**STUDY IN THE UK:**

**Financing Your UK Education**

Starting afresh and pursuing an education halfway across the world, thousands of miles from home can be rather daunting, more so for students tied down with family and financial commitments. To help lift the burden, there are a number of ways you can offset your costs.

**WORKING**

Thankfully, international students are allowed to work in the UK. (If you have a student immigration permission that allows you to do so,)

Whether you’re doing it because you need the dough or just want to keep shopping (if you do not shun shopping), you can work up to 30 hours a week during term time and full time during your holidays.

**GRANTS AND AWARDS**

A lot of UK universities offer awards ranging from 50% to the thousands, to international students. Even more so on your second year, often full scholarships. Please check the school websites.

**LOANS**

Borrowing money can also relieve the financial burden of funding an education, but be sure the company is reputable and that you understand the agreement. All loans will have to be repaid with interest, so only borrow what you need and make payments as soon as you are able.

Loans are available through:

**BANKS:**

Check overseas education loans from regional and international banks, many of which offer a variety of loans and deferred payment plans or other options which buy you time to graduate into a steady career before making major repayments. Banks generally have a list of approved institutions as well as an extensive loan options, meaning it’s best to consult directly for more information.

**ACCRREDITED AGENCIES & UNIONS:**

Other than banks, you can find additional businesses that will lend you money for education such as NTUC (National Trades Union Congress) and TCC (The Credit Co-operative). These differ from banks and other financial institutions because of the personal assistance provided.

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**Issue 57**

**Issue 57**

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CULT OR A GENERATIONAL TREND?

The global phenomenon of Urban Yoga and Activewear

The term “cult” usually refers to a social group defined by its beliefs (be it religious, spiritual or philosophical), or its common interest in a particular personality, object, or goal. With the boom of the activewear industry, a certain age-old discipline has also risen to fame across the globe: yoga, a traditional practice originating from India that has become the poster child for health and wellness, promoting a stronger sense of mental clarity, physical fitness, flexibility, and strength.

THE CULT OF ACTIV WEAR

Lululemon. The wildly popular activewear brand that has gained a huge following globally since opening its first store in Vancouver back in 2000. An activewear giant that has created a brand that promotes a lifestyle built around embracing positive mentalities, practicing self-care, and creating a community of fashion-conscious urban yogis. Let’s face it, one way or another, we have all been a participant in this phenomenon. Whether we have worn an over-priced contouring pair of tights, attended a free instructor or outdoor yoga class, or passed a stranger on the street carrying the company’s reusable shopping bag with inspiring slogans like “Do one thing every day that scares you.”

In the midst of pursuing the aesthetic lifestyle of an urban yogi (with leggings that hug your legs, a matching crop top and an oversized padded yoga mat), have we lost the intention behind the traditional practice of yoga? Have we allowed activewear apparel to triumph in feeding society’s hunger for narcissism instead of digging deeper and asking ourselves what genuine values yoga embodies?

Are we practicing yoga for asceticism and self-discovery? Or is yoga an afterthought and a justified excuse for purchasing pricey workout apparel? A case of enmeshed cognition - donning expensive activewear to look and feel the part of an urban yogi dedicated to the discipline.

MINDFULNESS FOR THE MASSES?

These successful apparel giants may have cashed in on the health and wellness boom and they may not necessarily promote the true ascetic principles of traditional yoga, but they should certainly be credited for opening up the practice of yoga to thousands of people around the world and introducing the concepts of “mindfulness” and “being present” to a fast-paced society that is surely crying for a socially acceptable outlet to pause and reflect on life.
CULT LANDS: 
Selling a religious experience

BY ESHWARAN

A/C ACROX
We have all heard of the famous American 
Youth and influencers mention this 
brand over and over again. LaCroix, an 
American sparkling drink – basically soda water with a twist of fruity flavour. Now it’s 
sought after today by social influencers. It’s 
responds to that.

It demurred in 1985, and they intentionally 
stocked to a youthful and vibrant design, 
hoping to cease from the premier image of high-end brands like Perrier. It 
finally gained some traction in 2010, when 
the general public got more into health 
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no sugar, there has been an unprecedented 
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CULT OF PRODUCT AND EXPERIENCE
Consumers are picky and have high expectations, and the 
feed these brands have gained a following that can’t be taken out. It speaks to the delivery of their products and the 
shopping experience. It’s these unforgettable and experiences and products that 
will make consumers come back for more.

وبةلات: #5 What makes a cult?

GROUPS WHO RECRUIT MEAT TACTIC
Some groups are known to use the sense of 
recruiting people who are suffering (i.e., those who have issues with relationships, career, etc.) or are at their lowest point in life. Some groups teach that they will present their 
cult as being an actual fork for a new life (new doctrine); cults, like groups, will be to 
help you feel like you’re part of an exclusive 
group so you don’t feel isolating. While many people can be 
saddled – for instance, Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo 
members included wandering teenagers and others (women) in the 
science and tech sector.

