

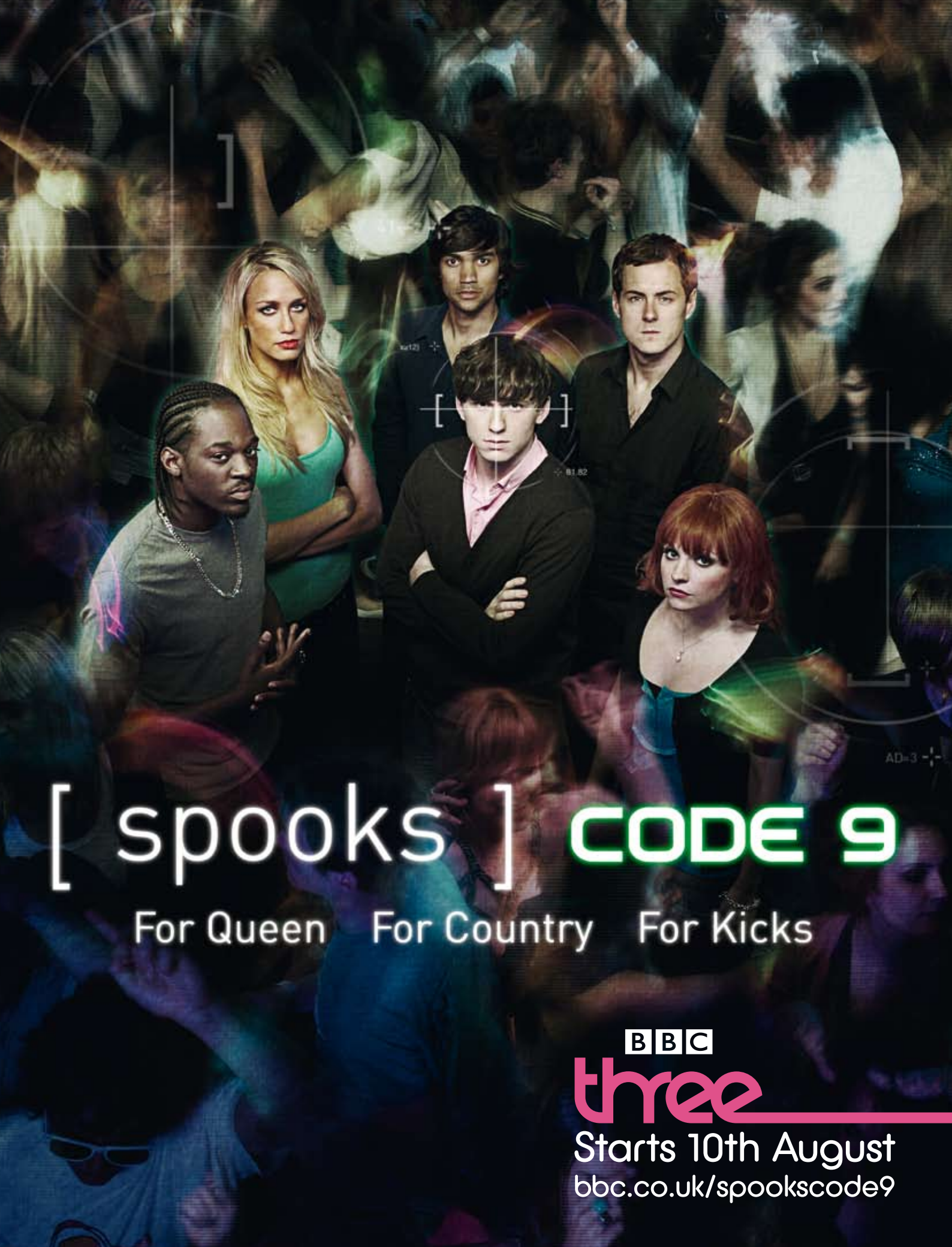
the cut.

2 The Cut Newspaper
Issue Two, August 08.
Free every quarter.

Fresh

- Olympic Special
- Red Hot
- Reggie Yates
- Immortal Technique
- Road to Carnival
- Micachu
- Basking in LDN Tropical

Free



[spooks] CODE 9

For Queen For Country For Kicks

BBC

three

Starts 10th August
bbc.co.uk/spookscod9

the cut.

The Cut Newspaper
The Stowe Centre
258 Harrow Road London W2 5ES

info@thecutnewspaper.com
www.thecutnewspaper.com

This issue is fresh like a cool drink... We have exclusive interviews with outstanding Olympic talent, from gold medalist Graham Edmunds to 14 year Taekwondo wonderkid Tom Smith. On the music side, we're burning up your speakers with Red Hot, Natty, Reggie Yates and the Boombox Bike Gang who ride the streets in Queens with soundsystems actually attached to their bikes. We've got comment too with young Muslim Londoners discussing civil liberties and the freedom to be yourself. The Cut dived in at the deep end hosting a debate between young people and parents from the local community, everyone was surprised by the results.

Cover: Edward Kagutuza from The Cut Team photographed by Jamal Joseph, assisted by Ronnie Grebenyuk and Shona Harvey.

This project is a partnership between Hardcore Is More Than Music and the Paddington Development Trust funded by Mediabox through the Department for Children, Schools and Families

Design: Wren Studio - www.wrenstudio.com

The Cut Newspaper is published by Hardcore Is More Than Music Ltd.

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Printed by Southern Print Ltd, 17-21 Factory Rd, Poole, BH16 5SN

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She said...

Ronnie Grebenyuk

The Cut welcomed new members to the team and for the last couple of months we have been very busy working together on the jam-packed summer issue with everything from Beijing hopefuls to new and upcoming talent from Andrea Crewes in Paris to grime sensation Red Hot and much more, also exclusives from Reggie Yates and Immortal Technique all made by young people. With a lot of positive feedback from the 1st issue we decided to make The Cut even more superior with almost double the content to last you all summer.



He said...

Askwasi Tawai Poku

New Issue, New beginnings. It's been great working on this edition as we as a team truly have learnt a lot and can't thank the people that made this happen any more! We've got a massive sports and music section which will keep your eyes and minds occupied for a hot minute. So stop everything you are doing, Cancel all you meetings, links and appointments and get ready to indulge your lives into the cut magazine. Have a fun and safe summer and enjoy reading The Cut. For exciting news as it happens from The Cut Team visit www.thecutnewspaper.com



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Meet The Cut Staff and friends

Inbox: Time for a refresh!

Get up to speed on the latest we've noticed here at The Cut. Take a look at what we have been up to while we've been putting this Issue together.

See the world: Get out more



Sway launched Platform2, a new scheme which gives young people aged between 18-25 the opportunity to Volunteer abroad with all expenses paid including flights and accomodation. The scheme is aimed at young people who might not have had an opportunity like this, or thought they could afford it.

Young volunteers will spend 10 weeks in developing countries such as Ghana, South Africa, Nepal and Peru at no financial cost to them, as this scheme is funded by the Department for International Development and run by Christian Aid, Bunac and Islamic Relief.

Find out more about Platform2 at www.myplatform2.com

Check out our latest news and projects at: hardcoreismorethanmusic.com

Creps vs crepes



You say toe-may-toes, I say toe-maaar-toes. This issue The Cut tummy has got rumbling and we have got thinking, which is better; the food or the products named after the food? For example, crepes or creps? Icecream waffle trainers or just a good old ice cream waffle. Where are you gonna put your money?



Heavy fringes

This season to make a big fashion statement its is all about having a big fringe. Cut it yourself in one clean chop if you're feeling daring.

Sign of the times



Hell Date



Is it a dating show? Is it a comedy? Or is it... the date from Hell? This brand new top secret show features an unexpected twist on the typical dating format like never seen before! To view tune in to B.E.T Entertainment on Satellite.

We're loving... Iced coffees & cats



Fashion v Sport at the V&A

Sport and fashion go head to head in a new exhibition which kicks of at the V&A this month. On display will be around 60 outfits ranging from simple sportswear by fashion designers Stella McCartney and Sonia Rykiel to Diamond encrusted shoelaces from Ends. The exhibition also boasts a programme of event collaborations with eco fashion favourite Noki and sneaker heads Crooked Tongues.

The exhibition runs from 5th August 2008 to 4th January 2009.

www.vam.ac.uk/microsites/fashion-v-sport

The Wire



If you're wondering if all the fuss about this police drama (set in Baltimore) is justified, believe us this is the best show in a decade. The Wire Season 5 is out on DVD from August and concludes the award-winning TV series with a bang. The bodies are piling up in Homicide, but funds for police work have been diverted to the schools. Meanwhile business is booming on the streets as the war between East and West Baltimore's drug kings reaches a new intensity.

5 sites for creative inspiration

www.ffffound.com
www.ycnonline.com
www.jamhot.tv
www.natmiller.co.uk
www.nodaysoff.com

Tropical dog



Love your work



Big up Shami Chakrabarti, the UK's 'First Lady' of freedom of speech. You have probably seen her face before on Newsnight, fighting the corner for our infringed civil liberties. We thought her spirit of determination deserved to be celebrated. With a background as a Lawyer and the top dog at Human Rights Charity Liberty, it is no surprise that Chakrabati always puts up a good argument.

www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk

Enterprise is hot for summer! See page 66

Hardcore Is More Than Music and Paddington Development Trust have come together to offer specialist masterclasses and seminars on creating your own business and getting your fashion label, business model or money-making idea off the ground. If you are aged under 21 and you live in the Borough of Westminster, write to nendieandnina@hotmail.com to get more info, places are free but numbers are limited so get in early to register. The programme starts in september. For more info check

www.hardcoreismorethanmusic.com

Supermundane

Illustrator brings his love of music to the page

My real name is Rob Lowe and I'm 36 – although I will be 37 in two weeks! – and I live in London.

I trained to be a graphic designer and still think of myself in that way, even if most people probably don't. When I was at school I had no idea what graphic design was. I was only ever really good at drawing so I knew I wanted to do something involving that, but didn't know what it was or even if people could make a living out of it.

When I was 16 and should have been going out having fun and meeting girls, I was going to a painting group at a church hall – I'm not religious at all. The average age was about 65 and almost all women. One man joined halfway through and seemed to resent me of my talent.

We would all get together to paint. I would paint wildlife, and then stop halfway through to have some tea and biscuits. I was into heavy metal at the time so I had long hair and a leather jacket painted with Iron Maiden covers and the like. I'm not really sure what they made of me, but they all fussed over me in a motherly way.

One day I brought in a half finished painting

of a stoat killing a rabbit. That didn't go down too well, with most of them thinking it was disgusting. I pointed out that it was just nature but they were not convinced... that spelled the beginning of the end of my time at the church hall art group. My inspirations come from everywhere. I'm a big music fan so that is always a source as is 60s and 70s fiction and philosophy. I cannot pinpoint a source for the organic doodles I do, they seem to have just popped up from nowhere. People who inspire me include Ivor Cutler, Richard Brautigan, Robert Wyatt, Henry Thoreau, Herb Lubalin, Paul Rand, Alan Flether, Bob Gill, Bill Callahan, Chris Ware, P. W. Elverum, Smithsonian Folkways...

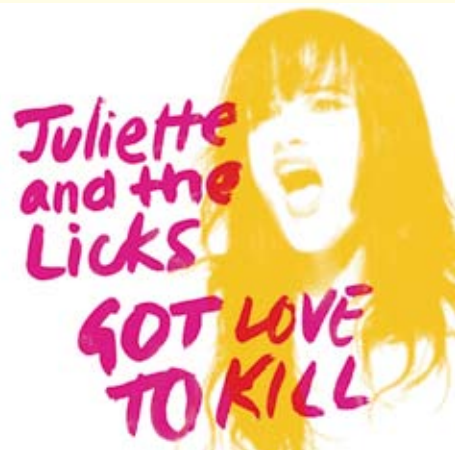
I don't really have characters in my head. Most of the beasts, for want of a better word, come from types of thinking or emotional states so they are more a representation of those feelings than a preconceived idea. I do draw characters but they are more for specific projects rather than personal work.

The first issue of Anorak, the children's magazine I am creative director of was a very memorable job. It really felt like we were doing something new and important in the world of magazines. It was great

to work on a job with very few restrictions but also had a real sense of purpose. Another job that I have just done will probably become one of the most memorable ones. It's a TV ad and I'm going to actually appear in it, drawing a huge whale. The whole day was strange, I had never been to a film set before and this was filmed at Shepperton Studios. It's not out yet so I can't really say much about it, but it was great fun to be involved in.

I guess the oddest thing was when I did Juliette Lewis's album cover. I had to meet her a few times and spent quite a lot of time on the phone. It didn't really feel like it was weird at the time as I got on with her really well and could talk to her like anybody else. It wasn't until she rang me up on a Sunday whilst I was home watching the Antiques Roadshow that it sank in that I was talking to a Hollywood celebrity. She asked me what I was up to so I said, 'I'm just at home on the sofa, watching the Antiques Roadshow'. Not very rock 'n' roll, and she probably didn't know what the Antiques Roadshow was anyway.

For more:
www.supermundane.com



Twizzle

The West London boy everyone's talking about

LISTEN ONLINE!
W12 all day
www.myspace.com/twizzlew12



Mathew Asare-Sackey

What do you lot really know about West right now? This is the closing line on MC Twizzle's tune I See People. Here's one thing you will know about west soon: Twizzle. Tired of fake 'garage boys' and East London hype the 17 year old from White City is determined to bring his perspective the music scene. Despite being proud of his West London roots, for the young MC turf wars are not the only thing that matters, 'I don't do post code wars. It's stupidity. People wanna be bad boys. I've spent a lot of time Jamaica. That's where the real bad boys are. People younger than 17 that have killed ten people. I'm not gonna rap about guns.'

Although he doesn't class his music as straightforward grime – 'the constructions are

crazy, it's like dance and hip hop in one' – Twizzle is full of respect for the scene and the support system it gives people. 'Everyone in the grime scene sticks together that's good stuff. People shouldn't beef at each other.'

Together with his crew Str8 Grindin' it's clear he means business, together with Frosterr and C-More Millions. 'I'm on the grind- the closest I've come to having a break is a Kit Kat.' With a clothing line Guacamole ready to drop before the end of the year he has sights on more than just the music scene. 'Guacamole like money, you know. I've never actually tried the food though.'

At just 17, Twizzle has definitely got youth on his side, and has no mercy for those who don't. 'In the urban music game, when people

get to like 27, 28, and they've been doing it for time, instead of sitting at home smoking weed they should get a job. Everyone wants fresh, they don't want 30 year olds trying to rap'

He's also smart enough to realise it's not a one man game, and being a performer is not the only option in music. 'There's more than just doing music. You could be the guy behind the guy.'

When I ask him what he wants from it all his answer's simple, 'I want everyone and all my friends and family to be happy and for them to be proud of me.'

Introducing

Queen of Nations

A spectacular and inspiring beauty pageant that is changing perceptions of transgender women

The Cut went to a really moving event recently. The Queen of Nations is a beauty pageant that aims to heighten the profile and confidence of the transsexual community. After the event, we contacted Sahara to learn more about the project.

I decided to start the pageant because transgender women are seen as the outcasts of the society, they don't seem to fit into the gay or the straight label well. For these reasons many of the girls end up in escorting, prostitution or porn acting as a career.

Queen of Nations gives the girls from all around the world, resident in the UK or beyond, the opportunity to exhibit themselves as talented, creative and beautiful young individuals.

I am originally African. I fled to the UK in 2004 from decades of multiple homophobic attacks and harassment. I feel very privileged to be where I am today. I live my life as the woman that I am, a model and a singer.

Many girls still pass through horrible experiences in their local countries today. They want to have the opportunities I have right now. I feel their pain, because that was my life four years ago.

Like every other tgirl (transgender girl) in this world, growing up was very difficult for me. Searching for that identity and acceptance from family, friends and the local community was very hard. Constant discrimination and harassment made it even worse, but I've tried to make the best of what life can offer.

Religion and morals played a very important role in my life growing up, so I will say definitely God and my mother are my greatest inspirations. I am a Christian and I believe in God. It is hard for most people to understand - can a gay man or a transgender women believe in God? I do.

I hope to be a positive influence on younger people growing up. It is very important that we have more positive transgender representation in the press and in the society. When you google the word 'transsexual' all you get is porn and escort site springing up and stories of tgirls with vice life styles or how bizarre it is to be a tgirl.

It would be nice for people to understand that transgenderism is a lifestyle and not a sexual fetish. There are many happily married tgirls in our community today. There are many tgirls in everyday jobs and we also have tgirls in influential positions in prominent places. These people should be appreciated for their achievements and who they are and not to be looked down upon because of their chosen lifestyle.

Miss Sophia Logan, the winner of Queen Of Nations 2008 will have the opportunity to make her mark as an example in the community. Like last year's winner, she will raise money for charity, make appearances and speeches at transgender events in the UK and beyond, attend countless photo shoots and have the opportunity to grace magazine covers.

Queen of Nations 2009 will be bigger and better. Our doors are open to everybody who would like to get involved. Sponsorship of any kind, volunteering and even performances are highly welcome.

For more:
www.queenofnations.com



Sahara photo by John Quintero



Queen of Nations 2008, Miss Venezuela, Sophia Logi



Miss Mexico, Mariane Rivera

www.thecutnewspaper.com



Images Courtesy of Andrea Crews

(Anti) Apparel Pollution

The UK alone sends one million tonnes of textiles to landfill every year. In the heart of Paris, a collective of fashion activists contribute to a solution.

Andrea Crews is a group dedicated to reusing clothing and giving pieces a new cycle of distribution. Creator and ringleader Maroussia Rebecq talks to us about her creative intentions:

'It's not only about second hand clothes and transformations, but about how you see and build your life, how you make choices and assume them.'

Andrea Crews is the fashion circus you want to run away and join. This is the sexy Parisian equivalent of our Katharine Hamnett and Davina Hawthorn. Crews' projects are based on the use and reinterpretation of second hand clothes as a social, economic and ethical choice.

Second hand shopping is not a new concept but reinventing an item and giving it the credibility of a high profile fashion brand is pretty innovative. Maroussia hunts for new material in discarded clothing stores: 'I'm a flea market and trashy second hand addict. That's where I'm always finding inspiration and something new to transform.'

The concept is simple and revolves around three elements - art, fashion and activism. 'I originate from art and didn't want to make fashion. Clothes were easy to manipulate and I have to admit that I'm now also a fashion designer!'

When questioned on collaborations at Crews, Rebecq replies that they're 'open to anyone just as long as they're good looking.' This might be their selling point. Anyone can rummage through a pile of second hand clothes in their local charity store, only those items aren't endorsed by hot young males. 'Clothes are about the body and the social representation.'

Crews' shows are provocative. The outfits are so wacky you'd love to wear them and join in. Awesome visuals combined with dirty electro beats play over the catwalk exhibiting kaleidoscopic neon patterned leggings and other luminous coloured materials. Music accompanying the Crews' displays is contributed by various Parisian artists including DJ Wet, Jean Nopin and Maroussia Rebecq's very own human beat box!

Mass recycle sessions are a common Crews event. They require large studio spaces and mountains of bagged apparel. The group work together in one place to discover the material, make designs and create fashion.

At events like the group's Paris Stand Up, Berlin M'excite and Madrid te la pone, you'd be shocked by the tons of second hand clothes gathered for the occasion. All styles and types waiting to be found and transformed. There are tables with creators on sewing machines and semi-naked

friends ready to model. These events are important because they prove Maroussia's concept to be fun, chic and ethical.

Over the past few months, consumers continue to approach life in a more ethical way. Newspapers and moving image play a huge role in influencing opinions but it's creative people like the brains behind Andrea Crews that appeal and provoke people to become active in their recycling efforts, making it a life choice for generations to come. A recent event for the Wiels contemporary art centre in Brussels has seen the collective organising textile workshops for children, giving them an enjoyable learning experience.

Selling points can be found in France, Japan, USA, Russia, Denmark and Greece along with the online store. Eventually, Maroussia would love to be distributed in UK stores and the idea of Andrea Crews events in the UK is definitely a possibility.

For more: www.andreacrews.com



Images Courtesy of Andrea Crews

Introducing

Hush



The Royal Albert Hall in association with The Cut Hall presents hush featuring thecocknbulkid and Dels.

Hush is The Royal Albert Hall's cult gig series, dedicated to supporting breakthrough UK talent and giving new artists the platform to play at this historic venue early in their career. For September's gig, hush has teamed up with The Cut to host Hackney's hottest new chanteuse and hip hop wunderboy Dels.

Headlining September's hush is East London's finest purveyor of synth laden pop thecocknbulkid (aka Anita Blay). Her debut single, On My Own is produced by Metronomy's founding member Joe Mount.

Support comes from Dels, whose fans include Hot Chip and the late John Peel. With a Peel Session under his belt at the young age of 17, Dels wrote and recorded tracks whilst studying to be a graphic designer. His talents were spotted by Joe Goddard from Hot Chip who collaborated with the rapper on debut single Lazy. Joe and Dels are currently working on a full length album.

The Cut team will be out in force and the first 30 through the door will get The Cut goody bag!

Hush doors open at 7.30, tickets are £7.50 from the Box Office on 020 7589 8212 or you can buy online at www.royalalberthall.com. Buy early to avoid missing out as this event sells out.

