

BEHIND THE SCENES

JANUARY - Snow and cold Terry Engel - Canada

"Playing guitar is probably the only thing I'm good at. I currently host the Morning Show on ICRT FM 100. Taiwan has been my home for the past 12 years, and everyday has been an adventure in one way or another. I wouldn't trade my experiences in Taiwan for anything in the world. I am lucky to be Canadian, but I first and foremost consider myself a citizen of the globe. Canada, and being Canadian, has afforded me many opportunities that I am thankful for, but it is important to look "beyond borders" if we ever hope to understand one another."



FEBRUARY - Happy Chinese New Year Caroline Juan - Taiwan

Caroline is from Taiwan. She moved to the United States at 16 to attend schools in Washington State and California. She studied Fashion Merchandising in college and now works for a wine distributor. She's very happy to be back to Taiwan "I love Taiwan and I'm proud to be a girl from Taiwan. I believe that this 100th (rabbit) year will be an awesome year for Taiwan! Happy New Year!!!"



MARCH - Carnival time Cristiane S Santiago - Brazil

Cristiane is a very friendly capoeira teacher and samba dancer. She loves life and music, performances, go to the Beach, play Capoeira, take care of animals and spend time with family and friends. "Taiwan has been are very important in my life, meeting a new culture new friends and new opportunities, and I love hot springs! My home country, Brazil, can be summed up with these words: family, friends, beach, carnival, cold beer... I love Taiwan, but I miss Brazil; there's no place like home!"



APRIL - Spring showers Adam Hoole - UK (England)

Adam is a traveling teacher and social scientist. He is in Taichung since a few years, teaching and learning, and enjoying the many opportunities that life on this island provides! "I love the freedom Taiwan gives an expat. Anything not understood can be summed up with the phrase 'Well, that's Taiwan' and for an Englishman Taiwan means a reversal of the English weather where summer is ten months and the winter only two. Yay! "The U.K. is a freezing melting pot where it rains sideways and the food is foreign..."



MAY - Roses & blossoms Nadejda Reid - Bulgaria

Nadejda was born in Bulgaria's capital Sofia. Her parents and grandparents were all Ballet dancers, and she too was a Ballerina at the Vienna Opera. To see more of the world she became a flight attendant and later on got married and moved to Taiwan. She is now working as a photographer and beginning a new adventure! "I'm relatively new to Taiwan, but I can say that I already feel home here. I love the smiles on the people's faces and the beauty of Taiwan's nature." "Bulgaria is a European country where the snow-capped mountains from the East meet the waters of the Black Sea in the West, where fields of roses lay beneath endless pine forests, where people's big hearts reflect in their hospitality and in their togetherness, where history and tradition are cherished. I am proud to be Bulgarian."



JUNE - Heat up! Mauro Sacchi - Italy

Mauro is in Taiwan since 2006, working as an artist/performer in theater and dance, studying at the Taipei National University of the Arts, and dancing for HORSE (馬舞劇場). "Taiwan has everything I want and need right now. I feel extremely lucky to be here. There is much to love, and very little not to love. I am able to experiment with myself and my body, and find new challenges every day. 感謝台灣, 真的! I "ran away" from Italy at 19, feeling trapped and uninspired by the sad state of affairs in a country that for too long has been living off of memories, complacency and conservative, selfish agendas. BUT, Italy is still a beautiful place, with great people, and amazing things to see. So here's a toast to my home. May it find the way it has lost, and may the good ones, the artistic ones, the free thinkers, the smiling ones, prevail over the bullies."



The story

For some reason, I always wanted to make a calendar... Sceneries? Too common! Fashion? Well it could have been but I couldn't use my clients' photos. I then decided -- why not -- to give it a go with the eternal theme of pretty ladies in pin-up fashion. It all started quite nicely, as in a normal sugar-sweet story. The concept was to create a calendar with 12 pin-ups of 12 different nationalities, all living in Taiwan.

This was until my friend Prashanta stepped in. She wanted more than just female clichés, and infused some outfielder models and ideas.

So the whole concept was revisited, and more models joined in. Twelve photo shoots later, we're a bit behind schedule but here is our calendar; finally. Witty, sexy, crazy, hilarious, we did it for the fun and the challenge and to show how diverse is the population of Taiwan. It was a lot of work, but we had a lot of fun doing this and trying to show everyone's personality as well as various cultural identities through our pictures.

