







## What the editor says...

*Some time in the future, public toilets have become unisex. I entered one lit in dispiriting blue. People filled the restroom; everyone was shouting so as to be heard over the cacophony of door-banging, flushing and shouting. The smell was hostile, not just in the retch-inducing way of public toilets. It was a new smell, of a violent society. Everyone was engaged in a physical struggle with another for the cubicles. Even when I finally managed to squeeze into one, I had no peace. It felt like they were going to tear the door down any moment.*

It was a few months ago when I woke from this nightmare, but the images remain vivid in my mind, perhaps because they resonate with what the future could be. The encroachment of the toilet cubicle suggests the drastic extent to which our privacy will be intruded upon, and the violence is an exaggerated effect of this intrusion.

Already we can see it happening – the invasion of strangers into our private space. Smell the sweat on your fellow passengers' bodies as they jostle, flesh against flesh, on the MRT during "rush hour". The weekend offers little respite, with the mass exodus to Orchard Road. These situations are hardly surprising, knowing that 3.9 million people are squeezing in the tiny island of Singapore. Here's the scary part: the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) projects that the population will rise to 5.5 million in 40 years, leaving us with a land shortage of 4,000 hectares. With medical advances charging on, chances are we will still be around to suffer the human jams.

Perhaps our sole consolation is that our government is trying its best to maximise land use by developing vertically. Higher buildings, deeper tunnels. Flats are built so close to each other in towns like Woodlands that your bedroom habits can be closely observed, no binoculars required. Shopping malls are going underground, as with the recently completed CityLink Mall. The first underground bus terminal, due mid 2002, is also under construction in Toa Payoh. Will our homes be next?

In much the same way, our personal space is being eaten up, not so much by unborn babies and immigrants, but by communication gadgets that make us accessible all hours of the day, even in the bathroom, as some Singtel advertisement seems to suggest. SMS, ICQ, POD, WAP. More "communication services" have been introduced than we have had time to understand them. Not that we will quit using these services if we understood their impact on our lives. Their mere existence obligates us to endorsement. The alternative is extinction, in this society where meritocracy is celebrated, the most efficient survives.

As the world presses in, we instinctively retreat into an alternative space. Some turn to the massive spatial implosion of cyberspace; others turn to the virtual world of role-playing games. The increasing popularity of Yoga and aromatherapy also suggests our attempt to find within ourselves the space that is lacking without. When we fail to find solace in these alternatives, will we really become a violent society? I leave you to answer that.

Cynthia Choong

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A guide to help you open up new horizons in that bedroom of yours.

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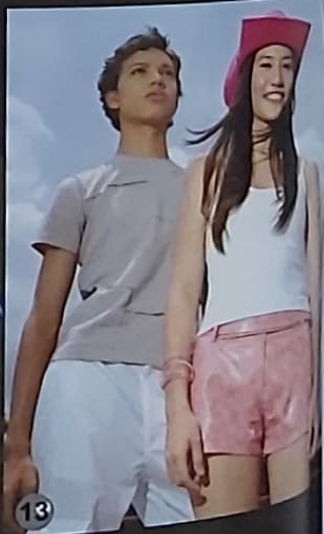
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## Mee Pok Man

The Mee Pok Man is peddling his stuff onstage this October, with a whole new cast and team. This time round, Ng Chin Han will take over the directorial reins from Eric Khoo. The script will be re-worked by dramatist Goh Boon Teck, for Ng's company, Fiction Farm Productions.

Mee Pok Man is the sweetly mellow love story of a shy and taciturn noodle-seller who falls in love with Bunny the prostitute. He sees her as the tarnished angel whom he can rescue from her sleazy pimp.

Heading the cast will be Benjamin Heng, the 24-year-old ragamuffin from last year's local hit movie *Eating Air*, as well as veteran actress Margaret Chan. Benjamin will reprise Joe Ng's role as the dim-witted peddler desiring Bunny.

Where Mee Pok Man the 1995 award-winning film focussed more on atmospheric elements, the stage adaptation will capitalise on the dialogue. Expect a good dosage of wit, humour and familiar local quirks.

Those under the age of 18 won't be admitted since it's rated R(A).

Mee Pok Man will be staged at the Suntec City Auditorium from Oct 18 to 28 except Oct 23. Tickets from \$15 at SISTIC outlets. For exact performing times, please refer to [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg).

Be transported into the virtual world where WAP and digitalisation prevail. A collaboration between England's Bodies in Flight Theatre and Singapore's Spell #7, who brought us the hilarious *Meena & Me* (which featured the ever-so-glam drag queen, Kumar), *Double Happiness* will explore the issue of virtual romance, where lovers across continents surmount language and cultural barriers to engage in cyber-dating.

Delve into [www.doublehappines2.com](http://www.doublehappines2.com) to witness the blossoming cyber-love between 2 couples before coming to experience this web-spectacle, which integrates web-cams and web sites into theatre. There will also be live music when sonic artist, Chong Li Chuan mixes his own composition of original music.

*Double Happiness* will explore how technologies like the Internet, e-mail, chat rooms, video conferencing and the mobile phone, may change the way we think and talk about love. You will also be able to find out what happens when people, who use technology as their main mode of communication and loving, actually meet face to face.

Modelled after a Singaporean wedding, the live performance of *Double Happiness* will unveil the lovers in actual flesh, played by 2 Singaporean (the show's co-director Kaylene Tan and NUS graduate Marianne Wee) and 2 English actors (Ben Clough and Dan Elloway). By means of video projection, the live show will also utilise text from the website and draw on digital images and video footage that the performers will interact with, to bring you an overview of sex in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Staged by Spell #7, *Double Happiness* will be performed at The Black Box, Fort Canning Centre on Oct 5 to 7 and 12 to 14 at 8pm. Tickets are available at the door and The Substation for \$12 and \$15.

## Double Happiness



## Madam White Snake



Cantonese Opera is crossing language barriers at the Singapore International Cantonese Opera Festival 2000. One of the performances lined up for the festival is the story of *Madam White Snake*, performed entirely in English. Chinese Theatre Circle (CTC), the main organiser of the festival, said that the purpose of this is to make Cantonese opera more accessible to people of different races and cultures. If you are unfamiliar with the story of *Madam White Snake*, here goes:

A snake spirit takes on the form of a woman and the name of Bai Suzhen. She falls in love and marries a mortal named Xu Xian, but continues to hide her true identity from him. A victim of manipulation, Xu Xian unwittingly leads an evil priest, Fa Hai, to Bai Suzhen. Fa Hai, who is aware of her identity as a snake spirit, is bent on breaking up their unnatural union. He tricks Bai Suzhen into drinking a concoction that reveals her true form as a white snake to her husband, who suffers from a fatal shock at this revelation. Bai Suzhen, in a bid to revive Xu Xian, sacrifices her freedom to be trapped in a pagoda in exchange for her husband's life.

This classic Chinese tale of deceit and intrigue will feature artistes from the CTC. They will be putting their linguistic skills to the test while strutting around in dazzling costumes and painted faces. A ticket to this anglicised version of *Madam White Snake* is definitely worth your while. If not for the excellent, melodramatic story, let it be for the fact that it is Cantonese opera, performed in English.

*Madam White Snake* will be performed at the Tampines East Community Centre on Oct 15 at 3pm. Tickets are priced at \$10 and are available from SISTIC.

## Triple Bill- 3 One-Act Comedies

After the rip-roaring *The Expat Wife* staged earlier in June, comes 3 new short plays by Hotcurrie Theatre, which guarantee to crack you up, even if the wine served during the intermission doesn't.

While you're still sober, lap up *Seven Menus*, a light-hearted comedy by David Ives which parodies the capriciousness of human nature in relationships.

Second on the list is *Loose Tongues*. This play by Audrey Currie does a comical take on the grapevine at the office. The play focusses on what happens when gossip in the office is misinterpreted.

*Mother Figure*, by Alan Ackybourn, the third play, tells a mirthful tale of a mother who treats her neighbours the way she does her children.

*Triple Bill-3 One-Act Comedies* will be performed at the SPH Auditorium, YMS Arts Centre from Oct 18 to Oct 21 at 8pm (Oct 21 matinee at 3.30pm). Tickets from \$45 and are available from SISTIC.



It's time to dump those flashy bags that do nothing but look good. "Practicality" is the buzzword this season, meaning plenty of space and comfort. Tan Junwei finds some beauties to get you started.

Quick Pick **S**



## Bag it up!

Photos: Cynthia Choong

- ① **Bossini Computer Backpack**  
Don't be deceived by its chic exterior. This bag is not just another fashion accessory. Meant for laptops or notebooks, its dimensions will fit almost any console. With an affordable price tag and a classy look, this stunner will definitely be a hit with the Silicon Valley wannabes. \$38 at Bossini.

- ② **Mareart Reversible**  
If you should ever get a permanent stain, thanks to one of those unavoidable vagrancies of Murphy's Law, on the exterior of your bag, you'll be thankful for this two-sided wonder. Even when those emergencies don't crop up, you can either go with orange or khaki to match what you are wearing or to suit your mood. Sling it on your shoulder and strut your stuff. \$49.90 at 77<sup>th</sup> Street.

- ③ **FILA DJ Bag**  
The dull blue exterior pales against the bevy of flashy satchels available in the market. But the Velcro flap, with its convenient zip-up compartment, easily reveals a spacious interior with just a single yank. This bag is ideal for stuffing your lecture notes and textbooks when the exam fever is burning. It also has strategically positioned slots for your stationery and knick-knacks. \$29.87 at Fila.

- ④ **FILA Large shoulder bag**  
Its asymmetrical sleekness invites others to do a double take. Ergonomically designed to mould against your contours, this sling bag also packs quite a bit. Take it that you're buying two bags for the price of one: the lighter soft-fabric front, when lifted from its Velcro fastener reveals a darker PVC clone, bound by the same carry-strap. Truly cyber-chic. \$81.37 at Fila.

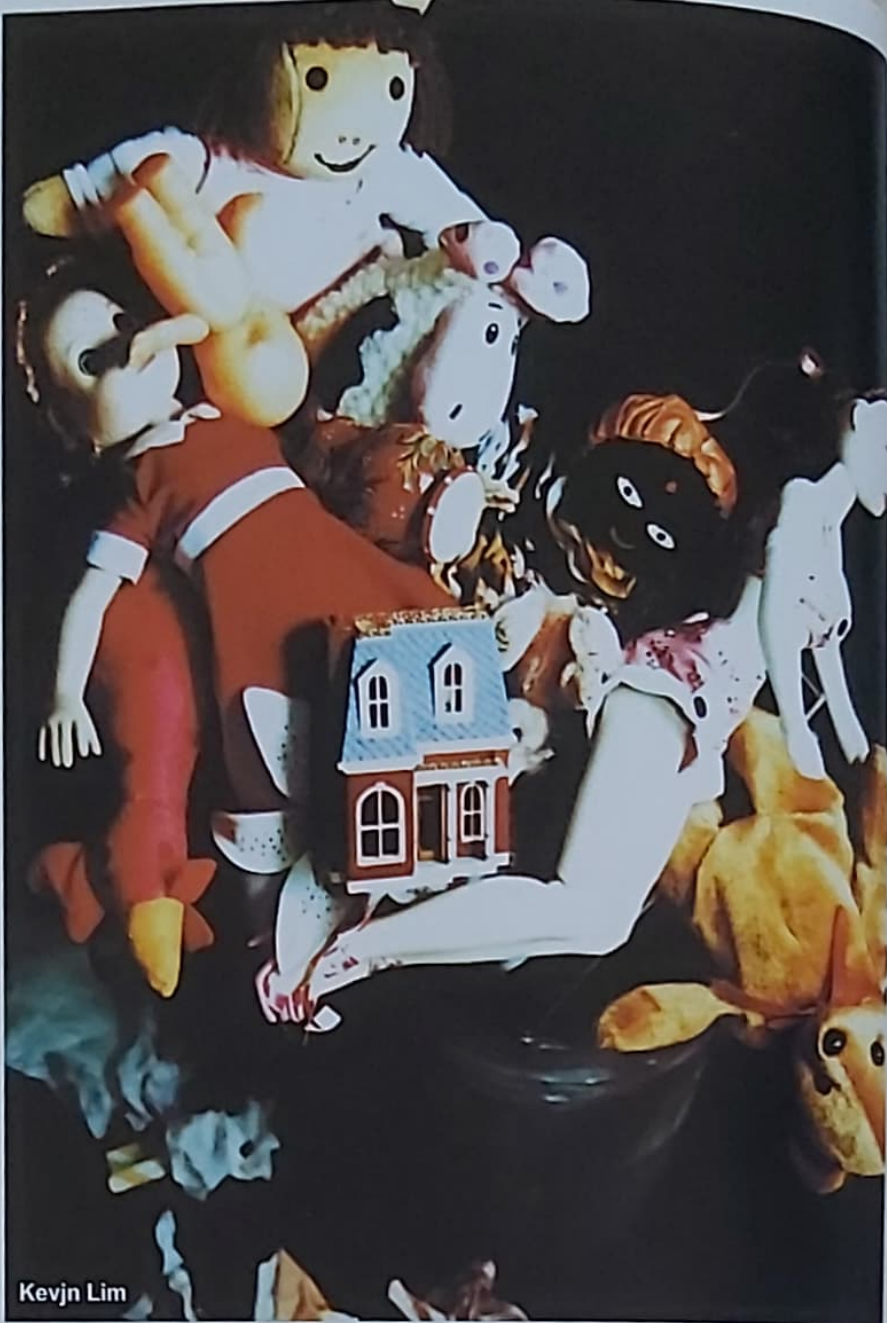
- ⑤ **Deuter Orbit**  
Carrying a backpack all day in our sunny climate doesn't have to be a sweaty experience as this comes with a breathable foam back. Such technical wonders are usually reserved for those aesthetically horrendous hiking bags. Orbit bucks the trend with its unique shape and savvy but unobtrusive colours. It even has a reflector running down the front to ward off cars during those late night treks. \$87.55 at Sports Connection.

