

Photo: Lucie Ferlin



MARCH 2010

# LIBERTAS

Digital Youth Magazine/published by Youth Association creACTIVE



# Editorial



Dear readers,

Aliens have always been a very cliché theme. From Hollywood movies to best selling novels, people are naturally attracted to the idea of outer-space life. But why is it that we're compelled to buy material on alien attacks, or our planet being completely destroyed by aliens? We are always talking about cultural diversity and conciliation and getting to know different people and different cultures, but just because aliens are from a different planet, do we have to consider them enemies? They shouldn't be that different from us. Besides, any civilization with enough technology to travel in the space probably means no harm, does it? What I actually mean is, we are probably creating our image of aliens like the image we have of ourselves, which is kind of bad, isn't it?

So this month we proposed people to show some aliens around planet Earth--our environment, cities, cultures, the way we live--even what we, as persons, like. We are saying it from the perspective of an alien, but it works exactly the same as doing it to someone from a culture you consider completely different from yours.

Maybe in the end, we'll all realize that actually we're very much alike. We probably have more in common than meets the eye. When we look at each other, we see a completely different "thing", "outfit", or even person. We shouldn't go around shooting like mad men at each other. We sometimes forget that sitting down and chatting for five minutes will sweep all the differences away. If we couldn't see each other's differences; we would probably be best friends, never knowing that we were raised inside a culture where "the others" are feared the most.

by Daniel Nunes





# contents

## ARTICLES

A SIMPLE CHANGE: FROM ALIENATIONS... P.04

WELCOME TO OUR PLANET P.06

SOMEWHERE IN SPACE P.08

ALIENS P.10

## TIPS AND STRICKS

FRINGED LAMPSHADE P.12

## YOUTH PROJECT

HOW SALTO-YOUTH HAS MADE A... P.14

## BRAINSTORM

CO-EDUCATION SYSTEM P.18

## MOVIE REVIEW

"EQUILIBRIUM" DE KURT WIMMER P.22

## INTERVIEW

CAROLINA FIGUEROA P.24

## POEM

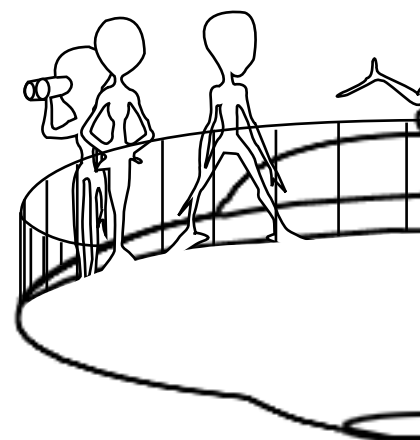
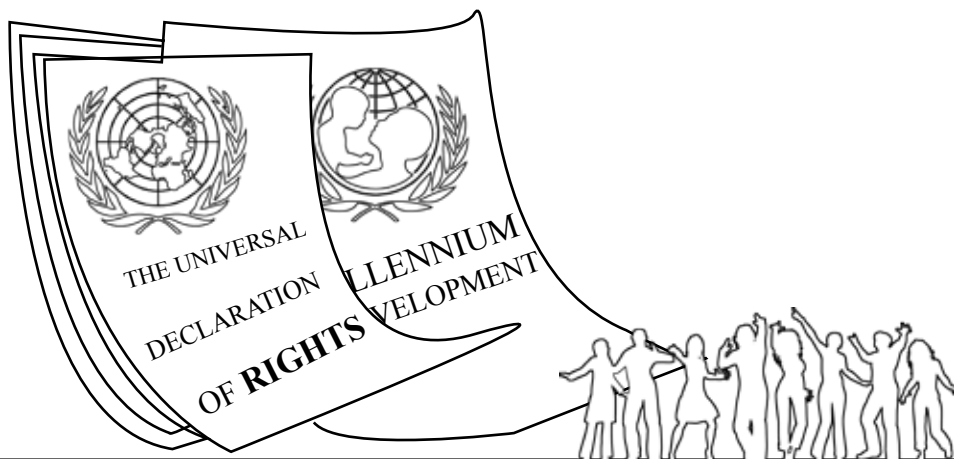
A MODERN STORY P.27

ABOUT LIBERTAS P.28

# A SIMPLE CHANGE: F ALIEN NATIONS

by Tiberiu Iacomì

n°7...Alien visitors



4

Digital Magazine — Libertas

“  
There  
is **no** one  
to make  
peace  
with  
any longer”

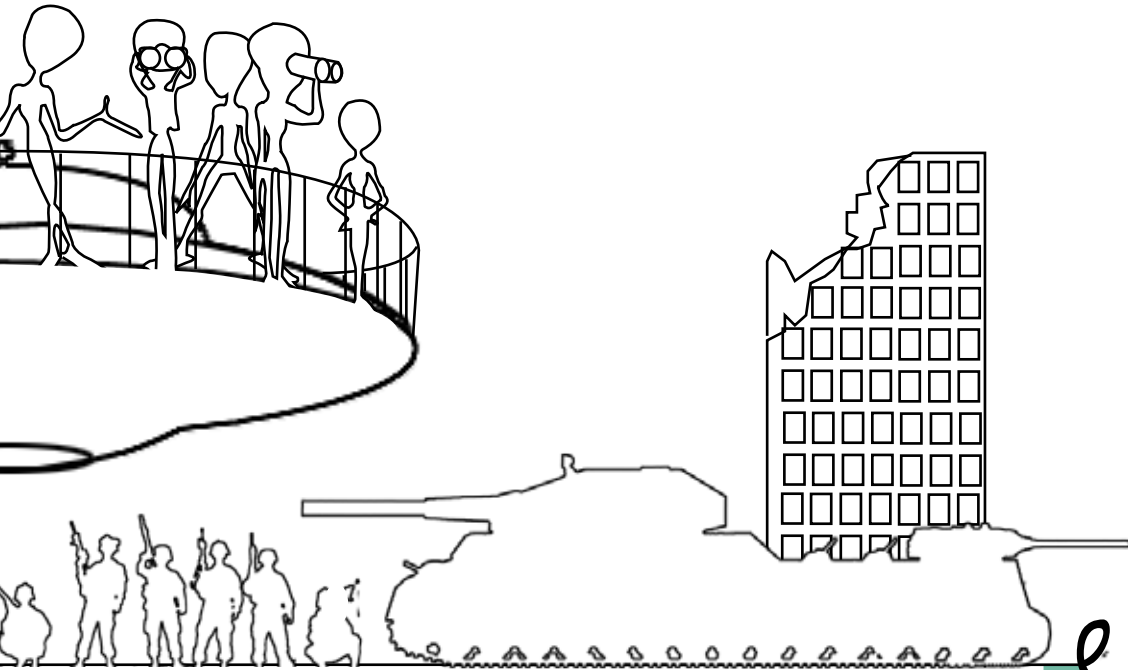
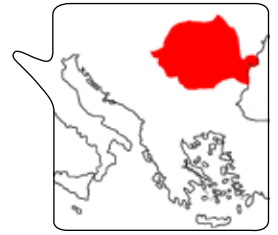


**W**elcome, my dear alien visitors! Welcome to the global human tour of intuition and despair. I will assume the humble role of your museum guide as this world has truly become a Madame Tussaud's preservation chamber of wax feelings and attitudes. I welcome you to laugh, to be surprised, to be confused, to know us in order to wish to know us more or never to have known us.

