

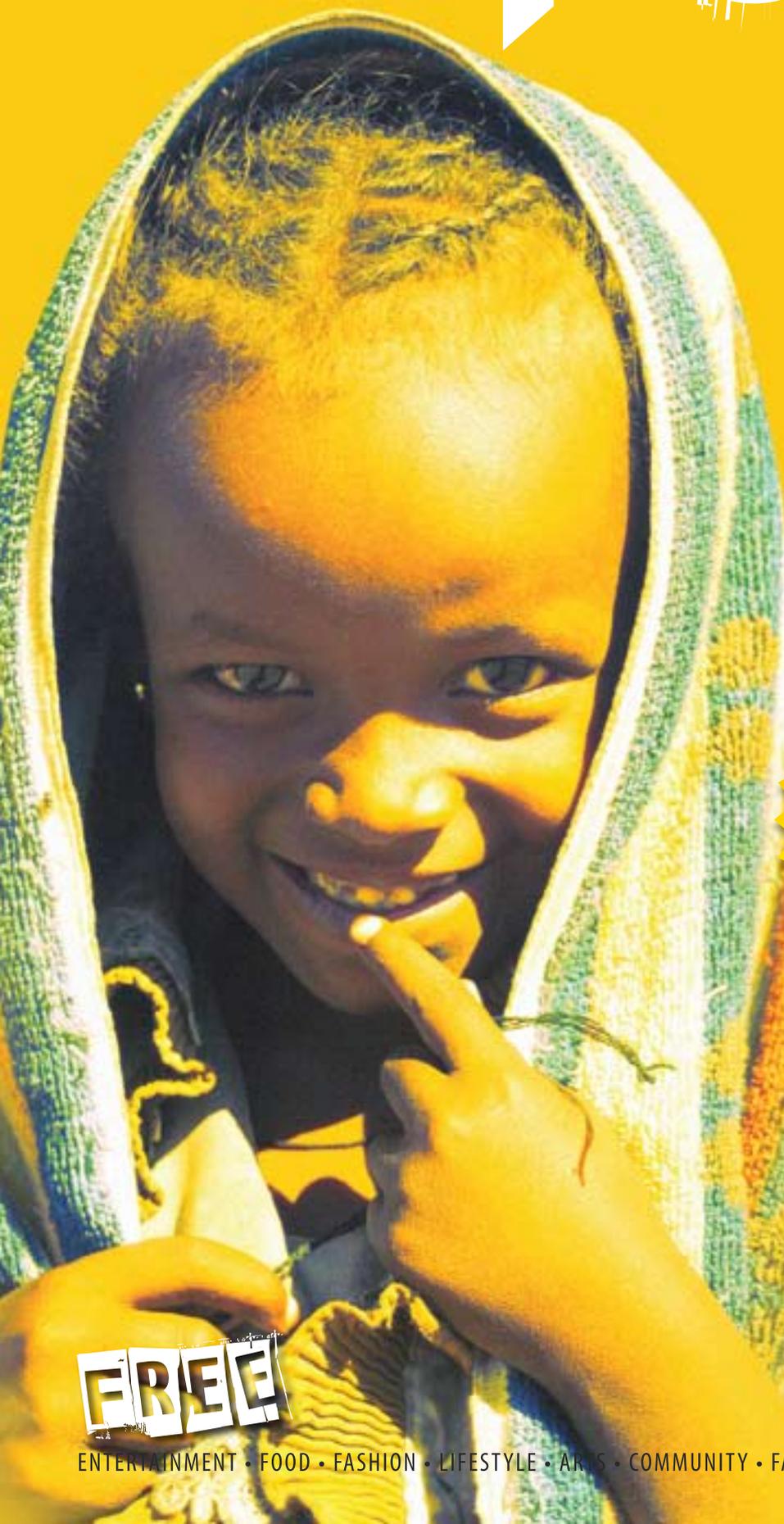
ENTERTAINMENT • FOOD • FASHION • LIFESTYLE • ARTS • COMMUNITY

tempo

JUNE 2012



THE FIRST MAGAZINE IN THE REGION TO USE MOBILE TAGGING
THE WIDEST CIRCULATED YOUTH AND COMMUNITY FOCUSED MAGAZINE IN THE UAE



ALERT!

HUMAN KINDNESS
GOOD DEEDS
COMMUNITY GIVING

PG. 12-14

"I LOVE UAE"
FILM COMPETITION IS
NOW OPEN!

KNOW MORE
ON PG. 22

+ PLUS

CLOWNING AROUND
YOUNG VOLUNTEER
SOSPESO TRASPARENTE
SALEH AL BRAIK

FREE



It's our 5th Anniversary - 31st May 2012



Best Shopping Mall
2012 BEST AHLAN! IN ABU DHABI
Al Wahda Mall

Thank you for voting us the 'Best in Abu Dhabi' for the 3rd time in a row

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ed's note:

Kindness and generosity are all around us. There are so many inspiring people in the community who give their time, money and resources to help others. In this issue, we want to recognise just a few of the people who are making a difference to others less fortunate than themselves, and highlight a few of the organisations that are doing invaluable work in the community. We at Tempo salute you, and although you don't do it for recognition, we feel the community should know about your amazing work.

We know there are many who generously give their time. Person after person we interviewed spoke of their passion for their work, and the simple reward they find in the laughter, joy and smiles from the people they are helping. These wonderful organisations, and many others like them, always need more assistance. If you have a little extra time, or some resources that may help, please contact these organisations and let's spread the warmth and compassion of humanity just a little further throughout the UAE.

Share, give and spread kindness.

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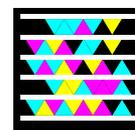
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LETTERS TO THE ED

June

2012

POST YOUR
VIEWS AND COMMENTS
ON OUR FACEBOOK AND
TWITTER PAGES

“

I liked the City Bites 'Coffee with Friends' story. The honesty is wow! I would love to know what you think about Costa Coffee in Blue Tower and Second Cup on Najda Street.

Paka Santosa

“

Reading about "The Dream Players" and the column "Doc from the Bronx" are my favourite parts of Tempo

Priya Manikam Tawde

“

Wow, I'm so glad I found Tempo. I've been looking for something like this here in Abu Dhabi.

Carla

“

@AbuDhabiTempo, I absolutely adore the magazine

Nadeen D

“

Loving the new Tempo look!

Ron



"I liked the YouTube video you uploaded on your channel of April's contestant, Chris Roebuck, singing 'Bring Him Home' at The Dream Players event."

-Mindmill Ideation

"It's amazing the kind of work and enthusiasm you put into this. I will definitely do my best to spread the word. More power to you guys!"

-Crystal

Ed's Note:

Thanks for all of your generous comments. We promise we'll keep working hard to give you the magazine you want!

Remember to follow us on Twitter @AbuDhabiTempo



Inspired by the realization of the dangers of conformity and his personal need to find himself, Tempo reader Samarpan Chakraborty sent this poem in an attempt to vent untapped energy.

THE OTHER ANGLE

I think, I act, I don't think and I still act
I wonder and I'm lost
I wonder and I'm found

I panic and I suffer gradually
And my conscious here is laughing at me

They think I lost to brute and might
They think I lost to panic and fright
They think I lost to hope in me
And I think this loss has granted me infinity

An infinity of chances, an infinity of imagination

An infinity of creativity is where my heart seems to be

There they are mocking me to their heart's glory

Unknown to the truth that I have accessed creativity

It's something surpassing all the lust of the moment

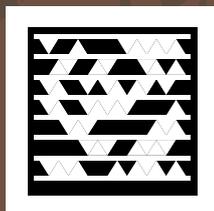
Surpassing loss and victory, and the finite world of glee and torment

UVOTE • 2012

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

Which is your favourite charity feature in this issue?

1. Abu Dhabi Cause Connect
2. Braille Books for the Blind
3. Animal Action
4. Clowns Who Care
5. Operation Smile



go to tempoplanet to vote

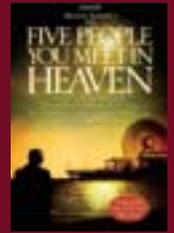


Result of last month's UVote: Tempo asked our readers, Which is your favourite Avengers character? This is what you said:

- Iron Man - 58.8%
- Black Widow - 17.6%
- Thor - 11.8%
- Captain America - 5.9%
- The Hulk - 5.9%

TALKING BOOKS

By Azza El Masri



Book Review:

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Author: **Mitch Albom**

(Hyperion, 2003)

Heaven is a concept that changes depending on the religion you follow or believe in. In Greek mythology, Heaven was a part of the Underworld, formerly known as the Elysian Fields, the most beautiful of all realms. And to limit Heaven's existence to the celestial is to reduce its power, right? Can't it be that Heaven is wherever you want it to be?

On the day that he turns 83 years old, Eddie dies in an unfortunate accident whilst trying to save the life of a little girl at the amusement park he worked at.

As he awakens in the afterlife, he discovers that Heaven isn't what he'd always believed it to be; rather, it is where your earthly life is explained to you by five people – some who he might have known, and some who he didn't – and each have a lesson to teach him, lessons that will show him more about life and his mistakes than he ever could know.

Five people, five lessons, and each and every one of them will pierce into your soul and leave an imprint that will mark you forever. Mitch Albom ingeniously crafts the current of the story so that it flows easily and beautifully in the imagination of the reader; all the while leaving something behind.

This is the kind of book that, once finished, changes you in every way possible. It is a beautiful exceptional gift that the reader should cherish. Filled with wisdom, The Five People You Meet in Heaven raises awareness on more than one topic, and more than any other book could. It's astounding how 208 pages can change your life, and for that, I will always be indebted to the author. Read it, and you shall embrace the miracle that is this novel.

USPACE

THE BIG MOVE

SHIFTING FROM HOME TO CAMPUS

By Ziad Samad

It all happens so fast. The frenzy of goodbyes, advice and search for your passport (which your brother finally finds in your shirt pocket) overpowers that little fluttering inside your stomach until you are finally comfortably seated in the bus/train/plane. Then it hits you; this is what it feels like to leave home.

