaline pumping.

Keziah's Guide to Kicking Back



FRIDAY

Book Launch at BooksActually

Saturdays are too mainstream. I started my ultimate alt weekend at a book launch on Friday evening. Tucked away at the far end of Tiong Bahru estate is the small but charming local bookstore and publishing house, BooksActually.

The night saw a reading of an excerpt and I was delighted to meet actress Karen Tan, who kindly obliged for a picture. I ventured to the back of the store after, and found a cabinet full of vintage pen dispensers and a box of old photographs, filled with black and white pictures of men and ladies in olden day Singapore. Definitely more than a bookshop here.

SATURDAY

Central Fire Station Open House (every Saturday 9-11am)

Having enjoyed the previous night, I set out with vigour to Hill Street where the oldest fire station in Singapore is located. Of course my expectations were pretty standard: bright red, fire engines and beefy, towering firemen. I wasn't disappointed.

I caught a first-hand look at the men and machines behind the Singapore Civil Defence Force. It was a perfect Saturday morning activity for both the gentlemen and ladies, with lots of action by the friendly fire-fighters who were more than easy on the eyes.

Thrifting at Thieves Market

The Thieves' Market (thus named as it was every robber's favourite rendezvous back in the 1930s) has countless things to look at, ranging from seriously cool antiques to strange items like old wires and tattered toys.

I hadn't gotten far before an elderly man approached me and offered me a pair of roller skates for \$5. I have no idea why I bought them, but I did.

Thrifting at Oakham Market

I then travelled to Ann Siang Hill in Chinatown to Oakham Market. The store is delightfully decorated, reminiscent of a pirate ship with the fairy lights and skull flags, not to forget the stuffed animals taped to the ceiling with black duct tape. The effect was curiously imaginative and made my experience more fun than I thought shopping could ever get.

Before I left Chinatown, I stopped over at House of Zhen on Temple Street, and bought a set of sky lanterns for Sunday night.

A different movie at Rex Cinema

Rex Cinema opened in 1946, and to this day still shows multiracial films. The venue was packed as I entered the theatre at 6pm.

With comfortable seats and great sound, it was exactly like any other movie experience, just a dash more ethnic.

Dinner and Drinks at Molly Roffey's Irish Pub

I have always wanted to while the night away with an authentic Irish pub experience and good company. I had a plate of Carbonara and a Singapore Sling, which were extremely tasty, although not quite Irish.

My friend and I enjoyed both the internal and external decor of the bar, with beautiful lamps, fun flags and various Irish charms plastered on the walls. There was also a live band, which made us extra cheerful. A good way to end a day and prepare for the next.

Sunday Brunch at Pique Nique

Waking up late on a Sunday afternoon after a night out and having breakfast at 3pm is possibly one of the best feelings in the world.

The Classic Benedict had all the right textures and flavours and the balsamic dressing on the salad hit all the right notes. Having refuelled, I was off again!

Soap-making workshop at Soap Ministry

I never knew I had the capacity to obsess over what ingredients were good for my skin, but I had a ball of a time mixing the soap base, herb powders and essential oils into adorable hello kitty moulds and a gorgeous flower tile mould.

Sky Lantern Flying

To end off a memorable weekend spent on the alt side of Singapore, I camped out in an open field, christened my lantern "The Great Alternative Weekend" and watched it gently float off into the dark night.

Isaac's Guide to Intensity

SATURDAY

Forest Adventure

10am and I was at Bedok Reservoir, ready to start our aerial Forest Adventure. Only the first activity and I'm already feeling the adrenaline pumping in my veins.

Feeling gutsy, I decided to give the Grand Course (their house special) a shot. Feeling confident, I climbed the tree and went off.

Two hours later, and I'm bent over, holding my sides, and panting for breath. The course was intense, really intense.

With aerial ladders, swings, and giant zip lines, it's definitely fun, but one you should at least have a moderate level of physical fitness for.



Ski360

Located near the East Coast food court,

SKI360 is Singapore's first cable-ski park. From ollie backsides to back rolls, I was determined to try them all. The park was packed with toned hunks and babes showing off both their moves and their bodies.

With cable operators constantly on the lookout for patrons showing signs of distress, it made for a safe playing field.

In addition, the friendly instructors shared tips on how to make my ride a better one, instead of merely flopping around like I tend to do.

Border X

By this time, I'd navigated zip-lines, gone skiing, and I still wasn't done.

Up next, rock climbing. But this isn't just any rock wall, no, it's a via ferrata. Literally translated from Italian, it means iron road, and is exactly that.

Equipped with fixed stemples, the via ferrata routes at BorderX (pronounced

Border Crossing) provide the thrill of rock climbing at just a fraction of the danger. At 30m high, the indoor wall located in Orchard Central is currently the tallest in the world.

With multiple courses of varying difficulty, climbers can select a route that will challenge them, thus making it suitable for both novices and experts alike.

Home Club

More than just a nightclub, Home Club is the perfect place to just hang out with a couple of buddies and chill, especially after an exhausting day like mine.

I met up with some friends and we danced the night away to some fantastic music. Not just indie or electro tunes, Home Club also spins chart-topping hits, making it arguable Singapore's most mainstream underground club.

I decided to call it a night after my legs started to wobble, heading home for some well-deserved rest before another action-packed day.

