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Free bimonthly international online journal by citizens of planet earth

Special Supplement
Interviews with remarkable people
by
Mark Ulyseas



EDITORIAL



May 2010

This special supplement of Liveencounters features some of the extraordinary people I have encountered over the last few years.

It is an enchanting concoction - a mix of priests, prostitutes, celebrity chefs, marine biologists, girly boys, rice farmers, schoolteachers, rainbow warriors, editors, musicians, lepers and more.

The one common dominator is that all these extraordinary people are citizens of planet earth. Their lives are reflected in this quote...

*What another would have done as well as you, do not do it.
What another would have said as well as you, do not say it;
what another would have written as well, do not write it.
Be faithful to that which exists nowhere but in yourself -
and thus make yourself indispensable.
- Andre Gide, Les Nourritures Terrestres (Fruits of the Earth, 1897)*

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Mark Ulyseas
Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om

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Interviews with remarkable people *by Mark Ulyseas*

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anthropologist & Author

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The Shaman
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Professor Unni Wikan

celebrated Norwegian anthropologist and author of *Managing Turbulent Hearts – A Balinese Formula for Living* speaks to **Mark Ulyseas** in an exclusive interview. Thanks to Terje Holte Nilsen for making this happen.

MU - Many visitors, women being in the majority, view Bali as a 'feminine' island with a culture that is all embracing. Do you feel that the increasing number of immigrants to this island will dilute or distort this culture? And will it (Balinese culture) morph into a more aggressive form thereby seeing a clash of cultures?

*UW - **I never thought of Bali as a 'feminine' island; to me, such a concept does not make sense.*** Bali is a rich and complex civilization with a multitude of ways and “cultures” being practiced, some of them strongly patriarchal. I do not think that immigration as such presents a danger to this remarkable Culture. On the other hand, the exposure of youth to manifold influences through globalization, modern forms of communication, tourism etc. will undoubtedly have its impact, in Bali as elsewhere. We cannot say at this point in time what will emerge. It is not just a question of what happens in Bali but in the wider world.

MU - Do you think that the concrete jungle that is growing across the isle will alienate the Balinese with the growing influence of the “hotel and villa” culture? And what, if any, is the way out?

*UW - I wish I had the answer to your question for there is clearly the danger that you point to. The Balinese have traditionally lived in close harmony with nature; you couldn't cut down a tree or erect a building, even a hut, without appeasing and taking permission from supernatural spirits. **The “hotel and villa” culture is fundamentally transforming the land and disturbing spirits that used to belong in certain places and that are a part of Balinese cosmology.*** On the other hand, the Balinese resemble other humans in that they are pragmatic, and these new developments offer jobs to many people. There is no win-win situation.

MU - Many long time residents believe the Balinese must be more pragmatic in terms of rescinding their responsibilities of the numerous mandatory attendances at religious ceremonies for the responsibilities of a job? Please comment.

UW - This is a challenge in many societies, how to accommodate job obligations with religious or ritual observances. I did fieldwork in Bhutan, a Buddhist country, and the same concern arose there: what could be required of job attendance of people who every so often had other “legitimate” ritual concerns. Or take Muslims in Norway, my country: praying five times a day at specific intervals is not easily combined with many kinds of job. Solutions must be found and generally, religions can be flexible: they are, after all, partly man-made.

MU - There appears to be a growing gap between the haves and have not's – the former being expats and the latter, Balinese. Do you think that this will lead to a backlash that will see a rise in criminal activities and in general disrespect for the Tamu (guest) leading to law and order problems?

*UW - We see such problems emerging in many societies, they seem to be part and parcel of globalization. Organized, transnational crime is also on the rise everywhere. **What is special about Bali, as I know it, is how peaceful and orderly the island still is.*** But one should be aware. Large-scale tourism naturally changes people's perceptions of the Tamu, and the way many tourists (and some expats) behave further creates disrespect.





MU - Some say that marriages between expats and Balinese, where the age gap being a generation or two is abhorrent and should be curtailed; often these marriages are not legalized with competent authorities from the foreign embassies thereby disenfranchising the offspring from their rights to citizenship of the foreign country from which one parent comes from. Are we witnessing the birth of a generation existing between the gaps in society? And will these children of the morrow become the catalyst for change? And what change do you perceive this to be?

UW - I do not have first-hand knowledge of such cases, therefore it is hard for me to think through the implications with regard to Bali. Not having a legalized marriage is, however, a problem that many people in many countries are dealing with, and there is much international discussion of how to secure the rights of the child to paternity, inheritance and citizenship. Recently, there was a case in Egypt where a woman went to court because the man, with whom she had entered into a non-legalized (so called traditional – urfi – marriage) denied the child he had fathered paternity. In this case, both were Egyptians. She won, and has become an exemplar for others. I believe women can become the catalysts for change.

MU - “I will not blame the rapes on Norwegian women. But Norwegian women must understand that we live in a Multicultural society and adapt themselves to it.” “Norwegian women must take their share of responsibility for these rapes.” You stated this in reference to high profile incidents in Norway involving immigrant men and the local (Norwegian) women. Do you think the reverse will happen in Bali, like attacks on ‘visitor women scantily clad’ by ‘locals’ because the ‘visitors’ have shown ignorance of the social norms and/or not understood the prevalent culture?

UW - I have never said that women must take their share of responsibility for rapes. This is sheer misrepresentation of my statement. The rapist bears full responsibility for rape, which is a crime. What I did say was that many immigrants come from societies where the way many Norwegian women dress and behave is misunderstood to mean that they are immoral. In a multicultural society, it is an advantage if people learn something about one another’s codes of communication. The same applies if you are a tourist. ***It is a sad fact of life that women are exposed much more than men to sexual violence. So women need to be careful, and knowledge is power.*** But full responsibility for rape resides with the rapist.

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MU - Is then, cultural clashes and clichés the raison d’être foran emerging ‘irrational society’?

UW - No, I wouldn’t use such a term. Society is not “irrational” but persons can be. However, rape does not have to do with irrationality. It is a crime usually committed by wholly rational people.

MU - You have written a number of books that have thrown light on the travails and tribulations and the constant fight for survival between man and woman in societies that discriminate. Does your book “Behind the veil in Arabia: Women of Oman” shed light or reflect the state of women in general in societies across the world like India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and beyond? And is the treatment of women in a society reflective of its ethos?

UW - Oman is special. It was, and continues to be to me an exemplar of a good Muslim society where women are well respected and treated. Oman has an enlightened ruler, Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who has had the power for nearly forty years, and has done a world of good for his country, including women. Yes, there is an ethos in Oman that underscores gracious behavior and that is reflected in the treatment of women. It is different from what you find in many other parts of the Muslim world, local culture and religion always intersect, and so Oman is quite different from not just Afghanistan or Iran, but also its neighbor, Saudi Arabia. That said, there are also similarities: Polygamy – a man’s right to have several wives simultaneously – still holds in many parts of the Muslim and non-Muslim world, Oman included. Men are privileged in numerous ways. But Oman could point the way to what other traditional societies, more harsh to women – Muslim, Hindu, Christian etc. – can become.

Managing Turbulent Hearts

A Balinese Formula for Living

Unni Wikan



"We don't want anybody to know about our heart. If we express we will make others disappointed, and perhaps angry too. Balinese do not want to make another unhappy. - Suriati"

PROFESSOR UNNI WIKAN

MU - What is the role of a culture? Does it create, give birth to or is it a matrix in which we are all born? And does this matrix hamstring enlightenment/progress in all parameters of society?