Thank you to Mark Pearse and Ruth Drake at Toast



Pics by Robin Howie



Thecocknbulkid by Rick Morris



Pics: Above by Matthew Asare-Sackey



Pics courtesy of Nash Money



Nash Money

Sneaker deconstruction with a twist

Brought up in West London and inspired by the creativity of his mother, Nash Money found a hidden passion in creating funky yet stylish sneakers. Now aged 30, Nash has managed to get his work known worldwide within the sneaker world, and streetwear fashion industry. Not doing well in his GCSEs, Nash was confused as to what he wanted to do in life, so ended up working in various different jobs. Nevertheless he still had his creative mind.

In 2001, he ended up working in Size. This enabled him to take his creativity towards sneakers. But oh no, Nash isn't your average sneaker designer, he's taken a new approach, which can be seen as unique and original. It's very different from the modern day

trainer designs with Disney images stuck on. Instead, Nash takes a crazier and altogether more fundamental approach.

'What I do is get something that's constructed, for example sneakers, take them apart and then rebuild on it by taking away the elements that you don't like, and adding the elements that you do. With my customs and my shoes I put mochas and stitch on them, which is like a formal shoe effect but put on a sneaker and mixing up the two styles.'

Describing himself as a 'melodramatic' artist, his work can take from 24 hours to a couple of months to complete, depending on the design of the shoe. 'I first started off with mochas and stitching on the sneakers, then I went onto moccasin and

paint. Then I tried some fabric application, where I choose a fabric and sew that in and paint on the sneakers and then do the mochas and stitching on top of that. Then I did some gold leafing on the next shoe, which led up to the hybrid of doing two shoes together which was the most extreme style that I've done. Every time I finish one pair of sneakers, I try and push myself to do something even more creative.'

Nash has already taken part in this year's Bread and Butter trade show in Barcelona, and has also toured countries such as Portugal, France and Berlin.

For more:
www.myspace.com/nashatyourmumhouse

Introducing



Image: Courtesy of the artist

Cygnus

Electronic Music Pioneer from the Dutty South

Where do you live and what was it like growing up there? I just turned 23 years old and I've lived in Dallas, Texas my whole life. Winters are blistering, summers melt your face off. You have to go pretty far to find something fun to do.

I used to frequent this joint called Video Quest. It was basically the after-school hangout if you were into video games. It was a progressive place.

I was 12 years old when arcades started dying around here. All the good titles started hitting the home systems and then there were less people going to the arcades. That was a bummer because arcades brought together a lot of cool people.

How did you get into making music? The first music I ever made was on my dad's old IBM in one of the first versions of Cakewalk. I basically just sat there and banged out a bunch of noises from that software sampler and held my cassette recorder up to the speaker. Then I went to go listen to it in my bedroom where I'd rap to it. I was supposed to be practicing the piano really.

How is your music progressing at the moment? Since I did the Alkaine Virtuarachnid album in 2006 my style has slowed down quite a bit. There were a lot of songs on that album where I felt an urge to impress somebody. Now I'm just making music to satisfy myself, creating situations I'd like to be in.

My music identifies me in a way I can't really express with words. It's the soundtrack to a lot of visual ideas that I've got in my head.

I could listen to some songs I've made for hours and they're only 3 minutes long.

Who are your non-musical idols? My friend James had an interesting look on his face the other day while scooting across a bench and I wrote a whole song about it. Lots of songs I did this summer were parodies on peoples' facial expressions and their reactions to certain mundane events, like a squirrel eating an acorn.

I find some of the most simple shit just completely hilarious and inspiring. Stuff that I don't think is honest, I really can't enjoy. It's transparent, like watching saran wrap unfold.

What will your community in Texas be like in the future? It will hopefully be more open to young people. Nowadays no one really cares about young kids in Texas. If you're a teenager living in Dallas you are left to yourself to make your own fun. This creates an environment where kids are doing all sorts of wild, insane creative things and getting in trouble for it.

It was less bad when I was growing up but now it's awful. If I observe truly what's going on around here and where it's going then, yeah, they would all better off by just leaving if they can and going to Austin or New Mexico.

Do you have a group of friends that you hang out with? My girlfriend brings me out to salsa clubs all the time. She's pretty much the only person I hang out with regularly now. A couple of friends asked me the other day if that affects my productivity and I was just like, 'If I thought that having a serious relationship with her

would affect my musical productivity, I would not be dating her.' And they said 'Oh.'

What do you do on the weekends? Salsa Clubs and home parties. There was a period of time when I was a teenager that I was real into lan parties and video gaming but I don't get up to that much nowadays.

I have been avoiding downtown Dallas for a while because not long ago I saw a guy get knocked out for reasons unbeknownst. It scared the shit out of me cause I'm a huge pacifist. I mean this guy just was hitting him even after he got knocked out. Maybe I should move or something.

Who really inspires you? To me it's the potency at which someone says something and how much you recognise the subject matter of what they are saying. The first time I heard Autechre, I hadn't heard anything like it before but I felt I knew exactly what it was about.

When I see Mamorou Oshii films I'm always like, 'Exactly. That is exactly what I was thinking about. God.' That stuff is just so potent. It's like something you've dreamed about before, but when you see it, it ain't deja vu, it's like next-level deja vu. It's not a repeat.

I have had the same collection of music since about 1995. I'm always asked, 'Hey, do you listen to much of that micro minimal dub house rave?' and I'm like, 'What's micro minimal dub house rave?' and they'll have the nerve to look confused. I have no idea what is going on right now with any popular music scene. www.myspace.com/cygnusmusic

NightSlugs

Text: Adrianne McKenzie



Take the bassline night bus home with Bok Bok and Manara

Since bassline's breakthrough into the mainstream charts last year, the UK has been gagging for more of the UKG/drum and bass subgenre, which has been around years and remained underground until artists such as Benga, Platinum and T2 shook up the charts with no mercy.

If you're mad for your bassline, 4x4 and gutter house then Nightslugs is a night for you. If you live in the fast lane and crave that adrenaline rush and sonic euphoria delivered to you through the dirty bassline, then you're guaranteed to have an awesome night here.

The atmosphere is exuberant and fresh and the crowd is varied. However they all have one passion and one aim as they carelessly skank out to the hottest tunes courtesy of DJ's Bok Bok and Manara, and that's to have a flippin great time.



FIND OUT MORE
www.myspace.com/nightslugs



Pics: Akwasi Tawai Poku

Ghost Town

On living for the live show



Simon and Joel of Ghost Town

Having made beats for the likes of Guilty Simpson, Foreign Beggars Double D Dagger and Phat Kat among others, and an upcoming Fabric show with the one and only Grandmaster Flash, Ghost Town are set to be a name to check this summer.

The trio, made up of producers Simon and Joel and DJ Ross met at Leeds Uni in 2001 and have been collaborating ever since.

Despite their well established UK hip hop credentials, there's no time to be wasted in over priced studios for these guys. For Ghost Town what's exciting is the spontaneity of the live event, 'it's about creating a show out of it and creating an experience. We wanna be looping straight out of the drum machine to the decks so I can start juggling the beats off the MC,' says Joel. 'We wanna do something different and create interaction between everyone.'

I'm surprised to find out that the guys regularly debut new tracks at their live shows, without having rehearsed them with guest MCs. 'At the moment we with a different MC for each live show. A really good MC can just turn up and if someone plays a track

the can MC over the top,' Simon enthuses. Although the collective are regulars at Urban Nerds nights, they're reluctant to become part of any London scene. 'If you do too many shows in London you dilute what you're doing,' Joel tells me. 'We're gonna be hobos, pack up our stuff and do shows all around the world, sleep on people's sofas, when it gets dry move onto the next place. In this era of cheap plane tickets and easyjet you might as well do a show in France.'

So what separates these guys from all the other hip hop acolytes? 'Ghost Town is a different take. Hip hop for me has gone really dry, everyone trying to recreate the golden era of 95. I love that stuff, but you've got to move on.'

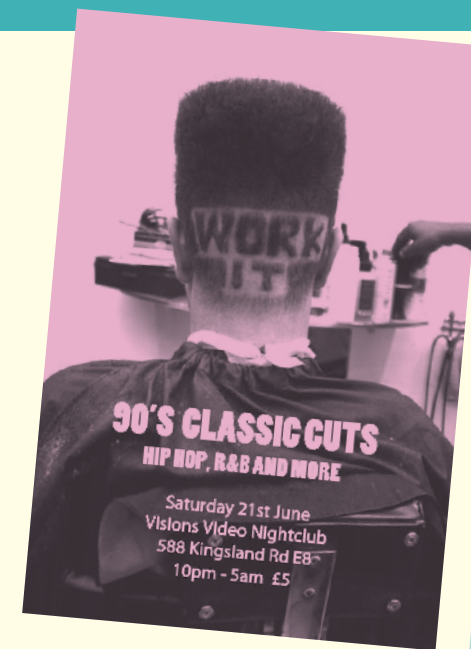
With influences that stretch from Bounty Killers to The Delfonics, to Hudson Mohawke and a whole palette of live sounds, what separates Ghost Town from their contemporaries is a desire to make something fresh while staying true to the form of hip hop they love.

For more:
www.myspace.com/backwardbeeps
www.myspace.com/dustylungs23

Work It

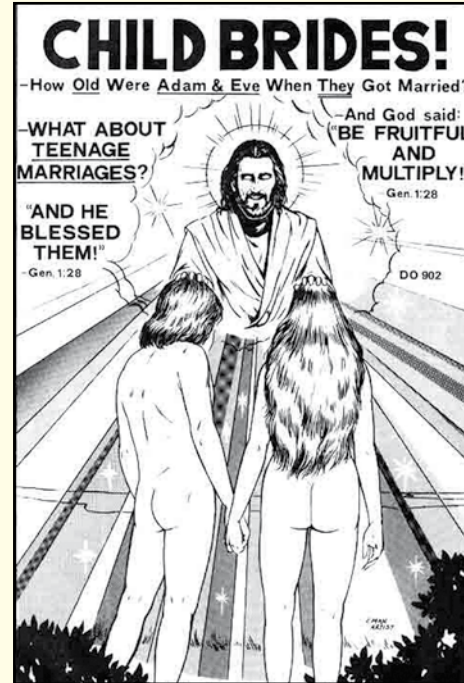
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Introducing

Text: Shona Harvey



Not Without My Sister

The truth about growing up in the 'Family Of Love'

The Children of God – otherwise known as the Family of Love and more recently, the Family International – is a notorious global religious cult which emerged from the west coast of America in the late sixties. The movement received significant media coverage due to reports of child sex abuse and incest allegedly encouraged by the cult's self-appointed, and now deceased, prophet David Berg. Not Without My Sister is the collected, often harrowing, memories and first-hand experiences of ex-members Kristina and Celeste Jones, and Juliana Buhning – three sisters who share the same father, Christopher Jones, who remains a member of the cult.

The book begins with background information on David Berg, how the movement came to exist and briefly introduces the sisters' parents. From there on, we are given Celeste's, Juliana's and Kristina's stories respectively, and the remaining chapters of the book provide a fascinating insight into what the authors refer to as their 'journey to freedom'. Not surprisingly, the recollections of the authors and the physical, mental

and sexual abuse they describe are at times almost too horrifying to digest. The 'Law of Love', which supported sexual and sometimes incestuous relationships between child and adult followers, provides the most prominent incidents of abuse in the text; an example of this exploitation is discussed in Kristina's chapters, where she graphically recalls a sickening sex act carried out by her step-father on her at three years of age.

The sheer hypocrisy and bizarre beliefs of the movement described by the authors left me questioning if the adult members were drawn into the cult through manipulation or choice – or a combination of both. I was surprised by the mixed emotions generated by Christopher Jones: despite fathering fourteen children to various women in the 'Family' and also being active in the abuse of fellow child members, he is illustrated as a kind-hearted and affectionate man in the early childhood memories of his daughters. Highlights of the book include the heated confrontation between Juliana and her father after she leaves the cult, along with the feelings of relief

and excitement I felt as a reader leading up to the eldest sister Celeste's gradual departure from the cult. Celeste took significantly longer than her siblings to leave through – very frustratingly – questioning her natural instincts.

Many of the members discussed in the book are referred to by a variety of names – a security measure which the movement uses to avoid authorities discovering their whereabouts. This was confusing at times as a reader, but at the same time unavoidable. One of the book's strong points is that the reader is given different descriptive perspectives of the three sisters, providing recognisable connections and a clear narrative flow throughout. The purpose of this memoir is to raise awareness about the dangers of religious cults and to provide an honest insight into the dark experiences of innocent children forced into lives of emotional and sexual abuse. It is something which Celeste, Kristina and Juliana can feel proud to have achieved.

www.notwithoutmysister.co.uk

Life in the Marine Corps

Text: Ronnie Grebenyuk

This is Real Life!



Michael Alexander Francis is 21 and from Ohio in USA. He is currently serving in the Marine Corps in Iraq as an Armourer and knows all there is to know about weapons. Having lost his childhood best friend in Iraq and been separated from his family for years ought to be tough. Michael shares with The Cut readers his experience so far.

What was your reason for going Iraq?
My reason for going is because I'm in the Marine Corps and they make you go. You don't have a choice.

What did you expect from going into the Marine Corps?
I expected to become more respectful, to go to war and get a chance to help my brothers in arms in Iraq fight the war on terrorism.

What were your first impressions of being part of Marine Corp and travelling to Iraq?
Going to Iraq my first time, I was scared and very nervous, but confident. Going to the marine corps in general, well, I felt the same way: scared, nervous, but confident.

How long did it take you to settle?
It took me about a month to settle out here in Iraq and the Marine Corps. I'm still not settled in. I don't think anyone gets settled in.

What's your daily routine?
I wake up around 7 in the morning, then come to work. I work on weapons and do paperwork all day. Then around 7 or 8 at night I go run or work out at the gym. Then I hygiene (take a shower, brush teeth – all that stuff) then either come back to work or use the computer, work some more. I really don't have a set time when I go to bed, I just do when I feel tired.

What sort of things have you witnessed in Iraq?
I've seen a lot, but mostly last year. I lost three of my close friends last year, two friends to bombs on the side of the road and one to incoming, which are missiles or artillery shot at the base we were at. I have seen starving and dying children begging for food and water, I've seen kids fight over a piece of candy, air strikes. We were in a part of Fallujah last year and there were 24 homemade explosive devices within 100 yards, with 300 pound or less bombs. We also received sniper fire from a building. Marines rushed the building but could not get close enough to find the sniper so we called a jet to drop a 500 bomb on the building.

Living in Iraq, what kinds of things are always on your mind?
I always think about going home to my friends and family. The hardest part about being out here is just being away from

everyone you love for so long. I was married last year and had to get a divorce when I got back home. I think about how the world is changing and I'm not at home to know what's going on.

What is your opinion on the war and George Bush?
My honest opinion is that I don't think we should be here. This is a civil war and all we are doing is protecting the civilians that live here and dying in the process. However, I do think George Bush is a good president and is doing a good job.

Do you miss your family back home?
Yes I miss my family a lot, they support me one hundred percent and I keep in contact with them at least once every two days.

Has your experience made you look differently at life?
Yes I look at life differently now, I try not to take life for granted. People don't know how good they have it back home.

What plans do you have for the future?
I think I might stay in the Marine Corps for another four years because college is free and it's a good job to have in your background when you apply for other jobs. Then I'm planning to go to Seattle or Washington to become a stuntman. Then maybe one day Hollywood.

Parents Meet the Teenagers

A war of words or breakin' bread?

Most teenagers have at one point in their life felt misunderstood by adults. The Cut felt that it would be a good idea to hold a roundtable discussion between a group of parents and teenagers where they could exchange their views on the issues affecting young people today. The topics raised included alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancy. We used questions and picture scenarios to produce a conversation and debate that was both lively and informative.

Meet the Parents: Antoinette, Errol, Richard

What is your opinion on teenage parents?

Errol: I was one, it's not easy. You were supported by your parents, now you are a parent and you have a sharp learning curve.
Richard: I don't think it is a good idea. I don't think young people are mature enough to do it.

Antoinette: I had my son at 16. I think what really needs to happen is that young people are aware about contraception. It is vital to have a support system and parental education in place.

Errol: The school system would not venture into it.

Do you feel that the community and the government are doing enough to protect young people and prevent them from breaking the law?

Errol: We said there were going to be problems when the government started closing down clubs. Now they are realising their mistake and re-opening them but the damage has already been done.
Richard: A lot of it is to do with the groups young people hang around in.

Antoinette: The government's role could be improved in terms of media content, not censorship but having a positive balance. The communities need more finances, then we could do more to create a kind of pre-adult world. Otherwise we are tempted to go straight to the adult world and then society is saying that we should be having sex and doing drugs.

Scenario one: violence and abuse

Antoinette: When a parent is using violence to control their child they have lost control.
Richard: The problem with this country is that

we used to control children by hitting them, but now we have not come up with an alternative.

Errol: My uncle used to grab my head and squeeze it, is that violent? It was a means of punishment, if he had kept on I would call it violence.

Scenario two: teenage drug abuse

Errol: The way to stop drugs is to let kids understand what they do. Alcohol affects more people - more people die from alcohol - yet it is more readily available.

Richard: I think that all drugs should be legalised and I think the government should control them, then they wouldn't be stronger. It is a huge concern that people do not think they should intervene when people smoke weed.

Richard: You must know they aren't talking about you in the newspapers? Clothes are just packaging and how you dress is how people perceive you. Lots of kids want to wear those clothes to take on that image.
Errol: The image of youth in media has made me more aware, but I don't prejudice.

Meet the Teenagers: Bianca, Sophia and Hannah

What is your opinion of teenage parents?

Sophia: I have trouble getting my homework in on time, so the idea of having a baby and that responsibility blows my mind. We are losing our childhood a lot earlier than previous generations.

Hannah: To say that teenage parents are immature is just another generalisation because a 30 year old parent can be just as irresponsible. There is segregation between older people and younger people so if your parent is closer to your age range the child may confide in their parent more.

Bianca: My mum had her first kid at 18. I don't see her as a friend. She is my mum at the end of the day and there should still be that respect even if she were 60.

Do you feel that the community and the government are doing enough to protect young people and prevent them from breaking the law?

Hannah: It is a small percentage of teenagers that do wrong but they blow it out

of proportion, they are just distracting us from the real problems.

Sophia: I am a real fan of Eminem and I have never gone out with an AK47 and shot out of a window. When they blame the media for violence, it's stupid.

Scenario one: violence and abuse

Sophia: I actually agree with smacking, because before a child can speak they have to know that they cannot do that. You can't communicate with a baby.

Hannah: If a child learns that hitting is the way to get control then they are going to exact that on other people.

Sophia: The idea of letting my mum and dad down hurts more than a slap.

Bianca: My mum wouldn't hit me now. I think it is to do with how mature you are.

Scenario two: teenage drug abuse

Bianca: I have seen what weed can do, but most teenagers think it is nothing. I think seeing it for myself changed me, and I have never smoked weed again.

Sophia: Legalising all drugs is a good idea, because drugs being illegal makes them more interesting. If they were legal they wouldn't be so glamorous. The joke is that teenagers are the ones getting the slack, when you have parents walking around taking drugs and acting like teenagers.

Hannah: If we were to stand in a group wearing hoodies, we would be immediately put into that category.

Sophia: It is the fear that is created by the media, not what people are seeing. We hear a lot that parents have forgotten what it was like to be teenagers, and maybe they have, but by bringing the two generations together, we realised that the generation gap is not that great. Many parents have been through the same life situations that teenagers are facing today, and perhaps it is just a lack of communication that is creating such segregation. Teenagers have a lot to say about their lives and society may be able to find a solution to some of the problems just by listening to us.



Pics: Edward, Daniel Joe



Photograph Copyright © 2008 Farzaan Patel

Where do you stand?

Joining the fight for civil liberties

Text: Warsan Nur

George Bush once again has been at the centre of controversy, this time by his mere presence alone. It is said by some that power means never having to say sorry, but in this case he don't have to say anything, let alone sorry.

On Sunday June 15 he visited London as part of his farewell tour. Many angered by his policies, especially foreign ones like his War On Terror feel George Bush is a war criminal and shouldn't be welcomed here, let alone be wined and dined at 10 Downing street by Prime Minister Brown, and toured around Windsor castle by the Queen.

The Stop the War Coalition along with other NGOs called for a peaceful demonstration from Parliament to Downing Street to express this view, but the demonstration was banned by the London Metropolitan Police. Not standing for what they called an 'erosion of civil liberties' StWC said they would defy

the ban and march without the approval of the police. This was easier said than done.

The march path had been blockaded off by barriers and a row of police officers, who later on got changed in to full riot gear. Behind them was even more police officers, police horses and then a row of police vans. There was no chance of getting through and being able to continue the peaceful march.

As the day went by, tensions between the police force and demonstrators rose and eventually led to violence. Ironically anti-war banners had been thrown at the police who, unfortunately for the demonstrators were far better equipped with weapons, and retaliated with ruthless blows to the crowd with their batons.

As a result of the violence, two protestors were hospitalised and 25 arrested. It wasn't all bad but many peaceful moments were too

quickly interrupted by violence, I nearly made the mistake in joining the sit in. Luckily I didn't because I would have also been trampled on by a stampede of protesters trying to get out of the way of waving police batons. Eventually the demonstration fell in a shambles. Many blamed the police for being far too brutal and StWC for not being organised enough. Levels of violence escalated, the crowd had dispersed and soon it became far too surreal for most and seemed like they were only hanging around to see who'd get hurt next.

