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THE EDITOR'S NOTE

I take this opportunity to wish the UAE, and its people, a very happy National Day, along with long lasting peace and prosperity.



When I first came to the UAE, I was fresh out of university from the US and eager to get my first job. My parents sent me to Abu Dhabi to be with my extended Emirati family, where they hoped I'd be safe, productive and God willing, ready for marriage in due course.

That was 1985 - a long time ago, right? Well, I stayed with my Uncle Khalid who was like a father to me, his wife Wafa who became my confidante, and their wonderful kids Hiba, Ayman and Hadeel, who are now grown and married. As you might imagine, I stuck out like a sore thumb from the start...my extended family often didn't know quite what to do with me as I struggled to fit into this country that was my new home.

My first job was as a reporter in Gulf News; I was one of a handful of Arab female journalists covering hardcore news beats. I struggled with Arabic, with making sense of Arabian culture (to the dismay of my quite-conservative family) and occasionally found myself in trouble culturally, socially and professionally. I covered the police beat, and yes, it's true that I accidentally knocked down a police motorbike with my car while covering a story! I was assigned to cover the FNC and looked odd as the only woman in the large parliamentary chamber. I had the privilege to meet countless newsmakers such as Wilfred Thesiger, Princess Diana, Prince Charles, Kofi Anan, Nelson Mandela, Benazir Bhutto, Jacques Chirac, President Bush Sr, Richard Branson and... the amazing Sheikh Zaved!

I left Abu Dhabi for some years between 1990 and 1997, leaving to Seattle where I settled down and started a family but soon returned to Abu Dhabi. I came back to a job as bureau chief of Gulf News, then Marketing Director at Thuraya... and then became CEO of BrandMoxie, editor of Tempo, founder of Tamakkan (an entrepreneurship initiative) and since then have been engaged in cool community and nation-building work.

I am reminiscing about the past because of the UAE's National Day - and its significance to me and my family. I have lived on three continents, and I have not felt more at home anywhere than in the UAE, a country that has embraced my family and have made us only too happy to give back.

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A THOUSAND FACES



BY TOMI ADETAYO | www.a1000faces.com

HOW RAY MELO FOUND HIS GROOVE!



When you live for music, it shines through your performance. Meet Ray Melo, a talented guitarist and performer. Ray talks about his journey from playing the drums as a kid living in America to performing on the Beats on the Beach F1 Fan Zone in Abu Dhabi. He loves to meet new people, make new music, and perform to a diverse audience...

"My name is Ray Melo and I am a musician. I started playing music when I was 12. I played the drums at the Robert Van Wyck Middle School band in New York for two years. From there, I took keyboard piano courses at Osceola High School in Kissimmee in Florida. However, it wasn't until I was 17 that I became heavily

interested in the guitar. My uncle gave me my first guitar for my birthday. It was a beat-up Spanish acoustic with nylon strings so thick it caused my fingertips to bleed, but I taught myself how to play basic chords on it. I learned how to tune each string correctly, and how to play by ear, alongside music CDs.

"After a year and a half, I started taking guitar lessons with Clint Stewart, who was a mentor and a virtuoso. Through his teachings I learned how to sightread, incorporate different scales into my playing, improvise, and compose my own music. My early influences ranged from all genres of music - from The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Band, and Bob Dylan to hip-hop legends like Tupac Shakur, The Notorious B.I.G., Busta Rhymes, and Nas. As a guitarist. I base my playing on the blues, rock, and R&B music. My heroes include Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Keith Richards, and Pete Townshend as well as bluesmen like Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, Jimmy Reed, and B.B. King. I am also influenced by rhythm ax-men like Steve Cropper, Jimmy Nolen and Catfish Collins from the James Brown Band, Eddie Hazel from Parliament-Funkadelic, Charles Smith from Kool & the Gang, Nile Rodgers from Chic, and Ernie Isley from the Islev Brothers

"What motivates me is to play alongside some the best musicians the UAE. It not only gives me the opportunity to showcase my talent with them, but becomes a learning experience of what to do and not to do on stage. I've been blessed to work and collaborate with people like Kenda

Roberts, who took me under her wing and invited me to play guitar at Beats of the Beach at the F1 Fan Zone, White Cube's Metronome, and Rooftop Rhythms' Abu Dhabi Soul. Through her I met my musical sister Zainab Hafiz, who is one of the most powerful singers around and with whom I'm currently developing a super group called The Hype. Our band consists of her on lead vocals, Sarah Gamal El Gohary on lead vocals/rapping, yours truly on lead/rhythm guitar, Soufian Rabhi on lead/rhythm guitar, Jose Mohamdo on percussion, and Khalid Al-Temimi on the drums.

"A few week ago The Hype showed up unexpectedly at Viewz in the Cristal Hotel for Open Jam Night and we shared the stage with Eric Sesbreno and his band YFY, who are the best in the Abu Dhabi music scene. There was a sense of camaraderie with everyone and we enjoyed feeding off one another musically. "Music is probably the only art form that touches people on an emotional level. I find music to be very therapeutic because it allows me to escape from all the hardships of life. Whenever I feel like the world is against me, I either grab the Stratocaster or sit in front of the keyboard piano and play my heart out. By the time I hit that last note, I feel a sense of joy that makes me forget what I was upset about in the first place. In the words of Bob Marley, "When music hits you, you feel no pain."

YouTube- www.youtube.com/ MackMasterRayShizzl1

TWEETS FOR THOUGHT



HH Sheikh Mohammed



Official Tweets by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al

We look forward to share our message of hope, peace, tolerance and development for a better world.



Jim Carrey



Actor Jim Carrey!

on't worry folks as long as the Sun is revolving around the Earth, we'll be fine!



Markiplier



the turkeys will play





Hank Green



Co-Founder: http:// youtube.com/vlogbrothers , http://DFTBA.com . SciShow, Crash Course, VidCon, and other things. T-Shirt Size: M

There's a fine line (but a big difference) between preparing for a negative outcome and acting as if it has already



Sara Zarr



Writer, Person, Aging naturally since 1970. It's not you, it's me.

Sometimes I just stare at a map of the world and ponder how little I know about anything.



Imaan Sheikh



Writer, doodler. Nonresident spicy memedreamer & GIF-maker at @BuzzFeedIndia. Accurately described once as 'Deranged man-hater posing to be a feminist'.

Wow this clean eating thing is so we-oops ate 3 samosas.



Aziz Ansari



Pasta lover. I don't tweet much. My new Netflix series Master of None is now streaming on Netflix.

I know I talk about how much I hate vasting time on the internet, but when the entire internet decides to be super nice to you, it's dope.



Dina Hashem



comedian/hero

Some people say I'm never angry. They haven't seen me ragefully throw away recyclables. My vengeance shall emerge in the skies and seas!











A vacation with your family can be great fun, but it can also be full of stress and hidden minefields as you run into unexpected obstacles and glitches. Here are my thoughts on how you can quarantee fun.

1. What kind of holiday do you want?

This is a question I like to play with when I am planning a holiday. It takes into account the preference of each member of the family. Look for unexpected answers and be open to what people may offer you.

2. Ask about what grand and glorious adventure awaits you.

Wake up every morning and ask this question. It sets the tone for the day. It brings you out of the mindset of yesterday and elevates your day from the mundane.

3. How much fun is possible today?

Be open to the fun and the joyful. The simplest of activities can be a source of enjoyment whether it is a walk on the beach, a game of badminton with the kids. or a day at the movies. You just have to look for them.

4. What other possibilities are available?

Sometimes, unexpected glitches crop up. You can choose to be upset about them, or you can embrace different possibilities. Don't be stuck on a plan. Be ready and willing to change anything.

5. Don't overfill the day with activities.

Don't overschedule your day; allow some down time. Maybe read books, listen to music, chat with friends, slow down. A constant schedule of activity is very tiring

BEING HAPPY!



BY DENISE SCHNITZER

AUDACIOUS AUTHENTICITY AND HERCULEAN HAPPINESS

Wake up, smile, and tell yourself, "Today is my day!" Then go out and be amazing, joyful and happy.