- ⑥ **Nike Gear Sack**  
Anyone who's done National Service would find this suspiciously like the SAF-issue "Ali Baba" sack. This version is smaller, but just as rugged. The single shoulder strap can be tucked in to convert into a duffel. Not just for nostalgic ex-army boys but for those who want something versatile to pack everything in. \$71.04 at Nike by B.I.R.D.



# tiny room blues?

Not enough **space** to swing a cat in your pigeon hole of a bedroom? Quit stashing more things under your bed. Re-thinking the design of your bedroom may mean that you can finally make it to the door without tripping over the remote control each time. **Sheryl Anne Pereira** is not suggesting a complete overhaul or \$1,000 beds that fold into the wall. Just modest (and modestly-priced) changes that will go a long way.



Kevjn Lim

## Fluorescent green walls?

Black may bring out the best in you, but it is time to lighten the walls of your bedroom unless you want it to look really shrunk. Need a better reason to repaint? Facing 4 dark coloured walls every day will make you more temperamental and even "rob you of sleep", says Catherine Bailly Dunne in her book, **Interior Designing for all Five Senses**. If you really like an intense colour, say red, paint only one wall in that hue to lend character. You can then arrest attention by using loud room accessories like a bedside lamp or a charismatic clock to brighten up your space. Interior designer of Synthesis Systems, Alan Leo, 23, suggests avoiding cornices in the bedroom, because they make it seem smaller. Large furniture like chunky beds and wardrobes are also definite no-nos (See photo feature, facing page, for other effective alternatives).

## Window Dressing?

Windows need to be dressed up too. Getting the correct "clothes" for your windows can make the bedroom "grow". Leo advises blinds instead of curtains because they are less frilly and help to keep your room minimal. If you cannot resist using

curtains, Barbara B Buchholz, author of **Apartment Living – New Designs for Urban Living** says that using curtains in an "identical colour and pattern as the wallpaper" will help generate the "illusion of large, continuous space".

## Mirror on the wall?

Mirrors, when used cleverly, help to extend the horizons of your limited space by "optically cheat[ing] the eye", adds Leo. Kurjanto Slamet, 29, an architect with Cartel Designs suggests using a large mirror on one wall. From the visual aspect, your room will practically double in size. A tip: you should place the mirror on the wall that reflects the part of the room with the most attractive furniture.

## Light at the end of...?

Most importantly, a pint-sized room has to be well lit. If you have encountered problems sneaking out through the miserable hole called your window, chances are not much sunlight can enter either. In this case, Leo recommends compensating with artificial lighting – lamps, candles, and spotlights to keep the bedroom bathed in light. Need advice on how to situate your lights? "Al

ways light objects, not spaces. When you light an object, it generates light back into the room," says Dunne. Effective illumination of different colours and intensity also helps you to highlight the magnitude of different objects. Yes, that means no more cold, unflattering fluorescent tubes. Unless you want your bedroom to be reminiscent of the computer labs in school. "Choose unusual lamps and put them in important places," Dunne advises.

## Lost Childhood?

It could be a teddy bear, or a primary school handicraft project. We always figure that we need these childhood memories when we are bed-ridden. However, accumulating too many things that we have no use for only results in clutter, making it harder to find the things you really need. If "sentimental" is your middle name, you have to take the extra brutal step to organise your possessions. Be creative with storage as there is only so much space under your bed. Revamping your personal space can be even more satisfying than having a new hair cut. So, when another glass figurine or cuddly furry bear begs for your attention, think about how much you can save – money and space wise – when you resist temptation.



Still clueless? **Sheryl** invades the space of some youths for practical pointers that maximise the use of space.



invisible shelves



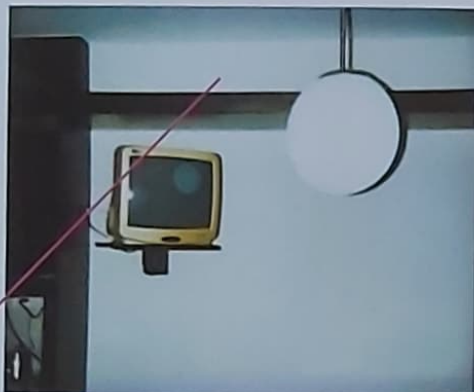
tatami mat

For a "Zen" feel, chuck out bulky shelves for invisible recesses on your wall. These alternative space-saving shelves can be used to display ornaments, photo frames or books. If you fancy this unique way of displaying your prized possessions, expect to fork out about \$600 for a contractor to blast your wall for that effect.



tatami mat

Do away with beds if they take up too much space. In their place, put Japanese padded *tatami* mats made from a wheat called *igusa*. Single-sized *tatami* mats cost about \$165 and come with two pillows. Despite being thinner, these mats are just as, if not more, comfortable than beds. Furthermore, these can be rolled up and kept away. If you are interested in the *tatami* mats, you can enquire about them at the Kamasutra, Suntec City Mall.



Great for books

Consider having shelves or stands built on the wall or in high up places you cannot reach so there is less furniture obstruction. This wooden wall shelf (above) is perfect for storing all your old books and the bracket lifts your television set out of the way, even though it gives the feeling of being in hospital.

Great for storing knick-knacks



Frame \$20 each  
Basket \$5 each  
Wire shelf \$18 each  
Clothes rail \$9 each

door hanger



Never overlook the seemingly tight, insignificant area behind your door. You can hang jeans, belts and bags there without taking up too much room space. This door hanger cost about \$10 and is available at most furniture shops and the household department of Tangs. You might even want to wedge a shoe stand behind your door, unless you have athlete's feet, that is.

A godsend for the disorganised. This see-through innovation allows you to store shoes, underwear, toiletries, towels, make-up and clothes so you will always be able to find what you want without the hassle of rummaging through all your stuff. This wardrobe has far more compartments than the usual cupboard with drawers because it utilises air space. You also de-clutter other parts of your bedroom by dumping everything here. You choose the elements you want and fix them together so you have a customised wardrobe that suits your needs and budget. A typical configuration would include frames, wire shelves, baskets and a clothes rail. Don't worry about the quality of this unit because Ikea's *Antonius* storage system is rust-resistant.





She's only 3 months old, yet she can speak more languages than we imagined existed, and is a walking archive of knowledge. Which parent wouldn't be proud to have her?

Step aside, Donita! The age of virtual VJs has arrived. Leading the revolution is MTV VJ LiLi, the first of its kind in the world. Call her wet behind the cyber ears if you please, but the truth is that her very programme, LiLi™: Version 1.2, is broadcast across the globe in countries like Australia, India and Singapore. Which mere mortal begins her showbiz career that way?

The creature of cyberspace made her world-wide debut on Jul 1. Empowered by communications technology company, Ericsson, she has come to Earth with the noble mission of giving a voice to youths like us. Accompanying her is her hyperactive sidekick, Bei Bei, who creates havoc on screen with his whizzing around.

Through her programme, LiLi brings to youths the latest trends in fashion and technology, hears their views when they call, and plays the songs they demand.

Martin Blomkvist, Director of Brand Management, Ericsson Consumer Products, Asia Pacific, says, "LiLi is in sync with their [youths'] lifestyle and will set the cultural pace for the next millennium."

In an attempt to promote cross-species understanding, Cynthia Choong tracks LiLi down and susses her out.



# VirtualLi BabeLicious



**hype:** How's life on planet earth so far?  
**LiLi:** It seems to be pretty neat, I want to try it out for real but being here in Cyberspace has its advantages, you know...There's no hanging about or boring waits for buses or trains. I just travel, wherever the cyber road takes me.

**hype:** You've been around the world, which is your favourite country?  
**LiLi:** I don't have a favourite country. The world is my home. I just love travelling and meeting new people, gathering experiences along the way.

**hype:** What do you think of Singapore?  
**LiLi:** I love Singapore; it's got a great mix of people!

**hype:** How about the guys here?  
**LiLi:** Guys in Singapore? Well, they're kinda cute, but I like ALL guys. You can't live with them and you can't live without them.

**hype:** Tell us about your dream guy.  
**LiLi:** Try dream guys! I can't... because there are just too many of them!

**hype:** And your idea of romance?  
**LiLi:** Sharing a bowl of noodles with anyone apart from Bei Bei.

**hype:** What's the worst pick-up line you've heard?  
**LiLi:** How would you like to come back to my place to see my broadband connection – Yuk!

**hype:** The best?  
**LiLi:** I haven't yet. Open to offers, though!

**hype:** Any marriage proposal yet?  
**LiLi:** Oh lots! Every day.

**hype:** But...?  
**LiLi:** (Silence.)

**hype:** OK. What about fan mail? Do you receive much?  
**LiLi:** Oh, fan mail. Don't talk to me about fan mail, it just keeps on coming. It's all fan e-mail, we're pretty high-tech up here in cyberspace, you know. That's why I love doing the show so much, the response we get is phenomenal!

**hype:** That's because you are so pretty. Come on, share your beauty secrets with us.  
**LiLi:** I don't really have any beauty secrets, apart from good programming. I just try to stay positive, that's all...

**hype:** Your hair defies gravity, yet is never out of place. What brand of gel do you use?  
**LiLi:** It's cool isn't it? But I'm sorry I can't give away ALL my secrets. That would make life rather dull, wouldn't it?

**hype:** You have a body to die for. What's your diet like?  
**LiLi:** Why, thank you! I don't really have a diet, I just devour information.

**hype:** Eeks! How does that taste?  
**LiLi:** Information? Well, it's pretty good actually! You just have to make sure you don't eat up too much useless information or you could put on excess weight.

**hype:** What human food have you always wanted to try?  
**LiLi:** Food... hmmm.. let's see. Fish and Chips, *Murtabak*, bird's nest soup and of course, a bowl of noodles! I wouldn't mind trying moon cakes, they sound kinda cool.

**hype:** What wouldn't you eat for a million dollars?  
**LiLi:** Bei Bei.



“ You know, I keep telling my programmer to change my outfit, I mean, it gets a little embarrassing from time to time, what with being the fashion guru and all that... ”

**hype:** What is your relationship with him like?  
**LiLi:** Bei Bei and I are the best of friends, always have been and always will be. Let's face it, it can get a little lonely here from time to time...

**hype:** Don't you guys ever fight?  
**LiLi:** We never actually fight, but we do have disagreements from time to time, I mean Bei Bei's antics can get more than a little trying, but I think that's quite normal.

**hype:** So, how do you punish him when he is naughty?  
**LiLi:** Punish Bei Bei? I don't think punish is the right word, I would NEVER do that, but I do let him know when he's upset me.

**hype:** What do you think of being an Asian sex symbol?  
**LiLi:** An Asian sexy symbol eh? I never thought of myself as any sort of sex symbol.  
**hype:** Yea, right! (under the breath)

**hype:** Say, you're supposed to be the ambassador of youth fashion, but you are always in the same outfit. I admit it's gorgeous, but isn't it time to change into something new?  
**LiLi:** You know, I keep telling my programmer to change my outfit, I mean, it gets a little embarrassing from time to time, what with being the fashion guru and all that. He's a little busy right now, but just stay tuned to the show. There'll be a new outfit coming up pretty soon!

**hype:** And those oh-so-high platform shoes. Aren't they a little dated?  
**LiLi:** A little dated?!! Haven't you ever heard of the expression "What goes around comes around"? Well, my 'oh-so-high' platforms are THE future and you'd better believe it!

**hype:** Tell us more about your job as a virtual MTV VJ. Any funny anecdotes?  
**LiLi:** Well, life as a virtual MTV VJ is a little different from that of a normal VJ. I would like to think that it's a little more exciting 'cos I get to see so many places, do so many things and can instantly connect with everybody around the region. It's pretty cool actually! An anecdote... Well, I've got a habit of starting the show and forgetting to do up my cyber-suit, but I'm not sure if that's funny... The other thing is that I travel around in freight class, while the other VJs are in nice comfy seats.

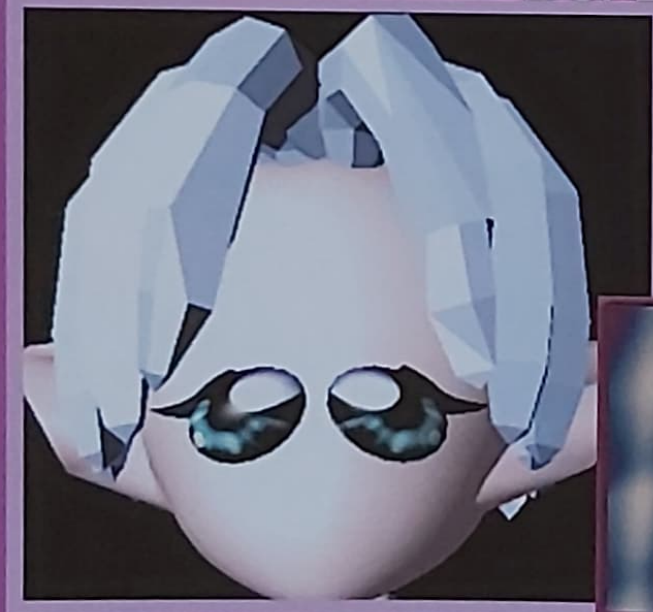


# P Personality

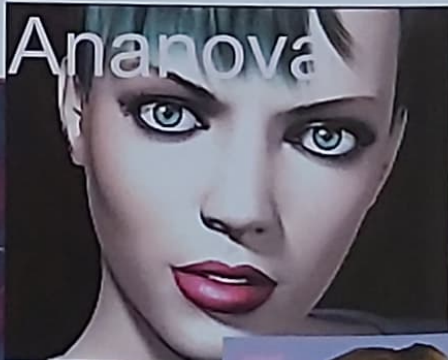
- hype:** To be a VJ, you must be an expert in music. What are your favourite tunes currently?
- LILi:** I wouldn't quite call myself an expert. I just like music that's all. I tell you what though, I really like Madonna's new music video *Music*. I admire her for continually coming up with fresh new ideas.
- hype:** And you must also be very in touch with entertainment news. How about sharing an exclusive piece of gossip with **hype**?
- LILi:** Cher is to executive produce a new show, based on the British TV series *Style Challenge*, where 2 guests will receive makeovers from fashion and stylist teams. Cher will also be making guest appearances on the show, picking out a few naughty numbers, I'm sure.
- hype:** Tell us more about your personal space. How is it decorated?
- LILi:** My personal space is just that. My space. That's why I love it so much! It's sooo good to be able to forget about everything for a while (and that includes Bei Bei). It's mainly decorated in my favourite metallic colours, with a few LiLi touches. Why? You fancy coming over?
- hype:** Teach us how to say "I love you" in Hindi.
- LILi:** (without even pausing to think) mei apko behut pyar kalte hun.
- hype:** May echo bear... what? Oh, never mind.
- LILi:** (Laughs.)