When speaking to many demonstrators, worries about their freedom was the main point focused on. They feel the government are taking away their basic civil liberties and if not challenged there's a worrying slippery slope ahead of all of us. The 42 day detention without charge bill is, they say, a perfect example of this.

PINK PETALS

A poem by Daniel Adjei

WE DIDN'T STACK HAPPINESS THROUGHOUT OUR TIME,
BUT IF WE DID OUR HAPPINESS WOULD HAVE CRASHED DOWN LIKE JENGA STICKS.
I'M NOT PERFECT NOR AM I POLITE,
BUT I GET WHAT I WANT IF I FEEL IT FEELS RIGHT.
MISTAKES HAVE I MADE.
IT'S WRONG TO STEAL
INTERFERING WITH LOVE WAS LIKE A READY MADE MEAL.
BETTER KEPT QUIET OR I'LL HAVE NO SECRETS,
SO I TELL MYSELF INSTEAD OF FUTURE REGRETS...

HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH HIS FEELINGS,
A SOFTY.
ALL THE LADIES LOVED HIM,
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T RISE ABOVE HIM.
TO ME, HE DIDN'T DESERVE HER, SO I OBSERVED HER,
AND TOOK HER AWAY WITH MY CHARM.
AND NOW SHE'S UNDER MY ARM.
HE'S HELPLESS LIKE HE HAS NO THUMBS.
BUT THUMBS DON'T MAKE A MAN,
WHETHER DOWN OR UP.
HE HAS PATIENCE,
HE'S RESPECTFUL,
AND NOWHERE NEAR NEGLECTFUL, AS I.
AND NOW I'VE REALISED...

I'VE LEARNT IT'S THE TIME THAT YOU TAKE,
THE RESULTS THAT YOU SEE,
AND THE IMPROVEMENTS YOU CAN MAKE.
WE DON'T SIT TOGETHER AND TALK ABOUT OUR LIVES,
OUR LIVES SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT US.
IF YOU HAD A VISION OF THE FUTURE,
WOULD YOU HAVE BOTHERED?
MY HEART STAYS WITH THE METAL LIKE RUST.
SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
OR MAYBE I'M SELFISH BECAUSE I CAN'T MAKE THINGS HAPPEN...

I WAS AFRAID THAT ONE DAY SHE'D FIND OUT I'M NOT HALF THE MAN BY THE HOUR.
NOT AS RESPECTABLE AS A FLOWER.
I DON'T HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD TO LISTEN,
HATE TO BE STARED AT,
AND I DON'T JUST APPEAR IN BACK GARDENS.
I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE RECOGNISED FOR MY FLAMBOYANCE,
A FLOWER DOESN'T CHARM AND CHEAT OR TAKE.

I AM NOT A FLOWER, I AM THIN AIR.
I'LL CARRY YOU FOR A FEW SECONDS UNTIL YOU CAN GET THERE.
I'LL FILL YOUR LUNGS SO YOU CAN PROCEED TO THE NEXT STEP,
RUIN YOUR DREAMS AND USE MY GUILT TO HELP YOU CORRECT.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CONTINUE, AFTER DOING WHAT I'VE DONE?
WITNESSING THE FALL OF MY VERY OWN LOVE.
SHE'S LEAVING ME, MY HEART HARD AND COLD LIKE METAL,
BECAUSE SHE SAYS SHE MISSES THE FEELING OF PINK PETALS.

Poem Illustration by Kiran Nijar



Pics: Amit, Akwasi, Jamal, Kiran, Ibrahim, A.J, Edward, Daniel Joe,

Reggie Yates

VS No-Bizzi.

Let the battle commence!

Reggie Yates can boast a number of TV and radio credits in a short but prolific career. Since appearing as part of the predominantly African and Caribbean cast of Desmond's, at the age of seven, Grange Hill, Top the Pops, the Crust and of course our very own wake up call on Sunday mornings, Smile, are just some of the shows that make him one of the most recognised and well liked faces and voices in broadcasting.

Reggie now hosts his own radio show on BBC's 1Xtra with former Smile presenter Fearne Cotton and is launching his rap career on the internet under the name No-Bizzi. The Cut caught up with this versatile and talented character during a break in his busy schedule.

How did you start presenting?

I started out acting I was seven and I went to my little drama group near where I lived in north London - I grew up in the Highbury, Arsenal, Holloway, Angel area. I would go to normal school then once or twice a week to a performing arts school where I did singing, dancing, acting and all sorts of crazy stuff. I had an agency and was just lucky enough to go for a casting in my first two weeks and get the role. From then it just sort of evolved.

Was it hard to keep focused, growing up? I'm not going to sit here and tell you I've had the hardest life in the world, but by no means did I have anything given to me. Everything I did I made happen myself. We're in England and there are so many opportunities here. I got friends that were born and raised in Congo, a war torn country - that's hard - and they are now premiership football players. So it was hard at the start but I didn't let that define who I am.

What has been your greatest experience? Last week my mum said she was proud of me. I've been doing this for 18 years and last week was the first time my mum said that. That made me think I am really doing something.

Nothing else matters to me. I don't go to the big flashy clubs, I don't have celebrity girlfriends, I don't do all that nonsense.. To me I am no better or worse than the guy that works in Sainsbury's,

it's just a job and I love waking up in the morning to do it.

You appeared in Dizzee Rascal's song Flex - is judging for something like X-Factor or Britain's Got Talent something you would be interested in? **Those shows are not about talent, they are just entertainment for families to watch. I've stayed away from mainstream television as much as I can. I get called in now and again but Saturday night entertainment is not for me. I try to only do programmes that reflect who I am.**

You presented Smile for a little over two years, what made you leave?

It was time to move on. You should never do things longer than feels right. I learnt as much as I could and I felt I progressed as much as I could.

As a black presenter do you feel people will only allow you to get to a certain stage?

Not at all. I think as black people we are great at making the best out of nothing. I don't know how you were brought up, but I wasn't brought up with a lot - we lived in each others houses and didn't have money for new clothes or even heating a lot of the time so we made the best out of what we had.

A lot of black people have experienced that, that's one side of the coin. The other is that a lot of people make excuses for themselves. I never have or never will say 'I couldn't do something because of the colour of my skin' - that's ridiculous.

Musically you like to be associated by the name No-Bizzi . Why?

It was a name that was given to me when I was 15. I used to be on pirate stations a lot. People don't really know that, because it's easier to pay attention to the mainstream glossy things that I've done. When I was 16 I started a garage group in college and we performed on Freak FM, a legendary garage pirate station, we actually did a warm up show for Heartless, and No-Bizzi was the name I went by.

How would you describe your music?

My music is pretty much an extension of my

character. It's deep at times, it's funny at times, it's dribble at times... It's just fun.

Are you focusing on music right now?

Music is something that I love and when the time is right I'll do it, that's all I can say right now. It's wicked because myspace keep on profiling me and putting my music up there, which is great, it's a great testing ground for what I'm doing. I can't say who I'm working with, though, or when the album's coming out.

Ok... but what would you say is your favourite song of yours?

I got a song called Walk With Me which I did with an artist from Basement Jaxx and it's amazing. I love that it really breaks down what I'm about.

You describe your music as 'fun', which is different to a lot of the music we're hearing at the moment.

I don't sell drugs, I don't have a gun, so why am I going to talk about that? I love clothes, I love women, I love cars, I like enjoying myself and I like being positive. Anyone who writes music about what they think they should be writing about... that's a mistake. There's a lot of artists that fall into that trap, doing what everyone else is doing opposed to what's right.

What have you got planned for the rest of this year?

I'm doing a new drama for ITV called Trinity and I start filming for that in a couple of weeks. That's going to be an eight part comedy drama and I'm a wicked little character in it. I've also just started doing Spanking New which is a new show on MTV. We interview a bunch of new artists so today we did Estelle, then tomorrow we're doing Chipmunk and Sincere. I'm still doing things for Radio 1, the EMAs and a couple more dramas... It's going to be a good year!

So Reggie Yates is soon to be returning back to our TV screens. Keep your eyes peeled and if you see No-Bizzi on MTV sometime in the future just remember that The Cut gave you the first heads-up!

www.atribecallednext.blogspot.com

Text: Bianca Clarke

Freedom at a price

London is one of the most multicultural cities in the world. You only have to look around to see that people are free to wear what they like and believe what they wish. Given this, one would have thought that London could be considered one of the best places to exercise freedom of religion. However, as a young Muslim who has grown up in Britain, my view in recent years has sadly started to change.

Text: Aanika Mumtaz

The atrocities of 9/11 six years ago and the subsequent attacks on London have had serious consequences, yet many are unaware of the impact they have had on the lives of British Muslim civilians. This has particularly affected young people, with many young Asian men being subjected to police searches at London train stations for superficially fitting the profile of a potential terrorist.

I experienced this myself when a family friend was arrested on the grounds of conspiracy to commit a terrorist offence in 2003. He was arrested whilst out shopping with his mum, surrounded by undercover policemen, who were shouting commands while pointing guns in his face. He was just 19. Despite claiming to be innocent and the police investigation uncovering nothing, he was still detained.

Authorities tried to convince him to make a deal, saying that if he pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiracy to commit a terrorist offence, his time in prison would be shortened. He refused to agree, saying

that he wouldn't lie and admit to a crime he did not commit, but soon persuaded by his devastated parents, desperate to see their young son set free, to plead guilty.

In the end a trial was held and, as a result, he will be in prison for the next five years for an action he still claims he did not commit. I saw how this destroyed his whole family, permanently changing their lives. Unjust events like this constantly make me wonder what happened to the freedom this country is supposedly based on, as our civil liberties slowly erode away.

There is a saying in Islam that if you kill one person it is as if you have killed the whole of humanity, and if you save a person's life it is as if you have saved the whole of humanity. As a young British Muslim, I want to change the perception of Muslims and Islam in Britain which is distorted by the media, and show the rest of the world what my religion is really about. I talked to a number of other young Muslim Londoners about their views, this is what they said.

Pics: The Cut Photography Team

'I haven't personally experienced violence or major discrimination but I've recently started wearing the hijab (headscarf) and that was a big step for me because now I am seen as a Muslim. I can be easily targeted and judged for being a Muslim, because that's the first thing you notice about me. Despite not experiencing aggression, I have been made to feel inferior at times or I've been labeled as someone that's different and have been excluded. Unfortunately people tend to make assumptions based on your appearance - it's human nature. They label you and can disregard you if you're not the same as them.

'It is difficult at times, but it's something that I have to face. I just think we need to integrate more, that society needs to get people involved in other cultures, other religions and let people get a wider understanding. By integration, in no way do I mean that people should behave in a manner that is other than them, I simply believe that we should learn more about each other and hopefully we will find a common difference.

'We should get involved and be a part of something, so people understand us more. We should open community centers that have people from different backgrounds, not just single communities. I don't believe anyone should change something about themselves just to fit the mould. I'm an accepting person so I believe people should accept one another's viewpoints. Non-Muslims shouldn't be afraid to ask questions, they can come and talk to us, but don't hold a certain view without getting to know a person first, after all you cannot judge a majority by a minority.'

Aliyah (18 student/northwest London)

Freedom at a price



‘When I go on the train sometimes with my sports bag, it really seems that a lot of people look at me as a terrorist. I think there’s only one reason why they are watching me. I’m carrying a bag and obviously I look like a Muslim with a bit of a beard. So I think, yeah, they’re discriminating against me.

‘I try and forget them but what they need to know is that those who are doing the bombings are not Muslim but claim to be. We can change the current view of us if we Muslims unite and try to show them how we are really and not the way how society is portraying us, as these mad radical guys.’

Raoul, (19 student/West london)



‘I haven’t had any major personal issues but the vibes after the terrorist attacks in America were bad. It felt that everyone was anti-Islam, so I did feel awkward, scared to go out in my hijab, stuff like that, during that time. After July 7 bombings, I felt it a bit more. I was working full time in a shop and I felt that some of the customers who were not Muslim or not from an ethnic minority looked at me as if I was doing something wrong by being there.

‘I have an uncle who works at British Airways and after September 11 he went to America and they had to do all these examinations and checks, which were unnecessarily long and which he didn’t need to go through. I think the emphasis on the procedures is unnecessary and not beneficial. In doing this they may be humiliating you or making you feel awkward. I wouldn’t feel comfortable going to America. We the Muslims should try to convince people that we are just like everyone else but that, as Muslims, we follow our own faith and have our own beliefs just like everyone else. We all have own free will but will not compromise.

‘If we can portray the good side of ourselves then we will get somewhere. I think we do tend to isolate ourselves, so by getting involved and trying to get things working by mixing with people from different backgrounds and religions we will show that we get along with other people, regardless of who they are and what they believe.’

Farzana, (22 student/West London)



‘You only get to see one view of Islam and it’s what is being portrayed on TV. When Bin Laden carried out the terrorist attack on America, that was associated with Islam, but it’s not like that. For Muslims it’s trying to get rights back which have been taken from us, such as in Palestine.

‘Now on the trains, you get a lot of dirty looks. You see people with long beards or ladies wearing the hijab which. when I am walking with my mum on Edgware road is normal, but when it’s somewhere else people just give us a dirty look. Normally I just put my head down and keep on walking because there is no point. If I tried to do something about it I would just get arrested and get nowhere.’

Chariff Ali, (21 student/West London)



‘My first experiences of Islamophobia were when I put my hijab on for the first time. It was during the time of 9/11 and I had people spit on me, throw cigarettes at me, you know, that kind of thing. I was living in a very multicultural area near Edgware road, so you wouldn’t expect something like that but it just goes to show you, when things like that do happen it does segregate the community a lot.

‘People choose to believe the media as they expect it to be impartial and they don’t really read into Islam’s teachings. What we see on the news is minorities who have gone and blown themselves up and justify this in the name of Allah (god). The assumption is that the majority of Muslims believe this. Misinformation in the media to do with Islam is all too common.

‘The mistreatment of Muslims just fuels the extremists, but it also fuels prejudice towards Islam. Not only are Muslims becoming more anxious, they’re not communicating as well with the police. They see themselves as victims, and we are also portrayed as scapegoats. When non-Muslims see these images, they think if Muslims don’t want to cooperate then the government are justified in their actions. So I think its not helping on both ends of the spectrum.’

Sara, (19 student/Marylebone)

‘MY FIRST EXPERIENCES OF ISLAMOPHOBIA WERE WHEN I PUT MY HIJAB ON FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT WAS DURING THE TIME OF 9/11 AND I HAD PEOPLE SPIT ON ME, THROW CIGARETTES AT ME’

“BY MIXING WITH PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND RELIGIONS WE WILL SHOW THAT WE GET ALONG WITH OTHER PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY BELIEVE”



‘Can I be a bit controversial? I’ve never been discriminated against, but you do get some uneducated people taking things too seriously. They’re not living in 2008 and they’re not being realistic about things, they still live 1500 years ago. I’m talking about the extremist Muslims here.

‘Allah (god) said for the women to cover up, he didn’t say cover your hands, cover your face, cover your feet, or everything. You have got to be realistic about things. You can’t be extreme about everything. There is racial discrimination but it’s not specifically because I’m Muslim. I don’t think there is much we can do because the public are racist whether we like it or not. I don’t think we should concentrate on the violence in our religion too much and should show positives.’

Ahmad (25 student/West London)

Young Londoners

Taking London by storm



MC Haïch



Real Music UK

Text: Bianca Clarke, Akwasi Tawai Poku
Pics: The Cut Photography Team



Jonathan Hamilton



Lioness



DJ Fokus



Merveille Lukeba



Nyah

All Images: The Cut Photography Team

As young people we have many dreams and ambitions that we may not achieve, but at The Cut we want to reinforce faith' 'anything is possible. We selected a few up and coming artists; fashion designers, MCs, rappers, actors, musicians and DJ's who started at the bottom and are working their way up to the top. Is it harder then it seems?

LIONESS 'Do your thing!'

Lioness is a female MC blossoming from Greenwich, South East London. This little madam has everyone fooled by the pretty face but she is one of the most recognised female MC in the UK, featuring on tracks with Doctor, and Hazardous. She has also been showcased on DJ Logan Sama's and DJ Westwood's radio shows. So is it hard getting into the game when you're a female? Quite the contrary.

As a female what do you bring to the 'Grime' Scene?
Equality. A lot of people believe that the grime

scene is a 'mans place' and over the years, I've shown that it is not. I can do exactly what they can and to be perfectly honest, I'm better than 75% of the males in the scene. I want to show the rest of the females that anyone is capable of doing it. I went from hearing "Lioness you're good for girl!" to "Lioness, you're not a good female mc to you're a good MC full stop" You see what I'm saying? So equality is definitely something that I bring.

NYAH 'It is as hard, as you make it!'

Billionaire Girls Club is for any age-group, you can log on to the website www.bgirls.com. There's a health page on there directed to the young teens especially, because when you're young you find it hard to talk to friends about problems you might encounter. Who knows you might find someone in the forum that's going through the same things as you!

So Nyah tell us about b-girls?
Billionaire Girls Club is for any age-group.

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JONATHAN HAMILTON

At just 18 Jonathan Hamilton is drumming down our major attractions. Mr. Hamilton has performed at Earl's Court, Hackney Empire, on the Paul' O Grady Show, National Lottery Live, The Green Room and Loose Women.

What made you want to be a drummer?
I don't actually remember I've been playing that long! I remember in church being on my mums lap and watching the drummer. She was a great drummer. I remember wanting to play just like her.

You play for Kelly Rowland when she performs in London. How did it feel to have this opportunity

and how did you land it?

It feels great to finally live out the dream I've been dreaming all my life! I feel like all the days I spent practicing are finally paying off. I got a call from one of the band members saying that my mentor had put my name forward to play for her and next thing I know I'm on TV.

What advise would you give to anyone who wants to start playing the drums?
'Practice, practice practice!! Work at your craft'. Don't be afraid to be hungry and go out and get what you want. Also learn how to read music, that's one of my downfalls that I'm working on now.

MC HAICH 'Stick to your art!'

Have you ever been next to a 'G' like Haich? Get it? Next to a 'G' like 'H'? The puns, metaphors and similes just seem to flow naturally to this MC from Ladbroke Grove. Who said when you're an artist you don't need

Math's or English? According to Haich 'You need to know the tricks and trades to make music magical'.

Your tips for aspiring MCs?

The three D's: Determination, Dedication and Discipline. That's all you need.

Mervielle Lukeba

Mervielle Lukeba is definitely 'playing his way' to the top. Having debuted in ITV's ancient police programme The Bill, every one has high expectations for Mr. Lukeba. He promises us that for 2009 he is going to blow!

What acting are you doing at the moment?
I'm currently performing in the West End at the Young Vic theatre in 'The Good Soul Of Szechuan'. That's going really well, it's incredible the rush you feel when you're on stage and hundreds of people are watching you. It's indescribable, almost electric.

Coming from an area of London, which is associated with violence, how did you keep focused and not get caught up in this culture?
I think the most important things when you come from an area like mine is that you not only make sure you have the right kind of people around you, but also you remain occupied. Violence often stems from people having too much free time on their hands. Obviously gangs and area rivalries also play a huge part, don't get me wrong, but I honestly believe if the people involved in these crimes had other more important things to do then they wouldn't have the time to do these things.

For more:

www.myspace.com/realmusicukltd
www.myspace.com/MerveilleLukeba
www.myspace.com/bgirlsclub
www.myspace.com/xxlionessxx



ALL-TIME
HERO

GRACE JONES

Grace Jones returns with a mind-blowing new album, her first for over a decade



Pics: Nina Manandhar

Grace Jones, the extraordinary singer-supermodel and fashion icon releases her first new album in two decades in October. Hurricane includes tracks produced by Tricky, Brian Eno, and longtime collaborators Sly and Robbie. Production duties are also shared by music producer Ivor Guest, the 4th Viscount Wimborne and her fiancé.

Since descending a black staircase at the Poker World Championships a few years ago, Grace has been in the studio, pushing the killer charisma of tracks like Nightclubbing and Slave to the Rhythm into something altogether more strange and futuristic. In her new single Corporate Cannibal, she morphs into the world of big business, although when she sings 'I'm a man-eating machine' you can't help but wonder if she isn't tipping a sly nod to her reputation. The video by Nick Hooker is a dark and mesmerising watch with Grace's face at times stretched out of all recognition and at other times her expressions commanding your attention.

Since hitting the catwalks as a Jamaican transplant to New York in the 1960s, her stage presence and her ability to heighten the performance of a fashion show to an art form has seen her perform with late great Pavorotti, become the muse of famous artists like Andy Warhol and Keith Haring (who famously painted her naked body with yellow paint) and star opposite Christopher Walken as the terrifying martial arts expert, May Day in a View To A Kill. Without a doubt, Hurricane is set to be the greatest record of the year and with her presence spanning pop culture for the past four decades, it feels like she's never really been away. Viva La Diva!

Hurricane is released on Wall of Sound Recordings on the 28th of October 2008.





Pic:Quang Dang



From Kidulthood to Adulthood

Written and directed by Noel Clarke, and currently one of the biggest films in the UK, Adulthood takes us deep into the life of 21st century teenagers. The Cut spoke to some of the cast.