Celebrating National Day in the UAE, expats and locals band together to lionize this fabulous place we call "home" and to show gratitude to the founders of the nation. When we are truly authentic with our gratitude, miracles occur. Everyone should live this month in audacious authenticity! Show your true self: be brave and be bold. And if you want to attract happy, positive things and people.... become a happy positive person yourself!

For the past three years, I have thoroughly enjoyed decorating our flat with flags, banners, signs, pom-poms, and glittered flowers to celebrate my adopted home during National Day, Sharing experiences such as this enriches my life and adds to my mental treasure chest of memories.

I have learned that happiness always starts with YOU! Not with your relationships. Not with your job. Not with your money... with you! I have learned to open my heart to new places, situations and friends and to let miracles occur. I have been blessed with fantastic and generous friends whom I met during my tenure here. I see each opportunity to mix and mingle with them as

Lunches, dinners, movies and trips are some ways we get together and enjoy our expat life. Sharing simple joys is an awesome way to be authentic. It doesn't take much to be happy. Joining expat social groups, going on outings: "Remote Abu Dhabi," Warehouse 421, Yasalam events, Mother of the Nation festival, and camping out in the desert are wildly FUN activities that lead to herculean

happiness. Imagine lying on a tarp in the desert with friends, surrounded by sand dunes and a few desert plants, looking up and watching the Milky Way come into focus

That's a happy experience. Be creative and do stuff. Seek and you will find FUN.

I have found that when I seek like-minded people, FUN occurs and my heart is happy. Whether I choose yoga classes, standup-paddling, kite boarding, sailing, Panto, Mahjongg or reading by the pool, it's always better with friends. Find FUN and share it; I do! Happy people choose being with other happy people.

Stretch yourself and learn, do, explore something new every chance you get. Gentle reminder, "people are faces until they are your friends.'

American ethicist Michael Josephson said, "Every now and then it is a good thing to stop looking for happiness and just be happy." For me, I believe changing my focus as well as the environment changes my mood. When I go outside for a walk at lunch time, I benefit from a little sunshine and fresh air. Nature has many lessons and remedies. Listening to happy, upbeat music also increases happy feelings. Taking a walk along the beach is one of my favorite ways

As a practical guide to enjoying the miracles of life, I suggest reading books and blogs from people who have mastered a welllived life. Doing new things, NDBs (never done before) will open up not only new experiences, new friends and new goals, but

Remember, an authentic open heart and mind is the key to Herculean happiness.

NOTES & CYBERCHATTER

TEMPO POLL OF THE MONTH

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT THIS SEASON?

Spending time with my family.



Opening presents!



I'm not really doing anything.



On Uncover Coconut's **Magical Power:** |

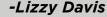
"I'd heard of the supposed miracle of coconut before, but thanks for sharing its benefits.

-Hafsah Hakim



On Volunteer Opportunities for Youth:

"There's so much that the youth of today can do for their communities. All these wonderful opportunities are only the tip of the iceberg.





Going home for the holidays.

On Bridging Diversity:

"In a community like ours, it's important to recognize our differences. However, we shouldn't let them set us apart from others. That's why initiatives like this are so important!"

-Maria Ness





I sat down with Bill Bragin, Culture and Arts impresario and Executive Arts Director of The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi. We discussed everything from the art of curation to the upcoming second annual edition of Hekayeh. The highly anticipated event is a celebration of UAE's National Day that shares the stories and artistic talents of locals and expatriates in the country.

Dorian: Where did you grow up and how did that shape your life?

Bill: I grew up in Long Island, in the suburbs of New York City. It was a typical suburban upbringing but beginning in eighth grade I started going into the city on my own. This exposed me to an abundance of music. theater and art from a young age.

Dorian: How do you curate your events each season at NYU?

Bill: I think a lot about the communities here - both at NYU Abu Dhabi, and the UAE in general. I decide what will resonate with audiences who are varied in backgrounds, cultures and experiences. I look for artists who want to do more than just show up and do a show.

Dorian: Last December, you debuted Hekayeh which you'll be holding again this month. Where did you get the idea for this event from, and what should we look for in the upcoming one?

Bill: This is an event that was inspired by an event I used to present at Lincoln Center called La Casita, which was a celebration of oral traditions through poetry and music. Because poetry is such a revered art form in Emirati culture, and because the spoken word scene has grown so much thanks to Rooftop Rhythms and its offspring, it made sense to adapt this approach to the UAE by building it around National Day as a celebration of heritage and identity.

Dorian: How does this event compare to the one you held last year?

Bill: One of the most important things about Hekayeh is the curatorial process. For Hekayeh, my primary role is curating the curators - an Emirati poetry expert Mohamed al Hashemi, a community based artist and event organizer Zari Jafri, an NYUAD poetry professor and artist Jill Magi, an NYUAD student, this year Nafi Mounkaila, who performed last year, and you. Each curator nominates artists from their own communities and aesthetic

world, and then as a group we review submissions and select the final list, which is different from what any of us would do on our own. This year's Hekaveh has a little more music than last year, and artists come from more varied backgrounds.

Dorian: Why do you think Hekayeh is needed?

Bill: Hekayeh is a celebration of the UAE, designed to honour National Day and Emirati heritage, while also looking at the uniquely polyglot society the UAE has built. It builds and strengthens community through art, which is one of the main missions of The Arts Center.

Dorian: The Arts Center has given Abu Dhabi, and the UAE a world-class culture and arts scene. How do you see the art scene developing in the coming years?

Bill: There's so much energy happening now with new venues opening like Warehouse 421. Audiences are discovering unfamiliar forms of expression and ways of making art. I can't wait for the Louvre, and then the Guggenheim and Sheikh Zayed National Museum to open in Abu Dhabi. In Dubai we have Alserkal Avenue, Dubai Opera, Cinema Akil and so on. I'd love to see

more venues where independent artists can have a chance to develop their original work in front of audiences.

Dorian: Any thoughts you want to leave us with?

Bill: Heidi Rodewald, who is here with Stew for their show Notes of Native Song, gave a songwriting workshop the other night and talked about her artistic journey. She described discovering punk rock in LA, after growing up on show tunes and bands like The Carpenters, and "finding her tribe." The next night, audience member and Arts Center regular Zainab Hafiz told me that every time she comes to our events she walks away changed. I couldn't imagine a better compliment. I'm grateful to see the many regulars who come week after week, finding their tribe here at The Arts Center.

Dorian: Speaking of finding things, I can't seem to locate my wallet. Can you find it in your gracious heart to pay the bill?

Bill: *Stares blankly.

INSTAGRAM

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@javi8martinez wishes you all a good morning from snowy Munich! |#MiaSanMia #FCBayern #Snow #Winter#Martinez

Welcome to the official Instagram Account of FC Bayern München. fcb.de/home



Girl from the Red Sea coast in #yemen. @ericlafforque

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"Eevee was happy as a clam during our first voyage out in the truck camper! She can't wait for the next trip!!" #twitterweek#catsofinstagram

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Flash Fiction is a unique genre of storytelling that happens quickly, in a flash. It is a very short, imagined story that instills a sense of surprise, or tension, or mystery, or drama, or all of these and then...it's over.

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In 750 words or less, produce a well-crafted piece of Flash Fiction (i.e., Short Story) with the theme: **Culture**

Submissions should be in English and should be sent as a WORD document. One submission per writer.

The Word document should include:

- A Cover page with the following details: Title of the story, Author, Address, Email Address, Phone Number
- Story should not exceed 750 words, not including title and cover page.
 Any submissions over 750 words will be disqualified.
- Font Size is 12 and Font Face should be Times New Roman

Email your submissions to editorial@tempoplanet.com with the subject: Flash Fiction

THE DEADLINE

Deadline is 30th of January, 2017 by 23hrs 59mins.

THE PROCESS

16 Writers will be chosen as finalists to read their work in a public venue.

THE AWARDS

Two awards will be given out at the end of the evening:

One prize for Best Story and One Prize for Best Dramatic Reading

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Competition Sponsored by:





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IN THE CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING THIS MONTH Tempo's movie buffs came together and discovered this month's latest flicks in the Gulf.



ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

GENRE: Sci-Fi, Adventure
TEMPO PREDICTION: ★★★★

The galactic rebellion makes a risky move to steal the plans for the legendary 'Death Star'. Enlisting the help of a skilled soldier and criminal named Jyn Erso, a master swordsman, and non-allied forces, her team set the stage for the original Star Wars trilogy. This movie gives the fans a chance to see the story behind the Empire.

THE GOSSIP: This will be the 3rd film in the Star Wars franchise to be shot digitally, the last one being Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith.

DIRECTED BY: Gareth Edwards

CAST: Felicity Jones, Mads Mikkelsen, Ben Mendelsohn



BAD SANTA 2

GENRE: Comedy
TEMPO PREDICTION: ******

It's been thirteen years since their last escapade, and now the team has their sights on a Chicago charity. It seems like the perfect heist until Willie meets an unexpected partner in crime in his mother

THE GOSSIP: Although Billy Bob Thornton plays the son of Kathy Bates, he is really only seven years younger than her.

DIRECTED BY: Mark Waters

CAST: Christina Hendricks, Billy Bob Thornton, Kathy Bates



ASSASSIN'S CREED

GENRE: Fantasy, Adventure
TEMPO PREDICTION: ★★★★

Callum Lynch never thought himself to be out of the ordinary, until Abstergo, a powerful corporation, snatches him off the street and hooks him up to an extraordinary device called the Animus. With this technology, Abstergo can unlock the genetic memories of Callum's long-dead ancestors, but they're particularly interested in a Spanish assassin named Aguilar.

THE GOSSIP: When filming the signature "leap of faith," the only CGI used is seen in the background; Damien Walters had to free jump from a height of 125 feet to capture it.

DIRECTED BY: Justin Kurzel

CAST: Michael Fassbender, Marion Cotillard, Jeremy Irons



THE EDGE OF SEVENTEEN

GENRE: Comedy, Drama
TEMPO PREDICTION: ★★★

It's hard growing up, especially in high school, but that's what friends are for. At least, that's what eleventh-grader Nadine thought before her best friend started dating her brother. Now, she must overcome her own adolescent awkwardness and venture outside her comfort zone.

THE GOSSIP: The film got its title from a Stevie Nicks song of the same name.

DIRECTED BY: Kelly Fremon Craig

CAST: Hailee Steinfeld, Haley Lu Richardson, Blake Jenner

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tempo reviews

By NOELLE POPE-GEORGE



Latest Film Reviews and Blu-Ray Releases

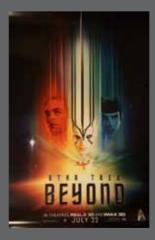
WAR DOGS



Based on an insane true story, War Dogs documents the tale of two best friends whose get-rich-quick scheme actually worked... except that it was massively illegal. While the war in Iraq was still raging, David Packouz (Miles Teller) runs into an old friend from Junior High, Efraim Diveroli (Jonah Hill). Efraim convinces David to join him in becoming international arms dealers, supplying weapons to the American military and splitting the comically large payments they reaped in return. At first their little project takes off without consequence, until they become blinded by their own greed. When they stumble upon a contract offering 300 million dollars in exchange for 100 million bullets to arm American forces in Afghanistan, the pair eagerly jumps on the opportunity. However, the deal quickly turns sour when every conceivable thing that could go wrong... ends up going wrong.

War Dogs is an interesting take on the thrilling story of David Packouz and Efraim Diveroli. For one thing, it's a dramatic comedy - emphasis on 'comedy'. The contrast that this genre choice placed on the film offers quite a distinctive viewing experience. Between nail-biting suspense, you'll be giggling at the clever humour. This balance makes for a movie that unexpectedly sucks you in, and before you know it, you're glued to your screen, waiting on the edge of your seat for what happens next. You know that what David and Efraim are doing is wrong, but for the duration of the film you may find yourself in their corner regardless, hoping they won't get caught, wishing that their deal is successful. For the film industry, basing a movie on a true story is a bargain, as they often get a poor reception, but War Dogs knocked it out of the park. A must-see for any fan of the crime genre.

CATCH IT ON BLU-RAY: STAR TREK BEYOND



When it comes to Star Trek, there are so many different routes to take. Perhaps you enjoyed The Next Generation, or are a stickler for the originals... or you preferred the different, yet quirky Deep Space Nine. But no matter where your allegiance lies, there's something to be said about the newest addition to the beloved sci-fi franchise. Taking place after the events of Star Trek: Into Darkness, the film drops the Enterprise crew into a seemingly straightforward rescue mission. However, their quest quickly turns sour when the starship is ravaged, and the crew barely escapes the wreckage with their lives. However, in the confusion, they end up separated, some lost on the strange planet while others are held captive by Krall (Idris Elba), In their attempt to escape and piece together what went wrong, the crew finds themselves trapped in a galactic battle that could determine the fate of the whole of Starfleet.

If you're a self-proclaimed "Trekkie," then you'll love this new spin on the series! The plot keeps you guessing, with unexpected turns around every corner. The characters are expertly developed, making it all too easy to cheer them on and become invested in their struggles and triumphs. The perfectly placed comic relief keeps audiences laughing, and adds a bit more fun to the whole experience. Plus it's a wonderful choice for a family movie night, with classic Star Trek wackiness and valuable life lessons about the importance of companionship, unity and loyalty sprinkled throughout.

TEMPO MUSIC COMPILED BY VERA ROSALES



ROCKABYE Clean Bandit Feat. Sean Paul & Anne Marie

Lyrics: "She just wants a life for her baby, all on her own, no one will come, she's got to save him...'



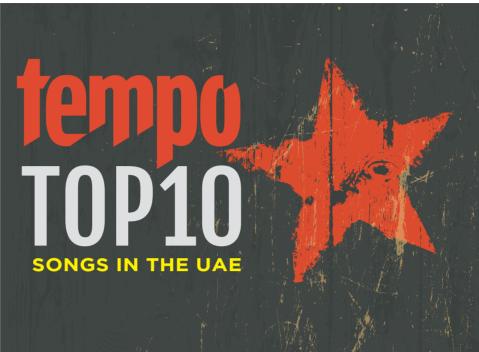
SETTING FIRES The Chainsmokers Feat. XYLO

Lyrics: "I've been looking for answers I don't want to hear, chest to chest with you, I'm staring into a mirror...'



SHOUT OUT TO MY EX

Lyrics:: "Guess I should say thank you, for the "hate you's" and the tattoos, oh baby, I'm cool by the way...'





BLACK BEATLES Rae Sremmurd

Lyrics: :"15 hundred on my feet, I'm tryna kill these haters, I got haters when I was broke, I'm rich, I still got haters...'



SO GOOD Louisa Johnson

Lyrics: "Living out the best years, so keep on toasting shots, cheers, people know it feels, so good..."



FAKE LOVE

Lyrics:: "Yeah, I know they wanna take my place, I can tell that love is fake, I don't trust a word you say...'



DON'T WANNA KNOW Maroon 5 Feat. Kendrick Lamar

Lyrics: "I hear it from this one, I hear it from that one, that you got someone new yeah, I see but don't believe it...'



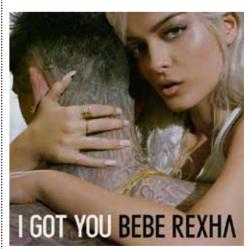
BY YOUR SIDE >Jonas Blue Feat. RAYE

Lyrics: "Scattered hearts, broken glass, I don't feel a thing, 'cause I'm frozen in time, when you're next to me..."



ALL NIGHT The Vamps & Matoma

Lyrics: "Let's dance until we die, nobody's going home tonight, this kiss could be our last, come on and raise your glass...'



I GOT YOU

Lyrics: "I got you, don't have to be so guarded, let's finish what we started, it's all I ever wanted...'

ALBUM SPOTLIGHT



BY VERA ROSALES | @VERAROSALES



HAVE A LOT OF FUN **DNCE'S DEBUT ALBUM**

After the success of the Jonas Brothers. forever frontman Joe Jonas makes an incredible comeback to the music scene along with his talented herd - Jinjoo Lee on guitar, Cole Whittle on bass and Jack Lawless on drums. Their vision for the funk & pop rock genre delivers a fun album that packs everything but serious vibe.