SUNDAY

Red Dynasty Paintball

After the intense workout yesterday, I woke up with my quadriceps crying out for mercy. Today's itinerary is not going to go easy on me though. First up was paintball at Red Dynasty Paintball Park!

Just a stone's throw away from Khatib MRT station, getting there was rather straightforward.

I met up with a few friends to make things a bit more interesting. Signing up for the 'Rambo' package, we were allocated 250 paintballs to destroy our opponents in anyway we could.

Grabbing my gun, I proceeded to unleash hell against all that dared stand in my way.



Kallang Ice World

Ice skating might not be new for many of you out there, but it sure was for me.

After a gruelling paintball battle, I took solace in an opportunity to just stand on a train as I made my way to Kallang Ice World to skate! There was quite a crowd, it was a weekend after all.

With a rink constructed to competition standards, Kallang Ice World also offers a range of courses, from beginner training to advanced classes. The crowd may be a little lighter on weekdays, with the recent opening of an ice rink at JCube - great news for those who dislike crowds.



Lilliputt Mini-Golf

Finally, some rest and relaxation! The perfect way to end off the weekend, golfing at Lilliputt was an interesting experience. Singapore's first indoor themed mini-golf course, this play area is an attraction that all ages can enjoy.

This indoor adventure will entertain you as you play your way through 18 holes - all modelled after familiar Singapore landmarks.

After bogeying more than half my holes, I'm more convinced than ever that I'll never be the next Tiger Woods.

DARK TOURISM RISES

Sometimes, beaches and sunhats just don't cut it. Follow AUDREY TAN as she digs deep and hits the trenches to discover the darker side of travel.

Remove your hat. Don't laugh.

Listen for the silent echo of a human scream while you step on bloodstained ground, and tread through the area of a bomb aftermath. Peek into a mysterious land divided by war. And enter the world of dark tourism.

So, forget the strolls on sandy beaches, those buoyant 'jump-shots' in front of iconic buildings, and save your screams on that mega 360° roller coaster loop.

But hold on tight as HYPE takes you on an emotional plunge into the depths of torture, history and mystery at three famous dark tourism sites in Asia.

Torture's Aftermath – TUOL SLENG GENOCIDE MUSEUM, CAMBODIA

Picture the claws of a heinous dictatorship transforming a high school, once a safe hub for educating young minds, into a torture chamber where mass killings prevailed. Such was the fate of the Chao Ponhea Yat High School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, when the Khmer Rouge, which had won the civil war in 1975, converted its grounds into a prison named "S21", holding 17,000 Cambodian captives from 1975 to 1979.

In the museum, the effect of past human suffering trails you like an unsettled ghost. Adam Piperdy, a three-time visitor of the museum says, "It's like their spirits are still there."

The 22-year-old is but one of an average of 500 visitors who visit the museum daily. Now known as the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, the former prison was reopened in 1980 by the government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to commemorate the victims of the Khmer Rouge regime.

Bloodstains on the floor are simple yet lurid reminders of "the craziest

genocide in the world," as dubbed by Piperdy. While sidestepping death stains at Tuol Sleng, you'll be immersed in real-life stories, shared by the guides who had loved ones tortured by the Pol Pots army. At Tuol Sleng, brace yourself for "an experience like no other museum."

The Other Side of History – HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

Japan's magnificent landscape Mt Fuji and bustling city Tokyo capture the hearts of many, yet the tragic history of Hiroshima breaks many hearts. Tourists all over visit this city to commemorate the atrocity of the atomic bomb landings during World War II (WWII) and while they shed a tear or two, they also learn something new.

Noriko Yamamoto, a travel agent at CTC Travels who leads tours to Japan weekly, explains that visiting Hiroshima helps tourists understand the war's history from a different light.

In Hiroshima, the Peace Memorial Park spans over 120,000 square meters and containing two buildings, the Peace Memorial Museum and the A-Bomb Dome. At the museum, you'll be hauled to the frontline, be it through film screenings or a first-hand testimony by an A-bomb survivor.

Standing marred, yet with the pride of an injured soldier bleeding for his country, the A-Bomb Dome is the remains of the once Prefecture Industrial Promotion Hall. While partially destroyed, it is one of the few buildings that defiantly remained after the atomic bomb blast. Upon experiencing Japan's suffering through these visits, Yamamoto says that tourists have started to "respect Japan", changing their perception of the once aggressive nation.

Even the native Japanese, now a Singapore Permanent Resident, is not spared from getting emotional

at Hiroshima, despite leading tour groups there repeatedly.

As she admits, "I still cannot forget [the atrocity]." Indeed, we are reminded how such pivotal history never dies.

Beyond Boundaries – Korean DMZ

While you may cringe at reports of suspected spies being detained within North Korean borders, others are not deterred from the Korean Demilitarised Zone (DMZ).

4km wide and 240km long, the DMZ was created in 1953 after the Armistice Agreement and is the most heavily militarised border in the world.

Tang Ting Wai, a 19-year-old Hospitality & Tourism Management student at Temasek Polytechnic, visited the DMZ this February as part of her research for a paper on dark tourism.

She says, "I wanted to know first hand [what] the place looked like ... What you read from books and on the Internet cannot be compared with first hand knowledge."