READER IDEOLOGY
Groups can become dangerous 
cults when they are deceptive, 
dangerous, and overuse the 
basic tools of our society. Cults often 
teach an ideology that they are 
the only ones who know the truth 
and make threats against those 
who teach a different ideology. 
Membership is cult for all 
cults.

THEIR SECRET CODED LANGUAGE
Many cults use secret languages or 
words only to further 
isolate their members from society. Or the other way round, 
the Solar Family cult - a group of heathens, may simply 
wish to hide them – members or secret terms like 
GURM (Good Morning Resistance) to describe a woman who 
rejected a sexual advance. Of course, fans of cult fandoms 
like Star Wars also have their own terminology. Just 
like the Force.

THEIR EXIT POLICY
Many cults lock their members from 
getting out - either because they don’t want 
their attention secrets leaked, or because they’re 
afraid they won’t like their lifestyle. 
To maintain high exit costs or 
recovery fees of failure and isolation, 
some cults will also harbors 
ex-members who resist, especially if 
their publically break away from the organization. In this 
way, members tend to become isolated, 
cut off from a communal. Luckily for members of 
cults, like Aum Shinrikyo, the 
exit strategy is to simply not buy new nuts.

OUR BODIES
ARE FULL OF DEAD ALIEN SOULS
In short, they brainwash their 
members. Understandingly, 
for instance, they say that human bodies 
contain evil thoughts that are the cause of all 
physical and mental 
illness. Local facts of cult beliefs like 
LaCroix will prosper in 
the same way they are familiar with their operating system.

THEIR MEMBERSHIP FEES
While cults often rely on donations, 
many 
have a business model that produces a 
product or service as a fee to 
complement their 
prophetic powers or recruit 
other members. Many cults make 
their 
members pay a percentage of 
their 
cash flow. Some make 
members pay for 
clandestine meetings, 
while others pay 
their 
leaders for 
protection. Some 
members 
are 
involved in 
being a cult, but outside 
crowd. 

CULT OF CULTS

Some cults make 
more 
money – 
for 
instance, by the 
world’s “Wild Wild Country” 
their 
leader 
for the 
United 
States 
Members 
and 
secret 
terms like 
GURM (Good 
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CREepy CULTS
Not For The Faint Of Heart

Over the decades, cults have terrified (and frightened) society with their unorthodox practices. Typical features of cult-like behavior include excessive control of its members, a serious case of gullibility, submission, and even absurd gender roles that may lead to sexual exploitation.

Here are five cults whose extreme practices have led to tragic, traumatic, and tragic consequences.

HEAVEN’S GATE
Led by Marshall Herff Applewhite and Bonnie Hecaller, the Heaven’s Gate cult operated on a bizarre philosophy, based on Christian beliefs combined with UFO theories. Applewhite believed that 2,000 years ago, Earth was visited by extra-terrestrial beings from the “Kingdom of Heaven.” These extra-terrestrial beings allegedly commanded the mind of Jesus Christ. During the 1970s, Applewhite believed that the extra-terrestrial beings had returned to Earth and that one of them was residing within his body.

Applewhite managed to convince his members that the only way to reach the “Kingdom of Heaven,” also known as “The Next Level,” was to leave their bodies. He believed that a spaceship would take them to “The Next Level,” and the only way to leave their bodies would be through suicide.

This led to an unfortunate incident of mass suicide in March of 1991 when 39 members, including 10 children, leaped to their deaths from a hillside cliff.

SIMilar ALien faTs
Religious beliefs that life on Earth was created by aliens called the Elohim, who combined with ancient writings to create the idea of an intergalactic dictator (Xenu) sent a bunch of aliens to Earth to cause spiritual harm.

WORLD MISSION SOCIETY CHURCH OF GOD
Many controversies surround the World Mission Society Church Of God (WMSGC) – whether or not the organization should be considered a cult remains debatable. However, some ex-members have claimed that the church subjects its followers to mind control, and that church leaders allegedly control personal aspects of their lives, such as romantic relationships.

Established in Korea in 1949 by its founder Ahn Sung-hong, the WMSGC believes in “God The Father” and “God The Mother,” and does not recognize Christmas or Easter. In its first few years, the WMSGC has since expanded internationally, reaching over 7,000,000 people in 179 countries.

A PEOPLE magazine interview of a former WMSGC member revealed that the church had attempted to isolate members from their family, and employed the use of brainwashing techniques. Members were encouraged to donate at least 10-15% of their income to the WMSGC, and some ex-members claimed that they were encouraged to drop out of college, resign from their jobs and limit the time spent with families to recruit new members for the organization.

SIMilar CHRISTIAN CULTS
korea-based Unification Church (aka Moonies) operated very similar to WMSGC.

