

MALAYSIA'S LEADING FASHION & BEAUTY MAGAZINE

Female

FEB 2006

It's All About Love!

- Sultry makeup
- Seductive hair
- Hot-date fashion

MUST READ:

WE MET & MARRIED IN 3 MONTHS!

THE BEST PLACES TO MEET GOOD MEN

"I CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD!"

"Look at me!"

4 Fail-proof Ways To Get Attention

BONUS:
Your Ultimate Dating Guide

BERNARD & MARY CHANDRAN

Fashion's
It couple gets a makeover!

WIN!
A holiday in Singapore with Hugo Boss Pure Purple!

40+
Valentine's Day Gift Ideas



My Great Date EXPERIMENT

We sent our single and seeking senior beauty writer Michelle Gomez to test three popular ways of meeting men. Elaine Tan reports on her experience.



Interview with the 'dating consultant'



The first five minutes: all smiles and shyness

"Hmmm ... he's cute."

Lunch dating

The Process

- I met a 'dating consultant' at Lunch Actually who assessed my personality, dating criteria and compatibility. I filled up a six-page form and even provided a sample of my handwriting for analysis! Then, there was a half-hour interview with the consultant.
- Clients are matched using the company's 'Soulseek' system – using a combination of the client's preferences and a handwriting analysis.
- When a potential match is identified, the dating consultant arranges a date at a restaurant affiliated with Lunch Actually.
- I was told my date's name (first only), age, religion, ethnicity, industry, profession, favourite foods, hobbies, sports, hangouts, movie and music preferences, holiday destinations and other activities.
- Reservations for the lunch date were made under the names 'Jamie and Violet'. The restaurant was told to prepare separate bills, unless otherwise requested by the client on the date.
- It is a mutual decision for clients to exchange their last names and contact details, and opt for a second date.

Pre-date jitters?

- I was excited about this date because I was given some information about him beforehand and found we had things in common: we're both of the same religion, like jazz, cooking and love the same foods.
- During our respective consultations, we had ranked our various likes from one to three and we picked the same top three things across several categories! I was surprised by the similarities and was looking forward to meeting him.



"This is getting better every minute."



"Great! The food's here."



"He talks a lot."

"But, he has interesting things to say."



"This is not as awkward as I thought."

"What a funny guy."



Looks like they're having a good time.

The Date

- I found him reading a book when I got there. Later, he told me he brought a book in case I stood him up!
- He was chatty, though insisting he's usually quite shy. I think he talked a lot because he was nervous but that was a good thing because there were no moments of awkward silence.

Funny things guys say

- He asked how much of me was real! 'Do I normally dress like that?', 'How much makeup do I wear?', and 'What's my real hair colour?' These were honest questions though, and I suppose he only wanted to know the real me.

Chivalry isn't dead

- He offered to pay for our meal although I asked twice to split the bill. He jokes it's because he wants me to write nice things about him!

What the future holds

- Unfortunately, I had to leave after an hour and a half so things ended somewhat abruptly. Who knows, we might have stayed till later if my ride hadn't come ...
- He invited me for a Christmas party he's hosting but as I will be out of town by then, he gave me his contact number. Being my cautious self, I didn't offer mine and he didn't ask either.
- The next day, however, he emailed me (remember, I had not given him my email address or other contact details!). He must have done his research; went through the magazine and took a chance that it was the right address. To me, that's a plus point! It's flattering when a guy takes the initiative and it feels nice being pursued. Yes, he asked me for a second date in the email.
- If I had met him with a group of friends, we probably would have hit it off. He's a very sweet guy.

Lunch Actually

This company provides a safe, convenient and non-intimidating avenue for like-minded men and women to meet. The first interview is non-obligatory and free-of-charge. There is a membership fee if you want to be matched and a date arranged for you. A current promotion offers membership from RM980 a year for at least one match a month. Visit www.lunchactually.com