A big "thumbs up" to all the people who helped me in this endeavor: Prashanta, the stylists Jennifer and Roxy, friends who helped out here and there, and most of all, a huge thank you to all the models. Most are non-professional models, but they had guts to show up and represent their home country in remarkable ways.

May you all enjoy a great and successful 2011.
Godfrey, Le Studio, Jan.2011.

The Calendar is also available in "Postcards" format and in desktop format downloadable on our website: <http://www.lestudio.com.tw/links-eng.html>

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JULY - Extremes - traditions and modernism Machiko - Japan

Machiko has been in Taiwan since 2008 first to study, and now working for a clothing store. For her, Taiwan is passionate country where everyone: family, friends, etc...is always full of love! So she just LOVES Taiwan. She misses seasonal changes of Japan. "When spring arrives, cherry blossoms are everywhere. We love to picnic under the cherry trees during this season. Then come summer festivals. We wear Yukata, throw fireworks, and dance. During fall, colorful leaves are to the Japanese autumn what cherry blossoms are to spring, and a centuries old enjoyment. Winter is hot springs and snow... YES!!! JAPAN is a beautiful country!"



AUGUST - Burning hot Rae Kelly and Eric Grover - USA

Rae - "I'm an ever-energetic individual so full of curiosity there's no room left for enough common sense to keep myself out of trouble. I love exploring, meeting EVERYBODY, trying new things, and spending time with good people and my pets. What are you doing in Taiwan? "Escaping. Or searching. I forgot which." Taiwan is definitely a place torn between timelines and cultures. There's so much old and new, and the people are really nice to foreigners. There's always something to do, and beautiful natural spaces are really close, no matter where you are. America is quite a rush. There's a lot of tension and confusion, and while most people are great, there is still a lot of animosity and a drive to be in a "group" while trying to maintain being an individual. I miss my home, but am happy to be on a break from all that."



Eric - "I am a Scorpio with the blood type O. This is a dangerous combination. I like to travel and explore new places. My hobbies include Breakdancing, exercise (Ghetto Workouts), and shopping before I pay my Rent and other bills. Taiwan is a unique country. There are more foreign languages on signs here than Chinese. With Japanese, Korean and English I sometimes forget where I am living. The MRT is so clean. Food in Taiwan is great but the drinks are "THE BEST"!! Papaya Milk..Yummy! And to answer the question I get most from Taiwanese people...YES, I have tried stinky tofu(臭豆腐). Americans don't all eat hamburgers and we don't all carry guns. Just 99% do. Americans are terrible at math because we are smart and use calculators."



SEPTEMBER - Nuts! Teresa Mungkorn - Thailand

Teresa "moved" her whole life, so she boosts an Alien personality. She works in the family business: Summit Intelligent Manpower Corp in both countries Thailand and Taiwan, so she spends quite a lot of time in Taiwan. About Taiwan: "If you are thinking about going on a diet, visiting this island is prohibited!!!!" About her home country Thailand: "Although Thai food may be spicy, Thai people are definitely one of the sweetest and kindest, relaxed living human being on earth."



OCTOBER - Going "Otaku" John David Eusebio - Philippines

-John first came to Taiwan when he was eight years old. He's a multilingual Filipino who was educated in international schools and now teaches English and martial arts. "My family has a lot of history here; in fact, I'm the fourth generation of my family to have lived on the island. I've lived in Taiwan for 24 years. I spend most of my money on Japanese robot toys, which I've been collecting since I was a little boy. Taiwan's living standards have improved tremendously over the years. It's the opposite for my country, but even life is sometimes hard for many Filipinos, we still maintain a positive attitude and always smile."



NOVEMBER - Storing up for the winter Albert Laville - France

Albert is a traveler who lived abroad for more than 20 years and enjoyed life in paradise-like Reunion Island (French Island), in Tenerife and Ibiza Island (Spain), Copenhagen (Denmark), London and Stratford Upon Avon (England). He also lived 2 years in the Italian Alps at 2000 meters altitude, skiing nearly every day... Albert has been in Taiwan for 10 years... "I love the way Taiwanese people live in Society. Although I often travel abroad for business, I am always glad to come back to the place I call home, Taipei."



DECEMBER - Summer in South Africa Rabia Billings - South Africa

"I love challenges! I prefer to be out in nature. I definitely enjoy a good laugh! Taiwan has been my home for 13 years. It definitely has grown from a homogenous society to a melting pot. South Africa is known as the "Rainbow Nation of Africa", a title that epitomizes the country's cultural diversity. Like Taiwan, the people are very warm and friendly."



Photo by Roxy