

# hype

APR-JUN 2004  
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YAKUZA OBSESSION | 007  
MOVIE PREVIEWS AND REVIEWS | 009  
IN THE PUPPET BOX | 062  
GREEN'S IN | 003  
NAILS, GLORIOUS NAILS | 054  
KEEPING A JOURNAL | 056  
MP3 VS MD PLAYERS | 044  
FASHION: FUN AT THE BEACH | 024  
WIN AN IPOD MINI | 046  
BLUE EXCLUSIVE | 016  
CYNTHIA KOH AND TAY PING HUI | 041  
THE DARKNESS TAKES CONTROL | 010  
GREAT ADAPTATIONS | 019  
DREAM MACHINES | 049  
TOURING TOKYO | 058  
PROMOTIONS AND GIVEAWAYS | 067  
FRENCH FOR LESS | 034  
COASTAL CUISINE | 035  
HIDEOUT, K BOX, XENBAR | 038  
OPEN MIC NIGHTS | 036





# HIP HOP HUB

SINCE 2002

# HENDRIX BAR

## HENDRIX BAR BOAT QUAY A NEW LOOK.

**CALLING ALL HIP HOP MUSIC LOVERS!  
SHOW YOUR STUDENT PASS AND GET YOUR 2ND DRINK  
ON THE HOUSE!  
SINGAPORE'S PREMIER HIP HOP PARTY HUB! SEE YA THERE!**

## EDITORIAL



There's a melody in every soul, and a beat in every heart.

The grip that music has exerted on people has grown increasingly strong. This expressive power has been the voice of rebellion, liberation and unification, shaping societies for years, but recently, something not much more high tech than a glorified singing competition named *American Idol* has got people so emotionally involved with strangers that it's stranger than fiction.

Before the hottest months are over, you might be the coolest person your friends know, pumping yourself with a thousand of such mind-shaping forces everywhere you go with the latest must-have. A brand new iPod Mini (see page 46 for details of *hype*'s contest) could be beside you as you stroll down the beach, or pamper yourself with a manicure at home.

If you're in the midst of getting beachwear (see page 67 for beachwear promos and giveaways) to flatter that new bikini-line wax, remember to take some tips from us. Your friends will get envious, and that colour of envy might just stay with you for a bit. With that avian epidemic scaring us lately, green might be the colour on our plates as we keep healthy, looking good in that new swimsuit— help curb the virus by killing two birds with one stone I say.

So go out there, vegetate by the sand or by the sidewalk, humming to that new *Blue CD* we recommended, even as you find out more about the singers. Don't feel Guilty. Just remember to bring *hype* along for the ride.

IAN TAN  
Student Editor

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Grab *hype* at these places:

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290 Orchard Road #03-48  
Paragon Shopping Centre

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501 Orchard Road #02-07/08  
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Blood Cafe  
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SOFRA Turkish Restaurant  
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Shaw Towers

Xenbar Pte Ltd  
34A Pagoda Street

Hendrix Bar  
78/79 Boat Quay

The Botticelli Hairdressers  
304 Orchard Road #04-57  
Lucky Plaza



## FEATURES

# contents

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49

Dream Machines



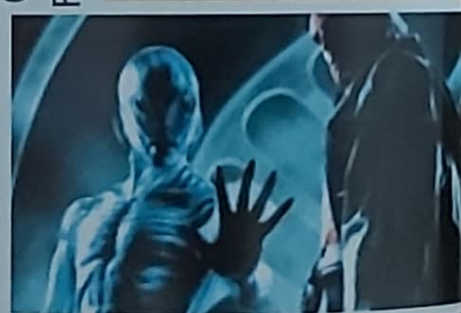
30

Fashion Cents



19

Great Adaptations



16

ALL Rise for Blue



41

At Home With...



## REGULARS

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## The Main Event

Previews 4  
Singapore Streetfest, Bollywood Extravaganza, 12 Girls Concert and Hip Hop / Drum & Bass gig

## Listings

The best events for the summer of 04

## Jazz Up! to Down Beats

A jazz event for young people by young people

## Soundbox

Heart of Darkness 10

The biggest thing in British rock since AC/DC

## Soundbox Reviews

Jason Mraz, Jet, Javier, The Vow Bondies and Disko Bisquit

## Reviews

Best Awful, Blood Canticle, NP Creative Anthology and Bergdorf Blondes

## Land of the Rising Guns

Hollywood's obsession with the world of Japanese Yakuza

## Previews & Reviews

13 Going On 30, Shrek 2 and 50 First Dates

## People

All Rise for Blue 16

British boy band, Blue. Three years and still rising

## At Home With...

41 Homegrown thespians Cynthia Koh and Tay Ping Hui were once children too...

## In the Limelight with Shamima

60 In the Treatment Room with Sylvia 61

## In the Puppet Box with Brian

62 Meet an animal trainer, a bikini-line waxer and a puppeteer.

## Savour

Going Green 32

Go vegetarian this Vesak Day

## French for Less

34 Finally an affordable French food place

## Coastal Cuisine

35 Satisfy your stomach at the seaside shacks on the East Coast

## Till Late

Open Mic Nights 36

The truth about open mic nights

## Reviews

38 Hideout, K Box and Xenbar

## Trek

Touring Tokyo Alone 58

Glimpse the flipside of the capital of Japan

## Sparetime

Nails, Glorious Nails 54

Treat yourself to a manicure or a pedicure at home

## What's in a Journal?

56 Discover yourself on the written page

## Tech

Who Plays It Best 44

The battle between MP3 and MD players

## Apples of my Eye

46 All about the new iPod mini and how to win one

## Reviews

48 The unlikely latest product from Creative

## Chinese

Celeb Talk 63

Catching up with Stella Ng

## Round the World

64 Your essential guide to Taipei

## This Issue's Music Recommendations

65 5th Avenue and Castle

## Promotions

16 Treats especially for you 67

Customised Bikini giveaway, Surfbabe, Stussy, Quiksilver, Xenbar, a discounted DJ Course and more

## Back Door

Singapore Idol 68

For those who still think it's a good idea



## EVENT PREVIEWS



## Singapore Street Festival 2004

Inject a spurt of energy into your lives at this year's Singapore Street Festival, supported by National Arts Council and National Youth Council.

In its third year, the event will showcase the lifestyle of a Singaporean youth at an artistic level.

Emphasising the youth lifestyle in areas of health and fitness, this festival's highlights include mass line dancing, Hip Hop performances and Xtreme sports.

To show the creative exuberance of youth, there will also be street dramas and creative art showcases such as t-shirt printing workshops and a street photography competition and exhibition. 29 May- 13 Jun, weekends only, 3pm - 11pm. Along the stretch of Orchard Road, including National Youth and Skate Park.

Free admission. Visit [www.singaporestreetfestival.com](http://www.singaporestreetfestival.com) for a detailed schedule.

SANGEETHA NAIDU



## "Miracle Live in Singapore" Concert by 12 Girls Band

Chosen from Beijing's Central Music Conservatory to form an all-girl band in 2001, these 12 ladies make up the first Chinese instrumental ensemble to successfully enter the Japanese market. Besides infusing elements of fusion, jazz, modern pop and rock to Eastern and Western classical tunes, they are eye candy as well with their ravishing features and tall figures without sacrificing their Oriental charm. They will be playing pieces like "Miracle", "Freedom" and "Victory" from their album, *Miracle Live*. This is their only concert in Singapore this year so grab your tickets.

Jun 11, 8pm, Singapore Indoor Stadium. Tickets: \$51, \$69, \$79, \$89, \$119 from SISTIC.

JENNIFER KOH



## Bollywood Extravaganza

If you're a die-hard fan of Indian cinema and you wish to meet Shah Rukh Khan or Aishwarya Rai, listen up. You can catch both of them and other Bollywood celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan at the Singapore International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Weekend 2004 held May 20 to 22.

In its fifth year, the weekend will showcase the best of Indian cinema and reward the brightest stars in the industry.

This glamorous event at the Singapore Indoor Stadium consists of the IIFA Forum, IIFA Charity Gala, and IIFA World Premiere, culminating in the Samsung IIFA Awards 2004.

If you can't get past the security at the Grand Hyatt, where the stars are staying, your next best bet is really to get the tickets to this event.

This will probably be the only time you can catch all these stars in Singapore at the same time. So don't miss it!

KAVIN PRAKASAM



## Hip Hop Vs Drum &amp; Bass Gig 80:182

Catering to both hip hop enthusiasts and Drum & Bass fanatics, this event will feature an encore performance by Imran, Syaheed, Deadleft, Ecstatics, Public Eyez and local Drum & Bass DJs, who made last October's event such a raving success.

Organised by *Liquide Magazine*, The National Youth Council and Spektrum (a local Drum & Bass DJ collective), this gig aims to highlight the similarities of both genres and the amazing sound you get meshing both together.

Soak up the ambience and fusion vibes. Highly recommended for the music conscious.

Jun 19, 3pm - 10pm, Somerset Youth Park. Free Admission.

YANA ARSHAD

## EVENT LISTINGS

## The Lord of the Rings Motion Picture Trilogy - The Exhibition

Catch a glimpse of the orcs, costumes and weaponry from the actual set of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy - the Oscars triumph that swept 11 awards, in the only time it will appear in Asia. We get to see it ahead of America.

Mar 13 - Jun 4, Singapore Science Centre

Tickets: \$21 (from SISTIC)

## The New Paper Big Walk

Get ready to work those legs and kick-start a healthy lifestyle. For fun walkers, it's a 7km route, while competitive runners have a choice between the 10km open category or the 7.5km veteran and junior categories. Registration starts Mar 26 till May 16 at any 7-11 store.

May 23, National Stadium, 7am

Fun walkers: \$4

Competitive runners: \$5

## Mother's Day Special (SCO Family Concert Series I)

If you are cracking your head to find a different place to celebrate Mother's Day than the usual feast to at a fancy restaurant, why not bring your mum this 'made for mothers' concert by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra.

May 9, SCO Concert Hall

Tickets: \$7, \$11, \$15 (from SISTIC)

## Stella Artois Starlight Cinema 2004

With 23 days of films and activities lined up this year, Asia's largest outdoor cinema promises to be filled with more movies and themes to spoil even the picky movie buff.

Sign up at <http://www.starlightcinema.com/index.htm> for periodic updates on this year's themes, contests and activities.

Jun 17 - Jul 17, Fort Canning Green

Price: Unconfirmed at press time

## Gaia Benefit Concert for Children's Cancer Foundation

Featuring poems about the suffering and hardship of abandoned children, this gala of classical Indian music and dance aims to raise funds for the Children's Cancer Foundation.

May 13, Esplanade - Concert Hall

Tickets: \$21, \$31, \$51, \$71, \$101 (from SISTIC)

## Mardi Gras

After a successful run in 2003, the play inspired by the pride march of the homosexual community is back for another controversial encore.

Jul 28 - Aug 1, Jubilee Hall

Tickets: \$21, \$26, \$36, \$46 (from SISTIC)

## 17th Singapore International Film Festival

This year's festival expects to screen 300 films. Audiences can expect to view a special tribute to the established Amien Film Festival - patron for the Africa, Latin America and Asia cinematic scene, as well as African cinema, and films from Guinea-Bissau and Congo. Highlights include

Martin Scorsese's highly-anticipated *Blues Series*. Apr 15 - May 1, Various Venues: Prince, Jade, Singapore History Museum, Goethe-Institut

Opening / Closing films: \$21.50

Others: \$8.90

## World Book Fair

This annual event will incorporate the World Chinese Book Fair and World Electronic book fair. Get books, electronic gadgets and educational materials at bargain prices. The Gifts & Collectibles Fair will be held concurrently.

May 26 - Jun 6,

Suntec Convention and Exhibition Hall

Free Admission

## Lunchbox: ublues

A mix of four enthusiastic local musicians, ublues is one of the premiere blues band in Asia. Catch their style of blending blues, funk and soul, at this free lunchtime performance.

Jun 29, Esplanade - Concert Hall

Free Admission

## Creative Anthology: For the Love of God Book Launch

For the Love of God (see book review on page 14) is a local collection of poems written by international award-winning poets and Ngee Ann Polytechnic students. Urban Xchange vocalist Vanessa Fernandez will be performing song interpretations of the featured poems. The anthology will be given out free at this event.

Apr 30, Singapore Art Museum - Glass Hall

Free Admission



## AND THIS SEASON'S MAIN EVENT IS:

### JAZZ UP! WITH DOWN BEATS

Jazz is not exclusive to the initiated. Get ready to tap along with IAN TAN to syncopated beats that you never thought you'd enjoy.

ORGANISED BY ARTS for Us All, "a non-profit society run by youths for youths", **Jazz Up!** is an event that aims to bring the joy and vibrancy of jazz to the younger crowd. The artiste line-up includes Jacinta Abisheganaden, Jeremy Monteiro, the Thomson Jazz Band, ublues and lesser-known local jazz acts – from amateurs to serious enthusiasts.

In the name of bringing jazz appreciation to a new generation, you shouldn't expect the regular jazz standards that you would deem so 20s. Instead, **Jazz Up!** will feature a play-list of smooth, lounge like music – think Groove Armada and Thievery Corporation – that borders along the lines of funk and fusion.

According to Nur Amira, 19, Arts for Us All member in charge of Publicity and Marketing, "the night promises to be fulfilling and enjoyable for youths".

It doesn't end there. Besides selling a compilation CD for charity, in keeping with its aim of educating youths about jazz and killing the elitist stigma attached to the genre, Arts for Us All will also be organising outreach programmes to secondary schools around Singapore.

"Jazz is as upbeat and spontaneous as the youth in Singapore," promises Amira.

So come on down to **Jazz Up!**. It might not be your regular hip-hop club experience, but it's definitely hip to hop to.

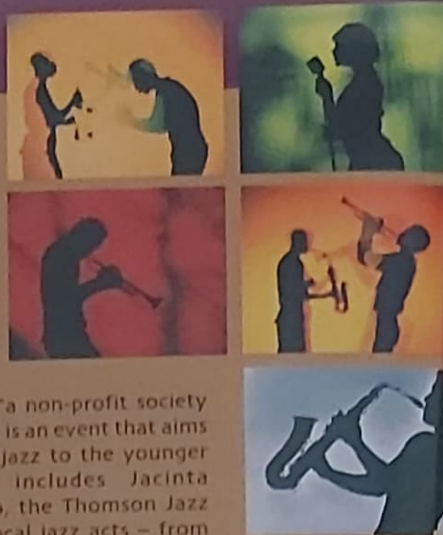
Date: Jun 4 & 5

Time: Doors open from 5:30pm

Venue: Fort Canning Green

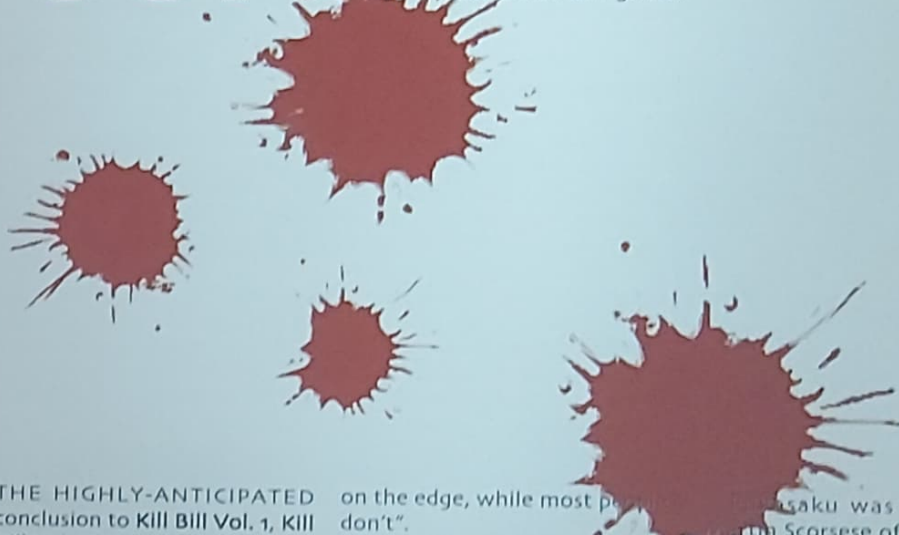
Ticket Prices: \$15 (all proceeds go towards charity)

*Event will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain. The organisers are not held responsible in this circumstance. Information correct at press time.*



## LAND OF THE RISING GUNS.

Stealthily, Japanese gangsters have crept over into Hollywood. Movie buff GERMAINE LIM explores the distinct violence of *Yakuza* cinema and the interest of Hollywood directors over this genre.



THE HIGHLY-ANTICIPATED conclusion to **Kill Bill Vol. 1**, **Kill Bill Vol. 2** by acclaimed director Quentin Tarantino releases in mid April. With this closure, the international audience is once again exposed to the highly tattooed world of the *Yakuza*, the Japanese mobsters.

These mafia of Japan have been feared by generations of Japanese for their extreme aggression and respected for their unwavering devotion towards their tribe.

Reviews Editor at **FIRST Magazine**, Jason Johnson put the appeal to Hollywood down to the fact that, "the *Yakuza* lived very short but intense lives, making them the perfect subjects for movies for both directors and audiences". He added that the captivating element in these movies was the fact that "the *Yakuza* lived life

on the edge, while most people in Japan were named the don't".

In the first instalment of **Kill Bill Vol. 1**, director Quentin Tarantino draws influence from *Yakuza* movies. The first example is in the anime re-enactment of young O-Ren Ishii's orphanage, where the *Yakuza* mercilessly slaughtered her parents right before her eyes and torched the house. And in the bloody showdown between The Bride (Uma Thurman) and ruthless female *Yakuza* boss, O-Ren, The Bride has to slash her way past a troupe of *Yakuza* members before confronting O-Ren to revenge her attempted murder on her wedding day.

The brutal fight sequences resemble those of the late Japanese film director Kinji Fukasaku, internationally-acclaimed for his movies *Toral Toral* and *Battle Royale*.

Scorsese of the East for his numerous productions on the Japanese mob. **Kill Bill Vol. 1** featured body parts hacked off with literally exaggerated bloody fountains spraying out, a distinct trait in *Yakuza* violence.

We may not notice, but *Yakuza* movies have gently influenced or been featured in Hollywood movies first seen in the highly successful *The Godfather* in 1972, which began a series of films that glorified the villain.

Marketing Manager at Cathy-Keris Films Pte Ltd, Violet Kwan explains that the *Yakuza* influence in Hollywood is not so much featuring the members but "elaborated in different premises", like the themes and environment that the characters are set in.





photo courtesy of Dreamscape, The Tattoo Studio

The *Godfather* gained remarkably high recognition among the Italian mafia films influx of the 1980s. While the rest portrayed the mafia as tyrants prowling the night streets, this classic trilogy showed a relation to *Yakuza* films emphasising the show of honour and loyalty to family and enforcing justice instead of simply malicious violence. This equals the prominent *giri-ninjo* theme in *Yakuza* movies, the tension between societal duty and individual penchant.

In *Mean Streets* by Martin Scorsese, lead character Charlie Cappa (Harvey Keitel) is torn between *giri-ninjo* as he tries to satisfy *giri* by fulfilling his filial obligations to his uncle Giovanni (Cesare Danova), and opposing his strict Catholic upbringing - *ninjo*, which morally steers him to help his friend Johnny Boy (Robert de Niro).

Fan website (<http://es.geocities.com/eiga9/articulos/fukasakuandscorsese.html>) quotes Asian film critic Tadao Sato stating that duty and obligation outweigh humanity and conscience in the *ninkyo eiga* (gracious) streets of *Yakuza* movies in the 1960s. Hollywood films adapted this notion and sparked off the phenomenal elevation of the mafia.

This is not to say that the *yakuza* model was an entirely Japanese creation. In the Far East, during the American Occupation in Japan, popular Hollywood gangster movies were screened as native entertainment for American army officials.