Popular Singles: 'Cake by the Ocean', 'Toothbrush' and 'Body Moves' Notable Tracks: 'Doctor You', 'Pay My Rent', 'Be Mean' and 'Almost'





FEEL EMPOWERED **GLORY DAYS BY LITTLE MIX**

UK's pop pride has finally released their anticipated fourth album, and the result is a mix of girl power realness from the vocal prowess of members Jesy, Jade, Perrie and Leigh-Anne. Audibly mature in execution, the X-Factor alumni continue to live up to expectations and say this is their best

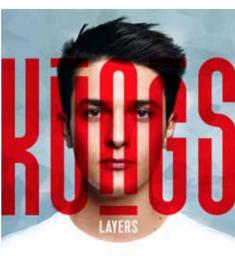
Popular Singles: 'Shout Out to My Ex' and

Notable Tracks: 'Touch', 'Power', 'Nobody Like You' and 'No More Sad Songs'

SIT BACK & RELAX KUNGS' LAYERS

After the success of 'This Girl', the up and coming French DJ is making his mark in the electronic dance genre with work that showcases the vitality of traditional instruments. The album features stunning collaborations with underrated artists who deserve some recognition. A chill but meaningful compilation that could be the soundtrack of the best days of your life.

Popular Singles: 'This Girl' and 'I Feel So Bad' Notable Tracks: 'Melody' Feat. Luke Pritchard, 'Freedom' Feat. Wolfgang, 'Bangalore Streets' Feat. Freia and 'Trust' Feat. Rae Morris





TRAVEL BACK IN TIME 24K MAGIC BY BRUNO MARS

Nine tracks of feel good music, care of master composer Bruno Mars. What's not to like?! The album reminds us of the good ol' days of music during the late 80's to 90's era and is a spinoff of the popular Uptown Funk theme. This album exemplifies an era where electronic claimed the front seat.

Popular Singles: '24K Magic' and 'Versace on the Floor

Notable Tracks: 'Chunky'

STEPHAN MOCCIO: SOLO PIANO RECITAL

World-renowned pianist Stephan Moccio is making his first ever visit to the Middle East to play some of his original piano pieces that earned him a gold certification. Fans of all genres of music are sure to love his unique mix of all forms of sound.



AL DHAFRA FESTIVAL 2016

Set to be the biggest event in the history of the festival, this year's Al Dhafra will promote environmental and cultural heritage by showcasing a number of events, including the largest heritage souq in the Western Region, a Children's Village to teach children about UAE heritage, and a camel beauty competition.





ABU DHABI FOOD FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 5-23, 2016 EMIRATE WIDE, ABU DHABI

Taking place in malls across the include events such as cooking demonstrations and shows, chocolate carving demonstrations, a pastry showcase and fruit and vegetable carvings, just to name a few. For kids, there's also the "Kitchen Mission" events, which will give them a chance to meet their favourite Nickelodeon characters, who will teach them basic





A MENA PERSPECTIVE ON VISUAL COMMUNICATION

DECEMBER 14, 2016 WAREHOUSE 421, ABU DHABI

This talk will focus on the contemporary practices in visual communication by using various examples from across the MENA region and discussing the influence it has in modern-day culture.





Kite Contests, Raffle Prizes, Sand Sculpting and so much more!



OPERATION SMILE: FLY A KITE FESTIVAL

16 DECEMBER SAADIYAT PUBLICH BEACH

Operation Smile will be hosting a fun-filled

MUSIC NEWS





INSPIRATIONAL SONGS TO GET YOU READY FOR 2017

We all have something in common: We'll all be celebrating 2017 in a few weeks. Why not start the new year with songs that will encourage and inspire you for the next chapter of your life? Here are five amazing hit songs that will help you evolve into the best version of yourself in 2017.

"ALRIGHT" BY KENDRICK LAMAR

"We gon' be alright / Can you hear me? / Can you feel me? / We gon' be alright."

Listening to "Alright" will help you see that no matter that you're going through, you're not alone. It's up to us to stay positive and remain hopeful that tomorrow will be better than the day before it. Don't let the bad times keep you down.



"RADIOACTIVE" BY IMAGINE DRAGONS

"I'm waking up, I feel it in my bones / Enough to make my systems blow / Welcome to the new age, to the new age."

If you listen to this song every morning, your adrenaline will start pumping and nothing will be able to steal your joy. You'll feel empowered every day.



"UNWRITTEN" BY NATASHA BEDINGFIELD

"Live your life with arms wide open / Today is where your book begins."

Positivity is contagious. "Unwritten" is one of those rare songs that is all about new beginnings and happiness. The song is just as catchy as it is relatable.



"WAKE ME UP" BY AVICII FEATURING ALOE BLACC

"Life's a game made for everyone / And love is the prize."

Make it your personal mission next year to become happier wherever you are in life. Embrace the hard times too. That will make the good times even better. Try to live without regrets and allow life to guide you.



"I BELIEVE I CAN FLY" BY R. KELLY

"If I can see it / Then I can do it / If I just believe it / There's nothing to it / I believe I can fly / I believe I can touch the sky."

Remember when you started that new project? It was so much fun to start, but then the process became laborious? In life, nothing is ever going to be as smooth as we hoped. Always remember what motivated you to get started. Keep that enthusiasm and strive to reach your goals. Let this be your motto for 2017: New year, New Me! Don't forget to be the change you want to see. Only you have the power to change your mindset and stay empowered.



CRISTINA FILIP

AGE: 30

PROFESSION: Freelance make-up

artist/model

NATIONALITY: Romanian

Instagram: @cryssoy

Fashion Statement: "If loving fashion is

a crime, I play guilty!!"

Your personal style: Funky and Easy Favourite recent purchase: Gucci

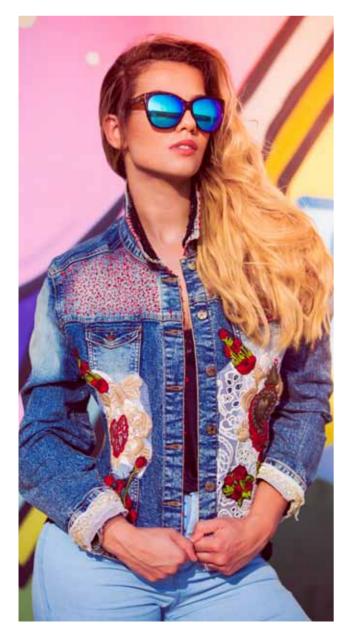
Dionysus Handbag

Does UAE have style? Yes. Fashion is such a mode of personal communication; you can tell someone's personality and character just by the way they dress. You can notice different styles all around the city.

Fashion pet peeves: Designer bags matched with flip flops! Flip flops are strictly for the beach!











New Sesions starting

COOL & FUN SATURDAYS BOOTCAMP FOR SCHOOL-SMART KIDS!

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Grades 3 to 6
Understand Concepts | Problem Solving | Math Application
Troubleshooting | Practice, Practice & Practice

2 Hour Sessions. Single or 4-session packages.



MoxieZone @ BrandMoxie | #307 twofour54, Park Rotana Complex | Abu Dhabi



Ahmed Ibrahim Alali Age: 29 Profession: Pilot

"The UAE is the most comfortable place for me; it is where I come from. I wish that the UAE becomes known as the best country in the world."



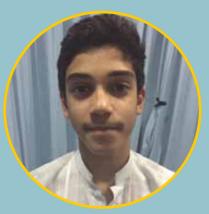
Fatima Albuainain Age: 21 Profession: Student

"The UAE is my home, and I don't mean the place where I live in, but it's the feeling itself. These days you can find danger in other parts of the globe, but thanks to Allah and our rulers, we are one of the safest countries. I wish it all the best, I wish it more development, and may Allah protect the UAE from all evil."



Shaikha Alqasimi Age: 25 Profession: Business Development Executive in Sajaya; Young Ladies of Sharjah

"The UAE means everything to me. I am happy and glad to be an Emirati citizen! I wish it greater success, and I hope that God keeps our country safe always.



Hamad Abdulla Alshamsi Age: 19 Profession: Student

"The UAE is my home and the source of my safety. My only wish for the UAE is that it stays safe every year."