Text: Ronnie Grebenyuk

Femi Oyeniran

Describe your character Moony in the film?
Moony is a very funny character; out of inadvertence. He's not funny because he tells joke, you just laugh at him because he has a funny way of expressing himself. He is a follower rather than a leader. This changes in adulthood.

How does it feel being part of Kidulthood and Adulthood?
It's special because you feel like you're making history; especially with the first one, it definitely felt ground breaking. These two films are history in the making and I'm very grateful to God that I've been involved in both movies.

How does your character change from the first film?
He changes a lot. For one he's not running around the streets anymore. He's not as involved with Jay as he used to be. He's in full-time education and he's in a loving relationship. He represents progression.

Have you learned anything while playing your character Moony?
As an actor I try to grow with every project. You must. The main thing is that hard work is the key. I feel stronger as an actor having done all the main mediums (TV, Theatre and Film). I am ready to push my ability to the zenith.

What would you say stands out in Adulthood from all the Other films?
It brings real-life to the cinema screens. There is a lot of raw energy from the young cast which I don't think you can get from anything out there. It's a true representation of young Britain.

What advise would you give to actors who are trying to break into the Film Industry?
I don't know the direct way to break into the industry. Drama school? Networking? Hard work? I think all these things and more. And be ready for disappointments. I wish I had the formula but I don't. I just believe if you want something in life and you work hard for it, you will get it.

Why should people go and watch Adulthood?
Because they love the first movie. Its young, fresh and new. There might be nothing this good for a few years.

Jacob Anderson

Describe your character Omen. Omen is one of the new boys, the new generation of youngers. He's very loyal to his group and he likes to think of himself as the leader, but I think his best friend Dabs manipulates him a little bit more than he realises. He's hype! Probably not the kind of guy you want to bump into in a dark alley I guess.

How's it been working with the Adulthood cast?
It's been a beautiful thing, I know it sounds like a cliché but everybody has really been like a family. From day dot the newbies were accepted into the Kidulthood family and I feel lucky to be in this with such a talented group of people.

As Adulthood tackles real life issues, were there any issues from the film that you could relate to personally?
Yeah, I think anyone can relate to something in the film. The themes are very universal. It's much bigger than just a film about youth culture this time round. I really think Adulthood could work with a cast 20 years older. We all make mistakes and we have to try to make them right somehow. It doesn't matter whether you're 15 or 50.

What would you say is the message that Adulthood is giving to the audience?
It's about change, really, and redemption. When you've put yourself in or been put in a shit situation, do you make a decision to do the right thing and turn it into something positive? Or do you go

back to the way you were? Some of the characters choose to make the best of it and do something positive, some decide to challenge their demons and change, others decide to keep the status quo and carry on with badness.

How was the whole experience of working with Noel Clarke?
Brilliant. There aren't many people in this world like him. I think that when you have someone taking on such a huge challenge like Noel has, it's easy to seem like a jack of all trades, master of none but he has this determination and confidence which never allows that to happen. He did use tough love sometimes but he also had this way of making us all feel like a family, which is very important when you're making a film, it means everyone genuinely cares about getting the best possible result.

What did you think of the finished Adulthood Film?
I really tried to separate myself from it when I went to the first screening and watched as a fan of Kidulthood, and I promise you, it delivers. Adulthood is a very different film from the first, but in a good way. It's more mature - grittier, faster, and bigger. It's an adrenaline rush but still manages to contain this strong, poignant story.

How do you think the audience is going to react to a film that shows people in tough situations?
I won't lie, I think people might be shocked by certain situations, but I think it's a very real slice of life nowadays. We're living in a frightening age now and if these things weren't happening in society, then Noel wouldn't be writing about it. That said, it's just a movie, a heightened take on that stuff. It's entertainment, it's not meant to be some sort of endurance test.

Ben Drew (Plan B)

Describe your character Dabs. He's a typical kid. They're arrogant and they think they know it all, but they don't, which means they're ignorant. They're manipulative to get what they want, they will lie and cheat and stab their friends in the back. What he wants above all is money and respect because a lot of the kids out there are influenced by American hip hop and that's what they think is important in life.

How was your experience of the making of Adulthood?
I met a lot of friends. I've done drama at school and I've always found that quite easy to do so it wasn't hard for me. There were no real nerves there but some days I wasn't as focused as I needed to be. It's something that I've learned from. I think if I'm ever in a film again I'll know what to do better, but I think I done alright.

How does it feel going from the music scene to acting?
Not that my lyrics aren't real, but every time you pick up a mic and start rapping you're putting on an act. The way I'm talking to you now isn't the same as when I rap. I don't think that if you're a singer that necessarily means you'll be a good actor, but I think that if you're a rapper... I do a lot of story telling so I don't think it's that much of a jump.

How well do you think Adulthood touches on the issues of today?
A film is supposed to be entertaining first and foremost. If it wasn't, then

it would be a documentary. There are scenes in this film which are there purely for entertainment value and I think critics would pick up on those things and try criticising the film as being unrealistic. The criticisms that I've read so far are like, 'does this shit really happen?', 'do kids really talk like this?' It's like, yes we do. I think the problem is that a lot of people who review these films are well off, middle class, white people. But I think the film is realistic and touches on real shit with artistic licence.

What was the best part of the whole experience?
I met some people that I think I'm definitely going to be in contact with for a long time after this, and it had also opened up a lot of doors. I haven't really got aspirations to be an actor, but it's nice for people to take me seriously in that way.

What do you think of the finished film?
I think it's good and an even better film since I saw it with real people, they're all laughing at the right places. There's things that I didn't even laugh at till I saw it with a proper audience, because it's always different to the media's reaction.

What advice would you give for the people who are going through the issues that are portrayed in Adulthood?
Watch the film, learn from the film. If they're going through what the film portrays, then the film has an end result and you'd be a bit of an idiot if you watched that film and then went and acted just like them, it shows you the consequences to those actions. Make your own name.

Arnold Oceng

Describe your character Henry in the film.
My character Henry is the comedian of the film. If there's silence he will be the one to break it with a joke or by saying something dumb. When he's indoors with the family he's a good guy and when he's with his friends it's a totally different story, but he knows the difference between right and just plain wrong as you will see in the film.

What was your experience of the making of Adulthood?
It was great. I knew most of the cast already through the business or previously working with them on different projects. There was such a buzz everyday on set for this film. I loved every minute of it.

Have you personally been caught up or involved in any of the issues raised in Adulthood?
Not me personally, but I have a lot of friends that have, or that can relate to it. What I believe makes this film different from the others is that it is real and tackles the issues kids go through today.

Why do you think our society has become this way, as portrayed in Adulthood?
I think our society is portrayed this way because behaviour like this, sadly to say, is the norm within London and outer London. Adulthood is mirroring the image and informing people about what's going on today, it's making the audience aware.

Describe Adulthood in three words?
Amazing, stunning and REAL!!!!!!

What do you hope the audience will gain from watching the film?
I want the audience to understand that, yes, the film is funny and it's got a lot of action, but remember that the film also has hidden morals and lessons to be learned so that you don't make the same mistakes we do in the film. So guess I want people to get a better understanding of the choices they face.



OLYMPICS SPECIAL ROAD TO 2012

As all eyes turn to the Beijing Olympics, The Cut charts the road to the London games of 2012.

Did you know we are tipped for over ten gold medals? In front of a home crowd, it could be our highest tally of all time. This special Olympic section is bursting with the talent that is going to be on everyone's lips come four years' time. From Virtuoso BMX and now velodrome rider Shazane Reade to Tom Smith, a taekwondo world champion at the age of just 13 years old to Graham Edmunds, who has already achieved a gold medal in the pool in Athens in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay.

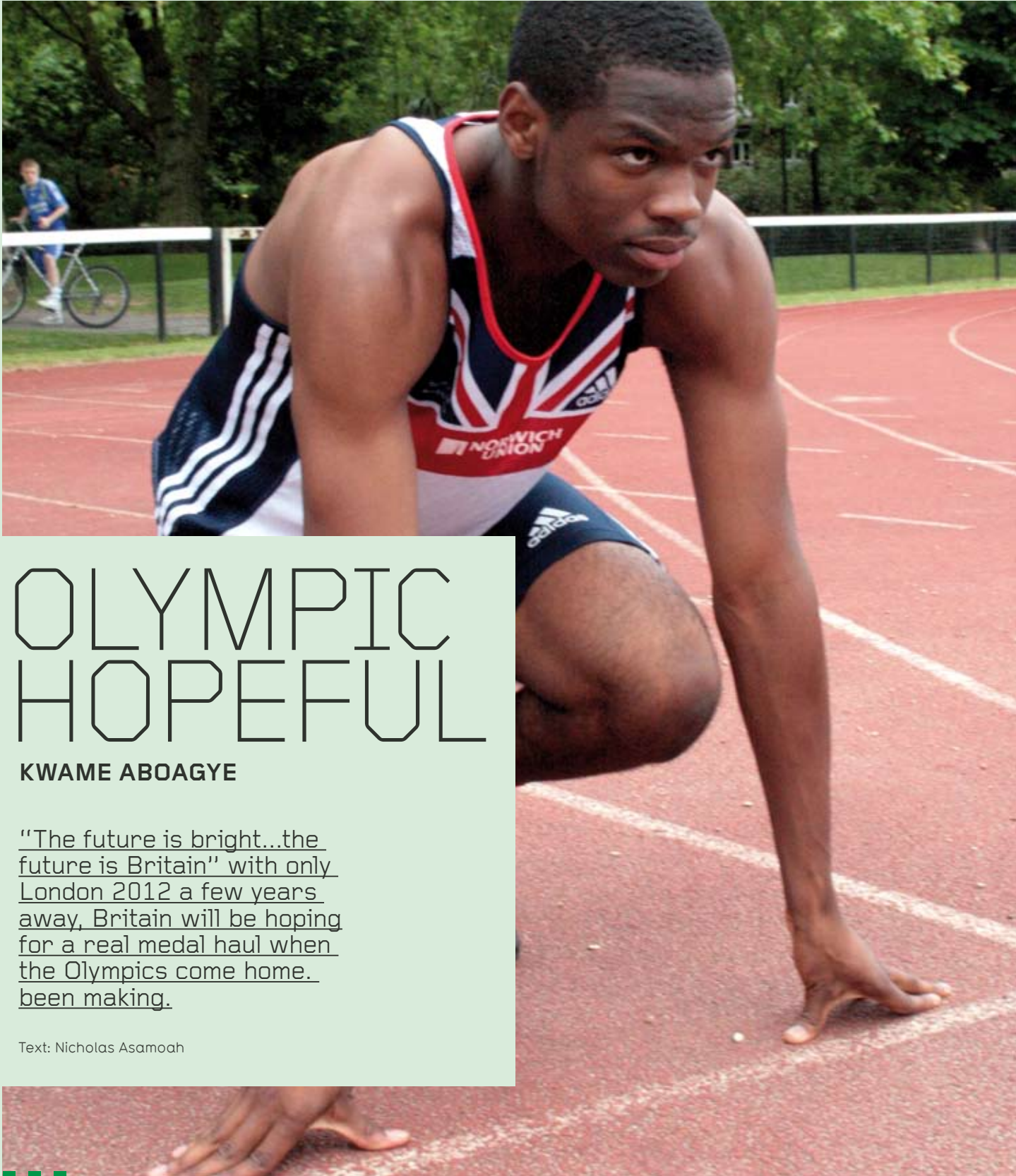
The Cut Sports Desk visited the Wembley site and we were amazed by the plans for what it will look like. As you can see, the giant TV screens on the outside will be visible for miles and the design is very impressive. There is predicted to be over 300,000 visitors coming to London for the games and the Olympic Village alone will house some 30,000 athletes, coaches and officials.

Without a doubt, it will be a life changing experience to be part of a games live in the city and with a Cultural Olympiad planned alongside to promote British youth and to bring communities together, there is something for everyone to get excited about.





ROAD TO 2012



Pics: Edward Kagutuzi, Akwasi Tawai Poku

OLYMPIC HOPEFUL

KWAME ABOAGYE

“The future is bright...the future is Britain” with only London 2012 a few years away, Britain will be hoping for a real medal haul when the Olympics come home. been making.

Text: Nicholas Asamoah



One athlete, who is determined to prove that there are quality sprinters in Britain and try to make a name for himself, is 15 year old Kwame Aboagye. We went along to catch up with to see the progress he has been making.

Tell us a bit about yourself (name, age, discipline).
Kwame: Well I am Kwame Aboagye, aged 15, and I specialise in 100m and sometimes 200m

So how do you feel your season has gone so far?
Kwame: So far I don't think I've reached the peak of my performances, and I think it's down to the lack in amount of winter training I did. I've run a couple of races and although finishing in good positions, I haven't been running the times I would have expected to have run.

What athletics team are you currently part off and who coaches you?
Kwame: I Run for Shaftsbury Barnet Harriers and I'm coached by one of the best I think, His name is Jon Lennord, he's an exceptional coach and serves up the hardest training sessions.

But also in my time I sometimes do a training session with GBR athlete Chris Lambert who helps to fix up any little faults that I'm dealing with, I mean, you got to love the guy (Laughs)

What disciplines are you currently running?
Kwame: Currently, I've been running the 100m but do the 200m in any LICC Matches

What is your personal best time for those disciplines?
Kwame: Well my PB in 100m is 11.3secs on electric but 10.9 secs stop watch, also 23secs dead in 200m stop watch, yet 23.8secs on electric.

Have you got any exciting up coming meets?
Kwame: Yes, I do, I have Middlesex county schools meet, which is the biggest meet for many athletes as some may not run the given time for English schools, which is the biggest of the biggest.

What achievements have you had so far in your young career?
Kwame: Not even being big headed, but quite a



few...I've won Barnet championships, which is one of the biggest school meets at least 3 times over the 100m distance, also recently I came first in Tonbridge. Hopefully I continue to go far.

How do you feel about your prospect of reaching London 2012?
Kwame: Well doing London 2012 is pretty much my dream, I mean ever since I heard the Olympics were coming to London it's just encouraged me to work harder, even in training, when things seem hard, I remind myself that the only way I'll make it, is if I try harder.

Do you think UK Athletics are looking after the young athletes well and preparing them for a real medal haul when the Olympics come home to London?
Kwame: I'm not too sure, as I don't think there's a big enough search for athletes, as if you join a club and you're not one of the best, you're not really recognised, it's amazing how many kids may be able to do a bit of everything, but at such a young age, heptathletes are not recognised.

How do you cope with your school work and training, do you find it difficult?
Kwame: Its' probably the hardest balance, I mean the time school finishes and the time I get home, I have a maximum of 1hour before I have to leave for training, now you know if you don't do any school work in that 1hour, after training will be harder, as you'll be too tired, so you have to find a way that works for you, and ask teachers to be more lenient with your work.

Now drugs have been a controversial topic in athletics, do you feel that athletes are easily tempted to use a performance enhancing drug?
Kwame: Now this drugs subject has been raised a lot, yet even though I'd never even dare to go I'm close to these performance enhancing drugs, I can understand that when an athlete is going through a bad patch, where he's not winning races, he'll turn to these drugs, however there is no excuse as to be better, you have to train harder.

Have you by any chance been approached by someone to take up a drug request?
Kwame: Nah, never...And if I was, I feel my love for the sport, will slightly fade.

9.72 the new world record, which was set by Usain Bolt, do you feel that one day you will be able to run competitive times like that and what will you do to achieve this?
Kwame: (Laughs) Well Usain Bolt is a huge guy and you'd have to be a powerful human to be running such times. But as a young kid, I've always dreamed of being the fastest man in the world, so hopefully, if my growth spurt would kick in any time soon, I do feel that I will be able to run such competitive times, and hopefully achieve a world record in my lifetime.

You previously have been training with an Olympic hopeful by the name of Chris Lambert, what do you think off him as an athlete and a person?
Kwame: Great athlete. Great person. I just adore Chris; he works hard in doing what he does and always gives me words of encouragement when I feel that I'm running badly. Chris is an amazing athlete and probably second best in Britain, after Marlon Devonish obviously, however Marlon Devonish is his training partner, so sometime soon, I do feel Chris will get better than he is now. Now we know Chris has struggled from injury, mainly hamstring, but if he stays injury free, he definitely will be an Olympic medallist contender.

What next for Kwame?
Kwame: Well, I want to will train harder. Also I would love to get my PB down at the Middlesex county schools meet and hopefully my training will show in my performances, and eventually be ranked in the top 5 in Britain to develop properly into a better athlete on and off the track then not only will I be looking to match 9.72, I will be doing my up most to beat it. But that is not for a while.





Putting Studley on the Map

THE UK ROPE SKIPPING TEAM

Text: The Cut team

When a group of US athletes came to Studley Junior School almost 20 years ago, no one would have guessed the legacy they would leave on the small Warrickshire town. The athletes came to promote skipping, introduce the school to Double Dutch – skipping as a sport, as opposed to just a playground activity.

Today there are over 60 members of The Blue and White Rope Skippers' association, which was formed officially in 1990 to give young people an opportunity to continue to develop their skipping having been sold on the idea from their transatlantic cousins. Their members now range in age from 6 to 60 plus, though the focus is on under 20s.

Although rope skipping is not yet an official Olympic sport, the UK Team are the one of the official UK Olympic Mascots for 2012. 'Skipping is enjoying a revival, not only a playground game, but as an organised activity to improve concentration and behaviour.' So says BRSA club manager and trainer, Sue Dale. Dale's daughters Beci and Rachael are among the stars of the UK skipping team, with Rachael having recently



Pic: The Cut team

set a new UK record of 94 jumps in 30 seconds. This summer the BWRS and BRSA will be in South Africa showing off their skills in the annual World Championships. Other achievements to date include performing in music videos for Madonna and James Morrison and getting up there on BBC's finest, Blue Peter.

Double Dutch has its home in the sidewalks of New York after Dutch settlers bought it over to what was then New Amsterdam in the 1800's. The game is best known for the urban renaissance in the mid 1970s when unlikely detective duo David Walker and Ulysess Williams went on a mission to develop the sport in NYC state schools. The origins of the sport are said to be traceable to ancient Phoenecian, Egyptian and Chinese ropemakers. So, from ancient Egypt to contemporary Britain, the UK's young skipping talent are putting both Studley and skipping back on the map.

British Rope Skipping Association:
www.brsa.org.uk
Blue and White Rope Skippers
www.bwrs.org.uk



Pic: Tim and Barry

Graham Edmunds

CHAMPION SWIMMER

Text: Nicholas Asamoah

There is all this talk about all the Olympics but some people seem to forget that this is not the only thing taking place in Beijing this summer. I was lucky enough to meet a Paralympian. Graham Edmunds is aiming to repeat his success of last time, which was a gold medal in the 4x100m freestyle. He took time out of his busy training schedule to talk to us.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

My name is Graham Edmunds and I am 33 years old. I am a swimmer with a slight disadvantage: my classification is S10 SB9 SM10. Within disability swimming there is a classifications system that allows us to compete with other people of similar disabilities. There are 10 categories of physically disabled swimmers ranging from S1 to S10. Those with a lower class are more disabled than those in the higher classes. My best event is the 50m freestyle. I also compete in the 100m freestyle and have had massive success as part of the 34 point 4x100m freestyle relay.

What is the condition that you are suffering from?
I was involved in an RTA in October 2000, which left me with numerous broken bones in both my legs. It was expected that I would probably lose both legs from the knees down. I was very fortunate in that the surgeons who worked on me were able to save my legs but they have a lot of damage as well as metalwork, which makes walking very hard and other things that most people take for granted like running and jumping impossible.

Did you always think that you could carry on with a sporting career?
I didn't think I would walk again let alone have a sporting career. I was however

going to do my best to get my life back as close as I could to that prior to the accident. I went back to swimming primarily as a way of learning to walk. First of all I would walk in water that was 4ft deep as it took most of the weight of the body. As my legs got stronger I moved to progressively shallower water to try to rehabilitate better. While in the water I was happy and thought I may as well swim a bit just because I had been out for so long. As my legs became stronger I spent more time swimming as it was a great way of releasing the energy built up by the frustration of not being able to do so much. Swimming was also starting to make me fit again so the more I did it the more I wanted to and it built up from there.

Recently, Oscar Pistorius the 'fastest man on no legs' won a successful bid after months of trying to compete in the Beijing Olympics.

Do you feel you can follow in his footsteps?
I would love to do the same as Oscar, but it is not physically possible for me to compete at the Olympic level. Swimming is one of the few Paralympic sports where you are not allowed to have any kind of aid. This means if you have no legs you swim by using your arms only. I compete in able bodied competitions but my disability is such a disadvantage that I can't get to the speeds of my fellow swimmers. I am very proud to think that Oscar has been allowed the opportunity to do this as it is a massive leap forward for all disabled people. I can see that there is also going to be huge controversy.

How do you feel Paralympics have been treated? Do you feel you need more recognition?
I am very passionate about all Paralympic

sports and I feel that we do need more recognition. Disabled people have to fight so much in everyday life just to get by; putting them in a competitive sporting event shows this even more. Everyone I have spoken to who has seen the swimming is humbled at first then amazed as to how these people propel themselves through the water, possibly at speeds faster than most of the general public. I wish that the Paralympic coverage was equal to that of the Olympics.