*LiLi and Bei Bei host several 6-minute segments on MTV at random times every day.*

## Bei Bei



Andy Nova



Ananova

Vandrea

Andy Nova

Chase Walker

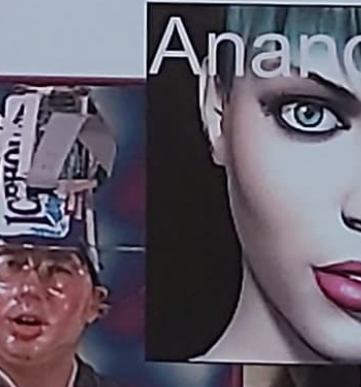
LiLi's debut on Jul 1 marked the beginning of virtual personalities on television, but several virtual newscasters had already hit cyberspace earlier this year. **hype** takes a quick look at the successes... and flops.

Green hair, big eyes. Add a dash of resemblance to Posh Spice and this 1.73 metre tall European newscaster is poised to outdo Lara Croft of Tomb Raider as the most popular cyber babe. Ananova, complete with a "personality profile" and mid-Atlantic accent brings you the latest happenings around the world from [www.ananova.com](http://www.ananova.com). Sadly, she won't be able to display her human traits - like her love for the Simpsons - while relating the latest golf news. She has been so successful that she is currently making the big cross-over to WAP-enabled mobile phones in Britain.

A superior breed that transcends bandwidth and modem connections. Spend 15 minutes (for 56k modem connection) downloading her onto your computer and you shall be rewarded with a virtual newscaster who jerks less and sounds more human than her streaming predecessors. She lives on your desktop forever (or at least until you are sick of her), so you only need receive the text information from the Internet each time. Despite this, she is not very popular. Perhaps it is the goody-two-shoes image? Check her out at [www.channel5.co.uk](http://www.channel5.co.uk).

While the rest of the industry aspires to simulate human beings with 3-D animation, LikeTelevision ([www.liketelevision.com/news/index.shtml](http://www.liketelevision.com/news/index.shtml)) proudly presented the "first real life human simulating a 3-D newscaster". Boy, have they succeeded. Not only does he look convincingly silly, the mess of wires on top of his head completely confirms his cyborg identity. Kudos to them, though what could be more ingenious than substituting an empty 6-pack box for a hat when you are on a shoestring budget? The company that created Andy Nova is now selling this technology for US\$400 (S\$680). Whether or not there will be any takers is anyone's guess.

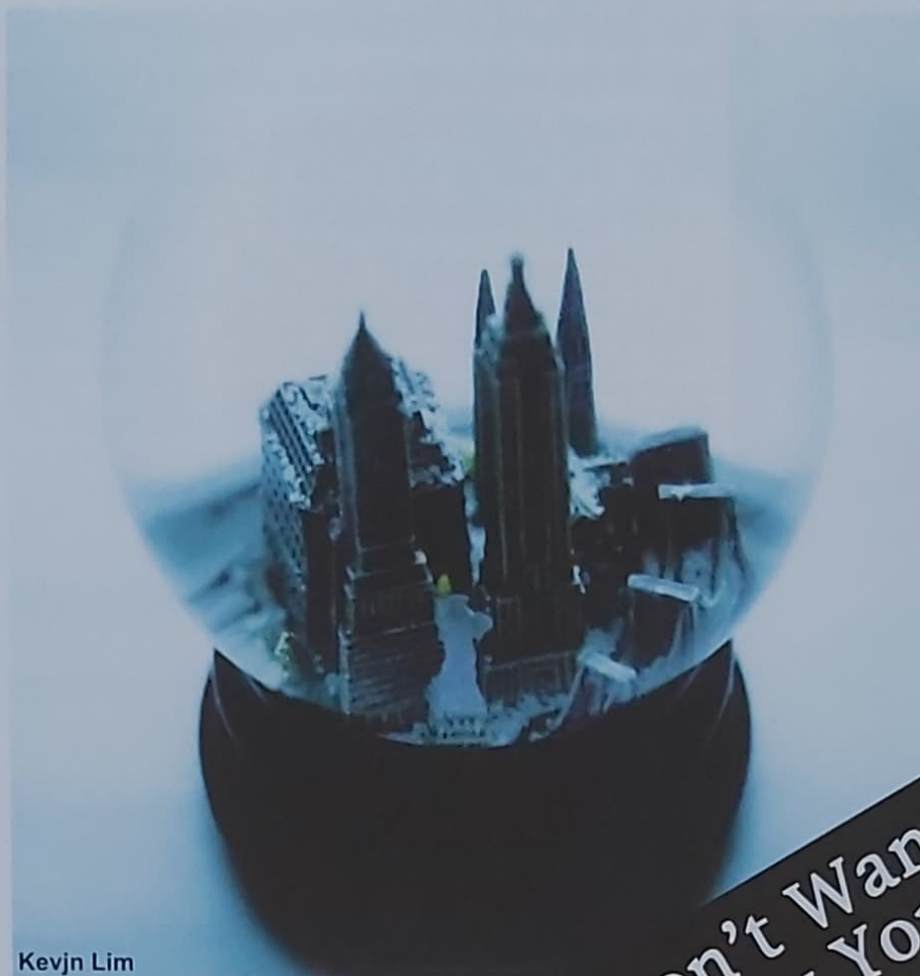
Also in the pipeline is Chase Walker. His creators say he will be interactive and even respond to your voice demands. Does that mean he will shut up if you tell him to?



Chase Walker







Kevjn Lim

We Don't Want to  
Be New York!

# Make Space for Living

We are at the dawn of a residential “renaissance”. Property developers are building homes in uncharted territories, constructing homes, sweet homes in the unlikeliest of places. But don’t call the movers in just yet, at least not till **Tan Jun Wei** shows you what’s in store.

Inside photos: Tan Jun Wei .



# Make space for living

## A Peek Into The Future...

Imagine living so close to the beach that you can smell salt in the very air you breathe, apartments so high that a ride to the top of the building would give you nose bleeds. A trip to work or school that would send you on a voyage across sea. An inner city home so close to work that your living room looks out to your office cubicle.

This isn't just fantasy. The shape of Singapore's residential landscape is undergoing a revolution as it edges into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Previously uninhabited islands and old pig farms are making way for the estimated 800,000 more dwellings needed to accommodate a projected population of 5.5 million by the year 2040.

In a **Business Times** report, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) highlighted the need for another 16,000 hectares of land to accommodate the population then. With the amount of available land at only 12,000 hectares, we are expected to face a shortage of 4,000 hectares.

The reality of the situation is that Singapore is a small nation. With a total land area of about 647 square metres, it is about the same size as the city of Chicago. While Chicago has the rest of the United States behind it to catch any spillovers, a few tiny islands scattered around is all Singapore has. With increasing demands on land usage as the population grows and economy prospers, we are gradually running out of space.

Today, most of us live in a variety of low-, medium- and high-density homes, primarily in suburban new towns, like Clementi and Tampines. In less than 10 years' time, when we are thinking of buying our own little pads, new habitats will be viable options. Plans for new residential developments in exciting locations have long been underway and some projects are already being constructed.

Comparing surveys conducted by the Housing & Development Board (HDB) in 1998 and 1993 among residents living in HDB flats, it is clear that residents have grown in affluence. In the short span of 5 years, the average household income has increased from \$2,653 in 1993 to \$3,719 in 1998. Mr. Lee Chek Fatt, Higher Administrative Assistant at HDB sees the forthcoming developments in the public and private residential landscape as the natural course of things to come as the society becomes more affluent. "The expectations of Singaporeans are rising and housing is no longer just about putting a roof over the head," he said.

Back in the 60s and 70s, when a large proportion of the population was living in unhygienic slums, affordable public housing with basic features such as clean running water and electricity was a priority. The standard of living and needs of residents in Singapore have since changed. "To meet the rising aspirations of our people, there is a need to introduce a value-added lifestyle in various locations of different housing types. For example, some would prefer to live in the heart of the city, while others may prefer a more suburban setting, or along the waterfront," muses Mr. Jeffrey Heng, Chief Executive Officer at Centrepoint Properties Ltd.

So what exactly awaits us in the not-so-distant future? We take a closer look at the upcoming developments.

## Waterfront Living

The allure of living near water is undeniable. For proof, look to the millions all over the world who make their pilgrimage to worship the sun, sea and sand at Nice or Barcelona each year.

Here in Singapore, homebuyers will be spoilt for choice when it comes to such homes. The fact that we are flanked by the sea on all sides makes for ample opportunities which developments in Tanjong Rhu and along the Singapore River are ready exploit.

Construction of these dream homes is currently underway. 4 mega projects that have created waves in the future homebuyers market so far are located in Punggol, Keppel Harbour, Sentosa Cove and the Southern Islands.

## Punggol 21

Pig farming and fishing, once synonymous with Punggol are long gone. Cranes, trucks and workers with the vision of building a model waterfront town have taken their place. According to the URA website, Punggol is expected to house about 86,000 families when it is fully developed. The first phase of development will be completed by the end of this year.

"It's a lot like Lantau Island in Hong Kong... It offers people an alternative lifestyle and a very exciting concept."

Mr. Jeffrey Heng,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Centrepoint Properties Ltd.



Punggol is expected to house all the attractions that come with staying near the water. There will be the addition of a river between Punggol and Coney Island, with the latter serving as a recreation park. A 15-metre wide promenade will also run along the coast on the mainland with 6 to 8 thematic clubs and 2 marinas. So if you are an avid seaman and own a little dinghy or powerboat of your own, facilities to house your seaworthy possessions are at your disposal. Be it an exciting day of water sports or a leisurely cruise out to sea, it won't be more than a stroll away.

**Keppel Harbour & Sentosa Cove**  
These 2 developments are much like the rest of the waterfront properties and will yield 5,300 homes. A big plus, however, is their location on the mainland, being only a 10-minute drive from the CBD. But you would probably have to break the bank to pay for a piece of prime land here. Don't expect to move in unless you have at least a million dollars lying around. The best things in life may be free, but the really great ones come with a prohibitive price tag.

### Southern Islands

For true idyllic tropical island living away, but not too far, from the mainland, the Southern Islands are an obvious choice. The project involves 3 Singaporean islets - St John's, Lazarus and Pulau Seringat.

The islands promise to be a true blue environmentalist haven as 80 percent of the land will remain unspoiled by the ravages of capitalist developments. To reduce pollution, cars will also not be allowed on the islands and residents and visitors will probably have to use bicycles or golf carts. Only about 1,700 homes will be built there, giving it an air of prestige and exclusivity.

But don't worry about being deprived of your modern gadgets as conveniences such as electricity and water will be available. And yes, you can still surf the net and watch cable programmes on the islands.

Expect low rise, island-styled homes, restaurants, shops, a hotel and convenient pedestrian links between the islands. In other words, this place will be a self-contained town.

Sounds too good to be true? It probably is, so long as you are comfortable with the idea of taking a ferry to and from the islands. Imagine hopping on one in the middle of the night after a few pints at the pub. It wouldn't be a pleasant sight, considering the choppy waves. Only those who with immunity to seasickness should apply.

"It's a lot like Lantau Island in Hong Kong. People are still willing to embrace the concept of island living despite the accessibility problems. It offers people an alternative lifestyle and a very exciting concept," claims Mr. Heng. "It's all a matter of weighing your options and seeing if the lifestyle is worth putting up with the inconveniences."

### Downtown Living

Fancy living in the heart of our city? The new Downtown is it. Taking shape around Marina Bay, it will consist of three Planning Areas - Downtown Core (Central and Bayfront subzones), Straits View and Marina South. An estimated 313 hectares of land had earlier

"The height of HDB's multi-storey apartment buildings has risen over the years. The latest proposal will see HDB flats reaching the 40<sup>th</sup> storey. This is probably the first of its kind in the world."

### Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong

been reclaimed and is available for developers to shape this latest property belt.