TEMPO PRESENTS... A DEDICATION TO THE NATION

On occasion of the UAE's National Day, we chatted with a few Emiratis and asked two simple questions:
What does the UAE mean to you?
What do you wish for UAE in the future?



Name: Aisha Alzaabi Age: 23 Profession: Student

"The UAE is everything to me: I am very proud of how we developed so much in 45 years. God bless our rulers. I wish the UAE all the best. Please take it easy with the restaurants, though, as they are everywhere



Hammed Naseer Al Hosani Age: 20 Profession: ADNOC Engineer

"My country is my security.

I wish it peace
for a long time."



Waleed Mohammed Al Obaidli Age: 30 Profession: Abu Dhabi Police

"I see the UAE as a big united family - my family. My wish for the UAE is to export local talent to the world, and be represented in international sport."



Name: Alia Alshmaily Age: 23 Profession: Student

"The UAE is like the lottery: it's precious and unique and guess what? I am the lucky winner. I am very thankful and proud to be an Emirati. I wish it the best, and even more development and success."



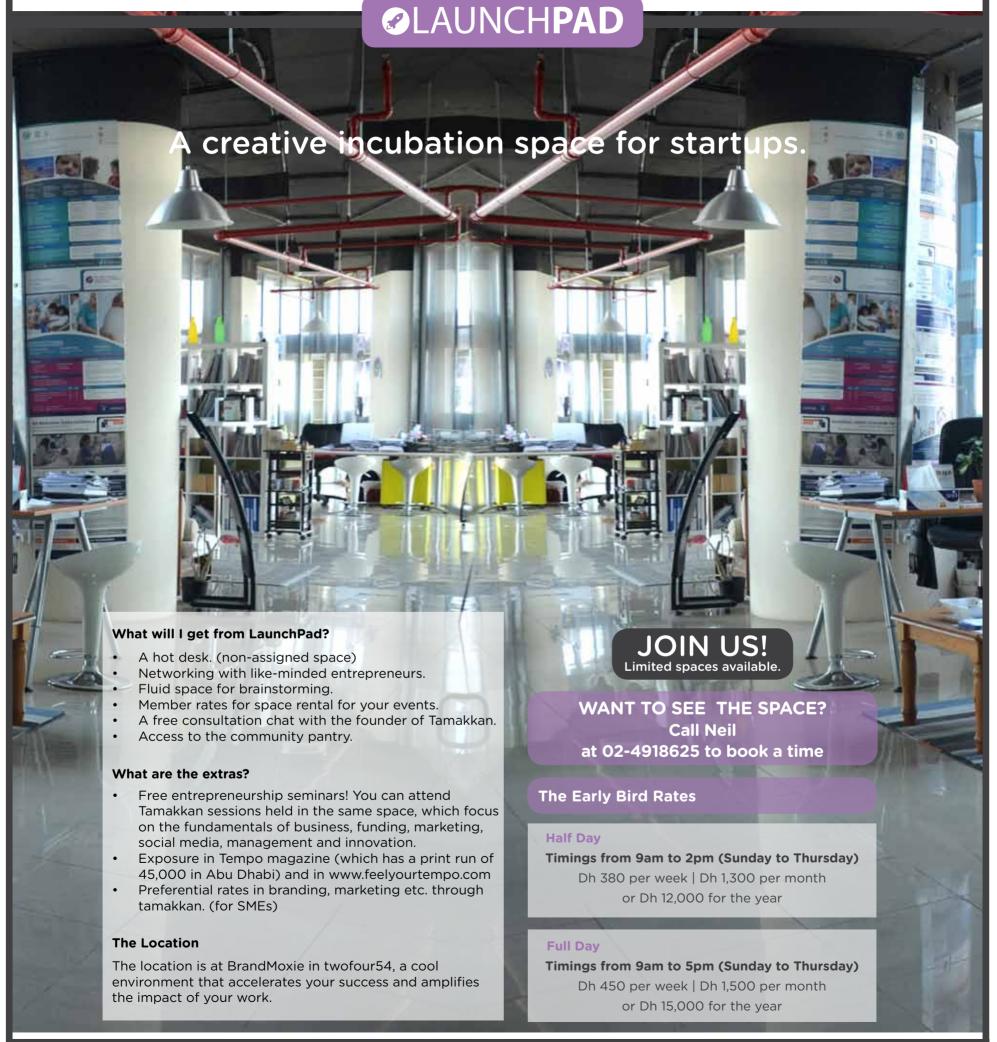


There is no glory without the glory of the country and its citizens. We have to be proud of our forefathers, who were able to face the harshness of life with a strong will and dedication to shape a better collective future.

- HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

A DEDICATION TO THE NATION FROM THE TEMPO FAMILY





THE EPICUREAN (§)



A FAMILY'S COOKING LEGACY







"The excitement, romance and chaos of the cooking world were still mysterious, though intoxicating. I always felt a little off center, a little left behind, but always found my calling in cooking. I started experimenting by preparing dishes cooked in an empty tuna can over a self-made fire and then eating it."

This is how my mother's childhood diary begins. I read about her heart tugging memories and how she compiled her mother's recipes. She writes about wanting to capture the colours, aromas, textures and tastes of my Teta's (grandmother) dishes. This was in a book that was going to be a gift for the family for Christmas and I agreed to help her bring it to fruition.

The book project opened my eyes to my own fascination with cooking. It added meaning and

flavour to the dishes that were passed down to me from my mother because of the beautiful stories they were associated with. I think of self-discovery and creativity every time I remake my mother's tuna salad sandwich recipe: finely diced green peppers, celery, red onions and light mayo spread on toasted brown bread slices. I think of one of her quotes: "Taste is a culmination of an experience, a moment, a love, a person and it can never exist in the absolute, but rather in the soul."

Another dish and activity that resonates with my mother's upbringing is maamoul. A typical Middle Eastern biscuit, maamoul is made at special occasions such as Easter or Eid out of semolina flour filled with either dates, pistachios or walnuts. I wouldn't dream of venturing into the making of maamoul without my mother's

involvement. I book the date with her months in advance to make sure she presides over the process as general, just as my great grandmother did for her.

My mother shows up at my kitchen with the ingredients that no-one is allowed to purchase except her. She makes sure the almonds, semolina flour and rose water are of the highest quality, and she brings with her my great grandmother's tweezers, which are essential to leave pretty designs on the biscuits.

I follow her around the kitchen like a lost puppy, observing and taking notes. I taste every chance I get because her recipe is scribbled in a code that only she can decipher. The key to recreating it is through my taste buds.

My mother learned the maamoul code from my great grand

mother, who was an ingenious maamoul maker. People used to say "you could pick her one maamoul from all the maamoul on offer." Her maamoul stood out not only because of its syrupy rosewater emulsion, but because of its almond filling - a total departure from the expected. My mother still reminisces about her childhood, "the trays were filled with Easter delicacies arranged on the table, and some on the floor, awaiting to be sent to the baker in the late afternoon because the temperature in the ovens would have subsided by then, after the heated workload of the day."

She makes sure that her maamoul looks exactly like her own Teta's: slightly plump with rosewater nectar oozing outside every biscuit and forming a caramelized but chewy crust. She says, "it might have been offensive to the eye, but it was a feast to the taste buds!"





BY BLAKNISS | @AUDIOANIMATOR | ORIGINAL GAME HEAD FROM ATARI TO X-BOX!

COSPLAYS AND GIFT IDEAS FOR GAME HEDZ!

The Cons: Ani:me & Popcon

The debut of Ani:me Abu Dhabi seemed to go well with a slew of famous guests headlined by legendary artist Yoshitaka Anamo who confessed he now found Anime 'boring' and was trying new things, specifically sculpture.

Locally based cosplayer, Sumi, won the opportunity to represent the UAE at the World Cosplay Summit in Japan. See on our Facebook page a chat with accomplished voice actor Todd Haberkorn, voice of Death the Kid (Soul Eater).

Major celebrity guests like Giuliana Rancic (Fashion Police) Theo Rossi (Luke Cage, Sons of Anarchy) weren't enough to bring the crowds to the fashion-focused Popcon. Empty seats seemed to be the result of a remote location (Dubai Outlet Mall) and last minute planning.