Since it is one of the best feelings ever, you want to savour it without worrying about real-life problems. These are ways to avoid them.

1. Documents like your passport, visa and certificates are very difficult to replace so make sure they are safe at all times. Also it is best to store some money with these for any emergencies that may occur.

2. Along with the luggage, most of which you will never use again once you step inside college territory, make sure you pack all of the essentials. Stuff like toothbrush, soap, phone charger, small packet of detergent, blanket, medication and so on should be the priority.

These are the things you can't do without and you don't want to be shopping for these when you are trying to settle in your new surroundings. Make a list of the essentials and pack your bag with these first.

3. Make a good budget and stick to it. You should know how and when your pocket money will come to you. All of us end up asking for more anyway but that doesn't mean you should create a hole in your pocket in the first few weeks. Be really nice to your parents as well.

4. If you haven't been to your college before, make sure you have a good idea of the surroundings through maps, blogs and the college website. Also it helps to have an elder along. Hint: Try to get there earlier than others. You will get to choose the best spot in the room and make a couple of extra friends.

5. Make sure everything is okay between you and your family before leaving. Try and solve all your differences and keep the lines of communication open at all times. Remember you are leaving home, not running away. Until you find your new best friends, they will remain your strongest pillar of support. The same goes for all the friends you are leaving behind.

Tempo Magazine presents...

"A CHANGE OF TEMPO"

Performance Poetry Workshop facilitated by Dorian "Paul D" Rogers, award-winning poet from the USA

- Featured at over 35 colleges and universities
- Winner of 2007 National Poetry Slams in Austin, TX (Slam Charlotte)
- 2005 Individual Champion of Southern Fried Poetry Slams
- Performed on stage with Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni, and Stevie Wonder

Each poet will receive individualized assistance focusing on the performance aspect of spoken word poetry (voice inflection, volume, speed, articulation and memorization)

Date: 23 June 2012

Length: 90 minutes

Location: Innovation@Work, Abu Dhabi

Cost: AED 100

CREATIVE ALERT:
THEATRE WORKSHOPS
IN JULY

To book or for more details, call Sharon on 02-4918625 or email sharon@tempoplanet.com. There are limited seats so book early to avoid disappointment.

WHAT'S HOT

RAT PACK-VEGAS SPECTACULAR

June 8, ADNEC, Abu Dhabi

For the first time in the region, the star trio from 'Rat Pack – Vegas Spectacular' will take to the stage on June 8 at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) and perform some of the world's favourite love songs as a tribute to the incredible musical gift of three friends, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr and Dean Martin.

The show recreates the performances of the original Rat Pack in 1960s Las Vegas, evoking the sounds and atmosphere of the golden age of glamour.

Hotel packages and tickets for the show, which start from AED 125, are available on BoxOfficeME.com.

For more information, log on to:

www.facebook.com/adnecliveevents



EVANESCENCE LIVE IN CONCERT

June 22, World Trade Center, Dubai

The UAE has been blessed with some fabulous rock concerts and this time it's Dubai's turn. Grammy Award-winning American band Evanescence will perform for the first time in Dubai on June 22.

The show will feature hits including 'My Immortal', 'Bring Me to Life' and 'Everybody's Fool'. Evanescence has sold more than 20 million records worldwide, and won two Grammys with their major-label debut 'Fallen', and another Grammy nomination with their second album, 'The Open Door'.

Doors open at 6pm. Tickets available at Virgin Megastores and online at www.platinumlist.ae



SUMMER IN ABU DHABI

June 21 - July 19, ADNEC, Abu Dhabi

Summer In Abu Dhabi is a month-long blockbuster, family-centric edutainment event running across four halls at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from June 21 - July 19. 11 mega-activities will be backed by a gigantic summer playground, fun fair rides and games, while in the adjoining halls, Abu Dhabi Sports Council will conduct a range of activities and workshops as part of its Summer Sports Festival.

Summer In Abu Dhabi is open from 3pm – 9pm Sundays to Thursdays; and from 2pm - 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Entry is AED 40 for adults and AED 30 for children under 12 years of age. Tickets can be bought at the door.

For further information, visit www.summerinabudhabi.ae

TO ADVERTISE CALL >> 02-4918624



VIAGGIO IN ITALY

New attraction at FerrariWorld, Yas Island

Ferrari World recently launched their latest attraction, the Viaggio in Italy. A stunning ride that engages all of the senses, thrillseekers are strapped into a seat inspired by the Ferrari GT design and sent flying on a simulated aerial journey that starts from the Fiorano Circuit in Maranello and soars over the scenic highlights of Italy, including Venice,

the Tuscany countryside, Isola Bella of Lago Maggiore, the Passo della Futa, Florence, Portofino, Rome, the Dolomite Mountains and the Costa Amalfitana, before finishing in Capri. Lush images of mountains, villages, coastlines, cities and forests virtually transport visitors to the best that Italy has to offer while special effects including mist, wind and the invigorating scents of flowers and plants bring the whole journey to life.

For more information, visit www.ferrariworldabudhabi.com



DUBAI SUMMER SURPRISES 2012

June 14 - July 14, Dubai

The Dubai Summer Surprises (DSS) shopping festival is back for its fifteenth edition from June 14 to July 14.

This growing international promotion celebrates summer with a family-focussed programme of events at over 50 malls around Dubai, highlighted by international character shows.

Modhesh World, featuring the smiling festival mascot, Modhesh, is a huge entertainment space divided into different themed zones, and will surely be a huge hit with children of all ages. Of course, serious bargain hunters will love the multitude of shopping deals at each of the malls.

For information, visit www.dubaievents.ae

Tempo would be remiss if it didn't include Her Royal Madgeness: the World's Undisputed Material Girl, in the list of what's hot in Abu Dhabi this month.

Madonna performs in Abu Dhabi's du Arena on June 3 and 4.

Did you know... that one of Madonna's monikers on tour is 'Dita Parlo', after the famed 1920s German actress that Madonna was fascinated about?

SENSES & SENSIBILITIES

May 30 - June 19, Art Sawa, DIFC, Dubai

Through her 'Senses and Sensibilities' exhibition, Henda Al Falafly explores the many emotions expressed by women in their daily lives. She uses body language to understand the meaningful silence carried over by their experiences and stories.

Her work reflects all its semantic in the facial expressions and movements of the hands, the feet, the look, the clothes, and reveals then the tension and the emotions repressed.

The exhibition runs until June 19 at Art Sawa at DIFC in Dubai.

For more information, email info@artsawa.com or visit www.artsawa.com



Sky and Sun

I'd heard about Sky and Sun towers on Reem island but nothing prepared me for the sweeping views and the stunning facilities. Love it, and in case any architects are reading this, we definitely need more of this in Abu Dhabi! (Just don't forget to make the rooms bigger).

Panorama Panache

Speaking of property, Emaar pulled a dashing marketing maneuver with its recent launch of Panorama at The Views, a property this is said to have sold OUT in hours. This demonstrates two things: that there is an appetite for property and two, that creative selling approaches work. However, we hope that developers don't lose sight of the fundamentals; buyers seek security, legal protection and confidence in their investment.

Owner Onus

Still on the subject of real estate, Concierge applauds the recent measures taken to formalize the role of homeowner associations. Donna, a reader, told me she'd balked when she was asked to pay annual 'service fees' of Dh 100,000 to cover expenditures in maintaining the communal property (expenditures that she wasn't even consulted about). You're right, Donna, that doesn't compute. But what is clear is that homeowner associations are a welcome indicator that the market is maturing.

M&Ms

For those of you who will leave your homes sealed up through summer while you go on vacation, beware M&Ms; the menaces of summer: And no, I'm not talking about the variety that 'melts in your mouth and not in your hands' but about 'mold and mildew'. Nothing wipes away the glow of summer vacation faster than returning to see your furniture rotting.

Gas in the Tank

Ian forwarded a friendly reminder that is being circulated by the Civil Defence: be watchful of rising temperatures over the coming weeks that also mean gas tanks can overheat. Their advice: don't overfill tanks at the pump.

Enjoy the sun, sky and summer.

The Concierge

Send me your rants, raves, gripes and grumbles: concierge@tempoplanet.com



tech talk

Shahid Saeed | Talker for the Non-Techies

BE AWARE: CYBER SECURITY IN THE UAE

The UAE Computer Emergency Response Team (aeCERT) is the cyber security coordination centre in the UAE. It was established by the Telecommunication Regularity Authority (TRA) to facilitate the detection, prevention and response of cyber security incidents over the internet. The organization's goals are to enhance the cyber security law and assist in the creation of new laws to:

- improve information security awareness across the UAE
- build national expertise in information security, incident management and computer forensics
- provide a central trusted point of contact for cyber security incident reporting in the UAE
- establish a national centre to disseminate information about threats, vulnerabilities and cyber security incidents
- foster the establishment of sector-based Computer Security Incidents Response Teams (CSIRTs) and provide assistance to these teams
- coordinate with domestic and international CSIRTs and related organizations, and

- become an active member of recognized security organizations and forums

HONEYNET

Honeynet was established by aeCERT in August 2009 with the aim of spreading Honeynet deployments and knowledge throughout the UAE. Honeynets are deployed to study the different sources of infection, purpose and attack methodologies; discover new forms of infections; reduce the number of malicious websites; and for incident handling. A mid-to-long term objective of the chapter is to strengthen the bilateral and regional Honeynet collaboration and to initiate and develop projects that focus on special-purpose or region-specific needs.

LOG IN

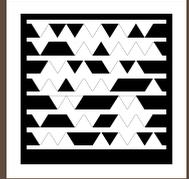
aeCERT: www.aecert.ae

SALIM: www.salim.ae

The latest copy of UAE Cyber Law is available at <http://www.aecert.ae/laws.php>

An aeCert app is also available at both the Apple Store and BlackBerry Store.