MATAMOROS HUMAN SACRIFICE CULT
Matamoros, a northeastern state in Mexico city, experienced a horrific shock with the gruesome news about a human sacrifice cult and its heinous members in 1989.

It all began when pre-teen student Mario Köppen went missing during a spring break vacation. Weeks later, his remains were discovered in a remote ranch in the outskirts of Matamoros. His brain was found buried in a cardboard box with blood and other human remains.

This was when the Matamoros Human Sacrifice Cult came to light. Run by Rafael Cremona, known by cult members as El Padre (The Godfather), the cult would often beat, torture and slash their victims before violently mutilating their bodies in a human sacrifice ritual. When Köppen was found, almost fifteen other mutilated corpses were discovered around the ranch.

Cremona, who was said to be involved with drug smugglers outside Mexico, believed that these rituals would help protect them against the law. According to his victims, members of the cult would make them wear “impeccable” to bears and unspeakable by police. To escape being caught by the law, Cremona ordered his to kill him in 1990.

SIMilar SACRIFICE CULTS
The Inca, Mayas, and Aztecs were famous for their human sacrifices - most of them children.

Ku KLUX KLAN
Possibly one of the most well-known cults in history, the Ku Klux Klan is a cult that many are familiar with. Named by racist beliefs, the Ku Klux Klan is a white supremacist cult formed in 1866. When it was first established, the KKK would target African-Americans who were newly freed from slavery. Some of their victims were even murdered.

In the 1920s, the KKK was said to be involved in several criminal conspiracies. However, the group managed to gain some form of political influence, electing sympathetic candidates to state offices. The group had gained a strong following in the Southern States such as Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas.

Fast forward to present day, and the KKK is still an active organisation in the United States, with a membership ranging between 5,000-8,000 people. KKK rallies are still held frequently, and up to 2013, the KKK had hosted its own commercial show titled “The Andrew Show”, a programme designed for children.

SIMilar Racist faTs
New KKK and white supremacist groups have similar agendas to the KKK, and are gaining more exposure in the Trump era.

CHILDREN OF GOD
Out of all the other cults mentioned above, the Children Of God cult probably adheres to the most perverse ideology. Founder David Berg established the cult in early 1969. Cult members, both adults and children, lived together in communal housing called “hammocks,” with its occupants referred to as “members.” At one point, COG had 150 communities around the world.

Basically, the COG was a cult of hippies engaging in sexual intercourse with children, while claiming to operate on Christian beliefs. Berg was so riveted in his philosophy, he allegedly engaged in sexual intercourse with his biological daughter. Members were encouraged to engage in sexual activities with children as young as 10 years old, sexual intercourses within biological families was not unusual. Parents were reassured that by allowing kids to explore sex, they were “teaching children the natural way.”

In addition, pedophilia was also encouraged. One of the cult’s unorthodox recruitment practices included the concept of “fatty fishing,” which involved female members having sex with men in an attempt to convert them.

SIMilar SACRIFICE CULTS
The Japanese Movement was famous for its promotion of free sex (see the nexxus).
Streetwear

BY NATALIE KWAN

The Cult of Streetwear

Streetwear is a fashion trend that has become increasingly popular and it seems that this trend is here to stay. Every time an iconic streetwear brand like Supreme or Bape drops a new collection, prices on the secondary market soar to uncharted ground. In this article, we take a look at some of the iconic streetwear brands that you’ll probably have heard of at least once.

BAPE

Established in 1996 by Tokyo-based designer Jun Takahashi, BAPE is one of the most popular streetwear brands in the world. The brand is known for its innovative designs and high-quality products. BAPE has collaborated with many other brands and artists, including Supreme, LEGO, and Nike. The brand’s signature elements include the logo, the “ABSTRACT” print, and the “GOLD FOIL” print.

Supreme

Supreme is an American streetwear brand founded in 1994. The brand is known for its minimalist designs and high-quality products. Supreme has collaborated with many other brands and artists, including Nike, The North Face, and Vans. The brand’s signature elements include the logo, the “SKULL” print, and the “HEART” print.

Off-White

Off-White was established by Virgil Abloh in 2017. The brand is known for its innovative designs and high-quality products. Off-White has collaborated with many other brands and artists, including Nike, Louis Vuitton, and Dior. The brand’s signature elements include the logo, the “O” print, and the “W” print.

Palace

Palace was established in 2006 by James Purdey and Alex Brookes. The brand is known for its innovative designs and high-quality products. Palace has collaborated with many other brands and artists, including Nike, Adidas, and Supreme. The brand’s signature elements include the logo, the “P” print, and the “T” print.

Cult Figures

The Designer Toy

Released in 2001, the Hunger Games series by Japan’s Medicom Toy is one of the most popular toy series to date. The series features a cast of characters from the Hunger Games books and films, including Katniss Everdeen, Peeta Mellark, and Gale Hawthorne. The series’ popularity has led to the creation of many fan-made toys and accessories, including plushies, keychains, and figurines.

