UNCOVERED!

Calista Flockhart
Matt Damon

WE PRY INTO THE PRIVATE WORLD OF LAWRENCE CHAU

MR SHOWBUZZ!

WIN!

TIX TO SAMMI CHENG GIG & SCREAM 2
RAY OF LIGHT CDs

FREE!

LEVI'S TRANSITLINK CARDS

EXPOSED!

X-FILES: THE MOVIE
Star faves

Lawrence Chau

PHOTO: SIMON SIM

Host, Showbuzz

FAVOURITE MOVIE: Dead Poet's Society, for giving us carpe diem, or 'seize the day,' a motto that matters.

TV SHOW: Friends because art imitates life, doesn't it?

CD: Take Me Higher. It's Miss Ross at her funky, sensual and soulful best.

METHOD OF KEEPING FIT: The TCS Diet: the schedule is bound to make you lose a pound per week.

WAY TO SPEND THE WEEKEND: Dining and dishing the laughs with me nutty buddies.

PLACE IN SINGAPORE TO TAKE A GUEST: into the nostalgia and romance of Raffles Hotel.

HOLIDAY DESTINATION: London. Just love 'em '80s icons — Culture Club, Bananarama, Eurythmics, Wham!

NIGHTSPOT: Friday nights at Zouk/Velvet Underground. Babes, booze (a bit, lah!) and a beat that goes on!

FOOD: Roast turkey, for legs and a breast you can eat! Mmmm!

SNACK: Fried chicken wings are heavenly.

BEVERAGE: Diet Coke, 'cos it's sweet and bubbly without the calories.

RESTAURANT: Stars before it closed. The name said it all.

SUPERMARKET: Cold Storage — it's an allusion to my love life.

GET-UP: Shorts and a t-shirt off air; slick suit on air.

SHOP: Ikea. It's neat, nifty and not too expensive.

BOOK: Berry Gordy: To Be Loved. The magic, music and memories of Motown by its legendary mogul.

MAGAZINE: Billboard for the chart action and music trivia.

ACTOR: Michelle Pfeiffer. 'M' for multi and 'P' for faceted.

DESIGNER: Theirry Mugler, who boldly goes where no man has gone before.

PERSON: Not me, that's for sure — too neurotic for my own taste!
THE HOST WITH THE MOST

I also like independent, intelligent women — conservative, clingy, temperamental types make me shiver. She must be a music and movie lover and have a psychotic sense of humour. (Looks like I’m sailing the solo stream for a while, huh?)

Which women do you admire?
Madonna for her audacity and ambition. Michelle Yeoh for being the fighter that she is and Diana Ross for her supreme talent and longevity.

What makes you laugh?
Mr Bean, Friends and Seinfeld. Also Whitney Houston’s wigs and Barbra Streisand’s dresses (I heard she went mental with Yentl). I love crude jokes and people with a bitchy sense of humour.

What’s missing in your life right now?
Time! To relax, go to the gym, be with friends, and time to not only find but be with a second half! A roommate, dog and a BMW wouldn’t hurt either!

What would you change in this world?
My drapes! No seriously, ignorance — the root of all evil — from racism and sexism to greed and cruelty.

Define success.
Success equals happiness which means good health and loving relationships with loved ones.

ADMIT it, Lawrence Chau is the best thing for Showbuzz since Lauretta ditched her fake lashes. So who better to interview him than roving reporter Lawrence Chau himself?

What qualities should your soulmate have?
I’m a man of aesthetics. Someone tall, gorgeous and slim with long hair who can mirror the complicated Gemini in me and balance contradictions like being romantic but not overly sentimental, sophisticated not snotty and committed but not possessive.

“I WORK AND WORRY TOO MUCH.”
Flash News:
Lawrence at the time of the interview had just been inducted into the OMEGA International Celebrities Club, alongside TCS stars Irin Gan and James Lye.

“In school, I organized dance functions, knew ahead of time what music to play and basically had a great time. You could call me a trendsetter then, but not a rebel to the extreme that I coloured my hair green!”

Age Forever 26! (Am I under oath here?)
University Ryerson Polytechnical University — Toronto, Canada (Journalism major: psychology minor)
Ideal Girlfriend A female version of me(?)! (This has nothing to do with ego or vanity. I’m just a complicated Gemini you see — and who better to gel with me than someone like myself?)
Teen Idols George Michael, Madonna, Andy Lau, Anita, too many to mention!
Fear Loneliness (and seeing Whoopi Goldberg naked)
Pets None, but I loooovee dogs (Golden Labrador, Heeler, & “Fang”, my best friend’s Scottish White Highland “Dakos”)!
Fave Pastime Chilling with friends (dancing, 80’s house parties, etc.)
Fav Music Soul & Dance
SHOWBUZZ WEEKEND

THE HOTTEST IN ENTERTAINMENT, NOW ON WEEKENDS TOO!

It's happening! Everyone knows about it, so don't get left out! Showbuzz Weekend not only fills you in on the latest, the hottest, and the juiciest, it often gives you the scoop before everyone else. So, perk up your ears!

Sensational items, feature stories, the hottest events in town, famous studio guests, and much more await you in this half-hour weekend edition! Don't miss Showbuzz Weekend and you won't miss out!

BEGINNING 18 JULY, EVERY SATURDAY, 8PM
LOZ Soul

Andy Kwan catches up with celebrity Lawrence Chau, who has recently released his own EP.
The Morning After

LAWRENCE CHAU, mid-20s, host of Showbuzz

"Lately I've been getting into the ritual of going to the gym, so I try to wake up at 6am. I'm either a very early morning or very late morning person. I very seldom watch TV in the morning. It's usually rush, rush, rush — I usually brush, shower, have a quick breakfast and then go."

Lawrence wears silk pyjamas by Lorenzini at The Link Men ($999)
IT'S CHAU TIME!

TO MANY FANS, LAWRENCE CHAU LOOKS GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT. JUST WHAT MAKES HIM SO DISHY? OVER TEA AND DIGESTIVES, ANGELA LEE CHECKS OUT THE RECIPE TO MR SHOWBUZZ'S APPEAL.
THE LAWRENCE & LAURETTA TRAVELLING SHOW
Laurette Lawrence

Star Trackers

They’re the glamour guns with the mission most enviable—jetting around the globe to bring showbiz’s most celebrated into Singapore’s living rooms week after week. PENÉLOPE CHAN touches base with the Showbuzz frontliners on home turf.

There’s a shower of meteors hurtling through the air. And it’s heated my way. At least that’s how the tension in this room feels.

So palpable it is, so tangible does it seem you could almost reach out and shield yourself from the impact. A sort of humming now vibrates off the walls, the air is static blue, so charged it could be shivered apart.

Before us muses both Laurette Aldous and Lawrence Chan. I have...
We want Lawrence Chau

BY HAZEL TAN

He's good looking. He presents well. He has got the whole town talking. And most people want him.

He is Lawrence Chau, Showbuzz's stand-in presenter who gives his age as "somewhere between 25 and 30".

This was the consensus of 31 New Paper readers who either called HotlinePlus or faxed us in the past week.

Only two asked for Ray Liu to stay on. Ray, 23, was supposed to take over from James Lye.

But Ray disappeared from the screen four Wednesdays ago, after appearing only three times.

He said he had to go home to Hongkong to settle some urgent personal matters. He is expected back by May 23.

But it seems most viewers, judging by the response, don't care if Ray's returning or not. They want Lawrence to stay.

Their complaints about Ray: He's stiff, unnatural, tries too hard to please, and his British-accented English is difficult to understand.

TCS has a good find. If Lawrence is good, why keep him at the back? It's such a waste! Ray looks athletic, maybe he can do some sports programme. Lawrence is so natural ... he's got charisma, the X-factor.

— Drama teacher Tony Quek, 40

Lawrence is very spontaneous. He's lively. He makes the show interesting. Ray's eyes look so small on screen. They look like they are closed! He said he's working on his British accent, and trying to speak like us, but he's making it worse. It's even more difficult to understand.

— Ms Goh Hui Yee, 26, unemployed

Lawrence is definitely better than Ray. I like his accent. It's pretty easy to understand, and is appealing. Ray sounds fake. He tries to act natural, and tries too hard to please.

— Student Soh Yi Qian, 14

Ray looks more like a model, not a presenter. He's got a wild look. He should just stick to his own line, be a model.

— Administrative assistant Faradilah Ibrahim, 21
He does more than 'just sit there'

By Hazel Tan

HE is not merely a compere. Lawrence also produces and edits his own stories on Showbuzz. "The public doesn’t really know that I’m also a producer, I craft my own stories, edit it and script it."