The movies leaked out and intrigued the Japanese with the heroic status of villains. By the 1960s, *Yakuza* filmmakers discarded traditional male *Yukatas* and *Samurai* swords for western-styled suits and firearms respectively.

More recently, other Asians have also effected their own updates. Oscar-nominated movie, *Last Life in the Universe* by Thai director Pen-ek Ratanarung casts a more humorous light on the otherwise righteously serious *Yakuza*. This movie features a mob of three flying to Bangkok to seek revenge. Instead of the distinct suits, the members' attire were reminiscent of the J-pop culture with a snakeskin suit and a bright track suit.

Marketing Director at 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, Janice Tay affirms that "on and off there have been movies playing on the *Yakuza*. She cites a personal favorite, *Black Rain*, starring Michael Douglas and Andy Garcia as cops who encounter *Yakuzas* while on an escort mission in Japan. However, she acknowledges the fact that "Hollywood tends to make movies which are [the] flavour of the month".

Tay added that there is "fascination with the Japanese culture" and we can always "expect it to crop up in Hollywood movies". Kwan recognises *Yakuza* influence over Hollywood, stating that it is "growing but not a focal point yet".

## MOVIE PREVIEWS



Photo courtesy of Dreamworks

### Shrek 2

Our favourite green creatures (no, not the swamp thing) are back, after the first instalment grossed US\$481 million (S\$823 million) worldwide. And this time, Shrek (voiced by Mike Myers) and Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz) return to meet the parents - Princess Fiona's father King Harold to be exact. While not quite Robert De Niro, King Harold, voiced by John Cleese (Nearly Headless Nick in the *Harry Potter* movies), is a grump who's not delirious at his daughter's newfound ogre-dom, and who can blame him?

He teams up with Fiona's fairy godmother (voiced by Absolutely Fabulous's Jennifer Saunders) to break up the newlyweds. Expect more spoofs and parodies of pop culture and wonderful voice and comedic talents from both sides of the Atlantic, with other Brits Julie Andrews (*The Princess Diaries*), Rupert Everett (*My Best Friend's Wedding*), as well as Americans Antonio Banderas (*Spy Kids*) and newsman Larry King. There's motor-mouth Donkey (voiced by Eddie Murphy) who steals laughs even from Myers.

MYLENE TONG

### 13 going on 30

Don't expect karate chops and kicks from *Alias*'s Jennifer Garner in *13 Going On 30* because the only fighting will involve fluffy pillows. It's premised on our perennial dream to be older when we're young and younger when we're old. Like David Moscow, whose wish is granted and overnight transforms into a confused Tom Hanks in 1988's *Big*, Jenna Rink (Jennifer Garner) wishes to be pretty and popular on the eve of her 13th birthday.

Some wishing dust later, she finds herself trapped in an adult body with a naked boyfriend (Mark Ruffalo) beside her. The child-adult body-switching bit also calls to mind *Freaky Friday*, which saw Lindsay Lohan in mom Jamie Lee Curtis's bod.

The plot may be far from fresh, but Garner could have chosen much worse than this romantic comedy for her first major role in a movie, and with no help from secret agents either.

MYLENE TONG



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures

### 50 First Dates

Lucy Whitmore (Drew Barrymore) is the kind of girl who's hard to get. Her inability to form anything beyond short-term memories, after an accident, makes her a nightmare to date. It's just the sort of poetic justice Adam Sandler, playing Henry Roth, deserves. Henry's own short attention span has seen him unwilling to commit to any woman, but now he must win Lucy over, over and over again, rather like *Groundhog Day*. Women will probably cheer *50 First Dates* for this. It's the ultimate revenge on a man having to jump through hoops without making any lasting impression on the girl. Barrymore and Sandler, who acted as lovers in romantic comedy *The Wedding Singer*, have obvious chemistry. And his buddy Rob Schneider, who's done so many cameos for him, is totally at ease as Sandler's Hawaiian best friend. While not in the same league as *Memento*, which featured Guy Pearce having the same memory problem, this sweet movie is one you won't forget too easily.

CAROL LIU



Photo courtesy of Columbia TriStar



# HEART OF DARKNESS

Geniuses or buffoons? Rock Gods or catsuit poseurs? Who cares? SANGEETHA NAIDU would rather Brit rock outfit The Darkness rock the airwaves than the bubblegum popstars and manufactured American Idol winners (sorry Kelly and Ruben).



Photos courtesy of darknessrock.com

IF YOU THOUGHT the catsuits, falsetto sing-along and hip thrusting are just part of the act, think again. These are the same cocky blokes that came all dressed in leather and spandex, and used quills to pen their record deal. Now how's that for injecting some British humour in Rock music?

Inking that money-spinning American deal with Atlantic Records almost a year ago is a quirky band with 1.2 million copies of debut album *Permission to Land* sold since July, according to a BBC report.

They've also won a whopping three Brit awards — Best British album, Best British group and Best British rock — out of four nominations at the annual UK music ceremony in February.

The Darkness is made up of 28-year-old Justin Hawkins on lead vocals, synthesizer and guitar, his guitarist brother Dan, drummer Ed Graham, both 26, and bassist Frankie Poullain, 33. The band was conceived after Justin did a rendition of Queen's hit classic, "Bohemian Rhapsody" at a karaoke competition, singing out every line as high as the late Freddie Mercury and jumping off each speaker on stage like a natural born rock star.

"We are as good, if not better than many of today's top beat combos," reckoned cocksure frontman, Justin, in an interview with *The Sunday Times Magazine*. Okay, so the guy isn't exactly modest but when a newbie's been compared with the top dogs in Rock 'n' Roll like Queen and AC/

DC, it's quite a task not being a complete show-off.

In fact, metal magazine *Kerrang!*'s editor-in-chief, Phil Alexander stated in the mag that, "They are shameless... [but are] the greatest British rock 'n' roll band of the last 20 years."

Chew them up by all means, but call them wannabes and you'll really get their goat. "The *New Musical Express* (NME) reviewed our live show... they called us wannabes... [and] said the only darkness we should see is if a real musician puts a bag over our heads and suffocates us," Poullain was quoted saying in an interview with *The Sunday Times Magazine*.

Angsty Justin continues to say that, "[NME] are rotten to the core... at Glastonbury this year, we opened the festival, did a really good show and the editor came up to me... he goes 'You're going to hate me when I tell you who I am.' And then, he told me and I said, 'F\*\*\* off!'"

The editor of NME supposedly got down on his knees and apologised profusely. "We backed the wrong horse, we should have backed you," he apparently said.

He'd obviously taken them for just another loud and outrageous band.

"What have we got that other bands haven't got? Balls. No scrotum. Just balls," says the band on their official website.

So you think you have the *er*, balls to be a rock star in the league of these blokes? Grab your guitar and line your eyes as **hype** shows you the dos and don'ts of rock 'n' rolling your way to instant stardom.



## DO

Stock up your wardrobe with only three types of fashion apparel: Spandex catsuits, leather catsuits and frilly catsuits.

Punctuate your sentences with profanities.

Invest in a fine, long-lasting eye-liner to transform your look from Ozzy Osbourne to Marilyn fashionista Manson.

Keep your locks long, luscious and preferably curly. See Justin Hawkins, Mick Jagger (Rolling Stones), Steven Tyler (Aerosmith).

Add to your treasure box, items with any association to Rock 'n' Roll, like *School of Rock* DVD, classic issues of *Rolling Stone* and **hype**.

## DON'T

Underestimate your band no matter how horrendous your music. A little determination and poor taste on the part of listeners will take you a long way. Trust us.

Trash other bands; the beauty of rock is that it brings souls together so respect their music as you do yours.

Pole dance with mic stands when performing — the only person who has and can pull that off is Aerosmith's Steven Tyler.

Throw away your status as a legit rock star by starring in your own reality series with your family.

Dispose of anything that glorifies rock — any way you see it, this issue of **hype** belongs in your heirloom.



# SOUNDBOX

Illustration: Courtesy of Getty Images, PhotoDisc Green

**Waiting For My Rocket To Come** by Jason Mraz  
If you judge purely on the superficial, Jason Mraz is unremarkable. Yet with smooth, unpretentious vocals, honest lyrics and raw guitar melodies, this Virginian has emblazoned his songs onto radio stations and lips all over the world.

His first single, "The Remedy (I Won't Worry)" debuted on Billboard's Top 25, and second single "You And I Both" has enjoyed time on Perfect 10's Top 20 chart.

This debut album from Mraz is an experimental foray into the dangerous territory of fusion pop. Armed with an acoustic guitar and poetic lyrics, Mraz's infectious blend of pop and a host of other music genres brings to the music world a depth seldom seen in artists so young as Mraz's almost 27 years.

From the ska overtones of "I'll Do Anything", to the feel-good pop of fan favourite "The Remedy (I Won't Worry)", to the hint of Hip Hop reminiscent of early Beck in "Who Needs Shelter", Mraz has all bases covered.

And rather than sound like a mishmash of tones and styles, **Waiting For My Rocket To Come** comes across as what it is – an eclectic assembly of sounds that complement each other while paying tribute to the talent and sensitivities of Mraz.

## Get Born by Jet

Hailing from Australia, Jet is a phenomenal quartet of rocking riffs and bouncing drums. Their hit single, **Are You Gonna Be My Girl** has stayed atop the Modern Rock charts for two months and become the 8<sup>th</sup> most paid-download song in America according to their press release. Apple even used the song for their iPod commercial. It's no wonder they've been crowned "rock's new hope" by *Newsweek* magazine, with critics proclaiming Jet as the genre's salvation.

Despite an obvious AC/DC influence especially on their fast-paced numbers, Jet pulls off slower tunes like "Look What You've Done" and "Move On". Their tinge of retro underlying rock overtones has also won them fans in Europe. Sounding a bit like the Beatles with "Look What You've Done", the vocals scream sincerity but leave you unsatisfied. Maybe it's the effect of ripping tunes from their influences. Jet sounds like a band finding their ground or maybe a good cover band.

Produced by Dave Sardy whose projects included Marilyn Manson and Red Hot Chili Peppers, **Get Born** is no light dose of Rock 'n' Roll.

BY NOELLE PERERA

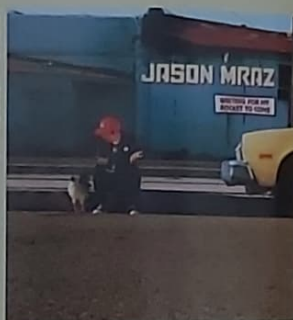


Photo Courtesy of Warner Music

BY BERNADINE SEOW



Photo Courtesy of Warner Music

BY JIE HUI FEN



Photo courtesy of EMI Music

## Javier by Javier

Javier (pronounced as have-e-air) is like *rojak*, a mouth-watering blend of complementary ingredients. Although Javier sounds like a full-fledged R&B singer (think Usher), his music varies from R&B to Soul to delightful Latin-influenced rhythms. Javier, 25, is doing quite well as a new artiste. He was nominated for "Best New R&B artiste" for T M H Honors 2003, by a leading urban music e-zine, in the league of Frankie J, Floetry, KEM and Vivian Green.

Javier's debut single "Crazy" is a swoon-worthy uptempo love song featuring his velvety deep voice. On the track "If I Never Get To Heaven", Javier breaks into a melancholic heart-warming tune so addictive because of its soothing effect. Most of Javier's lyrics are about love, but presented in different genres of music – your best bet for a kaleidoscope of sounds.

## Pawn Shoppe Heart by The Von Bondies

This grunge rock foursome's major label debut album is chockful of Rock 'n' Roll. Think synthesisers, drum and bass, cymbals and electric guitars, infused with vocals that scream with an urgent rage, and you have the sounds of **Pawn Shoppe Heart**.

After the first listen, nothing really jumps out at you. However, the saving grace lies in the lyrics penned by frontman Jason Stollsteimer, that echo sentiments we've all felt, like "ya not so social, just a good drinker" in "Not So Social", or "what I did last night is really none of ya' business" in "No Regrets" and "she doesn't know what she is talking about" in "The Fever".

The Von Bondies pack oodles of attitude. Some songs are uptempo, some mellow and some just plain noisy but listen closely to the heartfelt lyrics and you'll find yourself singing along.

## Studios Everywhere by Disko Bisquit

Local five-piece band Disko Bisquit released their EP, **Studios Everywhere**, named after their habit of studio-hopping, featuring eight original compositions, including three remastered tracks.

Disko Bisquit has been around nearly a decade with their fun-loving early 90s Britpop and Dream Pop style. The early songs, such as "Planet Bong", feature the swirly guitars and dance-y beats typical of the early 90s Manchester bands such as the Stone Roses and Ride, while newer tracks like "Ghost Town" veer into progressive-rock territory with the intricate chord and odd time changes.

This EP will be valued by fans for its collection of songs from various stages in the band's musical career. New listeners should also give this album a listen for an interesting look at a band's evolution as it matures musically and finds its own voice.

BY MYLENE TONG



Photo Courtesy of Warner Music

BY YANA ARSHAD



Photo Courtesy of EP Music



## COVER TO COVER



The Creative Anthology is distributed free at:

Tango Mango Bookshop  
Olio Dome  
Spinelli Coffee Company  
Fat Frogs Cafe  
Cream Bistro

**Creative Anthology: For the Love of God - Ngee Ann Polytechnic**

SOME OF THE WORLD'S most prominent, powerful voices, such as Pulitzer Prize winner Rita Dove, Booker Prize winners Arundhati Roy and Graham Swift, and other literary luminaries stand shoulder to shoulder with local youths in **Creative Anthology: For the Love of God**. Yet, decorated local writer Felix Cheong, in his review of the book wrote, "A moving anthology that leaps into the heart of the truth, seizes the truth of the heart."

The poetry and prose here dwell on two main themes: proclamation – an outward praise for God; and reclamation – the inner restoration of faith.

John Kisella, two-time recipient of The Western Australian Premier's Prize for Poetry, lucidly illustrates the intention of the anthology in *An Essay on Religious Tolerance and Harmony: Graphology 70*:

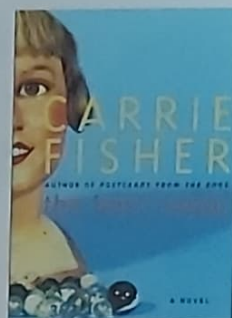
*"So much of it in the making; a design/or haphazard weathering or warlike figures brandishing their names:/ none of that, and no fences we need step across/ threads of electrified fence just connections between thoughts/ that hurt"*

Had these final-year Mass Communication students of the Book Writing and Publishing module at Ngee Ann Polytechnic been anything short of delusional, a book of such ambition would have fallen flat in the face of its own imagining. But the months of endless research on prize-winning writers, relentless e-mails to get permission and clear copyright and faith by lecturer Desmond Kon and students have created a compelling, boundary-breaking 360-page communion of works daring to hope to induce greater awareness of religious freedom and tolerance.

So listen, as these voices, each personal and priceless, compose themselves into a symphony of the divine.

If your soul beckons you to respond, pick up a free version of this anthology, limited to just 1,000 copies and available in 5 different covers.

ADELINE LOH



Available at  
Kinokuniya \$47.17

### The Best Awful: Fisher

Assuming Carrie Fisher's been milking the past decade for material for the sequel to her semi-autobiographical *Postcards from the Edge*, then her latest book, *The Best Awful*, is proof that she's taken a few insane joyrides, and lived to tell the tale. With more of life's lessons on her resume, her new offering's of greater consequence and maturity, though both share the same verve in humour and irony.

*The Best Awful* reels back to its outlandish heroine, Suzanne Vale, a Hollywood starlet who lands up in a mental institution. If that sounds more perverse than funny, Suzanne's vindication offers some answers and laughs. Her husband dumps her for a *man*; she ditches her anti-depressive pills; and binges on drugs with an ex-con. Her escapades land her at the hospital. The plot mirrors a tumble down the hell house but Suzanne's far from brooding, like how she's the "latest loony to hit the bin". *The Best Awful's* delightful, with prose echoing the levity of someone who's been-there-and-done-that.

ADELINE LOH

### Bergdorf Blondes: Sykes

With a name like Plum Sykes, it's no surprise that this author's debut novel takes us into the colour-coordinated and designer-labelled world of the born beautiful, blond and botoxed (think Paris Hilton) in this novel about gorgeous people leading glamorous lives.

The novel's protagonist is an unnamed English heiress whose sole purpose in life is to buy lots of designer togs, wax every inch of body hair and of course, find true love in New York's high society.

Happy moments are when she gets invited to super hush-hush designer sales and sad moments are when her mother calls to pester her to marry the Earl next door. The poor dear...

Sounds like any other fluffy chick read with a pink cover? Well it is... so don't be surprised if you know how it'll end by the third page.

Whether to show up blondes for being the airheads they supposedly are, or a reflection of Sykes's own depth, this is a vaporous read that's as stimulating as watching mould grow on your Louis Vuitton.

CORAL ANNE TONG



Available at Borders  
Hardcovers - \$42.95  
Paperback - \$17.35

### Blood Canticle: Rice

In this, the 10<sup>th</sup> and final volume of Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles*, we face the Vampire Lestat again. Reclaiming his role of narrator for the last time, the undead charmer returns to tantalise readers with his lust for life.

The story continues from where the chronicles last left off: In the haunted estate and swamps of Blackwood Farm. To save witch Mona Mayfair from death, he bestows upon her the gift of vampirism, creating one of the most dangerous vampires of all Rice's novels. The spirit of her long-dead Uncle Julian descends to wreak vengeance, all this while Lestat makes desperate attempts to make something honestly good of himself.

While Lestat is still the irresistible devil we've grown to love, his new 21<sup>st</sup> century-compatible vernacular diminishes the old-world charm that made him so endearing. If Rice thought this would make him a creature of the new millennium, she forgets it also makes him sound like he is trying too hard, which any fan knows the Brat Prince never has to do.

While the book isn't bad, it can't match the now-classic *Interview with the Vampire*. It lacks the fabulous climax fans have been waiting for. Readers don't find out the fates of old faves like the guilt-ridden Louis, the mysterious Pandora and ancient twins Mekare and Maharet. Unanswered questions and dangling strings leave fans clamouring for more: Perhaps just the effect Rice wants to make sure her chronicles will always be remembered.

NOELLE PERERA



Available at  
Kinokuniya (\$46.32)



# ALL RISE FOR BLUE

Just three years in showbiz and these guys are rated the best British boy band worldwide. Join SHIVANI MALIK as she indulges in Blue's dishy good looks, which might just be the secret of their success.



"IT'S KINDA FUNNY how life can change. Can flip 180 in a matter of days..." sang Blue.

All Rise, and they did. This May, Blue celebrates three years of their sudden rise to fame since the release of their debut single, *All Rise* in 2001. The single reached the number one spot in the album charts after a sensational 23 weeks, according to the British music webzine, *Anglo Plugging*.

"Because of how big we went straightaway, it was kind of hard to keep [our] feet on the floor. Well, we have good families and good friends [so] it was easy to be just normal. And people saw that about us," says vocalist, Simon Webb, 25, at a conference in Singapore.

Comprising of London-based vocalists Simon Webb, 25, Antony Daniel Costa, 23, Duncan Mathew James, 25, and lead-singer Lee Ryan, 20-years-old, Blue was formed very much out-of-the-blue.

"[It was at the] audition where I met the boys. We became friends, kept in contact and then we just decided to make a group ourselves," says Simon.



photos by Ng Liang Chai

This proved to be the boys' best decision yet, as all their songs have climbed the UK top 10 charts. The band's huge success continued when they won "Best Single" for "If You Come Back" and "Best Pop Act" at the Capital FM Awards. After being voted MTV Asia's "Best International Group", Blue also won MTV Japan's Best Pop Video (One Love), and was awarded "Best Newcomer" at The Brit Awards 2002 and Smash Hits Awards – all in a span of three years.

With these impressive successes, Blue ventured into signing collaborations with international superstars such as Sir Elton John for the track "Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word" and Stevie Wonder for "Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours". The boys feel that these collaborations have been opportunities for them to learn and mature as singers.