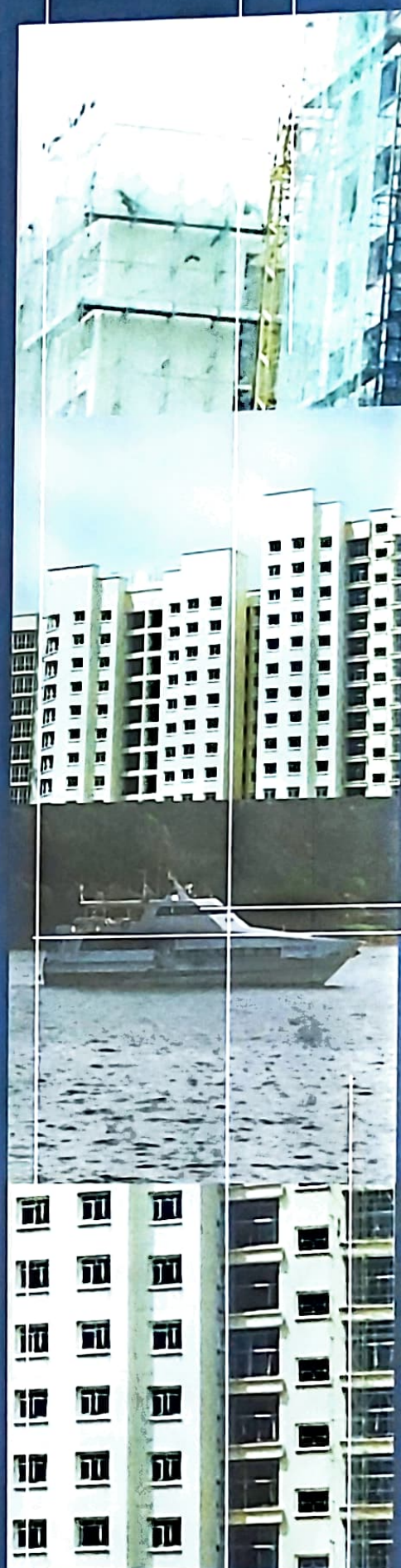
With the reclaimed land to play with, the area promises to be dotted with skyscrapers where residential, commercial and recreational activities take place. Pedestrians will be kings of the roads here, as the various developments will be fully integrated through an extensive pedestrian network for all-weather comfort.

Poised to become the next financial hub, the new Downtown could put you just across the street from where you work, making it possible for you to wake up 15 minutes before work starts and still be on time. But if you're the sort who dreads looking at your colleagues even during office hours, you might just be too close for comfort.

### A Race for the Skies

This next development of the future might send those with acrophobia deep underground. With height controls relaxed, buildings can now go even higher. Blocks that used to be 30 storeys high can be stacked with another 6 floors. Driving this point home in an opening speech at the International Housing Conference 2000, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said, "The height of HDB's multi-storey apartment buildings has risen over the years. The latest proposal will see HDB flats reaching the 40<sup>th</sup> storey. This is probably the first of its kind in the world."

And it is not just a matter of better use of air-space. Apartment buildings are shooting for the clouds so that they can tag themselves with the prestigious label of being "Singapore's Tallest". Queens is one completed development that has already trumpeted the achievement. So what if a trip to the top floor triggers an attack of vertigo? The spectacular view up there and our national obsession for being number 1 makes this worth the sacrifice. Just keep your fingers crossed and hope that next "Singapore's Tallest" isn't going to be built on that plot of land between your home and a view to die for.



...the new HDB apartments  
at Punggol 21.



## Going underground in the future

According to a **Business Times** story, the URA has formed 2 focus groups to tackle the problem of the lack of space in an increasingly populated country. The 2 groups, who count Sim Wong Hoo of Creative Technology and eye surgeon Vivian Balakrishnan among their ranks, were put together to give input for Concept Plan 2001, a 10-year blueprint that charts the future of Singapore physical development. Intelligent approaches to solving the problem of the shortfall of land in Singapore are expected. Among the suggestions was to head underground.

Centrepont Properties' Mr. Heng believes that heading underground is an absolute possibility. He said, "...it isn't going to be just 2 or 3 basement levels but more like the kind where elevators will be needed."

With the completion of the underground CityLink Mall, we have been given a foretaste of the possibilities of underground living and the future cityscape. While heading deep downward isn't quite on the cards yet, and it may take quite a long time before we see our first multi-level underground dwelling, it promises an exciting future for all Singaporeans nonetheless.

## Why more homes are needed

The Ministry of National Development (MND) and the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) predict that 800,000 more homes are needed to accommodate the projected population of 5.5 million by the year 2001. Currently, the number of homes available in Singapore is 1 million. Although the birth rate is declining, the steady increase in demand for housing is expected to continue.

Let's take a look at why this is happening.

A HDB survey conducted in 1998 indicates more young couples choose to set up their own homes upon marriage. The proportion of newly wedded who lived on their own had increased from 35.3 percent in the 1960s to 49.1 percent in the 1990s.

Singapore has been very active in attracting international talent. Contact Singapore, an information and resource centre that provides information to people interested in working, studying or living in Singapore, has been set up all over the world to attract talents to the country. There are currently centres in Boston, San Francisco, Washington DC, Toronto, London, Perth, Sydney and Hong Kong.

Many Singaporeans are no longer willing to do jobs which are considered menial, such as garbage collecting and working on construction sites. Large numbers of foreign workers are employed to perform these laborious tasks.

Project:	No. of Homes:	Development Area:
Keppel Harbour	2,700	32 hectares
Punggol 21	86,000	957 hectares
Sentosa Cove	2,600	116 hectares
Southern Islands	1,700	55 hectares
New Downtown	920	313 hectares

Artist's impression of the Southern Islands Project



Source: Singapore Tourism Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Housing & Development Board  
 \*100 hectares is about the size of 138 football pitches.





# Pinky and the brain

Once the cringe worthy colour of flighty bimbos and the badge of effusive gay men, pink is now amazingly chic and embraced, not just by the fashion capitals' catwalks, but by the cosmopolitan intellectual.

On Man: Grey t-shirt (\$29) at Vintage Closet, White pants (\$49) at 77<sup>th</sup> Street. On Sparon: Pink reptile skin shorts (\$29.90) at EGO, Pink cowboy hat (\$29.90) at EGO, White tank top (Stylist's own), Shiny bangle (\$29.90) at Montip, Spring bangle (\$9.90) at Montip.





This page (from left to right)  
 On Matthew: Baby pink T-shirt (\$24) at Scapegoat, Shocking pink Birkenstocks (\$75) at Revolution East, Denim bermudas (model's own). On Shuyun: White sleeveless top with pink trimmings (\$18) at Toss, Baby pink mini-skirt (\$29) at Toss, Pink belts (stylist's own), Light pink suede sandals (\$49) at Trendy Zone. On Weiql: Silver bikini top (\$59) at Toss, Pink knee-length skirt (\$35) at Toss, Pink umbrella (\$5.50) at Katori Department store, Pink sandals (stylist's own).



**Stockists**  
 77<sup>th</sup> Street #03-105/106, #04-116/117 Far East Plaza  
 EGO #04-55 Far East Plaza  
 Katori Department Store #B1-17 Bukit Timah Plaza  
 Montip Enterprise #01-37 Tampines Mall,  
 #01-13 Great World City, #01-15 Parco Bugis Junction  
 Revolution East #04-133 Far East Plaza  
 Scapegoat #04-122 Far East Plaza  
 Toss #04-136 Far East Plaza  
 Trendy Zone #04-142 Far East Plaza  
 Vintage Closet #03-16 Far East Plaza

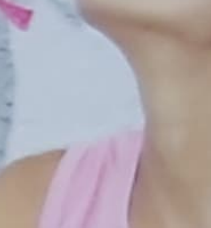
**Credits**  
 Photography: Alfie Lee  
 Product shots: Cynthia Choong  
 Concept, text and styling: Sheryl Anne Pereira  
 Stylist's assistants: Cynthia Choong, Sarah Chua,  
 Yvonne Low, Michelle Seetoh and Natalie Tan.  
 Make-up artist: Natalie Tan  
 Hair stylist: The NEXT Hairdresser  
 Models: Matthew Foo, Sharon Lelsinger,  
 Neo Chai Ying, Ng Shuyun, Zayed Talib  
 and Yeap Weiql.  
 Special thanks to Desmond Kon and Robin Yee.





**Opposite Page**

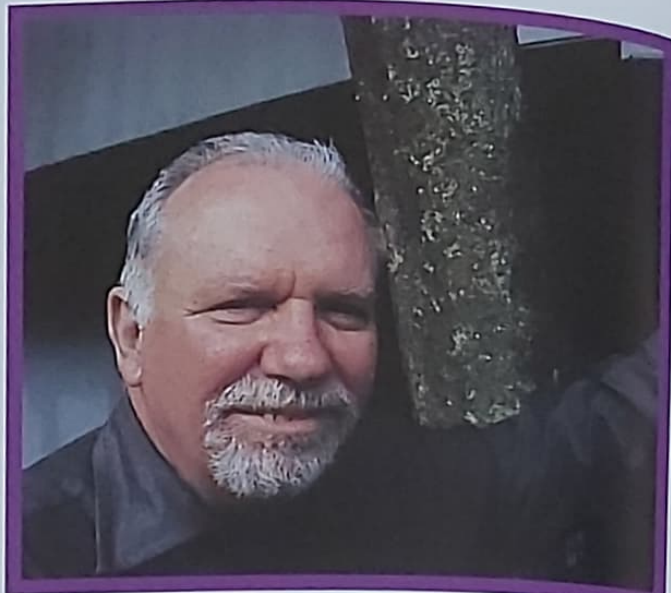
(Clockwise from top left): Pink Velcro Puma shoe (\$180) at Vintage Closet, Pink sling bag (\$7.90) at Montip, Pink sunglasses (\$9.90) at Montip, Pink and purple beaded bracelets (\$3.90 for 10) at Montip, Pink handkerchief (\$3.90) at Montip, Iridescent pink sponge (\$2.90) at Montip, Pink Dolphin peach vitaminized drink (\$1.20) at all major supermarkets, Diamante sunglasses (\$19.90) at 77th Street (also featured on this page), White leather sandals (\$49.90) at Trendy Zone, Striped bag (\$3.90) and striped handfone sling bag (\$4.90) at Montip, Spring bangle (\$3.90) at Montip, Shiny bangle (\$4.90) at Montip, On Chai Ying: Pink sleeveless top (\$24.90) at Vintage Closet, Neon pink mini skirt (\$29.90) at Toss.







**Eric Khoo**  
Director, Producer  
Zhao Wei Films



**Geoffrey Malone**  
Executive Producer, Cyberflics  
Founder, Singapore International Film Festival

## Reel Space

Nothing quite captures the creative pulse of an era more than its cinematic inroads. May Kek feels out the celluloid that loops up the local film industry with helmsmen at the reel, Eric Khoo and Geoffrey Malone. The former is a pivotal force in the mid-90s revival of the local film industry; Malone is the architect-turned-producer whose Singapore International Film Festival serves as a springboard for aspiring film-makers.

Both agree the local film industry has space for more cash, babes and liberation.

**hype:** What is stifling or augmenting the creative space in the local film industry?

**Eric:** Okay, as far as censorship goes... I am actually quite fine with it... they [the Film Censorship Board] have been very kind to me actually. *Mee Pok Man* was left R[A] uncut, and so was *Stories About Love*. But I wish they'd given it [Stories About Love] an NC16 instead of an R[A]... Anyway, what I hate is when they cut out some scenes *ala Titanic*, which is disgusting. I mean, those 18-year-olds aren't kids... it doesn't take much imagination to guess what goes on. It is work and sweat they are cutting away, if it doesn't make

sense, the director wouldn't have wasted time shooting it... and it just makes people resort to other ways to watch the full uncensored version. I am talking VCDs... Actually, I think the best thing is to give the audience more choices. Give them both versions, with different ratings. And see what they want. They should be mature enough to decide what's forbidden and what's entertaining... But as far as my films are concerned, I'm glad my "creativity" remains in my product. Though we will earn more money if it can be distributed PG!

**Geoff:** (laughs) I'm glad they allowed for the "Sex In Asian



Cinemas" genre in this year's Film Festival.

**hype:** If not censorship, then what do you think is stunting the film scene here?

**Geoff:** I have no comments.

**Eric:** (picks up the box of match sticks on the table, looking really agitated) Okay, just look at this little box here. Say we produce it in Singapore and we want to make more money and get famous by going regional... so we head for Malaysia. We send the roll over and that will pass some hands and take some days. In this process, even before it is screened over that side, someone would already have duplicated it on VCD and sold it everywhere for \$5. That's how fast it takes. That's what happened to **Liang Po Po**. We just took 2 days to get it over. Yet in that very 2 days, the duplication was done. And the VCDs roamed the streets.

**hype:** Still on censorship... how does it affect your film-making? Were there instances when you wanted to explore certain areas like religion, politics or violence but felt restrained?

**Geoff:** Censorship actually does not affect my film-making desires, because under current regulations, you are free to make a film about anything you want. It is only when you want to screen it commercially – that's when you have to submit your film to the authorities.

**Eric:** I guess even film-makers in America feel hindered - I'm sure Todd Solondz didn't want his film **Happiness** not to have a rating as that would limit its screening potential... My own short film **Pain** - I got the Best Director prize, but the film can't even be screened at the ceremony. But when you are making films, you don't intend to ignore the rules; neither do you conspire over them. What's important is to know your own footing and know your stand. (*Pain is about an unemployed man who turns from a masochist to a murderer. It clinched the Best Director and Special Achievement honours at the 1994 Singapore Short Film Awards. It was banned for its topic of unmotivated violence.*)

**hype:** Then how do you think the local film industry can grow if it is thus stifled?

**Eric:** We can always try to push the perimeters and this is a good time for it. The local films usually do pretty well, just look at **Money No Enough**. So there is actually an audience out there. And more people are getting curious and, at the same time, interested in film-making, so there is a growing pool [there] too.

**Geoff:** Sometimes, the arts flourish better under adversity. It is how we work around these constraints and demonstrate what we want and are ready for.

**hype:** What would you propose to improve the local film industry now?

**Eric:** I've suggested this to the SFC (Singapore Film Commission) several times, but they never listen to me. What they should do is to rent out filming equipment on a much lower basis for us.

It is a waste to spend so much on renting cameras, lighting etc.... They should follow what is already done in Hong Kong, Thailand and just provide cheap equipment to film-makers. It will definitely be appreciated... and more things can always be done. The government can help finance projects, since most of these creative things are done by individuals, students and independent groups... [Many] people are creative here. It is just whether they have the means or not. Like Kelvin Tong. After studying law and working for the newspaper for so long, he finally can afford to get creative and make a movie. We need these people...