We are the uomo universale race, the one who burned Galilei because he was not selfish enough to believe that everything revolves around our amazing perception. We are the ones that believe that we became, since long time ago, your faithful and beloved apprentices. Still, we aren't able to see our Egyptian pyramids as landing-pads for your spaceships or activate our stargates to your planets and galaxies. But we do all these things amazingly on screen, following, letter by letter, the Mayan descriptions.

We travel to you, we attack you, or we establish partnerships with you only in movies or in TV series. However, we do want to meet you and partner with you because here, on Earth, we have finished our job. There is no one to meet and partner with anymore. There is no one to make peace with any longer. And our regional, potentially growing inter-civilization conflicts and clashes aren't developing quite as our conspiracies foretold so our military industries are seeking new threats and you fit the profile quite well. So, I welcome you again!

# FROM ALIENATIONS TO



## events

Next, on your right (if you indeed have a right) you can observe and admire the holograms and live transmissions from our most representative areas: the poverty and famine covered Somalia, the catastrophe-stricken Haiti or the India-Pakistan border--a marvelous piece of religious, cultural and ethnic dispute. On your left, in order for you to better understand the grace of these pieces, I recommend you have a look at our most important documents: the Universal Declaration Of Rights, the UN Charter and, of course, our most important project, the Millennium Development Goals initiative. I guess that now the contrast is profoundly diminished, right? What? You want to contribute to save those poor nations? You insult us. Please, do not make us feel like aliens in our own land.

At the finale of our short but irrelevant tour, I would like you to have a look at how we perceive the relations in our world. Access this link (<http://www.thevenusproject.com/>) where you can watch the Zeitgeist perspective of our conspiracy-rotten world, our self-devouring back-stabbing and myth-fashioning. I would also recommend to you, in order not to believe that we are a kind of cynics and auto-skepticals, to explore projects like the Venus (I know, no earthly name) that have the seeds to change not only the structure of this world and also its capacity to maintain and develop healthier foundations.

I do not know if you heard of our updates and tweets but here is one for you: @alienvisors #alienation may be a painkiller for our absolute power corruption but we sometimes gather and imagine and write about meeting you and not leaving alienations rebuild our nations and liberties <http://bit.ly/d6kohl>!



### Omizutori (Water-Drawing Festival)

This event goes back 1,000 years. Buddhist priests draw up healing waters and run about with huge pine torches. Priests at Todai-ji Temple, famous for its enormous statue of Buddha, confess their sins before the Eleven-faced Kannon enshrined in Nigatsu-do Hall, and also pray for world peace and a rich harvest for 14 consecutive days.

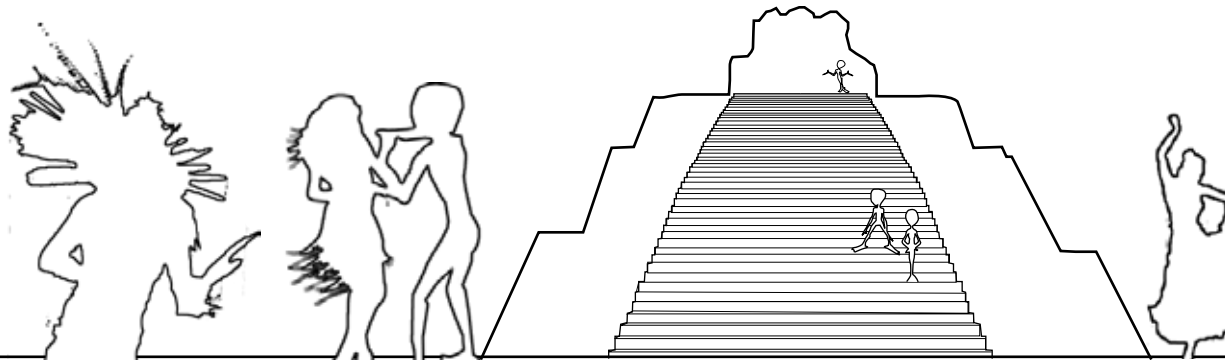
**When :** March 1st-14th

**Where :** Todai-ji Temple, Zoshi-cho, Nara City, **Japan**

**Website:** <http://farstrider.net/Japan/Festivals/Omizutori.htm>

# WELCOME TO OUR P

by Silvia Romero



A couple of visitors from somewhere far in our galaxy are coming to Earth and I was asked the difficult task of organizing an itinerary for them: what should they see in order to know the best on our planet?

As I was trying to figure out what were the most important things they should see, more and more “shouldn’t” came to my mind. First, I must be to hide all the movies that have been done about them: Aliens, Star Trek, The X Files, Signs, Taken, and Independence Day among many others with terrifying green creatures that come to destroy our planet. Yes, xenophobia is not exactly our best introduction card and neither is racism. If we have done awful things to our own people--for example, Colonialism, the Holocaust, Apartheid, Ethnocide in places like Guatemala and the Balkans--imagine what we could do to outsiders from other planets!

Thinking about our wonderful natural resources, I realized that our visitors better come soon because we are running out of them! For instance, many of our beautiful rivers and lakes are more contaminated every day. Definitely they shouldn’t see all the things we’ve done against nature because they may feel very disappointed of how we have wasted and misused our resources.

What about poverty and hunger? Some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world get eclipsed by children’s faces of hunger and lack of education, and that certainly brings me to a huge problem: I don’t think I can hide from them almost half of humanity (over three billion people) live on less than \$2.50 a day . If they see the huge contradiction of how money and power of the whole world is concentrated in a few hands, they’ll probably think we are crazy!

Yes, they shouldn’t see all these contradictions, but there are so many! We have children dying of hunger and teenagers starving to fit into a beauty standard; we are wondering why we live in such violent societies when most of the times we use it in different levels to solve our daily life problems; we spend every minute of our lives studying, working hard and pursuing “successful” carriers, and when we finally reach to the top, we wonder why we have the feeling of a big hole that money and status couldn’t fill.

“  
**our  
cultural  
richness is  
one of Earth’s  
unexplored  
potentials**”



Photo: Photographs of the Mayan Indians of Guatemala par Vince Heptig

1. Check [www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats](http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats)

# PLANET!



Ok, by now I have the sensation that anything makes sense and I'm officially bumped by all the things I'm not proud of in my planet, so maybe it isn't as wonderful as I thought. But then I turn on the TV, and I see some images of Haiti, and as I feel deeply sad for their situation, I also start feeling very encouraged by all the people from different parts of the world who are helping them to recover from their tragedy. I start thinking that there might be a few things left in our planet that are worth seeing, like the kindness and solidarity of people all around the world when a country or a town is in trouble. Our visitors should be witnesses of how human beings can come together for a good cause and all the great things we can achieve if we join forces.