He said most people see him as “someone who comes in, dresses up in a suit and sits in front of the screen for an hour, reading the prompter”.

The questions he asks when he interviews are all scripted by him, Lawrence said.

Examples: The recent interviews with Fann Wong (aired on June 4) and Wong Li-lin (aired June 18).

Lawrence said there are no boundaries drawn where his reporting work is concerned, although Showbuzz is supposedly a TCS promotional vehicle.

“So far, no. No one has come to me and said you have to follow this guidebook.”

Does he feel that Showbuzz has become a platform for TCS artistes to seek recourse?

“No, from the comments I had from Wong Li-lin and Fann Wong, they were a bit surprised that we would ask such probing and hard hitting questions because they didn’t expect it ... They were a bit stunned but we try to come across as credible.”

So, which does he enjoy more, working behind the scenes or in front of the camera? “I like both ... and am happy doing both ... It’s only been three months. It’s too early to make a decision. The flowers just began to bloom, it’s too early to pluck them and plant them somewhere else,” he said with a laugh.

ON ACTING

It’s not something I am actively pursuing now, but if those opportunities arise, I’ll consider them.

ON HIS FUTURE

I’m happy doing Showbuzz now. That’s my focus in the meantime. But I’ll explore as many mediums as I can, should opportunities arise. I keep my doors open.

ON HIS AGE

Huh, the inevitable question. The question I never answer. I can look old and I can look mature so I intended not to divulge my age because I didn’t want to be pigeon-holed by a certain age. I’ll keep it that way for a while.

HOLIDAY OFFER HE TOOK UP

LAWRENCE first visited Singapore last November while on holiday.

He met some people in the TV industry and was offered a job on Showbuzz. So he left his part-time presenting job at Hongkong TV station TVB. He has also worked in public relations.

Lawrence joined Showbuzz in April. He was in Hongkong for five years.
BOY FRIENDS!
WE GET A GRIP ON THE GUYS FROM TV'S SEXIEST SITCOM!
Showbuzz's new roving reporter loves to watch the stars, in more ways than one. MING RODRIGUES catches him in relaxed mode.

photos: LILEH UY
styling: LIONEL FONG

A laughing fit in the middle of a photo shoot is as taboo as stuffing up on candy before that dental appointment. Lucky for Lawrence Chau, that hangar-in-the-mouth look was just what the camera wanted.

"I'm sorry! So sorry! I don't know what's... (giggle) gotten into... (giggle) me (giggle)!

His face glows with a mixture of embarrassment and dilated capillaries and his hands dart to his mouth, as if to wipe away the toothier-than-James Lye grin.

Maybe the heat and humidity's finally getting the better of this Toronto native. Maybe it's the cleansing buzz from the puritan burger he has just inhaled for lunch ("Hold the cheese and onions... oh, and a glass of skimmed milk please!"). We figure it's a cathartic response to the past month.

Make that two months. Truth is, it's been one Big Blur for Chau since February. He "fell in love" with Singapore on a visit early this year ("It's the Asian Santa Monica") and by the end of his stay, managed to network his way into TCS and land the roving reporter spot on Showbuzz. Never mind that back in Hongkong where he's been for the last five years, Chau was already straddling a rising dual career in public relations and part-time presenting with TVB. His rationale: "I'm impulsive like that!" Chau's snap decision meant he had to work right up till the time he left, and with little pre-planning, he's been living out of a suitcase since arriving, scouting from temporary asylum at a friend's place, to work, to scouting for an apartment.

Despite his ulcer-inducing schedule, the pressing concern for Chau now appears to be the lack of time for the gym. "I've lost four pounds already... I used to have a chest," he grins wryly. "But you know, I thrive on the exhaustion and excitement... that's entertainment!"

When a person alternately regales you with lines from a movie ("Get away from her, you bitch!") That's from
he's a natural
Ming Rodrigues' interview with Lawrence Chau (issue 344) confirms the Showbuzz reporter as a charming, intelligent man who is a natural in front of and behind the camera — an asset to any programme.
I'm sure many viewers

waist not, want not
I was very happy to read Daniel Goh's account (#343) of the goings-on behind Star Search '97. As to Florence Tan putting on weight, didn't she reign Miss Universe also put on some weight? In an age of waifs and anorexics, a little weight means nothing. Only that it makes a 'bigger' impression on viewers. Actors should only be judged on their acting skills, not their dress size.

SIZE 14 chiffre ave

wake up to lisa ang
With Anita Kwan vacating her post as AM Singapore's anchor, who will be the next female anchor? Has TCS considered Lisa Ang, who used to host Hey Singapore? I feel she possesses a certain charisma and poise that would do justice to the morning programme. Aside from her, I really cannot see anyone else who could be more appropriate for the job.

My congratulations to TCS for producing AM Singapore. I'm addicted to the show and proud to admit it. Bring us Lisa Ang and make me an even happier man!

KAY
pcgkoy@cyberway.com.sg

This letter wins a Solvil et Titus watch

It's Time you talked to us and won this great Solvil et Titus watch. You may use a pseudonym but please include your name, age, address, I/C and phone numbers. Letters may be edited for clarity and length. Write us via the internet: in8days@pacific.net.sg; fax: 272-4911 or snail mail: The Letters Page, 8 DAYS, #19-01/06 Tong Bahru Plaza, Singapore 168730. Best letter each week wins!
I must admit that her sex appeal, Lauretta Alabons, had the dual appeal of a spunky teen vixen layered with the glamour of a beauty queen. As for Lawrence Chow, his guy-next-door look (beige cotton pants, plain shirt and simple hair cut) should ensure that he blends in with the Orchard Road crowds. But no, people come in packs, even pairs, walk by and stare, point, and then come back five minutes later yelling, ‘love your show, guy!’ Meet Showbuzz standouts, Lauretta and Lawrence who made us do double takes for this issue’s Looking Good.

LAWRENCE CHOW, 1.76 m.
24 - 32 (my age lies between this), Gemini, Producer and Presenter.

GB: Describe yourself.

LC: Fun, friendly and multifaceted. A man with many moods and talents - a true Gemini.

GB: Which of the 7 deadly sins are you guilty of?

LC: What are the 7 deadly sins? Shopping? Binging on french fries, chicken wings and pizza?

GB: What’s next on your dance card after showbiz?

LC: Dancing? No, seriously I have no idea. I think I’ll always be linked to entertainment i.e. music, acting, directing and screen writing.
Making A Star Sparkling Presence

An entertainment programme sizzles literally when a star drops by the studio to make a guest appearance. And more so when the star shares the limelight as co-host.

Despite his hectic schedule, Andy Lau made it for his recording on time, shaving off his stubble minutes before.

Karen Mok co-hosted the half-hour show with Chau. As the Hong Kong singer-actresses and Chau were already friends way back in the early 90s, they were totally at ease with each other and a refreshing breeziness shone through.

“...was indeed a thrill to co-host the show with Karen. And didn’t she come all prepared wearing those casual jeans and sneakers?” laughed Chau.

Of course not all presenters can claim to be chums with their co-hosts. But the star power of a co-host can help to boost the ratings of an entertainment show too. Over at Channel 8, Zoe Tay, Fann Wong, Chen Liping, Chew Chor Meng, Christopher Lee and foreign artists like Chen Lei were roped in to co-host Entertainment Beat with the resident comperes Guo Liang and Darren Lim. The episode with The Queen of Caldecott as co-host skyrocketed and reached an all-time high rating of 21% (676,800 viewers).

At the end of the day, viewers are always looking for something new and refreshing. What is going to hold an entertainment programme like Showbuzz and Entertainment Beat is content of the show plus the wit and spontaneity of the presenters. And yes, the “accidental” presence of a star celebrity.

it seemed just like another normal recording Tuesday for the Showbuzz team at Studio 5. Lawrence Chau and Lauretta Alabons, the two hosts of the popular Channel 5 entertainment programme, had just finished reading some parts of their links from the autocue machine while the cameramen and floor manager stood by patiently, as if anticipating something. Then the usually chilly Studio 5 lit up as a familiar face was ushered in. Though dressed in a simple white shirt and blue jeans, there was no mistaking the heavenly presence of this studio guest, partly accentuated by the number in the entourage trailing behind him. Looking radiant despite a tight schedule, Andy Lau had shown up for his studio recording with Showbuzz on time. But obviously, the busy man had no time to shave since he touched down from his flight. After clearing the stubble around his chin with an electric shaver right in front of the amused production crew, the scrubbed actor was ready for Chau, the ever probing interviewer, to shoot his questions. It was a short and sharp interview with Lau talking about his latest album and his future plans. Nothing really special as some cynics might say. It makes no real difference whether the interview is conducted inside or outside the studio. The fact is, the actual presence of a guest in the studio breaks the monotony of the show as it creates a greater sense of intimacy. And it certainly does not happen everyday that a superstar like Lau comes to this part of the world.