Other Designers and Producers

Other artists are also making their mark in the toy world, including Sebastian Scherer, the designer of the popular Mr. Doh toy. Other artists have collaborated with brands like Nike, Adidas, and Vans, creating unique designs and products that appeal to fans of streetwear and fashion.

The Origin Story

Collectible vinyl toys are a growing trend in the art world. For years, some of the most iconic streetwear brands like Supreme, Bape, and Off-White have collaborated with toy companies to create unique and collectible toys. These toys are often limited-edition and are sold at high prices at toy conventions and online. The trend has also spread to other industries, with brands like Adidas and Vans creating their own toy lines.

The future of collectible vinyl toys is bright, and we can expect to see more collaborations between streetwear brands and toy companies in the years to come. Whether you’re a collector or just interested in the trend, there’s something for everyone in the world of collectible vinyl toys.
DO WE GIVE FOR OTHERS, OR FOR OURSELVES?

These children have been portrayed in such a way that they have been denied individuality and have become photo props to help project a certain self-image, a plot device in a structured narrative.

Talking about their experiences, people often don’t mention the beneficiaries or their individual struggles, but rather, they talk about themselves making a change and what a humbling and tough experience it was for them. One often sees inspiring pictures of friends and schools and teaching children, rather than pictures of individual beneficiaries.

In this manner, giving has become centered on the giver rather than the beneficiary, thus the motivation behind giving has to be questioned, as it is often based on an empty hypocrisy.

Ultimately, people don’t give to make others feel better by responding to their material lack, but to make themselves feel better by feeding their own psychological need.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE GIVE MINDLESSLY?

Cautionary tales warn against giving to communities who need help, it is justified, and it is effective.

For example, American missionary John Chau was killed during a self-financed mission trip to North Sentinel island by the indigenous islanders in his attempt to approach them. Armed with gifts, food, toys, and his Bible, Chau acted on his own will to “better” their lives and offer help in the form of evangelism, not realizing that his actions were viewed as an invasion of their sacred island and a desecration of their culture.

Despite clear hostility and resistance from the Sentinelese, Chau repeatedly attempted to force his help onto them, believing it was best for them. Rather, giving becomes an imposition of one’s own ideals.

Also, Chau approached despite knowing that his contact with the Sentinelese would likely wipe out their population, since isolated societies like theirs lack immunity to pathogens carried in modern man. In such a context, giving becomes thoughtless, imposing, and selfish rather than generous.

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN GIVING AID?

Don’t let me go, I am hugely passionate about social work and I feel it’s something everyone should do, but what has to be established first is proper research, knowledge and respect. Conducting thorough research, such as how the organisation is run, how their donations are used, how the beneficiaries are helped, and other such details, helps one give thoughtfully and donate carefully.

After all, who can forget the scandalous case of the disaster in Pakistan back in 2005 which shocked NRP to its roots and shocked public confidence.

When giving, don’t forcefully impose, be ignorant, condescending, or hypocritical. Never blindly assume that others are unqualifiedly happy and want our aid.

WHAT CRAZY THINGS DO THEY DO?

While all call centers are considerably formal, Pottermucks are markedly more casual, including even shirts with logos like “Keep books, love books,” even though they are the dead center in a family of agnostic, housekeeping, light-ski-melting, cruiser-riding, fan-clubbing, fan-fighting fanatics. However, that’s not to say that Pottermucks don’t have their fair share of crazy.

Besides creating light-up pens when it comes to supporting new releases, fans have also been known to smash hardbacks that have played a part in inspiring Rowling. I have personally visited the Leaky Lookout in Porto, which inspired the grand Hogwarts library, as well as The Elephant House cafe in Edinburgh, where Rowling was writing her notes while doodling the Feather Cozy—car, and is said to have inspired her Still. Both have evolved into tourist attractions, and I am sure you can say it has been a great picture running through the walls for the Hogwarts Express.

While there, I also had the chance to catch The Curious Child at the Palace Theatre, but tickets were sold out for weeks, even through the play premiered in 2010.

Harry Potter fans are some of the most dedicated, and it is no wonder that some people get so into the world of the Potterverse that they make their own stories and characters. The Potterverse is a treasure trove of creativity, where fans can bring their own ideas to life and become part of the magical world of Potter.
First released back in 1985, Air Jordans have become a sensation in the sneaker community, and fans flock to be the first to lay hands on a pair. Originally a running shoe company, Nike's reputation was elevated when the legend himself, Michael Jordan, signed on with Nike to create his own shoe line. Despite being under the Nike label, Air Jordans became synonymous with his name and the brand is actually the greatest of all time!

Released in 2016, detailed at (average of $180).