Gifts for your Game Hedz

The PS4 Pro. It has 4K. Don't ask just get it.

The HP Omen. It's a gaming laptop for PC gamers that comes with loads of accessories including headphones, mouse and more.

Firewatch and

Overwatch. If they don't have them already. They both featured highly in this year's gaming awards.

Dishonoured 2. The first was good. The second seems even better.

Telltale Games' Batman.

A downloadable episodic game. They'd appreciate a season pass (all episodes paid for in advance).

Subscriptions. PlayStation Plus or XBox Live.

Compliments of the season, and make sure you spend it with the givers and not just the gifts!!























Official Hotel



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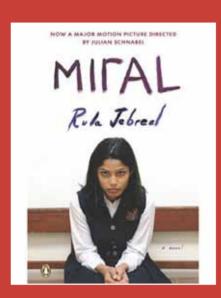


TEMPO TALKS BOOKS

BY SANA ASHRAF | @SANAALIKESPIE

LIBRARIANS' LOUNGE

MIRAL BY RULA JEBREAL



Translated from Italian, this is a work of fiction that shows Jebreal's journalistic side and her objective focus on events rather than on personal insight. In this work she tries to take a neutral position, which is not easy given that she, like the protagonist, grew up in an orphanage, and that the events are "based on a true story".

The novel depicts the robbed childhoods of Palestinian children after 1948, and the selflessness of Hend, a woman who dedicates her life for the betterment of Palestinian girls who have been "marginalized". She builds them an orphanage and stays single to dedicate all her time to the children. We read about her struggle to finance the project, and the underlying theme of hope.

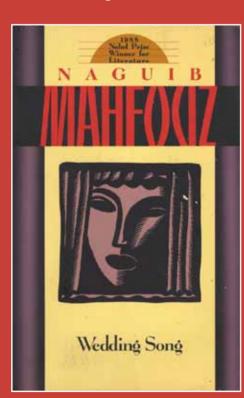
Jibreal maintains a neutral tone throughout the novel, emphasizing that sides are irrelevant because everyone suffers: be it the Jewish daughter of a general or a Palestinian child in the orphanage.

The protagonist of the book Miral, attends Hend's orphanage. She is a rebellious young woman who, guided by her passion and values, decides to fights and eventually pays the ultimate price. She represents the patriotism of Palestinians, and the face of resistance. She represents the struggle of women living in Palestine who not only suffer due to the occupation, but also to the misogyny of their own culture, as

shown through a series of unfortunate events, involving arrest, torture, and worse.

Although many of the events of the story are based on historical events, (Hind al-Husseini has her own Wikipedia page), the novel remains a work of fiction. The strong female characters act as role models: they fight for their rights, for what they believe in, and let their 'stubbornness' fuel them to achieve their goals.

Jebreal reminds us that within any conflict, all people suffer. We are reminded that war is not the desire of anyone, and that conflicts can arise even within families - not just enemies - and that indeed 'enemies' can be the closest of friends and lovers (as is reflected through Miral and her cousin). Despite war being against the very nature of humanity, in the end it is society that fights against them. Jebreal's objective is to promote peace by reminding us that in the face of hardship we must fight, take action, and stand strong.



Book Recommendation:

Wedding Song by **Naguib Mahfouz**

Written by a Nobel Prize winner, this is an entertaining novel that presents events through four different perspective in four chapters, leaving the reader to decide what really transpired.

RELEARNING LEARNING: **EMERGING TRENDS IN EDUCATION**



Some technological trends may seem far-fetched now but are likely to happen within the next five years. According to a report by the New Media Consortium's Horizon, big research data, open access to scholarly output, redesigning learning spaces as well as cross-institution collaboration are all relevant for the learning communities and early adopters may be able to implement some of the technologies within the next three to five years.

One of the ideas presented in the report involves 'flipped' classrooms where the student plays a bigger role in the learning process. This process occurs through the redesigning of the curriculum to encourage students to think critically.

Some mainstream tech trends have become widespread through a variety of research and practical models. The learning community drives the priority of a given technology and how it is integrated within their learning environment. One of the ways it is doing this is by redesigning learning

spaces to integrating new equipment and tools.

Components such as user experience, space and resources are critical to effective integration of technology into learning spaces. Libraries play a key role as knowledge cultivators who can contribute to the further development of our knowledge economy through creativity and innovation.

The Tempo library recommends the following reading resources:

The report is available for free online at the following website: https://www.nmc.org/ nmc-horizon/

2016 Higher Education report: https://www. nmc.org/publication/nmc-horizon-report-2016-higher-education-edition/

2016 K-12 Education report: https://www. nmc.org/publication/nmc-cosn-horizonreport-2016-k-12-edition/

2015 Academic & Research Libraries report: https://www.nmc.org/publication/nmchorizon-report-2015-library-edition/

2016 Museum report: https://www.nmc. org/publication/nmc-horizon-report-2016museum-edition/



FLASH FICTION IS A STYLE OF LITERATURE CHARACTERIZED BY BREVITY: WITH THE STANDARD BEING A STORY OF UNDER 1000 WORDS SEND US YOUR STORIES TO: editorial@tempoplanet.com

IRIS

BY DIEGO SANDOVAL

New York University Abu Dhabi

I met Iris in the last day of seventh grade, right before I moved to a different school. She ran towards me yelling from across the hallway, "I now we haven't spoken much but I hope to see you soon after the break!" I told her that might not happen, since I was moving schools. That didn't stop her from introducing herself to me. "Doesn't matter, we're best friends already," and she gave me a big hug and as she walked away she turned and said, "We're hanging out this summer okay?" That's the beginning of a friendship I hold very dearly in memory. Despite our distance, we would go to the beach together. We saw our favourite band live together. We did many things that summer and she was right, we were already best friends.

After summer, I started to lose communication with Iris. As I expected, we each started to drift off to our own realities and a week of not talking quickly turned into a month, a month turned into a year, and Iris was quite frankly entering the abyss of my memory, until the following June that is. I got a text from her phone.

[Hi Diego, this is Iris's sister. I'm sorry to tell you this, but I know you two were close, unfortunately, Iris is in a coma due to a recent car accident.] I frantically called, I sent voicemails, and I exploded the phone with messages demanding that I get information of which hospital I could find her at.

I heard nothing from anybody, including friends about her whereabouts, for the longest three weeks of my life, when suddenly; I get a text from her phone again. [Hi Diego, Its Iris. I'm sorry for the stress you have been feeling. I am fine now.] [IRIS, youre okay?! What happened?! I tried so hard to know where I could see you, I thought I could never see you again.] [I know Diego, I am sorry. I was in a coma, and thank God, the doctors say I will be okay if I rest for the next few months.]

In those next months we spoke like never before despite our distance. Then Christmas came, [Hi Iris, Merry Christmas!] [Hi Diego, this is Iris's sister again, can't really talk right now there has just been an accident and we think Iris may be in a coma, please try not to message this phone for the meanwhile, we will get back to everyone as soon as we hear good news.] I called, texted, nothing. I was furious. Helpless.

And scared.

My parents witnessed my stress. They said I should forget her. I'll be honest, with all this confusion, I did try to forget her. So I gave up on trying to hear back from her sister.

Months later I had a reunion with my seventh grade friends. We walked along the mall sharing stories when suddenly they started rushing into a mattress store and in my confusion, I follow them as they all start to hide behind different beds.

I'm kneeling next to Alexandra, asking her to explain what we were hiding from. I looked around the mattress store and there she was. Iris! With her parents. I try to stand up at the sight of my presumably dead friend but Alexandra pulls me back down and tells me. "Diego, there is something you should know. Iris is schizophrenic. She is crazy. I know you were friends. But you have to let her go." I stared back at her blankly. How could you say that, Iris is not crazy, she has been hurt twice! "She lied to you, Diego. Everyone knows she has been physically okay and at home school since you left because the school said she could be a threat to us. She was never in a coma; she was never in an accident. Let her go.'

I felt my head getting lighter, my hands started to shake, this can't be happening.