**hype:** What else do you think can be done, Geoff?

**Geoff:** Actually, Singapore needs an art-house. I know many people think it is [the] Picturehouse but that place just doesn't have the arts vibe, the feel to it. It's too neglected and dingy...and even a lil' depressing. We need a venue where the creative and artistic can go to. Mingle, share ideas, indulge a little in the feel of things... Singapore doesn't have that kind of place for people to go to.

**Eric:** (in glee) We should open one! Then we can down beer every day and take turns at the projector booth!

**Geoff:** Hahaha... Sure. You know, like how Paris has those beautiful art-houses, London has those great theatres...and Melbourne has this 3D centre where they screen films....we need some arts café for everyone to gather and trade talk.

**Eric:** And he will design it. (*Geoff owns an architecture firm.*)

**Geoff:** Yeah, it's funny how architecture is like film-making. The producer is like the client, and then you have the team. The director is like the designer, and he has people who work to build his concept...

**hype:** Complete these 2 sentences

- 1) The local film industry needs more \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The local film industry is full of \_\_\_\_\_

**Both:** Money! We need a lot more money!

**Eric:** And it is full of babes! (both agree) Yes, look at all the local films so far... there are babes in everyone of them. It sure keeps it going, man!

**Geoff:** (begins an engaging discussion with Eric over Beatrice Chia)

**hype:** Erm... just money?

**Eric:** OK, seriously... money is certainly important. But anytime, anytime at all, throw me 10 great scripts! I'm not talking about those bulls\*\*\* TCS scripts, I'm talking about really good stuff. The script makes the film. And I think we have space for more resources too. The greatest



thing about my education in Australia wasn't so much about what I studied as it was about the resources I was privy to. My university has this amazing film library, where they keep all the old great classics. Everything you want is there, solid materials for everyone to enjoy. And I would just spend every day watching films, 'cos that is simply the fastest way to improve yourself. The teens here... where can they go to enjoy stuff like that? To indulge this way? I spent some solid years there watching the best films of my life, examining the techniques of the masters and incorporating them into my own work...

**Geoff:** The [Film] Festival [helps] promote film culture in Singapore by showing a selection of films which would generally not be available to be appreciated by the public... With the Short Films Award, the Festival has enabled film-makers like Eric and CheeK to go on to become feature directors, sometimes even propelling them to Cannes, as in Eric's *12 Storeys*.

**hype:** *Stories About Love* set the scene for the whole industry to go techie... (It is the first digital full-length feature produced locally.)

**Eric:** Definitely. Compared to the traditional 35mm feature, this is certainly a more cost-effective way, both in terms of production, processing, editing... and the best part is that it allows for experimentation. We would never have had this kind of luxury otherwise.

**Geoff:** Yes. With this new technology, we can actually view a shot scene immediately, and if there is something wrong with it, we can identify the error and re-shoot it there and then. In the past, just re-shooting a scene takes so much, 'cos by the time you realise the error in the studio, you would have to do up the whole location again, move in the props etc... which is slow and exhausting. So you see a marked improvement there already.

**hype:** And that would translate into more space in the local film in-

dustry for budding film-makers who have less money to burn?

**Eric:** Certainly. We're going to see the home-made George Lucas coming up! (laughs)

**Geoff:** The scene will certainly evolve. And it will set the platform for young people to take the rein. The new technology would also mean better film quality. Clearer resolution, less of those grainy things...

**Eric:** Yes, I believe the local cinema architecture will change. More films can go regional, more people coughing up ideas...

**hype:** So would you say technology allows more creativity rather than robs film-making of its soul?

**Eric:** Technology is a good thing - our lives are easier as filmmakers.

**Geoff:** I see technology as a tool which you can use creatively to its best potential.

## FADE TO BLACK



Abdul Nizam, a Ngee Ann Polytechnic Film, Sound & Video (FSV) graduate, was catapulted out of anonymity by the Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF) Best Local Short Film Award for *Datura* in 1999.

The co-director of the recent *Stories About Love* gives Cynthia Choong an insight into how the media, government and investors can affect the growth of the local film industry. His verdict: For it to flourish, all must have a genuine understanding and love for films, sans Hollywood style.

**hype:** Do you think the local audience is ready for the different genres of film?

**Nizam:** In a way... the general audience in Singapore aren't. Because a lot of people have only been exposed to Hollywood stuff. But you can see that things are picking up a bit... there are more foreign film festivals and Arts Central does show some. We still mainly see works of high profile directors like *Zhang Yimou*; there are a lot of great film-makers in the region whose work we just don't have space to showcase. We really need more places to screen

a variety of films, hopefully with the help of the government. Now even mainstream cinema is suffering from decline of profits. Private investors, whose main concern is making money, will not pump money to screen shows which don't have high chances of commercial success. If the audience are familiar with different kinds of film, there will naturally be more appreciation and demand for them.

**hype:** How does the media affect the health of the local film industry?

**Nizam:** Everyone... the government, the media and the film-makers have a part to play in expanding the film industry. The critics play an important role, because whatever the public knows about the films is from there. I'm not saying that the critics must be sympathetic towards local films; they have the right to say what they want. But they must be responsible and really do their homework and try their best to understand a film before passing judgement. I mean, suppose you have this guy who, all his life has dreamt of making films. He saves hard, working at 7-eleven, just to get a camera to shoot a film. The film is something very personal and meaningful to him - his blood and sweat. But then comes a critic and his friends, saying, "Hey, what are you doing? This is crap!" without even attempting to understand his efforts. It may just be another story

for the media, but the poor guy's career, his life, is crushed.

**hype:** Finally, let's talk about local censorship. How does the sensitivity of certain touchy issues in Singapore affect your film-making?

**Nizam:** Censorship is a tricky issue, with Singapore being multicultural. The censorship board are sometimes confused. They allow some things so lewd - like Jennifer Lopez music videos - but cut away things that are meaningful and beautiful, just because it can be construed as obscene when one stretches his imagination. In some films, such scenes are very important. The government is still very restrictive, that's very clear. My short film, *Haura*, a part of *Stories About Love*, was supposed to be a film for a Muslim woman. But because of the sexual nature of the story and the sensitivities involved, [it had to be changed]. Now we've come into the new millennium; information is all around us, and we want things to be discussed more thoroughly... If the reality is such, it is partly the responsibility of film-makers to address it honestly. I try to craft my stories in such a way that they address the issues, but subtly and in a nice way. I don't want to provoke. It's important for your intention to be responsible, [and] not to elicit a fight between the races.





**Concave Scream will amplify the anti-drug message at the [Ctrl + Alt + Del]**

## [Ctrl + Alt + Del]

"Take control, think alternative and delete negativity" is definitely the motto you have to abide by to get yourself grooving at this local gig.

[Ctrl + Alt + Del] promises a night of fun and dance, with local groups performing Rock, Acid funk and Punk-rock. This talent-filled-night will be lined up with performances by 7 popular local bands – Concave Scream, Astreal, ETC, Throb, Parousia, Pension State and Surreal.

This fund-raising gig is organised by Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Centre for Film & Media Studies students in collaboration with Teen Challenge, an organisation dedicated to helping substance abusers, juvenile delinquents and alcoholics.

Despite an exciting showcase of local talents and thump-humping grooving, this gig has a serious message to convey. The team

leader of the organising committee, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Mass Communication student, Pearlyn Chua says they hope the audience will get the message that one does not need to get high on drugs when great music offers a natural "high".

This is definitely the time where you can work off some pre-examination stress on the dance floor while contributing to a worthy cause. This one-night gig will be happening on Saturday, Oct 7 at the Pavilion on the Square, Far East Square from 6pm to 9.30pm.

You can purchase tickets at \$5 each during the road shows scheduled on Oct 2 and 4 at the Atrium during lunchtime or \$6 each on the day of the gig at the entrance.

**Goodie bags and more from MTVAsia and Tower Records will be given to the first 150 people present at the gig.**

## Community Service away from home

Keen on doing community service but dread visiting the old folks' home for the 20<sup>th</sup> time? Perhaps volunteering overseas for 6 months will be more enjoyable and fulfilling for you.

Ngee Ann Polytechnic is willing to arrange community service in regional countries or China, for applicants who are graduating students or graduates of the school.

You can choose wherever you want to go and whatever job you want to do. Choices of places include Cambodia, Myanmar, and all provinces of China. If you're interested to help out in countries closer to home like Thailand or Malaysia, you can pick from a list of existing contacts the school already has accumulated over the past 2 years. Even if you request to go somewhere not on the list, the school will try its best to arrange for you.

The duties you have to complete are mostly up to you. For example, if you wish to renovate a school, or teach English to children, the school will also scout for a suitable location for you to volunteer your time and services.

In most cases, the accommodation is free as living quarters are provided by your contact. However, everything is dependant on the location of your choice, what you want to do, and what your contact is willing to provide you.

You are expected though, to pay for food, airfare and other miscellaneous expenses. Once you get there, expenses shouldn't exceed \$100 a month as these are 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. Village teachers in China, apparently, survive on a monthly salary of \$50, according to one of the programme's organisers, Mr Jeffery Yang, a lecturer from the Building Department.

**If you are interested in this 6-month overseas community service programme, please contact either Mr Jeffery Yang at 4606517 (yyw@np.edu.sg) or Mr Bernard Teo at 4608498 (tbc@np.edu.sg). There isn't a deadline to meet but it's best to get in touch with the organisers as soon as possible to facilitate logistical arrangements.**



**The kind of living quarters you'd be provided with in China**



# The Journey Inwards

As Singaporeans, we're practically bedfellows with stress. And being an adolescent means we're forever plagued with personal conflicts and turmoil.

**Redzman Rahmat** asks if there's anything we can do short of falling apart and seeing a psychiatrist. He finds alternative therapies that traverse the inner space between mind and soul.

It seems that in recent years, people are realising that Western medicine isn't the only solution to common (and sometimes uncommon) ailments. They're more aware that they don't really have to pop a pill each time they fall sick. This has led to the interest in natural cures. People feel the need to explore various ways of maintaining health and preventing and treating illnesses, opening up many new possibilities in alternative treatment.

Actually, most forms of alternative therapies derive from ancient knowledge. From the Chinese to the Egyptians, medical knowledge had been passed down through generations. The art of healing has been around for centuries, some tried and trusted, others ridiculed. Aromatherapy and colour therapy are just two healing methods that may help to soothe the inner soul.

## Aromatherapy

Think aromatherapy and images of weird-looking people sitting in circles sniffing the air are conjured. Why bother with all that smelling when a whiff from your expensive bottle of *Issey Miyake* perfume is enough to perk you up for the rest of the day?

Contrary to popular belief, aromatherapy is not a practice reserved for New Age junkies. Upper class yuppies burn lavender candles to scent their houses, acne-prone *Ah Lians* massage jasmine oil onto their skin while the next-door *tai-tai* breathes deep the aroma of violet-scented incense.

The practice of aromatherapy dates back centuries, and there is a lot of controversy over its origins. Some say it was founded in ancient Egypt, as early as 3000 to 2000 BC, while others argue that the Chinese discovered the healing powers of plants and their fragrances.

"The use of plants and herbs is the oldest method of healing disease and pain, and the magical and medicinal properties of plants have been recorded in the oldest writings in history, in myth and folklore," Jane Dye, author of the book, **First Steps in Aromatherapy**, writes. French chemist René Maurice Gattefossé coined the actual term "aromatherapy" in 1910 and since then, the art has been a constant complementary treatment prevalent around the world.

In her same book, Dye also explains that aromatherapy is a method that uses smells to improve the self – physically, mentally and spiritually. Also known as Osmotherapy or Aromacology, what it actually does is enhance the quality of life by transforming stress, apathy and depression into creative healing energy.

There are 31 aromatherapy shops listed in the Yellow Pages, proof of the growing number of Singaporeans interested in the therapy. Cindy Lim, 23, a practising aromatherapist in Singapore says, "a lot of people are realising the benefits of aromatherapy". According to her, while candles and incense are the most common, essential oils are really the most effective. Some oils relax while others stimulate, working on a higher level compared to chemical drugs. Studies have shown that oils have a strong effect on the psyche and the emotions, stimulating and reinforcing the body's healing mechanism.

Aromatherapeutic oils are widely believed to treat emotional problems. The antidote for anger being chamomile or cedarwood, bitterness is suppressed with grapefruit or lemon, depression with geranium or benzoin, and pessimism with jasmine or nutmeg.

There are many ways to use the oils. Massaging them into the skin is the most efficient method, complemented with meditation. The smells effectively waft on your own body heat.

Another common and effective technique is steam inhalation. The process is easy: simply add drops of oil into near-boiling water, lean over the bowl, and breathe in the vapours with a towel over your head.

## Colour Therapy

Sit back and think red. Preconceived opinions of the colour will get you thinking of fire, anger or blood. Or for the more patriotic, red would remind you of the national flag. What you wouldn't know is that red actually symbolises strength and vitality.

Red is just one of the seven colours of visible light, and light is a form of radiation. Like other radiation such as gamma rays and radio waves, visible light too has subtle effects on us. And therein lies the rationale of colour therapy.

"...aromatherapy is not a practice reserved for New Age junkies."



Cynthia Choong



One good point of colour therapy is that you don't need to be a professional to practise it, although seeing a therapist is definitely more effective than D.I.Y..

Also known as chromotherapy, it is one of the more questionable methods of alternative healing. But the practice has been scientifically proven by the "International Association for Colour Therapy", and is slowly being accepted by Americans. By altering the colours that surround us, therapists believe that we can alter our mental and physical states of health.

In Singapore, few have heard of the therapy. However, Kelvin Sam, student, 19, has "read about it in magazines and books". He believes that the particular therapy actually works. "I tried it myself, just for the fun of it. And after some time, I noticed that visualising actually helps." Kelvin believes that "seeing" green helped him resolve his problems.

## "Surround yourself in the colour and slowly 'drown' in it."

According to Theo Gimble, in his book, **The Book of Colour Healing**, the seven colours of the light spectrum have differing effects on physical, mental, emotional and metabolic aspects of the receiver. He explains that the body is surrounded by an aura, and that this aura responds to different colours.