4. AIR JORDAN 11 RETRO "WIN LIKE 82"
Michael Jordan's habit of lifting game-winning shots started when the 22-year-old nailed a game winner to put North Carolina ahead for the season; up 82-79 during the NCAA Championship game the Air Jordan 11 Retro "Win Like 82" celebrates the beginning of KJ's victorious season. Featuring the 82-79 team colours on a traditional Air Jordan 11 build, the latter was designed at the request of KJ himself.

Released in 2016, detailed at (average of $180).

5. AIR JORDAN 3 "TRAILS OF FAME"
This was one of the original four colourways that was released in 1988, complete with never-seen-before French that set off like locks, this retro features the "His Airness" trimming on the heel, just like the 1988 model. The shoe appeared in Spike Lee's film Do The Right Thing, introducing the gene of basketball to skate in pop culture.

Released in 2016, detailed at (average of $180).

2. AIR JORDAN 11 RETRO "SPACE JAM 2016"
The Air Jordan 11 Retro "Space Jam" 2016 commemorates the 10th Anniversary of the movie Space Jam. It was born by Michael Jordan himself, and a player exclusive in both the north and the 1996 Playoffs. The 1996 retro was KJ's largest and the most successful shoe launch ever. The sneakers was the first to drop selling the traditional Air Jordan 11 retro dubbed "Space Jam".

Released in 2016, detailed at (average of $180).

1. AIR JORDAN 1 RETRO HIGH OG "BRED TOE"
When you say "Air Jordan", this is the first that comes to mind. It all started with Michael Jordan, who was fined $5000 per game for wearing a pair of red and black shoes which violated his uniform rule. This Air Jordan 1 "Bred" has sold over 20 million copies and was named by Complex as "Best Sneaker of 2016". Air Jordan 1 "Bred" has been the best-selling sneaker of all time.

Released in 2016, detailed at (average of $180).

WHY ARE AIR JORDANS EXPENSIVE?
Nike wanted to keep the Jordan line fresh and special, by keeping the production limited with a high demand, it drove up the market price. When you'll see people start to recall their Jordans, a true sneaker collector will be looking for a pair of Jordans to add to his collection. The popularity of Air Jordans is on the rise again.

Released in 2016, detailed at (average of $180).

BARK OR BITE A DEEPER LOOK INTO TARANTINO'S CULT FILMS

Usually filmed on a budget and released to little excitement, cult movies eventually evolve into an accepted and revered narrative among audiences, even long after their theatrical debut. Their rise to cult status impinges on certain factors like a hardcore fan following, punchy dialogue, and memorable characters.

Quentin Tarantino’s 1992 Reservoir Dogs is a nonlinear narrative about a gang of miscreants taking part in a diamond heist orchestrated by mob boss Joe Cabot. It’s flashback narrative structuring answers before questions is cleverly delivered, elevating it to an iconic status among other nonlinear films to date.

The film draws cult status with its hard hitting style, with the rabble-rousing Mr. Pink, hot-headed Mr. White, psychotic Mr. Blonde, and Nice Guy Eddie at the heart of all this. Their intertemporal raging with gans unbound and pointed at each other occurs regularly throughout the film. The amalgam of violence and profanity set the movie's tone in its quest to uncover the rat behind the botched diamond heist.

Reservoir Dogs also draws strong reference to pop culture, evident in the dialogue from the coffeehouse scene with Madrorna’s lyrics to La's Virgin Sacrificed, and the saccharine ear-cutting scene featuring Mr. Blonde behind the knife-cavorting to Stealers Whells Stuck In The Middle With You. K-Billy's Super Sounds of the Seventies Weekend, a fictional weekend themed playlist, served as the movie’s soundtrack.

Quentin Tarantino followed up his debut film with the release of his postmodern masterpiece Pulp Fiction in 1994. It was the most successful independent movie of its time, making over US$200 million on the back of an US$8 million budget. Known for its casting, iconic style, and whimsical dialogue, Pulp Fiction went on to achieve critical acclaim, bagging numerous film awards and going on to become widely acclaimed as the greatest film ever made – even up to this day.

Pulp Fiction is a film telling three overlapping stories in non-sequential fashion with all three stories interconnected to one another. The film's controversial theme involving drugs, violence, excess, use of profanities, and homosexual rape combined perfectly, bringing together an unconventional but appealing narrative that still sits very well with movie buffs today.

John Travolta’s declining career found its resurgence in arguably the most iconic dance scene in movie history – the Twist Contest. Starring previously in blockbuster films like Grease and Saturday Night Fever in the 70s, Travolta defined the disco era through his dancing, and his explosive return to the dance floor with Uma Thurman could not be any more iconic.

Much like Reservoir Dogs, Pulp Fiction's quirky dialogue provided audiences with memorable lines which ranged from Samuel L. Jackson's divine interjection epitaph to his comical but near-death confrontation with Honey Bunny.

Although comical, parts of the film's dialogue was introspective, especially with Jackson's character who develops into an almost puritanical person, and eventually moralises the story with redemption.