"Stevie Wonder, as you know, [is] a legend [and] an absolutely fantastic artist. [He] has been in the business since he was 10 years old. We [learnt a lot] from [him] and his main advice was to work hard and be healthy and happy," says Antony.



"It was a privilege to [collaborate] with [Stevie Wonder] and Sir Elton John. Elton John was amazing, a nice guy with a very dry sense of humour. He would call our names [as if] they were names of women. So I was Simone..." says Simon. "And I was Antoine. It's quite surreal," added Antony. However, Blue made it clear that they do not owe their success to such collaborations. "All Rise had no collaborations and that album was successful," says Simon.

The highlight of their career came when they were invited to perform at the opening of the first MTV Asia Awards. "We were here from the beginning and we are still here!" beams Simon. Asian fans certainly want them to be here, as proven by Blue sweeping the coveted MTV Asia Award for Favourite Pop Act this year.

Where fans only recognise Blue's puckish looks and their countless nominations at numerous award ceremonies, Simon and Antony make it known that their journey this far wasn't all that smooth.

"We are not perfect. We are just normal lads doing our job and enjoying it," says Antony. "I used to work in a fridge, stuck in milk... in about eight degrees and I was freezing my hands out. I'm a tropical guy. I like the sun [but] that money helped me get to [the] audition [where we became a band]," reminisces Simon.

As a band, they say they've had their fair share of letdowns. Apart from their disappointment over not being nominated at this year's Brit Awards, Simon said that it was "disappointing for [them] to cancel the Asia tour twice".

"We've had three albums here and the Asian market has supported us so much, even now. I mean, we've not given them anything back yet,

apart from coming to the MTV Asia Awards. It's not for some fault of our own but what we do promise is that we're going to come back and put on a great show," assures Simon.

Let's hope we don't have to hold our breath till our faces turn blue before the boys are back to melt our hearts.

## Summer Sensation

If you think these boys give you a sweet sensation only with sappy sugary songs, think again. Blue's scintillating good looks have been the talk of the British tinsel town, and it's no surprise that they've been romantically linked with a string of celebrities any man would love to date. Go weak in your knees as Blue shares wit **hype** their thoughts on all things flirty this summer!

## On Summer Plans

Simon: "Apparently we have just been told that we have five to six weeks off this summer. So we are going on a holiday! We're all going for beach parties."

Antony: "I'm also going back to my countryside and family [at Edgware, Middlesex, United Kingdom]."

## On Being Sexual Fantasies of Girls

Antony: "Nah not me. We are just normal lads. People find us attractive [and] that's just a bonus but it's still about the music."

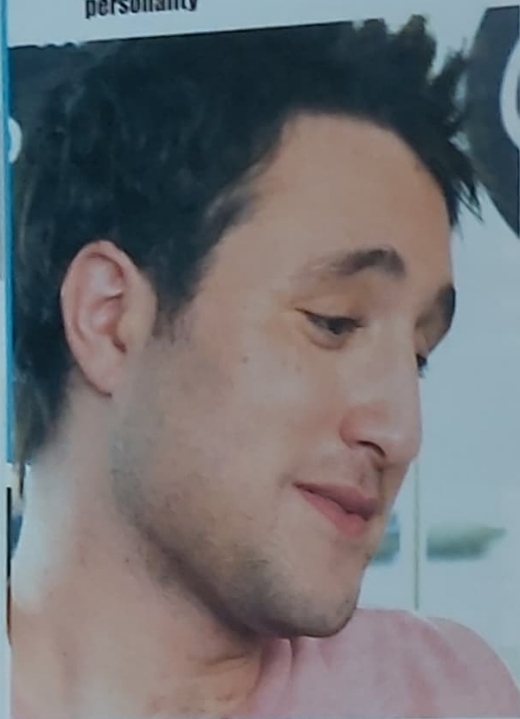
Simon: "Sexual? Me? Us? Nah, don't say that!"

## On Summer Flings

Antony: "On summer nights, the best ever!"

Simon: "I'd say in Tenerife [Spain], relaxing on





the beach. I am not going to go that deep into it now. A gentleman never tells."

Lee: "You... do you want one? If you ask me questions like that, I have to take you to my room and show you."

Duncan: "[Lee] has done that before."

#### On Dating a Celebrity for Publicity

Antony: "Nope, not for me"

Simon: "Depends on whom it is but I hope not. No, I want a normal girl. I have been single for two years now and I have seen how some of the girls are like."

Duncan: "Lee has."

Lee: "I have dated Liz [McClarnon] from Atomic Kitten." And he's also asked English actress Michelle Collins, who starred in BBC television soap-opera *Eastenders*, out for a date on television, according to *Ananova.com*.

#### On Celebrity Publicity Stunts

Antony: "Justin Timberlake, Justin Timberlake, Justin Timberlake. He's a nice guy. I mean last year at the Brit awards, it was all about British artistes and their best work. Us, Liberty X, Sugababes, Robbie Williams - we all won awards. And all [the media] was interested in was Justin Timberlake pinching Kylie Minogue's bum. I don't care, do you care? She got a nice bum and what? It's not about music anymore."

## FANTASTIC FACTS

If you're crazy about Blue, you'd want to know...

1. How long did they take to record *Guilty*?  
Antony: "Four months."

2. How do they get ideas for their songs?  
Simon: "Inspiration from the backing track."

3. And the idea for albums titles?

Simon: "If you'd notice, the first song we released was 'All Rise'. [That was] for the album *All Rise*. Second single was 'One Love' for the album *One Love*. And [in the] third album, the first single was 'Guilty' for the album *Guilty*. We didn't want to break the good luck chain since it worked for us."

4. What is their future album going to be like?  
Simon: "We haven't got that far yet. We don't want to rush to the next one."

5. One love or one fling?

Simon: "One love."

Antony: "One love for the mother's pride."

6. What does a girl need to be to date them?

Antony: "She needs to be funny, just up for laughs and a good time."

7. What's the sweetest thing they've ever done for a woman?

Antony: "Gave her my engagement ring... cost me a lot of money, man!"

Simon: "My ex-girlfriend for her birthday, she had a whole day of pampering. Basically, her mom said that she wanted this diamond watch. I looked at the price and thought since she wants it, I'll get it for her. From the morning when she got up, she had a knock at the door, there was a driver [who] escorted her to the car [and] she didn't know what was going on. She got taken to a hotel: she got pampered from head to toe. She got out of there and got to the car. I gave her cash and vouchers so she went out shopping. As it came to 11, I came home [and] we went for a meal and at 11.59pm I said- 'Just before your birthday is over...' and I gave her the watch."

8. And before we could even ask - Blue said,

"Single, single, single, single!"

Girls, what are you waiting for?

# GREAT ADAPTATIONS

Popular culture icons are moving fast and furious onto the big screen. ADELINE LOH harnesses the winds of change behind 2004's list of movie adaptations.

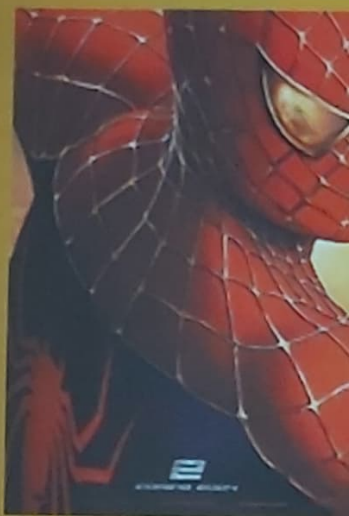


Photo courtesy of Columbia TriStar





**RAISE YOUR HAND** if you've always longed to see your beloved storybook character hop onto the silver screen.

Hollywood filmmakers, ever sensitive to the ringing of cash registers, are leaving no stone unturned in 2004's list of movie adaptations that include feline fetishes *Catwoman* and *Garfield*; netherworld regulars *Constantine* and *Hellboy*; and even a spin-off Jane Austen's classic *Pride and Prejudice* to, erm, *Bride and Prejudice*.

While it's no closet secret that movie adaptations are Hollywood's sweetheart, their irresistible hook has sunk in deeper in recent years.

Half of the world's top 10 box office movies, are adaptations – the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and the first two *Harry Potter* movies – all of which were released in the last four years. Their total earnings worldwide? A cool US\$ 4.66 billion (S\$ 7.97 billion), according to statistics from the *Internet Movie Database*.

No wonder that in the wake of film juggernaut *Lord of the Rings* trilogy's staggering commercial and critical success, around US\$2.8 billion globally, says *IMDb.com*, and a recent sweep of 11 Oscars, movie adaptations are becoming prime acts in the circus of Hollywood mega-pictures.

**What's not to love?**

Let's fess up: It seems almost *too* easy for movie-makers to milk the juices of an established icon. Michael Migliacci, 29, a Film Theory lecturer at the School of Film & Media Studies, Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), says of the copy-cat syndrome: "It already seems to me that adaptations are only being done to make money. If you're going to stick exactly to the original, you might as well get up there and say we're only doing this because we know it's profitable."

Fernando F. Croce, a senior staff writer of the *Spartan Daily* website, in his article "The Tyranny of Faithful Adaptations", shares the same views. "Faithful adaptations are the first types of movies to shrivel up and mummify. It takes far less courage to copy and paste the original author's vision into celluloid than it does to disagree with it, to dare to give a personal interpretation of that work." Touche.

This touches on the movie producer's lingering dilemma: To reinterpret or stick to the original? Migliacci belongs to the camp that prefers to add a little spice to the dish. The New York University film graduate elucidates, "It makes it more interesting for the audience and movie makers if

you put the character in a situation that hasn't been seen before. If people do have the guts to change the original a little, it makes it a little more worthwhile, but also more risky."

Still, not all adaptations are shallow replications of the original. Chua Ling-Yen, 33, an assistant professor teaching film studies at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), helps puts things into perspective. "If you adapt a film from something bad, it's easier for the film to be better. What's difficult is to adapt a good book or popular comic, and still make the film as good."

Then again, producing a commendable adaptation may not be such a tall order considering that more than US\$70 million, according to Chua, is usually pumped into its making. Chua explains that large movie studios are less likely to take risks and hence, "big budgets are given to adaptations that presumably already have an established fan base".

She adds that major media companies are also "consolidated" and comprise not only of a film production division, but also publishing and music subsidiaries. Hence, Warner Brothers could easily take a story from Warner Books, make it into a mega-picture, and the whole of Time Warner Inc. could generate revenue from its subsidiaries' successes.

#### Local Tales

Last year, Singapore's "It" movie was coincidentally an adaptation, marking the first time that Mr Original Jack Neo had used someone else's material in his movies. *Home Run*, inspired by the Iranian *Children of Heaven*, nonetheless went on not only to do beautifully at the box-office, but garnered for its child actress a Best Newcomer nod at Taiwan's prestigious *Golden Horse Awards*. The success was undoubtedly a learning point for the local film industry.

Juan Foo, 30, a film producer at Ground Glass Images, recently produced a tele-movie remake of Theatre Work's award-winning play, *Dirty Laundry*.



Juan, whose movie was screened on Channel 5 in March, reveals his viewpoint as a producer, "I have no preference to either working with an adaptation or an original. However, the only difference is that existing content makes it easier on the marketing of an adaptation. But with adaptations, there comes a certain sense of responsibility to the original product."

He also describes the viability of adapting stage works. "If you're talking about finding local stories to tell, there's a whole pool of theatre content waiting to be transcribed into cinema form. Singaporeans complain about the lack of local stories, but look at the good things coming from the theatre scene."

Writing adaptations can also help local screen-writers develop their craft. Juan explains, "A lot of aspiring writers want to write something of their own but do not possess the discipline to do so. Adaptations can help you get the hang of writing, get your name into the industry. However, if you do want to call yourself a writer, you should be original."

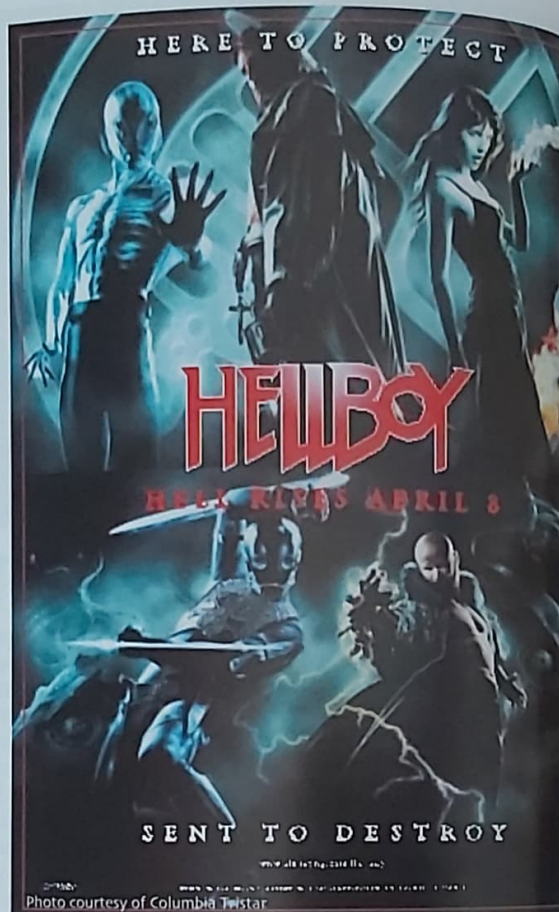
Sun Koh Boon Luang, the winner of the Silver Hugo at the 2002 38<sup>th</sup> Chicago International Film Festival acknowledges that there is a temptation for writers to work with adaptations.

Said the Mass Communication NP graduate, "The problem lies in that we have relatively fewer good stories. With work that is already in existence, it's available to you. It's very hard to find a [new] script that already works [well]."

### The Name Game

Built-in audiences are the crux of an adaptation's commercial success. J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, for example, sold more than 250 million copies worldwide, paving the way for a box office jackpot.

More significantly, as Migliacci puts it, "Movie adaptations leave the door wide open for merchandising."



The cult followings of these popular icons cannot be ignored, though capturing new markets is also a crucial consideration. Migliacci reckons, "The die-hards will be the first ones to see the movie, but often, they'll also be the first ones to shoot it down. Naturally, preserving the authenticity of the original icon is an issue of paramount importance with fans, especially the die-hards."

Speaking for many of these, Murugan Suppiah, 42, an avid collector of comics for the past 36 years, explains fans' possessiveness, "An adaptation is a translation of the author's toil of inspiration and sweat. Thus, deviating from the original implies disregard for the value of art." Chua adds that casting, costumes and settings are

especially important considerations in the making of an adaptation, precisely because fans notice such details, and savvy filmmakers can turn this to their advantage.

She reveals, "Fans were very happy with *Lord of the Rings* because director Peter Jackson actually logged online and tapped into the fanzines and internet discussions. He found out what the fans actually wanted."

Daryl Tay, 20, a books enthusiast, echoed these sentiments, "I loved the adaptation of *Sphere* by Michael Crichton. It stuck very much to the book without too much input from the filmmakers." However, it is unlikely that a film can take the place of the original work in the hearts of fans. Murugan explains, "Reading conjures up images

## ADAPTATION FLOPS

Formula for sure-fire box office success? Not by a mile. These adaptation flops prove you need more than existing work to bring in the moolah.

### 1. Howard the Duck

Even producer George Lucas couldn't save this 1970s Marvel Comics character from sinking into box office ruin. According to an article on MSN Entertainment, by Kat Giantis titled "Bombs Away!", the movie made only \$16 million at the box office, garnering a loss of \$21 million for Universal in 1986. They might have saved some money if they hadn't spent \$2 million on the character's suit...

### 2. Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within

This movie flop cost Square pictures more than millions of dollars in losses – it literally closed down the production house. While the original cost was more than US\$100 million, American takings totaled only a paltry US\$35 million. We say, stick to the computer games...

### 3. Batman and Robin

Superheroes to the rescue? Not this time. According to The Numbers website, the *Batman and Robin* movie released in 1997 grossed only US\$107 million in the United States. Its budget was US\$125 million.

in your mind, gives rise to the thought process and helps paint pictures of a new world. In a movie, everything is cooked, prepared and served before you."

### Full Steam Ahead

With *Spiderman 2*, *Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*, *Resident Evil: Apocalypse* and a motley of other adaptations hitting the screens later this year, it hardly looks as if this melting pot of popular icons is about to run out of steam anytime soon.

Till it does, watch out to see if your favourite character gets to go onto the big screen too.

Who knows, Hollywood may have just seen you raise your hand.





# ON the SUNNY Side of the Beach



On Rahmah:  
Top: Roxy "Waterloo"  
Wraparound Bikini  
\$69

Bottom: Rip Curl "Treasure"  
Walkshorts  
\$52

On Jacqui:  
Top & Bottom: Roxy "Floory"  
Bikini  
\$69

It's time to lift those burdens  
weighing you down, raise the  
anchor and away we go.

"Sonny, it's what you make  
outta it, the balls in your  
court now. Go!"



On Brendan:  
Top: Quiksilver "Smoes" Tank  
\$39.90

Bottom: Quiksilver "Keystone"  
Boardshorts  
\$75



Flirting with Mr. Sunshine,  
Nothing's too hot to handle...



On Rahmah:  
Top: Roxy "Happy Hol" Tank  
\$45

Bottom: RipCurl "Connie"  
Boardshort  
\$59

On Jacqui:  
Top: Roxy "Bring It On" Tank  
\$42

Bottom: Stussy "Cheerleader  
Skirt"  
\$35



On Jacqui:  
Top: Paul Frank "Clancy  
Feelings" Tee  
\$35

On Brendan:  
Top: Quiksilver "Pitstop" Shirt  
\$69

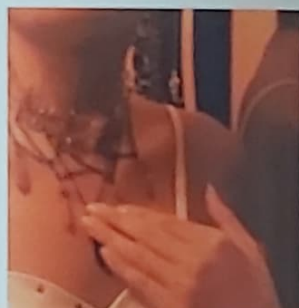
Swing, swing on a  
summer fling, every  
moment is special  
because it ain't lasting.





The smallest big thing to hit town, the new Apple iPod mini, is an outburst of five groovy colours. Let **GERMAINE LIM** and **MELINA WONG** show you what colour best suits your personality and wardrobe.

## COLOUR MY WORLD



WITH COLOURS AND a design so chic, the iPod Mini is one gadget even the snootiest fashionista would strut around with. With a choice of five colours (Gold, Silver, Pink, Blue, and Green), deciding on which of the hues to own might be a difficult choice.

This is where colour therapy comes into play. Fashion houses have long known the influential powers of colours, where their priorities are not just simply creating definitive *couture*, but also creating a theme, often defined by colours, for the look of the season.

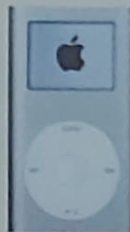
PHOTOGRAPHY: NG LIANG ZHI | STYLING AND MAKE-UP: GERMAINE LIM & MELINA WONG | TEXT: GERMAINE LIM, MELINA WONG



### Claim to Fame

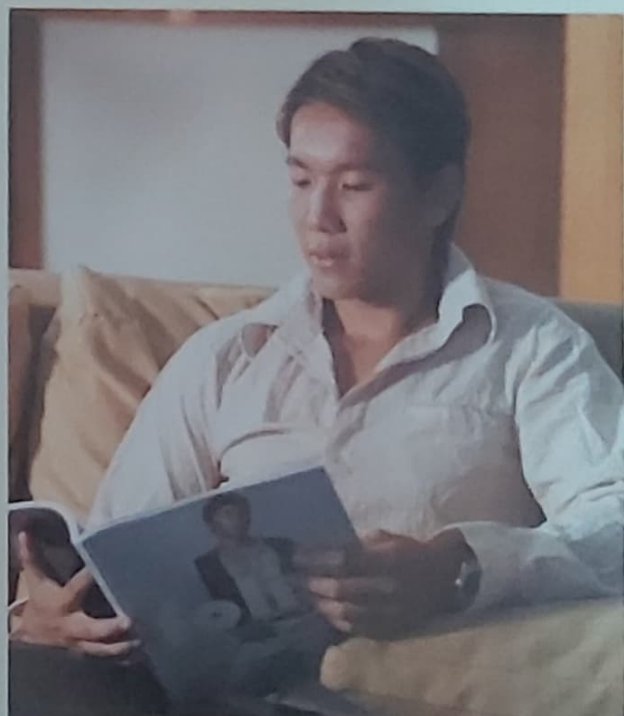
Gold is the colour of ultimate power and prestige. According to Rene Chan, Colour Therapist at the New Age Circle, these people "tend to claim their status in society and command strong respect" and can be "highly expressive to the point of getting argumentative".