In 2004, the Paralympic World Relay Championship Gold Medal went around your neck. What was going through your head when you realized you won?
I went second out of the four in the relay. I was so exhausted after giving everything in the pool I had a real problem cheering. However as the race progressed I found myself probably using as much energy shouting as I had just done in the pool. The funny thing was that I even after the medal was mine I still was so shocked that I didn't believe it. It was an extra special thing for me as it was not only my first Paralympics, it was a gold medal and it was on my 30th birthday.

How many events will you be looking to take part in this year?
I have got to a stage in swimming where I have specialised, so I will be competing in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle and hopefully again as part of the 34 point 4x100m freestyle relay.

I would love to repeat the success we had in Athens and again in Durban at the IPC World Championships in 2006 with the 34 point 4x100m freestyle relay, but the thing I would like more than anything is to get a medal of my own.





ROAD TO 2012

A Look Back At the Most Exciting 100m World Records.

MUNICH 1896

In 1896, the 100m made its first official debut in the first inaugural modern Olympic Games in Athens. The unknown and quiet athlete known as Thomas Edward Burke, who initially was a 400m runner, entered the 100m race, where many of the top athletes were absent, his had a very unique starting crouching position, which he used to great effect to win the first ever 100m gold medal and set a world record time off 12.0s.

12:0s

1

Thomas E. Burke



STOCKHOLM 1912

The very first official world record was set by another American athlete by the name of Donald Lippincott. This time it was set in the 1912 Stockholm Olympics during the heat stages, the time was 10.6s. What did he get for setting that time you are wondering?... a bronze medal in the final of the race not even a gold medal for a time like that but that is the world of athletics though.

10:6s

2

Donald Lippincott



BERLIN 1936

This man is arguably one of the greatest athletes ever to walk on the streets of the world. His name... Jesse Owens. He just had to come on the list of a world record run and he achieved this at the 1936 Olympics Games, where Adolf Hitler was watching on in anger and hatred. He set the time of 10.2s and his legendary "black power" stance on the podium will forever live in the memory of athletics.

10:2s

3

Jesse Owens



BERLIN 1956

Jesse Owens's time was not beaten until 20 years later, where Willie Williams tore up the form book as he was in the same situation that Jesse Owen faced, being in the same stadium, the same track and would you believe...yes even having the guts to be in the same lane and guess what?...the only difference this time around is that he was able to set a world record time of 10.1s

10:1s

4

Willie Williams



MEXICO CITY 1968

"Huh, did I hear the word stopwatches?" By the 1960's stopwatches were looked at as being "old fashioned". So what did they do about this, you ask? They brought in the more accurate electronic system. So one guy thought to himself, "This is my chance". That was Jim Hines, he turned up to the grid, the gun went off and he set a new world record. He was also the first man to break the famous 10 second barrier. This took place at the 1968 Mexican Olympic final.

9:95s

5

Jim Hines



SEOUL 1988

Now speaking of all time legends, this guy has to be up there. He broke world records for fun but probably one of his famous ones was at the Athletics World Championship in Tokyo. Me, personally if I broke a world record that is my career done but this guy is not me you see. Three years after breaking it in Seoul, he came there again and won it in a time of 9.86s.

9:86s

6

Carl Lewis



ATHENS 1999

The famous hip hop walk up and down the track before the race starts, the screw face look he gives to his competitors, all terrified of his run time, all the symptoms to know you are about to face Maurice Greene. Green turned up in Athens already dominating the year but what a time he produced on the day! A stunning run to shock the Athletics' world – a new time of 9.79s.

9:79s

7

Maurice Green



PARIS 2002

Wow. What can I say about the guy that is next? I have a different interpretation off him, he lied, he cheated and he won. His name is Tim Montgomery. I have to applaud him; he ran a fantastic race with drugs in his system. Anyone can do that can't they? But he came up to the Paris Grand Prix Final, where the battle between him and Dwayne Chambers was immense. What did he do? No pressure...he won the race in 9.78. Applauds (clap, clap, clap)

9:78s

8

Tim Montgomery



ATHENS 2005

Asafa Powell. This guy has the nation at his feet. He is deemed to be the underachiever when it comes to his performances at a Championship level but when it comes down to it, he has the necessary accolade to be a legend in Athletics. After a disappointment at the Osaka World Championship, where he was expected to win the gold medal he got bronze. He took his frustration out on September 9th 2007, where he stepped out in the track of Italy's Reiti Grand Prix and set a time of 9.74s in his heat. questioned why he did not produce this at the Championship but he has himself to answer to.

9:77s

9

Asafa Powell



BEIJING 2008

Beijing is just around the corner and what a battle it will be between the two Jamaicans. We cannot forget the formidable Tyson Gay, he will try his best but I feel Usain Bolt's this record will not be broken for a long time. Technology is growing, you never know, just maybe, a British athlete might be bringing home the accolade but I doubt it. This is my prediction for the 100m final podium, if all goes to plan.

9.72s

GOLD:
Usain Bolt (JAM)
SILVER:
Tyson Gay (USA)
BRONZE:
Asafa Powell (JAM)

Usain Bolt



On Monday 31st May 2008 on a cold and rainy day in New York, two of the hottest athletes around came face to face to square off. The Jamaican Usain Bolt lined up against American's World 100m gold medallist Tyson Gay. 9.72s later after the gun went off, the whole world stood up tall in

disbelief. Compatriot Asafa Powell looked on to see that his world record benchmark of 9.74s had been shattered by Usain Bolt. Surprisingly this was only Bolt's fifth time to run the discipline as he traditionally runs the 200m. Here we take a look at the history of the 100m record breakers.





ROAD TO 2012



Shanaze Reade

BMX OLYMPIC DEBUT

Shanaze Reade could be described as the Mozart of the cycling world. Only 19 years old, the BMX rider has won three junior World Championships, as well as a total of eight British and European Championships, and this year took the senior World Championship on her first go. Last year she traded in her BMX to ride velodrome and won the UCI Track World Championships Team Sprint gold with Victoria Pendleton. It was only her second ever velodrome event. Speaking to the Observer Magazine she says, of this years Olympics, 'I think I can win gold, that's what I am going for,' - and the quality of her talent is undeniable. Shanaze says 'I started in 1999, when my uncles got me involved in it. It appealed to me so much because of the extreme side of it. 'You also get to meet people from all round the world and experience things I wouldn't have ever had the chance to otherwise.' Her confidence is booming. According to the Observer; "she was once asked how she manages to be so successful. Her answer: 'It's only pedalling.'

You can visit Shanaze's website at www.shanazereade.com.



Tom Smith

TAEKWON-DO CHAMPION

Did you know that the South-East of England houses one of the most successful Taekwon-Do Academies in the world? Run by the amazingly named Master Wolf and his daughter, two time World Champion Lucy Wolf, the Thanet school of Master Wolf's Tae Kwon-Do Academies (MWTA) has been established for over 30-years and has produced over 500 black belts, as well as a multitude of National, International and World Champions. Master Wolf is one of the highest-ranking Tae Kwon-Do instructors in the world.

Tom Smith, only 14 years of age, has won numerous National as well as International titles, such as the Celtic Cup and he is currently, a junior European Champion. He trains every night of the week and has the talent and maturity to make a huge mark at the Olympics.

At the moment ITF (International Taekwon-Do Federation) Taekwon-Do is not included in the Olympics, but there are other martial arts organizations and groups of different styles which are trying to get inclusion in the 2012 Olympics. Hopefully they will

be successful in their campaign to gain inclusion, and if they are successful, again hopefully, they will have the integrity to embrace all martial artists who are willing to train hard enough to reach the required standard, inclusion should not be restricted. The Olympic games should only be about sport and not politics or personal gain.

Lucy Wolf, one of Tom's coaches, is quick to praise Tom's approach to the sport, "I think he will go really far not just because of his physical talent but because of his mentality as well. Tom wants to help build other kids for the future. I've seen hotshots come and go but he is a lovely kid and he wants to help other people. He is a real talent in every element of Taekwon-Do and at such a young age a true ambassador of the martial art ethos - to help others'.

Most impressive about the Master Wolf academies is the opportunities which Taekwon-Do is giving young people from many different backgrounds, to travel across the globe to amazing locations and be part of a close knit team. The squad is heading off to Uruguay in November for the first Taekwon-Do World Cup. Young people

who have never been outside of their area will be able to compete and socialise with the top talent from around the world, unlike some other sports where rivalry prevents friendships from forming, it is clear that the aim of the academy is to pass on a passion for the sport and to encourage team spirit. It allows those young people to experience the true culture of many different countries, and the opportunity to befriend other young people from around the world. Given the opportunity, Lucy and Tom, and many of the other members of MWTA could be set to become heroes of the 2012 Olympics.

If you are interested in finding out more about classes with Master Wolf's Taekwon-Do Academies, check out the amazing website and archive at www.wolftkd.com or contact the academy on 07789 883 146 or 01843 231667. Classes span the South-East of Kent and the Greater London area.



Road to Carnival

Daniel wears:
T-Shirt: Franklin and Marshall
Shorts: Franklin Marshall
Shoes: Swear

Emerald wears:
Red cardigan dress and
yellow vest : Pirmark
Green belt: Pirmark
Shoes: New look



Emerald wears:
Yellow cardigan: Lyle and Scott
Red shorts and shoes: Primark
Earrings: Freedom at Topshop

Ian wears:
T-Shirt and Jeans:
Franklin and Marshall
Trainers: Adidas
Cap: Stylist own

Miggy wears:
Red cardigan dress and
yellow vest : Pirmark
Green belt: Pirmark
Shoes: New Look

Daniel wears:
T-Shirt: Franklin and Marshall
Shorts: Franklin Marshall
Shoes: Swear

Charlotte wears:
Dress, belt and shoes: primark
Earrings: Freedom at Topshop
Necklace: Primark



Miggy wears
Hoodie: Adidas
Dress: cut&swallow
Shoes: Primark
Earrings: Stylists own

Ian wears
Polo Shirt: Lyle and Scott
Hoodie: Craig Marcus
Jeans: Franklin and Marshall

Daniel wears
Jeans: Franklin and Marshall
Grey Shoes: New Look
T-shirt: To-orist purple animal print

Emerald wears
Pink jeans: Primark
Bandana top: stylists own
Shoes: Primark
Blue bag: Primark
Green bangle: Freedom
at Topshop

Charlotte wears
Playsuit: Primark
Bikini: Primark
Pink top: Miss Selfridges
Shoes: New Look
Earrings and bracelet: Diva
at Miss Selfridge

Styling: Chloe Forde and Kirby Howell Baptiste
Hair and Make Up: Agata Woloszczak and Anna
Photographers: Amit Kolera, Jamal Joseph, Kiran
Nijar, Akwasi Tawai Poku, Ibrahim Fazal, Edward
Kagutuzi, Daniel Joe, A.J, Matthew Asare-Sackey,
the Hylton sisters.



Summer Essentials

By Chloe Forde, Kirby Howell Baptiste and The Cut Team

The Cut bring you the 4 key fashion essentials to help make sure you have the most stylish wardrobe this summer.



Ifould sunglasses
Kusbi

£121



Luggage Tag
JOY

£6



Gold Shoe
JOY

£35

Bag
Franklin & Marshall

£60



Ramos Shoe
Keep

£49.99



Slime T-Shirts
New Era

£25



Shopper bag
Franklin & Marshall

£32



As Seen on TV
New Era Cap

£30

JDot

Casual Sophistication

So I'm having one of those days where I'm bored as hell and the only thing vaguely amusing me is surfing the internet on the usual sites. Suddenly my day begins to brighten up as I stumble across the page of a new young designer known as jdot. The simple yet elaborate gold logo caught my eye a mile off and led me to have a nose about on his page. I was not disappointed.

t's a hot midweek morning and over strides young business man Jay kitted out in stylish jdot attire. After the introductions he begins to tell me about the label.

"jdot clothing was a small vision that started in my head a few years back and managed to come to life through hard work and perseverance. I wanted to create a brand that people could wear, and feel comfortable and fashion forward at the same time. I feel that Jdot does this. It is a brand that delivers sophisticated casualness to one's appearance, from our t-shirts to our polos to the cardigans."

Clearly someone who knows what they want and how to get it, Jay then goes on to talk about the creative process involved.

"I usually get mental images of pieces that I would like to design so I try and get the idea on paper as soon as possible. I then brief my team who give me their scope on the particular piece and how it will merge with the existing collection. Once the design stage is over, we begin production, starting with a few pilot pieces to see how clients react to it. Usually, it's positive feedback.

"jdot clothing is a lifestyle brand that reflects one's emotions and personal preference. I am not trying to cater for the masses but to a niche of individuals who enjoy expressing themselves through their apparel, hence the bold colours and quirky statements that you will find on most of my garments. They can be worn in many ways to exude a



"I believe fashion should be fun"



Text and Pics: Adrianne McKenzie

particular mood, for instance our plain polos can be worn casually or can be worn smart depending on the mood of the individual. I personally think that many brands are limited in terms of how versatile a garment can be. jdot on the other hand is almost mouldable to the client and thus can be worn in many different yet fashionable ways.

"I feel that my reference point for this particular collection is casual and sophisticated, stemming from the greats such as Ralph Lauren and DKNY. I still add my own personal touch that makes me one of a kind. Smart people wear Jdot so if that means three people wearing my clothes then so be it, it maintains the individuality of the brand! It's basically fashion through my eyes, hence the name jdot. The first letter is also the first letter of my name, so its how I like to dress as a male and how I like to see ladies dressed, 'Smart Genes' for unisex line and 'Brains and Beauty' for the female line.

"I believe fashion should be fun, the 'Smart Genes' collection came just in time for the post-80s phase that a lot of people were buying into, it features bright colours that are great for the warm weather and quirky slogans that are eye catching. I feel that this collection has captured trend at its peak and represents many individuals who want to have a heads up in current looks.

"Anyone who is thinking of starting your own brand or clothing line, I would say first of all do your research, you have to be extremely business orientated and smart. There are a lot of aspects to consider including suppliers, a design team and distribution. That being said, you still need to be able to have fun with it. It's your creation so be creative and daring as there is a lot of competition in this industry. Try not to worry about the financial aspect either, if you're confident with your brand then money should not be a primary issue."

jdot clothing has a sister group, Rich Kidz ent, which is a powerhouse giving birth to designers, promoters and media gurus such as Phase Magazine, Fisko Promotions, Roc Girlz, and Neck Kandi - a new line coming out very soon. The Jdot Casual collection is soon to be on the catwalks and a more formal collection will be launching very soon.

You can see more from the jdot range and make purchases through www.myspace.com/jdot_clothingline and on the facebook page Jdot Ltd, also at Trainique Boutiques around the UK.



Photographs Copyright © 2008 Mishkin

Fred Butler

**Virtuoso Art Director, Props Stylist
and Accessories Designer**

Who and what inspires your amazing designs?
I have two outlets for my work. The first is commission-based and comes from stylists who want accessories as props for fashion shoots. This will be quite a specific request to fit the narrative of their story, therefore I am creative within the outline that they set me. I really enjoy this as I explore ideas and materials that I would not necessarily discover myself.

The second is my own accessories collection. This is a chance for me to be totally self indulgent and design pieces that truly represent my aesthetic. I do not have a particular muse in mind but think of people that wear clothes in a way to enhance the enjoyment of their every day life. My inspiration comes from many different random places but there is usually a theme of spectrum colour and geometric shape.

There is a lot of intricacy and folding in your work, how long does it take to make it piece? I always produce highly labour intensive pieces. My aim is to employ techniques to fabricate something that has not been seen before. I am never happy to use something that is a standard material. I have made my own sequins in the past by cutting plastic, covering them with vinyl cut-outs and

spraying them with multi-coloured patterns. However, I like the finish to be perfect so that you cannot tell that it has been hand crafted.

Any Stand-out projects?
The funniest stand out memory was being dressed as a gigantic Chanel handbag on Sloane Street. Typically the other London pedestrians were busy going about their chores like ants and totally unfazed whereas the tourists couldn't get enough of working out what the hell was going on.

I don't travel much with work but I am fortunate to be able to stay with friends in NYC and Paris for the fashion weeks. These are friends that I made through interning for them many years ago, so you never know what opportunities will come from doing work experience!

Usually the most crazy things happen when jobs are something to do with the music industry, from painting a rainbow across the bodies of a 5 piece band to making and installing a stage set at Shepherd's Bush Empire in two days.

But one the most bizarre days was one of my first jobs when I was still incredibly nervous, getting used to being the boss and not the assistant. I had to prop

a 'post-gig' penthouse room in the Metropolitan Hotel for The Black Eyed Peas. I borrowed some records and a portable turntable from a DJ friend and it was a total winner when they discovered it worked and got really into listening to his tunes. I drew a massive breath of relief when W.I.L.L.I.A.M exclaimed "this is what our next album should sound like!"

What's next for you this year?
I am now starting my next collection, which is for Spring / Summer so this is a nice opportunity for me to go ballistic with colour. Although, having said that, I didn't hold back last time!

When did you get into design?
I made a Tank Girl costume for my Textiles GCSE. This year I was commissioned to make accessories for a Tank Girl story in the i-D Agyness Dean issue. Its funny to think that I had no idea when I was a 15 year old school girl that 13 years later, I would be doing the same project for one of my favorite magazines. The original elbow pads that I made were actually used in the shoot which testifies that is always worth holding on to things!

For more:
www.fredbutlerstyle.com

Cyko Logic

I am just so Down Wid it, the latest artist to take the country by storm. He has successfully started up and created his own clothing line, and is looking to establish himself within the music industry with his own unique flow. At the age of 20, he has the world at his feet. He came down to our studio where we had a quick catch on how he is doing so far.

So Cyko, what is going on with you nowadays?
CykoLogic: I've hooked up with north London label Always Recording and been devoting my time to my various projects all under the name Down Wid it which consists of my clothing line, my music, my team (Strata G, Hustle, Joe Buttonz and Culture kid) and my way of life in general. I've just been getting a lot of praise to be honest which is always good especially on the clothing side, it's been mental

Who has inspired to be like?
CykoLogic: Throughout my youth I've looked up to artists like Jay-Z and Jadakiss so they would be to blame, but the UK scene as a whole has influenced my direction. Seeing artists like Sway, Dizzee Rascal and Kano inspires me to do more because it can be done. What's been your biggest musical obstacle?
CykoLogic: I do not really have big obstacles when it comes to music, just things that slow me down an get in my way a bit. I try not to rely on anyone plus I'm over motivated so I think me

making it is inevitable. Cocky or confident? You tell me.
As you know there has been a lot of negativity surrounding young people, do you think that being involved in the music industry is a set trend for the younger generation?

CykoLogic: Yes. I think grime music is almost, if not at, its peak right now so a majority of young people influenced by it believe they have musical talent and at some point will try to be the next big thing. They will realise its not as easy as it used to be even with Channel U and various radio stations about. You can't just wake up and be an artist; it takes time to perfect your talents like any other musicians. You just have to be patient and wait for the road to open up in front of you.

What sort of impact are you looking to make in the music industry?
CykoLogic: My music and way of life in the entertainment and clothing is subliminal yet noticeable, hence Cykological. You'll listen and will see me even if you don't mean to. I've got my fingers into so many different pies right now I'm going to be everywhere. I want to be a veteran in this like Wiley or Skepta.

Now you have your own clothing line, how long has it existed for?
CykoLogic: I've been running DWI for just under a year still. It's been receiving good

exposure and the feedback so far from some people has been surprising. I do all the designs myself, all copy written properly and that too. Your clothing should reflect how you feel and want to present yourself to others. For me, it is all about colours and simplicity.

CykoLogic: There's a lot of trial and error before you find out what actually works, but I feel I have a good dress sense so use my own dress code and apply it to my clothing. Apart from trainers, and jeans I do not really buy anything else, so hats - woolly and soon fitted caps - t-shirts, jumpers, hoodies, tracksuits, polo shirts, whatever I want really.

What would you like to accomplish within the near future?
CykoLogic: Realistically in 5 years I would like my clothing line to have lifted off to major stores, my music to be officially be in the UK charts and to be a household name. That's it really, part from making a lot of money, which is standard.

What is on the musical agenda for you in 2008?
CykoLogic: My video Down Wid it is currently on MTV Base right now and has been rotating nicely. The feedback is mental. I'm currently planning my launch party for my clothing line and album in Central London

www.downwidit.com
www.myspace.com/cykologic

Text: Nicholas Asamoah
Pic: A.J

Immortal Technique

Revolutionary

'Technique will force you into strategical retreat
Because I dominate guerrilla warfare in the streets
There ain't no way to picture me without a victory speech.'

Unashamedly political MC Immortal Technique puts pay to myths about apathetical youth with his poetic and bile filled lyrics which talk freedom of speech, racial politics, and government corruption. Not your average rap repertoire these days. With his latest Album 'The Third World' Technique shows he's not one to mellow with age.

Originally from Peru but raised in the streets of Harlem New York, Technique is coming up as the East Coast's finest voice of suppressed peoples across the world. 'If you talk about the hood, and rep for the hood, and really talk about the issue that we face in the ghetto people relate to that.' Whether it's a ghetto here in America or in London, or Paris, or Nigeria, Jamaica, Colombia the colonization is the same basic set up.' When Technique hit London The Cut saw this in our own at eyes at his amazing live shows .

But what is most notable about Techniques is his refusal to sign to a major label, and his adamant desire to keep production and control of his music in his own hands. Despite having sold hundreds of thousands of albums he continues to work through his company Viper Records.