I couldn't sleep that night. I stayed up looking at our photos, her facebook pictures, she can't be crazy I thought. Why would she invent those horrible things?

As I scrolled, I noticed something strange.

It was a beautiful photo, but there was something deeply wrong with this particular family photo.

That's when I realized.

She never had a sister.

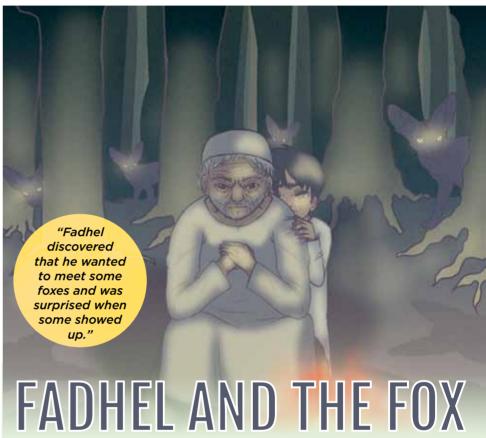
Iris lives on, but in my mind, I lost my best friend that day.



UAE Fairytales & Fables was created to enrich the legacy of the Emirati storytelling tradition and contribute to the revival of this important cultural heritage within the United Arab Emirates.

For the past several years, the UAE Fairytales & Fables initiative has been actively working on an Emirati cultural literacy project to promote new and original fairytales and fables highlighting the rich culture and heritage of the United Arab Emirates. This collection of stories penned and illustrated by Emirati writers and artists re-introduce 25 cultural icons from the folkloric traditions of the UAE to residents of this land of many blessings and beyond.

We are delighted to share these tales that feature the storytelling tradition of the Emirates and key aspects of Emirati culture and heritage to a new generation of readers and we hope you enjoy these ancient characters from the past as they traverse the cultural developments of the 21st century.



FATIMA FADHEL SAOER FADHEL AL MEHAIRBI — ID: 201216303

(ILLUSTRATOR) Khulood Ghuloom Mohamed Hassan Al Janahi

Once upon a time there was a city in the middle of the forest, where an old man and a boy named Fadhel lived. One night they went to the forest where the old man was telling stories to Fadhel and one of these stories was about a fox. It was a frightening tale, when suddenly they heard a strange sound, but didn't pay it any attention.

The old man continued to tell his story, describing the fox's smaller compact shape, its long ears and the keen eyes of a predator that glow in the dark of the night. Fadhel's facial expressions showed fear but the old man didn't stop describing the fox.

After a while they saw something light up around them but the old man continued talking. Fadhel discovered that he wanted to meet some foxes and was surprised when some showed up. Fadhel hid behind the man as he noted the differences in the Arabian foxes from the red foxes he'd seen on the nature channel.

As he was hiding, the old man's features began to change into a fox. Fadhel was so frightened and began to cry. The old man turned around and was a fox. He went and attacked the other foxes, chasing them away. The old man then changed form again, back to his old self. Fadhel was so frightened he wanted to run away. But the old man stopped him and said, "don't be afraid my boy, I will tell you the truth." And started to tell him his life story.

"When I was a child, my father brought me to the forest to hunt deer. When we arrived to the forest, my father fought with one of the foxes and was eaten in front of me and I couldn't do anything but cry.

I ran away in rage, wishing to become a fox, to take revenge on the animal that killed my father. The Lord responded to my wish. I could turn into a powerful fox," said the old man.

"Fadhel it's a strange story but life is okay now that my wish has come true. People call me Abu Al Les, because I have the same name as that fighting spirit that never gave up."

INDOOR BEAUTY PORTRAITS AND NIGHT

CITYSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

THE GROUP: ABU DHABI PHOTOGRAPHERS

 $\operatorname{\mathsf{NOTE}}$: ADP hosted indoor beauty portrait sessions to help members understand different lighting techniques using saltboxes and beauty dishes. We also hosted a sunset and night photography meetup at the breakwater of Abu Dhabi. About 25 members experienced the sunset, and learned long exposure photography techniques to capture beautiful landscapes.

ABOUT: Abu Dhabi Photographers is a group of photography enthusiasts who meet regularly to capture beautiful shots and to share knowledge and experiences. The group is managed by BrandMoxie.



INDOOR BEAUTY PORTRAITS













BY HEATHER LONG VANDEVOORDE, PH.D. | @HVDVOORDE

BY JAFFAR MAHMOUD | JAFFAR.MAHMOUD@GMAIL.COM

HOW BEING "AUTHENTIC" MAKES YOU VULNERABLE — AND NOT IN A BAD WAY!

Telling someone to be "authentic" is probably one of the least authentic things you can say. You don't have to go very far to watch a video, read an article, or have someone tell you that authenticity is the real key to happiness. Or maybe vou're like me and you've realized that the authentic version of yourself isn't all that interesting, and it might be better to imitate someone a bit cooler and "edgier". It seems there is some confusion about being authentic. After all, nobody smiles in the mirror before school or work and says, "I can't wait to be inauthentic today". So, the starting point: defining what it means to be authentic.

First let's start off with what authenticity is not. A lot of the time people think that they're being authentic because they are confrontational, or because they say what is on their mind. In the words of Mike Robbins, author and speaker, you have to ask yourself "am I being authentic, or am I just being obnoxious?" It is true that saying what is on your mind is part of being authentic, but it's only one piece of the puzzle. After all, we still need to have go to classes, have jobs, and maintain relationships, so saying whatever idea pops into your head without considering how it impacts others can get you into a lot of trouble. That's why asking yourself if you're just being obnoxious is such a critical question, because if you're unpleasant, rude, or potentially harmful to people around you, without providing any real positive value, then it's likely that you're just being obnoxious.

The reason that it's such a challenge to be authentic is because authenticity is a consequence of being vulnerable. Another example that Mike Robbins uses to explain authenticity is that of the iceberg. We are all like icebergs in that only a small portion of our true self is being revealed, whereas the rest is submerged underwater. If you want to be authentic, and show who you really are, then you need to be willing to show people that part of you that is

underneath the surface...even if that means that people might be able to hurt you.

Easier said than done, right? After all, we are all humans, and that means we are naturally wired to protect ourselves and avoid pain. The problem is that when it comes to protecting yourself from being vulnerable, it often means that we are concealing our real feelings and our true selves. So how can we be authentic, without allowing ourselves to be hurt? Well, the bad news is that you can't, the good news is that over time it will get easier.

In school, students sometimes misbehave not because they want to be disruptive, but because they want to conceal that they don't understand the subject. In a situation like this, being authentic would be admitting to yourself and the teacher that you "feel inferior to the other students, and maybe the material is too difficult for you to understand". This isn't being weak, it's letting people know how you feel, and by doing that they can actually give you some guidance. In order for this to happen you need to be willing to be vulnerable.

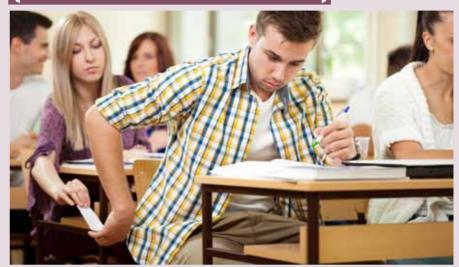
Okay, the last example was pretty convenient, but what happens when people don't care, or worse, when they use your vulnerability against you? Well, the reality is that this is something we all encounter in life, and as you get older you will understand to not let these people affect you too deeply. In my experience, whether it is amongst friends, colleagues, and employers, when you're true to yourself and are honest with others, people will naturally gravitate towards you.

The challenge of authenticity is trying to find out what that actually means for you. We live in a world where being authentic can often mean being outrageous and can border on being obnoxious. The reality is that authenticity is all about being honest with yourself and not being afraid to be vulnerable and speak about the things that impact us deeply.

FIVE REASONS STUDENTS CHEAT IN THEIR FXAMS

(AND HOW TO NIP IT IN THE BUD)

PARENTAL GUIDE



I was told of a recent incident where a friend's kids were embroiled in a cheating scandal that shook their middle school. It seems that a few students witnessed others using electronic devices to look up answers to the test questions - unbeknownst to the teacher. The witnesses, my friend's kids included. were disgusted with their classmates and informed the teacher. This started a firestorm between the alleged-cheaters and the suspected-snitches. They hurled accusations and threats at each other via Snapchat, which turned the situation into a cyber bullying incident. It was a hot mess for parents and school officials to navigate.