After passing repeated identification checks, transferring to a military bus and adhering to "photography timings", Tang, who visited the DMZ under a South Korean tour agency, was intrigued by the infiltration tunnels dug by the North Koreans. These were dug under the DMZ, and threatened peace between the divided nation.

However, uncovering the mystery of North Korea is no easy feat. Tang testifies, "Whatever I gained from the tour was from the South Korean's end. I feel like I didn't get the full story."

Perhaps, getting the "full story" will require more guts to step deeper into the elusive land.



A-BOMB DOME, PEACE MEMORIAL PARK, HIROSHIMA, JAPAN



PEACE MEMORIAL PARK, HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

*“I still cannot
forget...”*

*Noriko
Yamamoto*



BORDER BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA



BORDER BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA

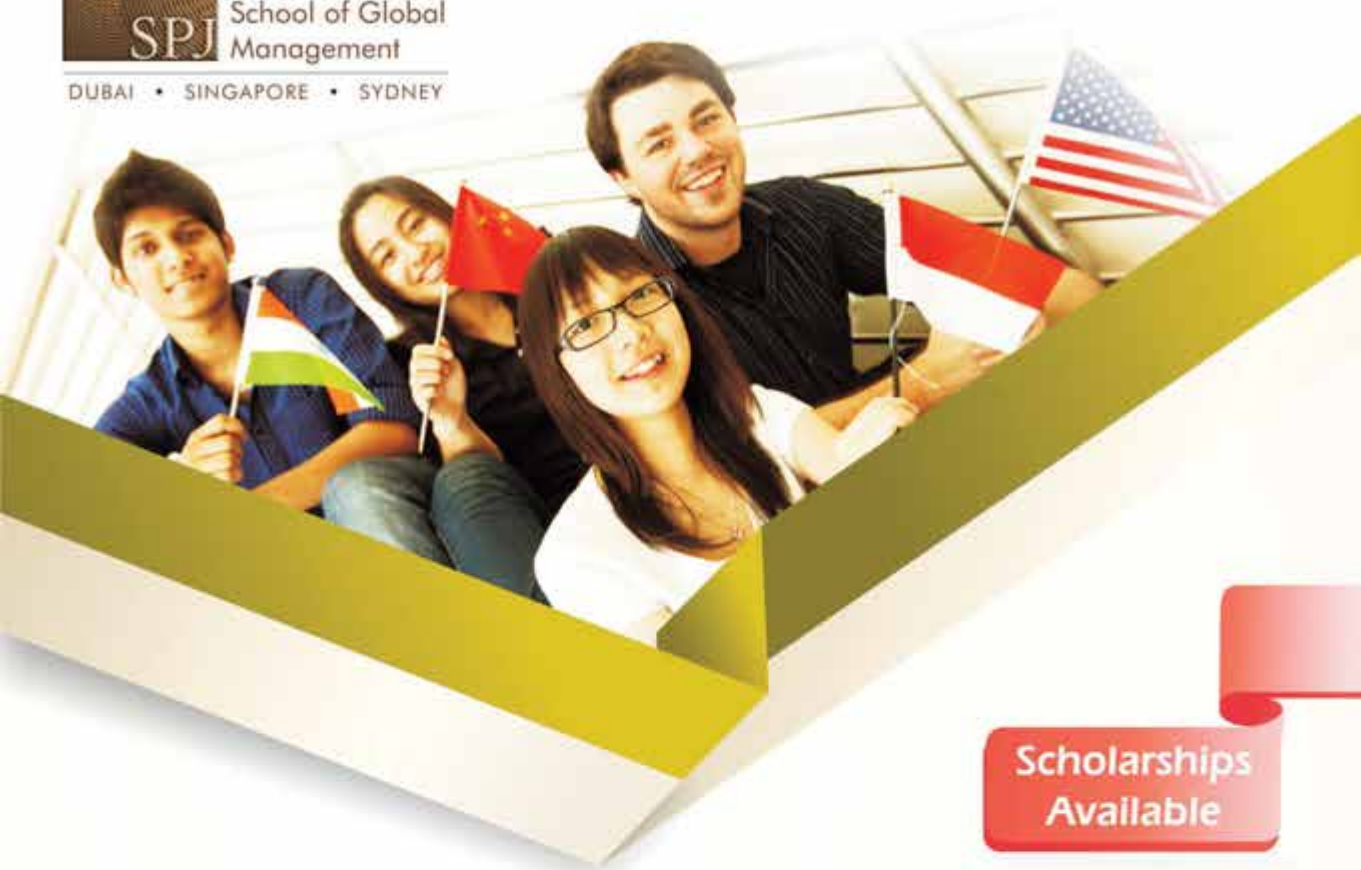


TUOL SLENG GENOCIDE MUSEUM, CAMBODIA



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CPE Regn no:2005165442 Regn period: 9 May 2011 to 8 May 2017

Next Stop: Kim Jong's Hil!

Alaric Tay of The Noose shares his experience at the Korean Demilitarised Zone with AUDREY TAN and reveals a mysterious upcoming plan.

You are in a high security conference room of North Korea, while a North Korean soldier stands right outside the glass window, with a pair of binoculars, watching you.

This might sound intimidating - but with Alaric Tay, popular comedian from The Noose describing this, you cannot help but be tickled by this bizarre situation. Tay recounts this scenario of his recent trip to the Korean Demilitarised zone (DMZ), chuckling at his peculiar story, "Apparently, the North Koreans think that's very intimidating."