Gold people are also known to possess crazy and ambitious ideas. They radiate self-confidence and can be relied on to provide support to people around them. This personality is inclined towards flashy jewellery and dazzling colours.



### Quick Silver

Doomed to eternal second place, perhaps silver can win the mind race with assumed psychic powers and an ability to read minds. Silver personalities tend to inflict distance between people, this is however not to be confused with being aloof, as Chan explains that "they just like to have their own space and time alone". She added that "they only socialise with people on the same thinking level". Silver people are attracted to silver accessories such as bracelets and watches. Clothes tend to follow a softer line, with loose tops and fitting bottoms.







### Something Blue

Blue invokes a sense of calm and serenity. Colour Magic Practitioner, Ms Analize Viljoen says blue people "enjoy life and have fun in a calm and peaceful environment". The blue personality possesses gentle creativity, such as painting and drawing. Chan commends them for "being able to control situations on hand" and their ability to "sustain the confidence... people have in them". The blue wardrobe consists of mostly casual wear. Blue people also dress more conservatively and would not venture far into the flamboyant.

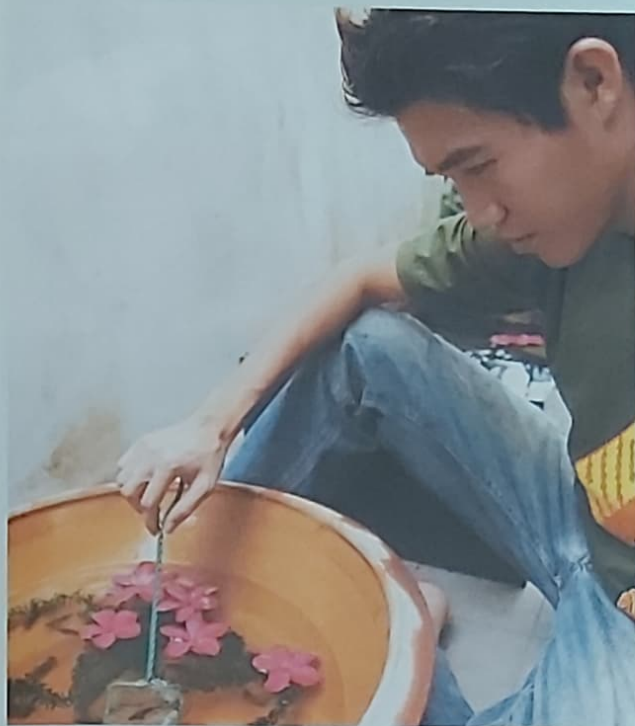


**Pretty in Pink** Pink's the shade of unconditional love and emotions. Master oracle and healer, Mr Muad'Dib, Kal describes pink people as "always open to matters of the heart and emotions". He explains that "it is very common to find them in an aisle of self-help books". This tint of red "corresponds to the feminine essence of the body in both males and females" says Viljoen, and is symbolic of nurturing and sharing. Pink people are often chatty and witty; and for them, brighter colours are worn to draw attention to themselves.



### Green with Envy?

Hardly so. Contrary to the jealous association, the green personality is not competitive. According to Viljoen, "they are just looking for a little space to call their own". Chan describes them as very good sources of support, "like soothing ointment to people". Muad'Dib, Kal, said that a green personality is inclined to community, nature and the environment and that they "see things in the bigger picture". Green people are known to have good fashion sense, and wear earth tones.



### Shop Locations

**One to One**  
14 Scotts Road, #03-95  
Far East Plaza  
Tel: 6 738 3688

**Xzibit**  
14 Scotts Road, #03-100  
Far East Plaza  
Tel: 6 887 5985

**Mazzario by MiMi**  
14 Scotts Road, #03-25A, 25B, 124  
Far East Plaza  
Tel: 6 736 0284

**Oxygen**  
14 Scotts Road #03-41B  
Far East Plaza  
Tel: 6 732 9080

**Collage**  
14 Scotts Road, #04-138  
Far East Plaza  
Tel: 6 835 3031

Check here for the prices and shops locations of the featured items:

### GOLD

Layered frill ballet dress from Mazzario by MiMi - \$79  
Beaded choker from Mazzario by MiMi - \$19.90  
Jewel necklace worn as bracelet from Mazzario by MiMi - \$19.90  
Drop earrings from Mazzario by MiMi - \$19.90  
Hand mirror - stylist's own

### BLUE

Halter worn as tube dress from One to One - \$29  
Necklace worn as Hair Ornament from Mazzario by MiMi - \$12.90

### PINK

Tube top from One to One - \$26  
Beaded necklace from Mazzario by MiMi - \$12.90  
Ring from Mazzario by MiMi, \$9.90

### SILVER

Corduroy jeans from Collage - \$69  
Long sleeve printed shirt from Oxygen - \$22

### GREEN

Printed T-shirt from Xzibit - \$19.90  
Vintage Jeans from Collage - \$139



# GOING GREEN

With Vesak Day coming up in June and food scares popping up over just about everything that moves, SANGEETHA NAIDU picks an alternative, greener and meat-free lifestyle.



Photo courtesy of Whatever...Bookstore & Café

MOBY WAS JUST 21 when he was convinced that there was enough distress in the world without people eating animals as well. Pamela Anderson has decided to *turn over a new leaf*, and heartthrob Josh Hartnett was voted the sexiest meat-free man in 2003. Going vegetarian is evidently way hip now even among celebrities.

But tell that to Singaporeans who live to eat, going by the popularity of food programmes and *makan* outlets with 45-minute queues, and the majority probably turn their noses up on the idea of eating bland economical *bee hoon*. Who would ever take that outside of breakfast if not for dire religious and health reasons, you ask?

Yet, ironically, our taste buds are tantalised by vegetables. According to the Vegetarian Society of Singapore's (VSS) president, Dr George Jacobs, "Vegetarian [cuisine] can be every bit as tasty as non-vegetarian [cuisine]." He continued in an e-mail reply that "the spices for non-

vegetarian food, such as the Chilli Crab, are vegetables... [and] most non-vegetarian food would taste terrible without the flavour provided by plant spices." This non-profit association, conceived in 1999 has grown over the years and now has about "130 members and 1,000 mailing list members", according to Dr Jacobs.

Beijing-born Executive Chef Han Shijun of LingZhi Vegetarian Restaurant at Far East Square said in an e-mail interview, "Vegetarian food is generally associated with healthy eating. With Singaporeans being a health-conscious society, a growing trend towards enjoying vegetarian food is observed."

Still, you don't have to be a health nut to enjoy the diversity of meat-free cuisine these days. With the rich variety of vegetarian flavours available to tease every discerning palate, isn't it about time, you wake up and smell the coffee (which comes from another plant, by the way)?

**Ova-Lacto or Semi? Vegan or Fruitarian? Here's a primer to the wide and varied world of vegetarianism:**

## Semi-Vegetarians

This group of vegetarians do not consume any form of red meat like beef or mutton. White meat such as fish and fowl are okay though. Normally you'd expect the traditionalist will mock this brand of vegetarians.

## Lacto-Vegetarians

Lacto-Vegetarians avoid all forms of meat, as well as dairy products like butter, milk and

cheese. They also avoid eggs and products made using eggs.

## Lacto-Ovo Vegetarians

Rather similar to the Lacto-Vegetarian types, this group also avoids dairy products but are allowed to consume eggs and food products made from eggs.

## Vegans

Better known to us as "strict" or "hardcore" vegetarians, this group's diet stays clear of meat, both red and white, fish and eggs as well as other products made from animals, like honey, cheese and milk.

## Macrobiotic Vegetarians

Rather than going cold turkey (no pun intended) this type of diet progresses through 10 stages whereby each step becomes more controlled. The highest stage eliminates fruit and vegetables, allowing only brown rice to be consumed.

## Fruitarians

We don't know how they do it, but fruitarians only eat fruit or fruit-like vegetables including cucumbers and nuts. An important pre-requisite is to eat foods from plants that are harvested without harming the plant.

# VEG OUT

Although vegetarian fare doesn't necessarily cost less, SANGEETHA NAIDU recommends these budget-friendly places for yummy treats.

## VegePals Café

190 Middle Road,  
Fortune Centre  
Tel: 6338 9338  
Opens: 9.30pm - 8pm daily



Photo Courtesy of VegePals Cafe

## Annalakshmi

5 Coleman St, #02-10  
Excelsior Hotel  
Tel: 6339 9993  
Opens: 11.30am - 9.30pm  
11am - 2pm (Sun)



Photo by Nicholas Ye

## Whatever...Bookstore & Café

20 Keong Saik Road  
Tel: 6224 0300  
Opens: 8am till late daily



Photo Courtesy of Whatever...Bookstore & Café

VegePals Cafe is really just a homey, no frills café cum confectionery where after a long day, you can just put your feet up and bite into your favourite croissant while reading an issue of *hype*. Famous for their eggless cakes, this laid back eatery offers an enticing spread of nibbles, which include a varied choice of croissants such as Butter (\$1.40) and Cinnamon (\$2.60), hot savoury puffs like Tuna (\$2.80) and Curry (\$2). However, if you're looking at a more substantial meal, then sink your teeth into the Shepherd's Pie (\$2.80) or the Sausage Roll (\$2.80). All items on the menu are egg-free and meatless. Dessert fanatics, don't despair. You will simply go crazy over the decadent pies (\$2.80) filled with a variety of fruits.

Sorry pal, you're not going to find any fish head curry on the menu. However, you do get to indulge in a diverse mix of spices and authentic sub-continental vegetarian fare. The meals are so rich in strong spices that we highly recommend you to bring along those breath mints. About 17 years old, the restaurant introduced a new system of payment where instead of stating a price for the menu, they allow you to give a contribution of your choice, unless you are bringing along more than 10 people. You get to try out the buffet spreads that include chutney, *Chapatti*, traditional Indian snacks and rice dishes for whatever sum you can fork out. For parties bigger than 10, there is a minimum charge of \$15 per person for the buffet.

A bookstore, café and healing centre all rolled into one, Whatever...Bookstore and Cafe offers diners a holistic experience. Vegetarian dining has been redefined here with a mouth-watering lunch/dinner menu of earth-friendly dishes that include Roast Vegetable Lasagne (\$10.90), Pesto and Roasted Capsicum Sandwich (\$7.90) as well as Grilled *Polenta* with Tomato Stew and Bread (\$9.90). However, if you're going to be there bright and early, to browse the array of books on healing arts and holistic theories or use the two available lap tops to surf the Internet, then be sure to come hungry to sink your teeth into the breakfast menu that includes Miso Soup (\$6.50) and Muesli with Milk and Fruits (\$4.90).





Photos by Coral Anne Tong

Refuting the stereotype that all French restaurants have exorbitant prices and snooty waiters who refuse to speak to you in English, **The French Stall** is as unpretentious as its name, a refreshing breath of roadside air. The waiters all speak English – albeit the broken version, but we're here for the food, remember?

The many customers who flock here to eat testify to that. An eclectic bunch they are too, ranging from scruffy teens in bermudas and flip-flops wolfing down mussels to French businessmen in suits sipping port. And of course the occasional *Ah-Pek* wandering in, drawn by the KTV-style neon lights used as decor.

A glance at the menu tells you that this place is the real deal. Dishes like Duck Salad *a la Lyonnaise* (\$6.50) and *Escargots* (\$8) are reasonable while presented with signature French flamboyance. Though the melamine plates make it feel like eating at grandma's, who cares when a French Cheese Platter to share among four costs only \$6.80?

If you're still not convinced of its authenticity, take a tactical peek in the kitchen, en route to the toilet, where there is a French chef whipping up the delights.

For starters, the French Onion Soup at \$3 is a good choice. Served with sliced baguettes topped with melted cheese, this soup is light and tasty, while managing not to go overboard with onions. Within two minutes of ordering, the soup appeared. However, it was slightly overwhelming when the main dish came shortly after.

Then try the Pan-fried John Dory fillet served with mashed potatoes. The dish does look small but after the first few mouthfuls you realise that you'd have problems finishing up any more. The fish is cooked to a golden crisp outside, while staying tender on the inside. Or you could go for the Pork Medallions with *Ratatouille* (something like French *Achar*), the meat is nicely flame-grilled juicy and gives that extra zing when eaten together with the *Ratatouille*. Both dishes cost \$9.80.

What's a complete romantic French dinner without a dessert to round things off on a sweet note? The mini mountain of *Profiterole* with Vanilla ice cream tempts even though your stomach's filled to the brim. For a truly orgasmic experience, close your eyes and relish the ice cream-filled cream puff drenched in French chocolate sauce, melting in your mouth. The sweetest part: It only costs \$4.80. At that price, we wouldn't even mind if the waiters were snooty.

## FRENCH FOR LESS

Tucked in a corner by Serangoon Road, amid beer gardens and hardware stores, **CORAL ANNE TONG** finds one of the island's best-kept gastronomic secrets: **The French Stall**.



Address: 544 Serangoon Road  
(a five-minute walk from Farrer Park MRT Station)  
Tel: 6299 3544  
Opens: 3pm to 6pm (dessert and drinks only),  
6pm to 10 pm  
Closed on Mondays

No Reservations necessary

## COASTAL CUISINE

If a coastal retreat is what you're craving during the hottest months, join **SHIVANI MALIK** as she sniffs the seaside shacks for some delicious fun in the sun.



Photo by Lydia Teh

Leisure @ East Coast Pte Ltd  
East Coast Park, Car Park 3  
Tel: 6241 2822  
Opens: 11am - midnight daily

### Beach Cabana

Overlooking the Eastern coastline, **Beach Cabana** is where you can indulge in 100% charcoal-grilled food.

Craving for chicken chunks topped with tangy barbeque sauce? The restaurant's chef's special Cabana Chicken Chop is marinated overnight with an excellent mix of 15 homemade spices and black pepper sauce. The dish is also served with baked potatoes and a plate of grilled vegetables at \$12.50. What's more, you can ask the chef to "customise" the dishes to suit your preferred taste.

If you're there for the lazy ambience but don't fancy seafood served with alcohol, local delights like *Rojak* (\$6), *You Tiao* (\$2) and Bean Curd with homemade lime juice (\$2) are equally scrumptious.

Fresh Oysters, Sambal Baby Rib and Hot Rack Special coupled with fizzy cocktails get the fun meter soaring when Beach-turned-Club Cabana allows you to dance the night away with popular DJs after 6 pm on weekends.

Opened just a year back, the restaurant also hosts lucky dips for those who buy two jugs of beer at \$20 each.

And here's another reason to shake your bon-bons. At **Beach Cabana**, the attentive staff let you walk away feeling pampered without paying service charge or even the hideous GST.

3 sandcastles out of 5

### Yummy Wraps

Get wet, wild and wraps at the beach.

From Gourmet Wraps (\$5.80), to Kebab Pilaf Rice (\$8.80) and authentic pasta topped with a variety of lip-smacking homemade sauces (\$6.80), **Yummy Wraps** is certainly not only about wraps.

Perfect for the cash-strapped, the restaurant serves a range of main courses like Shish kebabs, Baked rice, Caesar salad wraps and Kebab salmon dipped in Special Thai Chilli or Indian Mango Chilli Chutney, each for under \$8.

While the heavy-accented Turkish master chef recommends the entire menu, Turkish Delight – a boat-shaped pizza bread with roast chicken, poached egg, mozzarella cheese and the chef's special tomato-based sauce – for only \$7.80, is his speciality.

Order a Turkish Delight combo to-go with either chips or soup (for under \$10) and you're ready to bask in the sun.

If you choose to dine indoors, be entertained by the jovial master chef, Abdul Rehman Ersoyley, as he flips dough even better than our local *prata* man in just seconds. And oh, don't be surprised if you're greeted with witty jokes in a Turkish-turned *Singlish* accent.

4.5 sandcastles out of 5



Photo by Cheryl Chia

1000 East Coast Parkway  
[Opposite McDonald's]  
Tel: 6226 7887  
Opens: 11.30am - 11pm daily



## THIS SONG'S FOR YOU

Karaoke nights may be fun, but they're just the mediocre alternative for the faint-hearted. SANGEETHA NAIDU dares you to get on stage and strut your stuff at these nightspots.



"I LOVE STANDING up on stage in front of a bunch of strangers and just start performing... it's like being an American Idol contestant with dozens of Simon Cowells judging you," states Ushar d/o Jigindar Singh, a regular patron of **Jazz @ South Bridge**.

Well, the reception's really not all that bad and like other young Singaporeans, the 21-year-old librarian enjoys performing at bars that offer regular open-mic nights, where patrons can get up on stage and perform solo or with the resident band, if any.

Chris Mooney-Singh, 48, of Word Forward Limited defines a typical open-mic night as "a time-honoured tradition in music cabaret, comedy and poetry performance art [where] wannabe performance poets, yarn-spinners, songbirds, stand-ups and mimes learn how to work with audiences in heckling club, pub and café settings".

The programme director of the registered non-profit company continues in an email interview that, "It's an opportunity for wannabe artists to feel the first pre-natal glow of stardom and over time develop writing skills and get performance experience... It's a crèche for newbies and democratic in character."

Unlike some other initiatives to promote creativity, this has not received much direction from the government. Local published poet/writer Felix Cheong said in an email reply, "Apart from the biennial Singapore Writers' Festival, the National Arts Council (NAC) is leaving it very much to private initiative to organise [open-mics], which I think should be the way."

John Wong, 40, co-owner of **Jazz @ South Bridge**, is one of these private bodies who have given been providing "an arena for budding and visiting talents to display their skills, interact with and learn from each other". He observed, in an email interview, that "There is always someone trooping in with an instrument, join[ing] in the piano, bass and drums or sing[ing]" at his bar.

Dying to step out of the shadow yourself? These cool joints are just the places to show off your vocal talents.

### JAZZ @ SOUTH BRIDGE

82B Boat Quay, Tel: 6327 4671/2  
Opening Hours: Fri-Sat 6pm- 2am, other days 6pm- 1am

### Centrestage

Jazz it up good at this unpretentious bar that promises a night filled with great drinks and an excellent playlist of lounge and chill out jazz. Since **Jazz @ South Bridge's** opening in March 2002, the bar has been having these jam sessions weekly for true blue jazz fans.

### I'm doin' a number with...?

The bar's registered with website Jazz Clubs Worldwide so you never know who's likely to come down. Regular performers include pianist Don Gomes, one of Asia's best jazz performers, and club owner Eddie Chan, awarded a Meritorious honour by the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) this year for his support of the genre.



### My Fans

Among the jazz aficionados on Open mic Sundays are those waiting to be lulled by some sultry vocals, so there's some measure of pressure. We should also warn you that regulars include Jeremy Monteiro, Jacinta and Selena Tan, so this might prove to be your first step in becoming the next Norah Jones.

### VELVET UNDERGROUND

17 Jiak Kim St, Tel: 6738 2988  
Opening Hours: 9pm - 3am.  
Closed on Sun and Mon

### Centrestage

Conceived by Word Forward, a non-profit organisation supporting poetry and performance arts in Singapore, Poetry Slam made its debut last May at Velvet Underground, which is under Zouk Management.