Follow me on @shahidaasi



Hi! I am SALIM

YOUR CYBER SECURITY ADVISOR



SALIM was born within aeCERT to spread a safe cyber culture by giving simple and easy-to-use tips and advice. The goal of the launch is to build a promising generation that has an integrated knowledge of information security and thereby spread this knowledge to the entire community.

SALIM is interacting with various target audiences within the community through awareness programmes such as workshops, presentations and events at schools, universities and similar institutions.



game hedz

Blakniss | Original game head from Atari to Xbox!



THE WALKING DEAD - IT LIVES!

If you're a fan of the comic and TV series 'The Walking Dead', you can now play the game!

Yup, Robert Kirkman, author of the comic book series, is behind the project that is available for download online (PC/Mac, Xbox and PS3), so you know the story will be cool - and so far it is.

You play Lee Everett, a former university professor turned convict who finds himself freed by the advent of the Zombie apocalypse. Based in Atlanta

USA, the events take place while Rick, the lead character of the TV series, is still in a coma. You become the protector of a little girl, likely orphaned, who is a game device as well as a plot device.

Very much an RPG, your choices and conversations figure heavily in the advancement of the plot and determine friends, enemies, character responses, who lives and dies and who wants you to live or die, both in the short and long term. And yes, you get to smash zombie brains.

What's cool is that you are discovering the character as the game progresses and there is clearly more to Lee than meets the eye. Characters and locales from the TV series and comic make appearances but the story is a new one within the WD universe.

The game play is interesting if not a bit awkward (I played on Xbox) but it's easy to get used to. Interacting with the environment is essential as is picking up seemingly random objects. You have stealth 'missions', head-on combat and lots of moral dilemmas to navigate.

The game has five episodes each about 90 minutes long. The first part is already out with successive

episodes following monthly, and goes for 400 MS points on Xbox Live and about 25 USD on other platforms - you can purchase a code at third party sites.

Highly recommended for RPG lovers!

Check the Gamehedz blog for links and videos.

MY FAV APP

The festive month of Ramadan is approaching and I have some useful apps for your Apple and Android devices.

iPray: This application is for Apple devices and provides prayer time notifications and accurate Qibla directions. iPray also provides a Muslim calendar to highlight Islamic events throughout the year.

Muslim Pro-Azan & Quran: The Muslim Pro application is very helpful for users of Android devices. It comes with prayer time reminders, an animated Qibla compass, a Muslim calendar, and the Holy Quran with a transliteration and translation in Indonesian, French, German and Turkish.

by Omar Dandach





TEMPO'S TOP TEN SONGS IN THE UAE

- 1 Payphone - Maroon 5 ft. Wiz Khalifa
- 2 Turn Up Da Music - Chris Brown ft. Rihanna
- 3 Eyes Open - Taylor swift
- 4 We Are Young - Fun ft. Janelle Monae
- 5 Part Of Me - Katy Perry
- 6 Drive By - Train
- 7 Glad You Came - The Wanted
- 8 So Good - B.o.B.
- 9 She Doesn't Mind - Sean Paul
- 10 Boyfriend - Justin Beiber



View the #1 song in the UAE ▶

1. **Somebody That I Used To Know** - Gotye ft. Kimbra
2. **Payphone** - Maroon 5 ft. Wiz Khalifa
3. **We Are Young** - Fun ft. Janelle Monae
4. **Call Me Maybe** - Carly Rae Jepsen
5. **Wild Ones** - Flo Rida ft. Sia
6. **Starships** - Nicki Minaj
7. **What Makes You Beautiful** - One Direction
8. **Glad You Came** - The Wanted
9. **Boyfriend** - Justin Bieber
10. **Drive By** - Train



1. **R.I.P** - Rita Ora ft. Tinie Tempah
2. **We Are Young** - Fun ft. Janelle Monae
3. **Call Me Maybe** - Carly Rae Jepsen
4. **Too Close** - Alex Clare
5. **Young** - Tulisa
6. **Where Have You Been?** - Rihanna
7. **30 Days** - The Saturdays
8. **Drive By** - Train
9. **Oliver Twist** - D'banj
10. **Somebody That I Used To Know** - Gotye ft. Kimbra

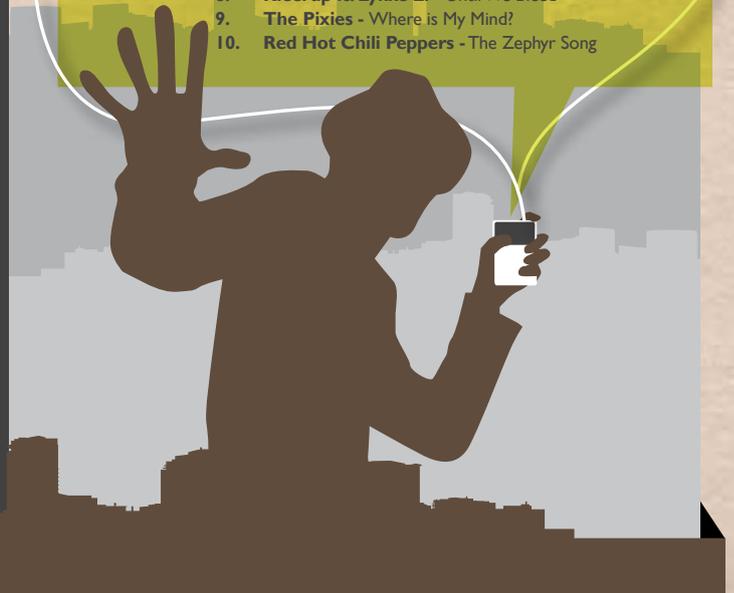


WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?



Aditya Jain, 24 year old Credit Analyst at BNP Paribas, describes his music tastes as eclectic.

1. **The Weepies** - Gotta Have You
2. **Deadmau5** - The Veldt
3. **Martin Solveig ft. Dragonette** - Hello
4. **Blue Oyster Cult** - Don't Fear The Reaper
5. **The White Stripes** - Jolene
6. **Avicii** - Levels
7. **Switchfoot** - Stars
8. **Kleerup ft. Lykke Li** - Until We Bleed
9. **The Pixies** - Where is My Mind?
10. **Red Hot Chili Peppers** - The Zephyr Song



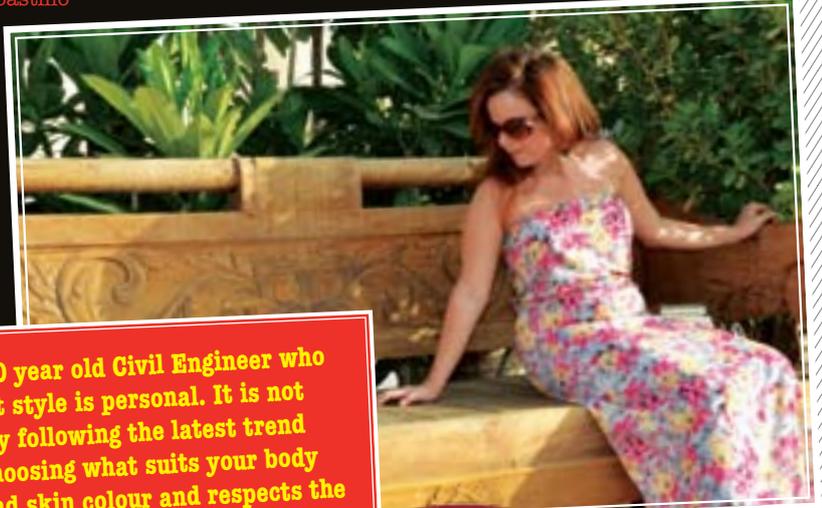
MY STYLE BLEND IMPRINT

Model: **Shaza Adnan** Photo credits: Angeli Castillo

with **SMASH!**

Inspired by the cosmopolitan streets of its home in Barcelona, Smash! radiates colour, prints, fresh ideas and rebellion. It's the style of today's woman - individual, spontaneous and positive.

Shaza is a 30 year old Civil Engineer who believes that style is personal. It is not about blindly following the latest trend but about choosing what suits your body structure and skin colour and respects the culture of the country you are living in.



More than just a fashion brand, Smash! is a way of looking at life - it means joy, creativity, freedom and happiness. It liberates and refreshes, and reflects the importance of feeling good, of being yourself and being authentic.



Smash! is for the woman who wants a new way of dressing every day at an affordable price. **Smash! is you!**

Shop at Smash! at Mushrif Mall Abu Dhabi and Ibn Battuta Mall Dubai, and The Fashion Net in Festival City Dubai and Al Wahda Mall Abu Dhabi.



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It's our mall

ALERT! HUMAN KINDNESS GOOD DEEDS COMMUNITY GIVING



ABU DHABI CAUSE CONNECT



The five founding members of the Abu Dhabi Cause Connect team with Ryan Rowe, their mentor & advisor. From left to right: Soffia Diop, Yassmeen Hashim, Suparna Mathur, Ryan Rowe, Tariq Jallad, Mame Diop

Knowing how to help great causes in Abu Dhabi is often difficult. Now a new creative collaboration is making a real difference by linking causes, companies and the community.

Abu Dhabi Cause Connect acts as a central point for great causes in the Abu Dhabi community by promoting charitable events and facilitating volunteers and resources for community groups. Founders Suparna Mathur, Mame Diop, Soffia Diop, Yassmeen Hashim and Tariq Jallad all have experience in the not-for-profit sector and use their passion and expertise to benefit charitable causes.

"The awesome thing about supporting charitable causes is that most of the time, through the events and campaigns, you can immediately witness the difference you are making with your own eyes," said Tariq.



ADCC's Suparna (middle) handing out food to labourers



ADCC's Soffia (right) and a volunteer helping at the Terry Fox Run

Led by mentor Ryan Rowe, the team at Abu Dhabi Cause Connect (ADCC) has built strong partnerships with non-profits, charities, community groups and socially responsible businesses to provide invaluable assistance to many causes.