Something that they might find very interesting is our cultural diversity and they should definitely experience it! Our cultural richness is one the Earth's unexplored potentials and it is only now, hopefully, that we are starting to notice how much we can learn about each other. Guatemala, as an example, has 25 different cultures, each one of them with their own traditions, language, costumes, and everything in a very small territory in Central America!

Speaking about Central America, I would like to make it a starting point of a tour around wonderful places in the world. If we want to share with our visitors our history, then this place is a great example as it is the heart of great Mayan Civilization. An expedition around Tikal (Guatemala) or Copan (Honduras) is obligatory to get to know the wonders of this fantastic civilization that has provided the world great knowledge.

What about our art and music? Here in Latin America, we can share with them many different rhythms that show them the joy, hope and strength of our cultures. Imagine our visitors dancing salsa or merengue!

Now I'm very excited about the project, but I don't think I can do it alone because there are so many wonderful things to see! So, I guess I can call my friends around the world and organize with them a tour to make sure that our visitors have a wonderful time!



## events



**Paro Tsechu Festival**

**Tsechu Festival is a magnificent and kaleidoscopic festival held in a spectacular location in the Himalayas, with hundreds of locals gathering to see the monks dressed in vivid robes performing masked ritual prayers and dances.**

**When :** 26-30 March  
**Where :** Paro, **Bhutan**



**Fallas de Valencia**

# SOMEWHERE IN SPA

by Nina Vorgić

# T

**The Pilot:** Hi, welcome aboard!!

Our next stop is The Earth. Yeah! What a diversity of land, beautiful nature, seas and oceans, which animals and humans call home.

**Alien:** Phew, HUMANS?! What is that? I see, on a desert peninsula, there are people who are dying. Why? Why are they killing each other?

Why 1 does this house have no electricity? Why has this young human died from bombs?

**The Pilot** (ignoring): Earth (or the Earth) is the third planet from the Sun, and the fifth-largest of the eight planets in the Solar System. It is also the largest, most massive, and densest of the Solar System's four terrestrial planets. It is sometimes referred to as the World, the Blue Planet or Terra. The planet formed 4.54 billion years ago and life appeared on its surface within a billion years.

**Alien:** But wait!!! Come on, I don't get it... Why is that female human having intercourse when she's obviously not happy? Why does she have a bruise on her face? Why is he beating her, and pulling her hair? Stop it!! I can't take it anymore; I can't bear to see her tears anymore!!

**The Pilot:** The term race, or racial group, usually refers to the categorization of humans into populations or groups on the basis of various sets of heritable characteristics. The physical features commonly seen as indicating race are salient visual traits such as skin color, cranial or facial features and hair texture.

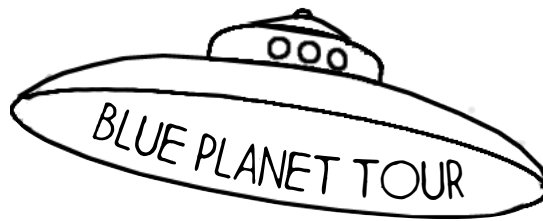
**Alien:** Look at that boy! He looks very poor. I think he's going to faint on the street. He must be starving... Although this seems like a huge and rich city, no one wants to help him to get up, or him give a hand. All these greedy and selfish, materialistic people are like dolls, soulless.... Uh, so creepy... Why did that guy in white turn off the plug from that machine? Is that woman crying? Did he really pass away? Is the "doctor" (as they call them) the one who has that right to do that... Is he God, that some human believe that exists?

**The Pilot:** Love is any of a number of emotions related to a sense of strong affection and attachment. The word love can refer to a variety of different feelings, states, and attitudes, ranging from generic pleasure ("I loved that meal") to intense interpersonal attraction ("I love my husband"). This diversity of uses and meanings, combined with the complexity of the feelings involved, makes love unusually difficult to consistently define, even compared to other emotional states.

“Differences  
make  
them humans  
, I'd say”

“ Why  
is that female  
human having  
intercourse  
when she's  
obviously,  
not happy?”

# CE



## events

**Alien:** I am crushed; this Earth is quite disappointing...

(After some time)

Wait, what is that?

People laughing.. Aw, that has to be a family...Yeah, a mom dad, sister, brother, granddad, and grandma.. having breakfast. My university degree finally paid off, as I get to see humans in their natural habitat. They might have been to church or mosque or synagogue, as they are now talking about their history and culture. When I was reading about it, I thought it was the best thing about them. Yeah, ethics... And that guy over there in library is doing something very serious...uh, I'd say philosophy, that thing when they are thinking about purpose of their own lives... That guy says he doesn't believe in human God, but still he's supportive of his girl that does, he never wants to persuade her not to believe. Differences make them humans, I'd say.

**The Pilot:** Ethics (also known as moral philosophy) is a branch of philosophy which seeks to address questions about morality; that is, about concepts such as good and bad, right and wrong, justice, and virtue. etc...

**Alien:** Ohm, I just don't like that they are all throwing their garbage on huge fields or using chemicals with their own food. It's obvious they'll get sick. Oh, nice!! Green fighters!

*Yes!!! We don't want war!*

*We don't want hate!*

*We don't want our planet to be destroyed!*

*We want to change the world!*

They are shouting, someone is playing their famous instrument- guitar...and they are singing, "Free Your Mind"!!!

**The Pilot:** Empathy is an ability with many different definitions. They cover a broad spectrum, ranging from feeling a concern for other people that creates a desire to help them, experiencing emotions that match another person's emotions, knowing what the other person is thinking or feeling, to blurring the line between self and other.

Daniel Batson: *A motivation oriented towards the other.*

**Alien:**In the end, what can I say? Firstly, I was disappointed; afterwards I realized there is still hope for that mankind. Not all people are bad. Though the majority is shallow, there is a minority that works and studies hard, are good, full of empathy, and want to improve their lives. I think if they raise their voice, the Earth will have a much brighter future.

### Fallas de Valencia

The Fallas is the biggest annual Valencian celebration. It is a world famous street party, a spectacular celebration of Valencian tradition for the locals and an enormous cosmopolitan festival for the visitors.

### Fallas de Valencia

**When :** 15-19 March

**Where :** Valencia, Spain

**Website:** <http://www.fallas.es/>



### Hong Kong Arts Festival

The Hong Kong Arts Festival is one of the most important cultural happenings in Southeast Asia. It features overseas and local artists in an eclectic array of music, theatre, dance, popular entertainment, film and exhibition programmes.