Ganesh Rajaram, editor of Showbuzz, told SITP, “We always make a conscious effort to touch base with the recording and movie companies about the schedules of their artistses. But it’s really a matter of fortune when the schedule of an artiste such as Andy Lau fits with ours.”

Lawrence Chau, sounding every inch like a hospitable host, enjoys having celebrity guests in the studio.

“It is wonderful to have guests in the studios because they add a spark to the show. And for the hosts, it is a good challenge of our presentation and verbal skills as we are required to think and react faster on the spot,” said Chau.

Some of the guests who have dropped by the Showbuzz studio include the two funny families of Under One Roof and PCK. The most recent guest of Showbuzz Weekend (the Saturday edition of Showbuzz) was British soulster Connor Reeves who actually read the aura of Chau and that of the production crew. Who would have guessed that a studio guest could give more than just a standard update on his or her professional and private well-being?

But what really injects life into a studio recording is when a celebrity co-hosts the show with the resident presenter - and the chemistry between them is simply heartwarming. Some of you might have caught one recent episode of Showbuzz Weekend where
1997 REMEMBERING

STARS WE LOVE ★ CELEB HIGHS & LOWS ★ BEST & WORST OF TV, MOVIES & MUSIC ★ OBJECTS OF DESIRE ★ QUOTES OF THE YEAR

WONDER BOY
How do we love our fave Shaw Brothers hero? Let us spell it out.

Lips — his growing legion of female fans think they’re infectious
Adorable — check out his modelling days in Hong Kong (see right).
More pucker than Zoe & Fion’s put together.

Wacky — after working hours, we hear
Rambunctious — just joking

Eternal — his youthfulness
Natural — unlike Ray

Canadian accent — it’s not bogus
Expert — in entertainment trivia

Compatible — with co-host Lorraine
Handsome — does double duty as producer
Age — which he refuses to divulge
Unattached — we hope, Angela Lee
FLAME AWARDS '97

WINNERS

YOU have decided. After over 10,000 phone calls to our voting line, Babe of the Year Zoe Tay retained her crown, but her margin of victory was not as comfortable this year.

And amidst the controversy during the voting stages about whether or not Zoe's too old to be a babe, Babe No. 2 surprised us by coming in just 323 votes behind Zoe.

And she isn't even Fann. Find out who she is on Page 54.

Last year's Dude of the Year, Chew Chor Meng, still doesn't know what dude means, but kept his title anyway.

We'll attach a dictionary definition of "dude" to his trophy for his benefit.

Showbuzz host Lawrence Chau was a runaway winner of the New Flame of the Year title, and he must be overjoyed — although the Television Corporation of Singapore won't let him say that. Not to us, anyway.

And we're quite sorry that last year's Turn-Off of the Year, Benedict Goh, continued to turn you off this year.

We didn't speak to Ben, but interviewed someone who is perhaps not as sorry as she is relieved.

In the Hit of the Year category, Phua Chu Kang beat Growing Up for the title. The Mandarin serial Love in a Foreign City should be banished someplace far away — you voted it Dud of the Year.

Wong Li-Lin's resignation was the Shock of the Year. We hope no-one dialed triple nine by accident while voting in this category.

Zoe Tay = 2,067 votes

Chew Chor Meng = 2,664 votes

Benedict Goh = 3,105 votes

Lawrence Chau = 4,335 votes

Love in a Foreign City = 3,048 votes

AM Singapore = 2,068
Three Rooms = 1,668
Starting Point = 871

Wong Li-Lin quitting = 3,198 votes

Fann Wong's suspension = 1,652
Li Nanxing's drink driving = 1,344
Star Awards fashion statement = 989
Cassandra See's fall at President's Star Charity = 472

IT'S NOT BAD BEING 2nd/See inside
NEW FLAME OF THE YEAR

1. Lawrence Chau
(Showbuzz)
He asks intelligent questions and has an inoffensive accent.
But best of all, he overshadows Lauretta Alabons so much we don’t notice her fake eyelashes enough for them to irritate us anymore.

2. Jerry Chang (Star Search winner)
A star with so much charm and good looks, he’s just waiting to burst into the limelight.
We haven’t even seen him act and he is already being chased around the world by reporters, female fans and a certain former TCS actress.

3. Sheik Haikel (Three Rooms)
Okay, so he doesn’t have a great bod, or a great face for that matter.
But the guy is funny.
Also, check out that hair.
And have you watched him dance?

4. Irene Ang (Phua Chu Kang)
She is so “ah soh”, you can die.
Gold jewellery, loud Chanel-esque blouses, coiffed hair and her kaypoh “auntie” accent —

Irene Ang: *She’s so “ah soh”.

no wonder Phua Chu Kang fell in lurve with her.

- Last year’s winner: Andrew Seow
It's my first piece for 8 DAYS and they ask me to write about food!

Er, hello, I'm an entertainer, not a gourmet!

Naturally, my self-conscious ego read into the subtext of this request and I came to the conclusion that some editor probably deems me fat after enjoying a year's break from showbiz. Whatever!

Let's get cooking.

I must confess I'm rather ambivalent about food. Half the time, I think it's a distraction.

Really, who has time to eat when you've got interviews to do, scripts to write, stories to edit, calls to return, meetings to attend and a show to air with the clock ticking?

Missed meals and late lunches wreak havoc on my health in the form of hypoglycemia, hence my need to chow down every four hours. Bread, anybody? How about some fruits? Alright then, bring out the nuts (pun intended).

I find myself infatuated with food, whether it be saintly health-conscious cuisine or sinful snacks.

Let's take the latter first.

I admit it: I am, on rare occasion, a sucker for chicken wings, fries, chips, pizza, cookies, sweets and pretty well anything battered, breaded and fried. Luckily, Mr Willpower kicked in over the past few weeks and gave me the upper hand in grappling with my love handles.

That leads me to my next revelation: my fetish for health food. Call it vanity or sanity, but yes, I do love my greens and Lean Cuisine. No fatty meats, laksa, Mayo, cheese, creamy sauces or desserts for this guy, thank you very much. I'm not like my friends Keagan Kang or Pierre Png. They can eat all the junk in the world and never gain an inch. Unfortunately, it's such a bitch finding healthy fast food in this town, let alone preparing it. Let's face it, skinning chicken and washing your own lettuce just isn't happening.

You got it. I hate cooking. No time. No patience.

In penning this essay, I've come to realise that eating habits reflect fluctuating emotional states. I'm a perfect example of that. I binge on junk food when I'm depressed or stressed; at other times the appetite takes a hike. Conversely, I might find myself piggling out in fits of joy or relaxation.

And for the record, I never stick the ol' finger down the throat afterwards. Those types belong in another psychological category altogether.

Seriously though, I do believe that one's dietary pendulum reaches an equilibrium when one's life is at an equilibrium. When the schedule is not too tight, when everything seems balanced and in control, I'm usually in control of my diet. Food is like sex.

It's enticing, it's tantalising, it's filling (or, fulfilling?). It can be fast, or slow, it's as good in the morning as it is at night, and the good stuff often requires a lot of preparation. It can also be dangerous.

My advice?

Indulge moderately and you'll be fine.
Charlie Chaplin of the nineties. The very man whose ‘silent ways’ shot him to worldwide fame and recognition. Rubber-faced Rowan Atkinson meets Lawrence Chau in Sydney and talks about Mr Bean’s first movie ever, ‘Bean: The Ultimate Disaster Movie’

27 Aug, Wed, 8.30pm
NEW TIME SLOT

SHOWBUZZ

Catch Showbuzz at an all new time slot of 8.00pm. This week, Lauretta gets ‘Moore’ out of Demi and Lawrence spices things up with the Spice Girls. Showbuzz also catches up with Faye Wong. Check them out!

22 Oct, Wed, 8.00pm (New time slot)
Gearing Up For the Second Asian Television Awards

Since its inaugural award ceremony held last year in Singapore, the Asian Television Awards has become a much anticipated event in the regional television industry where talents across Asia converge to recognise the best of television and programming in this region. The second Asian Television Awards is scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur this December. With 150 major broadcasters and independent production houses from the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Pakistan, India, Korea, China and Singapore submitting more than 650 entries for over 25 programming and performance categories, this year’s event looks set to be a grand and exciting affair.