RECENT EVENTS

A quick look at recent activities on ADCC Facebook page reveals the extent of their work in connecting the community with local causes. In May alone, ADCC helped to raise awareness for Pink Pilates, Recycle For A Cause, the ART'MIA Handicrafts Bazaar, Operation Smile UAE, Make A Wish UAE, Animal Action – Abu Dhabi and Médecins Sans Frontières UAE.

They have also rallied the community to donate sporting equipment for the Children's Summer Appeal, called for volunteers to teach English at labour camps in Abu Dhabi and Jebel Ali, asked people to assemble care packages for labourers, and promoted the Abu Dhabi Autism Walk.



ADCC's Mame (right) and volunteers collecting toys for the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund



ADCC Team with volunteers at Autism Walk



ADCC's Yassmeen (left) and a volunteer at a Breast Cancer Awareness Programme

The simple act of helping other people inspires the ADCC team.

"Every time I meet a person with passion and an unshakable urge to help, it makes me feel that anything is possible!" said Suparna.

ADCC says they cannot survive without the amazing help of the Abu Dhabi community and this keeps them motivated to continue with their efforts.

"Seeing the impact and outcomes of our work as well as other wonderful UAE non-profit groups can only motivate you to do and help more," said Mame.

Soffia agrees. "The fact that I see that everything we are doing is not in vain keeps me motivated. The results are here, and more and more people are joining the group to also make a difference."



HOW YOU CAN HELP

To connect with charitable causes in Abu Dhabi, visit the ADCC Facebook at www.facebook.com/AbuDhabiCauseConnect or follow them on Twitter at [@ADCauseConnect](https://twitter.com/ADCauseConnect)

BRaille BOOKS

Helping the blind to read is surely one of the greatest gifts one can offer. Before moving to the UAE in 2007, 34 year old Huda El Shourbagy spent 10 years working with the blind in Cairo. She started as a volunteer at the Al Boraq Charity Organisation and assisted by converting educational books into Braille and then empowering the visually impaired to read and study independently.



"It all started with feeling that I had to do something for the community and for the underprivileged," Huda explained. "I've always believed that we are born to be helpful to those who can't help themselves and the Al Boraq project was an initiative that drew me in."

GLOBAL IMPACT

After arriving in the UAE, Huda wanted to continue her charitable work and joined Lola Lopez of Volunteer in UAE. "I learnt she was doing this wonderful but very laborious work alone. I then offered to organise support for her by turning this into a Volunteer in UAE project," said Lola.

"This project is easy to contribute to from any part of the world because all the work is distributed and collected electronically. All that is required is a little time and patience from the volunteer," said Huda. "I would like to be able to create a network with branches in a number of countries to help blind students all over the world."

CREATING A BRaille BOOK

The visually impaired in Cairo decide what books they would like to read. The pages of these books are scanned and sent to Volunteer in UAE as images in jpeg format. The words are then patiently typed into Microsoft Word by volunteers to slowly piece together the soft copy of an entire book which is then sent back to Cairo to be printed as a Braille book.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Huda believes there is no greater feeling of satisfaction than knowing that you helped another in their time of need.

"You CAN make a difference, trust me. The satisfaction and happiness you feel the first time you volunteer with a charity organisation, any charity organisation, is a feeling that never dies and you see it in the smile of a young child that just finished reading a book because you taught that child to read!"



For more information about volunteering with Braille books, visit www.volunteerinabudhabi.com



ANIMAL ACTION-ABU DHABI

Animal Action - Abu Dhabi was started in June 2010 by Melanie Stones, a 24 year old graduate from York University. Melanie grew up in the UAE but went back to Canada to study where she started the 'Animal Action' programme before bringing it to the UAE.

The organisation uses social media to raise awareness about the plight of homeless animals in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and educates the public on the importance of adopting, spaying/neutering and other things pet owners should know.

Melanie now has much-needed help at Animal Action with the recruitment of more volunteer animal lovers who are willing to pick up animals, take them in and spend money on them at the vet.

"We all have full time jobs so we do all this before work, during lunch breaks, and after work until bed time. It gets very stressful, especially on days you feel no one is willing to go out of their way to help us, but this is slowly changing and a lot more people are stepping forward to try and help, especially with fostering. A lot of people were naive to the stray population problem here," said Melanie.

With people she can now depend upon, Melanie is looking at further ways to help animals in the UAE. Volunteers from Animal Action drive up and down the emirates to deliver dogs and cats to foster homes or adoptive homes. They also pick up animals they find on the streets, in construction sites or are stranded, and take them to devoted foster mums who spend their own time and money looking after the animals until they are adopted. These foster mums then open their arms to the next bunch of gangly mutts.

"We are ever so grateful to our wonderful foster families and volunteers," said Melanie. "They are helping us save the lives of so many animals and ask for nothing in return!"



For further information, visit:

www.facebook.com/animalactionabudhabi

MORE INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT!



BIG SISTERS LITTLE SISTERS

The Big Sisters/Little Sisters mentoring programme is an initiative run by the Abu Dhabi-based Women's Excellence Group and supported by the Abu Dhabi International Centre for Organizational Excellence (ADICOE).

The programme is a cross-cultural mentoring project that teams young women with experienced professionals from a variety of industries.

The Big Sisters, or mentors, are at a senior level in their careers and can offer valuable guidance to young women who have recently embarked on their career path. This innovative first for Abu Dhabi has just celebrated its first year of mentoring success.



For more information, contact Gulizar Jonian on gjonian77@hotmail.com

HEROES OF THE UAE



Heroes of the UAE is an initiative established by EWS-WWF in partnership with Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD).

This national campaign focuses on energy and water conservation across all sectors of society. It was launched to help address the country's ecological footprint through four programs: Energy, Water, School and Corporate.

With the private sector accountable for 30% of the country's ecological footprint, Heroes of the UAE inspires companies to be proactive in reducing their energy and water consumption. By using carbon audits and retrofits, a downloadable business toolkit and Corporate Hero pledges, companies can learn easy to adopt tactics to help them achieve a lower carbon footprint and a better bottom-line.

For more information, visit www.heroesoftheuae.ae

SOUGHA

Sougha is an initiative launched by the Khalifa Fund in partnership with several government entities. The project targets crafters within the UAE with a goal to preserve local heritage through artisan development, product adaptation and opportunity creation via market access.

All Sougha products are hand-made by Emirati artisans with patterns inspired by Emirati culture, and are available for sale to the general public. The Sougha project aims to revive dying arts in the emirates and supports sadou (textile) weavers, khouss (palm-frond) weavers, boukhour (incense) makers, potters and more. These artisans retain the skills and know-how of their Bedouin ancestors which have been passed down through the generations.



For more information, email sougha@khalifafund.gov.ae or call (02) 696 0000



OPERATION SMILE:

COMMUNITY LIGHTNING UP CHILDREN'S FACES

By Alia Youssef

Seeing a smile light up a child's face is one of the greatest but simplest joys in this world but some children are not lucky to be blessed with beautiful smiles. Around the world, there are many children born with a deformity that leaves them with a cleft lip or cleft palate. This deformity tarnishes their smile, and this is where Operation Smile comes in.

Now established for over 28 years in 50 countries, Operation Smile goes around the world providing free surgeries to children and adults to correct their cleft lips and cleft palates. To date, they have restored the smile of more than 150,000 children.

Operation Smile UAE began in January 2011 when Her Highness Sheikhha Alyazia Bint Saif Al Nahyan read about the organisation in a UK newspaper and decided she wanted to raise awareness about its work in the UAE.

"Operation Smile UAE is a non-government organization, registered under the Ministry of Social Affairs in January 2011," explains Kyla Hawke, the Student and Community Volunteer Coordinator. "Our role is to raise funds to provide free surgeries to children around the world, with a primary focus on treating facial deformities, especially cleft lips and cleft palates."

So far, over 24 local schools and universities have joined hands for this wonderful cause. The American International School has organised barbecues to raise money for the campaign, and recently started a bracelet-making project.

"I bought a bracelet because of the videos I saw in class," said freshman Farida Rady. "I really want to support this cause."

Several universities including Zayed University, New York University Abu Dhabi, The Petroleum Institute and Sharjah University have also created their own activities to raise money for Operation Smile UAE.

HOW TO HELP

Visit Operation Smile's website <http://www.operationssmile.org> and make a donation or get your school, if they haven't heard about it yet, to start raising money and awareness.

New volunteers can join Kyla at a drop-in meeting on Tuesday June 5 from 6.00-9.00 pm at Café De La Paix in Marina Mall Abu Dhabi to learn more about the organisation and how you can help.



CITY BITES



FRANKIE'S

By Ian Mason

FOOD

There's something about a restaurant that delivers the same high standards of service and food time after time. It's easy to be outstanding once or twice, but to do it consistently is the hallmark of a truly great restaurant.

Frankie's is a truly great restaurant. Located at Fairmont Bab Al Bahr, it might miss out on some of the central city crowd but its location is one of the attractions for me. Pre-dinner tipples don't get much better than a balmy evening on the Frankie's terrace, the tranquillity of the creek framing the moon-like glow of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in the background.

Moving inside, the mood changes from refreshing to comfortable. Everything about Frankie's oozes homestyle charm, maybe upmarket charm, but the decor is every bit as inviting and welcoming as the staff. Muted reds remind you of Ferrari, and the Italian accent and old-school European hospitality of General Manager, Giorgio Cingolani, transports you to the heart of Rome.

Given that Frankie's is the eponymous restaurant of Italian-born jockey Frankie Dettori, it is hardly surprising. Frankie and his business partner, the legendary Marco-Pierre White, have combined their ancestral roots to deliver a fine dining experience.

This is the third Frankie's I have dined at, Dublin and Dubai being the others, and I still think Abu Dhabi is my favourite. It has a warmth and understated sophistication the other two, as good as they are, lack.