To take full advantage of the aura, many methods have been devised as forms of colour therapy. The easiest being the clothes we wear. The light radiating from our clothes is sufficient to affect the wearer. Other methods include shining coloured light on our bodies and surrounding ourselves with particular colours.

Another easy and effective method is a combination of visualisation and breathing. Firstly, relax your body by lying down and clearing the mind. When you are relieved of tension and external disturbances, visualise the appropriate colour. For example, blue, if you want to fall asleep, and orange, if you're feeling down. Surround yourself in the colour and slowly "drown" in it. Theo Gimble describes "drowning" as "bathing yourself in the appropriate colour, breathing it in while letting it seep through your pores".

One fallback of the therapy however, is that it has to be practised over a period of time for it to work.

Despite the ever-growing tendency towards alternative therapies, they have yet to become a common staple in our everyday lives. Take aromatherapy, for example. Although more people are walking into shops to buy the candles, they are probably used as scent, rather than a method of treatment. It's unlikely that a doctor will recommend to a patient to "wear violet clothes".

But there's no harm in trying right? So grab a chair, breathe in the sweet smells of eucalyptus, dream of magenta and live a healthy, alternate life.

Aromatherapy and colour therapy are just two of the many available types of alternative therapies. Other methods include:

**Hydrotherapy** – uses the healing powers of water. By immersing themselves into temperature-controlled water, patients absorb its healing properties. Which is probably why spas and jacuzzis are so popular.

**Music and sound therapy** – bases its beliefs on the relaxing effect of music. Varying frequencies of music stimulate certain hormones that produce pleasurable feelings. Bob Dylan or Britney Spears, you are what you hear.

**Visualisation therapy** – or guided imagery. A method that uses visual techniques to treat diseases. Patients would relax and visualise their illness, and "literally will them away".



Cynthia Choong

To help you venture into aromatherapy, here is a list of common essential oils and their ascribed effects spiritually and mentally:

**Lavender** – puts you to sleep, removes indecisiveness and emotional conflict, and strengthens the mind.

**Peppermint** – exerts beneficial effects on the respiratory and digestive system, aids concentration and memory.

**Chamomile** – diminishes nervousness, good remedy for tension and insomnia.

**Eucalyptus** – its antibiotic and antiseptic properties, clears the head of mental exhaustion.

**Geranium** – calming and refreshing and treats depression and anxiety.

**Clove** – encourages the mind to recall forgotten memories.

Put on your coloured pyjamas, crawl beneath your coloured bedsheets and think colour. Here is a list of hues and their spiritual and emotional effects.

**Orange** – the colour of joy, disperses heaviness and frees thoughts and feelings, feeding creativity.

**Red** – powerful energiser that symbolises strength and vitality, but on the flip side, may cause anxiety and emotional disturbance.

**Magenta** – energising colour that allows the freedom to let go of unwanted feelings and memories.

**Violet** – associated with self-respect and dignity, it promotes spirituality, inspiration and insight.

**Blue** – induces peace, patience and positivity.

**Green** – introduces balance and harmony into the soul, levels off emotions in turmoil, and helps organise thoughts.

**Yellow** – a strong stimulant, making it the perfect colour for detachment from the body.



## Time Out Day

The next time you sink your teeth into your food at a restaurant, take some time to appreciate the space you have, or don't have, around you. **hype** squeezes in and opens up wide places where you can satiate the hungry beast within.

### BON



Kenny Yek

**BON** is holed up in #B1-24/36-38, 583 Orchard Road, Forum The Shopping Mall (beside McDonald's). Open every day, 8am to 10pm. Tel: 7354987.

Leigh Koh

Tucked away in the basement of Forum The Shopping Mall, is this spacious fast-food restaurant fitted with ample comfy-looking booth seats and soft lighting.

A great place to avoid the midday sun and to escape the maddening weekend crowds, the place is kept spotlessly clean by their super-efficient wait-staff. The darlings respond to your beck and call without fail, and always with a smile. They even greet every customer who walks in and out of the place.

This 10-month-old restaurant is a refreshing change from run-of-the-mill fast-food places. On their extensive menu are pizzas, pasta, salads and seafood, all at reasonable prices. The Clam Chowder, \$1.90, comes highly recommended, as does the Tempura Fish Fillet Meal at \$5.90. The creamy chowder is chockful of tender potatoes and clams, and if you are a small eater, it can be quite filling on its own. The Tempura Fish Fillet is crisply battered and melts in the mouth. Thumbs-up for the deep-fried soft-shell crab as well, another something you don't associate with fast food at all. If you just want a snack, try the Cheddar Munchers for \$2.50. These breaded cheese-filled balls are great when you are feeling peckish.

Red ochre walls lined haphazardly with everything from a *Star Wars* movie poster to a Chinese painting, along with neatly arranged aged wooden tables and chairs, give a homely, down-to-earth feel to the place. The kitchen occupies half the café, leaving enough space for only about 3 4-seater tables. Additional tables are placed along the corridor. Prices here are low so you can indulge guilt-free, especially after a hard day of shopping. Customers are mostly regulars and we know why they keep coming back. Even the most seasoned café lounge lizards will be floored by their drinks selection. The Orange Banana Smoothie, \$4.50, is a favourite. For hot coffee drinks, the Macadamia Velvet, \$3.80, an almond and macadamia nut latte, and Extra Strong, \$3.80, a butterscotch latte, are surefire crowd pleasers. Also acclaimed are the iced coffees: Lava Java Flow, \$3.80, a chocolate and raspberry-flavoured coffee and Irish Coco, \$3.80, a latte with Irish Cream and chocolate. The icy Green Monster Granita, \$3, a lime and kiwi concoction, wins a personal vote as a quick pick-me-up on a scorching day.

Food-wise, Balls Of Fire, from \$4 to \$7 depending on portions, is a good bet. Tender chicken meatballs laced with a potent chilli powder, and deep fried to a golden brown, they are a definite winner.

Leigh Koh

## Buckaroo BBQ and Grill



You'll find **Buckaroo BBQ and Grill** at Blk 1 Seletar West Farmway 6, #01-08. Opening Hours: 11am to 10pm daily (Closed on Tuesdays) Tel: 4814986.

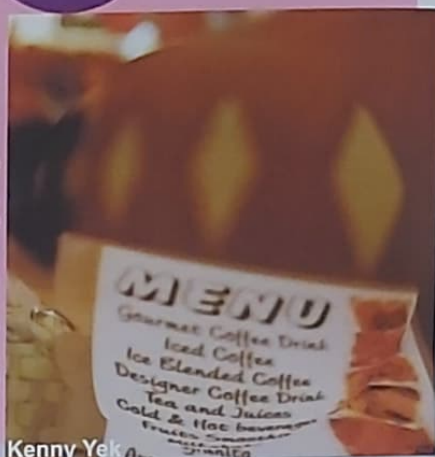
Michelle Pinto

Come in casual gear and dispense with table manners to fit in at this Texan-styled *kopitiam* cum pub. The largest draw of the diner for city folk like us is its setting in Seletar Farmway 6. Surrounded by lush greenery and serenaded by birds and Shania Twain, you'd forget that the SLE is just a short distance away. Its red-checked tablecloths and cactus paintings make you feel like you're on the set of a Country Western movie.

Dig into their tonsil-sizzling Buffalo wings, which come in three levels of spiciness – Combustion, Volcano and Insanity. Priced between \$11.50 and \$13.50 for half a dozen, this dish is bound to make you reach for that glass of water. While you are there, you must try their house special – deep fried mushrooms. A simple enough dish, you might say, until the lightly battered, crispy golden brown crust crumbles in your mouth to reveal tasty Portobello mushrooms.

Although prices are not exactly cheap, its American-sized portions justify every cent. After dinner, you can order a drink from the bar with choices ranging from a selection of red and white wines to good cold beer. Despite its distance, the dining experience makes the travelling all worthwhile.

## Not Just Café



### Not Just Café

is in Tower B, #05-17A, Ngee Ann City at 391 Orchard Rd. Opening Hours: (Weekdays) 8am to 8.30pm, (Saturdays) 11am to 9pm, (Sundays) noon to 8pm Tel: 8341968.

Kenny Yek

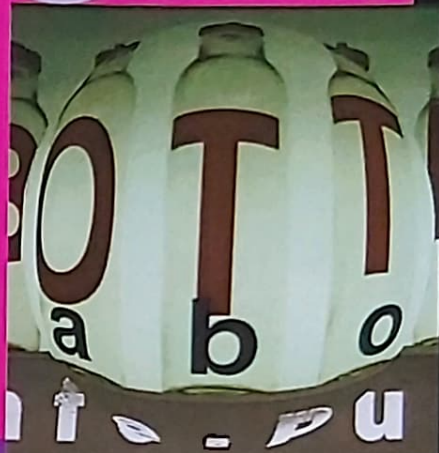


When night falls, it's time to chill out in the coolness of 21<sup>st</sup> century post-modern interior décor. Indulge with reckless abandon as **Tricia Ng** draws you into über-space.

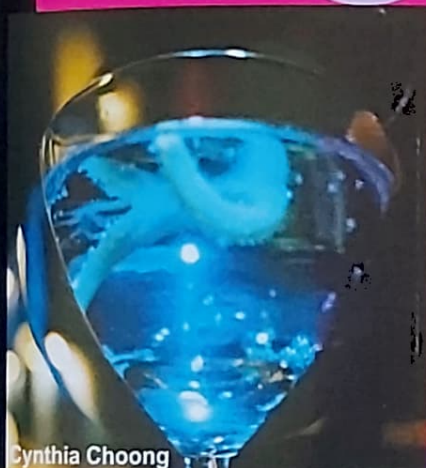
Timeout Night

You can safely consume alcohol in this "lab" without fear of it exploding. Not to be confused with the award-winning The Lab Bar in Soho, London, Bottles Up is a combustible combination of cheap drinks, a slick décor and a relaxed atmosphere. This two-storey pub hidden snugly in the H<sub>2</sub>O zone at Orchard will catch your eye amid the sea of other pubs. Extra long test tubes, filled with liquids in different shades of blue, can be seen on the exterior through glass openings in the wall. This unique lab-like pub incorporates a silver-and-blue colour scheme to suit its paintings of molecular structures on the walls. In addition to multi-coloured test tubes mounted on the walls, a large "Periodic Table of Mixology" poster is spotted beside the bar. You can chill out on the comfortable silver seats on the first storey, or climb up a sleek silver roundabout staircase for a pool game at the second storey. Stickers along the staircase read: "Corrosive", "Dangerous Goods In Limited Quantities", and even "Obnoxious". Special alcoholic cocktails like the gin-based "Green Litmus" and the vodka-based "Test Tube Baby", are served in test tubes, beakers and flasks. Prices for the special cocktails, beer, and housepour glasses are \$12.50, \$8, and \$8.50 respectively. To complete the laboratory experience, the friendly staff in white knee-length laboratory jackets never fail to make your night. Bottles Up plays House and Retro music, and changes its drinks promotions every month. Sign up for extra chemistry lessons at 47 Cuppage Road, Cuppage Terrace. Open on Mondays to Saturdays from 5pm to 3am and on Sundays from 5pm to 12am. The happy hours from 5 pm to 9 pm daily. Age Limit: 18 and above. No cover charge. Tel: 7387180.

## Bottles Up Laboratory



## Maker's Bar



Cynthia Choong

This pub/mini club reveals an ultra-modern slickness that screams for attention at Central Square.

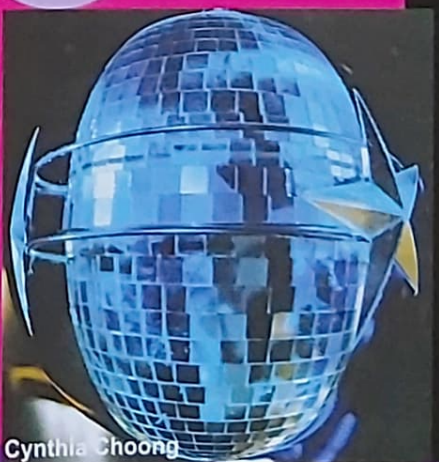
"Futuristic" leaps to mind at the sight of Maker's Bar. This 2-year-old pub is illuminated by numerous spotlights and ultraviolet lights, with white decorative triangular sheets draped tightly over the high ceiling. The bar lights hang down, resembling the protruding eyes of an alien. The place also makes clever use of space by having a large sofa seating area with rounded silver tables cordoned off into a corner of the pub to create extra room to squeeze in another 20 dance music enthusiasts. The spaced-out feel of the pub is further enhanced by the House and Trance vinyls spun on the turntables. Yuppies, as well as undergraduates, flock to Maker's Bar during weekends to chill out, dance, or play some pool. The drinks are affordably priced at Maker's; a jug of beer or housepour costs only \$14 during happy hours and \$28 thereafter. You pay only \$58 to become a member there. Members get to open a housepour bottle at \$80; non-members pay \$150. There are also monthly parties held at the pub, and guest DJs are invited for sets.

Let Maker's make your weekends at 20, Havelock Road, #01-14 Central Square. Open weekdays from 6pm to 1am, and weekends from 5pm to 3am. No cover charge. Age limit: 18 and above. Tel: 4384844.

You may be spoilt for choice at the famous Mohammed Sultan stretch of pubs and clubs, but if you are seeking an eclectic range of dance music and an eye-candy-ish crowd, you may want to step through the silver doors of Nox. This dance club is well known for bringing in a bevy of quality local and foreign guest DJs, for its weekly parties, which are frequented by an ultra hip and trendy clientele. The décor of the club is very innovative and polished; you will be surprised to find that the tables you are resting on are actually made of huge tin cans. The dark ambience at Nox definitely adds to the trancey mood. The vibe of the club is fresh and experimental; expect to hear the inventive sounds of Dance, House and Garage. If you need further persuasion, Nox was also voted as one of Singapore's most happening clubs in the May issue of the well-respected DJ magazine.