UW - We are born into cultures; I was born on an island in the Arctic Ocean in a part of Norway called the Land of the Midnight Sun, and my view on the world is profoundly shaped by the influences I came under through my formative 18 years there. But cultures are ever changing, just like people; indeed, it is people who make up cultures, we are the agents, culture in itself can do nothing, it is just a word, a concept. It is important to keep this in mind: People have in their power to create and make "culture" happen, for good or bad. Therefore too, **culture clash is not a term I use: it indicates that there is something there with the power to act by itself. Think of people instead, and you have a better instrument for building peace.**

MU - As a celebrated and highly respected anthropologist do you think that Bali will survive the onslaught of the continuing influx of alien cultures bombarding the island; and will this be the beginning of a convergence that will bring about a new evolved society or will it be another reason for a conflict of cultures?

UW - **Bali has withstood a continuing influx of alien cultures for a long time in history. That gives me hope for the future of this gem of a civilization. Bali is bound to go on changing and evolving; and society fifty years from now will be different from the one we know. But I believe there is a solid core that is sustainable and that may even take on a stronger identity as "Balinese" as cultures mix and mingle. Or, I should rather say, as people from different cultures mix and mingle. My husband, Fredrik Barth, wrote a book called "Balinese Worlds", plain and simple. That says it all: Bali consists of many worlds, many cultural traditions that have co-existed, competed, and also enriched one another. This is due to the resourcefulness and tolerance of Balinese people.**

MU - What are you working on now and will you be visiting Bali in the near future?

UW - I have just finished two books – one published in the US, the other in Norway, on honor killings in present-day Europe. A sad topic I never planned to handle but that became urgent with the murders of several young girls by their (immigrant) families in Europe. One is called ***In Honor of Fadime: Murder and Shame*** and ***deals with the fate of a young Swedish-Kurdish woman who was killed by her own father because she had "dishonored" her family by choosing her own love in life and refusing a forced marriage to a cousin.*** Her story made the international community wake up to the fact that honor killings do not just belong to "them" but to "us" in the West, and has helped to put the problem on the international agenda. ***Now I am about to do something much more pleasant: embark on a long fieldtrip to Arabia (Yemen, Oman and Saudi Arabia) to explore ideas of freedom and dignity post 9/11, and to see how these ideas are put into practice in various walks of life.*** As an Arabic speaker I can work without interpreters and as a woman, I have easy access to people, I am not considered a threat. ***Among places I will visit is the Hadramawt in North Yemen where some families I know in Singaraja originally came from so I will explore the links; there have been close connections between inner Arabia and Indonesia for centuries,*** with influences going both ways. I have also an ongoing project in Bhutan, a Buddhist kingdom in the Himalayas, where I have spent much time to explore culture and religion.

I was last in Bali a year ago, and hope to return later this year.

It is very much a part of my heart.

The author Unni Wikan is Professor in the Institute of Ethnography at the University of Oslo, Norway. Her books include - Behind the Veil in Arabia: Women in Oman and Tomorrow, God Willing: Self-made Destinies in Cairo. All the abovementioned books have been published by The University of Chicago Press, U.S.A



*This story has not been written to “frighten” away tourists.
But simply to tell a story about people that people forget.
About children of a lesser God - the lepers of Bali*

Many of us have come to this island to suck the elixir of eternal youth: our notions of living life to the fullest often regardless of the people around us. Just once let us hold the hands of those afflicted with leprosy to help them live a life and to die with dignity.

Often ignorance is an excuse for bliss. But it could also be a way of living in a fool's paradise. Bali is much more than a paradise. It is and will always be paradoxical: The Yin and Yang controlling the life tides of ebb and flow. We must respect all living beings on this island. So read this story and after doing so let us all walk out of the door and start giving back to Bali what we have taken for so long...Life.

When I was confronted by the thought of actually meeting and talking to leprosy patients I was a bit circumspect about hygiene and worse still being confronted with ugliness amidst beauty. As an Indian who had worked at Mother Theresa's Home for the Destitute and Dying in Calcutta in the '70s and who faced death there every morning, the "leprosy problem" as some so succinctly put it is not really a problem. It is a misplaced common human reaction to a disease that has been the scourge of mankind since time immemorial, but which is easily curable!

Being from a country that has (I presume) one of the largest populations of lepers, I am surprised at the adverse reaction I have received when I have spoken to residents on this island. Surprisingly this has not come from Balinese but from expats who have business interests here and also from international clubs. The most common remarks have been:

"This is Bali, it's beautiful why are you talking of ugliness we don't want to see it".

"Come off it seriously there are no lepers on Bali..."

"You can't talk about this it will drive the tourists away. Bali doesn't need this now".

"You Indians always want to talk of poverty and disease...get real".

Yes I did get real. I talked to my Balinese friends who were gracious and most helpful in taking me to parts of Bali that many have not travelled to meet with motley ragged scattered bunches of lepers living on the outskirts of humanity. This journey took me to my soul and I beg to ask the question, "Is there a God?"

Driving from Seminyak to the 'other part' of Bali along dusty village roads to far-flung hamlets it was like searching for an elusive tribe. No one wanted to speak about them. No one acknowledged them. Yet they existed in their filthy clothes, smelling of rotting flesh and worse still the children. In their eyes bore testimony of a generation lost because of ignorance and fear, fear of the unknown and fear of becoming like them.

When I entered an area made up of a few coconut huts I was confronted by a group of ragged adults and children. As someone once said, "The eyes are the windows to the soul". All I could see were their eyes that stared into oblivion in a catatonic like trance with a hint of hope...hope for succour.

Walking up to a young child and introducing myself with an outstretched hand I received a hearty handshake from a stump of a hand and a smile that dispelled the gloom.

"What's your name," I asked?

"Kadek," the child replied in a tiny voice.

"How long have you been living like this?"

"As long as I can remember. I don't feel anything in my hands and feet. You have any food? I'm hungry."



I hadn't brought any food but after rummaging in my pockets I found half a roll of Mentos, which I promptly gave him. He put it to his mouth and began peeling the wrapper away. In seconds he was munching the sweet while grimacing. Perplexed, I asked him why?

"My teeth hurt."

Suddenly the motley group turned their backs and started walking down the path towards the road. A few metres away they stopped and waited for a second and then raced forward. I ran after them curious to see what they were doing. Turning the corner I saw them bending over plastic packets.

It was food and water left by the villagers.

Back at the "camp site" they shuffled around laying a tattered cloth on the ground. They sat down and began eating. I declined their invitation to join them.

Kadek suddenly got up and held my hand.

"Why aren't you eating?"

"My teeth hurt!!"

"Oh okay. Then if you're not eating why don't you show me where you sleep?"

Kadek gently held my hand and guided me to a small coconut shelter that I presumed was used for cattle. It was his home. Open to the vagaries of nature this was his room. On the floor of covered with tattered cloth lay bits and pieces of colourful empty packaging of detergents.

"Why do you collect this?"

"I want to be an artist."

Watching his stump of a hand waving around while he talked and the glimmer of life lurking in his eyes I wanted to carry him away from all the sorrow and pain.

"At night the animals and insects come to me. But I don't feel anything. I wish they would go away and let me sleep".

"Do you have any friends to play with?"

"Yes in this group but we have no toys. And we can't go to the village to play with the children there. Most of the time I like talking to the trees. They are my friends. Only at night they make a noise".

Suddenly silence blanketed us and for a moment time stood still. Then life returned with a gust of breeze. Probably it was the angel of death reminding us...

It's noon and with the warmth of the sun the flies returned buzzing around us like hungry creatures. Fortunately Made returned from the village to escort me back to the car. I wanted to run away and hide from humanity.

I made my farewells and promised to return with crayons and paper for my little friend.

And yes, food too.

Kadek stood at a distance and gazed at me waving his little arms and grinning like a Cheshire cat.

"Suksama," he shouted

"Dhanyavaad," I replied folding my hands and bowing ever so gently. And under my breath I whispered, "I wish you well my dear Kadek".

Back at the car I meet a few villagers whose relatives I had just met. They enquire about their wellbeing and apologise for having ostracized them.

"What can we do? We don't want to get the disease."

I tell them it's curable.

Their doubtful looks are not encouraging.