### Hong Kong Arts Festival

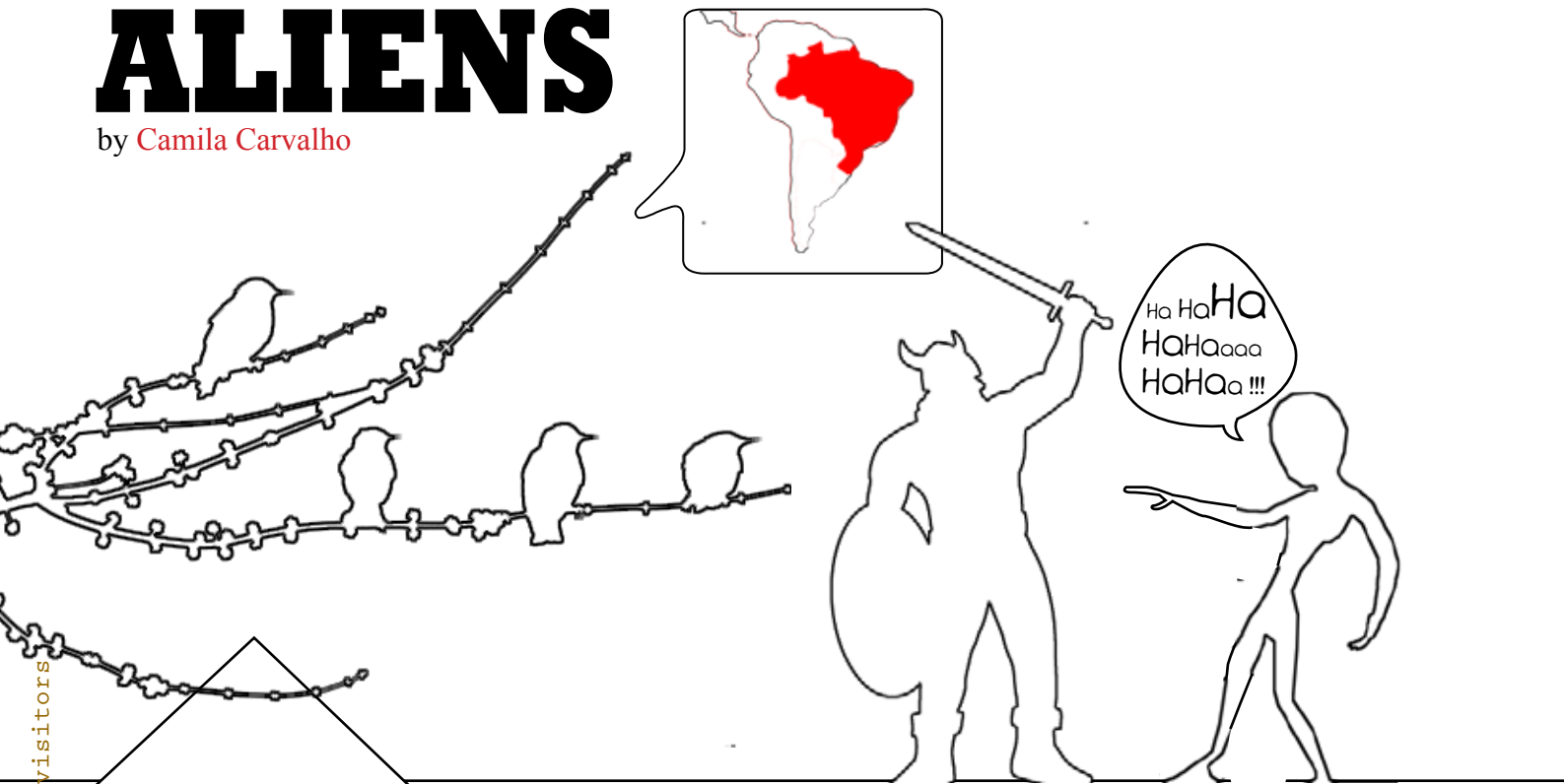
**When :** 25 February – 28 March

**Where :** Hong Kong, China

**Website:** <http://www.hk.artsfestival.org/en/>

# ALIENS

by Camila Carvalho



Since I was little, I always believed that aliens were real. I liked to watch sci-fi movies and imagine how it would be if they came here. I believed they were nice, not cruel, invaders even though this planet has a lot to envy.



Photo: Marco Gomes / CC-by / Flickr

The Planet Earth has a lot to show, natural and man-made places, several cultures, interesting people. I think that if I had the chance to show them this wonderful place, I would start with the Nature, showing the flowers and colors that I doubt they have in others planets, the smells, the sound of the water through the rocks and the animals. I would show them the perfect beauty behind all of this, and maybe this way they can fall in love with the Nature, the same way I did.

After that, I would like to show the places our civilization built, the man-made beauty we are capable to do. They would see the Egypt Pyramids and Stonehenge (and maybe they can tell us about the mistery behind these buildings!)

We would amuse them with our varied cultures, passing through the Chinese Warriors and the story behind them, the Italian Food, Viking Legends of the Nordic Countries and the Brazilian Folklore, telling about the myths the brazilian culture has.

But despite all the beauty, I would have to show the misfortunes the humankind does on our planet. I would need to show the famine, destruction, wars and the consequences, so they would know how our planet really is. Maybe they would take me to meet their planet too, and show me the unique beauty they have; maybe without the destruction we are causing in our planet.



**“I would start with the Nature, showing the flowers and colors that I doubt they have”**



# events



Photo: Crystal Writer / CC-by-nc-sa / Flickr



## Glasgow International Comedy Festival

The Glasgow International Comedy Festival is attracting increasingly bigger and better names. Venues range from small pubs to big theatres and concert halls, so you can expect everything from major shows featuring big names on the circuit to little gems by unknown performers.