I really enjoy the deceptively simple Mamma-style cooking at Frankie's -the lasagne is a favourite and my dessert selection has never wavered from the knee-bucklingly delicious warm chocolate pudding. More than the food though, it is the service that has me returning and raving. Until recently, the service at Frankie's was incomparable in Abu Dhabi; the new 5-star offerings in Abu Dhabi are providing some serious competition, but Frankie's will no doubt hold its own.

What I love most – and we all do – is the recognition at Frankie's. The staff, led by the brilliant Restaurant Manager Ashwin Naidu Javvaji, obviously take the time to learn the names of guests in their section, and they greet you like regular customers even if they haven't served you before.

Bravo, Frankie's, bravo!



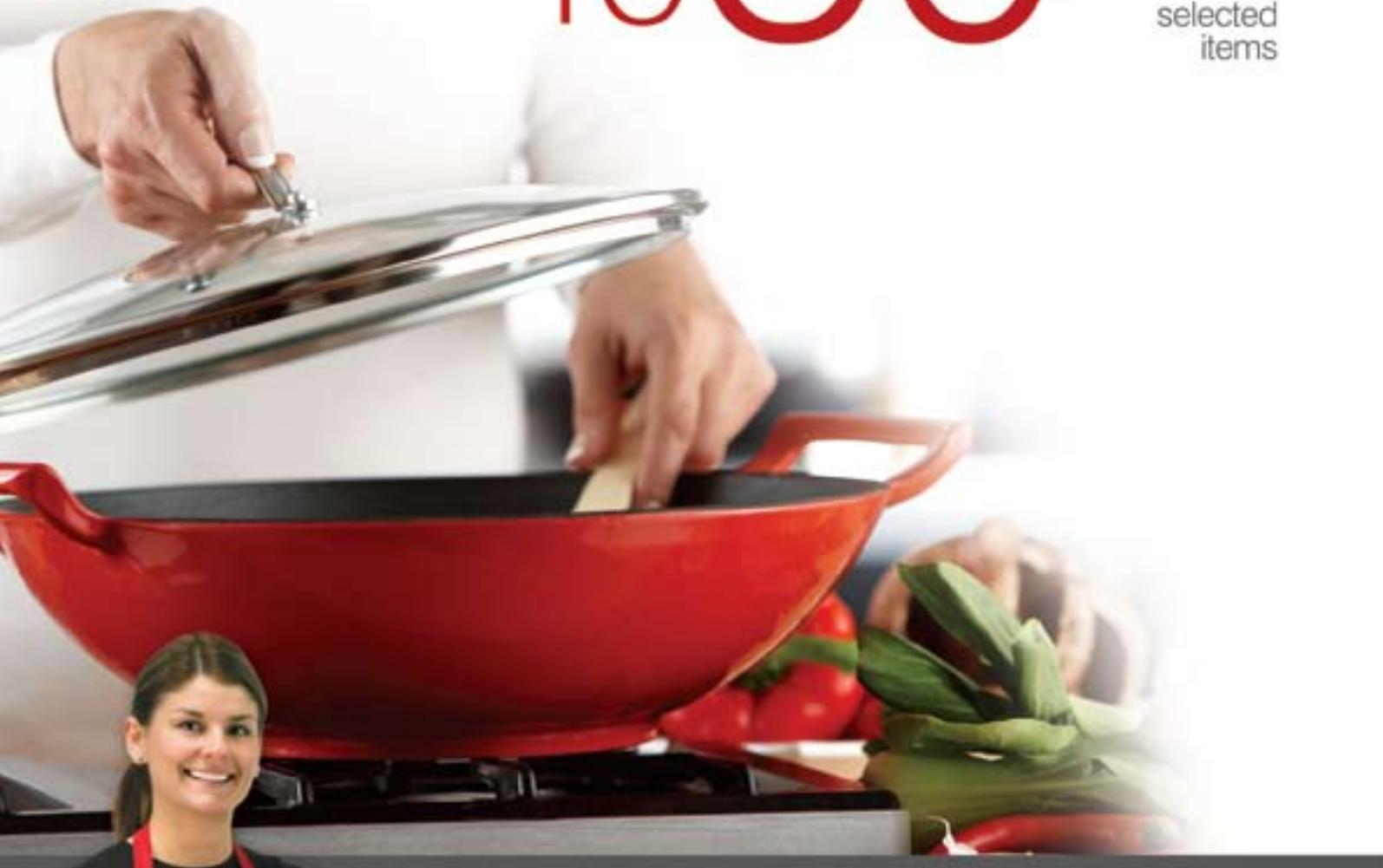
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*Some exclusions apply, see stores for details.

tempo's people calendar

JUNE 2012

sun mon tue wed thu fri sat

my june eco pledge

my june to do list

1
Peppermint 8th Anniversary with Paul van Dyk @ Dubai World Trade Center

2
The Entertainment Box by 86 Art @ Cipriani Abu Dhabi June 1-2
Amin

3
Dubai International Dance Festival @ Madinat Theatre

4
Madonna @ du Arena, Yas Island

5
Smart Cities World MENA @ Ritz Carlton DIFC June 4-5

6
Ghadi Bou Samra
Swan Lake @ Madinat Theatre, Dubai June 6-9

7
Hospital Build @ DICEC June 4-6

8
Jonita Balawen
Rat Pack - Vegas Spectacular @ADNEC

9
Community Arts and Crafts Souq @ Café Arabia 10am- 4pm

10
Mariam Abassi
TGC Annual Conference @ADNEC June 7-10

11
Arab Industrial Cities and Areas Exhibition @ADNEC June 11-13

12
The 9th CSR Summit @ Movenpick Hotel, Dubai June 11-13

13
The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark @ Madinat Theatre June 14-16

14
Story Reading and Puppet Shows across Abu Dhabi 5pm- 9pm

15
Dubai Summer Surprises 2012 14 June- 14 July

16
20th Dubai Duty Free Golf Club @ Dubai Creek Golf and Yacht Club

17
Modhesh World @ DICEC 14 June - 22 August

18
Dubai Sports World @ Dubai World Trade Center 8 June- 31 Aug

19
Senses and Sensibilities @ Art Sawa, DIFC, last day!

20
Al Sammalayah Summer Camp, Al Sammalayah Island, Abu Dhabi, starts today till 20 July

21
Text Me- Group Summer Art Exhibition @ Lawrie Shabbir Art Gallery, Dubai 21 May- 21 July

22
Evanescence @ DubaiWorld Trade Center
Rozanne Vaz

23
Indian Property Show @ Dubai World Trade Center June 21-23

24
Dubai Deser Road Run @ Tevens Stadium, Dubai

25
Summer in Abu Dhabi @ADNEC 21 June- 19 July

26
Treasures of the World's Cultures @ Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi till July 17

27
'Under Africa Skies' Musical @ Madinat Theatre June 27-30

28
Zeeshan Razaqi
Ferry Corsten live @ du Forum, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi

29
Yalla Summer @ Khalifa Park and Family Park 22 June- 13 July

30
Abu Dhabi Sports Festival @ADNEC 21 June- 19 July





Children at the Centre enjoying every minute with the clowns



Mina with one of the children

Photo credit: Lafi Photo

CLOWNING AROUND:

COMMUNITY

BRINGING JOY TO KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

By Sharon Carvalho

Clowns make you laugh no matter how old you are. They fill you with joy over their silly behavior and big noses and feet and have you rolling on the floor with laughter in a matter of minutes. There are happy clowns and sad clowns and fat clowns and thin clowns and then there are the Clowns Who Care.

THE PAST

Mina Liccione, award-winning performing artist, comedienne, choreographer, arts educator and certified medical clown, decided to create a character and holiday show that would cheer up the spirits of the many senior citizens who were alone during the holiday winter season in New York. This show grew to a tour of almost 20 Seniors Centres in the New York State.

"It was the most meaningful time of my life," said Mina.

"We are moved to tears every time by the amount of love and appreciation the families, staff and children always have towards us."

Shortly after this, Mina moved to Dubai and knew she wanted to continue this work. "There aren't many Seniors Centres here so we began to focus on

children, especially those with special needs." And so Clowns Who Care was formed.

"It all began with this one simple seed - the desire to bring joy, happiness, kindness, love and light to those who need it. We believe in tiny miracles and that simply listening and playing without judgment is crucial. Clowns Who Care is a group of performers who do just that."



Mina entertaining the children at the hospital

THE PRESENT

The Clowns Who Care project has visited, performed and led workshops at the Dubai Autism Centre and Al Noor Centre, and performed at events such as the Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

The Clowns Who Care act always begins with a performance so the kids can laugh and get to know the clowns. The second step is music, singing and/or dancing to get the blood flowing as well as some physical activity and exercise. Mina and the clowns always end with a group circle where the children get to share something about themselves, one at a time, to ensure that each of them feels special and has their own personal moment.

Each performance brings new joy to the performers and Mina believes that performing for the children isn't just a benefit for them but for the performers as well. "We are moved to tears every time by the amount of love and appreciation the families, staff and children always have towards us."



Mina and her volunteers all dressed up to spread some joy

AND THE FUTURE

When asked about future plans for the project, Mina hopes to train more committed clowns and begin a consistent schedule of visits to as many centres as they can. "Ideally a team of clowns will visit centres once a week on a regular schedule so that it is part of the children's routine. Visiting once will bring joy to them but becoming a regular part of their lives will benefit them much, much more."

The Clowns Who Care believes the connection between laughter and healing is ideal. The two go hand-in-hand and, in the end, there is nothing more rewarding than doing a selfless act for another.

To get in touch with the Clowns Who Care, 'Like' their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/clownswhocare or visit www.dubomedv.com

If you'd like to volunteer, phone 04 374 6789 or email LOL@vivadubai.com



mini minx

Angeli Castillo | Making minutes out of molehills

REBEL WITH A CAUSE:

ADDING FUN TO STREET EVENTS



Ellaine with her volunteers at the World Intellectual Property Day 2012 event that she helped organise



Ellaine with Osama Ahmed

“When you get what you want but not what you need.” Lyrics we can relate to sometimes, but in some cases, others don’t get anything at all.