Perhaps to the funnyman famous for playing characters "Andre Chichak" and "Kim Jong Hil" on The Noose, finding humour in his adventures is inevitable - even in the DMZ. Yet, beneath this comedic veneer is a passionate traveller, seeking to discover unconventional places.

Tay, who visited the DMZ alone in early May 2012 under a tour group in Seoul, decided to stop by the country after his junket in South Korea for the release of the film, *Men in Black III*.

Styled casually in a black Worldventures Travellers jersey and jeans for this interview, he lets a playful smirk slip, recounting how he got to "step into the North", unlike his good friend and co-star, Chua Enlai. Chua was also with him in Seoul and the duo had planned to visit the DMZ together, but went on separate trips due to a clash in schedules.

He vividly describes his experience, "Although it was very touristy, the tension (was) very high - cannot do this, cannot do that." This "tension", Tay admits, was precisely what fascinated him to visit the country.

As Tay's initial excitement fades, he pauses with introspection, "I've always had a fascination

with war films... I'm a big fan of *Band of Brothers*... I've always been intrigued by history in that sense... And (North Korea) is one of the most interesting places in the world, because it is still a state which is extremely Marxist."

While Tay can now boast about entering an area with one of the highest security in the world, he is not fully satisfied. He rationalises, "I felt that there was a bit of propaganda from the South... It would have been more interesting if I had gone to the North and see what their perception of the world is."

Upon contemplating this possibility, Tay self-deprecatingly jokes, "But, having played parodies about the late North Korean leader, (it's) a bit dangerous."

On a serious note, Tay maintains that his portrayal of "Kim Jong Hil" is merely to entertain, and that this trip to North Korea and his alter ego on screen are "very separate things".

"When you're there, it's such a somber environment - everything is real. When you do *The Noose*, it's all fun. I'm playing a character... It's just another day at work."

His playful self resurfaces when he lets us in on a scoop.

Wriggling his eyebrows, Tay reveals, "I'm now working on a project that I'm also producing... I'm also playing a soldier. It's a zombie movie. It'll be fun, it's a comedy."

Zombie action aside, Tay is also kept preoccupied with his fascination to visit a certain "castle by the sea", a fantastical place he conjured up in his head that he wants to explore, yet "(doesn't know) if it even exists". He half-jokes, "I started researching yesterday."

SCOTTISH DELIGHTS

by KEZIAH QUEK

Glasgow is known to be one of the most exciting cities in the UK, according to a specially produced Lonely Planet guide. Like any city, it is home to international fare such as Chinese, Italian and Indian cuisine, but most importantly serves authentic Scottish food.

Cullen Skink



There is nothing that screams traditional Scottish fare more than a dish with a name as curious as Cullen Skink. The dish is mainly soup, made with a thick stock from boiling down a smoked haddock fish.

Other ingredients in the dish include cubes of soft potato, sautéed leeks, slow cooked eggs and crunchy croutons. The consistency and appearance of the dish is milky and rich without the dreaded fishy smell that soups cooked with fish stocks tend to have.

The croutons add a nice crunch to the otherwise drinkable dish and their mild saltiness compliments the strength of the soup's flavor. There is a tasty hint of fish that is fragrant and slightly buttery. Potato cubes the size of finger joints lend a pleasant starchy bite to the soup, and the stringy leeks add a chewable texture that is quite enjoyable. The egg is a complete delight where it has been slow cooked to perfection with a rosy, runny yolk and creamy whites.

Cullen Skink slides down your throat like a dream, but can get a little rich if you go for more than one serving. Other recipes may omit the egg and replace the leek with chopped onions, but it remains a "hearty fisherman's soup", according to Joanna Mathie's "Favourite Scottish Recipes".

Black Pudding

The famous Christmas pudding has appeared in countless festive images and stories, but the Scottish Black Pudding is truly something else.

Small, black and looking relatively harmless, it separates into crumbs easily and tastes like a disturbing mystery. Its components are soft and mushy, but strangely tasty with a vague resemblance to beans.

It is extremely rich and bears almost no resemblance to the variety of dessert pudding that we are familiar with. What really is in Black Pudding varies with recipes, however, its main ingredient is always a constant: congealed pig's blood.

Haggis



It is perhaps one of Scotland's most well known dish thanks to the Robert Burns poem, *Address to Haggis*. Robert Burns is the national poet of Scotland and lived in the 18th century.

Today, families in Scotland enjoy a supper of Haggis served with Neeps and Tatties (mashed turnip and potato) on Burns night and on Hogmanay, the Scottish name for their New Year celebrations. Haggis is sticky, soft and paste-like with slightly

chewy bits in between, and is made out of sheep heart, liver and lungs. Cooked with herbs and spices, it tastes of meat, and may or may not carry the strong smell of lamb

Despite the fact that the dish is made with offal, it is salty, sausage-like, and is altogether rather acceptable to the palate. The Neeps and Tatties are creamy, warm and fragrant, adding a truly comforting side to the dish. The Neeps also lend a natural sweetness, and as both of them are mashed, the overall result is an easy to eat, balanced dish that is highly appropriate as comfort food.

The Scots have a wry sense of humour, and this is shown in the name Haggis. It may also refer to a mythical creature that has a home in the Kelvingrove Museum as an exhibit, and is sold in gift shops as plush toys to unsuspecting tourists.