Get in the groove at 11 Mohammed Sultan Road. The operating hours on Mondays to Saturdays are from 7pm to 3am, and Sundays from 9pm to 3am. Wednesdays: Ladies' Night. Fridays: \$20 cover. Saturdays: DJ Brendon P and DJ P spin House and Garage. \$20 cover inclusive of 2 drinks; housepour jugs are 1-for-1 from midnight to 1am. Age Limit: Ladies 21, Men 23. Tel: 8352823.

## Nox



Cynthia Choong



## Forget about your travel agent: this literary trip on three different flights of fancy requires no ticket.

### The Little Prince



Title: *The Little Prince*  
Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



Title: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*  
Author: J.K. Rowling



Title: *Needle in the Groove*  
Author: Jeff Noon

Yvonne Low

Two basic elements – love and loneliness – are truthfully and simply portrayed in *The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's most celebrated and France's most translated work. A modern-day classic, a fable, a lesson to be learnt – *The Little Prince* is all these and more.

Written in the first person, the narrator is a pilot stranded in the Sahara Desert. While he is frantically repairing his wrecked aeroplane, an "apparition" of a little prince appears. All the boy says is, "If you please – draw me a sheep!" Absurd yet mysterious, this request marks the beginning of an enlightening and touching dialogue.

The little prince recounts his experiences with a King, a businessman, a geographer and a lamplighter naively, inadvertently revealing the imperfections in adults, leav-

ing the pilot and reader feeling both moved and stunned. The French author sprinkles subtle satires in the adults' words along the journey; the King orders the little prince to judge an old rat and condemn him to death only to pardon him each time for economic reasons. After all, there is "only one rat".

Here is a tale that will not fail to pull the reader into pondering about the futility and solitude of adulthood.

As we travel with the 2 main characters in their journey of friendship and discovery, we are reminded of the many overlooked details in life. Perhaps it's Saint-Exupéry's unique ability to so successfully convey complex messages in a simple piece that makes it such an enduring classic.

Yvonne Low

Gear yourself up for more magic in J.K. Rowling's latest novel – *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. The much-awaited part 4 of the Harry Potter series has once more captivated both children and adults with a magical world of wizards, dragons and spells. Bookstores heard the ringing of their cash registers even before the fastest-selling-book-in-history's official launch earlier this year.

Since Rowling's successful debut – *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, our popular lexicon has expanded with terms such as "Muggles" (non-wizards like you and I). In this latest installment, readers eagerly discover the dangers and the unexpected twists lying in store for Harry as he begins his 4th year in the "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry".

And it is an enchanting beginning for all when Harry attends the "Quidditch World Cup" together with 100,000 other wizards and witches. We see Harry and his friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, totally daz-

zled by the sport event as they survey "collectible figures of famous players, which strolled across the palm of your hands preening themselves". Yet, amid all the excitement, Rowling does not forget to inject humour and colour that is seen in the feud between cheerleaders of both teams when the leprechauns "darted together to form the words 'HA HA HA!'" because the opposing team had been fouled. While Harry continues his fight with his parents' murderer, Lord Voldemort, Rowling manages to, quite seamlessly, talk about adult topics such as slavery as seen in the encounters with "house-elves". Not to kill the magic by revealing too much, the gist of the excitement revolves round the "Triwizard Tournament" and whether Harry will survive it (but of course we know he will).

Once more, the rising Scottish writer has painted a vivid magical world. Although her stories are fantasy-like and border on incredible, neither children nor adults are able to resist this 636-page offering.

Natalie Tan

"If music were a drug, where would it take you?" The cover of *Needle in the Groove* asks that very question, and in the case of Jeff Noon's breakthrough, experimental novel, apparently, quite far.

Instead of the usual prose, all the sentences are written like a song, with slashes "/" separating each thought in the narrator's head. Jeff Noon uses "sampling" and even repetitions of whole paragraphs to give a cut-and-paste feeling, reflecting the electronic music genre.

The entire novel is about people getting high on music. In this way, *Needle* is refreshing and somewhat different from the fare *du jour* of English writers of clubbing and party narcotics like Ecstasy.

The whole story centres on Elliot, a bass player, who discovers a band under label Club Zuum. He joins the band together with vocalist Donna, heroin junkie DJ Jody and neurotic drummer 2Spot. The band chemistry is unmistakable and music that Elliot creates with this band is in the form of "liquid", a new technology created by Club Zuum. Elliot's thoughts about the band and their music come to-

gether very cleanly with the story. However, the jumble of thoughts make the novel a little hard to understand at times. Elliot's love of the bass and his obsession with the process of "plugging in" the instrument also get a little tiresome, as Jeff Noon "samples" his own writing: "a child of the buzzcocks? oh sure / it's a good way to be got, if you've gotta be got at all".

When 2Spot goes missing, Elliot finds out more about his past than he would like to discover, and also finds the drummer to be a rival for the love of Donna.

Despite the romantic undertones, the novel is far from clichéd. *Needle in the Groove* brings in a whole new type of love and even gets you feeling the way Elliot does – somewhat like a lost and dirty puppy on drugs.

Jeff Noon separates the book into different scenes in Elliot's mind and in his physical reality as well, and describes each thought Elliot makes in perfect rhythm to the mood of the novel. Every scene, like the one with Elliot beginning to play his bass named "heavy on the download", is headlined and prepares the reader in terms of what to expect.





# BARDOT

Warner Music

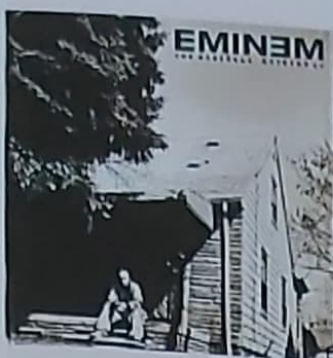
**Bardot**  
You've seen Bardot on the entertaining TCS 5 series, **Popstars**, where 2,000 hopefuls across Australia competed to form a new girl band to inherit the Spice Girls' success. Imagine what talents Sofie, Tiffany, Katie, Sally and Belinda must have to be hand-picked from obscurity this way. With that and a powerful hype machinery behind them, it's no wonder that Bardot's debut single, **Poison**, shifted 70,000 copies in its first week of release, compared to 12,000 for 'N Sync's **Bye Bye Bye**.

Named after the 60s' sex-bomb actress, Brigitte Bardot, this finer version of their spiciness Brit counterpart boasts commendable vocal chords that converge in a perfect seductive harmony in their debut eponymous album. Oozing with attitude, energy, and catchy tunes, **Bardot** encapsulates cutting-edge pop for the Y-generation. The album is carefully crafted for commercial success by international pop song writers like Phil Thornally, who wrote Natalie Imbruglia's "Torn". Other than a quick fix of mindless R&B influenced pop tunes, the Latino-based "Got Me Where You Want Me" and the disco-inspired "Holding On" give this album an interesting variety. Immaculately packaged pop.

## Win Bardot CDs!!

Tell us the names of the 5 Bardot members. The first 5 correct entries will win a Bardot CD each.

E-mail your answer and particulars to [hypemag@hotmail.com](mailto:hypemag@hotmail.com) by Nov 15 2000.



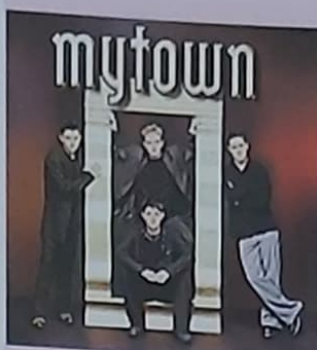
# EMINEM

Universal Music

## The Marshall Mathers LP

Bad, bitter and brilliant. These words sum up Eminem's second effort at telling the world to kiss-off, except maybe not in those words exactly. A white rapper gone black and made good, Eminem, aka Marshall Bruce Mathers III, aka Slim Shady made the African-American dominated rap industry sit up and listen with his phenomenal debut, **The Slim Shady LP**, which sold 3 million copies. Just when his life seemed too good, after 2 Grammy wins, to warrant another angst-ridden record, a lawsuit from Mama Mathers and much criticism from the media fuelled this offering, which is even angrier than the first. The album kicks off with "\*\*\*\* You", where he calls his mother the "crazy one". The anger sustains throughout, seething beneath pleasant keyboard tunes and groovy bass-lines. The winner of this year's MTV Video Music Award's Best Male Video disses just about everybody, from homosexuals, Britney Spears to pretentious relatives. You cannot help letting out a guilty snigger when he mimics LFO's "Summer Girls". As can be expected, "Marshall Mathers", a brooding guitar track, is the highlight of the album. With raw, honest emotions, good music compositions and the notorious Slim Shady brand of humour, Eminem has managed to outshine his previous effort.

Leigh Koh



# MYTOWN

Universal Music

## mytown

An up-and-coming Irish act who insists that it isn't a "cookie-cutter studio production". Yeah, right. According to their official website, mytown actually co-wrote the whole self-titled debut album and played some instruments on it - Marc Sheehan and Terry Daly are on guitars, Danny O'Donoghue plays "absolutely everything" and Paul Walker massages the ivories. Still, their music sounds strangely familiar. With lyrics like "Get down, get on and make some noise / Gonna get down with the mytown boys" ("Party All Night") and "When it's hard to keep my head up girl / You're there by my side" ("Love Sent Angel"), mytown is indistinguishable from other boy bands. However, if R&B and hip-hop influenced pop music turns you on, then this album is worth several spins on your CD player. Tracks worth mentioning would be "Body Bumpin'" (despite the cheesy title), which has an excellent hip-hop beat for grooving, and "Everything She Wants" - a George Michael cover, with funky turntable scratching in the background. The ballads, a couple of which were produced by the members of Boyz II Men, are your usual run-of-the-mill saccharine saturated tunes, though the sensitive lyrics of "Girl in Tears" does deserve repeated listening. On the whole, the album sounds a little too synthesised for a band that knows its instruments. Most tracks feature computer-processed vocals, which gets tiresome halfway through the album. If you are a serious boy band groupie, this album is worth listening to. Otherwise, skip it.

Natalie Tan



# ADF

Warner Music

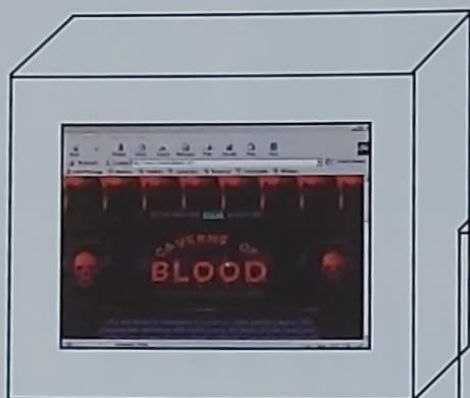
## Community Music

If you missed Asian Dub Foundation's performance at the recent World of Music Arts and Dance (WOMAD) festival, you've missed out on a lot. A highlight at the Singaporean version of the legendary Woodstock, Asian Dub Foundation (or ADF) delivered a set that blew the minds of the half-naked, moshing and bodysurfing audience. And their raw live energy has been captured in their fourth studio album, **Community Music**. This quintet of former teachers and students of a British community music education centre has a cause - minority rights - and music is its vehicle for change. The strong political slant in ADF's music has generated unlikely success for this Indian group, both commercial and critical. With a sell-out concert in America and a single featured in Danny Boyle's **The Beach**, one would think that they are ready to evolve with the mainstream. Yet, like their previous albums, this one walks along their tried and tested path of thumping rhythms, searing guitars, and punk rock edge. The customary in-your-face lyrics once again reflect their obsession with wanting to change attitudes towards Asian minorities. In "Colour Line" they assert that "those who are poor and powerless to break out of their poverty / are also those who by and large are non-white, non-western, third world". **Community Music** is an eclectic mix of sitar-inspired tunes, reggae-jungle beats and mind-numbing, semi-coherent rapping - provocative rather than pleasant. Perfect for the 21st century rebel in all of us.

Redzman Rahmat



Thought you could never... celebrate Halloween, sing karaoke and join a television game show in Cyberspace? **hype** proves you wrong.

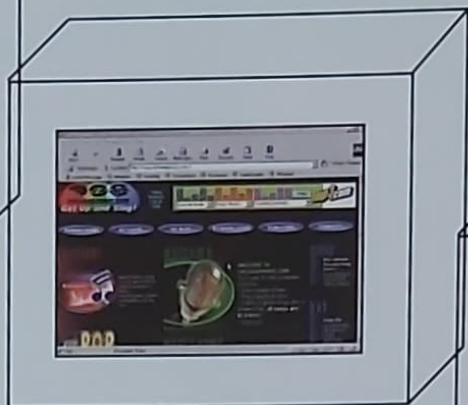


Brave the dark and mysterious Caverns of Blood to fill your sack with skulls and vampires for the Halloween. These caves are infested with blood-thirsty monsters with 1 greeting for you - "Die well". Once inside, a story unfolds with you as the heroic protagonist. Your quest is to find the forbidden Cave of Jewels, which is full of, erm... pictures of jewels. The challenge is to make your way out of each "cave" by finding the hidden link that will lead you to the next one. Not easy. Click on the wrong button and you can say hello to your severed arms or combusted feet. A tip: look out for clues in the story to minimise bodily damage. Only after you have mastered the art of keeping your appendages intact should you even attempt the Castle Quest scenario, where you get to the castle before eternal darkness shrouds Earth. The website claims that only 2 percent out of the 250,000 who tried it succeeded.

Spooky soundtracks and blood-curdling howls accompany your adventures through the blood-splattered pages - enough to make you look across your shoulder every now and then.