This is where people like Ellaine Fatima, or Elle as friends like to call her, come in. Currently juggling jobs as a weekend freelancer and a creative executive during the week, Ellaine not only puts ideas together, she tops it off with a bit of fun and crazy. Organizing chaotic public events that have a purpose became her calling after raising awareness for two campaigns in the Philippines and achieving great output for them. Ellaine is now testing the waters in Abu Dhabi, keeping in mind the cultural difference of course.

Ellaine recalls one amazing event in the Philippines. “I did a charity event that involved a lot of arts and mixed media. For example, we’d have people dress down, especially the boys in boxer shorts and then get them to hold up signs saying ‘Feed the starving artist’ and pose at signals by pedestrian crossings, with all those signs pointing to a mall where they hosted an art and fashion show

raising funds for a charity feeding program.” What a way to get people to notice an event, huh?

When asked what motivates her to join such brave projects and work with a creative group, Ellaine makes a good point about how people love a spectacle; anything that is a feast for their eyes will get them intrigued. From loud yellow blurry sirens zooming by to kids and adults swooshing past on skates,

“Don’t be afraid to do something crazy, that people will remember you by”

Ellaine just loves how a community of different backgrounds gets together for one purpose in order to make an event a success.

Ellaine’s most recent campaign was for World Intellectual Property Day in April at the Abu Dhabi Mall. “The Ministry of Economy hosted this event and called upon Mindmill and myself to organize it. The aim was to celebrate creations of the mind.”

“The MOE’s role was to educate and inform people that the MOE is the place to go if they have a creation, work or right that needs to be protected (copyrighted, patented and so on). What I loved about it was how we street-marketed the event.”



Volunteers at the World Intellectual Property Day 2012

Currently Ellaine is working on an idea which photo enthusiasts and photographers will definitely enjoy - a 5-brief and shoot project for which a client or sponsor is needed. Should anyone like to get involved or host this project, Ellaine’s page is the place to stir this up.

“Don’t be afraid to do something crazy, that people will remember you by.” Brave words from a smart woman we should look to for inspiration because sometimes all you need is a little push to be strong enough to make the first move.

Ellaines page:
www.facebook.com/ell3.laine

See a sneak preview of the video and more of Ellaine’s work at:
<http://acp86.tumblr.com>

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THE GREEN ECONOMY: FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL



This June, the world's leading scientists and politicians will meet in Rio de Janeiro for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. It has been 20 years since the conference was last held in Rio, where there were agreements with huge implications signed, leading to the development of the Kyoto Protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol was designed to set Greenhouse Gas emissions limits and steer countries towards increasing sustainability alongside growth. But the Protocol has a time limit for the targets, 2012.

An attempt to agree on new post-2012 limits failed at the end of last year and so the politicians and scientists are meeting in Rio this June to try to set new global emissions limits amongst other issues and targets being discussed.

In the lead-up to the summit, June 5th is the 40th World Environment Day. Each year has a theme, and this year the theme is 'Green Economy'.

The UAE has one of the highest carbon footprints per capital in the world and, sadly, cannot be said to have a Green Economy. World Environment Day hopes to raise awareness of the contributing factors to a

Green Economy in the lead up to the Rio Summit to help people lobby their leaders to move towards a more sustainable planet.

WHAT IS THE GREEN ECONOMY?

The idea of a Green Economy is proposed as an economy that results in improved well being and equality, while reducing the impact on the environment and finite resources.

Simply a Green Economy is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.

As part of this global initiative towards a Green Economy, the UAE is getting involved with the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi holding a panel discussion on June 13th.

They will also be announcing this year's winners of their Sustainable School's Initiative on June 6th, rewarding the schools that have gone the furthest to reduce their environmental impact.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

How much thought have you given to where your clothes come from? Who made your car? How far the food at the supermarket has travelled to get to the shelves? Where the materials that made your house came from?

The UAE imports a huge amount of goods each day to the country and burns fossil fuels to do so, causing increased carbon emissions. In a Green Economy, local food, products and materials would be used to provide the minimum amount of carbon emissions.

Have you considered growing herbs on your balcony or garden? Or even buying your fruit and vegetables locally from the organic market? These things will help reduce the carbon footprint of the UAE, and help the UAE economy.

HOW TO HELP

Get in touch with us at www.theplanetarians.com and let us know what you are doing for World Environment Day.

Or post a photo to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/theplanetarians of your local produce.

On Twitter? Tweet us [@theplanetarians](https://twitter.com/theplanetarians) and let us know how you are making your week greener.



Emma Kirkman is a freelance production and communication professional, and passionately devotes her spare time to helping The Planetarians to spread the environmental message.

Post a message to Emma at www.facebook.com/theplanetarians or [www.twitter.com/theplanetarians](https://twitter.com/theplanetarians)

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I LOVE UAE:

FILM TEMPO COMPETITION CHANGES WINNER'S LIFE

By Sharon Carvalho

The year 2011 was all about the 40th celebration of the UAE's union. There were parades, bazaars, exhibits, fireworks and so much more! Tempo joined the celebrations by collaborating with the New York Film Academy (NYFA) in Abu Dhabi to organize the 'I Love UAE' video competition. Participants had to send in a two-minute video about the UAE which was judged by audience votes and an expert panel.



Alina receiving her prize from Simon Hunter, President of NYFA, Abu Dhabi

Alina Mustafina scooped top honours with her entry 'Many Hearts – One Love' and won herself a 12-week intensive filmmaking course at NYFA. "At the ceremony my friends and I were really nervous. I was sweating and shaking and when the envelope was finally opened and I heard my name, I couldn't believe it! I was so happy and kept shaking hands with all the jury members. And I thought, I'm going to study at one of the best film academies in the world!" recalled Alina.

Driving up and down from Dubai for the course was not easy but Alina was determined to make the

most of the opportunity. "We started with theory classes and within a month we were making our own films! We were divided into two groups of five people and each person had to make a two minute film, and all this had to be done in just two days. I quickly learned that filmmaking is a team effort as we had to do everything for each other all the time. It was tiring and stressful but we had to find a way to deal with it because that's how filmmaking is. The most difficult part was being the director because now I had a team who was waiting for my command!"

Alina recently contacted Tempo and told us about how her life has transformed since graduating from the course. "Before the contest, I planned to do my Masters in marketing and public relations but winning was a sign. It was a sign that I was meant to be a filmmaker! I enjoyed making the video for the competition so much that I knew I had to give up my boring plans and study filmmaking."

"The competition helped me face my fears and make my dreams come true. It helped my husband live out his dreams too. He had always wanted to be a pilot, so we both moved to Spain for him to study to become a pilot and for me to do my Masters in filmmaking!"

"I would like to thank the 'I Love UAE' video competition team for changing my life in a positive and creative direction. With you and the education I received at NYFA, I realized that we should all follow our dreams no matter what people say or what you are afraid of. I believe that we should just give it our all, otherwise we will always regret it."



"I LOVE UAE 2012" VIDEO COMPETITION IS NOW OPEN!

The "I Love UAE" video competition is back, and after the resounding success last year, Tempo and the New York Film Academy Abu Dhabi have come together once again to give the community an outlet to express their love for the country they call home.

The competition attracted considerable interest last year, especially among young people who took up the artistic challenge and produced some beautiful videos. This year, the community gets all summer to film videos that are between 1 to 2 minutes long about the UAE.

For more details on how to enter, or to view last years' entries, go to www.tempoplanet.com.

See Alina's winning entry on YouTube titled 'Many Hearts - One Love'



YOUNG VOLUNTEER:

COMMUNITY STUDENT LENDS A HELPING HAND

By Yasmine Ziadat



Emma Grimes, a Year 13 student from the British School Al Khubairat, started volunteering at The Future Centre for Special Needs in Abu Dhabi back in 2010. The Future Centre is a non-

profit organisation which specialises in the rehabilitation and education of individuals with special needs between the ages of three and 14. Despite the pressure of school work and upcoming A-levels, Emma volunteered on a weekly basis for eight months and was assigned to a class of children with learning difficulties.

What motivated you to volunteer?

I was incredibly motivated to volunteer as I have always loved being around children and I was very moved by the immense effort and progress that the Future Centre has made in helping these children reach their full potential. I've always known that I would pursue a career in healthcare, particularly one involving children, and so I viewed this incredible opportunity as an experience that could help me better understand the needs of these students.

How did you volunteer?

The British School Al Khubairat gives Sixth Form students the opportunity to volunteer at the Future Centre every year. We organised our own transportation to take us there and back, so every



Students from BSAK volunteering at the Future Center for Special Needs



Students being briefed before volunteering

week a couple of friends and I would leave school during our break so that we didn't miss any lessons.

How has it affected you and what have you taken away from your experience?

When I started volunteering, I was very worried that I wouldn't interact well with the students and that I might say or do the wrong thing.

However, they kindly welcomed me into their class and they were vibrant and funny. I believe that I have grown into a more confident, imaginative and happy person and it has confirmed my career choice as a speech and language therapist.

I treasure the time that I spent at the Future Centre as it also taught me a lot about helping others and how to be a better person.



BSAK students working with the children from the Future Center

Do you think volunteers are beneficial to the Future Centre?

Absolutely! Every bit of help volunteers provide is immensely appreciated, not only by the students, but by the staff as well. I think that volunteers are very beneficial to the students as they encourage them to interact with new people; they enjoyed our company as much as we enjoyed theirs. This sort of experience is incredibly rewarding and unforgettable!

Is there any moment in particular that you enjoyed the most during your time volunteering?

I loved every moment I spent volunteering at the Future Centre, but particularly, I remember a party they threw shortly before the Christmas break. We played several games and everyone was constantly laughing and cheering for one another, which was so much fun! I'll always remember the delight on their faces as we did the 'Limbo' and 'Musical Chairs', and how happy it made me that they were having such a great time.

If you would like to volunteer, call the Future Centre for Special Needs on (02) 666 9625.



CALLING UAE TALENT!

The Dream Players, the original UAE community talent competition, is making people's dreams come true.