Full Scottish Breakfast



A full Scottish Breakfast is hearty, filling, salty and altogether gut-busting. It comprises of a Lorne sausage (a square beef sausage the size of your palm), pork sausage packed tightly into a skin, scrambled eggs so soft they resemble tofu, the saltiest bacon and the most amazing Tattie Scone that tastes like both french fries and french toast. Scottish Breakfasts may also include Black Pudding.

The Lorne sausage is salty, tastes very much like luncheon meat and is quite tough. Its counterpart, the pork sausage is also salty, chunky and tastes faintly of corn. Its browned sides are beautiful, but it is surprisingly soft and tender within.

The saltiest of the crew is the bacon, which is not as crispy as we are used to, but more meaty. The saving grace, however, are the scrambled eggs. Soft and almost tasteless, they balance out the dish with a heavenly texture. The Tattie Scones are also one of a kind: the unexpected fusion of the two tastiest ways to prepare potatoes are one of the most delightful things you can have for breakfast.



Make your own Scottish Dessert!

From Favourite Scottish Recipes, compiled by Johanna Mathie

Cranachan

- 1 pint double cream
- 3 tablespoons clear honey
- 3 tablespoons whisky (at your own risk!)
- 4 tablespoons thick, plain yoghurt
- 1 oz. fine oatmeal
- 6 oz. raspberries

Toast the oatmeal in a pan until golden and set aside to cool. Put the cream, honey and whisky in a bowl and whip together until it forms peaks. Fold in the yoghurt. Spoon the mixture into a serving dish and chill in the refrigerator for two to three hours. Before serving, sprinkle the oatmeal over the mixture and pile the raspberries in the centre. Serves 6.

Braving Glasgow

From vintage historical sites to vibrant nightlife, **Eunice Loh** discovers the wondrous sights that the largest city in Scotland offers.

The adventure from Disney and Pixar's new animation, *Brave*, unfolds in Scotland's Middle Ages. Released in August, the film tells a tale of royalty, love and magical sorcery, set against a backdrop only heard in fairytales. But besides medieval castles and forestry, what other sights does this country have to offer?

Glasgow, being the largest city in Scotland, is rich with fabled stories and is well known in almost every other way. Be it sightseeing, shopping or salivating at the sight of food, it's one place that encompasses every aspect of a vacation.

Buchanan Street



Some claim that Glasgow's the next best shopping paradise in the United Kingdom, second to London; but there is no doubt that Buchanan Street is the fashion centre of the city. Step into the realm of fashion, with rows of shopping centres and flagship

stores ranging from high-street to high-end. The stores usually close at 6 in the evening, but that most shops do stay open till 8pm on Thursdays for late-night shopping. There is no doubt why this is any shopaholic's dream.

King Tut's Wah Wah Hut



King Tut's Wah Wah Hut
272a St Vincent Street,
Glasgow, G2 5RL.
Visit <http://www.kingtuts.co.uk/> for more information on gig dates and timings.
Glasgow was recognised for its dynamic music industry and joined the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) City of Music list in 2008. With more than 130 music events happening every week, this metropolis is home to some of the world's most legendary bands.

Though many renowned performers such as Kasabian, Jason Mraz, KT Tunstall have played at King Tut's before, it is also a popular place for fresh and upcoming bands. The much raved about venue has kicked start the music careers of some of the most celebrated bands such as Oasis,

Glasgow Cathedral

Glasgow Cathedral
Castle Street,
Glasgow, G4 0QZ
Visit <http://www.glasgowcathedral.org.uk/> for more information on opening hours and service timings.



A great example of Scottish Gothic architecture, the 800-year-old Glasgow Cathedral is still a place of active Christian worship, though technically the building is no longer a cathedral as it has not been the seat of a bishop for over 300 years. It is one of the few medieval churches to have survived the Scottish Reformation in 1560. One cannot help but marvel at its stunning, glorious architecture and stained glass window collections once inside this rustic establishment.



and made history for others like My Chemical Romance, The Killers and Kings of Leon. Touted as UK's Best Live Venue by Radio 1, King Tut's should be hailed for its historical contributions to the international music landscape, and is a must-visit site for indie concert goers.

The Tall Ship, Riverside Museum: Scotland's Museum of Transport and Travel



The Tall Ship at Riverside
150 Pointhouse Place
Glasgow, G3 8RS
Please visit <http://www.thetallship.com/> for more information on opening hours.

Riverside Museum:
Scotland's Museum of Transport and Travel
100 Pointhouse Place
Glasgow, G3 8RS
Monday to Thursday and Saturday 10am–5pm
Friday and Sunday 11am–5pm

Shipbuilding and trade along the River Clyde formed a huge part of Glasgow's history. The Tall Ship, originally the Glenlee, underwent restoration over six years and is now recognised as a Core Collection of the National Historic Fleet.

Built in 1896, the majestic Glenlee has sailed round the world four times and is now one of the remaining five Clyde-built ships that are still around.

This grand vessel exudes rich stories from the past in all its greatness. Visitors can set sail on a guided tour to discover the old glorious days of The Tall Ship and journey back in time to learn more about the history of the River Clyde.

Stationed next to The Tall Ship is the Riverside Museum, also known as Scotland's Museum of Transport and Travel.