One unnamed health official tells me that the government has been fighting a battle educating people, timely detection of the disease and medical help. Though the local communities do their best it is still short of what is required. They need sufficient funds for medicines, nurses and doctors. And more importantly a program to educate the people.



Sections of this article appeared in my column Paradox in Paradise in The Bali Times

“I prefer to see Tuna in the sea than on a plate”

*Delphine Robbe, Agronomist,
Co-Founder of the Biorock Project, Gili Trawangan,
Indonesia.*



*Delphine was born in Paris. She studied in France and Canada obtaining her Masters in Agronomy Engineering followed by fieldwork in Madagascar in 2002. After that she traveled for over a year and a half in South East Asia, India, Mexico, Costa Rica, Israel, Guatemala etc. and then came to Indonesia in 2004 to do a Dive Master and Instructor Course at Big Bubble, Gili Trawangan (Gili T). Here she met her present employer, Anna Walker who was instrumental in setting up the non-profit organization, Gili Eco Trust, with Anthony Clubbey and Maurice Stevens of Manta Dive. In 2005 Delphine founded the Bio Rock Project in Gili T with Foued Kadachi and Laurent Lavoye. **Mark Ulyseas met Delphine at Scallywags, a beachfront restaurant on Gili T, to talk about her life and work.***



What is Bio Rock technology?

The two scientists who invented Biorock Technology was Dr. Tom Goreau, a marine biologist and Professor Wolf Hilbertz, an architect and inventor of electrolysis. The discovery came about when Hilbertz was studying how seashells and reefs grow by passing electricity through the salt water. He observed that calcium carbonate (Aragonite) slowly formed around the cathode, coating the electrode with a material as strong as concrete. And as long as current was passing through the structure it continued to grow at the rate of 5cm a year. When damaged the structure could also heal itself. This discovery prompted Hilbertz to devise a plan to grow low-cost structures in the ocean for developing countries. It caught the imagination of author Marshall Savage who wrote a book titled The Millennial Project.

However, his focus shifted to regeneration of coral reefs when he met Tom Goreau, a marine biologist, who was working on the preservation of reefs affected by erosion, pollution and global warming. The Biorock process is simple. Build a tunnel shaped steel structure in size 10 meters long x 1.5 meters in width. Then place it under water. Connect electrical cables to a 12-volt battery on the shore and attach the cables to the underwater structure. Through electrolysis with the salt water limestone forms and grows on the structure. Coral can be broken off from the reef and tied to the structure. The electric current assists in the growth of the coral from 2 to 6 times faster than usual.

Why did you start the project at Gili T?

After one year since my arrival in 2004 on Gili T, I started the Biodrock Project with Foued Kadachi and Laurent Lavoye because I was concerned about the state of the coral reefs around the Gilis. There was too much dead coral, pollution and above all no one was doing anything worthwhile to protect, preserve and sustain the reefs.

I had earned enough money from my job in diving and I felt I needed to give back to the Gilis, to say thank you. This is my way.

What is the importance of the Coral reefs?

The coral reefs protect the shoreline/beaches from erosion by breaking the wave action. But most importantly the coral reef is the habitat of nearly 70% of the fish in the ocean. It also acts like a nursery for the sea creatures. So the survival, good health and continuance of the reefs are vital for all living beings.

The coral reefs act as a classroom for marine biologists; students and tourists to learn all about sea life because it can be observed at close quarters.



What are the results of your work?

I am happy to announce that we have regenerated nearly 1.5 kilometers of coral reef. I could not have done this without the help of the Gili Eco Trust, SATGAS (Indonesian Security Force that assists in protecting the areas from being damaged/illegal fishing etc.), the Professors and students of Mataram University, Lombok; And more importantly the expats and Indonesian businesses on the isles. In 2006 we conducted the Fourth Indonesian Biorock Training Workshop for scientists/students/divers/artists from all over the world. There were 35 participants. A total of 10 structures were built and installed East-South of the island. Since then many more structures have been put up.

In 2008 we organized workshops for 52 students/marine biologists/diving instructors/Indonesian businesses and restaurateurs.

We are now registered to certify divers in PADI Biorock Speciality. Recently, CNN filmed a documentary on the work done on the reefs. This is very heartening as the international community will see how Indonesia is coping with its environment and help will come from all quarters.

Why do you like the Gilis?

No cars. No motorbikes. No dogs. It's quiet and I can dive everyday.

Any advice for visitors to the isles?

Don't throw toilet paper in the bowl. Don't throw plastic. Save water, save energy. Enjoy Nature don't destroy it. Don't walk on the reef. Don't collect seashells or coral. Don't buy seashells or coral. As an incentive we offer one free dive on the first Monday of every month to those who spend one day on the isle picking up plastic and other polluting waste from the beach and other areas.

Why do you seem one with the sea?

When I was twelve years old I did my first dive. It was off Reunion Island (next to Mauritius). During this dive I saw dolphins, the angels of the sea. The feeling of being part of a beautiful environment and being one with it was so overwhelming that I had to become a citizen of the sea and protector of it. The sensation of water all around me caressing my body, the colorful sights of fish and coral and the silence... yes silence. Swimming in the sea is like being an intrinsic part of an exotic world. Do you understand what I am trying to say?

Where do you think this passion and lust for life comes from?

My father. He was a pilot with Air France and he also performed stunning aerobatics. Unfortunately during one of his maneuvers he crashed. I was six years old when he died at 33. I love him very much. I carry him in my heart wherever I travel.



You are now a 31-year old, unmarried? Do you ever think of settling down?

Why should one settle down? Life is one fascinating journey. I don't want to get married or have babies because I will die by the time I am 33, just like my father. I have so much work to do for the environment and not enough time.

Will you continue living on this island?

No. My dream is to live on an Eco Boat and sail around the world educating people on how to preserve and sustain the environment.

Do you have a message for the readers?

The seas sustain all life on the planet. Help us to preserve it by not plundering its natural resources and polluting its world.

I appeal to you to become true vegetarians – no meat or seafood. This will help stem the savage rape of the seas, thereby giving us an extended lease of life.



Professor Wolf Hilbertz died of cancer in Munich, Germany, August 11, 2007. The world has lost a true citizen of the sea. Many Indonesians and expats in Bali and the rest of the archipelago fondly remember him for his assistance on the preservation of the coral reefs in this country. "Mike", the world's first hydrogen bomb, vaporized Elugelap Island and other parts of the Enewetak Atoll (Marshall Islands) on November 01, 1952. (The blast was 700 times more powerful than the explosion that leveled Hiroshima). In the half century or so since then humans have destroyed around a quarter - some say a half - of all tropical coral reefs, which are one the world's richest and oldest ecosystems and provide vital benefits in over 100 countries. Will the rest be gone within another fifty years - or less? – <http://www.coralstory.blogspot.com>

A meeting with a Rainbow Warrior

“There is a prophecy from the First Nations of America that there will come a time when the earth will become sick, its waters polluted and the skies full of smoke and at that time there will rise up from all around the planet warriors and they would be known as the Warriors of the Rainbow. They will fight the forces destroying the earth and return to all that has been plundered from it. We hope these warriors would also come from Bali,” said Mike Fincken, skipper of the Greenpeace boat, Rainbow Warrior, to me when we met last December in Bali.

This is the second boat of the same name. The first one was blown up by the French Authorities to prevent Greenpeace from protesting the nuclear tests in the Pacific.

In December 2007, nations gathered in Bali to confabulate and agree upon a strategy to prevent the further destruction of the earth by wanton pollution. It was grandly called the UN Climate Change Conference. I didn't attend the jamboree. But I did get an opportunity to board the Rainbow Warrior anchored at Benoa harbour to speak one on one with the captain, Mike Fincken.

He agreed to my request for an interview of sorts provided he spoke in his personal capacity and not as the official spokesman for Greenpeace. I was only too happy to share a cuppa with him while he showed me around the boat.