Blood, guns, profane language, quirky dialogue, and pop culture references are some hallmarks established in Tarantino's first two films, and both have since gone on to claim cult status among fans and movie-lovers alike.
From modest beginnings in Chorlton, Arnold, SAT’s wit and self-deprecating humour have resulted in a popular stand-up comedian not just in the North, but across the country. It was always on the cards, however, that his very first standard comedy club in 26 June 2019. Residing in a whole culture of people understanding the calcitine, “I was not ready da.”

Mary Poppins Returns

Mary Poppins Returns
(December 25)
Cast: Emily Blunt, Ben Whishaw, Meryl Streep
Set in 1930s London, which is the time period of the original novel by P.L. Travers, the story follows Michael (Ben Whishaw) and Jane (Emily Blunt), who are now grown up. Michael is living with his three children (Pixie Davies, Nathaniel Saleh, and Saoirse Donohoe) and nanny (Emily Blunt), in the house on Cherry Tree Lane. After Michael has a personal loss, Mary Poppins (Emily Blunt) comes back into the lives of the Banks family. She is joined by a street homeless named Jack (Michael Sheen), and an eccentric cousin named Tangle (Meryl Streep).

Clarke Quay Block Party Countdown

Clarke Quay Block Party Countdown
When: 31 Dec, 6pm-3am
Where: Clarke Quay Fountain Square
Fee: Free

Clarke Quay’s annual New Year’s Eve Countdown features a lineup of world’s DJs and MAs. This year’s theme PLAY will see specially constructed 3D play kinetic structure designed to bring a fun and imaginative play ground element to the party. There’s a LED tower and LED wall that will light up the harder you pedal, coupling cycling into immersive environment patterns and lights. Bouncing, dancing, green “toy soldiers” and The Chronicle Parade (led by moaer (musica) will interact with party guests providing many Instagram-worthy photo moments.

How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World

How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World
(January 11)
Cast: Jay Baruchel, Cate Blanchett, Gerard Butler
What began as an unlikely friendship between a teenage Viking and a fearsome Night Fury dragon has become an epic adventure. But when the sudden appearance of a female Light Fury causes the Viking’s village to be threatened, Hiccup and Toothless must leave the only home they’ve known and journey to a hidden world thought only to exist in myth.

26th Jun 2019 | 6pm
SOTA Concert Hall
Tickets: $50 - $70
Kanan Gill
Live in Singapore 2019

One of India’s most popular comedians, Kanan Gill, will be bringing his comedy tour to Singapore. Gill's latest special, "Laughs", is a personal, observational stand-up special filmed live on set in his home town of Bangalore. This high energy, high energy, high energy tour is a must-see for all comedy fans and will keep you laughing for the next 90 minutes. In this historical one hour show he explores ideas from his upcoming album, "Keep It Real". In this historical one hour show he explores ideas from his upcoming album, "Keep It Real".

Marina Bay Singapore Countdown 2019

Marina Bay Singapore Countdown 2019
When: 31 Dec, 6pm-1am
Where: The Promenade
Fee: Free

This year’s Marina Bay Countdown will feature 7-hour long fireworks with 2D surround sound, and performance acts by Dulux Painters, and local performers. With exciting activities, there will be a full projection show on the Fullerton Hotel (30–31 Dec), as well as the Merlion and the ArtScience Museum (31 Dec). There will also be a Fireworks Festival at the Marina Bay Sands (31 Dec) and the Marina Bay Carnival (29 Dec–31 Mar).
Hollywood’s Secret Cults

BY NINA GAN

Cults for women, by... a man

Of course, before celebrities become famous, they have to start somewhere. And during the time of Hollywood’s golden age, it’s not surprising that some of them (many women) fell into cults of which purpose is to be self-help groups.

For example, in the 1930s, a group of female film stars, including Greta Garbo, Ingrid Bergman, and Marlene Dietrich, were reported to have joined a cult led by Alistair Cooke. Cooke claimed to have the key to eternal youth and promised to help his followers attain it.

As a result, many of these women abandoned their careers and their families to devote themselves to the cult. Garbo, for example, moved to Hollywood to join the cult and stayed there for several years before returning to Sweden.

Another example is the case of Liv Ullmann, who played the role of a cult member in the movie "The Possession." In real life, Ullmann was reported to have been a member of a cult called "The People." The cult was led by a man named Roy Neiderhiser, who claimed to be a channel for a higher power.

He convinced his followers to give him all their money and to live a simple, ascetic lifestyle. Many of them left their families and careers to join the cult, which eventually collapsed after Neiderhiser was exposed as a fraud.

Hollywood stars that belong(ed) to cults

Everybody knows that getting celebrity endorsements does wonders for a brand — the same goes for cults. The Church of Scientology has a celebrity recruitment programme in place since 1955, and today operates special Celebrity Centres in places like LA and Paris. Scientology preaches that it’s OK to be wealthy and famous, so it’s no surprise that it has a long roster of big names — the most famous of which include Tom Cruise, Kenny Loggins, and John Travolta.