Here, visitors will be able to explore and walk through both antique and modern life-sized vehicle models. The museum not only covers transport, but also fashion in the earlier days. It also houses remodeled streets with vintage shops from the late 1890s.

With more than 3,000 displays and over 90 interactive touch screens, the Riverside Museum is an attraction that will not fail to keep you occupied.

Kelvingrove Park, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum



Kelvingrove Park
Otogo Street,
Glasgow, G3 6BY.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum
Argyle Street,
Glasgow, G3 8AG.
Monday to Thursday and Saturday 10am–5pm
Friday and Sunday 11am–5pm

Famous for its greenery and picturesque gardens, Glasgow houses more than 90 parks in the city itself. Kelvingrove Park boasts of a Victorian influence which blends seamlessly with the architecture of its surrounding buildings and the River Kelvin which runs through it.

Also housed within the park grounds is one of Scotland's most famous museums, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

With more than 8,000 artefacts on display, the gallery has been creatively split into separate collections, mainly Art and Design, Human History, Natural History and Transport and Technology for the viewing pleasure of almost a million inquisitive visitors annually.

It's not surprising to get lost in Glasgow's immersive lifestyle and heritage. With its captivating charm and appeal, there's always something to discover in every corner.



PHOTOS BY EUNICE LOH, LOH GAVIN, MARCUS NEO AND TEO WEN YIH



a musical affair with TGIW

Get up, get out and go play as Zouk pumps up with the return of Thank God It's Wednesday (TGIW) after some good two decades!
by ONG JIE WEI

PHOTO COURTESY OF TGIW ZOUK

Forget about TGIF – now you can start celebrating the arrival of mid-week Wednesdays by partying all night long with a refreshing mix of pop and dance hits at Zouk's main room from Jul 25 onwards.

More than just “Phuture in the bigger room”, TGIW makes for the perfect excuse for the young to stay out late on weekday nights.

With the aim of bringing young clubbers together with its constantly enrapturing expedition, TGIW wants to remind all about what midweek partying is about – “living in the moment and having fun with your” BFFs!

From pop, hip-hop, electro, retro, indie-dance, big room house to mambo, Zouk's resident DJs, Ghetto and Leonard, are ever ready to keep your Wednesday nights hyped up till five in the morning.

Apart from the exclusive musical affair, get ready to be awed as TGIW presents to you the inaugural video mixing in Singapore.

Something that merry-makers can get nowhere else in our little sunny island, this act is guaranteed to “pop eyeballs and drop jaws at the same instant”.

With the thrilling encounter, you are bound to get physical on the dance floor. And to keep you coming back for more, the night is also categorised by TGIW-only elements, such as surprise pop-up areas, and monthly themes.

Entry fee to this musical wanderlust is free for the babes, while the dudes merely have to pay a one-time entry fee of \$25 (inclusive of two drinks) to revel in the unique clubbing experiences in the different rooms located in Zouk.

Regarding the shuffling of rooms, Kyla Ann Nathan, 20, Veejay at Zouk shares with HYPE, “Phuture is often packed on Wednesdays, so this change of style will cater to their (the clubbers') comfort.”

She also hopes that the alteration would bring a refreshing twist to its usual patrons' clubbing lifestyles.

Not just yet, there is still good news for the precious patrons of Zouk's previous Wednesday event, Mambo Jambo.

To thank them for the support all these years, as well as to keep the Mambo magic alive, the old-school party will still be held in the “cosier confines of Phuture”.

Mambo Jambo, also known as mambo night by clubbers, features top 40 music hits composing of 70s and 80s disco music, as well as current day house music.

A vivacious counterpart to the other clubbing environments, the catchy beats from Mambo Jambo, as well as its enthused audiences, creates a climate of friendliness.

Because of that, it is regarded as the ideal outlet for the young locals to obtain their virgin clubbing experience.

Apart from endowing you with funky listening pleasure, Mambo Jambo allows you to absolutely embrace your inner child, and unleash that active kiddo at the same time.

Be unafraid to show off your fantabulous retro dance skills, or even become the coach and impart them to fellow clubbers as you groove proudly to the familiar tuneful surprises!

If that is not enough for your kind of nightlife, head towards Velvet Underground – Dance and bask in the beautiful unpredictability of Mix & Match.

Stand on the edge of glory as Eclipse and Ming treat you to a diversity of Trance, Trousse, and Electro-house favourites.

At Zouk, there is a little something for everyone; satisfy your clubbing cravings as you party hard for a fulfilling nightlife!

guide to: ETHNIC CLUB HOPPING

With popular clubs having more or less the same offerings, why not club hop to something with a more international or exotic vibe. ELAINE HUANG and ELIZABETH KAMALDIN show you three clubs you must visit on an international club hopping spree, all conveniently located along our Lion City's nightlife avenue, Clarke Quay!



The Shanghai Dolly

The Shanghai Dolly has been deemed the “hottest mandopop live music venue and the only cabaret-style club in town” by entertainment e-zine, timeoutsingapore.com.

Having just celebrated its second anniversary, the nightspot comes alive with performances from artists hailing from Hong Kong, China, and Singapore, including the likes of William Scorpion and Karen Mok. Hosting the Singapore Blog Awards last July, the nocturnal hideout is decked to the nines with a Far Eastern opulence, gleaming red and blue on the dance floor, and a warm orange at the bar.