Ask Rebecca Morrison, Osama El Kamel and Christopher Roebuck, past winners of The Dream Players.

Your chance is now!

The Dream Players is looking for:

- Singers (modern and classical)
- Poets
- Dancers
- Artists
- Comedians
- Musicians (modern and classical)
- Actors

Registrations for the new season of The Dream Players are still open! Go to www.thedreamplayers.com to sign up!

Auditions will be held right through summer with finalists performing in front of judges and a live audience.

For the latest updates, like us at www.facebook.com/thedreamplayers and follow @thedreamplayers on Twitter.



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Dr. DMS | A doc from the Bronx

PRESCRIPTION FOR SAFETY: HOW YOU CAN MAKE THINGS BETTER

When will they learn...

- 1. You like options on your car, right?? Indicators are NOT an option.** Nor are brakes. They are necessary, so USE THEM!!!! You may save yourself (or someone else) a trip to the morgue.
- 2. Rude drivers.** The ones who cut you off for a lane change at the last minute (indicators?? Nah...), refuse to let you in, or just force their way into small gaps despite the dangers. Hey, I don't care if you want to harm yourself, but when my family or I are at risk, it's a whole new game.
- 3. The speed limit.** Is this open to interpretation? The public can't deal with a secret set of special rules. We need to keep it simple - if it says 120, then so be it! Not 140, not 160, but 120 as ALL THE SIGNS SAY.
- 4. Parents, your car is NOT a mobile playground.** It's a car, and it has seats. We even have car seats for kids, and in some countries they are mandatory and other drivers will curse you for not using them. Most kids don't know any better, they just want to play. Parents, there are other ways for kids to play other than hanging out of the windows or jumping on the seats!!!

However, I have noticed an increase in car seat usage. To those converts who 'got it', you're good souls, and you deserve credit.

On a lighter note, is someone out there actually listening?

- 1. I see a lot less car accidents.** Despite the rude drivers and the lack of indicators, could it be possible that folks are actually being more cautious? Are the cops actually policing the stupidity?
- 2. Where did all the work injuries go?** For this I am really happy, and congratulations to the 'somebody' who is enforcing the construction site safety rules.
- 3. Recycling** - when I first arrived, this seemed like an insane concept. "Why!?" people asked. I used to have to hunt for places to dump my recyclables. Now I read more and more about it in the papers and see legit places to put my paper, plastics and cans. Glass hasn't caught on yet, I guess. (True or False? The trash and recyclable are all dumped into the same hole?)

We think that a lot of things are out of our control, but we can help. As they say, **act local but think global.**

For all the good changes, congratulations people!!



articulate

Neena Rai | An artist with a flair

TREASURES OF THE WORLD: UNIQUE DISPLAY OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION

Manarat Al Saadiyat has organised yet another mind blowing exhibition in Abu Dhabi, showcasing some of the oldest and precious artifacts. 'Treasures of the World' tells the story of human life by taking us through various civilizations of the past as well as the present.



Organised by TDIC in collaboration with the British Museum, the exhibition throws light on human life as far as two million years ago. With more than 250 artifacts on display, 'Treasures of the World' includes some of the most important collections of the British Museum, many of which are being exhibited out of London for the first time. Other artifacts are being loaned by the Sharjah Archeology Museum and Al Ain National Museum.

This exhibition is the second of its kind in a series of exhibitions being organised in preparation for the opening of the Zayed National Museum. Starting from Africa, where human life is supposed to have begun, on display are some of the oldest stone artifacts which were used to chisel, break and carve in order to create things of beauty and purpose.

Treasures from two of my favourite ancient Middle Eastern civilizations, Mesopotamia and Egypt, are also showcased. You can look at a real mummy from the Ptolemaic period and find the four important glass jars that held the internal organs of the dead ones.

The exhibition features an impressive array of works from the Renaissance period which is supposed to be the bridge between the Medieval and Modern Ages. A beautiful drawing of a woman's head by Michelangelo can be viewed along with works by Rubens and Durer.

Just as striking is the 18th – 19th century birdman boulder from Rapanui (Easter Islands). The birdman has a unique body structure comprising a bird's head and human hands and could pass off as a medieval superhuman or mutant.

Stunning gold masks from South America, which cover the Columbian and Peruvian cultures, are another personal highlight. The masks depict those of rank and high order with large and, in some cases, massive nose rings. Having just returned from Peru earlier this year, I was particularly happy to see this part of the exhibition.

Don't miss the mummies, masks and medieval mutants at 'Treasures of the World'. Catch the exhibition at Manarat Al Saadiyat before it ends on 17th July 2012. Entry is free and you can visit from 10 am to 8 pm.

Follow me on twitter: @NeenaRai





media

Alma Kadragic

11TH ARAB MEDIA FORUM: REFLECTING SOCIAL CHANGES

As I drove up to the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Dubai recently, I saw the long line of cars waiting to get into the parking lots, the taxis delivering guests, and the augmented valet parking service at the main entrance exactly as it had looked a year ago at the 10th Arab Media Forum.

Inside at the conference area, lines of people waited for their bags and briefcases to go through the airport-like scanners, hoping whatever was in their pockets wouldn't set off the machine and send them for a pat-down in a closed booth.

But this was the 11th Forum, and the similarities were superficial. The sessions and the people who spoke on stage and from the audience were different. Most noticeably, everyone was younger. Whereas at past Forums, the majority of Arab journalists seemed to be in their 50s if not older; this year, while participants in their 20s and 30s didn't dominate, many more of them could be

seen in and around the sessions.

Effective and independent media needs journalists ready to move quickly because the 24-hour news cycle will not wait.

Moreover, perhaps because several sessions were televised live, the programme was faster. One of the reasons

introductions of speakers on stage seemed to have been cut.

Another was that the delegates in the audience who asked questions were more to the point.

In the past every questioner seemed to begin with a long thank you to the organizers followed by praise of the panellists, followed by remarks that never got to a question. That happened much less this year because the moderators on stage were less tolerant of such contributions from the floor.

As we follow the changes in Arab media and politics, changes in the attitude and approach of media people also warrant our notice. Effective and independent media needs journalists ready to move quickly because the 24-hour news cycle will not wait.

EASY ACCESS TO INFORMATION:

A BOON OR BANE?

By Abin Ajayakumar

Gone are the days when information was restricted to only a privileged few in this world. Due to technological advancements, access to information has become so easy and convenient that it is available to the masses at the click of a button.

While technology does ease out a lot of things, there are certain drawbacks that go unnoticed by young kids and parents. Technology has brought the real world so close to the digital world that it is difficult to see any difference and while there are umpteen benefits of the effective utilization of these channels, a slight shift can be detrimental. This is due to the lack of awareness amongst children and parents about the digital world and its pitfalls.

Listed below are some simple steps which, if enforced properly by parents, can make a huge difference in the lives of their children.

- Encourage a balanced use of media – Parents need to ensure that time spent by kids on the internet should be equal to other activities such as spending time with family and friends. A balanced rationale should be the general rule of thumb.
- Monitor the usage of media – Even though it is not very easy to ascertain what kids are doing on the internet, parents should try to have open communications with their children about their internet usage. Encourage them to use the internet in an area that is easy to monitor; such as the living room.
- Discuss what sites they can visit – Parents should talk to their kids and advise them about what websites are appropriate for them. Children can easily access inappropriate information and may even fall prey to cyber bullying.
- Teach kids about the 3 Ws “Who, When and What” of any website. Who created the website – is it an educational website (.edu) or a commercial organization (.com) or a non-profit organization (.org)? When was the information updated on website? What kind of information is available on the website? This

information should then be verified from various other sources to endure reliability.

- Kids should be made aware about the internet identity i.e. the social identity that they establish in online communities and websites. There could be a possibility that the identity kids create today can haunt them in the future. They should think before they post something online and the following questions should be considered before anything is posted:
 - *What is my purpose for creating this?*
 - *Who is my audience?*
 - *Am I creating this for myself, to make an impression, and/or to get my peers' approval?*
 - *How much should I reveal?*
 - *Who might see this? What am I saying about myself? How will people interpret this?*
- Establish some ground rules on what kids should post online. Children do not understand who is watching the information they post and how it is used by virtual communities.
- Parents should encourage creativity through digital media. These days there are handful of sites that kids can use to develop themselves in terms of art, music, videos, animations etc.

One should develop their interests by visiting these websites together and bonding over mutual interests. This will also help children share their online usage with their parents.

It is vital that children are exposed to the opportunities and challenges of the digital world and how to make safe, responsible and respectful use of these channels.

We need to keep our future generations safe from all possible crimes and undesirable acts by malicious people who try to make the noble initiative of technology advancement a farce. All this is possible by creating awareness of information usage and security amongst children and their parents.

Abin Ajayakumar is the Executive Director of Cambridge Education.



CSR: COMPANIES HELPING THE COMMUNITY

By Ian Mason



One of the buzz words in public relations these days is 'corporate social responsibility' or CSR.

CSR is not a new concept but it seems to have gained momentum in the past decade to counter sustained criticism of corporate greed. As a public relations activity, corporate companies can point to their community efforts to show they are not the 'bad guys'.

In many philanthropic regions, CSR is a vital part of a company's DNA. Businesses want to be seen as an integral part of the local community, or even the global community, and CSR is viewed as a legitimate public relations activity.

Some critics argue that CSR is not a course that companies should embark upon as it does not have a direct bearing on profits.

However, I would argue that profit should not always be the end-game. Trust and respect are critical success factors for many companies and the goodwill that CSR creates goes a long way to establishing these

CSR is all about getting out there and lending a hand, no matter how big or small.

highly-desired traits. When economic and financial times are tough, consumers turn to brands they trust and respect, and should a catastrophic event affect your company, the goodwill you have generated through CSR will help enormously to withstand customer backlash.