The ensuing encounter brought back memories of the Sunder Bans and the savage rape of its fragile eco system. Afraid of reliving this reality that one had 'left' behind when recording Mike's utterances for posterity, I filed this story under the heading miscellaneous hoping to return to it at another time; And what better time than now when plastic waste continues to clog and pollute the rivers and sea shores of Bali – the island that breathes a beautiful life into all who arrive at its doorstep.

Mike, as he prefers to be called, has been sailing the Rainbow Warrior for the last two years. He has worked a total of 12 years with Greenpeace. Being a pacifist South African when Mandela was incarcerated in jail on Robin Island, he went to sea



to avoid the compulsory conscription then in force. As head of operations on a cargo ship loading lumber in Vancouver he began wondering as to source of the wood and the resultant destruction of pristine wilderness wrought by mindless logging. This ignited an interest in environmental groups and their actions and brought Mike in contact with Greenpeace and in particular its maritime service. He began a correspondence with their office for two years while at the same time completing the mandatory 10 years sailing to obtain certification of Master Mariner. In 1996, he resigned his job and at his own expense flew from Cape Town to Amsterdam, the HQ of Greenpeace to volunteer his services. He was assigned to a boat called Moby Dick without salary but board and lodging.

“An unforgettable and humbling experience has been sailing in the south sea of Antarctica... on display Nature in its purest form, untouched and virginal...

The vast whiteness and untamed wilds with lots of Orcas and hump back Minkes frolicking in the



MIKE FINCKEN

sea... Sunrays refracting on the ice creating mini rainbows...the mesmerising sparkle of light in many hues of pinks, blues and reds. Alas, every time we return on our annual visit we have to sail further and further south to reach the main ice lands as global warming has affected the South Pole by slowly melting the ice cap. This is the result of what we are doing to our planet, our only home. Do you know that two thirds of climate change is the direct result of energy production? We need to promote alternative sources of energy like solar power,” lamented Mike.

Greenpeace has three boats: Rainbow Warrior (small), Artic Sunrise (medium) and the Esperanza (large), which means hope in Spanish.

I asked him about the Japanese whaling fleets, how and why they killed whales for scientific experiments and how Greenpeace has often successfully stopped them from slaughtering whole herds.

He told me that when the Japanese whaling fleet locates a herd of whales they fire harpoons that strike the whales and explode inside their bodies immobilising them. When a whale has been hit the others, on hearing its distress calls, gather around to comfort it. This is when a number of them are also shot. The sea turns red with blood to the wailing song of the gentle giants of the oceans. Then the fleet moves in and secures each whale by the tail with rope hauling it tail first onto the boat. As the profusely bleeding whale is still alive its head is left under water for a while so that it drowns.

Mike has been on many missions with his associates riding the choppy seas in motorised rubber boats to act as a shield between the whales and the fishing fleets. The danger of exploding harpoons does not deter him. I suppose the cost of one human life for the sake of the survival of a species is a small price to pay.

On the other hand the Japanese also conduct scientific experiments. For instance, they annually measure and record the size of the stomach of a number of whales. Apparently the condition and size of the innards is a barometer of the state of the environment. For instance, it has been known that whale stomachs have been shrinking over the

years. This is because their staple food, Plankton, is diminishing primarily due to global warming that is destroying the ozone layer and letting in harmful UV rays that affect the growth of Plankton. The truth is that more whales will die due to the effects of global warming than by exploding harpoons.

During the Climate Change Conference, the Indonesian Minister for Environment launched, from the Rainbow Warrior, the government's program; “Energy Efficient Bali 2008 – Switch off, unplug and enjoy”. (What progress has been in the last nine months is anyone's guess). Mike firmly believes that such a program will be successful if each one of us takes on the responsibility as an individual. And this could start by every person doing his or her small bit like not littering, picking up plastic waste and conserving energy by unplugging appliances not in use.

With the arrival of another round of coffee, the skipper spoke emotionally about his small home in South Africa and how his interest in the environment began after he took a course in organic vegetable farming: tilling the soil with his bare hands, feeling the moist earth and discovering the many tiny creatures like earthworms and beetles in his small garden. It sensitised him to the value of all life.

And yes Mike is a vegetarian and so are two thirds of his crew. He told me that the Rainbow Warrior is like a floating United Nations as the crew of 15 came from 13 countries.

At the end of the enlightening meeting, the skipper handed me a signed message from him to all who dwell on this isle. It is included as an insert in this column. Let us cut it out and keep it in our wallets as a constant reminder of our duty to preserve this paradise.

It has been suggested that we can begin by first banning plastic bags on Bali and then clearing the plastic waste that is defiling this sacred isle of the gods.

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om

Sections of this article appeared in my column Paradox in Paradise in The Bali Times

BUTTERFLY OF THE NIGHT



The world's oldest profession exists on the assumption that human beings need physical sustenance and tender loving care – for a price; the end justifying the means or vice versa. The professional gets paid for the services rendered and the customer leaves after having given into an urge or a fantasy or both, as the case may be.

The professional is a butterfly that exists precariously on the edge of humanity, shunned by a hypocritical society and used as a receptacle for the male/female libido. Often the lives of such individuals become easy targets for unscrupulous people, warped religious aficionados and perverts.

The prevalent apathetic society that feeds on the lasciviousness of life only fuels the urge in many of us to fall prey to carnal desires that exceed the boundaries of propriety and common sense (morals in this case being elastic).

This is an excerpt from the conversation that took place. Some details have been omitted - names/places have been changed to avoid embarrassment to known/unknown persons and to maintain a semblance of decorum.

Tell us your name and where do you come from?

I won't tell you my real name. You can call me Tina, that's the name one of my customer's calls me. Actually it's the name of his wife. He says he loves his wife. I am not from Bali. I came here about five years ago, leaving my six-month-old baby with my parents.

You are married?

I was married for little less than a year till I got pregnant. My husband was very angry and divorced me because he didn't want children.

And then?

My parents who were very poor couldn't support me so I began selling vegetables at the local bazaar. At that time we were surviving on US 50 cents a day. Tired of such a poor life I came to Bali thinking I could get a job for a lot of money. I guess I have. (Laughs).

How much money do you send home every month?

US\$ 600/-

How many members in your family?

There are five of us - my father, mother, younger brother and my five-year-old daughter.

Do your parents know what you do?

Yes but they don't say anything. Such things are never spoken about at home. My mother keeps telling me to leave this job and to return home to look after my daughter and maybe to start an honest business there. I think I will retire next year and return home if God wills it.

Have you saved enough for your retirement?

I have a house, car, ten Are of land, many motorcycles that are given out on hire and I hope to open a shop in my hometown to sell nice things from Bali.

How old are you?

I am 24 years old. Been in this job for nearly five years.

How did you become a Kupu Kupu Malam?

When I came to Bali I met this very kind taxi driver who patiently explained how I could become a working girl. In fact he got me my first customer, David, who paid me US\$15/-. He too was very helpful and got me many rich customers. He loved me but I hated him. And you know why?

Why?

Because he took advantage of me, he threatened to report me to the police if I didn't give him a freebie for every few customers he got me. But he never took money from me. Thankfully he died of cancer after about a year of dealing with me.

How old was the youngest and the oldest customer? And how many customers do you entertain a day?

The youngest was a sixteen year old from Frenchie (France). And the oldest was a seventy year old from England. The Englishman was very gentle and treated me like a lady. I would have married him if he were not

already married. On a normal day I have two or three customers. But this number goes up during peak tourist season. Then I sometimes have around eight or nine of them. I don't mind. Some are very scared; others give me presents and food.

Have you been sick with a disease you could have contracted from your customers?

Yes, twice I had to go to the doctor. Now I insist on using protection otherwise no happy ending.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in a God but I curse the world for making me a woman. Men just phone me, use me and then go back to their wives. Men are like Bali dogs. That's why I like spending mental and physical time with women. They talk to me, listen to me when I am speaking to them and are always understanding when I sometimes mess things up. Above all they are very gentle in bed.