Having swept several major awards including the prestigious Broadcaster of the Year Award for being prolific in local productions while maintaining a high standard of production at last year’s Asian Television Awards, many eyes are naturally on how TCS will fare this time around. TCS has submitted a total of 97 entries in over 20 categories. These include The Best Magazine Programme Award as represented by Showbuzz, Wheel Power, Things People Do and In Generation and the Best Drama Award with serials like Growing Up, A Different Life and Triple Nine. Zoe Tay, Fann Wong, Wee Soon Hui, James Lye, Xie Shaohuang and Li Nanxing are some of the drama artistes vying for a nomination in the Best Performance by an Actress and an Actor in a Leading Role categories respectively. With the organisers separating the previous news and current affairs presenter categories into Best News Presenter or Anchor and Best Current Affairs or Magazine Programme Presenter categories, Pek Siok Lian, Ida Bachtiar, Sonny Lim, Christine Tan and Lawrence Chau, Lisa Ang and Wang Yanqing of Good Morning, Singapore will be in the running for these two categories.

TCS believes that each selected entry deserves

Disneyland In Singapore

It was a magical night for the kids and the young at heart! Mickey Mouse and his gang of Disney friends entertained some 1,700 friends and staff of TCS on Friday, October 17th. They spent the enchanted evening with Mickey Mouse, Snow White, Goofy, The Lion King, Donald Duck and many others. DisneyFest is now open to the public and will go on into next year.

For the trade, the response for tickets to the show was overwhelming. It was a great turnout with parents and kids in tow streaming into the 2 ha site in Marina South Park an hour early. The main event was an hour-long show in a 1,700 seat theatre inside one of the two tents with song and dance performances by the Disney characters.

Says Alice Tan, Assistant Vice President, Airtime Sales and Marketing, TCS, “Disney and TCS are riding on each other in the staging and promotion of DisneyFest. Disney is bringing a big show to town. As media owners, we are the means for Disney to publicize the event. It’s synergy in action since TV brings the first impressions of DisneyFest in all its colour and fun to viewers’ homes.”

DisneyFest will be covered in the programmes Kids At Work, Ho-I, Mei-I and Friends, AM Singapore and Showbuzz. There’s also a special - Making of Mickey’s Magical Tour - produced by TCS. In addition, trailers had TCS celebrities Vernetta Lopez and Gurmit Singh talking about the show.
Winning will be a great morale booster for the station but that is not the be-all and end-all behind TCS' large number of entries.

an opportunity to be viewed by the judges and hopefully make it to and beyond the nomination lists. Winning will be a great morale booster for the station but that is not the be-all and end-all. Dominic Ang, AVP of Marketing Communications, TCS explains the reason behind TCS' large entries.

"TCS has come a long way. It has always been our strategy to produce quality local programmes which are also relevant to viewers. Last year, we produced more programmes and explored with new genres. We have more to choose from this year's Asian Television Awards and at the same time we are confident of our standards. We also see the need to raise the standard of our productions by putting them up for competition on a regional platform."

Unlike the Star Awards which has TCS honouring its best, the Asian Television Awards provides the platform for them to vie their skills against regional counterparts. Non-TCS artists whose performance in our programmes befitting of accolades also stand a chance to enter this awards. Last year, polytechnic student Darren Ng of Growing Up sturred his way to victory and clinched the Best Supporting Actor beating even veteran TCS actor Zhu Houren.

"For TCS to nominate a non-staffer like myself for the Asian Television Awards, it shows that it is not biased in recognising acting talents with potential outside of TCS and it's a great honour to be nominated," said the 23-year-old Mass Communications student.

The Royal Monk from China if the Best Newcomer Award falls into their laps. And starting this year, two winners in the performance categories from the year before will be invited to be on the judging panel for these categories. Cherry Pie Picache from the Philippines who won the Best Performance by An Actress in a Supporting Drama role and our very own Koh Cheng Mun who won the Best Actress Award (Comedy) are among four of the judges for the performance categories. 18 judges will preside over the judging panel for the programming categories, including many returning from last year's and veterans such as Chen Yu, Director of Beijing Television International and Joan O'Loan of Star TV.

Given that it is still in its infancy stage, it will take a while before the Asian Television Awards can pride itself of being "the Emmy of The East" (incidentally, the Emmy has been around for the past 49 years). Nonetheless, it promises to be a tough and exciting competition which brings TV talents across the region together.

By Hoon Dah Jui.

SITP GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

Senior Writer Karen Cho tries to get the low-down on David Hasselhoff, although it looks like the Baywatch hero has clearly gotten the upper hand here.

Sony's Columbia Tristar International Television and Warner Brothers played hosts to over 100 international journalists, providing unprecedented access to the sets of The Nanny, Mad About You, Michael Hayes, and one-to-one interviews with the cast of Friends. ER, Suddenly Susan, Veronica's Closet. SITP's Karen Cho was in Los Angeles for the seven-day media blitz where she came face to face with the likes of Helen Hunt, Scott Wolf, David Caruso, Noah Wyle, Lisa Kudrow, Fran Drescher, just to name a few. Look out for exclusive interviews with Hollywood's creme de la creme in the upcoming issues of Preview and SITP.

The Countdown Show

In collaboration with the Sentosa Development Corporation, TCS will hold this year's New Year countdown show in front of a 20,000 strong audience on Sentosa Island.

Celebrate '98 will be telecast live from Sentosa on New Year's Eve from 11pm to 12:30am. This year's programme will have a party mood local and foreign soloists and bands. The party mood will be enhanced by the use of concert-style moving lights programmed to synchronise with the performance items.

Celebrate '98 will be fronted by as cast of TCS artists which include party animals such as Hossan Leong, Gurmit Singh, Mark Richmond, Nicholas Lee, Andrew Seow, Robin Leong, Diana Ser, Michelle Goh, Lisa Ang, Vernetta Lopez and Jamie Lee.

Viewers' Choice 1998

Viewers' Choice 1998, set to take place in March, will once again honour the most popular television commercials as they are picked by their television audiences. Winners among the entrants stand to win up to $10,000 in prizes. For the homeviewers, they stand to win attractive prizes like cars and handphones.

This time around, the awards will be broken down into local and international categories. A new award will also honour budding creative talent.
Asian Television Awards Gain Prominence

or the second year running, we will see the best of Asian television and programming converge for the Asian Television Awards. Scheduled to take place in Kuala Lumpur, the 2nd Asian Television Awards, organised by Television Asia, looks set to be as exciting and glamorous as the first one held in Singapore.

Last year’s event met with an overwhelming response as it symbolised the coming of age of Asian television. Home grown talents like Moses Lim and Koh Chiang Mun clinched awards for best actor and actress in a leading comedy role respectively. The immensely popular local sitcom Under One Roof came up tops in the best comedy programme category. This gave local viewers much to cheer about as local programmes gained recognition for their high quality production and content.

With more than 650 entries received so far in both the performance and programming categories, this year’s event promises to be a grand showcase of Asian television. This figure far surpasses the number of entries received last year. TCS has submitted a total of 97 entries, with long-running series like Growing Up, Triple Nine and Don’t Worry Be Happy in the running.

Said Chairman of Judges Jonathan Hallet, “The response has been amazing. The majority of Asia’s major broadcasters will be represented at this year’s awards. The increase in the number of entries this year is a clear reflection of the vibrancy and intensity of the television production industry in Asia.”

Participating broadcasters and production houses include ABS-CBN, GMA Network, ABC Network (Philippines); ANTeve, RCTI, PT Indoasian Visual (Indonesia); Sistem Televisyen Malaysia-TV3; Television Corporation of Singapore, Singapore Television Twelve, MTV Asia, Asia Business News (Singapore); Television Broadcasts (TVB), ATV, Wharf Cable Ltd, NBC Asia, Channel V (Star TV) (Hong Kong); Television Eighteen, United Television, New Delhi Television, Doordarshan (India); Beijing TV (China); Hyundai Broadcasting, Munchwa Broadcasting (Korea); Media of Medias (Thailand); and Shalimar and TV Broadcasting (Pakistan).

While the audience eagerly awaits a glittery parade of TV talent, several changes are on the cards for this year’s event. The audience can expect to see the introduction of two new award categories. The Best Magazine Programme award will allow programmes such as morning television and motoring programmes to receive greater recognition. TCS’s Showbuzz, Wheel Power and Things People Do are among this year’s contenders. In addition, the organisers have split the previous news and current affairs presenter categories into Best News Presenter or Anchor and Best Current Affairs or Magazine Programme Presenter categories. Ida Bachtar, Sonny Lim, Christine Tan, Lawrence Chan, Lisa Ang and Good Morning Singapore’s Wang Yangking will represent TCS in this new category.

