



Culture Vulture

PICKING OVER THE UAE'S CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENTS

Coffee and culture

Kick back with more than just a great cuppa at Central Perk

If you're still in search of your after-work hangout and you're looking for the kind of place where you can let loose, chill out and possibly enjoy a little bit of entertainment, then look no further than Central Perk. Combining great coffee and a friendly environment, you can unwind in their living room style interiors and snack on fresh sandwiches, salads and more. In September Central Perk (with locations in both Jumeirah and Uptown Mirdif) will be unfolding a series of events to fill up each night ranging from Game Night to their weekly Monday Night Movies series to the Open Mic Jam sessions with Dubai Lime, promoters of Original Music in Dubai. And if all that isn't enough to satisfy your appetite, there's also an art exhibition at the Jumeirah Branch from September 11 to 13 of Shalini Chaninar along with the Dubai Autism Centre and Dubai Centre of Special Needs. So make it a fun September filled with coffee, cake and culture.



Remembering with a movie

Can't bear the thought of long lines, the smell of stale popcorn and noisy cinema-goers insisting on catching up with friends on their phones while the film plays out? Head to the Jam Jar for a different kind of viewing. Marking the tragic events of 9/11 in an alternative and thought-provoking approach, The Jam Jar will host a screening of the multi-award winning documentary 'Being Osama', directed by Dubai-based filmmaker Mahmoud Kaabour. 'Being Osama' is a critically-acclaimed documentary that intimately explores the lives of six Arab men with highly diverse backgrounds and lifestyles, united by their first name 'Osama', which casts a heavy shadow on

their daily lives in the post 9/11 world. Shot in Canada between 2001 and 2004, the film paints a unique portrait of each 'Osama' and weaves their stories into a charming piece that was dubbed "the quintessential film about the Arab Diaspora." 'Being Osama' was produced by Diversus Productions for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, winning four international awards in various film festivals across the world. The film will be followed by a discussion with the film's creator, Mr. Kaabour, who will share his insights on making the film and the subsequent repercussions in Canada and in the Arab world. The event will begin at 7.30pm sharp on Sept 11. To reserve your place please call 04 341 7303.



African beats in the city

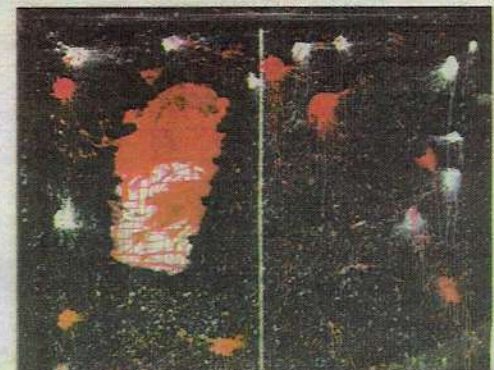
If the announcement of yet another club DJ hitting the scene in Dubai is just not striking the right chord, then consider a night of afro beats. Hamilton Gulf International, a UAE based events company, is set to unleash a new beat onto the city with its Afrobeat Extravaganza. The event is expected to feature fresh African hits alongside Amani, one of Kenya's hottest singing sensations, performing a mix of soulful harmonies that have been a live favourite for over five years. Africa's DeeJays Roughie will be interlacing the African beat, R&B and soul sounds into their own irresistibly funky style. Afrobeats Extravaganza is a fresh concept developed to deliver various African artists on a single performance platform. The night will feature the main artists from African countries as well as upcoming African talent in UAE and the Middle East region in general. When: Thursday, August 30 at the Al Masrah Ballroom - Sheraton Deira. For more information and call 050 175 6252

Three symbolic colours

Paris-based Iranian painter Ghass Rouzkhoss addresses contemporary cultural and geopolitical issues through his work in the latest exhibition at B21 Gallery opening on September 9. In tackling complex questions, and referring to his personal experiences as a soldier during the devastating Iran-Iraq war, Ghass limits himself to three symbolic colours - red, black and white - and incorporates the picture frame into the painting. Born in Iran in 1964, Ghass Rouzkhoss has been an artist for 26 years. He was a soldier for two years during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, and his vision of society was transformed by the painful experience of conflict. For the past 16 years, Rouzkhoss has been using just three colours: red, black and white, unadulterated. The colour the sky takes on after a shelling inspired his use of red, and the charred trees inspired the black. When asked about his

paintings, Ghass states: "I don't do nice paintings. I want to give a voice to who cannot speak, because suffering belongs to all." He explores the clash between culture, religion, economy and politics, using recognisable religious images or cultural iconography as his subjects. His paintings return to a forgotten debate within

art theory and practice, that of how ethics relate to aesthetics. Working more than 20 hours per day, he's always renewing the limits of visual expression and the pre-determined use of colour. The exhibit will open on September 9 and will run through to October 14. For more information visit www.b21gallery.com



7 DAYS

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FREE

NEWS: Dubai rises up the price list for tourists, but not for long, experts claim
page 6



LIFE: Catherine Zeta-Jones cooks up a storm in her new role as a chef
page 20



SPORT: Flying France are growing in confidence ahead of World Cup
page 29



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SHARE SALE SCAM

Gang uses fake drivers' licence to pose as investor and sell his stock

Three men managed to steal a cool dhs7.5 million by using a counterfeit a drivers' licence, the Dubai Court of First Instance heard yesterday.

The gang, a 24-year-old UAE national, a 30-year-old Bahraini and a Syrian, allegedly produced the fake licence bearing the name of an Abu Dhabi businessman using machinery at their apartment. In December last year, one of the men is said to have approached a brokerage firm in Dubai, using the fake document, saying the 550,000 shares the victim owned in Etisalat belonged to him.

He is then alleged to have instructed the brokers to sell the shares, which netted him and his accomplices dhs7.5 million. But an expert yesterday claimed the thief would have had to know a lot of information about the victim before he was able to convince the brokers he owned the shares.

"If you have the investor number (IN), then you can access the shares from the Clearing and Depository System," Jalal Taji Faruki of Dubai-based Al Mal Securities told 7DAYS. "He would have had to know a lot of information about the victim, including his IN to do this." The scam came to light when

the victim made a complaint at Muraqqabat police station, saying someone had sold his Etisalat shares, without his consent.

On him he had a photocopy of the drivers' licence used to convince the brokers of the shares' ownership.

"The victim brought a photocopy of a driving licence that was supposed to be his, but the picture was different. He told us the person in the picture had sold his shares and taken the money," a Lieutenant with Dubai Police said.

The police learned the UAE national accused was poised to leave the country and swooped to arrest him before he could escape. They found him with his share of the money and he then led officers to his accomplices. The Bahraini has pleaded guilty, while the other two deny all the charges. The trial has now been adjourned until next month.

Despite the scam, Faruki denied that security needed to be tightened in share dealing, saying the rules were there - it was just up to individual brokers to do their jobs properly.

"It is possible that some brokers may not be that diligent, but normally there are always checks in place," he said.

By Ali al-Shouk

Second UAE port hit by major blaze

A huge fire broke out at Jebel Ali port in Dubai yesterday sending towering flames and palls of choking smoke into the air. The blaze broke out in a warehouse containing hazardous chemicals at the world's largest manmade port shortly after 4am causing extensive damage. Less than two weeks ago another major blaze tore through facilities at Sharjah port.

TURN TO PAGE 2



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