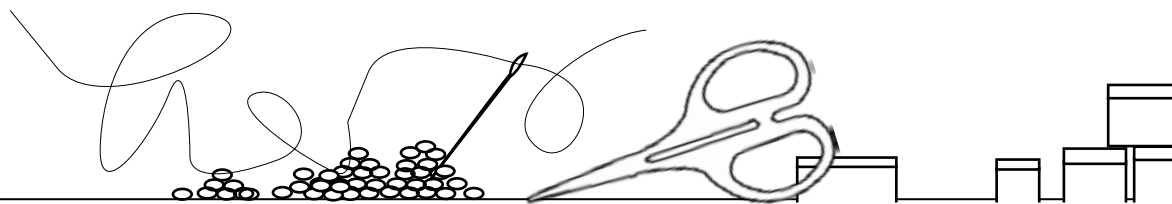
**When :** 11 – 28 March

**Where :** Glasgow, **UK**

**Website:** <http://www.glasgow-comedyfestival.com/#>

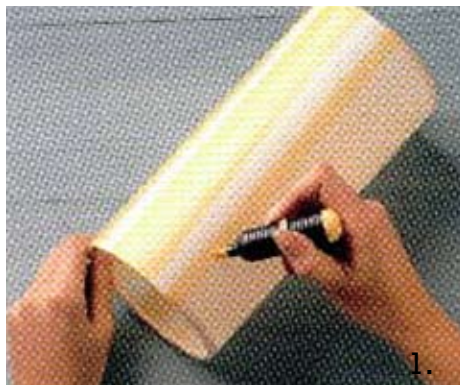
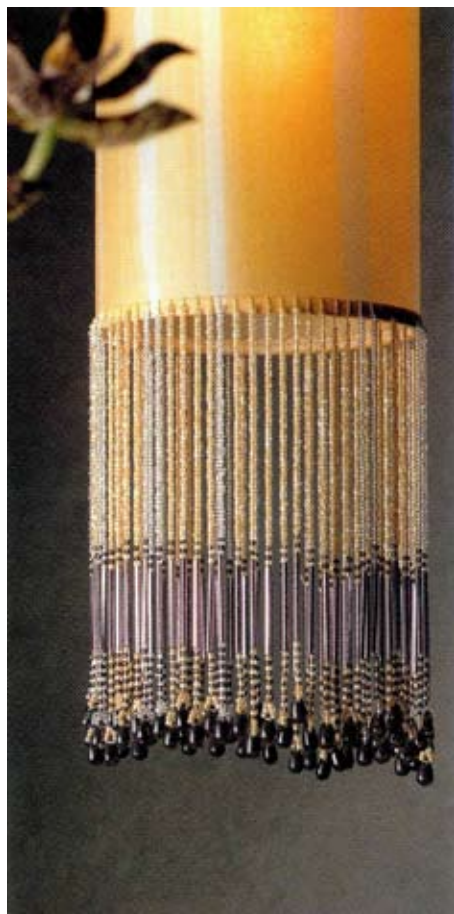
# FRINGED LAMP SHADE

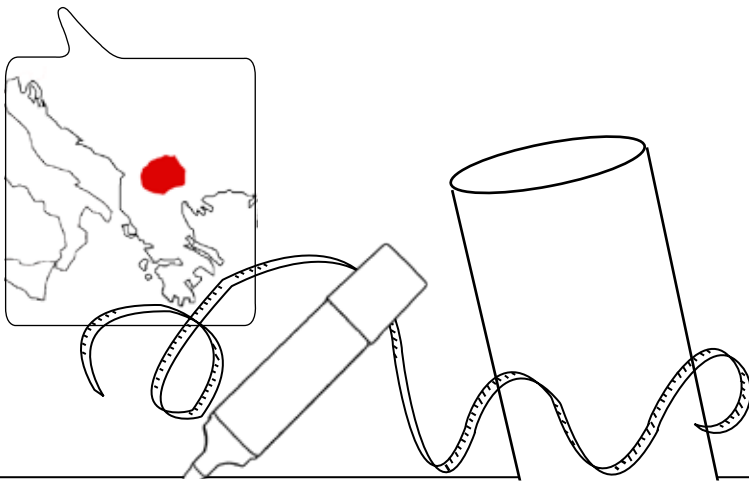
collected by **Valentin Petreski**



## You will need:

- Yellow oil-based marker pen
- Tubular white paper lampshade
- Tape measure
- Sharp sewing needle
- Scissors
- Yellow and white beading thread
- Beading needle
- Pencil
- Graph paper
- Small yellow glass beads
- Small purple glass beads
- 4cm/1/3/2in purple bugle beads
- Purple teardrop beads
- Small transparent glass beads





## events

1. Draw freehand stripes of varying widths down the length of the lampshade using the oil-based marker pen. Leave until dry.

2. Using a sharp needle, pierce a row of holes 6mm apart just above the bottom rim.

3. Cut a piece of yellow beading thread twice the desired length of the fringe plus 25cm/10in and double through the beading needle. Knot the ends together and pass the needle through a hole on a yellow stripe, then loop through a hole on a yellow stripe, then loop through and pull taut.

4. Mark the bead sequence of graph paper. Thread on small beads, 12cm/4in of yellow, one purple, one yellow. Add a bugle, then alternate five small yellow and four purple. (On alternate strands, add an extra two of each colour. Add three yellow.

5. Add one purple teardrop and three yellow beads. Insert the needle just below the purple teardrop and make a fastening-off stitch, checking that no thread is showing. Pass the needle back up the strand.

6. Make a fastening-off stitch below the bugle then pass it through the bugle and make another fastening-off stitch. Pull gently on the strand to remove kinks. Continue around the shade. For the white stripes, use white thread and substitute transparent beads for yellow ones.



**Cape Town Festival**

The Cape Town Festival is a three-day annual event that puts on a programme of cultural activities and entertainment. Covering art, music, dance, film, comedy, theatre, street art, cuisine and much more, the event has an eclectic feel and offers something for visitors of all ages

**Cape Town Festival**

**When :** 19-21 March

**Where :** Cape Town, **South Africa**

**Website:** [www.capetownfestival.co.za](http://www.capetownfestival.co.za)

# HOW SALTO-YOUTH HAS ... IN PLUNGE?!

by Lina Vosyliūtė



It is white and cold winter evening here in little town of Lithuania – Plunge. On my table there is SALTO-YOUTH network report of activities implemented in 2008. It brings a lot of warm memories to me, because on the cover there is a picture of participants from training course “Education and Civilizations”, which was held in Malta, from 3 to 11 May 2008. Long time ago?! But there are a lot of things connecting this with dates of the training.



Photo: from Lina Vosyliute

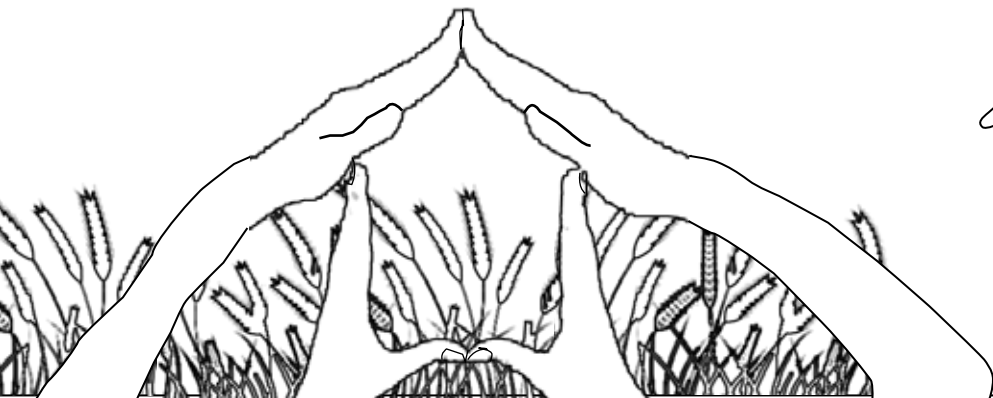
When my friend has brought me this publication, I was really surprised to see our people on the top. We were guessing if it was kind of exceptional training for SALTO-YOUTH Resource Center, or designers just have chosen the picture for coverage according the composition? I don't know. But I have an answer for myself.