Early signs of this year’s awards clearly indicate that it is building on the success of last year’s event. “Last year, our awards show host, the Television Corporation of Singapore, gave the event a great start, and provided the Awards with an impetus that is still gathering momentum,” said Hallet.

Many of last year’s judges are invited back for this year’s awards. A person who received accolades from last year’s awards and now invited to sit on the panel of judges is Koh Chiang Mun, affectionately known as ‘Dolly’ in Under One Roof.

"Initially, I was worried that it would not be a positive move since I am again nominated in the same category. However, after speaking to Jonathan Hallet, I learnt that my participation as a judge would not affect the outcome unfairly as there are enough judges on the panel to null over my decision to accept and now I am looking forward to seeing the works although I have been warned that the quantity of tapes is extremely large."

Starting with this year’s event, the Asian Television Awards hopes to start a tradition in which two of the previous year’s winners will sit on the judging panel. As the Asian Television Awards is a non-profit event, the organisers have also introduced an entry fee for all submissions. However, as a commitment in providing for the future of the television industry, all proceeds will be channeled to a scholarship fund for aspiring television students.

Although the overall quality of research and production in a programme are important judging criterion, judges will also look at the ‘heart’ of the programme. Said Koh, “I will be looking for the essential truth of the works that are judged. All things being equal, it is always the sincerity of the creator that will win the day, grab your undivided attention and get to your heart.”

Judging for the programming categories will commence on August 27, 28 and 29 at Kuala Lumpur.

By Chan Keen Len
A Nation Connects In Symphony
23 August The Date Will Be!

A Nation Connects

Rap Chorus:
Music connects
Everybody
Lights, spectacular fantasy
Voices connects
Globally
Singing together in unity

Hosted by Diana Ser and Lawrence Chau

Joining all minds, connecting all hearts.
The biggest concert of the year...

23 August, Saturday, 8.30pm,
(“Live” From Padang)
Celebrate in style as we round off this year’s National Day celebrations with a true night to remember at the Padang. Expect a unique multi-sensory experience of lights, dance and music that can be matched only by a host of entertainment heavyweights. Stay tuned!

23 Aug, Sat, 8.30pm (LIVE)
Zoe Tay, Gurmit Singh, Christopher Lee, Ann Kok, James Lye, Irin Gan, Ix Shen, Mark Richmond, Andrew Seow, Darren Lim, Diana Ser, Lawrence Chau... They are big in name, hot in demand and popular in their own rights. Come 23 August, they will have another thing in common: Connected by an exciting fusion of song, music and dance, these glittering stars will join hands to present the spectacular National Day Event - A Nation Connects. Join us for a night of ultimate connection!

23 August, Saturday, 8.30pm, (Live From The Padang)
He’s the hottest guy on TCS 5 but what’s he really like behind closed doors? Koh Joh Ting brings you on a special tour of Lawrence Chau’s home, to show you a whole other side of your favourite TV host!
Tool

What guys don’t

time!
Getting Into The Spice Girls’ Room and Other Scoops

How the Showbuzz team keeps breaking news before everyone else.

When the Spice Girls came to town in October, they were hunted by the press and eager fans just waiting at the Four Seasons Hotel in the hope of getting autographs and photographs. But guess who got up close and personal with them first? It was Lawrence Chan and the Showbuzz team.

Tells Ganesh Rajaram, Editor, Showbuzz, “It would have been easy to put out five minutes of fluff with video clips and voice-overs on the Spice Girls but we’ve always prided ourselves on meaty content so we did the interview and asked some pretty tough questions too like the issue of talent versus image.

“In a way, we knew we had the interview because the record company EMI had at first wanted to send us to New Delhi to cover the Channel V Music Awards. We were to catch them there but they had a hectic schedule. So instead, they made a detour on their tour to come to Singapore.”

But special precaution had to be taken. EMI was concerned about causing a minor riot at the Four Seasons Hotel where the Spice Girls were staying. We had to get Lawrence and the camera crew to go up to see them by a service lift at the back of the building. All this while, the newspaper photographers and some fans were in the lobby of the hotel waiting to catch a glimpse and some snaps of them.

Among other scoops, the Showbuzz team was the first to get the lowdown on Wendy Jacobs’ pregnancy and birth, Wong Lili’s quitting TGS and Fann Wong’s Taiwan affair. Showbuzz was also one of the first to interview Chow Yu Neng Fat for his new movie The Replacement Killers, doing it just one day before the telecast date. And as many Singaporeans like Dick Lee, Iskandar Ismail and Kit Chan were involved in the production of Snow Wolf Lake, the Showbuzz team took off to Hong Kong in April for the story long before folks here got wind of the musical.

Adds Ganesh, “We also beat the papers to announcing David Dickson as being the lead in Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. And just one month ago we went to New York to cover the movie Amistad. There we spoke to the stars Morgan Freeman, Anthony Hopkins and Matthew McConaughey. It’s already speculated to be among the nominees for the next Academy Awards.”

As to how the team gets hot tips and invites to cover highly exclusive events, Ganesh relates, “When you have maintained good contacts in the music, movie and entertainment industries and people know what you are all about, you would be among the first to get the buzz on what’s happening. Our hosts Lauretta and Lawrence have already established their credibility in the entertainment scene. We have already proven that we cover our topics with an in depth treatment. People know that we also ask some very tough and very hard-hitting questions while being fair and putting out very balanced stories.”

The efforts of the Showbuzz team demonstrates the immediacy of TV. “We keep our content very current so much so that what we might record on Wednesday during the day would still make it for the evening telecast of Showbuzz. Immediately after putting out one episode on Wednesday, we would start discussing the very next day about what to put on air next week.”

“I think it’s a case of TV not being a reactive medium but more of a proactive one. We don’t just cover the news but we find the story and make the news too.”
The latest Bond babe was in town recently to grace the premiere of *Tomorrow Never Dies*, as well as cement her handprints for posterity in Planet Hollywood. For those who missed her, here's an eyeful of Michelle Yeoh and some of our local stars who also strode down the red carpet at the movie premiere.

Absolutely sublime: A ravishing Michelle Yeoh sidles up to Lawrence Chau and makes the other men in the room green with envy.

News in reprieve: (from left) Jill Nebrunner, Ida Bachtler and Christine Tan take a break from telling the news to become newsmakers themselves. Who says only actors can revel in the limelight?

The long and short of it: Vernetta Lopez and Carole Lin on what to do when you can't decide if you wanna show your legs.

Use your brain: will Christopher Lee and Fann Wong, seen together at the Bond premiere and slated to appear in the upcoming blockbuster *Return of the Condor Heroes*, be our next face TCS screen couple after Zoe Tay and Li Nanxing?

Press paws and record: getting her handprints displayed in Planet Hollywood here is mere icing on the cake surely, given that Michelle has left an even bigger impression on Tinseltown.

Prom night: this class of '97 unanimously voted Diana Ser as Most Likely to Bare Her Midriff.

Pop culture: never mind if everyone's dressed to kill — when it comes to watching a movie, nobody says popcorn's unglam.
Their Favourite Omega...

Lawrence Chau  

Arianna Teoh

Ziana Zain

Kym 拥有两只 Constellation（其中一只为镶钻的款式），以及 Speedmaster, Seamaster 和 Dynamic 各一套，她的最爱是黄色表面的 Dynamic，以及镶钻的 Constellation，因为可以把她衬托得更“女人”！

Ziana Zain 在 17 岁时就收到了 Omega 情有独钟，喜欢它名贵来的又十分低调，隆重或轻松的场合都适合佩戴。此外，她也欣赏 Omega 不断精益求精，推出品质和设计出色的新表。她还说 Omega 极富创意的这一点就像她自己一样。

Lawrence Chau 人行以前曾在香港的一家公关机构任职。Omega 当时是他们公司的客户，所以他也曾经替 Omega 写过宣传稿呢！ Lawrence 喜欢 Omega 兼具经典和时尚感，而且选择多样化，既有典雅的系列，又有 sporty 的运动表，也有精确的计时表。他最喜欢的一款是 Constellation 的 Chronograph 计时表。

Arianna Teoh 是在去年 6 月起受邀成为 Omega 的宣传大使。她一向仰慕 Omega 品牌的精神，而 Omega 也对她的魅力和在商场上的表现极为欣赏。她认为 Omega 的腕表富有力，却不易其他品牌感到过度炫耀。与她个人的作风非常配合。Arianna 说：“我最喜欢的款式是镶有钻石的 Constellation！”
At the OMEGA/Cindy Crawford photo exhibition, three of our local celebrities from TCS, Lawrence Chau, James Lye and Irin Gan were inducted into the OMEGA International Celebrities Club. Joining the ranks of Cindy Crawford, Pierce Brosnan and Hong Kong stars Simon Yam and Michael Wong, the trio took turns to unveil their own posters and talked about what it meant to be selected. They not only walked away smiling with a membership to a prestigious organisation, but with pretty pricey watches too!
folks were overheard oohing, “She is more beautiful in real life.” First-time Cindy spotters happily killed off several rolls of film on her. She later rapped the photographers who wanted a full length shot of her saying, “I don’t see the point. You won’t be able to see the watch.” When she was leaving the shoot, her four-wheel drive was mobbed (if you want to know what that feels like, try driving into the carpark at Mustafa’s on Serangoon Road on a Sunday afternoon).