What is your favorite color?

Black because it covers all what I do and no one on the road can see through it.

Do you have a boyfriend?

I have many boyfriends - One at home and three (New Zealand, Spanish and Australia) here in Bali. My Australian friend wants to marry me and take me away. He knows what I do for a living but he truly loves me. I don't trust men. They can't stay with one woman for life. They have to try new ones all the time.

What goes through your mind when you are alone in your room?

I lie in bed and think about the men. How sad they really are. How stupid they are. And then I begin to feel happy because I know they will need me whenever my phone rings. So many men thinking about me, makes me feel good. I make them happy and then I take their money. I get angry when they take credit and don't pay on time.

What was your wish when you were a little girl?

I wanted to be happily married and to live a decent life.

If you had one wish from God what would you ask for?

To be born a man.



Who are you Michael Franti?

I am a musician and a filmmaker. My goal is to be a musical communicator of social justice and tolerance. Music and moving pictures help me translate my words into tangible symphonies of images and sound.

Where are you from?

San Francisco. I was adopted by Charles Franti, an Afro-Native American and Carol Franti of Irish/French/German descent.

Where did you first get your inspiration to write poetry and play music?

I used to play basketball when I studied at the University of San Francisco and lived above the campus radio station, which used to play all kinds of music. The rhythms, beautiful voices crooning, lamenting and rejoicing in life ignited that spark in me to be a creative person. I wanted to put my poetry to music to get my word across to people who I think are the best part of Nature.

Can you recall one of your performances that still holds a special place in your heart, and why?

Well in June 06 I performed at the Folsom Prison. It was the first performance since Johnny Cash visited the place 37 years ago when he sang Folsom Prison Blues. Folsom prison is Level 4 maximum-security prison. The prisoners are hardened criminals and yet when I sang one of my songs – One step closer to you – they broke down and cried, holding each other and singing along with the guards and me – I believe in the spiritual, I believe in the miracle, I believe in the one above, I believe in the one I love, and take me one step closer to you.

It was an experience that left me believing there was a benign and loving God who cared for even the most evil of us all. For a moment I saw the prisoners for what they really were – lost children of the world. I also understood what Johnny Cash was trying to do so long ago.

Have you performed at any other prisons in the States?

Ya, at San Quentin, youth and women's prisons. In fact I will be teaching yoga in Salt Lake City prison in January 08. I believe there is a lot of wisdom to be found in prison 'cause both men and women criminals during their incarceration have time to contemplate their lives and to slowly sync with the universe. But am not for the death penalty. Taking a life for a life does no one any good nor does it achieve any purpose.

Tell us about your recordings?

Michael Franti Spearhead has recorded a total of 12 albums till date. My CD - Everybody Deserves Music – is on sale at Kafe. The latest one, which has still to reach Ubud is – All Rebel Ruckus. It's a hip hop/reggae/rock mix, which was recorded in Jamaica.

And films?

I made the movie – I know am not alone – in June 04. I spoke to the people on the streets of Baghdad, Palestine, Israel and the Gaza Strip.

And festivals?

Every year in Frisco I am part of festival – The Power to the People - that occurs very close to September 11, when more than 50,000 people congregate to hear musicians from all over the world. We don't want 9/11 remembered as a day when the call was made to war but a day when the call has been made to end all wars.

How did you meet you wife?

Carla Swanson volunteered to help me on the film I was making on Iraq in 04. At that time she was a successful film editor at Hollywood with written and spoken knowledge of Arabic, Spanish and Japanese. In fact when she saw the rough cut of the movie she could understand the Arabic spoken by the Iraqis on the streets of Baghdad. She is my partner in films, manager of the website, merchandiser, art director, stage design and music videos.

Will you be visiting Ubud again?

I will be performing at Meghan Beth Pappenhiem's Bali Spirit Festival (a celebration of yoga, dance, music, love and gratitude) being held at Yogabarn from March 05 to the 16th, 2008. A part of the proceeds is going to Robin Lim's Yayasan – Bumi Sehat – for the building of a new wing at the medical centre.

Any last thoughts?

I believe in the power of melody and rhythm to communicate the problems that afflict the world. And the greatest gift for me is to see people smile and rejoice when they hear my songs

“I want to tell my Gods, it’s not fair”

Seventy five year old Pak Wayan Runia is a farmer who has been tiling the immaculately laid out terraced rice fields like his forefathers had done for hundreds of years. He lives with his wife, daughter, son in law and a grandchild in a modest dwelling. The daughter and her husband work part time for a workshop producing handicrafts.

Pak Wayan owns 20 Are of land cultivating rice and reaping two harvests a year. Each harvest, which is every six months, gives him 100 kg rice. Some of this he sells for approximately US 40 cents per kg if money is in short supply, which is quite often. The rest is for domestic consumption for a period of six months.

He pays US\$ 5 per month for electricity, US\$ 5 per month for water, US\$ 8 Tax per annum, 6 kg rice from every harvest to the Subak (water authority), US\$ 5 and US\$ 2.5 for every major and minor religious ceremony respectively.

Free or subsidized medical aid and/or insurance are absent.

Pak Wayan has a fiscal deficit of US\$ 40 every month as sometimes his daughter and son in law who work part time are laid off.

In return he gives the people of his homeland and tourists a free view of the world famous terraced rice fields of Bali. The reward? Commercial establishments mushrooming around his ‘work’, peddling the rice field views through the media, local and international, hotels selling rooms at a premium for the view he has created with great toil; Photographers, journalists, artists et al jumping on the bandwagon.

The local administration gives him US\$ 25/- per year for the view.

Recently, a foreign movie crew filmed one whole night on his land after seeking his permission and promising to pay him. They have never returned nor paid him for trampling through the rice field.

Mark Ulyseas asked him if this was the great rip off and who should be contacted to seek justice for him.

“I want to tell my Gods, it’s not fair”, replied Pak Wayan and then turned his back and silently walked into the rice fields.





*On Thursday in the Bella Singaraja Restaurant of the Intercontinental Bali Resort, Jimbaran, Celebrity Chef **Bobby Chinn**, the swashbuckling host of World Café Asia, Discovery Travel & Living Channel, author of the cookbook 'Wild, Wild East, Recipes and Stories from Vietnam' and owner of the famous Bobby Chinn Restaurant in Hanoi –gave us a Kitchen demo and press luncheon hosted by the hotel.*

With verbal antics and culinary gymnastics he introduced us to his world in the kitchen – the devil's kitchen. Bobby demonstrated how to dissect a crab and prepare his famous tamarind glazed crab cakes; and Bun bo wagyu beef with rice noodles and salad. According to Bobby, Bun bo wagyu beef comes from the most pampered living creature on this planet – the cow that lives in Japan which is feed partly on beer and is given daily massages by hand!

The luncheon menu was; grapes wrapped in goat's cheese with a pistachio crust; Bobby's famous tamarind glazed crab cakes; Bun bo wagyu beef with rice noodles and salad; And for dessert, coconut crème brulee. Of course, it goes without saying, each course was accompanied by fine wine.

After the gourmet meal I retired with Bobby to the lush green lawns of the hotel to chat about his life and work.

Interviewing Bobby is like trying to communicate with someone who has a thousand volts of electricity going through him. He is a high voltage wire without insulation. So here goes.

Could you share with the readers a glimpse of your background?

Well I am New Zealand born, studied in an English Boarding School, did my BA in Finance and Economics, worked on the New York Stock Exchange got disillusioned with the work and followed my passion for cooking by training under the guru chef Hubert Heller of Fleur De Lys. I did my apprenticeship in Bordeaux and Paris. To make ends meet I worked as a runner, busboy and steward in various restaurants. Actually my first work experience was in the kitchen of Elka, a Franco-Japanese restaurant in San Francisco.