This comes from Techniques pro active belief that being political is not just about talking it, but walking it too, which in the eyes of us at The Cut the ultimate form of creativity expression, 'Im fed up of niggaz talk about streets but talk around the streets and not in the streets anymore. I believe you gotta reinvest. I own land I support the people and I make moves wherever I am.' Viper Records also runs workshops in Prisons with Young Offenders. How many other musical artists could say they do this?

Like so many he is tired of Hip Hop tendencies towards materialism and , as he expresses in aptly titled Revolutionary 'Yo what the f*** happen to reality spitting rhyme slayers. These days everybody trying to be a thug or a player' Thankfully when Technique was a kid he did not grow up wanting to be a thug or a player, and the musical landscape is a lot better for it.

The Third World is our now on Viper Records.

<http://www.viperrecords.com/>

Pic: Watson Nur

Red Hot

The tastiest flava in grime

Text: Shamz Le Roc

Meet Red Hot, the east London crew causing a frenzy with their quirky tune 'Junior Spesh'. The tune showcases the crews love for everyone's favourite junk food, chicken and chips. We grabbed a word with Terra Kid and Klayze Flamez to discuss their future plans and recent success:

Shamz Le Roc: So what made you pen a track about chicken n chips?
Terra Kid: We all gathered and started doing this silly hook and it just got out of hand, then I suggested just to press record and see what comes out of it as we were in studio at the time, the hook sounded big. We went off and literally wrote a verse in like 5 minutes...it was nuts.
Klayze: A 'Junior spesh' is something that is such a vital part of everyday life I personally can't live without at least 2 Junior Speshes a week, so I felt it was something that people needed in their minds bodies and souls.

Shamz Le Roc: Is there a mixtape on the way? Release via I-tunes?
Terra Kid: Yeah, Red Hot are currently working on a mixtape called Hot Stuff Vol.1, the tracks for the are currently being compiled as we speak. A release for our single junior spesh will be on itunes whereby you can download it & share it via internet and so on.

Shamz Le Roc: There's been a few whispers that this song is too comical to be referred to as true grime. What are your views on this?
Klayze: The song is not meant to be taken seriously, it's something that people can play to their friends and say "Listen to this blud, it's jokes" for me as long as it gets heads nodding its good music.

Shamz Le Roc: Was you high?
Klayze: Me personally no. But I had a lot of 7up that day. All the fizz could possibly have gone to my head.
Terra Kid: (laughs) Was I high? I myself, I dont think I was high no!

Shamz Le Roc: Who produced the Junior Spesh beat?
Klayze: A guy by the name of Crissy Criss.

Shamz Le Roc: With campaigns like Jamie Oliver's that encourage healthier eating, do you not feel you are slying all his hard work?
Klayze: No way!! He's got TV programs and stuff! He should send for us and den we can really destroy his hard work. "7up fries leg, don't give a damn bout da naked chef."
Terra Kid: (laughs) I heard a while back Jamie Oliver was suing Red Hot for this. I haven't heard nothing from him personally so I guess it was rumours.



Pic: Akwasi Tawai Poku

Shamz Le Roc: Why a 'junior spesh'? Why not a happy meal from MacDonalds?
Klayze: I'll have you know thats 1.99, with no homemade French Mayonnaise. Plus, you only get four nuggets, just four! That was enough for me when I was seven but times have changed, drastically changed.
Terra: Plus, the superb deal it is being at £1.50 you can not pass that opportunity up.

Shamz Le Roc: In a recent radio interview Kano recited your song on air, which lead to instant air play from DJ Westwood. How did this feel?
Klayze: For me, being recognized by anyone who has made such great achievements in the industry is an honor and I was just pleased to hear "Feeling rich then I go KF.." out of a grime idol's mouth.
Terra Kid: Yeah, that was shocking for me, I was just thinking about how Kano heard about it in the first place. My assumption is that he's pretty busy with his music, yet he has time to sit and watch it on Youtube everyday has he said on his interview. (laughs)

Shamz Le Roc: Most people are on this grind to get signed by major record companies. Is being signed a crucial?
Klayze: Nope. People like Ghetto and Scorchers have huge respect and a mighty fan base without it so I can't say yes to that.
Terra Kid: If you mean you need to be signed in order to achieve, then no I don't think it is at all. You can easily build yourself as independent artist and move how you want to move without being fed instructions left, right and center.

Shamz Le Roc: Whats your fave chicken 'n' chips combo excluding the 'Junior Spesh'.
Klayze: What? You can get OTHER meals?!
Terra Kid: Erm, chicken burger, chips and a drink - £2.00

Shamz Le Roc: If we gave you some dough to create you're own take away, what would you sell?
Klayze: For Breakfast: Pancakes and Croissants with fruit flavored fillings. Lunch, Junior Spesh. Dinner, Sweet and Sour Chicken and Rice. Dessert: Black Forest Gateaux

Shamz Le Roc: What are the future plans for Red Hot?
Terra Kid & Klayze: Take Over the Scene. Take Over the Ends. Take Over The World.

For more
www.myspace.com/redhotentertainment

Man like Natty



North London's Natty is taking the industry by storm with his reggae influenced sound. Here at 'The Cut' we love his combination of summery pop lyrics and soulful guitar. We spoke to him about growing up in London and the holiday of his dreams.

How long have you been making music?
I've been making music all my life, since I was a child. Even when I was at Primary school some of the tutors said to my parents that I should do music as a career.

What sort of stuff did you listen to when you were growing up?
Far out stuff. Everything from African Soul to Rock n Roll, lots of 60's stuff, a whole heap of soul music and of course some reggae. It's funny because no one in my family is musical. They all listen to music but none of them play. I'm the first to actually play music. When I was young my family didn't know what to do with me.

When you were a teenager what was your favourite record shop in London?
Pure Groove and Dub Vendor.

How has growing up in London influenced the music you make?
There's a lot to write about, there's a lot more people, different

communities and so many different types of people and it's such a multicultural city. There's a lot to think about life is fast. There is more to inspire me in London than if I had grown up in a remote village in Norway. I have a love/ hate relationship with London to be honest.

So is it London for life then?
It's London for life for me for now. Maybe when I'm real old I'll live on a farm in Africa.

What are your top 5 spots to hang out in London?
Brixton, Camden, Finsbury Park, Ladbroke Grove and Greenwich. Greenwich is a nice place to take a date, yeah, I would take a date to Greenwich Market.

What are your plans for the rest of 2008?
I don't make plans. I just look at my diary and follow that.

With your hectic tour and gigging schedule do you get a holiday this year?
Nah, I don't need a holiday. I was talking yesterday about booking a gig in Cuba. That would be amazing.

Natty's debut Album 'Man Like I' is out now on Atlantic Records.
www.myspace.com/natty4d



The car that drives itself

Meet Micachu

21 year old kicking up a storm in Suburbia

It's indisputable; the music industry is male dominated. From your MC's to your Producers, the scene just yells sperm and testosterone. One could argue most female musicians are simply objects of voyeurism, there to prance about in short shorts and belly tops whilst singing songs of love or heartbreak. But don't we just love it?! Here to break the mould squeaks Micachu, the producer turned MC with gritty beats and lyrics to have your Nan asking 'What happened to the younger generation?'.

'Filthy Friends' her debut mixtape simply vomits on all modern day production. Disregarding the set rules of music composition but somehow seems to pull it off, with screeching jingles and buckets of bass, it's a deafening yet intriguing sound indeed. The mixtape title was influenced by a pack of her friends that were 'absolutely filthy' at

the time of production. Boasting of over 30 tracks, it's hard not to take a liking to the tunes like, 'Soon Dun Blood' and 'Do Dat Deep'.

The 21 year old producer/MC is a new wave of a female, here to break and shatter all conventional music trends. Far from your Adele's and Lilly Allen's as her music opts for more a natural tone. She pens tracks about everyday life and is accompanied by her own productions, which seem to be a fusion of rave, techno and slices of R n B.

Currently on tour with her band 'The Shapes' Micachu is set to be at a festival near you this summer.

For more:
www.myspace.com/micayomusic



WATCH
THE TRAILER:
[www.
madeinquenes
.com](http://www.madeinquenes.com)

Made in Queens

Each year the best talent in film making get together at the annual Britdoc festival to showcase their wares. With seminars from Channel 4, Google Current and a whole host of new shorts screened it's not to be missed for any young aspiring documentary maker. Out of the many shorts we saw, one in particular stood out. 'Made in Queens' introduces us to a group of young people and their inventive garage past time; making 'Boom Box Bikes'. Building these contraptions may be common practise back in Trinidad and Tobago, where many of the kids who started the Queens phenomenon originate from. However, the bikes are attracting a lot of attention in NY, so much so that Film Makers Joe Stevens and Nicholas Randall to make their 15 minute short Not only is the film beautifully shot, here at The Cut we feel it is a great example of filmmakers working to celebrate youth innovation. We tracked them down at BritDoc to find out what inspired them to make the short.

How did you find out about the Bikes?

Cause they wake us up just about every freakin morning. Okay that's not entirely true. We are always on the lookout for insane/bizarre/inspiring forms of self-expression. What these young people are doing is so original and cool we thought they deserved to be celebrated. As filmmakers we've always strictly adhered to the policy that anybody who builds a 5,000 watt homemade stereo system onto a rusty old Mongoose and actually rides it around town will get a film made about them. Thankfully, these individuals stepped up.

Did you do anything equivalent to this when you were a teenager?

Not exactly. I spent huge amounts of time playing a game I invented with my brother which is essentially one-on-one form of full-contact

street hockey played while on skateboard at all times. We dreamed of one day going pro but what wound up happening was that unfortunately the sport never really took off. Today, very few people have actually heard of it outside of our Mom.

How do other people in the local community respond to the bikes, and the film project?

Most everybody is cool with it. Some folks are even super-supportive. The crew never stays in any one place for too long so the noise isn't as much of an issue as one might think. When we were shooting you could definitely sense the locals' vicarious pride in what the crew has created. When the neighborhood is covered in the media, it often as a result of something violent or sad. But this is different. It's something positive and it's completely home-grown.

Can films like this change negative perceptions about young people as well as celebrate grassroots creativity?

Teenagers lives are ridiculously structured now. Way more than adults actually. It seems like it's gotten harder and harder for young people to have real fun. Not lame fun where you're sitting on facebook im'ing emoticons or some stupid crap like that. But real fun where you're doing something that's genuinely imaginative and challenging in a way which transcends the extra-curricular activities section of a college application. There's an authenticity to what they're doing in that it's not a calculated means to anything. These kids are a great example of that old phrase, "make it happen."

Lets hope these bike crew can join us for Notting Hill Carnival 2009!

Nought to Sixty

The Cut is published by Hardcore Is More Than Music, a multi disciplinary arts organisation which was started in 2003 by Nina Manandhar and Nendie Pinto-Duschinsky. Hardcore Is More Than Music has been commissioned to be one of the headlining projects in Nought To Sixty, an exhibition at the Institute Of Contemporary Arts which promotes the top 60 upcoming artists and arts organisations in the UK. The show is being held to celebrate the 60th birthday of the Institute Of Contemporary Arts. The Cut team has been commissioned to produce a special edition publication themed around 'Creativity' which will be hitting the streets later this year. As part of the show Hardcore Is More Than Music will be premiering a new short film that explores West London's rich secret history and a Magic Lantern show, the likes of which has not been seen in 100 years.



BIG NAMES ON ROAD

Was Mozart from the endz?

Text: Nina Manandhar

When Stevenage Council declared Lewis Hamilton Road open last year, the protégé racing driver became one of the youngest people in England to have a road named after him. This made me wonder: apart from being able to drive at 300 miles per hour, what other human achievements would it take to earn such an accolade? For someone born as a no-name, how can you have your name stained onto the landscape for generations to come, scribbled on to a centuries' worth of envelopes, lodged permanently into the census?

Historically, many London road names are centuries old and come from the names of the original landowners. Well of course – Lord and Lady of the Manor made the rules! After all, they did own the place. Some of the most well known streets in London are called after the city's serious players; no less than the the Kings and Queens of England. Chelsea's famous Kings Road was originally a private road built for King Charles II, while Queensway was once Queen Vicki's secluded riding turf. Leicester Square gets its name from the 17th century Earl of Leicester who built his mansion on that very spot, while neighbouring Trafalgar Square is so called in honour of Admiral Nelson, the nation's favourite navy boy.

But what about the lesser known Londoners who stamped their name on London Town and the tireless campaigners who fought for a more just London for all? Who are the faces behind these names and just exactly what did they do to get their spot on the A-Z streetmap? Here, The Cut celebrates some of the people's heroes and uncovers those idiosyncratic titularies who have made their mark on London Town – and a physical mark on the map – forever. Behind the names lies a secret history of London that's waiting to be told.

ELLEN WILKINSON HOUSE FULHAM W6

Remember the free milk you used to get in kindergarten at break time? Well, that was thanks to 'Red' Ellen Wilkinson who persuaded Parliament to pass the Free Milk Act in 1946. Coming from a modest family, Wilkinson won a scholarship to Manchester University to read History. She joined the Independent Labour Party at 16, and went on to become the first female Minister For Education. So Drink Milk, Change the World. It's true what the slogans say, but don't die of an overdose of barbiturates like Wilkinson did at 55.



SPEED HOUSE BARBICAN E1

This dude was a one man National Geographic. Although he was a tailor by profession, he spent his spare time drawing up atlases. The Theatre of Greate Britaine is regarded as his finest work. When he wasn't map makin' he was makin' babies – 12 to be precise. Speed by name, speed and stamina by nature...



NOEL PARK ESTATE HARINGEY N22

Victorian Philanthropist Ernest Noel was the Chairman of the Artisans, Labourers and General Dwellings Co (GL&AD) set up to build decent homes for working people in the capital, which at the time was still ridden with slum dwellings. The Noel park Estate was meant to be a 'village in the city' and was the first kind of social housing to build in cottage style terraced style, as opposed to blocks.



MANNY SHINWELL SW6

Shinwell lived to the ripe old age of 102. In his early years the Scotsman was notorious for his radical involvement in the Glasgow 40 hours, a campaign for a 40 hour week for Glaswegian factory workers. Following this, Shinwell began to climb the political ladder eventually becoming Labour Minister for Fuel and Power. Shinwell's offspring were not so noble. His son Ernest ended up working for the Krays, London's most notorious 60s gangsters.



ROUTEMASTER CLOSE E13

The Routemaster bus – not strictly a person, but a London icon if there ever was one. Routemaster Close in E13 was built on the site of the old West Ham Bus Depot, where some of the original Routemaster buses were based. The legendary Routemaster buses were in the mid 50s, and although they have been phased out in the past few years, thankfully they still have their place on the map.



MARGARET BONDFIELD HOUSE DAGENHAM IG11

If Margaret had been around today she would have had the Target workforce protesting and unionising. After moving to London she found herself, like many of us, in the world of retail. The Somerset born daughter of a radical textile worker, she began contributing to The Shop Assistant and created a storm in her 1888 article declaring that husbands and wives should share work and household tasks. Becoming more politicised, she joined the Labour Party and by 1923 was one of the first women to enter Parliament.



WILLOUHBY HOUSE WAPPING E1

The Wapping Estate blocks are themed around British Explorers. Welsh House is named after James Welsh, who voyaged to West Africa in 1588 manning the Richard Of Arundel. In 1591 he wrote in his log 'God be praised, we ankered at Limehouse in the Thames, where we discharged 587 sacks of pepper, 150 elephants' teeth, and 82 barrels of oil of palm trees'. Sir Hugh Willoughby of Willoughby House fame was not so fortunate. The captain of a fleet of three ships died on his passage to India in 1553.



WILLIAM CASLON HOUSE E2

William Caslon began his working life as an engraver who made his living carving government marks onto the locks of guns and making type moulds for font foundries. In 1720 he got his big break when some missionaries asked him to design an 'Arabic style' font mould for some copies of the New Testaments they were taking abroad. And so William Caslon became the first great English type-founder. He set up his foundry in Chiswell Stree in the City in 1720, five minutes away from where Calson House now stands. His font Calson was admired stateside, so much so that it was used for the Declaration of Independence.



WILL CROOKS HOUSE POPLAR E14

The son of a one-armed ship stoker and a seamstress, Crooks was born and bred in Shirbutt Street Poplar. A stint in the workhouse with his family in 1861 had a profound effect on Crook's outlook. A cooper by trade, he went on to play a big part in the 1889 London Dock Strike. In 1901 Crooks became the first Lord Mayor of Poplar, and two years later the MP for Woolwich..



WALTERS WAY HONOR OAK SE23

Walter Segal, Godfather of the DIY Housebuilding movement. Extreme Makeover eat your heart out. Walter was no fancy-pants, he advocated simple timber frame structures to enable the everyman to build his own home. The first Self Build cost him a mere £835 quid! Walter worked with Lewisham Council to locate three sites for people to build on, and one of them is now Walters Way.



LILLIAN BARKER CLOSE SE12

Lillian Barker was Lady Superintendent at the Woolwich Arsenal, near to where this address is. She was responsible for recruiting female factory workers during WWI and overseeing all 30,000 of them at the Arsenal. In her latter days Lillian became a Borstal Girl, but living on the right side of the bars. In fact she was Britain's first female Prison Commissioner. She is best remembered and admired for her work progressing humane prison reform in women's prisons.



NOEL COWARD HOUSE SE1

According to his biography, 'Noel Coward virtually invented the concept of Englishness for the 20th century...' The actor, playwright, composer and performer, best known for writing the original plays that classic British movies like Brief Encounter and Blithe Spirit were based on, was both a prolific artist and a charismatic personality. Noel Coward House, in South East London, is not to be confused with Noel Coward's actual house, which is in Belgravia and was recently sold for four million pounds.



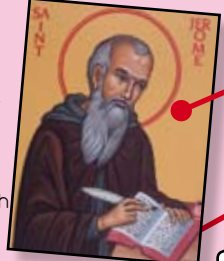
ST MATTHEW ESTATE BRIXTON SW2

He's the Tax Man, yeah yeah he's the Tax man. [Taxman by The Beatles] Said to have been called to be an apostle while sitting in the tax collectors' place in Capernum in Jerusalem, Matthew was also author of the first Gospel. Wonder why Brixtonians chose such a patron for the St Matthews Estate?



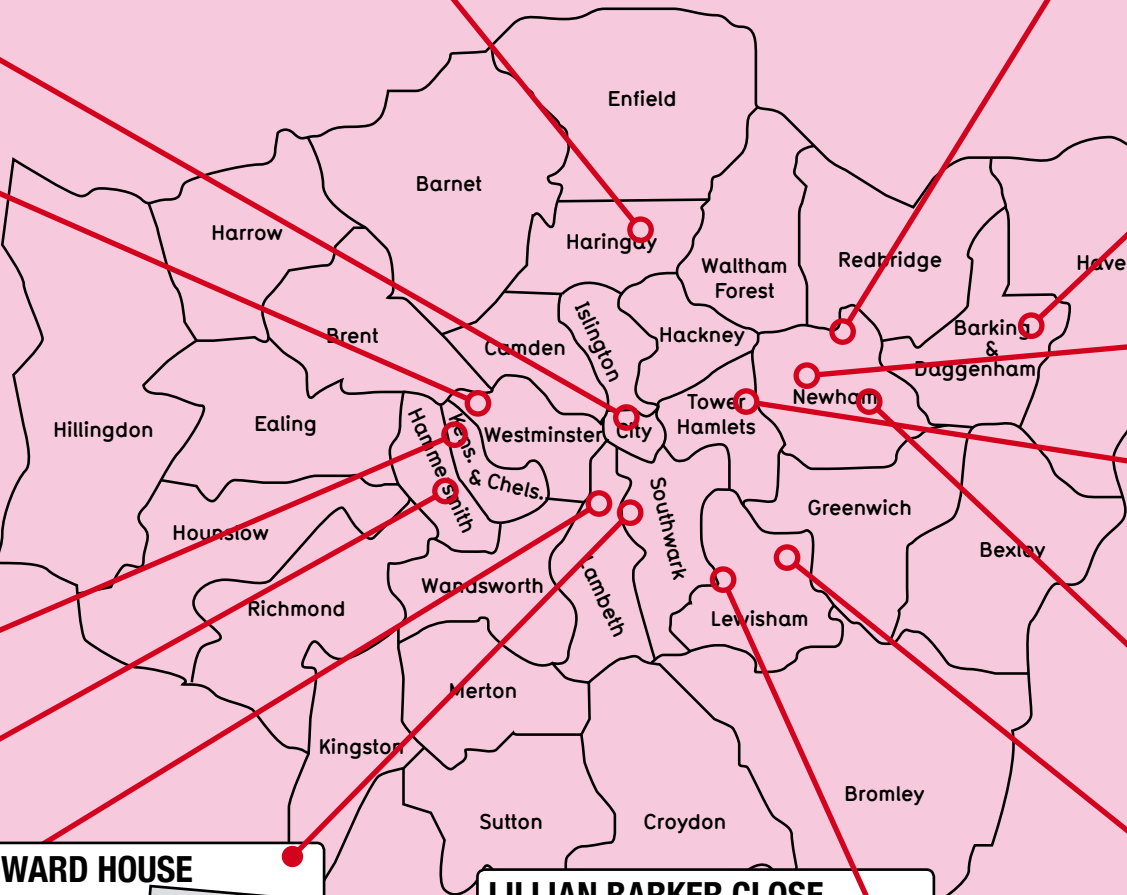
ST JEROME HOUSE SOUTH KENSINGTON SW7

Patron Saint of Travel because of his restless soul. Born to a rich pagan family, he apparently had a misspent youth, whatever that was in 3rd century Rome. He went on a pilgrimage from his home town to Bethlehem in search of the Truth.