We almost didn’t recognise our third set of celebrities. As our cable car took us down from the Cindy shoot, one lensman jested of a couple waiting at the deserted first station: “Hey! There’s Zsa Zsa Gabor and Michael Douglas!” By the time it sunk in that the ordinarily dressed duo were actually Ivana Trump and her companion Count Roffredo Gaetani Lovatelli, the cable car had moved on, and we failed to draw our cameras fast enough. Later, we managed to corner them at the base station — like deer caught in the headlights.

Celebrities galore!
Over two days, there were so many more celebrity sightings on and off the golf course: a large assortment of important, talented and beautiful people ranging from Russian astronauts to French politicians to Asian celebrities. Singapore was represented by Kym Ng, Lawrence Chau and James Lye, and Malaysia’s contingent was made up of Ziana Zain and Arianna Teoh. There were also more Cindy photo ops: Cindy practicing her putting, Cindy teeing off, Cindy in a putting competition with Nicholas Hayek (CEO of The Swatch Group), Cindy presenting prizes to the golf champs, more Cindy Cindy Cindy.

By the time it was time for the closing dinner at La Bergerie, we had become so accustomed to the stellar presence, that even when Cindy came within pinching distance, most us just smiled hi and went back to our fondue.
TCS 8

SEASON FINALE!

Don’t Worry, Be Happy

SAT, 9pm

After a couple of egg nogs, Minghui is made even giddier at a X’mas do when both Ah Da and Guanjun (guest Lawrence Chau) profess their undying love.
Don’t Worry, Be Happy

season finale; Ch 8, 9pm

Lawrence Chau guests as Guanjun who fights Ah Da for Minghui’s love. Meanwhile, Jinglai and Jiazhen want a divorce.
NEW!
SHOWBUZZ WEEKEND
SAT; debut, Ch 5, 8pm
Local TV's handsomest host kicks off an unofficial Lawrence Chau Super Saturday with a solo flight aboard the all-new, Laurettaless weekend version of Showbuzz. Then switch over to Ch 8 at 9pm for more of Lawrence who guest-stars as Xiaomei’s new boyfriend in Don’t Worry, Be Happy.

18 july 1998
Showbuzz Weekend
debut; Ch 5, 8pm
Lawrence Chau (sans Lauretta Alabons) hosts this weekend edition that has TV highlights for the coming week, nightlife and activities around town. Hmm, much like this magazine actually.

Dont Worry, Be Happy C; Ch 8, 9pm
This being a Lawrence Chau Saturday; he plays Guanjun (Champion), Xiaomei’s new boyfriend. When he is introduced to the family, everyone dotes on him because of his good looks and fine manners. Meanwhile, Ah Bee is jealous and he reminisces the first day he stepped into the house.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE

AWARDS
SPECIAL

SILVER SCREEN AWARDS
2 MAY, SAT, 8.30PM

Hosted by Lawrence Chau and Lisa Ang, the Silver Screen Awards will honour the brightest and the best in the film-making industry throughout Asia. The show will shine with many stars including Casper Van Dien all the way from Hollywood, Cheng E-kin, Jordan Chan, Yang Gui Mei, Winston Chao, Eric Khoo, Glenn Goei, Sharon Au, Hossan Leong, Fann Wong, Mark Chan, Stanley Kwan, Irin Gan, Xie Shaoguang, Lim Kay Tong, Vernetta Lopez, Xiang Yun, Jacelyn Tay, Andrew Seow, Michelle Chia, Daniel Chan and many more.
Chau for now!

The news is out: LAWRENCE CHAU, Mr. Showbuzz himself, has quit. He tells us the whys and wherefores.

by Angela Lee

8 Days: You were producer and presenter for Showbuzz, and you've been on the road for almost a year. Did you travel enough to circumvent the globe six times over? Is fatigue the main reason you're leaving Showbuzz?

Lawrence Chau: Yeah. I'm physically and mentally burnt out after two years. Not from entertainment — I can never get tired of that — but more from the production side of things. I remember times when I survived on two to four hours of sleep a night (lucky if I could manage to get up and start a show), but I'm not as physically worn as I was.

Then there's also the behind-the-scenes pressure — and I'm not talking about deadlines. The baggage that comes with being a public personality also took its toll on me. The constant stress in public, ridiculous rumors and occasionally being misquoted by the press. I've found myself saying and doing things I don't like, and that's not fun. I'm looking forward to being able to burn toilet paper in peace now.

Being a Gemini, were you in two minds about your decision?

Yes, and no (laughing). You can't help but be a bit sad to say goodbye to something you poured your heart and soul into for two years, but at the same time, I'm excited about new possibilities. Besides, it wasn't just my decision. The company wanted to introduce a lot of changes to the format of the show, so my leaving comes at a time of change for everyone involved. Like a true Gemini, I welcome change and like to embrace new challenges.

What will you do now? Will you stay in Singapore and what are your plans?

I'll be taking a holiday in Hong Kong first, though. I'm in the middle of lining up key projects, but I can't really talk about them at this point. Let's just say you'll see me very much in the limelight, whether it's singing or acting or producing or opening up my own business. Stay tuned!

Looking back over the last 23 months, what has been the toughest thing about the job?

That's tough. Basically it's the job has consumed my life day in and out. There was never any time to really enjoy or capitalise on my fame, let alone relax. I'll have to fly off somewhere at a moment's notice, or run off to do interviews with someone who'd just popped into town, or last-minute editing.

I remember having gone to Cannes for the Film Festival then to New York to do Godzillo, then to Toronto for a short holiday. The minute I stepped back into the office, my boss says, 'Guess what? We're going back to New York for The Avengers!' You have no idea how many dinners, dates and events all of us have had to cancel at the last minute.

What are some of the things you're sure to miss? The travelling (not the jetlag, though), and of course meeting all those famous faces in show business. Mind you, there were the deadweights (Mel Gibson and Kevin Costner fans are you listening?) too. But for all this I guess I am grateful to Showbuzz for giving me that opportunity.

What would you say was your best interview?

I can never answer this question. Where do I start? Ralph Fiennes, Cindy Crawford, Chow Yun-fat, Michelle Yeoh, George Clooney, the Spice Girls, Bette Midler, Celine Dion, Gloria Estefan... Next question, please!
Saying Ciao!

Flirting with Whitney Houston, Fann Wong and the Spice Girls, bungying up with Mel Gibson and Chow Yun-Fat. Now Lawrence Chow has stepped away from the cameras, and he leaves CLEO readers with an exclusive scattering of Stardust.

by LAWRENCE CHAU

He greeted me "Hollo" in KL for the Conspiracy Theory press junket in August ’97 with, "Hi, I gotta go have a smoke," and off he went. The next reporter faced worse: "Hi, I gotta take a pee." Gibson said as he walked out of the room after a brisk handshake.

Our next encounter was in LA in May ’98 for Lethal Weapon IV, but surprise, surprise – Mel was in a swell mood! (In retrospect, though, I think I had more to do with me being the last interviewer of the day, but hey, a godsend is a godsend, right?) Amazingly, he actually remembered me from KL (teasing me somewhat) but the interview lasted this time round. So the tally read one to one.

Unfortunately, Gibson scored strike two in LA for Playback this past January. Although you’d never be able to tell on TV, of blue eyes was losing it after four hours of back-to-back interviews. The Catholic man was not kind with his Blue Mares as we headed back to the journalist’s hotel – what can I say? The dude has a knack for picking off the press.

The only other thing I have to add is – sorry girls – the Aussies got the midsection of a middle-American construction worker (and I ain’t talkin’ about the one deep-fried into the hot-fat yoghurt!!)