### I'm doin' a number with...?

You'll be on your own here considering it's a poetry-reading event. Although it's best not to be entirely *kiasu*, we suggest you go down early to sign up, as there are only about nine slots; five for open mic readings and three for the classic poems recital.

### My Fans

On usual days, the club draws the typical media and yuppie crowds, but on the last Tuesday of every month, expect the artsy types including established local poets and performers like Felix Cheong.

### CRAZY ELEPHANT

3E River Valley Rd, Clarke Quay Tel: 6337 1990  
Opening Hours: Sun-Thur 4pm - 1am,  
Fri-Sat 3pm - 2am

### Centrestage

Don't be fooled by its kitschy name. **Crazy Elephant** is one of the few veteran bars along the stretch of Clarke Quay that offers great drinks that goes down well with live music provided by the house band.

### I'm doin' a number with...?

Sundays at **Crazy Elephant** have been exclusively reserved for open jamming sessions. So if you're in a band that's yearning to be perform in front of a live audience, this is your chance.

### My Fans

Like yours, there are going to be many other struggling bands waiting to get their shot at fame, so sign up early. Patrons of **Crazy Elephant** are predominantly rock and roll fans, so unless you are a Hip Hop/Rap group that's versatile in all areas of rock, it's wise to re-think your stardom strategy.





till late

## HIDEOUT

BY ADELINE LOH



Photo by Mark Ngan

Located at Circular Road, Hideout remains sassily obscured from the usual Boat Quay bar-hopper. This intimate joint, fashioned by three friends as an escape haven for their city-weary friends, requires the anonymity to be, literally, a cushy hideaway.

Hideout covers a small area on the third level of a shop house. There are no signs or bouncers to usher you in, nothing to draw attention to itself. However, despite its discreet exterior, the energy pulsates off its crimson-hued walls once you're inside.

On Friday nights, aptly titled "Beatz in our House", you're likely to find the DJ spinning a velvety blend of house and lounge music a few metres from you, while the yuppie crowd nestles within the intimate environment. Wednesdays are Indie Nights, the lounge's mid-week highlight, while things get groovy on Thursdays, Hideout's Ra Ra R&B & Hip Hop Night.

Hideout exudes a certain casual-chic aura that charms with its delectable plush seats, psychedelic lighting and kitschy colours. Its meld of glamorous curiosities from funky furniture to odd lamps are offset by the casual and coolly comfortable attitude the patrons seem to carry within its walls.

If they ever find out we leaked their secret, don't tell them that **hype** told you. Hideout's limited space is averse to crowds – you wouldn't want your private conversations heard by everyone else. 31B Circular Road. Opens: 7pm-midnight (Wed & Thurs) 7pm-3pm (Fri & Sat), Tel: 6536 9445

## K BOX

BY JIE HUI FEN



With Singapore Idol expected this year, now's a good time to start tuning those singing pipes, which can only mean one thing—karaoke's going to be popular again.

K Box is clean and fun. Here you can aspire to stardom without having to frequent a seedy, loud home to a throng of outlandish girls.

Having opened its new Orchard Cineleisure and Ang Mo Kio outlets in March, the chain is accessible, both in town and residential areas like Choa Chu Kang Lot 1 and Hougang Plaza. With a massive selection of songs in eight languages (English, Chinese, Malay, Cantonese, Hokkien, Japanese, Korean, Bahasa Indonesia), K Box can meet the song demands of most patrons.

At K Box the usual alcoholic menu is halved to fit in non-alcoholic drinks, like fruit juices (\$6 - \$8), hot drinks (\$5 - \$6) and Mocktails (\$11 onwards). The mega outlet at Paradiz Centre (which packs 71 rooms) and the Orchard Shopping Centre outlet serve main courses and finger food cooked upon order.

Open only to members, lifetime membership costs \$5 and comes with exclusive privileges, invitations to special events, and discounts. To enter, patrons only pay for cover charges (\$6 to \$28 depending on the time), which includes one to two drinks. K Box has attractive promotions almost daily. So check out U-Weekly magazine and [www.kbox.com.sg](http://www.kbox.com.sg)

For venue locations, see website. Opens: 11am - 3am, Tel: 6334 3313

## CHEEKY MONKEYS



Cheeky Monkeys is da bomb! The place is literally on fire with youthful exuberance. The club's only been around a year, but it's the only place on the famous stretch of Mohammed Sultan that gets 200 people queuing outside every weekend. It's no secret why. The place is just so fun. There's no club as fun as Cheeks. It's more than the hip-hop and R & B rhythms booming from twin subwoofers on the floor, more than the UK dj dishing it out, more than the fire-flaring, fire-breathing bartenders, who are, by the way, absolutely spectacular. It's more than the insanely generous price for drinks, and the awesome imported lights that send patterns and colours spinning across the floor, the four walls and the ceiling. Cheeky Monkeys possesses the true spirit of unbridled adolescent fun. Once a month on Tuesday nights there are breakdancing competitions on the dancefloor. Also monthly are the talent competitions. Don't scorn at them, folks, the winner gets a bottle from the bar and cash! The hosts are hilarious people. Sometimes if it gets too hot inside, they spray water on everyone! The place gets absolutely trashed in the end, but it's such great fun, it's all worth it. It's a great big smashing party, every single night. It'll leave you high, out-of-breath, soaked and exhausted. But all in the best way possible.



Photos by Jachin Pousson

## Wed &amp; Thurs:

Ladies Night. Free flow of housepours and spirits for the girls. 9pm to 3am. Guys. Free flow of housepours and spirits, \$30. Free flow of beer, \$40. 9pm to midnight.

## Fri &amp; Sat

Guys and Girls. \$10 cover gets you your first drink. After that housepours and spirits are \$3 per glass, \$15 per jug. Just 3 bucks a glass!!! 9pm to 3am, Friday. 9pm to 4am, Saturday.



# SALSA SENSATION

Put on your dancing shoes and let EFTONI TANG lead you to Salsa paradise at Xenbar & Restaurant.

Glowing in exotic sophistication from the red hues emitting from ceiling paper lamps, all three floors of this Chinatown shop-house transform into a miniature Cuba, where passionate *Salseros* lock legs and spin to sexy Latino tunes. The sizzling dance finds its home in Singapore at **Xenbar & Restaurant**, the only local club that plays danceable salsa music seven days a week till 3am.

As you'd expect from a cosy Caribbean haven, joy and laughter are plentiful with the regulars exchanging the latest news and dancing away to *Merengue* and *Bachata* without a care. That's why Salsa is termed a social dance, couples on the dancefloor happily swap partners to exchange dance pointers or make new friends.

Regulars at **Xenbar** consist of professionals like doctors, lawyers and increasingly tertiary students. Ever since Ricky Martin made the Latino beat radio-friendly, other singers including Shakira and Enrique Iglesias have made Salsa tunes more appealing to the younger generation.

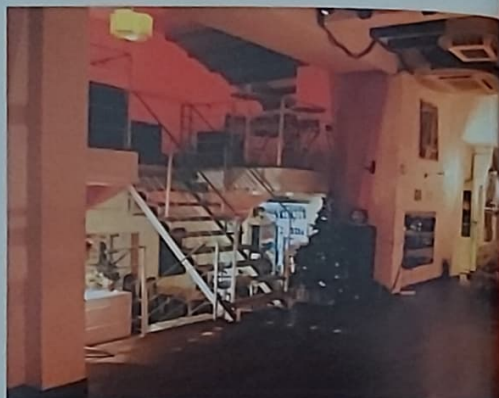
A nice change from noisy clubs with patrons dancing on platforms while high from booze, the last thing **Xenbar** needs is a drunk desecrating the rhythm and ruining the mood of everyone. **Xenbar** makes one feel mature, without sacrificing fun at the same time.

If you can walk, you can Salsa

Good news for those with two left feet, **Xenbar** offers Salsa lessons between 7pm to 8pm (basic) and 8pm to 9pm (intermediate) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. You needn't worry about going alone either because there is a fair rotation of partners.

For an unlimited class pass for five weeks, you pay \$185 to attend lessons ranging from Salsa to Argentinian Tango.

Justin Ong, in his 30s, **Xenbar** Club Consultant and Salsa Instructor strongly encourages Salsa as stress therapy. Burdens slip away and new friends are made as you claim the dancefloor.



## Xenbar & Restaurant

34A Pagoda Street (Chinatown MRT)

Tel: 6 225 2620

Opens: 11am – 3am

Cover of \$32 includes two drinks on Friday and Saturday after 9pm. It's \$15 from 6pm otherwise International Buffet at \$5 nett available from 11am – 9pm daily.

Photos by Mark Ng



# AT HOME WITH...

They weren't star pupils nor typical goody-two-shoes children, but they enjoyed the warm support of family to become the high-flying actors they are today. With Mother's and Father's Day around the corner, **LYDIA TEH** finds out how MediaCorp TV stars and Spice Siblings Cynthia Koh and Tay Ping Hui grew up and why they'd never trade their parents for the world.

Photos by Ng Liang Zhi / Childhood photos courtesy of Cynthia Koh and Tay Ping Hui



THEY BOTH EARNED well-deserved fame when they starred in Channel 8's television serial **Stepping Out** in 1999 where they bagged the Best Supporting Actor and Best Actress Awards respectively. Come April 19, Tay Ping Hui and Cynthia Koh will again play alongside each other in another serial "about the love and intrigue revolving around a family and Singapore's culinary masterpiece, Laksa", according to the **Spice Siblings** website.



## SPICY LASS

### Growing Up

This actress may be petite but her heart has always been set on king-sized aspirations. From her Best Actress role as a long suffering war victim in **Stepping Out**, (where she was also a nominee at the Asian Television Awards) to the plucky, idealistic Yan Yan in hit marathon series **Holland V.**, Cynthia has come a long way. But from her fond recollections of a humble and satisfying childhood which consisted of "a three-room flat [and] short walks to the park and feeding the fishes with bread", we know she still has her feet firmly on the ground.

"I am closer to my mom, basically because my dad was the strict one in the family. And my mother is the type who'd doll us up and make me and my sister look pretty," recalls Cynthia.

In **Spice Siblings**, Cynthia is Ding Zhenzhu, a demure girl who sells *Nonya Kueh* by day but has a controversial nightlife of a flashy beer lady. Similar to her character in the show, Cynthia remembers a racier side to herself.

Even under the shelter of a close-knit family, she confesses to having a mind of her own and being always on the lookout for some wild adventure. "I had a lot of social activities, like clubbing at 15 and taking up modelling jobs even while I was that young." As much as her parents

fulfilled their role as nurturers and caregivers, Cynthia appreciates that they allowed her "space to be independent and grow up".

And it's not just Mother's Day that has gotten her all sentimental either. In an online forum last year, in answer to a fan's question on what she would do with \$100 million, Cynthia said, "I think I would want to bring my family for a world tour first. I want my parents to enjoy themselves to the fullest. It's never easy bringing up a stubborn daughter like me."

### Family Fans

Her devotion to acting caused some stirs in the family when she announced her choice of profession.

Till today, Cynthia is thankful for her family's support in her acting career. "They are always more 'kan cheong' (anxious) than I am [during] every Star Awards," grins a grateful Cynthia.

No wonder Cynthia is all too glad to share a little tip for the upcoming Mother's and Father's days. "It shouldn't take Mother's and Father's day to remember your parents, you should appreciate them every day and more importantly, it's not a Prada or Gucci that you give them that's going to make them happy. It can just be a simple meal. I think I'll try surprising them with a nicely cooked meal because I don't know how to cook at all!"

## MORE THAN JUST LAKSA BOY

### Growing Up

Don't tell Ping Hui that he looks like his mother because he'll beg to differ, "some people say I look like my mom, but that's weird, my mom is a woman!" says the perplexed actor.

"I have some of my parents' basic characteristics; mostly I am a combination of both of them".

The 1.86m actor remembers how much of his boyhood had shaped his independent thinking. "I wasn't an angel in school, I think I'm normal. I was class monitor, librarian... I had my share of fights, arguments and experimentations." And speaking of fights, Ping Hui believes everyone should go through at least one fight in their lives. "I'm not saying they're good, but once you've [fought] you'll understand [why] they're totally unnecessary."

Growing up in a family of six, Ping Hui is a firm believer of family values because to him, "everything can change but the basic family unit is always there".

He remembers how his parents never burdened him with any of their expectations, but rather allowed him to blossom independently into the young man he is today.

"They didn't want me to become a doctor, an astronaut or the Prime Minister of Singapore, but [only had] expectations that I grow up not becoming a bum, and [not involving] myself in crime."

### Family First

Ping Hui plays the character Wen He, the oldest son who returns from England after several years, coming back with a daughter and heartbreaking

revelation of an illness. Somewhat like Wen He, Ping Hui takes his family seriously.

He had his share of growing pains and little adventures like most kids, and during his adolescence, his parents got quite used to him choosing the unconventional path.

"I'm always the one in the family doing the 'firsts', like I was the first to ride a motorbike," even though he has two elder brothers and a younger sister.

Thus, when he made a decision to go into acting, it was nothing new to the family. "I guess if they had any apprehension they didn't sound it off. They know that if I want to do something, nobody can stop me," Ping Hui was quick to add.

"The most important thing that my parents taught me is that whatever the child is capable of doing, whether good or bad, the parents should always be there... that'll be the reassurance that I [will] give my children- it's ok to make mistakes."

### The most important people in the world

The busy actor's got nothing planned this Mother's and Father's day, but proved he's always got a song in his heart for his parents. When asked to compose a little tune for them on these two special days, he wrote a verse pretty quickly:

In times of darkness and in fear  
I know you will always hold me dear  
Regardless of my peaks and valleys  
You two will always be my guardian fairies  
Mom and dad, I love you so  
And here let the truth be told.

"The tune'll have to wait, I'm no Jay Chou!" the witty actor quips.



Catch Tay Ping Hui and Cynthia Koh in **Spice Siblings** from April 19 at 9pm on Channel 8.



# WHO PLAYS IT BEST

iPod, Net MD, Creative's NOMAD are some of the many confusing choices of music players in the market. CLAIR YEO helps you suss out the best buy.



EVERYBODY KNOWS SOMEONE with a portable music player. From the simple radio tuner of our parents' times to the discman, the MD and then MP3 player, music on the move has become an integral part of our lives since Sony introduced us to the Walkman in 1979. Here are some considerations if you're thinking of buying one:

## Upsize mine

An example of the MP3 player is the popular iPod, the ultimate music accessory for the hip teenager of today. "An iPod uses an internal hard disk," explains Fu Jia Ming, 17, a Mac Evangelist (read: salesman) at AppleCentre@Orchard. The iPod comes in three storage choices, the 15 GB, 20GB and 40 GB, allowing storage of between 3,700 and a whopping 10,000 songs.

MD players, on the other hand, rely on external storage in the form of a MiniDisc (MD). This allows for infinite capacity as long as you're willing to buy and carry a lot of discs. Shang Jeen Peow, 27, a salesman at Sony Square says, "[Music recorded on] MDs have better sound quality than MP3s because [due to compression] certain audio frequencies are lost with MP3s."

Verdict: If your music collection rivals a CD store or radio station, then the iPod's probably for you. If you're an audiophile, go with the MD player. Either way, you won't be caught without music for that bus/train ride.

## Multitasking

The "line out" and "mic in" options of the MD players allow you to record from sources besides your computer.

But MP3 players like the iPod and NOMAD & MuVo & TX have tried to compensate for this through accessories like the Belkin Voice Recorder for the iPod, that allows you to record live.

The iPod also "allows you to store your contacts and calendar dates, has games and even has a note function for lyrics", Fu adds. The NOMAD & MuVo & TX's capacity of 512 MB goes a step further, storing other computer files like word documents and image files too. But MD players have fought back with Sony pushing the envelope with the Hi-MD. This 1 GB MD, due out around this time, also will hold both music and data files. Verdict: Both can do the work, it's a matter of how big a thumb drive your player has to be.

## The need for speed

When it comes to choosing a player, the rate of transfer or downloading time from the computer to your player is important. The iPod transfers "1,000 songs in five minutes", says Fu, compared to the Sony Net MD player, which takes "a few minutes for a full disc", according to Shang. A 74-min MD costing around \$3 can hold about 74 songs when recorded in long play.

Verdict: The math's pretty obvious.

## Will you still be here?

Being computer based, iPod's big problem for users is the chances of the hard disk crashing, losing most, if not all, the data. Hence users have to regularly back up on the computer, or risk losing their precious music.

On the other hand, "MDs last almost a lifetime depending on [their] usage such as recording and erasing," says Shang. However, some rogue MD players have been known to erase entire MDs that hadn't been edit-locked.

Verdict: Either way, be careful.

## The price is right

### SONY NET MD PLAYERS

Basic MD player/recorder - \$320

Add to that a radio tuner - \$450

Slimmest and lightest MD player/recorder - \$550

### APPLE IPOD

15GB (3,700 songs) - \$548

20GB (5,000 songs) - \$748

40GB (10,000 songs) - \$928

### CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Creative Digital MP3 Player MX100: MP3 Player with FM radio and voice FM recording, works as a USB flash device - \$220

NOMAD MuVo (1.5GB): Lightweight MP3 player - \$369



## MD VERSUS MP3

Still can't make a choice? Here are what some readers had to say on which they prefer and why...

### For MD Player

"You can record from anything, just plug it into a earphone jack." - Gene Gerard, 20, a student at the Management Development Institute of Singapore.

"Because for [some] MP3 players you are unable to download [songs] from the Internet." - Kim Ann, 20, a third-year accountancy student at Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP).

### For MP3 Player

"Smaller is better." - Muhammad Affandi, a second-year electrical engineering student from NP.

"Because MP3[s] [are] free. The player [iPod] is very 'stylo'." - Jeremy Pan, 20, second-year electrical engineering student at NP.

"Because you have to buy the MiniDisc [which is expensive]." - Evon Low, a 21-year-old accountancy student at NP.





## APPLES OF MY EYE

The ever-changing technoscape gives most of us headaches over new tech toys. BERNARDINE SEOW looks at an amazing gadget that will keep you satisfied for a long while.



**iPod mini—The funky accessory for your colourful lifestyle.**

Apple®'s iPod mini is the newest addition to the popular lineage of the iPod family. The baby of the iPod range, this featherweight gadget weighs a mere 102 grams and is slimmer than the original iPod by a centimetre all round.

The mini boasts a memory capacity of 4GB and can store close to 1,000 of your favourite tunes. Instead of the touch wheel used by the previous iPod models, the iPod mini features the Click Wheel, which provides easy navigation using buttons, thus adding to the durability of the iPod since the touch wheel loses its sensitivity after long use. Encased in lightweight aluminium, the iPod mini comes in five splashing colours of blue, green, pink, gold and silver compared to the previous selection of white and black only to suit even the most discerning fashionista. For how **hype** has interpreted this, please see pg 28-31.

To truly become an indispensable part of your life, it also comes with four exciting games – Solitaire, Parachute, Music Quiz and Brick – as well as an alarm, notes, calendar and contacts functions that are also included in the iPod. It's really everything you need to be a funky mobile warrior.

The memory space could have been more generous, of course, since the most powerful iPod offers 40GB of storage. But with its nifty size and cool packaging, we're not complaining.

The iPod mini will be released in all Apple retail stores possibly after June. Recommended retail price is just under \$430. Want to win one instead? See below for lucky draw details.

### WIN AN APPLE IPOD MINI!



The contest is open to all Singaporeans and Permanent Residents of Singapore, except the staff of Afor Pte Ltd., **hype**, theurbanwire.com and nprubine, their printer and distribution outlets.

Each person is only allowed one entry, either hard copy, or online, based on the participant's unique identity card number. All data fields must be filled for an entry to qualify for the draw. The decision of the draw is final and no correspondence will be entertained. Refer to [www.hypemag.com](http://www.hypemag.com) for terms and conditions before submission. Then tick the box.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

hp: \_\_\_\_\_

ic: \_\_\_\_\_

Just fill in your details below to stand a chance to win an iPod mini in the colour of your choice! Drop off this form at the AppleCentre@Orchard, 501 Orchard Rd, Wheelock Place, #02-07/08, or at AppleCorner@IKEA at 317 Alexandra Rd, #01-00, IKEA Building before 7pm on Jun 30, 2004.