So where does this passion for food come from?

Both my grandmothers – one who is Chinese (Buddhist) and the other Egyptian (Muslim). My preferred food when I was homesick in school was; Moukh – deep-fried goats' brains that is creamy inside with a crispy outer texture served in a sandwich. And the other favourites were and still are - Chicken Tikka Masala, Falafel and other Arabic food and Mexican food. I am enchanted by all kinds of cuisine. In the foods of the world I see reflected a people's culture, age-old traditions and more importantly love. Probably that is why the cooking of my grandmothers captivated me.

How would you describe yourself as a cook?

I am not that kind of cook who says, 'Let's create something new everyday'. My cooking is based on need and necessity. I am an artist in my own right. I get to paint the masterpiece while others have to repeat it everyday. (Laughs). Food for me is a tool. I remove myself from the emotional impact like cleaning a live crab. I was a vegetarian from 1982 to 1994 and stopped when I became a chef. Maybe in the distant future I will become a vegetarian again.

So have you learnt everything you wanted to know as a chef?

Impossible. No one can say they have reached a point where they don't need to learn anymore. For me I have reached a level in my work where no one wants to teach me. I find it difficult to get other well-known chefs to share their knowledge. So I have to get creative and draw on my experience eating street food, food cooked for me when I visit people's homes for a meal etc.

Tell us what you have been doing in Vietnam?

I have been living and working in Hanoi for twelve years. After much travel I ended up in Vietnam and was instantly smitten by the wealth of culinary ingredients, applications, combinations and most importantly street food. I worked in a number of popular restaurants. Finally some years ago I started a restaurant, as I wanted to present my own eclectic cutting edge concoctions of food and drink. Read

my book Wild, Wild East – recipes and Stories from Vietnam it tells all about the truly fascinating life that awaits all who arrive on its shores.

What was your first experience in Bali?

Some years ago when hosting my maiden program World Café Asia in Bali, everything went wrong in the sense that I was not used to being 'directed' and needed to walk and talk naturally. But the following programs panned out well once we all got into the rhythm.

What do you look forward to when you arrive in Bali?

Eating Betutu Bebek and satay and the sixty-minute Balinese massage that are unparalleled anywhere in the world, more importantly the Balinese who are experts in the hospitality field. I come here to relax and go back tired (laughs).

Any suggestions for the readers?

Yes buy my book from any Periplus bookshop. On page 160 is the recipe for my signature dish Tamarind-Glazed Crab Cake with Chive Flowers. Go for it, try making it yourself and if you stumble and mess it up, try again and again till you get it right, that is, if you are an aspiring chef. Otherwise give me a call and I'll drop by to cook it for you in return for a first class air ticket and stay at one of the luxurious suites at the Intercon (Laughs).

www.bobbychinn.com

Sections of this article appeared in my column Paradox in Paradise in The Bali Times



CASSANDRA

Contemporary society is unrelenting. It is like a juggernaut that often crushes individuality and smothers the voices of the meek, usually sidelining Nature's genetic goof-ups, like the Bencongs (girly boys) in Bali: Boys who at a young age suddenly find themselves confronted with the reality that they are in effect 'female trapped in male anatomy'. The memories of the growing up years imprison the hideous humiliation of being beaten by the boys in the school yard and shunned by the girls who viewed them as freaks of nature. They stumble through the labyrinth of social stigmas, ostracized by a society hell bent on maintaining a semblance of 'normality' (whatever this means). Cassandra, the Bencong who I had the privilege of meeting and interviewing, is a female in all respects except for the appendage of masculinity, preferred to be called a she and took umbrage every time I mistakenly addressed her as him.

Is Cassandra your real name?

No. But is it important what my name is? You ask me my name because you probably want to place me and know where I come from? Yes?

Yes.

Ok. I was born into a family of 3 girls and two boys in a village in Makassar. At the age of six I knew I was a girl. My parents reluctantly accepted my condition and often referred to me as their fourth daughter. They love me very much.

Where did you do your schooling?

In Makassar. In school I was taunted, beaten and my food stolen from me. Sometimes even the teachers treated me with disdain. I didn't want to study. I wanted to be an actress; to be beautiful and famous and loved by all men.

Did you complete your schooling?

Yes I did.

And then?

After that I worked in a beauty salon not far from home. I learned how to do pedicure, manicure and body massage. Many men and women customers would ask specially for me when they came to the shop. The customers were never rude and began tipping me generously. Once a customer gave me a tip of one dollar! I would give the extra money to my mother who would buy pretty things for me. It was at this time that a boy friend told me about the hormone tablets that were available to help me transit from male to female. I took them and still do take them. After sometime my body began changing and I grew breasts like a woman. Looking at myself in the mirror one day I realized I had become a woman. A few months later I got a job in Jakarta in a well known chain of beauty salons. It was the break I was looking for. My parents were sad to see me go but they were also happy, happy I was making my life as a woman.

How was life in Jakarta?

At first it was very difficult. My salary was not enough for

board and lodging. I had to find a boyfriend to support me. Many men came and went in my life. Some helped me others abused me mentally and physically. At one time I went through a phase where I hated all men. But after a year, I think, things got better. I was being paid a higher salary and I had made many friends with people like me (Bencongs). We would dress up and go out in groups to the malls and restaurants and enjoy life spending money and making love. This was the first time I felt truly liberated, truly free, a free woman.

Have you thought about a sex change operation?

Yes I thought about this but I don't feel it's necessary. An operation for my breasts would be okay. I believe in God and believe he made me like this for a reason. So why make the change?

What do you miss about Makassar?

Food! My favourite is Coto Makassar. It is a soup made of beef broth, ketupat (sticky rice) and vegetables.

What about clothes? Where do you buy them?

What are you asking? I go to shops that sell women's clothes, where else? You still don't understand, ya?

Tell us about your job in Bali? Have you found love?

I came to Bali a year or so ago to work in a beauty salon. Often customers would fall in love with me, spend private time with me and then return home to their country leaving me with gifts and sad feelings. Sometimes regular men mistake me for a woman and when we finally reach the point of intimacy and they realize I am not a complete woman, run away or just chase me out of their room. I don't mind. That's life. I am still waiting for a good decent man to settle down with.

Do you want to get married? And do you know India has become the 127th country to legalize same sex marriage?

Yes I want to get married and adopt children. But the laws in my country do not allow it. Maybe if you help me travel to India I can get married there!

Have you had any illness related to your sex life?

I always use protection so I have never had any problem. I am thankful to the Yayasan in Makassar that helps HIV/AIDS patients and also teaches everyone on how to live healthy lives. From my earnings I send money to my family and also to this Yayasan that is doing good work for my area.

Why do you like men?

Because I am a woman!

What is your favorite color?

Black and white – the color of my life.

If God gave you one wish, what would you ask for?

To be born a woman and to have children.





Bali is inundated with Yayasans (charities) ranging from free eye operations, education, recycling to animal shelters. A number of these Yayasans are doing stellar work and have made a positive impact on island life. One such organisation is Onedollarformusic, the brainchild of Raoul Thomas Augustine Maria Wijffels a Dutch national residing in Bali. When I first came across this organisation I assumed it was another scheme to make money off unsuspecting bleeding hearts with a conscience that continually beseeches them to 'contribute' to 'causes'. However, after meeting Raoul (who has over 20 years experience in music, arts, education and management including working as a teacher and music pedagogue at the Conservatories of Amsterdam, Utrecht and Rotterdam) and his Indonesian counterpart Rudolf Dethu, it became apparent that this is an organisation that has the potential of becoming a major force in the creative and economic development of young aspiring musicians across the Indonesian archipelago

What is onedollarformusic?, I asked Raoul

In 2007 I founded this Yayasan because I felt that the hidden and undeveloped musical skills in this country needed such an organisation to nurture it and bring it to maturity through a comprehensive...a holistic approach. But this could only be done by first learning the language, Indonesian, then forming a



legal entity so that all operations/accounts could be above board and finally involving the people of this nation...empowering them to seek expression through their compositions, lyrics and rhythms. One dollar for music is an insignificant amount for most people. However, each dollar adds up...each dollar does make a difference. Since its inception the Yayasan has been swamped by youngsters with immense talent eager to learn, create, compose, perform and even help with the mundane activities of the organisation. It has been slow but steady progress though hampered by insufficient funding. We need all the help we can get at the moment to maintain smooth operations.