Speaking of girls, it was back in October ’97 that Shokazue scored major points by being the only local TV programme invited to interview the Spice Girls about their second album, Spice World. And yes, it was quite intimidating.

Well, they were quite warm, with Geri Spice, Geri Halliwell, aising me with a kind of Prince Charlie, grabbing my butt. I was very impressed with Halliwell, whom I thought was very well-spoken, friendly and intelligent as she defended the group’s songwriting and marketing. She must have mustered some of the days gone by on Shokazue...

For now though, the future beckons. And...

Keep reaching for the stars!
Hot doc!
Noah Wyle raises temperatures on ER
Clothes call

Just suit me:
Christopher Lee must be the envy of his peers — he is the first local star to ink a sponsorship deal with French men's label Lanvin. The actor (with host Lawrence Chau) vamped it up and graced the signing looking like the Count of Transylvania.
LANVIN 重新出击

沈寂了一段时日的国际品牌 Lanvin，最近重振旗鼓，在代理商 Elite Classic 接手过后，重新出击。

新视艺人李铭顺受邀为男装 Studio line 代言人，并在 3 月 11 日于 Grand Hyatt 酒店的精品廊举行签约仪式。

由李铭顺主演的电视剧“天蝎行动”中，剧情的后半部，他将改穿西装打扮，穿上Lanvin 的服饰，以成功男人的造型出现在剧中。

3 月 18 日傍晚，Lanvin 在白乐宫中央大厅举行了一场盛大的时装表演兼鸡尾酒会，展示“99 春夏男女装的风采，新视阿姐郑惠玉也亲自到场捧场呢！

Ms Doreen Tan 和 李铭顺。

李铭顺与节目司仪 Lawrence Chau。

Mr Masahiro Yoshino, Lanvin 副总经理 Ms Jane Toh 与 Ms Doreen Tan。

Ms Karin Leong, Mrs Serene Tan 与 Ms Diana Leong。

Mr & Mrs Patrick Tan, 造型师 David Gan 和郑惠玉。

Ms Severine Exteron, Mr Lawrence Chau 与 Ms Doreen Tan。

Mr M.Y. Morikawa, Ms Jane Toh 与 Mr Masahiro Yoshino。

Ms Valerie Ng, Ms Jane Toh, Ms Doreen Tan, Mr Lawrence Chau 与 Ms Andrea D'oruz。

48 Ciao Bella May ’99
环球佳丽

新传媒和Derrol Stepeny Promotions主办的“新加坡环球小姐2001”终于圆满落幕。24岁的在籍学生赵彩菱压倒群芳，成功夺冠。

TEXT:卓燕娟 PHOTOGRAPHY: David Khaw

△比赛的前三甲得主，亚军是18岁的陈婉文(左起)，冠军是赵彩菱，季军则是20岁的李佳莹。她们可谓才貌兼具。

△刚出炉的“新加坡环球小姐2001”赵彩菱的妈妈和男友特地到场支持她。她果然不负众望，顺利夺得冠军。

△当晚的司仪是Andrea e Cruz和久违的周天朗(Lawrence Chau)。
The Einstein Award
Sharon Lee (No. 5) who, when asked how a mobile phone will get her out of a jungle, replied that she'd use it to "send radiation out to save herself". Remember: if it works, you heard it here first.

Crown Jewels
Sure, only one person can be crowned Miss Singapore/ Universe. But others, too, deserved their own awards.

The Tell-It-Like-It-Is Award
Gisele Lim (No 6), who told Pierre Png to go to bed in boxer shorts instead of a shirt because "I'll answer for all the girls out there ... we'll see your half body, we'll see maybe some hairy chest".

Miss Congeniality
Co-host Andrea De Cruz who didn't put a foot wrong or break her smile even though her rumoured boyfriend Pierre Png was surrounded by a bevy of contestants.

The Nudge-nudge-wink-wink Award
Co-host Lawrence Chau who explained that, in the swimsuit segment, the judges were looking for "beauty, confidence, physical fitness, figure, among other things ... heh, heh, heh".

Most disturbing cinematic reference
In a nod to The Cell — a film that features a psycho who imprisons his victims in a transparent vault — all five finalists were crammed into a glass cage.

Least likely to be made a UN ambassador
Judge and former model Hanis Hussey who, when Lawrence Chau jokingly asked her "What do you think of world peace?", was heard to reply, "I'm not interested".
It's HIP TO BE Square

Celebrity SQUARES

Dont miss the local English version tonight!

www.channel5.com.sg

MEDIA CORP TV 5

TONIGHT, 9PM
Former Showbuzz frontman LAWRENCE CHAU will soon be rounding up some squares and filling in the blanks. Huh? He’ll host the Ch 5 edition of Celebrity Squares. Debuting on Tuesday, 11 Sept at 9pm, and featuring SHARON AU in the all-important centre square, Ch 5 hopes the game show can repeat the success of the Ch 8 version.
television
8 SHOWS FOR 8 DAYS
by paul calder

SEPT 6 – 13

CH 5 THUR 9PM
The Amazing Race
On Survivor, contestants whiled away the
hours around the campfire. No such luck for
the 11 couples competing in this race-for-
home reality series. In the running for US$1mil,
these globetrotters are constantly on the go.

CITY TV SAT 8PM
SEA Games opening ceremony
Sports junkies rejoice! After the SEA Games
kick off, every goal scored and every gold
medal won will be televised ‘live’ on City TV.

ARTS CENTRAL MON 10PM
Diana Krall: Live and Unplugged in Singapore
So you couldn’t make it to her gig at Raffles
Hotel. (Perhaps it had something to do with
that $550-per-ticket price tag?). Well, now you
can watch the jazz chanteuse from your couch
— and you don’t even need a black tie.

CITY TV FRI 8PM
Rouge
A smouldering Anita Mui and a sizzling
Leslie Cheung star as star-crossed lovers in
this award-winning drama from director
Stanely Kwan.

CH 5 FRI 7.30PM
Copycat
After stomping those pesky Aliens, Sigourney
Weaver should have no problem taking on a
serial killer, right? Then again the psycho in
question would give Hannibal Lecter a run for
his money.

CH 5 SAT 7PM
Selena
A rag-to-riches-to-tragedy biopic based on
slain Tejano singer, Selena. And who better to
play the Latino singer hell-bent on success
than Ms. Jennifer Lopez herself.

HBO (CH 40) SAT 9PM
Erin Brockovich
In her Oscar-winning turn, Julia Roberts is less
a Pretty Woman and more a Brassy Broad
who demands justice for residents of a
California desert town.

Celebrity Squares
Who said playing tic-tac-toe at the back of the classroom was a waste of time?
Former Showbuzz frontman Lawrence Chau hosts this true-or-false game show
in which Ch 8’s Sharon Au takes up residence in the centre square.
Poof! He vanishes from the showbiz scene. Then he pops up on *Celebrity Squares*. Next, he astounds us with news of a solo CD single. Clearly, an interview with Lawrence Chau is in order. by Pamela Quek

Soul long, now!

It's his idea to conduct our 4pm interview at Orb Bar, a chic little club at Robertson Quay, to which he has access. Making the most of the venue's sound system, Lawrence Chau plays me the two tracks from his October-timed EP, *Soulo*. Plonked on a sofa, he sips on a glass of Coke, dips into a styrofoam box of fries and bops his head to the tuneful blast. Bop, bop, bop. Sip, sip, sip. "It's light house," he cries, above the pounding beat. He disappears to adjust the volume on Track #2, a vocally-pleasing, finger-snapping ballad delivered with justifiable amounts of emotion. Not bad, I tell him, ta-ta-tapping pen against notebook. His face lights up.

Best-known for being the dapper-dude presenter on *Showbuzz*, Ch 5's long-running entertainment show, Lawrence, as you may recall, also anchored CNA's *Capital E* before ducking out from public eye last year. Lured back into the spotlight to host the Ch 5 version of *Celebrity Squares*, it would appear the Toronto native is back in full swing — with a strategically timed CD single to boot. But confusingly enough, he's also planning his exit from Asia, so he announces... 8 DAYS: Lawrence, you initiated this interview. What gives? Lawrence Chau: (Laughs loudly) I dunno! Giving out some music I guess! I'm at the point in my life where I want to stretch my creative wings and have fun. In the past, I've been pigeon-holed with a strait-laced image. As much as it was authentic, there...
I interviewed (via phone) Lawrence Chau - the host of 'Ghostly Encounters' which is currently shown on the WNetwork. I thought who better to get some real answers from than someone who is surrounded by all of these 'paranormal phenomena'. Lawrence has been host of the widely popular show for 4 seasons now and "it's the best season" so far. When I asked him what his take is on the stories he's heard from participants on the show and what he thinks of the paranormal phenomena, he is quick to add "that I don't judge the people on the show, the viewers can judge for themselves. They (participants) are there to share their stories and it's like a cathartic release for them". He also mentioned that he does believe in the paranormal - that is "it does exist". He has had some close encounters himself while working as a student for a newspaper at College Park. His colleagues forewarned him of 'Big Foot' and while he did not take it seriously, he had a frightening experience while working late one night when he "heard thumping footsteps in the corridor". He was a witness to unexplained happenings like "tacks and pins falling down from a board in the office" and a "lamp falling" for no apparent reason.