☐ I agree to the terms and conditions.

**hype**

## APPLE CENTRE @ ORCHARD



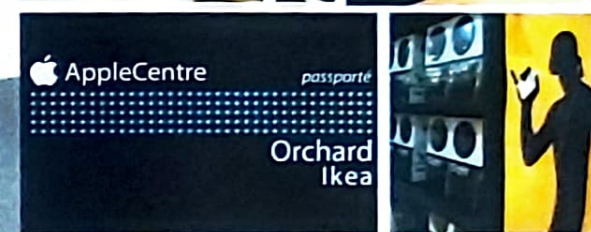
Right at the crossroads of uptown Orchard Road stands the Apple flagship store and Singapore's very first Apple centre **AppleCentre@Orchard** (501 Orchard Road, Wheelock Place #02-07/08), carrying the full line of Apple products and accessories. Developed around the concept of a Digital Lifestyle Hub, this is the only place which has Mac terminals for walk-in customers to try out the assortment of Mac products on display.

**AppleCentre@Orchard** is the best place in town to find out about the latest Mac products. With product launch previews and a monthly e mail newsletter, the store will keep you updated on the newest happenings. Free seminars for all are held here twice a week, encouraging people to come and learn about the latest and greatest happenings in the Mac world. With willing assistance from the staff and the efficiency of Mac operating systems, even new users will have no problem working the slick gadgets. Awarded the Best Apple Centre Award in 2003 from Apple Computer Singapore for its efforts in helping customers learn more about Mac and maintaining a full range of products, **AppleCentre@Orchard** is proud to present the iLife experience.

A fully integrated multi-media experience, iLife can help you create your very own multi-media clip. By syncing Apple's Garage Band keyboard to your Mac, you can compose your own music and process them on iTunes. Photo editing becomes a breeze with iPhoto. And you can be your own director with iMovie. Then collate all your personalised media by simply clicking and dragging files, and burn the entire segment onto a DVD with iDVD. With patented Apple software and computers you can have an entire visual and audio creation with absolutely no prior experience.

Show your valid student or staff ID from private or public education institutions in Singapore and you can purchase selected Mac products at a discounted price, all thanks to the Education Advantage at **AppleCentre@Orchard**.

So, come on down to **AppleCentre@Orchard** and try out the Apple products to experience the Digital Lifestyle Hub and discover why everything is easier on a Mac.



### The Passporte' Card Membership & Rewards

Buy any Mac computer or iPod at **AppleCentre@Orchard** and you will get a free Passporte' Card membership.

Members enjoy exclusive privileges and benefits within the store and shops in Wheelock Place by just presenting their cards.

- 5% off third-party accessories
- Surf wirelessly for free at the store
- \$30 off at Atlantic Optical
- 10% off at Nail Bar
- 10% off at Crumpler Bags
- 15% off at Elephant and Coral
- 10% off at Dolls Inc.
- 10% off at Substance Footwear
- 15% off flowers at Florets and Peddies
- 15% off at Maxi Ho Fashion

**AppleCentre@Orchard**  
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[www.applecentreonorchard.com](http://www.applecentreonorchard.com)



# REVIEW

## CREATIVE DC-CAM 3200Z

BY CLAIR YEO

Digital cameras aren't what you associate with a name like Creative Technology, yet here are the SoundBlaster folks with a second digital camera, the **Creative DC-CAM 3200Z**.

Just what does this camera have to offer? The newer version of its sibling, the **Creative DC-CAM 3000Z**, attempts to stand out by offering as many functions as reasonably possible.

Its paltry 16 MB built-in memory can be used to record MPEG 4 videos of up to three and a half minutes with audio or take up to about 225 normal quality shots. If you burn memory like you do money, there's a SD memory expansion slot for added capacity.

The 3.2 mega-pixel resolution means you can enlarge photos up to 8R size, without much loss in picture quality and this comes with the standard combination of a 3x Optical Zoom and a 4x Digital Zoom. It also allows you to take three successive photos at a go, great for action shots.

Creative, being a computer hardware company, also designed their camera to be used as an external storage drive. Its silver body is hardly stylish but its interface is relatively easy to use. Because of that, first time users should find this typical point and shoot camera a breeze.

Like most digital cameras this is a lightweight at 147 grams – about the weight of two Nokia 6100s. It allows for easy viewing of photos and movies on your television set by connecting the camera via a video output cable that is provided in the package.

For the complete photo-taking experience, the manufacturers have also thrown in the **Roxio™ PhotoSuite®** photo-editing software for you to touch up your shots, as well as the **Roxio™ VideoWave Movie Creator™** for editing videos.

Price: \$429, \$349

(online offer at <http://creativex.creative.com/>)

Photos courtesy of Creative Technology



# DREAM MACHINES

We've seen quite enough of officials waxing lyrical over local creative talent. While savvy talent schools and competitions fund a fresh wave of youth-dominated creative-lust, **ADELINE LOH** asks if our entertainment milk bottles are enough to breed Gen Y's baby talents?



Photo courtesy of Adeline Loh

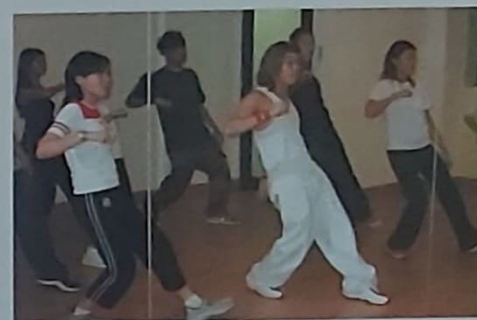


Photo courtesy of Creative Technology Music Project





ASK LAU GEK HOW, 22, for the one thing that carried him through the last four years and his answer will be his pseudonym, *Ishi*. It was the year 2000. Gek How, fresh out of Victoria Junior College, was mulling his impending entry into the army. Introverted and slightly nerdish, his life's cards for the next 30 months were before him. As fate would have it, he picked a wild card.

Fast forward to 2004, and the winner of this year's Honey Hip Hop Dance Battle, first runner up of Funkamania 2004 and former champion of Suntec Dance Competition 2001, is a different man. *Ishi* means determination in Japanese.

"I never knew that I could dance," confesses Ishi, a Mass Communication student at the Nanyang Technological University, who stumbled onto dance classes through a friend. "Dance has changed me to a more confident person. But there isn't much of a future for dancing in Singapore, so I'll only cap it as a part-time job."

Reality bites, and more ferociously for the undiscovered Singaporean talent. Our little red dot is engulfed by practical woes from a tiny entertainment market, to bottom lines, to the lack of creative platforms and self-doubt, each taking their turn at bashing your starry dreams into the gutter. Eventually, it comes to the one critical question: How badly do you want it?

As Irene Ang, 35, CEO of Fly Entertainment and Singapore's darling Rosie on *Phua Chu Kang*, puts it, "As an artiste, you're in the limelight, and everyone has a right to say how they feel about

your performance. In Singapore, you're not paid enough to take this kind of s\*\*\*. It's sometimes not worth it unless you're in it seriously and you want to hone your skills."

Fortunately, the time seems right for that dream to move into higher gear as new avenues are being created to reveal your inner Madonna, Justin Timberlake or Julia Stiles. Plans are in the pipeline for a local pre-tertiary art school by the Ministry of Information, Communication and the Arts by 2007 where graduates receive an International Baccalaureate Diploma in a music, dance, theatre or visual arts discipline.

Take to the streets for a perky dose of pop culture this June for the Singapore Street Festival 2004 where you can perform at concerts or take part in a series of fun workshops like graffiti painting. And for a sure shot at fame? Watch out as *Singapore Idol*, the local version of the popular *American Idol*, sets a blazing trail across the island later this year. Read: This buzz isn't going to die down anytime soon.

#### Made for showbiz

"You need the quantity to find the quality," reasons Sheikh Haikel, 28, local rap-star extraordinaire who's recently released a hip hop album titled *For Sure Too*, "At the moment, there isn't enough quantity."

According to statistics by the National Arts Council, the number of music, dance and multi-disciplinary companies have doubled from 1998 to

2002. Moreover, established talent companies are expanding their breadth of courses and supporting local competitions.

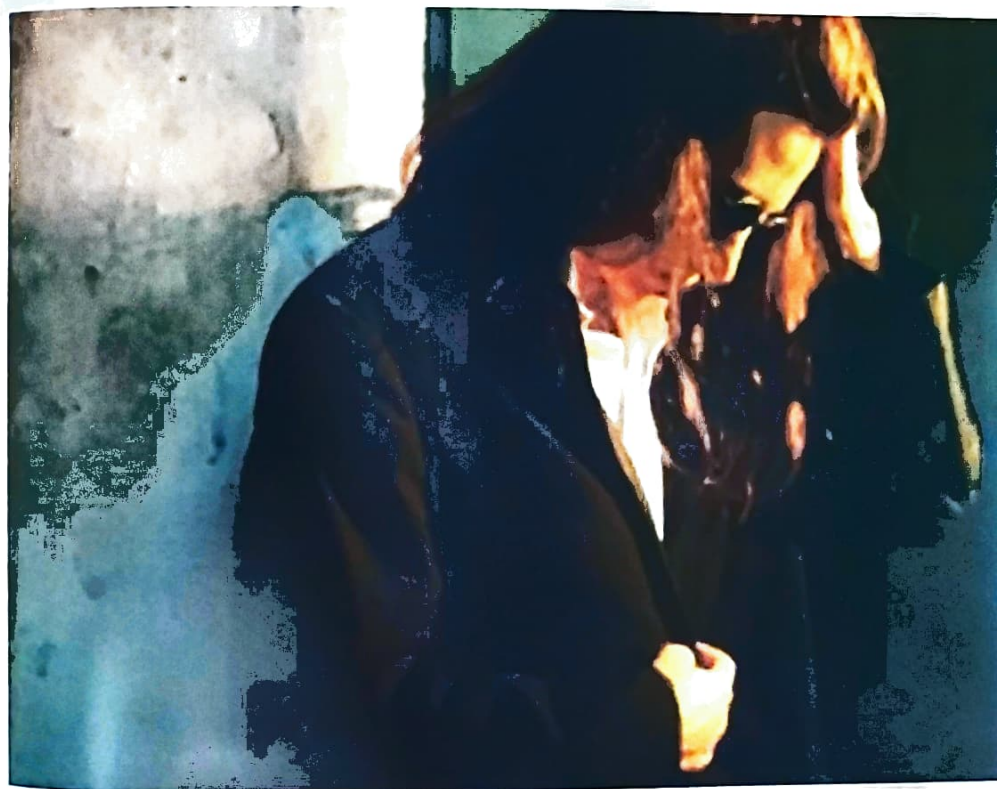
For example, schools like Ocean Butterflies Music Forest have done their math and last November, it added a dancing course to its repertoire of courses, including singing and instrument playing, to rake in the numbers. Their participation in this year's Funkamania, an inter-tertiary dance competition, was good publicity for the school's new dance classes.

Already, the school's music label arm manages singers like Kit Chan, Ah Do and J.J. Lin Jun Jie. The next big name in their stable? Xue Gao (ice

cream in Mandarin), a Taiwanese dance choreographer who boogies with the likes of Jay Chou and Jolin Tsai (see page 66 for review), is conducting popular dance workshops for the school.

"What Xue Gao brings to the students is what he brings to the stars. It's the same style. He shows them how the stars learn," explains Jane Lai, 24, a course assistant for the school.

The same insider training is touted at Fly Academy helmed by Irene Ang. Genevive Loh, 26, marketing executive of Fly Entertainment, reveals, "People like Hossan [Leong] and Irene have been in the industry long enough so they can give you





snippets of information that are more practical, like little tips on how to be on camera, what audition tips to remember."

The academy has since started a new hosting class, conducted by Irene, who has hosted numerous dinner and dances, as well as larger shows like Talent Time. To add to Fly Academy's cred, two of its students bagged good supporting roles in a Bollywood movie, even though other acting veterans were there in the race.

Irene sums up Fly Academy's vision, "We want to find a Stefanie Sun equivalent in an actor. Not someone from MediaCorp but an actor who is being bred by us and who can go out there and give hope to Singaporeans."

### Bridge over Troubled Waters

The people from UAN are launching a quiet revolution, and may well be the creative talent scene's next messiah, given the ambition of their vision. Their core business of setting up a creative talent network, as well as acting as a lifestyle and artiste management company, is the first of its kind on the local market, and one that possesses huge capacity for growth.

"UAN is about realising people's dreams. We're about connecting people and through that connection, help[ing to] create opportunities for collaboration," explains Chan Kwai Sum, a spokesperson for the company.

Terence Quek, another spokesperson, added, "For example, if you want to produce your own album, UAN can hook you up with a songwriter, a sound engineer and the right people and instantly, you have a team. That's the magic of UAN."

The brainchild of seven individuals brainstorming at a coffee session, the synergy behind UAN is interestingly similarly. UAN is an umbrella under which there are several arms: The Next Stage (school of performing arts), UAN Records (music label), Emrys & Masons (events company), Constellation XV (artiste management) and Mission XV (charity arm). Each arm leverages on each other, creating win-win situations for each other.

UAN's new building, "The Avalon", at Devonshire, two minutes from Somerset, is likely to be completed in April, and will provide ample facilities for its artistes to perfect their craft through courses the company provides. The company acts as a platform for aspiring talents to network with the right people. Boasting a partnership with a host of companies, their list of contacts are growing at an exponential rate.

Terence said, "The local talent has not been tapped properly. UAN is here to tap them more efficiently and to help fulfill dreams."

### Sizing up the competition

"To the music industry, they feel that it would be a waste of time to spend money grooming local bands. But through competitions like Jam X, we actually tell the music industry, 'Hey, these people are good! Why don't you give them a try?'" enthuses Charlene Lim Seow Lin, 21.

The Biotechnology student at the National University of Singapore has been helping to organise Jam X, an inter-tertiary band competition, for the past three years.

This year, the finals were held at the Youth Park instead of at pubs previously, and the show is getting better as the number of bands increased to 30 from 22 bands three years ago, with a rise in professionalism and showmanship.

Charlene adds, "Last year, the judges commented that the players didn't tune their guitars before playing, so it sounded quite weird. This year, the judges were very impressed. The standard was comparable to foreign bands."

Sheikh Haikel, who hosted this year's Funkamania, shared similar sentiments. "I was very happy with the rise in standard. Many of the competitors this year brought something different – their own story, own style and attitude."

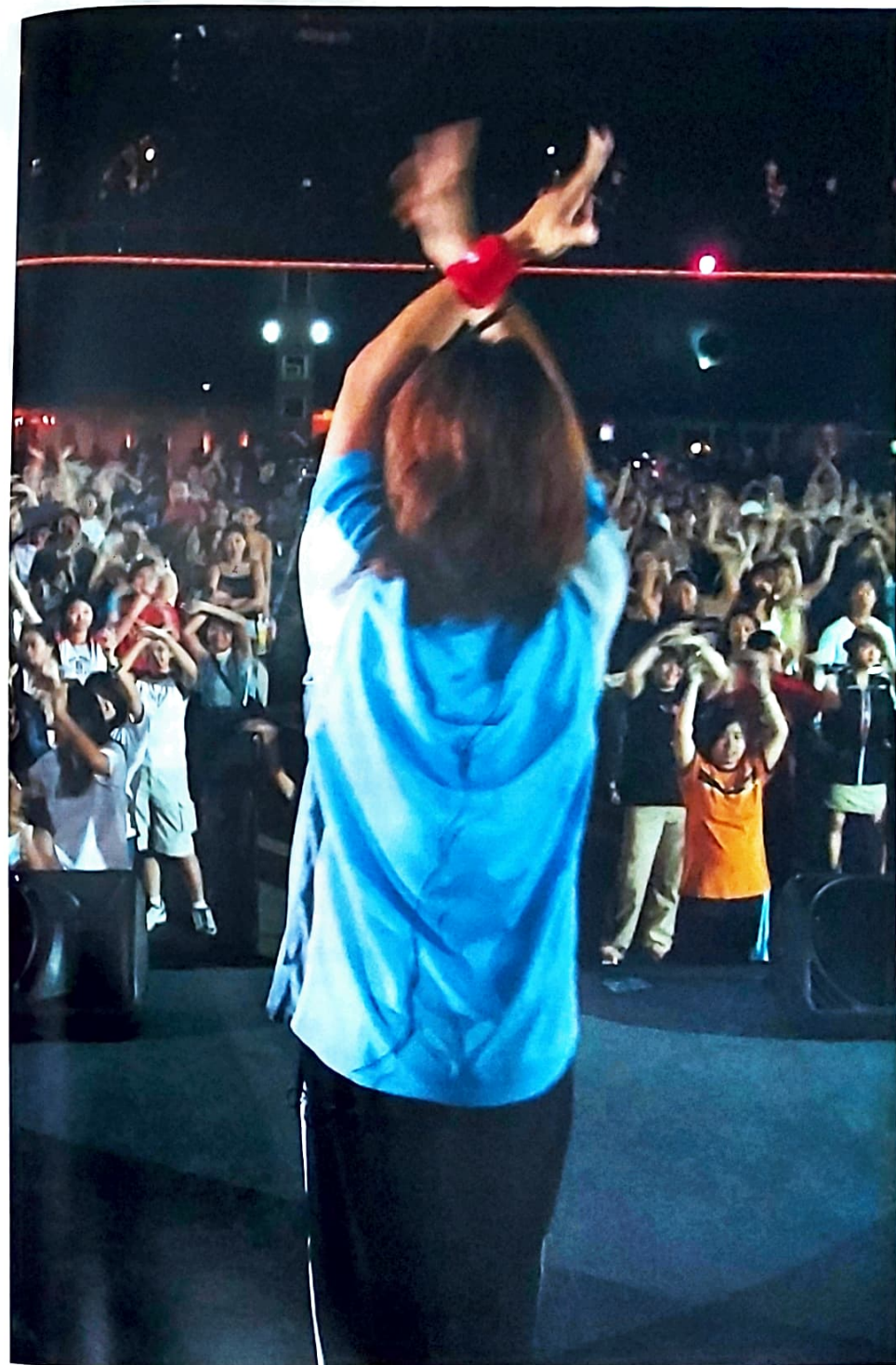
Sheikh also notes the growing participation of the audience at the competitions saying, "I begin to realise that there are more people who appreciate the act than people who do the act. The audience is as much a part of the show as anybody else."

As an artiste, there are many hard knocks on the road to fame. As someone who's been there and done that, Sheikh shared his remedy for disappointment: "With so many competitions out there, there are chances for everyone to make something happen. Always love yourself first before showing yourself to the world. Play the game, don't let the game get you."

### Dream Country

Finally, the dream of hitting the big stage seems a little more accessible. With artiste management companies creating schools for future performers, the anticipation of Singapore Idol and the Singapore Street Festival 2004 in June, and more competitions as performing platforms, our youths are grabbing every opportunity they get, as clearer paths are lit for the seeking, undiscovered performer.

Forces are already set into motion that will unlock a wave of fresh, intriguing young talent. For those who dare to dream, tomorrow holds both a possibility and great promise.





# NAILS GLORIOUS NAILS

As the saying goes: First impressions last. You can look confident for your job interview but if the handshake moment exposes your frightful fingernails, even a great guy may have to join the back of the line, says JANICE LIU.

SOMETIMES, WE SLAVE over our look but forget about our fingers and feet. To complete the grooming package, a good manicure and pedicure are needed.

For students joining the corporate chase soon, it's time to learn more about the nitty gritty details of grooming one's nails and feet. With greater competition for jobs, your potential employer is increasingly unimpressed by dirt stuck in unkempt nails as you hand him that very important resume.