It was one of the most valuable and inspiring training course I have ever attended (I have attended a lot, sometimes I suppose - too much). This course was aimed at realizing and concretizing the links between education and civilization and at checking whether they are a driving force or a brake to the qualitative development of Euro-Mediterranean voluntary service.

And we have checked it this summer in Plunge. We – cultural association “Saulute”, childcare agency “Cyrulis” and NGO “Krantas”. Idea has born by a lucky coincidence or by generating it from three different sides. Lina - projects coordinator from childcare agency “Cyrulis” was willing to organize group of European Voluntary Service (EVS) project, from which local community of Plunge would benefit practically. Cultural association “Saulute” members had a

“ This group  
**EVS** project  
has hosted  
11 volunteers  
from 6  
different ,,  
countries

# AS MADE A DIFFERENCE



dream to built a clay or straw house, where there could be held their meetings. And me, another Lina from NGO “Krantas”, have suggested to overcome European dimension and to invite participants from Mediterranean countries, what would enrich this project in the terms of cultural diversity. Three different ideas became one. One project which was approved.

1st of July 2009, a project called “Contact of different cultures through the acquaintance of the heritage” has started. This group EVS project has hosted 11 volunteers from 6 different countries - France, Jordan, Israel (but participant would prefer mentioning – Palestine, so we respect his decision), Italy, Spain, UK. Algeria was supposed to be in this list, but unfortunately, one volunteer from Algeria has experienced visa issuance problems, so he was not able to join this adventurous project.

Main working fields of this group EVS project were: environment and culture. Environmental theme was covered with practical work in eco-farm – picking and cutting herbs, learning how to make various healing teas. Alternative building – was central activity of this project. Our volunteers, led by experienced architects, have built a straw house. But because of Lithuanian changing and rainy weather – it wasn’t covered with clay. Volunteers not only had ecological workshops, but they tried “green” lifestyle as well – used bikes, sorted rubbishes, lived in the tents.

This year Vilnius was famous for being a cultural capital of Europe, and Plunge - was nominated as a cultural capital of Lithuania. Our project cultural events also had an honour to be a part of the official programme of “Plunge – cultural capital of Lithuania”. Cultural theme, crucial for this project, was

## events



### Balloons over Waikato

A big date in Hamilton’s calendar and just about the biggest ballooning event in New Zealand, this popular day is much more than just hot air. Over 100,000 spectators join hundreds of balloonists from around the world in an atmosphere of fun and friendship.

### Balloons over Waikato

**When :** 24-28 March

**Where :** Hamilton, New Zealand

**Website:** <http://www.balloons-overwaikato.co.nz/>



covered with opening and final events for local community. Our volunteers took part in “Living Library” event, where locals had and used an opportunity to break stereotypes about Arabs, Muslims, black people, and other groups perceiving discrimination. Furthermore, volunteers have enjoyed the variety of events held in Plunge (opening of exhibition, modern art performance, national anthem singing event, etc.) and became a part of its cultural life.



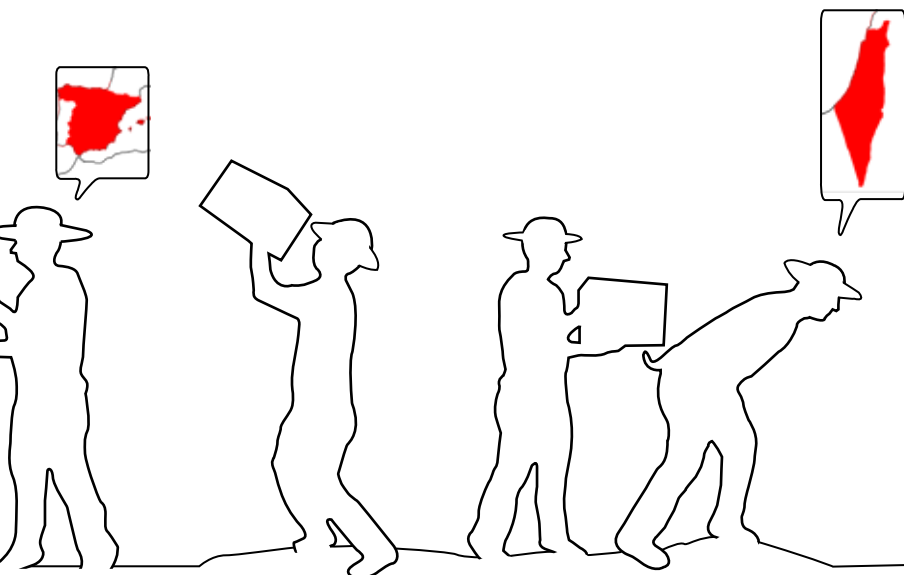
Photo: from Lina Vosyliute

All in all, this project had a huge added value for volunteers personally and for the community of Plunge. For majority of volunteers this project was first intercultural experience, which has contributed to their personal development, communicational skills, knowledge about the environmental issues, alternative building and other civilizations. In local community, there was raised awareness of Euro-Med context cultures and especially it was targeted at combating prejudices about Muslim religion and woman role in Arabic world. Furthermore, local people were promoted to choose products from eco-farms, also it was showed that alternative building is not only possible, but cheap and sustainable.

We had foreseen promotion of the results. And we were glad for doing so, because there were so many things we wanted to share and to encourage others – to take an EVS opportunity, to make Euro-Med projects, to build alternatively, to cooperate with different organizations. So our outcome - photography exhibition called “One month of volunteering in Plunge: from the idea to the result” was held in Plunge and keeps visiting neighbouring towns.

And this is not the end, today, 17th of December, there took place closing conference of “Plunge – cultural capital of Lithuania”, in this context volunteers from Euro-Mediterranean

**“Volunteers not only had ecological workshops, but they tried “green” lifestyle as well”**



# events

region and their contribution was mentioned and evaluated once again by our local government.

After checking in Plunge if civilization is a driving force or a brake to the qualitative development of Euro-Mediterranean voluntary service, we can give our answer. Different civilization – Arabic world, Western and Eastern Europe - was a driving force in terms of public attention, enthusiasm of organizers and learning among volunteers themselves. It was a brake, in a sense of beaurocratism it creates.

Instead of the conclusion, I would like to paraphrase B.

Abrigani words said in Malta : “If you can not do Euro-Med project – just don’t do!”, so I would rather say “Choose more ambitious way and you’ll come up with more qualitative results”.



## Mexican New Year

Elaborate headdresses and celebratory dances spring up in Mexico City’s main square, el Zócalo, at the Indigenous Mexica New Year. Women perfume conch shells with incense before blowing them in a homage-paying nod towards the cardinal points.

