



**PHWOARR!!!!**

# BROOKE BURKE

**ROCKIN' & ROLLIN'  
WITH ROCK STAR:  
INXS'S STELLAR  
FRONTLADY**

## 'WHAT'S MADONNA LIKE?'

Guy Ritchie answers questions about the Material Girl

## FLAP THOSE ARMS!

Finland's Birdman shows you a new way to fly

## UDAY HUSSEIN'S DOUBLE, OZZY'S ROADIE, THE QUEEN'S CHEF

Meet the people who had the world's weirdest jobs

**+**  
Mickey Rourke,  
Mini Traveller  
and FHM's  
Fast Food Quiz

**INSIDE!  
THE 2006  
COLLEGE  
GIRL  
WINNER!**



# THE MATCHMAKER

Director of Lunch Actually, Violet Lim on dating, single hood and finding true love...

**S**o how would you like to be addressed? Dr. Love or Dr. Fix-Me-Up? I have always liked the sound of Miss Match.

**Mismatch? Hmm... nevermind, so you set people up for dates. How did that come about?**

My childhood dream was to be a matchmaker.

**Really?**

Ok, I lied. I have always aspired to be a doctor, a lawyer or a banker. How I ended up as a modern-day matchmaker... well, I have always wanted a career where I will always be working with people, helping them solve their problems, lending them a listening ear. I read law, but after completing my internships, I decided that law was not my calling. I did a Masters in HR, but the job turned out to be too administrative. Hence, I pounced on the chance of being able to start something which combines my passion with business - hence setting people up for dates seem like the perfect profession for me!

**But why set up something like Lunch Actually?**

Well, when I was working in a bank, many of my colleagues were all single and not dating. Not that they were unattractive or ineligible. Just that they were all married to the bank! On the other hand, I had many friends who were getting married as well. Keen to solve this mystery, I investigated the reason for this phenomenon. I realised that those getting married were people who actually met their other halves at school or university. There are many different dating platforms out there, but nothing specially caters to the needs of a busy working professional. Lunch dating is a concept that has been popular in the UK, US & Australia but there was nothing like it in Asia. After much thought and research, my husband and I decided to start Asia's first lunch dating company.

**What does it take to run a dating service? What qualifications must you have?**

I am a Certified Matchmaker from the Matchmaking Institute in New York.

**Huh? You go to school for that?**

Yes! Getting formal training definitely helped me be a better consultant. In addition, you will need (a) a good heart, (b) a big heart, and (c) a strong heart. A good heart because you must

be a do-gooder. Even if you are having a bad day yourself e.g. just quarrelled with your boyfriend, you must try your best to find your member a great match. A big heart because there are times you are might get screamed at for something that is totally out of your control. But being an understanding consultant, you take it in your stride. And finally a strong heart because you are in for surprises everyday! Someone might just call you up and say, guess what! My date was my ex-wife's colleague! Or, hey, we just got married, when they have just met 3 months ago! **So being a certified Matchmaker, what's your take on the whole dating scene here?**

It's healthy and thriving. Unlike what

your way to meet a new friend. After the initial consultation with us at our office, the rest of the process is just like meeting another new friend over lunch. No worries that you might be caught at a singles event by friends (i.e. announcing to the whole world you are single and looking) or the risk of your personal profile online read by your boss.

**Why exactly set up dates over lunch instead of dinner?**

Lunch = short, sweet and simple. People might find dinner too heavy, romantic and intimidating. We arrange evening dates too; we just don't call them dinner! They are known as after work coffee or after work drinks, depending on the venue!

whenever necessary. And, if (touch wood) the relationship does not work out and they have to reactivate their membership, our dating consultants are always here with a listening ear.

**Is there are screening process to weed out psychos?**

We meet up with each and every one of our potential members. If we are not comfortable with the person, we would not sign them up.

**While on the topic of psychos, have any tried to enrol in your dating service?**

To date, thank goodness, no! Guess they would try out something that has no screening/verification plus lower or no investment cost.

**We heard you have a computer that sorts out suitable matches.**

Yes we have a system that filters out the suitable matches according to your profile, physical and personality attributes!

**Cool, does it have a name like Deep Blue or something?**

It's called Soulseek.

**What's the success rate like for relationship challenged people like us?**

Well, 70-80% of our first dates arranged have been rated as good by our members. So if you are an average, normal bloke, you would enjoy our service.

**We heard that two of your clients are like tying the knot. Doesn't stuff like that only happen in the movies?**

We have not only one but three couples we tied the knot last year! Well, we do exist to help bring people together you know?

**So when's the wedding and do you get to give away the groom?**

Haha! No, but we did get an Ang Pow though. The wedding was in early December last year.

**You have a database of single women with you. Mind sharing it with us?**

Yes, if you pay us the membership fee, why not? We have overheads to pay after all!

**What would your advice be for the lovelorn?**

Keep a positive attitude, be open to new ideas and learn to understand the rules of the love game so you can become better at it.

**Finally, Valentine's coming up soon. Can you get us a date?**

Tell us your dating preferences, and we will try our best! **HMM**

**Q Who's more pathetic when it comes to dating, men or women?**

**A Dare I say the men, and get spitted at.**

many people might think, Malaysians are pretty open-minded when it comes to dating. If not, how else could we explain all the enquiries we have been getting since we started in September? **So you do have enough lonely people out there to run in a profit every month?**

Now, now... be nice. Let's not use derogatory terms such as lonely here. Well, to answer your question, there are enough busy working professionals & executives to keep us in the black.

**Who's more pathetic when it comes to dating, men or women?**

Dare I say the men, and get spitted at; FHM is a men's magazine after all? Ok, seriously, both men and women have their idiosyncrasies. Enough said.

**Yeah right. How does Lunch Actually compare to other dating services like say... Speed Dating?**

Well unlike other dating platforms, Lunch Actually is a personalized dating service that specialises in one-to-one lunch dates. Each date is handpicked according to your dating preferences. You need not go out of

**Sounds like fun, what's the process like if we were to sign up?**

We will meet up you up at our cosy office for a chat to find out more about your dating preferences. After you have signed on the dotted lines, we will proceed to find you your first date. All the arrangements of the date will be done by us. You just need to turn up at the venue and enjoy the date! And after that, we will contact you to get your feedback on your date. This will help us refine the matching criteria to ensure that your next date is even better than the last!

**Can you entertain weird requests like 'find me a girl with a butt like Jlo's'?**

We had this guy who came in and insisted that his date have long hair, fair-skinned, and is an accountant. Puzzled by his request, I dug deeper to find out why? Well, after much probing, it turned out that he was looking for a clone of his ex-girlfriend.

**Lovely story. And did you give him counselling...**

We wouldn't call ourselves counsellors but we do give dating tips and pointers



Mulan's interior design  
was heavily inspired