MOZART ESTATE W9

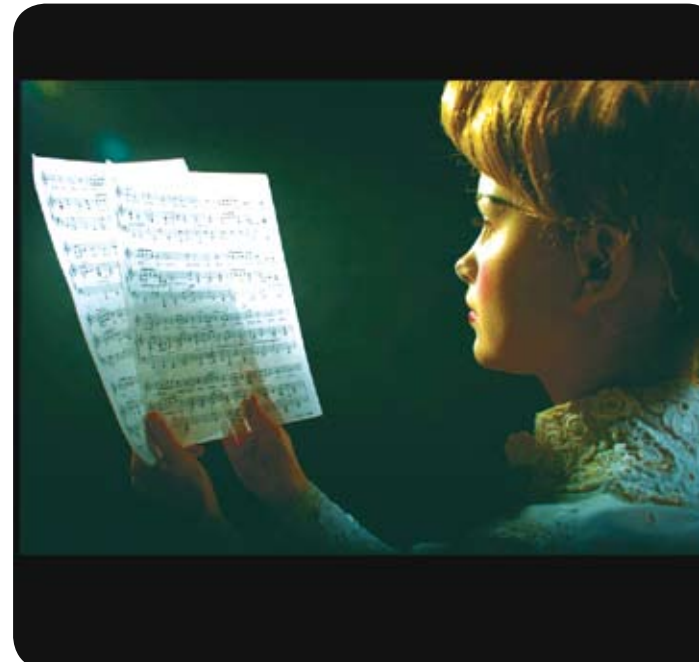
A handful of Housing Estates in this pocket of West London are named after famous writers and composers, most notably The Mozart, named after none other than Mr Wolfgang Amadeus; the most prolific and influential composer of the classical era. The Mozart Estate was originally built to accommodate those made homeless by the construction of the Westway, but delays meant that by the estate's completion in 1975 these people had already been forced to look elsewhere. The Estate's local Pub is aptly



The Story of Frances Berman

As part of The Cut's residency at The ICA, Nendie Pinto-Duschinsky produced images of The Cut team for a Magic Lantern Show telling the story of her great-grandmother Frances Berman.

**FOR
FREE TICKETS**
Write to
[nendieandnina
@hotmail.com](mailto:nendieandnina@hotmail.com)
with your address





Concept and Art Direction: Nendie Pinto-Duschinsky
 Photography: Matthew Asare-Sackey, Harry Dwyer
 Hair and Make up: Ryutaro at Era Artists Management assisted by Amy Burry
 Costumes: The Costume Studio
 Models: Adrienne, Shona, Ronnie, Nina, Harry, Nicholas



Negative 1



Negative 2

Victor Timofeev

Victor Timofeev is the 23 year old artist who is quietly producing some of the world's most beautiful spatial drawings in his New York Studio.

Originally from Latvia, his passion for Skateboarding was put to an abrupt test when he sustained a bad knee injury and this led him into drawing, "I developed plantar fasciitis in the summer of '03, I was heartbroken, depressed and lonely all at the same time. This condition meant that I wouldn't be able to skate, run and jump, for an indefinite amount of time, possible my entire remaining life. The plantar fascia tissue covering my unusually high arches was scarred on both legs, meaning that my heels were full of scar tissue and didn't offer me any padding. Instead of endlessly moping about my pains, I decided

to pour my time and creative juices into a healthy new hobby – drawing. It wasn't hard to think of imagery to draw; in fact, often times it felt as if the images were just flowing out of my veins and all I was doing was providing a blank paper for them find a niche on".

Victor's work includes music, drawing, paint and installation, remember where you heard the name first.

www.victortimofeev.com

Quotes from interview with Max Iuvero.



There's more to being a Topgirl

'When I started talking to young women today, I was really struck by how certain things about the way the things are for girls haven't changed.' So says Rebecca Johnson, director of new short film Topgirl.

Through making the film, the BBC-trained director was keen to open up a dialogue about what young females have to go through during adolescence. 'I particularly like stories based around strong female roles. The main character in this film, Donna, portrays that. Donna harbours strong characteristics: she knows what she wants. She's fearless and she likes things her way; but underneath lays a vulnerable girl who is struggling to know who she is, and finds out through this production.' So what does it mean to be Topgirl? 'As you're growing up, appealing to the other sex is important, but having status in your own gender group is also important,' Johnson explains. The film wholeheartedly explores what girls face when they grow up and focuses on the things that aren't really talked about. For Johnson these are important issues that should be talked about without any shame. 'Growing up and finding out new things is a call for drama.'

However, this was no ordinary film production. As an aspiring film maker myself, I had the opportunity to be a trainee on the film, allowing me to see what it was like to work on a film set – from setting up props, to the catering, to assisting the actors and actresses. Working behind the scenes was a whole different experience, it's all about the nitty gritty and long hours. In the short time that I worked on set, we all became a family and by the end and none of us wanted it to be over.

Taking part in this production opened my eyes to how powerfully Topgirl portrays a girl's transition into adolescence. The film doesn't shy away from tackling serious issues that many young females face, relating to sex, and the experiences that come with it. Johnson wanted to make this film powerful in more ways than one, not just reflecting life experience but showing how it is possible to persevere as a young person. Topgirl is also a wonderfully visual representation of the story. Donna, the main character is always seen in bright colours to express her personality. Hot pinks and purples are her signature colours and, when she's not seen in them, there's something horribly wrong. Johnson's intention was to make this film fresh and directed at the young people. The final film sends out a positive message, and even though the main focus is about girls, boys can also benefit from watching it.

Rebecca Johnson's effort with this film has entitled her to join a mentoring scheme called Guiding Lights, where she will be working alongside the director of The Last King of Scotland, Kevin McDonald.

Ricky Powell

In his own words.



Forget aperture settings, reflectors and light meters. This is the Rickster guide to getting a good shot.

On asking first
With photography, it's all good as long as you have tact. Some photographers are like, 'shoot first, ask second', but I think it depends on the situation. I could understand how someone could feel violated if I just took their picture.

I remember I got screamed at by some lady on the street a couple of years ago. I think she was Russian, she had some hotel uniform on and she was smoking a cigarette. I took a picture of her from like 20 feet away and she didn't look happy. I went up to her and some other guy came over. I thought I was going to get beat up, but I just walked away feeling weak.

On mixing it up with the day job
I can't really work a regular job. I got ADD. Whenever I've worked a job - bike messenger, substitute teacher, being a bus boy in a nightclub - I've always had a camera with me.

On bringing up your peoples
I like collaboration and I like bringing up my peoples. In my book Public Access some of the images are done by famous artists but a lot are just ordinary people. My friend Michelle Tanitelli paints on the LL Cool J image. This girl is not a famous artist, she worked with a women's shelter, but when the book came out they showed her image in Italian Vogue.



On shooting animals
Dogs are just natural. They don't have an agenda, although sometime dogs play their own little head games. This is a husky from a dog walking business. His name is Sly and the famous photo is like in an elevator with shiny walls and stuff. I just love that dog. I actually have a tattoo of that picture.

On shooting where you're from
There's this one street called Bleeker Street. It used to be sandwich shops and flower shops and now it's all Marc Jacobs. I'm making a documentary called The Village, interviewing friends I grew up with. They're all just hard working people. I'm like the last person left in the west Village, I'm trying to hang in there.

On sticking to your guns
I'm trying to make things work, but I'm under the gun. I owe electricity, I owe rent and I might have my free phone turned off tomorrow. I'm all about street photography these days. I can just a shoot a regular moment that's nothing earth shattering, but I can turn it into something iconic.

I do it for my own love. I'm sticking to my guns.

Ricky Powell's new book Illy Funksters is published this autumn.

Watch The Rickford Files on YouTube.



Public Access: Ricky Powell's photographs 1985-2005 by Ricky Powell, published by Powerhouse Books

Enterprise

Been There Got The T-shirt

IDEA: 01
THE
T-SHIRT



Behind the scenes at the Original Garmz studio



Above: Patrick's Flywear Range



Pics: Adrienne McKenzie and Wayne Louis

You've read the slogans, seen the neon logos, BOY BETTER KNOW, HOODSTARZ, REP YA ENDZ, just to name a few. You've finally decided you can do just as good if not better. By and large, the most popular enterprise idea of the moment, is starting up your own clothing label. But what exactly does it entail? And where do you begin? Is it just about getting hold of some cheap Primark Tees and a Silk Screen? With help from the experts, The Cut decided to follow one young person on his quest to develop his T Shirt Brand. Cut photographer Patrick Owlabi set up Flywear in 2007, and has been coming up with design upon design ever since. When Patrick decided he wanted to take his brand the next level we paired him up with Kevin Forde, one of the CEO's of Original Garmz, and manufacturing wing UK DCM (United Kingdom: Design Create Manufacture).

OG stands for ORIGINAL GARMZ, the official business meaning. Within Hip Hop street culture OG stands for ORIGINAL GANGSTA, ONE GOD and ORIGINAL GRAFTER. OG stand out from many other clothing lines, through their commitment to donate at least 10% of net profits to charity as its core principals. According to Kevin 'OG clients are not just wearing Garmz but are representing a world wide movement for PEACE, LOVE and UNITY, whilst acting under the codes of an OG; HONOUR, RESPECT, LOYALTY.' Having clothed stars including T.Pain, Immortal Technique, GI Joe, Skinnyman, Fire Camp, JahMiracle and Stylo G, The Cut thought Kevin would be the perfect person to take us back to basics of screen printing and give us some business tips on how to build a T Shirt Brand.

'T- Shirt printing is a lot more complicated than people think,' says Kevin. 'It's not just about getting your design back in an instant' he tells The Cut.

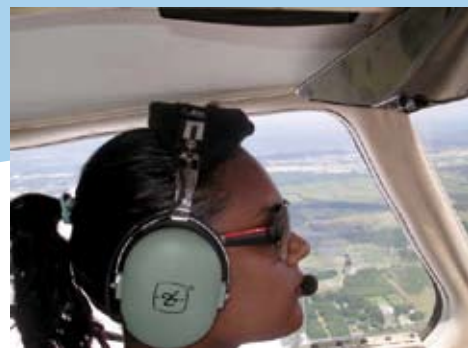
Original Garmz 5 tips for young entrepreneurs

1. Be resourceful. Make the most of who you know and what you know. Sometimes in business you might have money, a year later you might have so much money you don't know what to do with it.
2. Successful businesses take time. If you have a good product and idea, you build your team, you're on the road to success. A lot of people have fear of starting up their own business because you can't guarantee earnings, you have to be independent. Running your own business can be 7 days a week, you always have to have your business face on. A business minded person doesn't let an opportunity go.
3. First impressions count. Always be on time. Try and be as organised as possible and have good time management.
4. For me running an enterprise isn't only about designing clothes. A real entrepreneur is someone that has different aspects of business ideas. Someone like Phillip Green is a person I look up to.
5. Have PRIMETIME everyday. Primetime is about devoting a couple of hours everyday to concentrate on two things. Making money and preparing to make money. Turn off your phone, and your internet and focus on that alone.

Top 5 business start up sites

www.makeyourmark.org.uk
www.brightideatrust.com
www.shell-livewire.org

Text: The Cut



Sky's the Limit

Roshni Kara explains why she's training to become a Pilot.

Text: Warsan Nur

What was it that made you interested in becoming a pilot to start off? **I always had an interest in airports and the aviation industry and always knew that I wanted to work in the field however it was not till 16 when my parents bought me my first trial flying lesson for my birthday when I realised that that is what I wanted. I wasn't like normal pilots who knew what they wanted to be from an early age but I always knew that the aviation industry was for me.**

What requirements or qualifications are expected for you to become one?

Well, at college I did A-level maths and physics however I failed physics and got a D in maths so I wasn't very good at physics but during the assessment with Cabair (my flying school) they tested me at a GCSE level for maths and physics and I successfully got accepted. I also had to be fit and healthy as you have to take a medical yearly to make sure you are fit to fly. Also I have to pass my private pilots licence to qualify for the next year which is commercial training and at the end of the 3 years I will be qualified to fly with an airline.

At what stage in the process of becoming one are you at?

Im at the first stage of becoming a pilot, the first step is to get a private pilots licence and then you go on to start commercial training. The PPL involves 7 exams and 45 hours worth of flying, so its been a hectic 7 months with an exam every month and the pass mark being 75%. I did 15 hours flying at Denham aerodrome in Uxbridge and the rest of my hours are being completed in the US purely because it's cheaper!

Are there many other women in the flying industry? Would you say it's been harder for you because you are one?

There are currently 5 girls on my course and yeah there aren't that many. I wouldn't say its harder its just that there's a lot of male pride around and sometimes you do feel like they think they are better than you, but then us girls stick together and kinda get our own back haha, and I actually found that us girls knew a lot more stuff!

Highs and lows? (honestly no pun intended)

Hmm...Love flying I could do it all the time anytime. Exams are a bit of a drag but im doing what I love so I don't mind learning and having the exams. This hour building has been pretty intense and its quite stressful. There's a lot to learn in a short space of time and you don't want to lag behind so you have to keep on top of everything.

Any advice to others who aspire to become pilots?

Follow your dream man! If you wanna do it then go for it money is a bit of an issue but then you just think of the rewards at the end and think of it this way we will be the first lot of students to pay back our loans! haha. No just messing.. Seriously if you want to be pilot then do it. I can honestly say that this route has been the best decision of my life.

Working it out

You're staring in the display window of JD, or Topshop. You look in your wallet--empty. Summer time is here and how else are you going to get those fresh trainers? Three words: Get a job. It's back to edit that CV you abandoned on your computer; and then venture out to the West end and in your area. There's an easier and quicker way to look for jobs without leaving your doorstep. If you didn't know already, there are many sites on the web that allow you to make up a CV, and have it stored online. The whole CV making process takes about 10-15 minutes, whereas the actual application, 1-2 minutes. It's that quick!

The right site

Just Jobs 4 students is a job searching site specialising in looking for jobs for students, whether it's temporary work, permanent work, seasonal jobs, and part time jobs. This site allows you to create a CV, and use it for online applications. What you do on it is simple: you search for a particular role, whether it's a retail assistant or sales assistant, type in the type of job title you want, and it'll search for you. If you don't know the type of job you want, there's a page that has sectors like administration or retail, you can also search in there.

For the people who have never had a job, the main problem you're going to face is the fact that a lot of jobs will require previous experience. I can empathise, when I was looking for jobs, it took me ages to find one. What you need to look for in job descriptions is something about training given, that's a good opportunity. But before you jump for joy, there are more obstacles; you see the training given, but there will probably be other job prospects, can you deal with customers? Are you reliable? Are you dependable? Are you available for x.y and z days? There are a lot of expectations when you need to look for a job, and you have to be ready for them. It's not just about the qualifications, you need to be ready and determined to face the challenges that looking for a job and getting a job face.

Another good job site is Reed. This is where I found my job, so it is possible! It has the same structure as Just jobs for students, except its focus isn't just on students, it's on anyone. All you need to do is look for the

job sector you're interested in, if it's retail, look in retail, if it's hospitality/catering, look in that, if it's administration--you see where I'm going with this! With my experience with Reed, they are very reliable. You do get calls, you do get answers and you even get rejection e-mails. Hey, it's better than waiting for a whole month and guessing that you haven't got the job then get a reply in a week saying that you haven't got it so you can move on.

Ready or not: positives and negatives But the question for you now is this: Are you ready to go through so many job listings, and possible rejections? Nowadays, getting a job is very difficult, but you can get one if you have a good CV, and you have perseverance. You cannot do this if you have the "I can't" attitude, you will find absolutely nothing. If you get rejections, take them with a pinch of salt and keep on going, you will get something if you just keep on going.

There's nothing bad about applying online, the only thing you need to watch out for are dodgy advertisements; the ones that don't mention the salary, or the ads that ask you for personal information; for example, bank details. All of you out there should already know about internet safety and not to give out any personal information like that. You can still go out there and hand CV's to shops, but it's most likely you put it in their hand, and the next thing they do is dump it in the bin. The beneficial thing about applying online is if you do get rejected, they keep your CV's on file so if they have a position that suits you, they will call you instantly. (since on your CV, you have contact information on it.) which is also a sure fire way of getting a job.

Quick CV tips:

Sound convincing; your first sentence in your summary about yourself has to catch the employer. Put in your hobbies too, they are interested in you as a person. Write cover letters! Have references. A lot of jobs want references on request. Be honest! If you don't have experience, tell the employer what you can do to substitute (Quick learner, reliable, determined etc.)

Top five job sites:

www.reed.co.uk
www.justjobs4students.co.uk
www.gumtree.com
www.totaljobs.com
www.monster.co.uk

If you need a little more encouragement: I did some snooping around, and the celebrities of today had regular Saturday jobs just like anyone else!

Top 5 Celebs!

Michael Dell— The founder of Dell computers (I got one at home!) worked as a dishwasher in a Chinese restaurant to support himself.

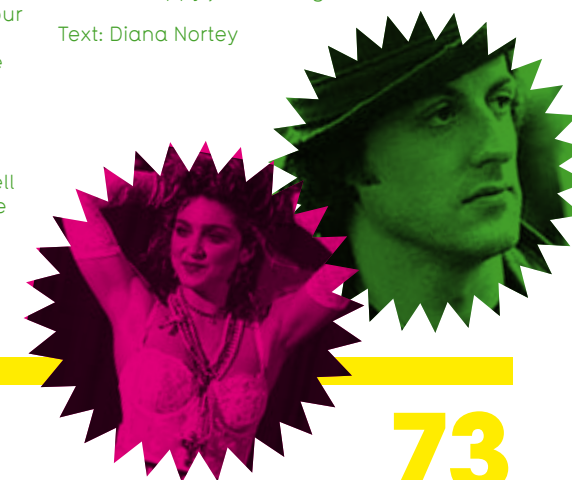
Sean 'Diddy' Combs aka P diddy— The artist that gave us his fragrance 'Unforgettable' and the show "Making the band" used to work as a paperboy before he became who he is now!

Sylvester Stallone— Rocky Balboa, Rambo... I could go on and on, before he reached the big screen, he used to work as a lion cage cleaner!

Madonna — She's close to 50 now; but before 'Like a virgin' she was working behind the counter of Dunkin' Donuts which is our equivalent to Greggs!

Stephen King— The author of so many horror books was working as a janitor cleaning the girls locker rooms! If that doesn't intrigue you, I don't know what will! But with this new found knowledge, go and make your CV, and search! Happy job hunting!

Text: Diana Nortey



Celia

A play by Richard Nyella about enslavement, resistance and freedom.

Text : Sara Azarkan and Aanika Mumtaz

Even though I had read that Celia was not a ‘normal slave story’, I quickly became aware that this was a very special play. This was brought home to me by the sight of Jocelyn Jee Esien, whose television persona Lil Miss Jocelyn is usually making us smile, in tears like the rest of the audience.

Celia is set in 1855. The play begins with her as a baby, her parents planning to flee from their owner but struggling with the heart rending decision to leave Celia behind with her Aunt Letty. The play goes on to show the loves and losses Celia endures, culminating in being tried for the murder of an abusive slave owner.

The production began with a dramatic fight scene and did not let up on emotion. Two hours later I was left with feelings of both triumph and sorrow about a past that wasn’t mine but yet to which I was still able to relate.

Monologues helped explain the story to the audience. One which sticks in my mind was the first from Celia, played convincingly by Diana Walker, as a young teen giving an account of her life situation. The characters of Aunt Letty and Uncle Eli were played with real intensity, being firm, attentive and also very loving and caring.

The play successfully manages to include moments of humour but this does not distract from the severity of the issues discussed – when Celia is sold off she is told what precautions to take so as not to bear the children of her master. Celia also managed to educate, unmasking the truth as to what happened after the slave trade had been supposedly abolished. The cast was a small one but the message of love, friendship and resistance resounded from start to finish. Shango Baku who played Uncle Eli, Diana

Walker who played Celia and the director Malcolm Fredrick very kindly took part in an interview to give The Cut readers an insight into what the story of Celia is about.

What is the importance of the story of Celia?
Shango Baku: Perhaps the heroic act of defiance in killing her abuser. This made it more than just a slave narrative.

Diana Walker: Firstly the date, all of this was happening at a time when most people would argue that slavery had ended. Secondly the fact that so many people knew that male owners regarded rape as an ownership perk.

Malcolm Frederick: The first thing is that it’s a true story. It’s significant because for the first time black women, despite being black slaves, took their case to the American Supreme Court.

Did the production face any hurdles or prejudice along the way?
Shango Baku: A year after the remembrance of Abolition the public is much more aware of these issues, and more interested in seeing them in a stage setting – especially Black audiences, who have been starved for this kind of material

Diana Walker: Only with the press – not one national or industry paper was prepared to come and review the show.

Malcolm Frederick: Celia is different to anything out there at the moment so I think it had a fresh appeal.