But there are other cults that take on various permutations, along with a number of Hollywood stars.

The Church of Scientology

Did you know that Tom Cruise grew up in a California-based hippie group — and secret child protection ring — called the Children of God? Until he was 8 years old, fellow actress Rosanna Arquette and musician Christopher Walken were also cult members of the group. Many others grew up with damaged relationships with their parents thanks to the cult’s strange practices.

Other Hollywood stars grew up in various smaller communities. Wyndor Ryder’s family grew up in California’s 300-acre Rainbow compound for three years without electricity with seven other families, and Glenn Close’s family was part of the Moonies Revivalist Church. Both groups were considered cults by mainstream society.

Rainbow commune

Unlike other actors whose families belonged to cults, Michelle Pfeiffer accidentally joined one when she was 13. Her group believed in breatharianism — the ability to live without food or water. Believing that sunlight will provide all the necessary nutrients. Members had to pay to be basically starved.

Rainbow commune

The Cult

The Cult was a New Age group that was active from 1973 to 1993. It was led by Jim Jones, who claimed to be a channel for a higher power. He convinced his followers to give him all their money and to live a simple, ascetic lifestyle. Many of them left their families and careers to join the cult, which eventually collapsed after Jones was exposed as a fraud.

Conclusion

Cults and their influence on Hollywood continue to fascinate and intrigue us. From the ones run by famous celebrities to the ones led by cult leaders who were later exposed as frauds, these groups have played a significant role in the entertainment industry. It’s important to be aware of these cults and their effects on individuals and society as a whole.

References

- “The Cult: The Inside Story” by Jon Amiel and Peter Bogdanovich
- “The Church of Scientology” by Lisa Brooker
- “Rainbow Commune” by Anthony Jay

By Branna Sharma
Frenzied Fans: Music Acts with a Cult Following

Music has the power to shape our collective moods, and some bands or musicians have undeniably changed people's lives on a grand scale. These acts don't merely attract a fanbase; they attract a cult following that shadow them like their devoted flock of sheep. These fans often see them first in line to enter a concert venue and first alone the door to purchase any merchandise or concert tickets.

For them, there's nothing they won't do for their beloved bands — some even go as far as getting tattooed with images of their favorite musicians. Whether you're a hip-hop lover or an EDM headbopper, there are some musical acts today that come with their own unique smell of worshiping fans. Are you one of them?

X Japan

X Japan

[Deadmaus]

Deadmaus

The devotion of fans of Deadmaus (or Joel Zimmerman) is cult-like; they follow every move he makes, each featuring a spectacular live show,找回和电音，甚至集资建立自己的出专辑。The fans’ style of dressing is as unique as their music; they often wear all black, including helmets, which are a signature element of the Deadmaus brand.

Deadmaus has its own stage at the VMAs and headlined top music festivals; he’s big, but he operates a bank of computers from the stage. He’s popular with fans, and his music is not for the faint of heart. Deadmaus fans are passionate about their music and will do anything to attend his concerts.

[Phish]

Phish

You may or may not have heard of this psychedelic act; they’re known for their unique sound, featuring both live and recorded music. They are known for their improvisational style, often extending their jams to epic proportions.

They are a popular act who are known for their unique sound; their music is often extended to epic proportions. They are known for their improvisational style, often extending their jams to epic proportions.

Ken Roberts

Ken Roberts

The Red Room

The Red Room

For all the fans of Phish, there is a cult following that shadow them like their devoted flock of sheep. These fans often see them first in line to enter a concert venue and first alone the door to purchase any merchandise or concert tickets.

The Rock Horror Picture Show

The Rocky Horror Picture Show

This science-fiction horror film features the iconic characters of the Crimson Ghost, Riff Raff, and Brad, among others. The film has a cult following and is known for its live performances and audience participation.

Heathers

Heathers

Despite its darker themes, the film has gained a cult following and is loved by many fans.

Donnie Darko

Donnie Darko

For all the fans of Phish, there is a cult following that shadow them like their devoted flock of sheep. These fans often see them first in line to enter a concert venue and first alone the door to purchase any merchandise or concert tickets.

The Room

The Room

For all the fans of Phish, there is a cult following that shadow them like their devoted flock of sheep. These fans often see them first in line to enter a concert venue and first alone the door to purchase any merchandise or concert tickets.
SEVEN CULT RITUALS
THAT PUSHE THE LIMITS OF NORMAL

DEATH BY FRESH AID

In what is considered the greatest tragedy of American civilian life until the 9/11 terror attacks, members of the Jonestown cult committed mass suicide by drinking cyanide-laced Fresh-Aid at the word of their charismatic leader Jim Jones. Jones was an ardent believer of revolutionary suicide rituals known as “White Nights,” and eventually declared a state of emergency after facing increasing pressure from the outside world.