Even as you queue to get into this two-storey Chinese-themed outlet, you'll be dazzled by its authentic oriental feel. You are practically transported to the streets of The Bund in Shanghai, with its bright pink entrance glowing with excitement. With live Mandopop playing at the side and dolly-licious dancers draped in sequins and tight fabric, just let your mind run free.

Address: #01-01 The Foundry 3B River Valley Road
Opening Hours: 6pm - 6am daily



The Rupee Room

Under the management of Harry's Bar, the club is packed every Friday and Saturday, with both “young Indians, Punjabis”, and even the occasional office crowd, according to Akhilesh Rana, 26, Manager of the Rupee Room. This Indian-themed club definitely offers a great ethnic change of crowd from other clubs out there.

The club's “friendly, vivacious atmosphere,” as stated on their Facebook page, is without a doubt because of its Indian-themed music, claims Akhilesh. “What sets us apart from other clubs is Indian music and our DJ, who is very

known in India, DJ Anuraga,” he says. DJ Anuraga has played for the likes of Bollywood actors, Shahrukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan and promises an array of Indian music fit for a raja!

From delightful decor by local artist, Ketna Patel, to catchy Bhangra or Hindi beats, this club is one for the visiting, no matter what ethnic descent you are of!

Address: 3B River Valley Road #01-15 The Foundry, Clarke Quay
Tel: 6334 2455
Opening Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays: 6pm - 1am
(Wednesdays: 6pm - 4am)
Fridays, Saturdays & Eve of Public Holidays: 6pm - 6am
Sundays & Non-weekend Public Holidays: 6pm - 1am



Club NaNa

Chandeliers and discotheque lights illuminate the nightlife avenue, completing its sleek appearance. Unlike many of its counterparts, it is neither seedy or sleazy, and unsurprisingly has attracted many Singaporeans and VIPs, including local celebrity, Fiona Xie, and Hong Kong actor, Jackie Chan.

Boasting tunes from DJ Marco, previous DJ of popular nightspot and Indie Disco Club, The Butter Factory, accompanied with a superb live band which plays the likes of trance, Club NaNa promises a tantalising musical experience, leaving you wanting more.

In addition to great music are its monthly events, most recently “Sensual Thailand”, held on Jul 26, where special performances by singers and dancers would come together to entertain the crowd, Thai-style.

With timeoutsingapore.com regarding Club NaNa “as close as the city gets to a Thai superclub”, complete with “dancing and rabble-rousing”, minus shady antics, this projection of Bangkok's nightlife has reached Singapore's clubbing scene with a bang.

Address: 5 Magazine Road, #01-02/03 Central Mall
Tel: +65 6535 3030
Opening Hours:
Mon to Thu: 8.30pm - 5am
Fri to Sat: 8.30pm - 6am
Sun: 8.30pm to 5pm

WHERE EVERYONE IS A STAR

This not so glamorous joint located in the hustle and bustle of Clarke Quay lets you live your rockstar dreams and exhibit your hours of Rock Band training in just one night.

by BRANDON TANOTO

As much as a tone-deaf wannabe musician would be mortified to get on stage and torment his audiences with an incongruously unforgettable performance, it would be the least of his worries at Actors, the Jam Bar, where everyone is cordially invited to jam live.

Most suitably defined as the fantasy of every Karaoke addict and Rock Band enthusiast, patrons are able to showcase their musical talents on stage with the bars' instruments at their disposal.

"It doesn't matter how old you are or how well you play an instrument, but as long as you have fun and appreciate each other's company, it's all good," says James Loo, 42, owner of Actors.

Drawing punters from all walks of life, ranging from teenage students, business executives, middle-aged uncles and aunts, it comes with no surprise that music and alcohol do indeed bring people together at Actors.

"Actors provides a platform for people to establish friendships. The people mingle with one another over some drinks and good music, and they make new friends since everybody here has a common interest in music and performing," shares Sebastian Tee, 28, a bartender.

Customers who have barely any exposure to music are turned into avid music junkies here, as they are given the opportunity to try out instruments while spending a hysterical night with a bunch of slightly tipsy friends.

"I've never had interest in music but I started learning the bass and sought

to form a band of my own after my first unexpected jam at the bar which was actually horrible but I enjoyed it," says Gabriel Ho, 32, accountant.

While many may compare the concept of a karaoke pub to that of Actors', it is probably because they have yet to realise that there is something one can experience here and not anywhere else.

"It's the customers that entertain the customers here, there's an element of surprise because once you get on stage, you acquire a whole new different persona as a performer. And unlike the karaoke joints, you will never get booed here!" expresses Mary Abellaneda, 35, Manager of Actors.

A visit to the bar, located along the bustling South Bridge Road, comes to show that the joint stands out greatly amongst its karaoke counterparts that are scattered around the vicinity. However, this might come as a surprise as the bar is not the most chic establishment in town, but that's its allure.

Furnished with dimly lit jolly lights, snug couches as well as wooden oak tables and stools, the bar adopts a minimalistic interior, accompanied with

a narrow outdoor terrace for patrons to smoke at and take in the downtown skyline.

"The ambience here is really laidback, definitely the perfect setting to chill out and bask in some good homegrown music, rather than a rowdy KTV pub," says Michelle Kwah, 19, a student.