Does your program help in preservation of the prevailing culture?

Music transcends all barriers. It is universal. It doesn't have a language. And more importantly preservation must have a development value to it. What is going wrong is that we tend to put a fence around culture, to preserve it like a museum...isolating it from being 'connected to the ebb and flow of life tides'. Free movement of ideas through music by the now generation helps in impregnating and giving birth to new trends and this directly impacts industry and the overall economy of a country, replied Raoul.

Then why do so many Indonesian musicians I have met still have a 'please excuse attitude' and are not aggressively promoting themselves. There appears to be a latent hesitation that defies logic. Why?

I agree there is some truth to your observation. Maybe this is because of the past political situation in the 60s and 70s that resulted in a form of oppressiveness, which infiltrated even the creative community. Things have changed dramatically and this country, Indonesia, is racing ahead to catch up with other nations in all spheres of development...not excluding the indigenous music. That is why our organisation is preparing a base on which these very talented artists can learn, grow and actually make a living from their music. Today we have a fast growing music industry, a free press and most importantly with the advent of (multi-lingual) social

networks like Facebook and Wordpress, Indonesia has become an integral part of village earth.

So what are your future plans?

Undiscovered artists that are out there across the nation need to be found and brought into the mainstream. And this can be achieved provided we have the resources to create a composite road show that criss-crosses the islands thereby coming into direct contact with budding musicians who can then be taken under our wing to be professionally trained in various musical instruments and as composers and lyricists. Also, a vacuum exists where an institute of music should be...a centre for professional excellence providing a wide range of courses for young Indonesian talent. All services should be free and supported by Indonesian and international organisations through funding from different agencies. And like art schools this centre can link up with similar institutes across the world thereby exposing local talent to international artists and becoming the gateway to endless possibilities for future development.

Rudolf, you are the Indonesian Chairman of the Yayasan, what are your views on the work the organisation is doing and is it effective?

As a country we have still to shake off the after effects of the Suharto regime. Yes, I agree things are much better but the psyche of the people still has to 'open up' to become more free. Therefore, I see how our young people, the now generation or should I say Jeaneration...still need to come out and express themselves...and what better way than to come to us and be able to develop their creative skills. Onedollarformusic has been instrumental in showcasing many such young people and some have composed, performed and recorded their musical compositions. They could not have done all this without us backing them. But we urgently need a large infusion of funds for the grass roots program that is to be implemented. Write to us and we will inform you how you can be of help.

What has been your contribution to the music scene? And your views of the prevailing market conditions for upcoming bands?

ONE DOLLAR FOR MUSIC

I have been associated with many well known Indo bands Navicula, Supermanis Dead and Suicidal Sinatra; Radio Oz Bali and other radios stations; and founder of Musikator - a directory of Indo bands with emphasis on Bali; Scribe for the Beat Magazine and more. Indo bands are not being protected and often their rights and privileges are non-existent. Our Yayasan must provide a kind of free legal aid to the nascent music industry. We must educate them on how they can seek protection under the IPR and negotiate contracts with recording companies; and more importantly how to prevent their compositions from copyright infringement. I know this sounds crazy because Indonesia is known for its pirated CD/DVDs! But we are growing up and becoming responsible...hahaha. Did you know that many popular pop Indo songs are being illegally used as ring tones for hand phones? The enormous revenue loss for the relevant bands is mind-boggling. This has to stop as it is killing the music industry. I think this is where Onedollarformusic comes in...we can provide back up in terms of legal aid as well as making representations to government and industry. Also we can play an important role in educating the young people on such matters that in the end affect us all.

Any suggestions on where the funding will come from?

What is more safe than music? It is not trying to make war. It is an artistic form of non-violent expression. Therefore, funding must come from organisations that don't have an agenda like religious or political. It should not have any strings attached. Of course it goes without saying that our operations and accounts are transparent and open to inspection by the respective donors. Funding from government and industry will be welcomed provided we are free to carry out our work without interference and/or subjective promotion of unqualified individuals.

But we should not forget the individual who donates the one-dollar. It is these individuals who are the true lovers of music and it their one dollar that has kept us going. Every dollar adds up.
www.onedollarformusic.com



“I want to learn.

I want to do further studies in a foreign university because I will learn much more and when I return I can get a better job, maybe in a government school, as the pay is very good. I could also be a professional translator – English/Indonesian/English for the tourism business.

Without better education, I will remain a nobody struggling to eat everyday.”

Putu

23 years old.

Balinese part time ‘English’ Schoolteacher, Ubud, earning US\$50 per month. She also does private tuitions for 4 students once a week for a total monthly fee of US\$ 12.00.

If you want to help this Balinese schoolteacher please email : liveencounters@gmail.com

Her educational qualifications

SMP (Sekolah Menengah Pratama – Junior High School – Class 7 to 9. Balinese taught only till Class 9.

SMA (Sekolah Menengah Atas) Senior High School – Class 10 to 12

SPD Maha Saraswati University, Denpasar, Bali. 3 yrs 6 mths. Strata 1. Studied English. No books only lectures. However, one could photocopy books, as the books are expensive. The university has a library.

“This was the expenditure incurred by my parents when I was in school. My three siblings are school going.

A. Tuition fees per month US\$3.50 pm x 12 months =US\$42.00
Two sets of books US\$ 20.00 per annum =US\$20.00
Uniforms 3 different colours– 3 x US\$ 3.50 =US\$10.50
Private Tuition per month US\$ 5.00 x 12 months =US\$60.00
Sundry expenses e.g. school sports day etc. =US\$25.00

Total Average Cost per child p.a. = US\$157.50

B. Total per year for 1 brother/2 sisters/self
4 x 157.50 =US\$ 630.00. This does not include transport, food at school, medical, misc.

C. Both parents are teachers each earning approx. US\$200 per month 2 x US\$200 x 12 months
=US\$ 2400.00

D. Deduct Education for children

(C) US\$2400 (B) \$ 630.00 = US\$1770.00

Balance in hand for household expenses – food, transport, medical, ceremonies, clothes for 6 members of the family for one year.

This averages US\$25/per member per month/ and per day =US\$ 00.83

The monthly deficit works usually out to around \$150/- and sometimes more when ceremonies/ festivals/accidents/illnesses occur.

This was the situation when I completed my schooling. Now it is much harder as basic living costs have risen, for example the price of food.

I don’t want to get married now; maybe in another five years. I will continue to contribute to family expenses as my parents have educated me. They believe that without education one cannot go forward in life.

And yes I will marry a Balinese.”

ADIB HIDAYAT

MANAGING EDITOR, ROLLINGSTONE MAGAZINE, JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Could you give the readers a glimpse of your life/work?

I love music: collecting vinyl records and CDs of local Indonesian music to metal, jazz, world music, alternative, blues and rock. I have worked for around 11 years as a journalist covering all aspects of the music world. After that I did a stint for a year in a *record* company; and written biographies of musicians and books on the history of music. Also, I am the proud father of two beautiful girls, Jemima and Jasmeena – Big J and Lil J !

What is the role of RollingStone magazine in Indonesia? How does it help upcoming artists?

RollingStone magazine (Indonesia) is the No.1 music magazine in this country. Its role is to give hitherto little known information about music trends and to showcase Indonesian bands/artists. It assists in promoting upcoming bands by publicizing them in the magazines pages and offering music education and music biz info to the urbanites who are of the affluent hip crowd that love art, music and hidup manis (sweet life).