SNAKES ARE SAFE

While mainstream Christian churches do not use snakes, the Appalachian Mountains of North America happen to nest some of the last serpent-handling churches. Following a rather literal explanation from a biblical passage in the Gospel of Mark, these religious cults have special services in which people actually handle venomous snakes. If bitten, worshippers do not seek treatment, believing that God will save them. Kentucky Pastor Jamie Coots made headlines last year when he was bitten for the ninth and final time, and died after refusing treatment.

CULTS ARE SYNONYMOUS WITH A LOYAL FOLLOWING

Cults are synonymous with a loyal following – something that any brand or egocentric person would probably want. But anyone can start a cult, and all you need is something that people want and can relate to! If you’re thinking of starting your own cult, then you’ll probably need to prepare some necessary items in your toolkit – so if you’re twiddling your thumbs and don’t know what items to get, we’re here to get you started...

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THE RICH MAN’S CULT

Yes, we’re talking about high-profile celebrities like Tom Cruise and John Travolta. Scientology preaches true enlightenment and freedom for all, and has attracted more and more celebrities over the years. From alleged levitational powers to strange ‘silent births’ rituals, many question their practices. Its core ritual constitutes forced confessions called “auditing,” in which members are pushed to reveal incriminating secrets to the church which can then be used against them.

HUMANS EATING HUMANS

The Aghoris are one of the most well-known cannibalistic cults in India. They believe that nature is free for all, and frequently consume human flesh from fresh corpses in the Ganges, drink from human skulls, eat live animals, and isolate themselves on mountaintops away from material distractions.

ALIENS ARE REAL

This global UFO cult has managed to amass more than 20,000 followers around the world, from Canada to Japan. Like a science-fiction novel, members of Raelism believe that the human race was created by aliens, and their trademark baptism ritual is characterised by a priest putting their hand on the forehead of the person wishing to be baptised in order to transfer their “genetic information” to extraterrestrials. Earlier this March, the cult started negotiations for building an extraterritorial embassy in Vienna to welcome back their alien creators.

SATANIC CULT RITUALS

You can’t possibly talk about cult rituals without mentioning Satanists from the 1980s, who’ve become synonymous with satanic ritual abuse. The cult, which was commonly associated with notions of death and heavy metal, upheld typical Satanic rites including child sex abuse, paedophilia, animal sacrifices, and cannibalism. Even though the hysteria of the 1990s has subsided, some people continue to practise Satanism today. In 2015, Bronwyn Grammar was set alight in a satanic sacrifice where the attackers believed they would gain power, wealth and fame.

A CULT THAT TOOK OVER A WHOLE TOWN

The Rajneesh movement was founded by mystic Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh (1931–1990). Led by his son-in-law Ma Anand Sheela, the cult is famous for carrying out the largest bio-attack terror in American history, contaminating ten salad bars with salmonella in an attempt to suppress voters. In addition, its rituals frequently involved sex-crazed group dances, forced sterilisation programs, and primal scream meditation techniques, all of which sparked disapproval from residents in Oregon.

While it’s easy for outsiders to judge the rather perverted and twisted practices of cult ritualists, there’s a reason to their enduring beliefs. As CalTech psychologist Jon-Patrik Pedersen notes, people are often drawn to cults in a quest to find human belonging and emotional support from a community. A total surrender to belief may thus blind cult followers to the damaging consequences their rituals may have. After all, even highly-educated professionals in the Rajneesh community, including doctors and lawyers, failed to recognise the disturbing practices around them.
Monash University Malaysia is the Malaysian constituent of a premier research intensive Australian university ranked among the Top 100 Universities in the World, and a member of Australia’s prestigious Group of Eight (Go8)**. Established in 1998, Monash University Malaysia is now recognised as a leader in the international higher education sector in Malaysia. As an independent, self-accrediting institution of higher education, the university attracts students from Malaysia and all over the world.

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  - Lifelong worldwide connections through a global alumni network
- Excellent career prospects
  - Excellent employment and career prospects upon completion of studies
- Dynamic, multicultural student population
  - Multicultural student population providing support and cultural networks in a dynamic, cosmopolitan environment
- Great accommodation
  - Safe, secure and inexpensive on-campus accommodation, and a lifestyle offering a range of extra-curricular, sporting and recreational opportunities
- 8,000 currently enrolled
  - 70 nationalities

**GREAT CAMPUS LIFE**
- Safe, secure and inexpensive on-campus accommodation, and a lifestyle offering a range of extra-curricular, sporting and recreational opportunities
- Excellent career prospects
  - Excellent employment and career prospects upon completion of studies
- Dynamic, multicultural student population
  - Multicultural student population providing support and cultural networks in a dynamic, cosmopolitan environment
- Global alumni network
  - Lifelong worldwide connections through a global alumni network

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