Trying to turn a negative to a positive, I used this as a teaching moment with my own kids. Luckily mine agreed right away that the snitches were in the right to report the cheaters. They believe whole-heartedly that cheating is not fair to those who study. So then the conversation turned to why students cheat. We decided to do some research to educate ourselves. This is what we found:

- Cheaters are generally kids who are only focused on the grades. They are not intellectually curious or interested in learning.
- As schools have implemented Bring Your Own Device policies, cheating techniques have evolved to taking photos, hidden Internet searches and voice notes in earphones. Some teachers are giving tests online

- which makes the temptation to cheat overwhelming.
- Students cheat when they are stressed. Too many tests in a short period of time, pressure to get into a good university, and high expectations from parents are all causes of stress. I will admit this gave me pause for thought. My husband and I have high expectations of our kids. As parents, we must skate the fine line between gentle pressure on our kids to do their best in school and too much pressure to excel.
- Many kids succumb to peer pressure to cheat. If "everyone is doing it," they feel like goody two-shoes if they do not follow
- Parents should regularly monitor grades and try to help when their child is falling behind in a subject. Keeping the lines of communication open alleviates the buildup of pressure that can lead to the need to cheat.

I finished the research and conversation with my girls in a relatively frenzied state of parental panic. I was wondering if I was doing enough, or even too much, to discourage cheating. Ultimately experts seem to agree that the best thing parents can do is lead by example. We can avoid cheating, lying and being unscrupulous. Demonstrating integrity goes a long way. Not that I am morally corrupt, but suffice it to say that this whole cheating-snitching ordeal have moved into first item priority on my New Year's Resolutions.

THE PASSION OF FILMMAKING:

THE SMOVIES: SEASON FIVE - #BORNTOCHALLENGE



The fifth season of The Smovies concluded in November with an exciting awards ceremony at Vox Cinemas in Mall of the Emirates in Dubai. Participants, representatives and judges flooded into the cinema to see the top 15 films of the competition, themed #BornToChallenge. The films were judged by a jury panel of accomplished filmmakers and film professors, who meticulously critiqued each film on quality and outcome.

The first place spot went to Vasilis Blioumis who captured the hearts of judges with a film on the challenges of a breast cancer patient in his film "Walking with you". John Haddad's "As Always" won second place, and Muhammad Sarfaraz Ali's "The Expected" came third.

Blioumis bagged the top prize which is the opportunity to show his film in VOX Cinema screens across the UAE, plus a Dh 5000 cash reward. Bliomis announced during the event that he would donate the prize to a breast cancer patient.

"The theme was broad enough for the filmmakers to experiment with style,

voice and format. We loved the level of enthusiasm and look forward to expanding the competition throughout the region," said Sana Bagersh, founder of The Smovies and CEO of BrandMoxie. "We are particularly appreciative of our strategic partnership with VOX Cinemas and the incredible support we receive from our jury members and all our partners. It is important to recognize that community platforms such as this can only exist and grow through collaboration and shared vision."

The filmmakers talked to Tempo about their films, and gave advice to those planning to participate in the next season!



st Place: Vasilis Blioumis - "Walking With You"

The IDEA: We did a series of interviews for Native House of breast cancer survivors. The stories I heard were truly touching and inspirational to write a story. The title is very relevant to the core of the film. The patient doesn't want to get out of her room so her husband has to find a way. I had a chat with Ali Al Sayed and Minna Liccione, accomplished actors based in Dubai, and brainstormed some ideas until we came out with the final output: "Walking with You." I should also mention the terrific job that Sameer Antulay did as Director of Photography bringing to life the mood of the film. It is important to remember that filmmaking is all about teamwork!

The INSPIRATION: Winning is always a nice feeling. I doubt if someone will tell you that he was depressed ☑. But especially for this little film it was important because we had the chance to support a breast cancer patient by donating our first prize. A little gesture can change the world and filmmaking has the power to deliver a powerful message whether consciously or subconsciously.

About PASSION in

Filmmaking: Go out and film. Today, filming is very affordable. It doesn't matter if it is a video camera or phone. But you must always prepare your story - there is no point to film something that has no story. Filmmaking is about storytelling - if you are serious about it, then take some courses. It will probably open your eyes.

















This year has been peaceful yet hectic. I have adjusted to my busy schedule as a DJ, MC, radio presenter, brand ambassador and media personality.

But recently I had an epiphany. I realized how much I am defined by music and how music has been my work and life for almost six years.

'Music tells you a lot about someone's personality'

I am surrounded by commercial music at the radio station, and most of my sets at clubs are open format. All this defines me as a music entrepreneur who has lived in the UAE and DJ'd for more than a hundred events.

I like to listen to my listeners, whether on the radio, a club, or even a corporate event. Although I entertain 24/7, playing commercial music... I have my own personal taste in music. I love soulful music, underground hip hop and even rock. I listen to "good" music, regardless of whether its charting or not.

'My favourite song is associated with an emotional experience in my life'

My favourite song is Boys II Men's "Water Runs Dry". It reminds me of when I started out and lets me reminisce about my old days. It reminds me how far I have come in my life. It is always on my phone, car or my USB. It's funny how I might not even listen to it all the time. But just

keeping that song accessible gives me a weird satisfaction.

'Music improves memory'

Ok check this out. I don't know if you find this weird but sometimes I tend to remember things because my subconscious relates a song to the situation. I'm not just talking about remembering where I kept my car keys thanks to DJ Khaled. I'm talking about if I meet someone at an event (I meet an average of 20 new people daily) and a song that I like plays in the background, my mind switches to the music. So next time you see me just pull out your phone and play a song in the background and I might remember you;)

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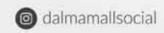
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TIME CAPSULE James Simmons

Age: 34

Profession: Event Organizer Nationality: American

Motto: "Life is a marathon, enjoy the journey"

Instagram: jsentertainment81











Most valued possession: My most valued possession would have to be my laptop. It has all my photos (memories), documents,

and just important information stored on it.

Where you hang out most:

If I'm not out at an event or new restaurant I'm pretty much a home body chilling and watching Netflix or Sports.

One thing you cannot live without: I would have to say my phone. My friends are always asking me "can you live without your phone???" The answer is no!

The person who inspires you the most: My dad and I have a close relationship and while I'm my own man he is someone I aspire to be like.

Five things you need for survival: Smartphone, Apple TV, DSLR Camera, big screen TV and Jawbone Up2 Activity Tracker Car you would like to own: Mercedes Benz E350 Cabriolet

A typical day in your life: Organized chaos directed to achieve a set goal.

Where you see yourself in 10 years: I believe your life should get better with age; I see myself being a better and wiser person than I am today.

Your idea of peace: Being surrounded by family and friends with good food, laughter and fun. Those moments in life are priceless.

Goal in life: Live life to the fullest with no regrets.

Three things that today has taught you: Work hard, have patience, and stick to your goals and you will ultimately find success.

Deserves a big old thank

you: Too many to name. I'm grateful to have an amazing circle of people around me.

The craziest thing you have ever done: Skydiving in Dubai. It was planned with a group of friends and actually not as scary as I thought it would be.

Earliest memory: My earliest memory was when I was two or three years old and I would ask my parents and grandparents a lot of questions growing up. I was a very inquisitive child.

If your life were a book it would be called: Work Hard to Achieve Your Goals

To look good, you would wear: I believe less is more so I would go with a classic blazer and slacks, or a suit.

You would most like to be stuck in an elevator with:

Warren Buffett. To be able to pick his brain would be an amazing experience.

If you could wake up tomorrow in the body of someone else currently living, you would pick: Barack Obama. I would love to go through a day and experience his life and his thoughts.

Current Last SONG syndrome (LSS): the album that is in heavy rotation in my car is the new Common Album "Black America Again"

If you could have personally witnessed one event in history, it would be: Mohamed Ali vs. George Foreman in Zaire (1974)

Your idea of a perfect weekend: A city with great culture, food, and a beach.

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