What are the various Indonesian music genres and what is the most popular at the moment, and the best selling bands/songs?

Pop music of any kind is still No.1. The best selling bands/songs, I think, were in the 1990s and the first five years of the millennium when bands like Sheila On 7, Padi, Jamrud and Dewa 19 sold more than a million copies each. We term these bands 'million copies' bands'. But with the advent of music being digitalized, the superstars have lost a great deal.

Presently, Indonesians buy music with RBT (ring back tone). It works like this – one can buy a 30 second cut from the 'refrain' of a song or an intro from the song. The price tag varies around US\$ 1. It is used as a ring tone and can be uploaded onto a hand phone. The best selling song right now is 'Baik-Baik Sayang' by the band Wali. Sales figures for the last three months have been 15 million RBT !

What is your opinion on the state of IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) and how do Indonesian Bands producing original tracks protect themselves from piracy?

Piracy is not only confined to Indonesia, it is endemic worldwide. Admittedly this country is famous for its pirated CDs, but if we look at other countries like USA, UK or Europe they too have a problem and this is related to the digital world. Anyone can search the Internet and download music illegally without paying anything. Music firms, musicians and government must join hands and close down file sharing Internet sites. One should consider Paul McGuiness's (manager of the band U2) suggestions made at the MIDEM conference last year.

Is there money to be made in the music business? And are businesses houses coming forward to finance upcoming and established bands?

Yes. In this digital era much can be achieved and earned. In Indonesia, telecommunication companies are coming forward to support local talent. The reality is that Bands need Brands... established Brands. I think this collaboration is mutually beneficial. Bands need Brands and vice versa for marketing their products to the 'now' generation.

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What is your opinion about organizations like OneDollarForMusic? Do they actually help struggling artists? And are there any success stories?

I think OneDollarForMusic is a good idea. But to implement this idea and take it to an effective level needs a national campaign, big budget and continuous promotion to get the message across this country of over 250 million people and two time zones. The problem lies in the fragmented state of the numerous music promoters, both commercial and social organizations. There is no cohesive effort. Everyone has different agendas.

What is the prevalent situation as regards to legally accessing/downloading digital music in Asia? And how can Indonesian music industry be protected?

Our government must create laws and enforce the same to protect our music industry because in this digital era there are no borders!

At MIDEM 2010, speaker Mathew Daniel, Vice President of a China based digital music distributor highlighted the plight of Asian music consumers who are barred from legally accessing/paying for/and downloading music from iTunes, Amazon or Spotify even though the sales of MP3 players and iPods run into millions of pieces. He termed this action as incomprehensible and ‘music apartheid’.

As we move into a new decade and leave the last one behind, we see yet another year of unfulfilled opportunities gone by in the Asian market (references to Asia generally exclude Japan, Korea and Australia). For too long, Asian music consumers have been neglected and not been given fair access to music. Instead, discussions on music consumption in Asia are usually in the context of piracy and Asian music consumers are often arbitrarily labelled as the stewards of said piracy. It is inexplicable that in this digital age, legal access to music across large swathes of Asia is non-existent.

With the lack of fair and convenient access, it is no wonder that Asia’s music consumers have had to resort to file-sharing networks to obtain their music. China, despite the huge levels of piracy - in an ironic twist of circumstance and partly due to efforts to curb piracy - has recently been infused with one of the largest quantities of legal full-length music available to consumers in Asia via Google China and Wa3.cn; with the caveat that it is still an experiment in progress with other variables at play that will influence the final outcome. In the meantime, the rest of Asia’s consumers would be justified in wondering if indulging in excessive piracy is the only route by which they too will be offered legal access to music.

Instead, Asian consumers who want to do the right thing have often been subjected to music apartheid in their futile attempts to purchase music legally. Consumers do not understand the music industry’s self-imposed borders and complex self-righteous rights controls in this digital age that they see as ultimately serving only to impede the access of legal music to their shores.

Does the tobacco industry finance many music events/bands etc.?

Yes. But now, telecommunications companies also finance many events/bands in Indonesia.

Do you see Indo music going to Bollywood and Hollywood?

Bollywood? Maybe one day. But to US and other countries, yes, they have been and are continuing to tour. The bands and musicians that have toured abroad are: Sandy Sondhoro (Russia & Germany), Dira

(UK), Suarasama (UK, Europe, US), The Temper Trap (UK & Australia), Ghost of A Thousand (UK), Discus (Europe, US, UK), Simak Dialog (UK, US, Europe), Anggun (France).

What suggestions do you have for the music industry and how can it prevent piracy?

Selling music with subscription on a mass scale potentially solves almost every problem the music business faces. It kills piracy – with the death of ownership comes the death of theft – and injects a fresh flow of cash into an industry whose profits have been ripped down to zero and beyond by a generation of freetards. I don’t think that’s too naïve a hope. But ultimately it’s not about fuzzy abstractions like the ‘state of the industry’. It’s about us as listeners, and the value we place on creativity. We need to make a decision - do we care about music enough to pay for it?

What message do you have for the international readers of Live encounters?

We should follow the principle of ‘to enlighten and lighten up’ – in a way similar to ‘inform, inspire and rock n’ roll’. The fact is music is an art form that needs to be protected just like any other art form. And this can only be done if we all join hands to protect it from piracy, unscrupulous business and government interference.

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THE SHAMAN



There comes a time in life when one is confronted with diversities that addles the brain and confuses the inbuilt compass that is the guide for navigating the Seen and Unseen. Here in Bali many among us have tasted the bitterness of reality that ambushes us time and again - loss of wealth, loss of self respect, a gut wrenching loss of a partner and more. In this despair we seek to rejuvenate our spirit through prayer and meetings with holy men.

The following is the portrait of a Balinese holy man who is a beacon for lost souls. The writer had the privilege and honor to meet him in person to pick his brain and inscribe for posterity his life. No amount of verbosity can aptly describe this truly remarkable man; therefore one has resorted to brevity.

He has been a shaman for the last 12 years.

About 12 years ago he was afflicted by an illness that sapped his energy and drew him close to death. It was 'diagnosed' by a shaman in his family that a 'Taksu' (spirit) had set up home in his body and was forcing him to renounce the life of a 'normal' person and to become a shaman. The 'Taksu' residing in him is the son of the God of Lempuyang temple, Dewa Rambut Sudana. The shaman continues to recharge his energy by visiting many holy places with offerings. In return the spirits residing at these holy places honor the shaman by bestowing on him spiritual energy.

However, even though he has been granted the powers to 'cure' and 'guide' people with various ailments including heartbreak he cannot demand a fee but has to rely solely on their generosity. The shaman can only become rich, in a manner of speaking, in mind and body.

He meditates and performs rituals every 15 days - Full Moon (Purnama) and Dark Moon (Tilem). These rituals are performed at twilight (Santi Kala). On these auspicious days he does not shower and eats only white rice cooked by his wife at home.

For the last 12 years he has not had a haircut. The shaman's matted tresses which is meters long is tied up and covered with a cloth. He believes that cutting and shaping his hair would bring sickness to his body. Also, it is a sign of shedding the 'ego' and the 'no shower routine' is seen as giving up worldly pleasures in service to the spirit world and God.

The land that his humble dwelling is built on has been 'loaned' to him without any charge like rent etc. If the land is sold by the present owner then the shaman and his family (wife and five small children) will move somewhere else. He is confident the villagers will give him another place to reside. The shaman and his family live at the mercy of the spiritual and material elements like the generosity of villagers and visitors who bring food and drink.

Some of the 'usual' requests made by visitors:

Foreigners – How or will they ever meet the right partner and/or a solution to failed/ing relationships.

Balinese – A cure for ailments, solutions to family problems and guidance on how to change one's life for the better.

Matur Suksama

The Shaman of Culik with son Nyoman





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