When considering CSR as part of your public relations strategy, it is important to ensure that the CSR is not a token effort. The public are not easily fooled. CSR is like branding – it needs to be lived and breathed right through the organisation over a sustained period and embraced by the staff and Board alike. It should be an ethos, not a one-off activity. It is

even better if you can allocate a staff member to be responsible for CSR programmes.

CSR should be a sustained programme of initiatives with a clearly identified theme. It is critical to get employee buy-in so your staff become ambassadors for the activities and contribute in a meaningful way.

The CSR programme should also be externally promoted, not in a selfish way, but to encourage wider participation in the activities and to gently remind people of your community efforts.

CSR activities can be cause-related and ideally they should relate to the company's industry sector in order to derive long-term goodwill benefit. Internationally, Ben and Jerry's, the famous USA-based ice cream maker, has been donating 7.5% of their profits to community programmes since the 1980s, including dollar-for-dollar matching for all funds raised by staff initiatives. The Body Shop is another global company that has built a highly-reputable brand based on its extensive CSR efforts.

In the UAE, there are many corporations embracing CSR and it is great to see many of them appointing dedicated CSR Managers to coordinate and activate their community programmes.

For example, the wonderful eatery Slices in Abu Dhabi's Al Mamoura building donates all unused food at the end of each day to local workers camps and other community initiatives. Simple but what a great impact this has. CSR programmes can be as creative or as basic as your budget and resources allow.

CSR is all about getting out there and lending a hand, no matter how big or small. If your company hasn't yet contributed, perhaps you should consider implementing a corporate social responsibility programme. You will be well rewarded, in more ways than one.

Are you playing your part?

Ian Mason is CSR, PR and Training Manager at BrandMoxie and Tamakkan. Tamakkan offers a range of professional skill workshops and team development events for companies, covering areas such as customer service, social media and communication.

Email Ian at ianmason@brandmoxie.com for further details, or call (02) 491 8624.



just handcrafted

Jan D'Sa | Scientist artiste hybrid

SOSPESO TRASPARENTE:

PLAYING SAFE WITH A NEW TECHNIQUE



It is very important for your customers to be aware of the kind of materials you use in your handcrafted work, for their safety and for your own reputation. Your customers have a right to know if they are buying something that has been created in an unsafe environment or if the product may continue to be unsafe when brought into their homes.

This month's featured artist tells us how to safely use an exciting technique that, if used incorrectly, can be dangerous.

Sospeso Trasparente

Ksenya Kirsanova, owner of UAE-based Art Labs, is an artisan who practices the patented decorative technique of Italian decorator Monica Allegro called Sospeso Trasparente. Ksenya is the only registered entity in the UAE for promoting this technique.

"The plastic that is used for Sospeso Trasparente is unique because it is a transparent thermoplastic which becomes flexible when it is heated and therefore very easy to model before it cools to retain the shape. What makes this plastic unique is that it is non-toxic and can be used in a very safe manner by students learning this technique."

Safety first

Unfortunately, it has been discovered that students of this technique may try to substitute the patented plastic with normal plastic which causes infectious fumes and other hazards. That is why Ksenya is adamant about emphasizing that normal plastic can never take the place of the patented thermoplastic when working on the Sospeso Trasparente technique.

Sometimes it is important to get a bit technical when talking about handcraft techniques so that people understand the dangers of using materials that don't come with a stamp of approval. There is no point in creating lovely handcraft work if the fumes of the substituted plastic get to you and you are not around to enjoy the work of your hands. Sospeso Trasparente materials come with a safety certificate, so if you are unsure whether your supplier is selling the right kind of plastic, you can always ask to see this safety certificate.

Tips and techniques

With that out of the way, let's look further into the technique and see what can be created with Sospeso Trasparente. According to Ksenya, it all depends on the type of paper you use and whether you want the matte or glossy effect for the end product.

"At the basic level, the napkin (with a floral pattern) or a découpage card is cut into the desired shape before being glued onto the plastic film. Once glued, leave it to dry and cut the motifs together with the film."



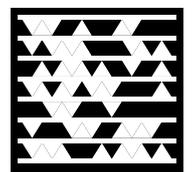
"After heating with a candle, model it with a series of specific Sospeso Trasparente instruments such as the latex pad and wooden burins. Shape the film while it is warm and flexible because once it cools down, the shape is retained."

Ksenya has created a range of Sospeso Trasparente products such as jewelry, frame decorations, brooches and more. The list of things you can make from this product is endless. Just keep in mind the safety principles of this technique and you are good to go.

Visit ArtLabs at <http://www.artlabs.me>

Jan D'Sa is the artist-designer of Jany's Dé mixed media (www.janydsde.com).

Follow her trips 'n treats at the Cultural Arts Travelogue (www.culturalartstravelogue.com)



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horoscope

Aries: Time to shine Aries! Like the morning sun, you seem to burst onto the scene wherever you go, spreading sunshine. Pluto and Saturn are giving you a big boost this month. Things are changing, but in a good way and not without some common sense and a sound foundation. Any changes you make will be for the best.

Taurus: So much to do and so little time. The gas tank is running low and the clock is ticking. Are you feeling the pressure? You may feel like crawling away and hibernating for a while. After the 21st the energy level comes back, so don't push it so hard until then.

Gemini: The last two weeks of June and the better part of this month the Dream Machine has been running into overtime. Seems you've been scheming and planning for the future. This comes at a time when, since way last summer, events have played an important role in setting up these choices for you now.

Cancer: Ball of fire. Could you be any more "ON"? The career arena is popping with achievement. The things you want out of life seem to be handed to you without effort. Even romance is in the spring air for you. I'd say June couldn't get any better.

Leo: You could be rolling in clover before June ends. Seems that all the work you've been doing is now going to start to pay off. The accolades will be rolling in on the career scene. You could wind-up very high profile as a result of your actions. This could also mean more money for you.

Virgo: Busy, busy. Get the taxes out. Balance the books. Cover all the bases. Run here, run there. It's a full schedule, but you're up to the task. It's almost like having a private personal energy source this month. Just don't go overboard with trying to do too much. Remember to breath.

Libra: This month bodes so well for your committed relationships. There's just a ton of activity in this area. You are changing things for the better. Making a new commitment or revitalizing an older one. Either way, it's a wonderful ride this month.

Scorpio: Work, work, and work. So much to do, so little time, or so it would seem. Time to get organized Scorpio. Listen to those around you for ideas on how to streamline your activities and reap the biggest benefits from your actions. You will feel that you have the energy to go ahead and get the job done right.

Sagittarius: Romance is in the spring air for you. Also the creative urge is running through your life with abandon. Time to smell the roses and take some measures to enjoy your life. If you open yourself to new experiences this month you could get a big surprise.

Capricorn: Your security is where you may be focused the first half of June. Financial planning will be the most important thing going for you this month. Take your time and leave your options open as long as you can before committing. This would be an excellent time to purchase property as well.

Aquarius: The communications will be rolling in with lightening speed this month. It may be something of a task just to keep up. Remain calm and eat that elephant one bite at a time. Don't loose your perspective in any situation. This will help when things get just a bit frantic.

Pisces: You could have such an urge to just go shopping for something nice for that loved one in you life. Interesting, huh? The good news is, that you have the money at this time to do it right. Don't forget to be good to yourself as well.

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just a thought

Manar Al Hinai | A Khaleeji girl who overthinks a lot and loves to write

SALEH AL BRAIK GCC TALENT AGENT

This month I was honoured to meet Saleh Al Braik, a 24 year old Emirati who is the founder of ThinkUp, the first GCC talent agency. We chatted for a bit and this is what he had to say about giving undiscovered talent their own platform to shine and doing charitable work.



Saleh Al Braik, founder of ThinkUp

What is ThinkUp? Think Up is the first UAE talent and PR agency focused on highlighting Emirati and GCC nationals' talents.

Its main purpose is to discover Emiratis and GCC Nationals with talent and then nurture that talent by providing them opportunities and support. It works by boosting their organic growth through increasing their exposure both locally and internationally while maximizing their productivity skills.

When was ThinkUp born? September 2011 in Dubai.

What inspired you to start ThinkUp?

I realized a lot of Emirati talents needed a platform to showcase their talents. However, there was no agency in the region that supported Emirati and GCC National talents. Through Twitter, I found a lot of undiscovered youth talent who did not have any support system. I felt like it was my duty to create that platform for them.

Was it difficult to raise awareness about your organization? Since we were the first Emirati-run agency for Emiratis and GCC Nationals, a lot of people quickly heard about us through word-of-mouth and social media.



Volunteers at a charity event



Members of the ThinkUp group

Social media these days has become a major source of information, especially amongst the youth. What we did was capitalize on that medium and create a movement.

How many team members do you have? And are they only based in the UAE? We currently have a total of 14 GCC Nationals all based in the UAE and one in Bahrain who dedicate their time to raising awareness about our initiative.

Why did you decide to extend your initiative to cover the GCC region instead of focusing solely on the UAE? It was very important for me to expose the talents in the UAE; however, I realized there were many talented youth in the GCC who were also not exposed and needed support. That is why I decided to support all GCC Nationals.

What were the main projects you helped organize? We partnered with different organizations, one of them being Dubai Cares, during several events including 'Walk for Education' and 'Think Cares: Renovation Project'.



ThinkUp member volunteering at a hospital



Volunteers at a charity event

We also partnered with many charity events including Senses Centre, Autism Walkathon and the Shoe Box Appeal in UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and KSA. We also organize events that aim to support talents including the recent Middle East Film and Comic Con, during which we assisted in showcasing the artwork of six talented GCC Nationals.

The most memorable experience? I have to say that the most memorable experience so far has been the recent Arab Media Forum during which we provided several services including showcasing talents at their exclusive reception. We also supported them with a digital media package during the two-day event by utilizing various social media channels.

Any words of wisdom you'd love to share? Never give up. Always believe in yourself and anything worth having is worth waiting for. Oh, and remember to be fearless!

CONTACTING THINKUP

Register as a talent at talent@thinkup.ae or as a volunteer at volunteers@thinkup.ae
For general information, email info@thinkup.ae



What do you think?
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