Training manager for the Grand Hyatt Singapore, Natalia Caillon, in her 20s, agrees that having a manicure or pedicure done is a matter of health and personal presentation.

"In the working world, even small details like the nails matter."

Her boyfriend Brandon Rytting, 28, a businessman, who had his hands done twice so far, enjoyed having nicer-looking hands.

"I thought my nails are fine, but... [being] in my own business, the proper presentation is having well-manicured hands. It goes along with the look in a business suit."

This term break, instead of splurging your money to get your nails done in a salon, why not take your time at home and spend a good afternoon showering your nails with love. Guys, if you think having your nails done is effeminate, you might be surprised to know that there is a growing trend of males getting their nails done.

Caillon revealed that some of her male colleagues went in groups of three to four to get their nails done.

"The fact is that men are more conscious of their appearance these days, so why not also get a good pair of nails. It's not like they'll have to wear a coat of paint or something," says Caillon.

Freelance manicurist Cynthia Tan, 35, who had been in business since 1999 shared some tips on how you can keep those nails nice and neat. After the first time cost of buying all the necessary accessories for home nail care, the "only thing you will need to spend in future self nail grooming will be time", explained Cynthia.

"The steps for a simple manicure and pedicure are almost the same, and can be used for both men and women," she says.

## Things you need:

1. Manicure bowl or any small bowl
2. Cuticle softener
3. Cuticle pusher
4. Pumice stone
5. Two nail brushes (for hands and feet), or any old toothbrush
6. Moisturiser/Vaseline
7. Toe separator/tissues, which you twist round your toes like a snake, only if you want to paint your nails.
8. Others include a nail clipper, a buffer and a nail file.

Photo by Leon Zhu Junhao

## Loving those hands:

1. Apply Vaseline on your nails to soften the cuticles.
2. Then soak your hands in warm water for five minutes to continue the process.
3. Use the cuticle pusher gently to avoid cutting your cuticles, as they cause thicker growth.
4. Gently clean the inside of the nails with the cuticle pusher to avoid damaging the nail bed.
5. Shape the nail with a nail file. Use an exfoliating scrub to remove dead skin at the back of your hands, which are usually neglected.
6. Pad on the moisturiser and gently massage around the cuticle.
7. For those who want to add on a coat of nail varnish, use a damp tissue to wipe off the moisturiser on the nails before painting, as paint tends to dry slower when mixed with moisturiser.

## Pampering those feet:

1. Follow steps 1 to 5.
2. Then use a pumice stone and scuff away the dead skin around the heels of the feet and other harder areas. Pumice stone can help prevent cracked heels too.
3. Moisturise your feet.

## Massage my feet:

For those who do not want to just look, but feel good as well, try foot reflexology. Sunrise foot

reflexology's masseur Mr Tan Khin Tiam, 45, explained that feet can detect a third of the body's organs and weekly foot massages can aid blood circulation and keep you healthy. If your feet hurt from the massage, Mr Tan says he can tell immediately which part of your body has problems.

So after your own home spa manicure and pedicure, why not head down for a foot reflexology session and start improving your health too.

## Nail Food:

With all that emphasis on the external, don't forget that food plays an important role in the condition of your nails. According to ediets.com,

**"Biotin can improve the pliability of nails, along with vitamins A and E, which also have moisturising properties."**

Biotin, from vitamin B, is found in food like wholegrain breads and eggs. Vitamin A can be found in vegetables. Vitamin E can be found in nuts and "green, leafy vegetables".



# WHAT'S IN A JOURNAL ?

You don't have to be a star or a spy to lead a life worth documenting. MYLENE TONG says Dear Diary days help you keep stock of changes so you understand yourself better. And if you become the next best-selling autobiographer like David Beckham or SM Lee, send us some of your royalties.

PSYCHOTHERAPIST JACINTA PHOON, 35, says that people can keep a journal "to note down the times and circumstances that cause them to feel or act in the certain manner that they are struggling with". She also encourages her clients at The Tent, a home for teenage girls, to keep journals on "something specific [like] ... dreams" as they are "good materials for analysis of one's inner conflicts, fears and wishes".

A counsellor and social worker with the Salvation Army, Melanie Goh, 22, also recommends having one as it aids in reflection on re-reading, and "shows how much one has changed and grown in their attitudes, mindset and behaviour".

## Blog Me Not

Quite apart from the benefits that journaling provides, our innate tendency to record things that happen around us has resulted in the explosion of newspapers, diaries and more recently, blogs.

As of last October, there were 6,685 Singaporeans registered on LiveJournal.com, which offers web log or online diary space for about 2.5 million users. However, a study done by survey company Perseus Development Corporation for the BloggerCon 2003 Conference held last October revealed that of the estimated 4.12 million blogs registered on 8 blog major hosts, only 33 percent are updated regularly. That leaves a whopping 2.27 million blogs being neglected for at least two months. A quarter of the blogs have never been updated since day one, testament to blogs being a fad that only a fraction follow through. Online diaries often come with limited amount of web space, and a template to type in your entries, so it's not surprising that someone unfamiliar with html might tire of the same design, and abandon it.

Notwithstanding the convenience, no-cost and accessibility of blog sites like BlogSpot, Pitas.com and DiaryLand, many people realise that the monitor isn't the best place to keep a secret, stick a movie stub or spray their favourite scent on.

Postgraduate student from the National University of Singapore (NUS), Mardiana Mansor, 22, who has kept a journal for about eight to nine years, puts things in perspective. "I find a journal more handy than an Internet blog. After all my journal will never say 'You have committed an illegal operation'."

Adrian Tan, 23, an NUS undergrad who used to have his own blog at Pitas.com says that "it was quite cool initially to have a blog, [but] the novelty dies off after a while".

What's more, there'll be days when your host site is closed for maintenance or your files may get corrupted and lost in cyberspace. As opposed to your "virtual" diary, the good old journal will be your faithful companion anytime you need to scribble, doodle, reflect or even tear a bit off to stick your gum in.

Here are some tips to jumpstart your days of penning secret thoughts in your own journal.

## Journal Must-haves

Can't wait to get started in this "documenting" business? Here are some essential items you'll need:

### 1. A Journal

Hardbound, fabric-bound, jotter book or fancy Sanrio notebook? The choices are practically infinite, so remember to factor in your habits. If you're always on the go, pick something small and light to scribble on. If you love to paste lots of things, then choose one with thicker pages. Henry Tan, 24, a retail assistant from Prints, a

## MY DREAM HOUSE NAMES FOR MY FUTURE KIDS MY DREAM CAR

## TEN THINGS I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT

## WHAT I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH BY THIS YEAR

shop specialising in paper products said that their notebooks do away with lines as they would like to "encourage creativity". He sells around 10 journals per day.

Ross Ismail, 28, Operations Retail Manager of Bookbinders Design, another shop selling bound notebooks, diaries and photo albums said that most customers who request for journals are women in their 20s to 30s.

2. An envelope/pouch to store ticket stubs, instant pictures and other keepsakes
3. A pair of scissors
4. Glue stick
5. A camera. Pictures tell a thousand words, so you'll be grateful that you have a camera handy to capture those precious moments.
6. A nice pen, and remember to write legibly. What's the point of penning the moment if you can't read your hasty writing later?

## Fill'er up

The smell of crisp, new paper is delightful, but you're stuck at how to fill up those pages. Here are some ideas to turn your journal into page after page of fun stuff.

1. Jot down quotes from your favourite poet, author or celebrity. Or salvage articles and columns that inspire you. It's good to learn from the experiences of others.
2. Copy the lyrics of your favourite songs and sing to yourself when you have some spare time.
3. Paste comics cut outs for a good laugh anytime.
4. Challenge yourself, write down the "10 things I simply cannot live without", or "What I want to accomplish by this year". Dream about "What sort of home I want to own", or start thinking of names for your future children or cars, depending on which 'C' you are inclined towards.
5. Stick pictures of the things you adore, like your pet dog, sweetheart, photos taken at your school reunion, or magazines tear outs of things you want to buy, music or movie reviews you enjoy.
6. Of course, the most important thing is to pen your thoughts - whether it's an observation or an outcry of the heart - write it down. When you read through your journal after some time, you can relive those feelings and perhaps see them from another perspective. Sometimes, you might pen down bad moments and mistakes. They may be painful, but these serve as strong reminders to deter us from taking the wrong paths again. No one leads a perfect life after all.

In time, you'll discover a lot of things you never knew about yourself through the journal. It helps to take stock of your life as well by putting many things in perspective. Not every moment has to be recorded. Don't try to create "memorable" situations deliberately either, just because you want to record and reminisce. The key, really, is to be natural and let your life unfold the way it should.

Be it an entry about bumping into your crush at the staircase, or a problem you're not ready to share with your friends and family, you can be sure that your journal will always be there - a safe haven for your innermost thoughts. Even if you don't have many of those, it can still be a funky scrapbook bursting with incredible memories!



# TOURING TOKYO ALONE

Tokyo is often mentioned in the same breath as Milan, Rome and London, with their common traits: Great fashion, good-looking people and expensive taste. GLORIA WONG gives a glimpse into the flipside of Japan's capital.

Photos by Gloria Wong

## Lost In Tokyo

The cinematic experience of *Lost in Translation* may have captivated you with its view of Tokyo – classy, lots of bright lights and barely anybody speaking proper English. Tokyo, however, is more than that as you'll discover.

Getting there is easy – it's a mere seven-hour flight from our sunny island. Arriving at Narita airport at 7.30am, with barely anyone around, and not being able to understand a single word of Japanese made getting out of the airport an amazing feat. Brace yourself, just a bus ride to Tokyo from the airport will set you back at least ¥3,500 (\$56).

Getting around later is not much easier, the JR trains were great except for one thing – getting to the right train! The stations were confusing. The main Tokyo station had at least 10 different paths, train lines, and worse still, train companies. Here's a tip: Print the online station maps in English before you go so it's easier for you to navigate.

## Bargains at closing time

Unable to contain my excitement after settling down in the comfortable four-star Takanawa Prince Hotel (at least ¥10,500 a night for a single room), the natural thing to do was to explore Tokyo the way Scarlet Johansson did in the movie – by wandering around. First stop, where natives frequent: The supermarket.

My heart almost stopped seeing *Sake Sashimi* (raw salmon) at a mere ¥380 (\$6.50) for 400g, half what it costs in Singapore. This was due to the evening sale, where prices for perishable goods are slashed up to 50%.

## The Singaporean Shopper

Like any true-blue Singaporean, shopping was high on the list. Keeping the exchange rate in mind, the most logical destination seemed to be ¥100 shops. Armed with that thought, Kamata, soon became the first shopping spot of many that would be left in the wake of the destructive force known as The Singaporean Shopper.

Kamata, home to quaint shops hawking handicrafts, household accessories and items such as quilts, was heaven. A typical Japanese suburb, its streets are lined with rows of shop-houses almost double the size of those here. The atmosphere, which buzzed with Japanese housewives emerging at 11 am, was almost spoilt by this Singaporean who would have shrieked for joy at the bargain products available. A Winnie the Pooh quilt was going for ¥800 and quality gloves cost as little as ¥650.

¥100 shops are great, but they carry pretty much the same merchandise. Thankfully, factory outlets outside Tokyo provided some respite. These are accessible by train, but may require at least an hour's travelling time. One such outlet is **Grandberry Mall**, nearer to Yokohama.

Grandberry was like a mini-village out in the country-side where you could glimpse Mount Fuji. It even caters to pets, offering clothes, hairdressing and, believe it or not, counselling services to dogs and cats.

Housing famous brands like Adidas and Nike, it's also home to smaller retailers who have goodies you wouldn't want to miss out on – bags, accessories and other clothes, the quality of which you would never get back in Singapore

for the same amount (i.e. ¥1,500 for a Diesel bag).

## Been There, Played That

Having seen so many Japanese arcade games in our local ones, I ventured into a classic Japanese arcade. The Japanese drums machine, proved fascinating. It had a mix of traditional and pop Japanese music, which made it quite fun.

The arcade was also full of games where you can try to pick up toys.

Many players left with bags spilling over with soft toys. Tempted, I tried it and won a dog. Lured by the easy win, I spent ¥3,000, but walked out with five of The Dogs in hand. A saving, since one dog can go for as much as \$30 in Singapore.

## Visiting the Emperor

What's a trip without some sight-seeing? A personal recommendation is the Imperial Palace, where the Emperor actually lives.

The section open to the public [free admission] is majestic and breath-taking. Surrounded by a moat, the palace is populated by things from days of old (i.e. gates, canon patches), beautified with lush greenery, which beats our Botanic Gardens hands-down, and having modern additions like a rest-house equipped with vending machines.

## Saying Sayonara Is The Hardest

Having spent 10 days in Tokyo, it was painful to say goodbye to the city I'd come to love. I'll miss the quiet trains on which people are not allowed to talk on mobile phones, and of course, closing-time grocery shopping. The memory of the

humble, polite Japanese, which saw them struggling to speak English will be etched in my heart forever.

# YOUTH HOSTELS

Accommodation will eat an especially huge chunk in your Tokyo tour budget.

Youth hostels are life-savers without compromising safety, hygiene or comfort. Here are a few that you needn't be a member to stay at.

## Kanagawa Hostel

A three-star hostel near the Sakuragi-cho station (closer to Yokohama), costs ¥2900 per night. The Landmark Tower, Yamashita Park, Haikkei Sea Paradise and the Yokohama Stadium are nearby. Breakfast costs ¥500.

## Tokyo Yoyogi Hostel

Minutes from Harajuku and downtown Tokyo, the four-star hostel charges ¥2900 per night. Meals are not provided, but there are many, if pricey, eateries around.

## Tokyo International Hostel

The four-star Shinjuku hostel serves both breakfast (¥400) and dinner (¥900). Priced at ¥3,000 per night, it is conveniently located outside the JR Iidabashi Station.



# IN THE LIMELIGHT WITH SHAMIMA

Show presenter cum local zookeeper Shamima Begum, 23, may be an entertainer but it's usually her co-stars that hog the limelight. SANGEETHA NAIDU climbs into the den and discovers that being on stage is not just about looking pretty.



## A Typical Day at the Zoo

The first thing that she does is "check the animals, making sure they are all alive", says Shamima in all seriousness. The scariest part of the job, she says, is "[chopping] up live rats [and] hamsters as feed for the animals". Preparations for the day's shows then begin.

## Taking Up Personas on Stage

"I have one colleague who is basically a clown on stage and the kids who come and watch just love him. Then we have the smooth talker; the chicks just love him," she says jokingly. She, however, has been dubbed the "Mak Neh Neh" or auntie, for gossiping about animals.

## Starting Out

"The best way to know the animal is to clean it. Wash the den, observe the animal every day while it observes you. It's a two-way process. And when he sees you bringing food to him every day... he learns to trust you."

## Screw-ups

Shamima has had her share of blunders. "Actually the audience absolutely loves watching the trainers [look] like total idiots... they get excited, [because then it] becomes more than just a routine animal show." Her advice: "If you relax,

the audience will relax – they always take the cue from you."

## Pros

"I get to play with animals and when I feel shitty, all I have to do is sit beside the seals and sometimes out of nowhere they just kiss you... At every corner there's something to fall in love with and [also]... seeing the magic in little kids' eyes when they touch snakes for the first time."

## Cons

If you thought aching feet and sunburns are the only things she has to worry about, you're mistaken. Each day, Shamima has "the responsibility of 60 lives". Being a presenter also means that, "I cannot come to work looking 'half-dead', and I have to get enough rest to be clearheaded... if not I get bitten (she has scars to prove it)."

## What it Takes

"You need to be able to present and be comfortable [with] talking to people whether in an intimate setting or to big groups," says Shamima. The starting pay is about \$1,000 and it can go up to \$4,000 depending on your post and length of stay at the zoo. For more career opportunities, visit [www.zoo.com.sg](http://www.zoo.com.sg).



Photos by Sangeetha Naidu

# IN THE TREATMENT ROOM WITH SYLVIA

With the temperatures rising in coming months, a bikini line wax should be in order. KAVIN PRAKASAM boldly goes where few Singaporean men have ventured – into the treatment room for waxing.



Photos by Kavin Prakasham



At Strip, a body waxing store in Holland Village, Sylvia Haughey is known as a beauty therapist. According to the 30-something, who also does manicures and pedicures, "most of my jobs are waxing related".

Intrigued by its novelty, she became involved in the business 18 months ago, the latest of a string of jobs including that of an air stewardess. She went into it full-time after trying it out.

Only 10 percent of her clients are male, mostly expatriates who want hair removed from "their backs and shoulders" for more comfort in this climate. Sylvia reveals that most of the women, however, ask for the full Brazilian, costing \$46. "A lot of them just walk in and say they want it all off."

Sylvia's diploma in beauty therapy from Top To Toe Beauty College in Singapore didn't entitle her to start performing Brazilian waxing services immediately. As Sylvia puts it, "There is no particular course where you can learn about waxing only. You have to go through the whole process. In the beginning, most professional therapists usually start waxing the other body parts first, such as the hands and legs... once they have had more practice, they [can] move on to the more intimate areas."

It's not just about removing body hair with strips of cloth either. "Waxing actually exfoliates the skin as it removes dead cells. Also, the hot wax used opens up the pores and kills bacteria. Moreover, waxing can be quite addictive. That's why customers usually come back," she reveals. Bedside manner is also very important. "Each client usually has their own favourite therapist, the one that they are the most comfortable with... Sometimes when they talk about their problems, we act as listeners. And when they ask for advice, we give them advice," she says.

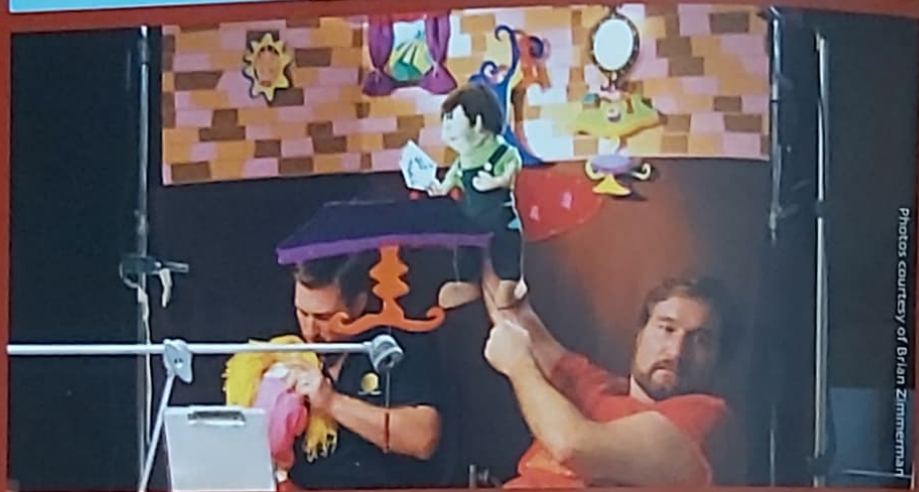
As for salary, Sylvia would only reveal that she is highly paid, which is not surprising considering the lowest fee for Brazilian waxing is \$20.



profile

## PLAYING WITH PUPPETS

Admit it, Sesame Street and the Muppet characters must have been a guilty pleasure at some point in your life. CORAL ANNE TONG pulls some strings to find out what the people behind these puppets actually do.



Photos courtesy of Brian Zimmerman

"Since young, I have always been the kind of kid that used everything I could get my hands on to make puppets, like the time I ripped my dad's bath robe apart and made a puppet out of it," says American puppeteer Brian Zimmerman, 38.

Brian's obsession with puppets, particularly mouth-action hand puppets, the kind you see on *Sesame Street*, began when he was 10.

"Jim Henson was my idol," he recalls with a laugh. So it's no surprise then that Brian made his childhood fantasy become a reality.

His drive to succeed at what he loved pushed Brian to teach himself all about puppetry. He did his own research and attended seminars about the different styles and techniques of puppetry during his high school and college days. "The real secret is practice, however," he shares.