## Mexican New Year

**When :** 12 March

**Where :** El Zócalo, Mexico City, Mexico

**Website:** <http://www.dfinitivo.com/>



Photo: from Lina Vosyliute

# CO-EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

## The strongest platform that holds the key to solving society's education problems.

by Filip Ilievski



It is a fierce demand to increase the cerebral capacity of the young people, labeling them as an 'OK product' for the world's market, to make them undergo the whole process of education. Every single parent on the Earth wants the best for their children. It is the Law of Nature to sell your soul for your kid's success in extremely abnormal conditions, no matter the price. In normal conditions, however, parents must have realistic expectations and adjusting feasibilities. Now, the question is, will the co-education system fulfill the stern-faced parent's objectives?

Since a discussion on co-education is the core of this 'writing'; let us firstly find the most appropriate definition for it. Co-education, or mixed-sex education, is the process of educating students at colleges or universities, where all the classes are consisted of students from the opposite sex. This system of education originates from ancient Greece, and was introduced to Western Europe countries in the 17th century. The Greek philosopher Plato stated that 'coeducation creates a feeling of comradeship'. He taught both male and female sexes in the same institution without showing any discrimination when imparting education.

We cannot ignore 'the fact' that many parents do have problems with their children as they grow up. The society's influence over their children's education is what worries the parents most. Imagine your child coming back from a party, rushing in the toilet to 'have a relief', and then telling you that all the party's toilets were occupied by couples doing some 'important business'. Picture what would happen if your provocative-looking daughter comes in tears, stating that all



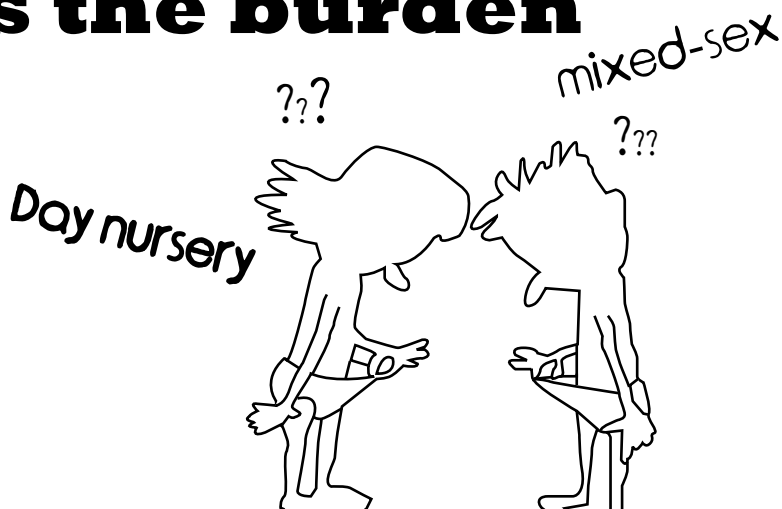
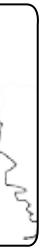
Photo: juvetson / CC-by / Flickr

**“ Through this system of education, students have the golden chance to communicate with everyone ”**

# SYSTEM

## loads the burden

S



the boys in her class have tried violently to touch her body parts. At that moment, the only reasonable, instant solution is transferring your child in a single-sex school.

What is a single sex-school? It is an education system at college or university, where students from the same sex in all classes study together. The Romans were smart enough to implement this system all over their empire, weren't they? Now, I would not like to spread the discussion on this topic, so let us focus on the previous one. Briefly, single-sex educational system is not the solution, but we can never deny or oppose it if it is left as the last straw in order to help the children with vast society problems. By-effects such as being surrounded by opposite-sex-thinking teenagers, with a dose of sensibility the same as mine in this statement, can be classified as normal. At the age when students finish primary education, at the passage to secondary school, they enter in the most normal period of life – puberty. From experience, puberty is a period where youngsters find it extremely difficult to cope with their emotions and acts. It is a period that leads to the entrance in the world of grown up people. The co-educational schools that embrace puberty are a real headache for parents who have the absolute excusable reason to be worried. indeed! You see students who are carried away by the emotions and the question of 'honor'--a word at that age that is not even close to its real meaning--can cause well known reactions with all the extra complications following. This, however, is completely dependable on the person. If the student has an aim to study and become something in life, at the same time being a part of a healthy society, all the tendencies towards 'taking the bull by the horns' are simply stupid for him or her. Also, parents

## events



### York Festival of Science and Technology

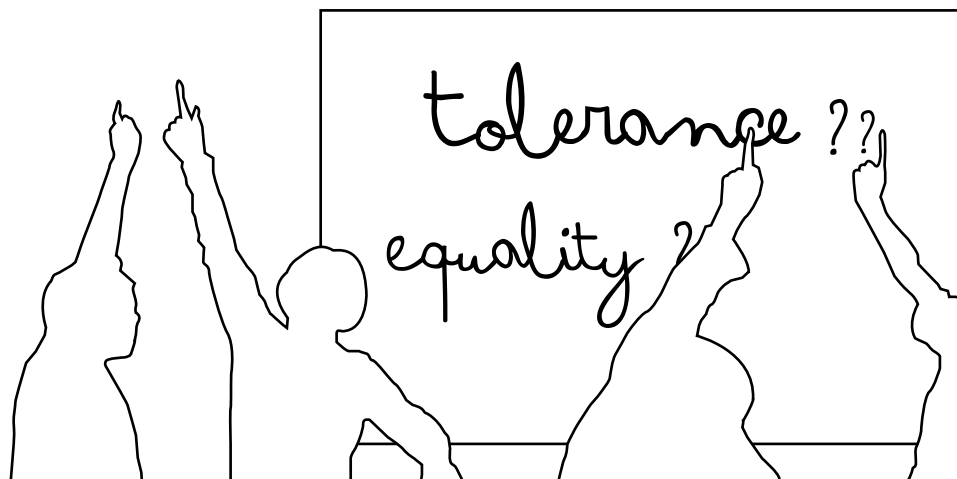
Running since 1997, York's Festival of Science and Technology allows visitors to experience different aspects of science and engineering, as well as celebrate technology and development. Innovative and interesting, it continues to affirm York's status as England's first 'Science City'.

### York Festival of Science and Technology

**When :** 12-21 March

**Where :** York, England

**Website:** <http://www.sciencecityyork.org.uk/community/events/festivalofscience.html>.



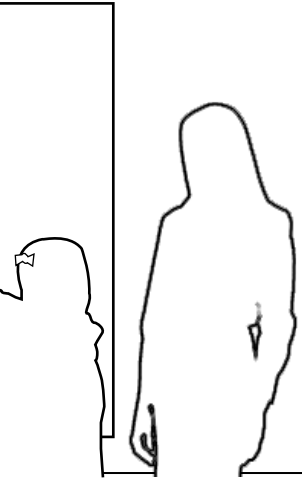
must 'give' a sense of culture to their children in order to focus them on what is right and avoid the wrong. Let us not forget that all reputable co-educational schools take the necessary measurements of precaution on time.