Another personal experience was during the Chinese New Year when Lawrence was sitting in a park in Hong Kong. He described the atmosphere as "typical and chilling, with the leaves rustling". He went on to say that "it was around 3 am when I saw a figure of a male in the distance. It was 'flesh-like' and he was standing in the flower bed. As I was exiting the park, the head turned towards my direction in a bobbing sort of way". Two very scary experiences from the past that he has remembered so vividly. Why is it that most people can't remember the time of day yet strange circumstances that presents itself to us is captured and embedded in our psyche for years?

When asked if people are generally intrigued of the spiritual or unknown activities around us, Lawrence comments that "arrogant people don't believe". There are mysteries and "certain things happen to us and around us that cannot be explained". Case in point the Ouija board. What is it about this that the mere mention of the name brings chills down the spine? In any case, Lawrence as well as many others who I have asked over the years have the same opinion about it - do not bring it into your home!! I believe that he sums it up quite nicely when he explains "that the board attracts negative energy - from those who have been murdered and committed suicide". Enough said about that topic! With so many Hollywood movies premiering around this time of year, I asked him what are his top 3 scariest movies of all time and I wasn't surprised when Lawrence stated the "Exorcist, Omen and Changeling".

So at the end of the day, it doesn't really matter what your upbringing is like or what your personal beliefs are - Witchcraft, black magic, the paranormal, whatever you want to call it does exist and although we may want to have a closed eye towards it, it is very much practiced and preached in the 21st century and for years to come as it has in the past. So the next time you hear a thump or your baseboards cracking or you don't feel like your normal self, it may be just the wind blowing or is it? And by the way, very Happy Diwali to you all.
The accidental TV host
Lawrence Chau returns to conquer Canadian TV

Spend two minutes with Lawrence Chau and you'll understand what makes a good host. Disarming, down-to-earth and easy to look at, Chau has been called the Ryan Seacrest of Singapore — and is on his way to becoming the Lawrence Chau of Canada.

"You find something that gets your juices flowing and you stick with it," explains the host of W Network's Ghostly Encounters. But while hosting is his "bread and butter," it is by no means the only thing on his plate.

Chau graduated with a journalism degree from Ryerson, with the intention of working in public relations.

"But my hidden emotional aspiration was to be in show business," says Chau.

"At the time I didn't think I had it in me. 'An Asian male will never get on TV here talking about entertainment news, let alone acting,' my mother would say."

Chau was wrong but his mother was right. It was in him, he just had to be in Hong Kong. Soon after relocating Chau's star began to rise. "Suddenly both dreams manifested," he says, referring to a successful stint in PR, which in turn led to a part time gig hosting Citylife, a Hong Kong entertainment show.

"All of a sudden I didn't sleep," he says of the welcomed chaos. "I started getting cast in dramas, commercials and music videos. I was writing songs for Hong Kong musicians who couldn't write in English."

But it was a visit to a friend in Singapore that catapulted Chau's career. Scouted, interviewed and employed within a month, Chau became the roving reporter for Showbiz, the country's flagship entertainment news program. Another month and he was hosting the show.

Soon Chau was interviewing celebrities he had grown up watching on Entertainment Tonight. "Tom Hanks was the most normal and balanced," says Chau. Halle Berry, Celine Dion, and Ralph Fiennes also made the top 10. Whitney Houston ranked worst.

Chau attributes his success at Showbiz to his "journalism background and a crazy knowledge of entertainment." But talking to him, it's clear that he also has something that can't be taught: Chau exudes familiarity.

"Hosting was like putting on a suit that fit perfectly," he says, now focusing on a career in Toronto.

"As a kid I'd be glued to the TV set. If I wasn't watching sitcoms I was recording entertainment shows. I even have a 1970's tape of the hauntings of Toronto, which I'm hosting now. I just dug it up the other day. It's funny how things all kind of mesh together and makes sense."

LELYA EMORY FOR METRO TORONTO
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

Lawrence Chau, "30s"

BEST KNOWN FOR:
Being the deputizing producer on Showbuzz.
Ch. 5's long-running entertainment show, and CNA's Country & Western.

LAST SEEN:
Hosting the Ch 5 version of Celebrity Squares in 2002.

WHAT HE IS DOING NOW:
TV host, actor, columnist, etc., in Toronto, Canada.

8 DAYS: The last time we spoke to you was in 2001, almost a decade ago. So help us fill in the blanks about your life, professionally and personally.

LAWRENCE CHAU: Family, first and foremost. I took care of my ill-stricken parents, one of the main reasons for my return to Canada. On the work front, I hosted Ghostly Encounters, a hit TV series about people's real-life encounters with the paranormal — a topic I love. The series airs on two networks in Canada, and also in the US on DIY Network. We've just been renewed for a fourth season. Filming begins this summer. A journalist told me I am one of the few, and perhaps only, Asian men hosting an entertainment programme in Canada.

WANT TO SHARE:
I have a number of ads, hosted Auto Show TV for four years, acted as a co-host in The Border (a Canada-US cross-border crime series), and starred in the lead role as 'The Eulogie Mc. Woe Kee-Sing', an international cop, for the crime re-enactment series, On The Run, which aired globally on Discovery Channel. On the writing side, I created a popular newspaper column called 'Who's Hot' for Metro Toronto newspaper for three years. And last, but not least, I have a newfound passion: real estate. I own a handful of properties right now, including a new loft I've just moved into in Toronto. Other than that, I'm as bored as a pack of unsalted potato chips.

From Showbuzz to Celebrity Squares, which do you prefer hosting — a game show or an entertainment programme? Entertainment programmes. I'm addicted to them the way Octomom is addicted to giving birth. Is there anything you regret doing on Singapore TV? My biggest regret has to do with things that transpired behind the scenes, namely my exit from Showbuzz. There was a lot of speculation as to why I really left, and why I passed on the chance to take over as executive producer. It was a difficult time soured by a couple of unsavory characters, who seduced me with lies. In hindsight, I should have sued for slander and defamation of character. Instead, I opted to take the high road and kept a tight lip. My mistake. I've learned that silence breeds lies to live. At the end of the day, all you have is your reputation. Fight to protect it. Be wary of snakes.

Do you stay in touch with ex-colleagues here? (TV and theatre actor) Keegan Kong on occasion. He still refers to me as "Big Brother". I think we will cross paths in LA soon.

When was the last time you visited Singapore? I left in 2002 and haven't been back to Asia since, but I always tell people who want to travel to Asia that Singapore should be their first stop. You can tell us about writing a book? "About all those on-camera/off-camera moments with local and international stars!" Is that still on your to-do list? It still bubbles in my brain, more so than champagne ever will.

Which local star will make a worthy entry? Interviewing James Lye in Switzerland, I think he was the handsomest idea I had an agenda against him having taken over Showbuzz. Nothing could be further from the truth. I found him to be one of the nicest guys I've ever met. In fact, when the diva was singing Cokkerekers way before Diane Sawyer, Tom Cruise. The instruction was that no one could touch Tom in the eye except me because I was the emcee of his Vanilla Sky press conference. Being escorted through the kitchen and up the service elevator with security to interview the Spice Girls at The Four Seasons. It was like holding court with the Royal Family. Robin Wright was nude. Mel Gibson got the Mr Grumps Award. Hugh Jackman gets the Mr Nice Guy Award. Tom Hanks is the most normal. Boy George, though witty as hell, is a prissy prima donna. Matt Damon is mega-smart. Halle Berry and Christy Chung are smoking hot. Shall I go on?

1997: After five years in TV, the Toronto native moved to Singapore. "Dancing Santa Morton' I joined Showbuzz as a reporting and later on as host and producer.

1999: Won Best Advertiser at the Asian Television Awards for Best Entertainment Presenter for Showbuzz.

2001: "Recorded debut album "Saxy" which Lawrence says, "It sold somewhere along the lines of Mariah Carey's Gilmore. I think."

2002: Back in Canada, acting, hosting, writing and investing in real estate.