Brian even attended The International School for Performing Clown Arts in USA and was a professional clown for more than 10 years. "Clowning and puppetry complement each other

nicely and I was able to use a lot of puppetry in my clowning," he explains.

Making a puppet can take him anywhere from two days to half a year and the cost of the puppet alone is sometimes more than what Brian would get for manipulating it in a show!

"Well, when you're passionate about something, you go all out and do it, money is secondary," he laughs.

This talented guy arrived on our sunny shores about five years ago hoping to find work here. "Well, there aren't a lot of puppeteering jobs going around and in Singapore you can't really be a full-time puppeteer and live comfortably, but thankfully I also do lots of other things!" he laughs, "I used to teach drama and now I also do voice-overs for cartoons."

Recently, Brian was involved in puppet work on a local movie, part of the 1st Cut series produced for Channel 5, called *Love Poetry* which starred Keagan Kang. He also voices and manipulates a puppet character called Miru on Disney's kid show *Studio D*.

陈艾薇著

Photo Courtesy of Hype Records



# 幸福女人

黄湘怡

正在筹备着全新的专辑,又参与了国外电影和本地的电视剧演出,歌手出身的黄湘怡最近在各方面展露拳脚,可说是忙得不可开交。

外型活泼可人的黄湘怡在台湾电影《空手道少女组》和新传媒电视剧《大女人,小女人》的角色都散发着青春魅力的现代女生。

在刚上演的《空手道少女组》中,湘怡和另外两位女主角林依晨和袁咏仪是一群刚踏入演艺圈的少女,为了闯一番事业而吃尽了苦头。

这可能使你联想到几年前,那刚出道,有些生涩的邻家小女生。如今的她已在筹备第三张专辑,在演艺圈两年中也拍过不少受欢迎的广告和偶像剧,早已将新人的压力抛在脑后了。

虽然多才多艺的湘怡在各方面都取得相当不错的成绩,但她的最爱始终是音乐。一谈到音乐,湘怡脸上流露出隐藏不住的兴奋。

“音乐是我生命中的最爱。演戏和唱歌其实是相辅相成的。演戏可以让我领悟到人生和感情上不同的领域,启发我写歌方面的灵感。”

但湘怡却不愿意透露有关她新专辑的详情,原因是想带给大家一个惊喜,所以湘怡的歌迷只好耐心的等候这张即将在六月份发行的“surprise”了。

湘怡对一直在支持她的歌迷朋友心存感激。尤其是当她发现她的音乐竟能帮助到歌迷时,更是雀跃万分。

其中一名十分仰慕 Stella 的男歌迷就表示自己非常欣

赏湘怡的唱腔和歌唱表达方式。“我觉得 Stella 唱歌时的感情很真。我特别喜欢她的‘无聊的一天’。她把年轻人百无聊赖的心情唱了出来。她只出道两三年,有这样的‘功力’真的很了不起!”

但湘怡的才华不只限于唱歌。精通双语的她对英文歌曲情有独钟,并曾经表示灌录英文专辑的打算,但时机尚未成熟。

“我相信一步一步的前进,我现在已将全部的精神投入在这新专辑,”湘怡胸有成竹地说。

这位甜心儿看来是来势汹汹,实力丝毫不逊本土天后孙燕姿。所以,如果你喜欢甜美歌韵的湘怡,就记得要全力支持她即将推出的专辑,电影和电视剧啦!



# 台北指南

Pictures: Adeline Loh

您心目中的台北是个什么样的地方？是个让你垂涎三尺的美食天堂，使你挥金如土的购物目的地，又或是你最心仪偶像的家乡呢？台北是一个五花八门的都市，人多车更多。要在一星期内玩遍台北并非一件容易的事。因此，罗燕群为你准备了这份台北101，好让你在出发前对这个热闹又刺激的城市有更深一层的了解。

## 天气怎么样？

夏天的台北气候跟新加坡相差不多，温度阶于29至34度。若选择在这个时候（4月-6月）去旅游，就可省下携带厚重外套的麻烦。轻便的衣物当然是最理想的。



## 讨价还价？！

在台北，路边摊是非常普遍的。喜欢讨价还价的朋友们，这正是让你显示工力的擂台！如果你的工力比别人略胜一隅，想进一步考验自己的实力，不妨到五分埔逛一逛。那里所卖的物品价钱是全台最便宜的，不过因为五分埔并不是个旅游景点，所以知道此秘密的旅客不多。忠实的读者啊，若哪天你们到了台北，千万别忘了到五分埔一游！



## 美食天堂

谈到美食，台北可是应有尽有。位于台北市西门町有一间名声响当当，专卖大肠面线的“阿宗面线”，不只面线爽口，最特别之处是这间店不为客人提供座位，想吃就得站着吃！吃完了面线若想来点甜品，就非去同样位于西门町的“冰丁部”。这里售卖的冰淇淋有种特殊的吃法，就是将水果、巧克力和鲜奶油在冰淇淋上，让食客可以试着不同的配搭，自由发挥。



## 购物天堂

台北东区一带可算是最时尚的地区了，售卖最时髦衣物等，不过价钱会稍微高了点。反而在西门町你就能找到一些较特别的商店，如二手交换店、偶像商品专卖店、音乐唱片专卖店等。到了台北如果不去一趟那里的夜市，那就枉费此行了！士林夜市和饶河街夜市都是购物爱好者不容错过的地方。

## 追星一族请注意！

若想趁着在台湾的机会目睹自己心仪的偶像，你可到当地的一些“追星圣地”，碰碰运气。台北就有几间pub是当红艺人的出没之地，如Room 18, In House和Plush。这些地方出入过的艺人包括了F4，周杰伦等等。

## 特别介绍

台北的愚人码头最近盖了一座“情人桥”。当夜晚来临时，这座桥上会亮起美丽的灯饰，构出一幅迷人的夜景。若有机会，你也该到台北有名的阳明山欣赏大自然的景色，当然也不能忘了要泡一下温泉，因为这就是阳明山的特色。

台北是个繁华的大都市，绝不会让你感到烦闷。希望在即将来临的夏天，你会有机会亲身到台北体会这繁忙的城市的生活方式！



## 本期推崇 | 尹佩心



Photo Courtesy of EMI Music

是否有想过，你下来将要转入的大道，很可能就是你梦想的起点？美国的“第五大道”相信是许多人的梦想天堂。萧亚轩在她第七张华语专辑中就是想与大家分享这种完美，奢侈的梦想。

由新加坡的音乐才子思松伟松兄弟制作的第一主打《地下铁》是同名电影的主题曲，旋律优美，扣人心弦。

继《爱的主打歌》后，Elva再一次演绎了她拿手的快歌。富有节奏感的舞曲《幸福的地图》是此专辑的第二主打，让人听了会情不自禁的随着音乐跳起舞。这张专辑中的每一首歌都是为Elva精心打造的，而她也诠释得得心应手，表现不俗。

《第五大道》似乎象征着对音乐那份热忱与执着，听了这张专辑，你铁定会她的努力与坚持感动。

“少男杀手”蔡依林再耍七十二变法术，引领流行风潮，强档出击！Jolin在加盟SONY后的第二张专辑中扎上红头巾，披上拉丁三层长裙化身成为古代海盗，跳起融合嘻哈舞步的佛朗明哥舞(Flamenco)，令人目不暇接。

除了由传闻中前任男友周杰伦制作的王牌主打歌《海盗》外，Jolin在这张专辑中也大胆尝试了许多不同的曲风。从摇滚味浓郁的《爱情36计》，到抒情的《消失的城堡》和《柠檬草的味道》，歌中不难听出她注入了比以往更丰富的感情，歌唱技巧有显著的进步。

更值得一提的是，这位甜姐儿也参与了这张专辑的制作。式听由Jolin填词的《始作俑者》，讲述了若处在一段没有爱的恋情中，又何苦回头追寻始作俑者？在尝试勇敢的但又有少许的无奈，感情丰富。超赞！



Photo Courtesy of SONY Music



Quiksilver Boardriders Club  
9 Scotts Road, #03-04/05, Pacific Plaza

Present this coupon at this participating outlet and receive \*10% off regular priced merchandise

- \*Terms & Conditions apply  
1) Coupon is valid for one time use only, one coupon per transaction  
2) Not to be used in conjunction with other privileges/coupons/discounts and price-controlled items  
3) Valid from Apr 1 - Jun 30 2004



Roxy  
9 Scotts Road, #03-04/05, Pacific Plaza

Present this coupon at this participating outlet and receive \*10% off regular priced merchandise

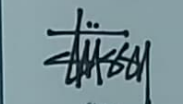
- \*Terms & Conditions apply  
1) Coupon is valid for one time use only, one coupon per transaction  
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3) Valid from Apr 1 - Jun 30 2004



Rip Curl  
9 Scotts Road, #03-04/05, Pacific Plaza

Present this coupon at this participating outlet and receive \*10% off regular priced merchandise

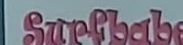
- \*Terms & Conditions apply  
1) Coupon is valid for one time use only, one coupon per transaction  
2) Not to be used in conjunction with other privileges/coupons/discounts and price-controlled items  
3) Valid from Apr 1 - Jun 30 2004



Stussy  
9 Scotts Road, #03-04/05, Pacific Plaza

Present this coupon at this participating outlet and receive \*10% off regular priced merchandise

- \*Terms & Conditions apply  
1) Coupon is valid for one time use only, one coupon per transaction  
2) Not to be used in conjunction with other privileges/coupons/discounts and price-controlled items  
3) Valid from Apr 1 - Jun 30 2004



Surf Babe  
411 Orchard Road, #03-12/14, Wisma Atria

Present this coupon at this participating outlet and receive \*10% off regular priced merchandise

- \*Terms & Conditions apply  
1) Coupon is valid for one time use only, one coupon per transaction  
2) Not to be used in conjunction with other privileges/coupons/discounts and price-controlled items  
3) Valid from Apr 1 - Jun 30 2004

15% Off

all glamour shots for students

Inclusive of makeover, hair-do and photoshoot

Contact Tuck Loong: 9688 2804

\$5 Off

every large print picture

of minimum 20 x 30 inches

Contact Tuck Loong: 9688 2804



9000 Hill Coast Parkway

LILIPUTT MINI GOLF

10% Off

\$15 ticket &amp; merchandise

- No restriction on number of tickets if bought together

- Valid till Oct 1 2004



3D  
CLOTHES & SHOES  
3 Coleman Street, #03-02A  
Peninsula Shopping Centre

Purchase \$50 or more in the store and get \$10 store credit for your next purchase

- \*Coupon must be produced on initial purchase  
- Users need purchase just 100% prior name and headshots to update store credit

NAME:

HP:



Beer and house pour,  
Buy One Get One Free,  
after happy hours

78/79 Boat Quay



30% Off  
salsa classes

Salsa Dance Classes every Tues, Wed & Friday  
7-9pm Basic Class / 8-10pm Intermediate Class  
\$45 for 5 classes in 5 weeks  
\$185 for 30 classes in 9 weeks

34A Pagoda Street  
\*see review on page 40



15% Discount

Coupon to be presented before ordering  
Minimum purchase of \$15  
Valid for dine-in & take-away menu only  
Not valid with other promotions  
Valid from Apr 15 to Jun 30 2004  
The management reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions without prior notice  
100 Beach Road, #02-02/04, Shaw Tower

THE KAYA

10% Off Purchases

Present the coupon to enjoy a free sample (while stocks last)

280 Upper Serangoon Road, #01-08, Chooi Kim House

Pop Trash

15% Off DJ Lessons

Valid till May 31 2004

Log on to [www.poptrash.net](http://www.poptrash.net) for more details

3 Coleman Street, #02-02, Peninsula Shopping Centre

MISS LODGE

Ladies Fashion &amp; Accessories (imported from Korea &amp; Japan)

\$5 Cash Voucher

Valid till Jul 30 2004 / Minimum purchase of \$50 applies

Shoppers will also receive a free makeover with every \$45 spent

300 New Bridge Road, #02-02, Lucky Chinatown



Specialising in Custom-Made Bikinis

Bikini Top: \$20 - \$30

Bikini Set: \$40 - \$90

First 10 readers will receive

30% off

custom-made bikinis

Show this page and receive

10% off

all apparel

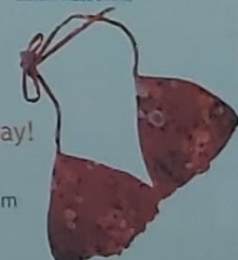
Discounts valid until Jun 1 2004

Two custom-made bikinis  
to be given away!

Log on to  
[www.hypemag.com](http://www.hypemag.com)  
for more details

Closing date Jun 1 2004

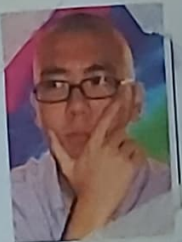
Contact Adrienne Nall at 9688 2804





FOR THOSE WHO STILL THINK  
HAVING A SINGAPORE IDOL IS A  
GOOD IDEA...

## Application Form for SINGAPORE IDOL 2004



Name: M J GOH Sex: Can lah!  
Age: 21  
Address: Pulau Serangoon Number 4.  
Contact Number: (0) W-A-N-A-B-E Occupation: Songster!

Please Indicate 3 song choices:

Song 1: Unchained Melody (Techno version)  
Song 2: My school song  
Song 3: I can hum the theme song from Indiana Jones

Tell us about yourself in 50 words or less:

I need to be the Singapore Idol because I  
want a girlfriend, and I have the same initials  
as that Michael Jackson and I'm super  
hampster.

By the way, ha, I have no professional training, heh.

I certify that all the details on this application form are correct

M J GOH  
Signature

1 April 2004  
Date

## Study for a Recognised degree from an Australian Government University without leaving Singapore!

The University of Canberra is owned by the Australian Government in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and it is a member of the Unified National System and of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU).

## BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BBA)

The course is registered and approved by the Ministry of Education, Singapore (Ref: EDUN N24-02-008 Vol 34)

Professional Options: Banking & Finance or Marketing  
Quarterly intakes in January, April, July, October

### Admission Requirements

- Cat. 1 (15-18 mths)** - A Diploma in a business discipline from any of the polytechnics in Singapore.
- Cat. 1a (18 mths)** - University Preparation Program: Diploma of Business Administration awarded by AsiaInstitut of Management, AM School of Business Studies.
- Cat. 2 (21 mths)** - A Diploma in an engineering or computing discipline from any of the polytechnics in Singapore.
- Cat. 3 (30 mths)** - A Diploma in a related business discipline from a recognised institution or 2 GCE "A" level with at least grade C.

Students accepted to the above courses by the University of Canberra will be eligible to apply for the Emmanuel Financial Assistance Scheme - 0% interest instalments payment (Terms and conditions apply).

## ASIAINSTITUT OF MANAGEMENT

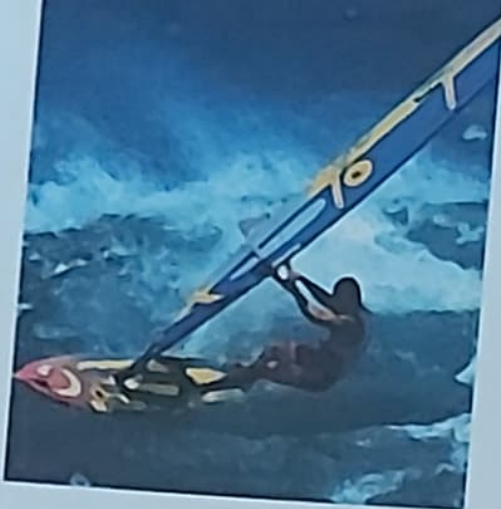
AM School of Business Studies

Tel: 68380151 (5 Lines) Fax: 68380154

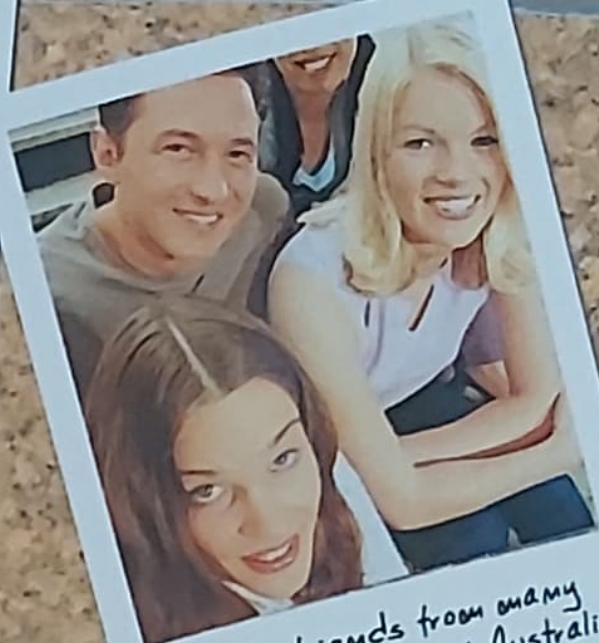
Email: [asiainstitut\\_mgt@email.com](mailto:asiainstitut_mgt@email.com) Website: [www.canberra.edu.au](http://www.canberra.edu.au)  
20 Bideford Road #01-03, Wellington Building (Behind Crown Prince Hotel) (S)239921  
(University of Canberra - Australian Government Registered Higher Education Provider #00212K)



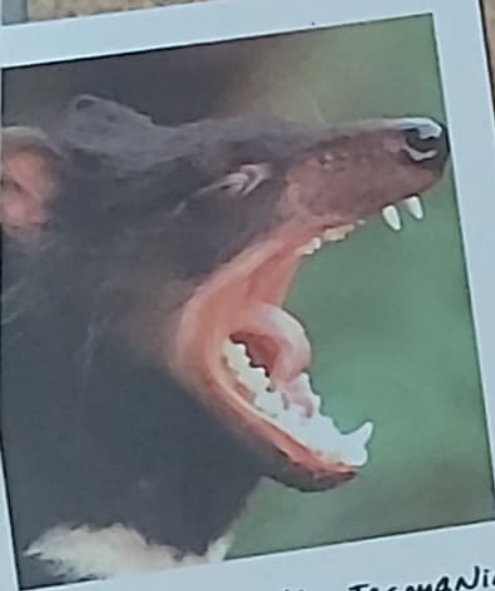




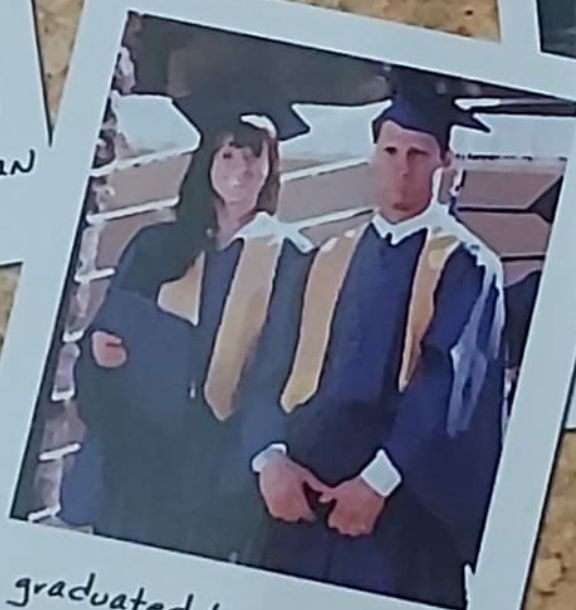
went windsurfing  
for the first time: in Australia



made friends from many  
other countries: in Australia



fell in love with the Tasmanian  
Devils! in Australia



graduated from the best  
university: in Australia



what a great show!:  
in Australia

Thinking about an Australian  
Education? Consult IDP Singapore - your  
First Choice Australian Education  
Solution



| Address: IDP Singapore, 4th Level Regional English Language Centre, 30 Orange Grove Road |  
Tel: 6732 6988 | Email: [info@singapore.idp.com](mailto:info@singapore.idp.com) | website: <http://www.idp.com/singapore> |