Actors' simplicity is one that is charming, but it unfortunately reflects in the bars' menu too. Serving run-of-the-mill alcoholic drinks, such as the Mojito, Martini and Bloody Mary, which can be conveniently found at any other joint, the variety of booze Actors offer can be pretty disappointing, in addition to their hefty price tags of \$15 - \$35. Most teenagers should probably be prepared to burn some holes in their pockets.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON TANOTO

ELVIN LIN: ZOUK'S NEWEST DJ

SOON WEI LIN talks to Zouk's youngest DJ Elvin Lin as he tells all about how he started spinning tracks.

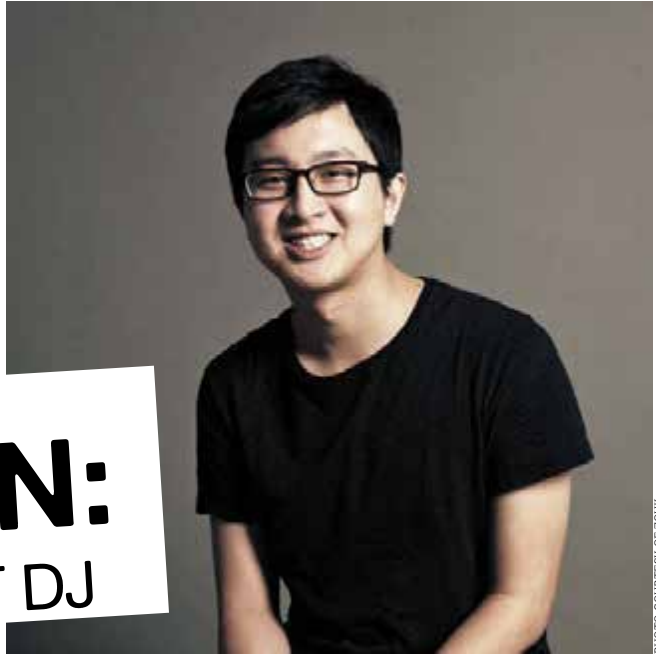


PHOTO COURTESY OF ZOUK



For someone who never took a single class in the art of spinning music, it's pretty impressive to land a job as a resident disc jockey (DJ) at Singapore's most reputable nightclub, Zouk. It's even more so if he has been in the professional circuit for only less than a year. 21-year-old Elvin Lin, however, managed to overcome the odds to become the club's newest, and possibly youngest, DJ to date.

In his first official interview ever since landing his current job, Elvin says that he always had an inclination to play music for others since he was young.

For instance, he relished having his parents' colleagues enjoy listening to the particular CD he chose to play at their office and hearing his friends sing along to the tunes he picked out in the car. Perhaps his keen interest had something to do with his genes – his dad is a music producer.

However, it was only in junior college, where he was thoroughly exposed to dance music, when things got serious for Elvin.

Amazed and inspired by the ability of Justice, a duo of French DJs, to capture the attention of thousands with their music sets, Elvin started to watch other professionals perform and learnt through observation. He soon progressed from practising on DJ computer software to buying his own set of CDs, a type of CD player that allows the user to control the music.

It was perhaps a surreal whirlwind of rising through the ranks for the self-proclaimed old soul. Armed with only self-taught

skills, Elvin started playing at friends' casual birthday parties to gain more performing experience.

Through chances and opportunities given by friends in the industry, he soon landed official gigs, including his first ever, at Forbidden City at Indochine. There, he got talent-spotted to play at Tanjong Beach Club where he had his biggest audience to date, a crowd of 4,000. When Zouk came knocking on the door, however, he just couldn't say no.

"Being a resident [DJ] is one of my dreams. This is the fifth best club in the world. It's a big thing. There was no hesitation for me. When I got the offer, I was like 'yes, I'll do it'," shares Elvin.

It was not all just about luck and no hard work for Elvin though. Determined to make a career in the music industry, he started on his diploma in audio engineering, and later, a degree in audio production, while he was still serving the nation and gained a better and deeper understanding of DJ-ing.

He also had to fend off less-than-encouraging comments when he was first starting out but he was persistent and confident in his own abilities.

Now a permanent fixture at Zouk and a producer – he heads his own music label 7/inear – Elvin hopes to establish a bigger and more credible music culture in Singapore in the long-run. His short-term goals, however, are simpler. He wants to continue producing dance-worthy music but with his passion and talent, who knows what else he might just come up with.

SingTel presents

10-20

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Organised by **midea**

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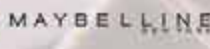
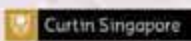
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CONTESTS

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

Are you a big fan of Zouk? HYPE has 50 Zouk entry passes and stickers, exclusively for Ngee Ann Polytechnic students. All you need to do is pick up a copy of HYPE at the entrance of Makan Place on the 13 Aug at 12 noon, and the passes are yours!



HYPE is giving away MTV hampers to 5 lucky readers who can answer the following question:

What is Richard Herrera known for in the United States?

Contest ends 31 October 2012

Need a break from school or work? Answer this question and you just might win a day of fun and relaxation at The Sultan, Hotel Re! or Klapsons Boutique Hotel.

What are the THREE 'doses of fun' that await you at staycations? 3 lucky readers will win a one-night stay at one of the three hotels.

Contest ends 1 October 2012



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