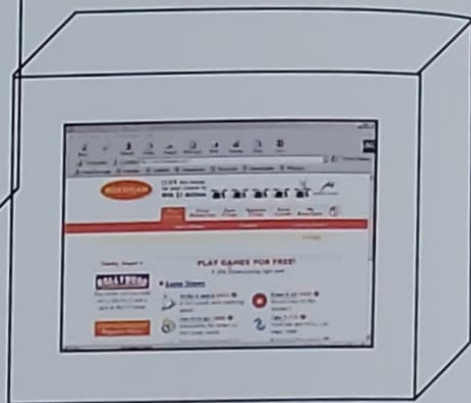
Alternatively, for a quick fix, you can blast heads off Frankenstein and other horror movie characters with the click of a mouse. Or have your fortune told by the virtual "Magic Ouija Board of Horrors". Ditch the mangled-dress party. Embrace the true spirit of Halloween at [www.cavernsofblood.com](http://www.cavernsofblood.com).

Cynthia Choong



Heard of a karaoke bar that never closes? Visit this place now without even changing out of your pyjamas. This online warblers' pitstop offers about 200 free songs in 15 rooms that categorise the songs by genre. Latest pop sensations like Britney Spears and 'N Sync have private rooms to house their massive collection of hits - a far cry from expensive neighbourhood KTV lounges that list "Take That" under "Latest Hits". The streaming format means no lengthy waits for your selections to be downloaded. Just arm yourself with a microphone and the Real Player software (downloadable for free) and you are ready to belt out to your favourite tunes. Invite a few friends home to sing together for that extra kick. These songs are updated frequently to keep you coming back for more. Of course, you will not be able to see Britney Spears prancing around in a school uniform, but at least you will not have to endure some fat, ugly woman pretending to be her in the cheesy pirated videos at regular KTV lounges. For a refreshing karaoke experience, visit [www.eatsleepmusic.com](http://www.eatsleepmusic.com).

Angie Chan



How many times have you solved the **Wheel of Fortune** challenges without even a sniff of the Big Money? Instead of getting frustrated while watching game shows on Saturday nights, be part of a game show with real players worldwide. The rules are similar - solve the puzzle before others and walk off with prizes. While **The Pyramid Game** used to be your only alternative, the co-creator of **Jeopardy!** now lets you join 5 million games online. Engage in popular games like "Strike a Match", where a total of 9 players engage in raging word-matching competitions. Also try the casino-style "Take 5" where you formulate facts with words. Just like all 'live' television game shows, there are "commercial breaks" that allow you to take a breather and recharge. While the games can be taxing on your brains, getting to the action is really simple - no fee is charged, no software is required, and there are no lengthy waits or downloads. So, if you think you can afford some brain cells, come win a trip to Los Angeles at [www.boxerjam.com](http://www.boxerjam.com).

Yvonne Low



Will  
power,  
Wind  
power



A toned physique and a tanned body are not all this young school captain has to show for his love for sailing. With the 1999 Singapore National Olympic Council Meritorious Award under his wing, 16-year-old Cai Weiguo now leads Victoria School's sailing team.

Setting his sights far and wide, Weiguo achieved sailing success not only in Singapore. Last year, he was placed seventh in the ASEAN Optimist Championships in Thailand, ninth in the Asian Optimist Championships held at Pakistan, and ranked 76<sup>th</sup> out of 220 in the Optimist World Championships in Martinique, France. That's not all. Locally, he bagged the East Zone Colours Award for 4 consecutive years starting from 1996, and the National Colours Award thrice in a row. He was also captain of a Singapore sailing team, which won the ASEAN Team Racing title.

Commendable results for someone who only started in 1994 when his father wanted to send him for a sailing course. But the school started a programme. "So I joined and progressed gradually from school to club to national [level]," recalls Weiguo.

These involvements did not mean that his studies took a back seat. To prioritise his 'O' levels, he stopped sailing before the examinations.

As he totes up the cost of victory, he counts bruises, being exposed to the dangers of skin cancer, investment in expensive sailing equipment, and sacrificing his weekends with his friends for sailing practices.

He was out of action for 3 months when he injured himself after sailing in a storm with 3-storey high waves in New Zealand. So tired was he recovering from capsizing frequently that he could not concentrate when he went for a kart ride. He recounts, "I ended up injured when I flew off the kart."

Weiguo stresses the importance of will power in order to be successful in the sport. Explaining why he is willing to forgo so much free time and put in this much effort just to sail, Weiguo replies enthusiastically, "The driving forces behind sailing is my will to win and my wanting to represent Singapore."

In addition to these motivations, Weiguo's love for the sport makes him continue sailing. "Sailing is a sport I have spent ... hours on and it is also something I enjoy. I would want to continue sailing for as long as the wind allows me to."

Tricia Ng

Inspiring youth 

If they were looking for an Asian boy to play Harry Potter, the broomstick-riding young wizard (see book review pg. 26), Jeremy Pei would fit the bill perfectly. The 16-year-old illusionist, balloonist, ventriloquist, juggler and fire-eater, Jeremy Pei, has magic in his soul.

"Sorry, I've just spent the past few hours eating fire," says the multi-talented student from Bukit Batok Secondary School, as he introduces himself with poise and confidence. Strangely, as you watch the young man wipe his brow after enduring the heat of bursts of fire, the greeting doesn't sound that unbelievable, especially when you have just witnessed him deftly juggle three burning sticks at a juggling meeting.

Proof of the youth's good work lies in his long list of awards won both locally and overseas. Recently, Jeremy bagged 8 awards, including 'Magician of the Year', in this year's Singapore Association of Magicians' anniversary dinner.

During the highly coveted "West Coast Magic Convention Stage Magic Competition" held in 1999 in Perth, Australia, he came up tops, making him the first Singaporean to bring home such an award.

To distinguish himself from all the other card-wielding, fire-eating performers, Jeremy brandishes his own style and personality. Originality is something he feels strongly about.

"There are a lot of performers in Singapore who are clones of other performers in the US," he confides, "Their talent can only be apparent with creativity."

Jeremy was 3 when he first started fiddling with card tricks and playing around with old props. His father, a retired magician, used to play videos of magic performances to him when he was young. Now in his teens, a time most youngsters spend looking for direction, he is convinced that magic is his passion and his life.

Every day, Jeremy would practice his magic tricks, barely having time to cope with schoolwork. His friends however, believe that he can be successful in life even without any further studies. But, Jeremy intends to take a business-related course as he wants to start up his own events company eventually.

Performing 3 or 4 times a month, Jeremy earns at least \$300 to \$400 with each show, with prices varying according to the client's budget and location. The money goes into his savings, awaiting a rainy day.

The aspiring performer believes that his craft has a bright future in Singapore. "There definitely is space for magic. Other countries will eventually recognise Singapore for magic – one day definitely."

So if you're thinking of picking up a trick or two, Jeremy warns, top hats and wands are no substitute for showmanship, but confidence is a must. "Anybody can do it if they put their heart into it. But determination and patience are important. If it's impossible, ... make it possible."

Redzman Rahmat

Will  
power,  
Wand  
power







## THE 6<sup>th</sup> DAY

2 Arnies in a movie? No, you ain't seeing double.

This movie is all about cloning, and highlights the dangers and ethical considerations that may surface from this controversial scientific breakthrough.

Set in the "near future", Arnold Schwarzenegger (who already has a whole string of futuristic action movies such as *Terminator* and *End of Days* under his belt), plays Adam Gibson, an ex-military pilot who returns home from work one day only to find that he has been cloned illegally. In the movie, cloning humans is prohibited in respect of the "6<sup>th</sup> day" of creation in the Book of Genesis (that's how the movie got its name) when God took a rib from Adam to create Eve, a task sanctified by God Himself. Predictably, Arnie must get rid of his clone, unmask the masterminds behind this illegal business before they find him so that he can resume a normal life with his family.

This movie has a well-organised plot, but some scenes with Arnie fighting the Arnie clone weren't exactly that spectacular, and were merely run-of-the-mill action choreography. Which says a lot since the climax of the movie is hinged on the battling of the 2 Arnies.

Apart from a different enemy, this movie is similar to other Arnie science fiction action films like *End of Days*, *Terminator 2* or *Total Recall*, which all feature him fighting with baddies like the devil in a man's body, a liquid metal robot, etc..

Expect lots of confusion too, as you try to decipher who the real Adam Gibson is.

A must-watch only for Arnold Schwarzenegger fans and suckers for science-fiction action.

\*Release Date: Dec 21

Cheryl Ye



## CHARLIE'S ANGELS

"3 very different women, with 3 things in common. They're brilliant. They're beautiful. And they work for me."

- Charlie.

Adapted from the 70s hit television series, this sexy action-cum-comedy is about how a highly-skilled woman trio, Dylan (Drew Barrymore), a tough, bad girl, Alex (Lucy Alexis Liu), a multi-talented kung-fu black-belt holder, and Natalie (Cameron Diaz), a brainy chemistry school teacher, are called by their millionaire boss, Charlie, to save a kidnapped future billionaire, Eric Knox.

The actresses prove that they can be sexy, tough, intelligent and funny, especially Cameron Diaz with her campy dance routines. Together, they emanate lots of feminine charm. Kudos too, to Drew Barrymore, who also happens to be one of the co-producers, for pulling off those action scenes well (whoever could imagine the voluptuous Barrymore as an action star?).

Supporting actors like Bill Murray (Charlie's lieutenant, Bosley) and Matt LeBlanc (Jason, Alex's love) also add comic relief to this movie, although some of the younger audiences may not be able to understand some of the jokes from the 70s.

This film is packed with non-stop flying kicks, high-tech gadgets, hot, revealing costumes and funny scenes which cover up for the unoriginal kung-fu scenes ripped-off from *The Matrix* and a plot that is too simple to become a hit.

Nevertheless, *Charlie's Angels* will still charm you into parting with your \$8.

\*Release Date: Nov 23

Cheryl Ye



## DR SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, it's not Santa Claus who will pay you a visit but The Grinch who will be coming to your screens. Imagine a world without presents on Christmas. Well, that's exactly what this movie is all about.

Based on the book by Dr. Seuss, whose books are adored by both children and adults, this movie unfolds a tale about a bitter, cranky character called "The Grinch" who has a heart three sizes smaller than the average human one. Rubber-faced Jim Carrey plays the green menace who quietly enters the town of Whoville disguised as Santa Claus, with the aim of destroying Christmas. How? By stealing all the Christmas presents.

With a well-selected cast including Academy Award winner Anthony Hopkins, Christine Baranski, Molly Shannon and Verne Troyer, this movie is bound to be a hit.

Directed by the Ron Howard, director of *Apollo 13* and *Ransom*, this movie takes you into the dark side of Christmas and the Grinch's evil intentions of destroying the joyous occasion.

Although this movie was written by an author of children's books, it has been given the PG rating due to crude humour which is apparent in most of Carrey's films.

But critics have claimed that nobody plays the part of "The Grinch" better than the multi-talented Jim Carrey. After all his rubber-visage was behind "The Mask", which left audiences in peals of laughter and most certainly entertained.

Well, any film with Golden Globe Award winner Carrey in it is worth watching especially one that is teamed with the professionalism of Howard and the charismatic appearance of Hopkins. Word has it that the part of the narrator for the movie might just go to either rapper Busta Rhymes or the enigmatic Kevin Spacey. So go catch it and watch how cynicism pours forth in this holiday film.

\*Release Date: Dec 7

\*Dates accurate at time of print.

Michelle Pinto



[illegible]

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# Promotions

Buy 2 drinks and get the third at half price

## Not Just Café

Same for ala carte menu

Offer valid from Oct 1 to Nov 30 2000

Present your student card to enjoy this promotion

50% off Buffalo Wings

## Buckaroo BBQ and Grill

(applies to all "levels of spiciness")

Offer valid from Oct 1 to Nov 30 2000

Present your student card to enjoy this discount

\$10 off every \$30 spent at Maker's Bar

Present cut-out coupon upon purchase

Exclusively for Ngee Ann students:

20% off all bar prices throughout the night

Offer valid from Oct 1 to Jun 30 2001

Present your student card to enjoy this promotion

## Maker's Bar

20% off all cocktails

15% off for housepour bottles

## Bottles Up Laboratory

Offer valid from Oct 1 to Nov 30 2000

Present your student card to enjoy this discount

20% off all cocktails (week nights)

10% off all cocktails (weekend nights)

## NOX

Offer valid from Oct 1 to Nov 30 2000

Present your student card and cut-out coupon to enjoy this discount

Free cup of coffee with every \$20 purchase

## Dymocks Booksellers and Pacific Coffee

Choice of coffee must cost \$3 or less

Offer valid from Oct 1 to Nov 15 2000

Present cut-out coupon, Dymocks receipt and student card to redeem your free cup of coffee  
Unit B1-26 One Raffles Link

Free Bring It On poster

## Warner-Golden Village

Present cut-out coupon at the reception counter of

Warner-Golden Village, 68 Orchard Road, #07-10/

14 Plaza Singapura

Offer valid from Nov 1 to Nov 30 2000



fill in that space

Denise Koh

Space. The last frontier. Scientists are discovering new planets and stars every day. With the universe expanding tremendously, it makes no sense that we only have a finite list of overused words like "spaceships" or "space shuttles". Cheryl Ye challenged a few readers to form whimsical New Age words and definitions with the word "space".

①



②



③



④



⑤



⑥



① **space ion**

an open marriage where the couple may choose to live apart or see other people.  
• Michelle Chua, 19, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Mass Communication Student

② **space wood**

the heart of the famous, the glamorous, and the scandalous in outer space.  
• Ronald Ruan, 17, private student

③ **space llusion**

a kind of sickness when a human hallucinates, and sees aliens walking around.  
• Halid Bin Ayob, 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Electrical Engineering student

④ **space ranger**

someone who explores space during his / her free time.  
• M. Lalitha, 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Accountancy student

⑤ **space lympics**

space olympics, which has a total of a 1,000 challenging games and takes 3 light years to complete.  
• Farah Villamayor, 19, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Film, Sound & Video student

⑥ **space dwagon**

the latest discovery in animalistic automobiles.  
• Julia Wei, 18, Raffles Junior College student



**hype**

october 2000