Did you do any background research?
Shango Baku: I didn’t personally. It’s a subject that I’ve been deeply involved in for some years.

Diana Walker: I read a lot of slave narratives and the book about Celia by Melton McLaurin.

Malcolm Frederick: A lot of research specifically about Celia and her situation came from a book which was written about her.

Which is your favourite scene and why?
Shango Baku: I enjoyed playing Uncle Silas – a very humane and likeable character. He ‘spoke to God’ for his people in a well-written soliloquy. This gave me the chance to show my talent as an actor.

Diana Walker: The auction because it is important for people to see what was done and how.

Malcolm Frederick: When Celia’s lover asks her to stop seeing the master, because I think it’s the most human of all the scenes, it’s about human feelings and jealousy.

What impact would you like to leave on those who come to see Celia?
Shango Baku: Firstly enjoyment, secondly awareness, thirdly encouragement and enthusiasm to continue the fight for equality.

Diana Walker: I want white people to understand the roots of their prejudices. I want Black people to stop feeling ashamed of being slaves and start to feel proud. We fought to gain our freedom by any means and in the end they had to let us go because they just couldn’t keep us in check.

Malcolm Frederick: It’s there to entertain, educate and inform.



Exhibition

Black Britannia
Photography exhibition



Pic: John Ferguson

Described as a collection of fifty images of black people who inspire the youth', you would assume that 'the youth' would have heard about this exhibition. The exhibition was situated at the City Hall, a place where I highly doubt young people find themselves. The "clever" placement of the exhibition is perhaps the only reason any member of the public would show any interest. I am a 17 year old and I knew less than half of the people who are said to inspire my peers, you may think that was down to my lack of general knowledge; however I brought along two friends, who also knew few of the people photographed.

I was shocked to see Naomi Campbell included. Naomi, who had recently spat in the face of an airline worker due to lost luggage, is not someone I would call inspiring or a role model. If that's the role models we have, can you blame the stereotype youth are given today?

However, there were plenty of positive things about the exhibition. One positive thing was the wide range of black people photographer John Ferguson gave recognition to, Ms Dynamite was amongst them, as well as the first black female consultant; Samantha Tross. The exhibition highlighted the fact that even though black youth feel they do not have many opportunities, they are out there, as evident by the photographs of black people who had achieved success. If the main aim of the exhibition was to give recognition to successful black people, the photographer could have found a better location, and it's a shame that he didn't judging on the quality of the photos. A girl who had done work experience at City Hall said "Employees barely notice the exhibitions" Which further proves my point.

Without a doubt there were some stunning photographs in the exhibition, and it is good that successful black people received recognition, but if nobody notices it, was there any point?

Text: Roxanne Swan

Theatre

Wicked
Apollo Theatre



The play Wicked is based on the best selling novel by Gregory Maguire, which plays on the story the wizard of oz, and redefines our conceptions on all the characters, and shows there's more to the story than we all thought we knew.

Wicked truly is spell binding, it enchants its audience and whisks them away to a magical land of talking animals, spell books and romance. It's all you can ask for in a musical and more, you'll be blown away by its special effects and in hysterics by its amazingly well written humour, astounded by the singing, left at the edge of your seat enticed by the idea of what might happen next, and will constantly find yourself going 'aaahhh' when you see how the two sides of the story interplay in front of you.

Wicked tells the story of how two characters; one green and a complete social outcast, and another; fair, beautiful and loved by all. The pair become friends and discover and change the harsh realities of life in OZ. There are many morals embedded in the heart of this play but it doesn't take away from its light heartedness and fun. It's a play all would fall in love with and one I'd not hesitate to give five stars.

Wicked first dazzled Broadway in October 2003 and is now played in over 6 cities in the world and tours all across America, five years down and its still going strong .You can see It for yourself at London's Apollo theatre in Victoria. It's definitely a MUST see!

Text: Warsan Nur



Music

Real Hip Hop in London
New club night

Real Hip Hop in London is a new club night in Shoreditch hosted by Zubin Irani, dedicated to bringing the true art form back to the people:

'The night is meant to reflect the fact that the crowd I want to draw in are generally well informed. There is a clear divide between those who like commercial hip hop and those who like conscious, credible hip hop.'

Juno Bar is relatively small and the atmosphere was a little laid-back at first. However, as the night progressed and crowd numbers increased, there was definitely more of a party vibe – think inflated house party, though, rather than hectic club night. The music was undoubtedly niche and it was cool to be a part of a genuine crowd



just looking to reminisce and have a good time without any aggro.

The night saw a prize draw of customised T-shirts designed by Anthony of El Ray Shep clothing and limited one-off paintings by Davin and Henry at Primo, for the best song request of the night and for the best hip hop lyric ever.

So if you are looking to kick it whilst listening to the hottest old skool and 90s jams, head down to Real Hip Hop where your eardrums will be soothed by DJ Complexion spinning the illest tracks from The Pharcyde, Grand Puba, Pete Rock and many more. Real hip hop fans will not be disappointed.

For more:
www.myspace.com/
realhiphopinlondon

Pic and Text: Adrienne McKenzie

Game

Grand Theft Auto
PS3, XBOX 360, PS2, PC



What is Britain famous for? The Pound, The Queen, Leona Lewis but Grand Theft Auto 4! I bet you never knew that. Grand Theft Auto 4 which will probably going to be the greatest forms of entertainment ever created was created by a British company! Wow, anyway enough about GTA's Britishness but this game is visually and creatively stunning and is realistically reminiscent of real life. In this episode of the GTA saga you play the role of an eastern European who goes by the name of Niko Belic. Niko being an ex-soldier in the Bosnian war means he has no remorse and this is shown when you mow down helpless pedestrians while on route to a mission to take out a drug lord. The control system has been revamped to allow more realistic shoot outs which allow you to take cover anywhere. Rockstar have really created something special in Grand Theft Auto 4 with the high definition visuals that are so clear your eyes bleed with joy and the stunning sound which helps make this game hard to put down. GTA 4 is available now on Xbox 360 and Playstation 3 for around 50 quid!

Text: Akwasi Tawai-Poku

Theatre

Into The Hoods
West end show

Last Thursday I went to the Novella Theatre in Covent Garden to see the production 'Into The Hoods'. It's an urban fairytale told through dance and brilliant animation. Whilst on the train on my way to the theatre I was preparing myself for 90minutes of urban slang, quirky jokes and dancing that makes you wish that you had taken more interest in those classes that your mum sent you to as a child!

After the show I decided never to judge a book by its cover because it was nothing like what I had expected. There was no dialogue and the story was told almost entirely by dance. Urban slang was used in a comical sense as we had characters called Rap-on-zel and Jaxx. The dancing was amazing! Other films in this genre such as "You Got Served" usually made me go home thinking maybe I should be a dancer, whereas this production left no doubt in my mind that I should just leave it up to the professionals. There wasn't as much as a finger out of step. I strongly recommend you go and watch this fantastically entertaining production.

Everything from the set and music choice to the fantastic dancing and Nike sponsorship was on point.

www.intothehoods.com

Text: Chloe Forde



Events

V&A Village Fete
Pose Me a Postcard

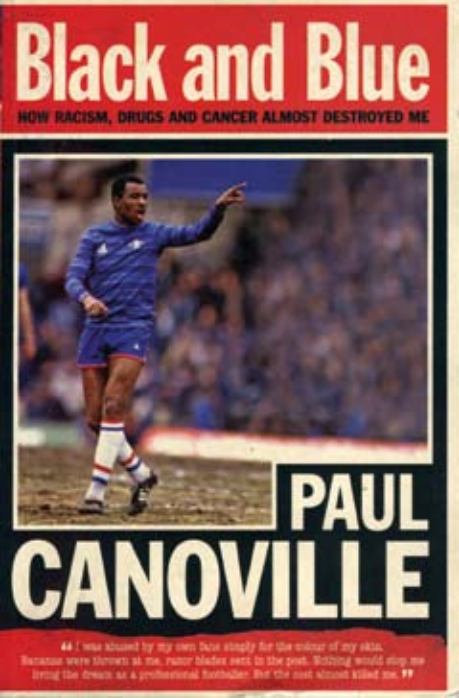


The Cut hit up the annual Village Fete at the V&A. The traditional English fete, provided an extraordinary array of creative, fun, engaging and imaginative events and games by leading as well as up-and-coming designers. Our favourite stall was The Pose Me a Postcard as the sitters dressed up from a box to mimic iconic portraits taken from paintings, prints and photographs from the V&A's Collections. The images were selected at random and you had a limited time to re-create the image using a selection of props specially commissioned by Fred & Teo, using clothes and prints. We got our portraits taken and proudly displayed and then we also had our very own copy of the postcard in a specially designed frame to take home. Other fun stalls included the Helium karaoke and Nadine Jarvis & Davina Drum and Go - Ssmassssssssssssssssssssshh! Smashed Crockery Badges , where you got to take out your rage and smash a mug and the stall made you a brooch out of the broken pieces.

www.vam.ac.uk

Paul Canoville

Text: Drew Mark



When I was giving the task of interviewing former Chelsea footballer, Paul Canoville, about his book, Black and Blue, I was sceptical because I had never heard of him. Canoville played in the 1980s before I was born. After beginning to read his book, though, I realised that the issues Paul faced when he was a teenager were very familiar to me. They reminded me of stories my Dad had told me about his teenage life, especially since he and Canoville lived not too far from each other.

Born in Southall to Caribbean parents in a predominately white country, Paul Canoville's childhood makes an interesting read touching on subjects ranging from encounters with his mother, to problems with the police, teenage fatherhood and balancing all that with the love of his life – football.

I was disgusted to read about the racial abuse received by Canoville not only from the away fans but fans of his own team. I was amazed by the way he dealt with the racism. Paul didn't speak out, yet from his book and the interview I realised that he has an outspoken



nature. To me it was inspiring the way he dealt with something I personally couldn't handle.

Like many celebrities or people in the spotlight today, once his career finished Paul went through difficulties with injury, crime and drugs. I wasn't particularly surprised by the stories although I did feel sorry for him, particularly when he was forced to retire at 27 due to an injury which could have been avoided..

The book is challenging, honest and disturbing. It is also inspiring as Canoville fights back to re-unite with his father, maintain his relationship with his family and friends and develop a career as a youth worker and author.

Paul Canoville is a flamboyant, outspoken, funny, talkative, approachable guy, a great storyteller with a similarity to a lot of the male figures in my life. He gave lengthy answers to questions and willingly elaborated on answers – a journalist's dream. I was surprised at the book's revelation that Paul was a teenage father. He is now a father of ten children with nine different women. I asked his views on the topic:



“Live life – don't be in a hurry to have a child. I could have been shown that if I had a father figure. I didn't think of the consequences of getting women pregnant, I was naïve in thinking football would provide financially.” Paul's early career as a footballer was difficult. His professional debut should have been something to cherish especially as he was his club's first black player. Being racially abused to the extent where you feel disowned by your own fans somewhat tainted the experience but, through all the abuse, Paul still managed to maintain the level of his game.

I asked Paul whether the racism he received in his career affected his relationship or attitude towards his white teammates:

“No – they were my teammates, although players from up north asked silly questions, not to be vindictive but as they were a bit ignorant and weren't around black people a lot.”

Paul idolised Brazilian World Cup Winner Pelé, arguably the best player of all time. He also spoke about his admiration of

former West Bromwich Albion players Cyrille Regis and Lawrie Cunningham, who he claims were some of the most skilful of his time, regardless of the racism they must have received.

With The Cut being written for and by young people, I decided to ask Paul about the issues in the news to do with young people and how he would compare his memories to the youth crime which is frequently in the media today?

“I can't believe what's going on in the minds of youth today. In my day there was little or no killing, it was nowhere near as common. It all seems weapon based nowadays. I think what we need is more youth clubs as youth boredom leads to youth crime.”

As a youth myself I agree with the idea of the need for more youth projects or clubs, as with nothing to do people get restless and look for something to do which is not necessarily within the law.

With black youth notorious for gun crime and violent crimes in general why do you think that is and was it the same when you were a youth?

“Again, in my day there was no needless fighting over some of the pointless issues you hear about today and there were no weapons. I personally think youth follow American television and music. Worst of all I think parents don't know their children, they only see the act put on by their children in front of them. They don't know their children's lives away from home.”

Last of all I asked Paul for any advice to readers who are looking to make football their profession.

“Football is a great game but you may not make it in the game. Have a back up plan. Education is a must – without that you could be left stranded.”



To win a copy of 'Black and Blue?' just answer the following question:

Paul Canoville was the first black player for which premiership team?

Email The Cut your answer and contact details to:info@thecutnewspaper.com



Manchester UEFA Cup Final

Daytripper

Last month's UEFA Cup Final in Manchester was overshadowed by scenes of violence and mayhem carried out by scores of Glasgow Rangers fans. Hundreds of thousands of supporters were in the city for the final including our reporter Shona Harvey and her family. Here Shona presents a different view of a truly memorable day.

Our beloved Glasgow Rangers FC had miraculously reached their first European final since 1972 after a dramatic penalty shoot-out. Up next was a date with their old manager Dick Advocaat and his Russian side Zenit St Petersburg at the City of Manchester stadium on the 14 May. It was decided that a Harvey family road trip would be taking place for this once in a lifetime event for Rangers and their fans. We may not have had tickets to get inside the stadium, but who cared?! It was about supporting Rangers and being part of the huge street party that was guaranteed to take place!

I had been told about the notorious racism amongst Zenit supporters, that their manager had claimed that if he were to attempt to buy a black player, the club's fans would be outraged. This was something that really intrigued me – I was shocked that this kind of blatant racism was still occurring in modern day football, and found myself asking why a team that was against using any black players was allowed to be part of the UEFA cup at all.

There were very few Zenit fans around – I think I could count how many we saw that day on my hands and still have fingers left – and approaching men who had been swigging beer from 9 o'clock that morning

to ask for their thoughts seemed out of the question. Women were clearly in the minority, but there were some who were determined to stand out from the crowd, notably a young girl dressed up in full Rangers kit, with six inch platform shoes on her feet. Suddenly I felt a tad underdressed.

We decided to make our way to one of the screens that had been set up in the city centre. As we approached, my face dropped – there was no way we were squeezing in with the thousands who had already reserved their spots. We were promised that we could see the game at the Velodrome, opposite the City of Manchester stadium, and I found myself on an epic journey across the city right

On our way, I noticed a fan getting arrested for having a cheeky pee in the street, which was the closest I came to seeing any form of aggravation. After almost an hour of walking through scenes straight out of Shameless, we arrived. I felt my heart beat faster than usual throughout the match while I fantasised about the pure ecstasy a Rangers goal would bring. When the first Zenit goal went in, the silence was painfully deafening. We made our way out as soon as the second one did, realising that our dream had come to an end.

As we began the long walk back to the city centre I began to feel deeply sorry for whoever had the responsibility of cleaning up the huge mess and couldn't resist getting out my digital camera to record the evidence. Waking up the next day to see scenes of violence captured on TV and reports of fans fighting the police was a shock. This was a prime example of a highly emotional game of football being put into perspective.

The Cricket Match

Text: Shona Harvey

Men: Jamal

What did you expect from going to Lords?

I expected to see and feel a higher-class atmosphere with a live active audience, like the one I get from watching my country playing. I also expected to hear loud cheers and chants

What was the reality?

The reality was that the crowd only gave a few claps when someone hit a powerful six or got someone out with an aggressive bowl. As I am very interested with the media industry I found the media facilities interesting.

What was there to encourage young people to attend?

At the specific county match we attended there didn't seem to be anything that would encourage young people to attend apart. There is a high-paced version of the game, though. This version is called twenty 20 cricket. I feel this would appeal to us young people, as its shorter and faster, with a more intense atmosphere.

What did you like about the experience?

I liked the whole experience in general, as Lords is famous as a place where many professional sportsmen and sport teams have played.

What did you dislike?

I disliked the time period of the game and it didn't feel inclusive in certain respects, as there was a dress code I had no idea about.

Would you go to a county cricket match again?

I would not go to another county cricket match, as I like to feel involved with the game and have something to relate to. However, if it was a 20 20 cricket match, I would definitely consider that because I like the idea of the fast pace and I am fascinated by the quick, fierce bowling.

We at The Cut team wondered if young men and women view sport differently. So, for the second experiment in this regular series Shona, Jamal and Adrianne went to Lords Cricket Ground to see the County Cricket, Friends Provident Trophy Match

between Middlesex and Surry Cricket clubs on the 4th May 2008. We chose the match because in order for cricket to have a healthy future, it will have to increase interest amongst young people. Perceptions of the sport vary greatly but we wanted to make our own minds up:

Women: Adrianne

What did you expect from going to Lords?

I expected to be less bored than I am when watching cricket on the television as I expected a huge buzzing atmosphere.

What was the reality?

I was bored when watching the game as it is very structured and requires a lot of patience. I was however very interested in the grounds as they had the Pavilion (private members club) which looked very elite and prestigious. The training ground for the youth players caught my attention as it was more upbeat and interesting to see a younger generation of sportsmen. The media centre was very exciting also as it was very professional and it sported a nice view of Trelick Tower, (laughs). I enjoyed walking around the actual grounds and found it intriguing as there was so much to do there, so one was not just restricted to just watching the game... they had TOURS!

What was there to encourage young people to attend?

Young people are encouraged to visit Lords through the evening test matches that they have during summer, also through visits to the training grounds. As a young person viewing other young people practicing makes it more appealing and makes it seem more achievable for young people to participate in the sport.

What did you like about the experience?

Sitting in the media centre. We had a nice view and got to sit through a live radio broadcast which was very interesting to watch as the presenters have the upmost focus on the game, together with their witty banter with guests and each other.

What did you dislike?

The length of the game.

Would you go to a county cricket match again?

No. It was a nice day out. However, it's not the sport for me. .

FOR THE RECORD

Surrey won by 5 wickets and the final score was Middlesex 233/8 (50.0 overs) vs Surrey 236/5 (47.00vers)

The Cricket Match

Woman of the match, Shona Harvey gives a fresh insight into the Gentleman's Game

Text: Shona Harvey

As I impatiently waited for my colleagues Adrianne and Jamal to meet me outside St. Johns Wood station, I had mixed feelings about going to my first cricket match and simultaneously, carrying out my first ever interview as a journalist for The Cut.

I was going with no real knowledge of cricket and to see if my negative perspective of the sport as a middle-class game for older men could be changed. The event in question was a county cricket game between London rivals Middlesex and Surrey at Lords the home of cricket.

I was looking forward to meeting the chief executive of Middlesex County Cricket Club, Vinny Codrington.

After the arrival of Adrianne and Jamal, we made our way to the ground, which appeared to be a lot bigger than I had expected. There was a scare when we got to the main gates and overheard a heated argument between one of the security guards and a visitor, who had been told no one would be allowed into the ground until after 11am our interview was at 10.30! Thankfully, this didn't prove to be a problem for us, and we were allowed to go through.

Fortunately, Vinny exceeded our expectations, and was a model host. He was informative, friendly and passionate about the game reaching out to younger audiences. We were also informed that we would not be allowed entry into the Pavilion due to its anti-denim stance, which stunned us all!

There were no set seats allocated for us, and we were free to sit wherever we wanted. With the enthusiastic nature of the chief executive and my own pre-determined



expectations of a meaningful game, I was genuinely shocked to see so many empty seats. Despite the impressive view, my concentration was worryingly low, and it was difficult to get into a game that was more or less totally unfamiliar to me with such a lifeless atmosphere. Now and again, the rest of the crowd let out a few 'oohs and aahs'. I couldn't believe how silent and calm the atmosphere was, in comparison to what I had experienced at football matches.

We met Vinny outside the awesome state of the art media centre. Upstairs, we were given the amazing opportunity for one of us to speak live on BBC radio about the magazine, with Jamal bravely taking responsibility and doing a great job. All three of us were highly impressed with the commentator's ability to successfully juggle concentration on every ball in play whilst showing an active interest in speaking to Jamal, alongside talking about the planned lunch for the day, roasted pumpkin and blueberry pie, anyone?

Overall, the experience generated a mixture of feelings. The interview with the chief executive and visiting the media centre especially proved to be highlights, yet the supposed main attraction the game itself did little to change our joint original perceptions of cricket being a boring sport for the middle-class. Perhaps attending an international game with a livelier atmosphere could be on the agenda for the future, but for now, it seems that cricket still has a lot of work to do if it really wants to appeal to myself and many of today's younger generation.

For more: www.lords.org

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This project would not be possible without the dedication of the tutors and the Stowe Centre Youth Team. Special Thanks Michael Dipple, Jackie Rosenberg, Neil Johnston

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Friends



The Cut has been busy getting the magazine out there and we have been lucky to get some great support and feedback on our travels. Here are some of the parties we have been to and some of the people who have inspired us along the way.



Nina & Nendie

Cultivating Young Talent

Hardcore Is More Than Music was set up by social entrepreneurs Nendie Pinto-Duschinsky and Nina Manandhar in 2003. Active at grass roots level, HIMTM works day to day with young people to promote social inclusion and create ambitious arts projects, helping those young people to raise their prospects. Inspired by the moving experiences and relationships that they have developed, HIMTM create publications, films and art works which are exhibited internationally.

www.hardcoreismorethanmusic.com



your future creative heroes



Entries for 4Talent Awards 2008 now open
channel4.com/4talentawards