Co-education system is the light, the strong vision of the future's health society, making all of the students into people of whom the society can be proud. In this system of education, students have the golden chance to communicate with everyone and overcome their prejudices of the opposite sex. They start mixing and adjusting with the society itself, learning how to improve their communication with different people, and treating them the right way. Boys and girls are crafted for each other to co-operate and be a shoulder to cry on in the moments of worst despair. Friendship, without limits, simulates them and increases their sense for competition. From personal experience, I know that I have the best chemistry-experimenting partner in the Universe. She is a beautiful female whose perspective, ideas, and sympathy reinvigorate life in the dead substances. She is a partner and true friend that will be a terrible loss for me if she quits our partnership. Co-education system makes its students change in order to match with each other for the sake of success and accept the people the way they are in order to be accepted. It is well known that single-sex educational schools tend to create 'the superior sex', which automatically leads to sex-discrimination. Co-education system teaches all the people of equality and tolerance which gives them perspective for the world.

**“Co-education system teaches all the people of equality and tolerance”**

To sum up, co-education system, with its utilization as a firm indicator of liberal society with strong vision for the future's success, represents a balance established between consciousness and humanity which follows ideals of one perfect world.





# events

Photo: © Imagerie Rossignol... <http://www.collectionsrossignol.com/viequotidienne.htm#>



## Monte Mapu International Festival of Ecology, Ethnicity and Culture

The Monte Mapu International Festival of Ecology, Ethnicity & Culture highlights the perils of global warming. Festival-goers can enjoy performing arts and live music at the Isla de Maipo's El Trébol Campsite, 50km south-east of Santiago de Chile.

## Monte Mapu International Festival of Ecology, Ethnicity and Culture

**When :** 5-7 March

**Where :** El Trébol Campsite, Santiago de Chile, Chile

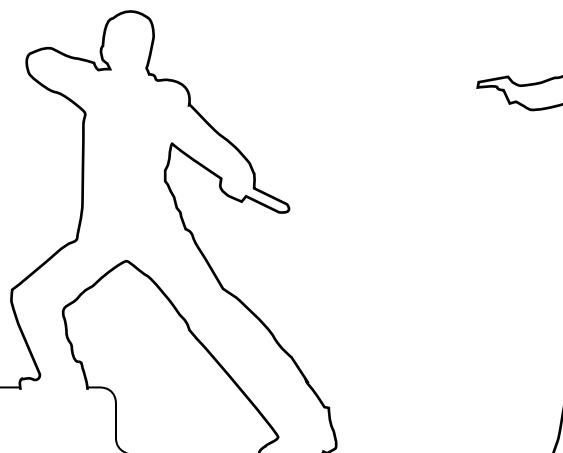
**Website:** <http://www.montemapu.com/>



# “EQUILIBRIUM”, THE CLOSE

by Kurt Wimmer

by Filip Ilievski

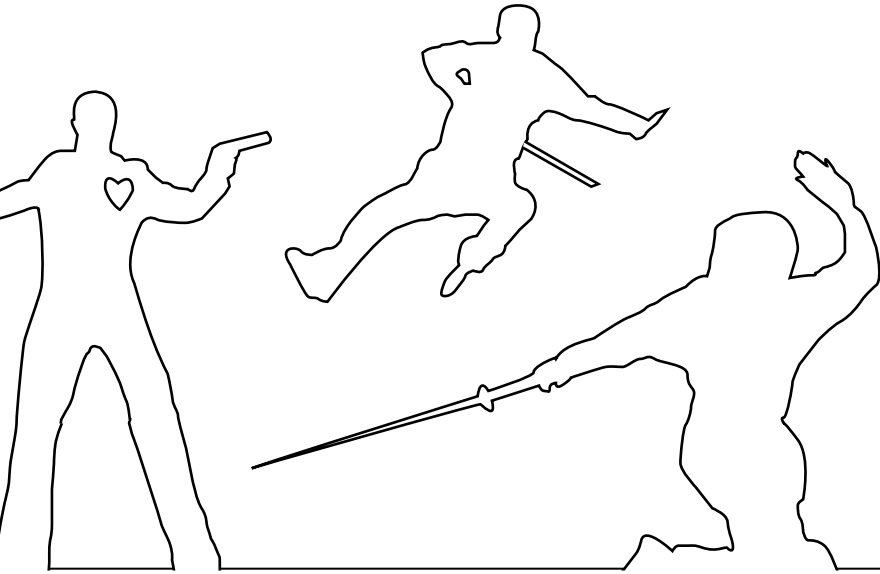


Have you ever individually thought how the world will look like in the future? Can you at all imagine life on ‘The Third Stone From The Sun’ in a world where to feel is the greatest deadly sin, and whose price is the most precious thing for every human being – life.....?

The magical appeal of the film, *Equilibrium*, directed by Kurt Wimmer, takes the audience in a new world, the ‘New Dawn of Triumpg’ for the people of Libria – our potential descendants. Inside the coldness and monotony of the vast city’s fortress lies that perfect mythical nation. Under ‘the saving effects of ‘the saint’ drug Prozium, which brain-washes them, and influenced by the egoistic, Hitler-like-speech leader of the Tetragrammation Council the hologram of ‘The Father’, Librians are emotionless people. The Third World War made people think about their human brothers, drawing a conclusion that emotions lead to misappropriate deeds, which caused a change from love and happiness into disappointment, hate and a thirst for revenge. One emotion causes another, as a domino effect, causing monstrous acts by the ‘man’ himself. Grammaton Cleric First Class John Preston, a widower whose wife was executed for emotional offense, protects the Librians from emotion-causing influence. Serving for the good of Libria means killing everyone who feels the slightest gratitude, happiness, disappointment, pain, or sorrow. It means killing your partner, who is begging you not to steal his dreams. But what happens when the First Class Cleric John Preston, the best in hid job, starts to feel something inside in his chest, as if the beating of his heart, that makes him feel admiration towards the sunrise? What happens when the battle of humans to kill, to extinguish the inside emotions, turns against them, as

“Emotions lead to misappropriate deeds”

# ST ATTEMPT TO A PERFECT WORLD



## events

an outcome of 'equilibrium disturbance' caused by missing 3 ml of prozium?

Without any doubts or hesitations, the plot, the acting, what's more, the idea of this film, are all simply fascinating. All my gratitude for this masterpiece is owed to the brilliant mind, creativity and vision of Kurt Wimmer, the writer and director of this film. The life force in John Preston, his way of thinking and feeling, are all the reflection of Christian Bales's personality and his endless talent to cope with any type of different roles.

The idea that this outstanding-close-to-perfectness film emits, is something as clear as crystal, and yet, terrifyingly close to the reality of ours. Even though the human's stupidity and brilliance are without limits, despite the power of the reason and the attempt to discard all the emotions, it cannot turn the homo-sapiens into something they are not – emotionless monsters and machines. The price to be paid for the perfect world of Libria that many of us want to reach is the destruction of that world itself. Equilibrium cannot exist without things being balanced. The moment when people will have absolute control over their emotions, not the moment when they'll 'erase' them, is the desired moment of establishing the 'perfect equilibrium', which was desired since people started to think.

Everyone who wants to enter in a new and different dimension, to face with the unique appealing idea that definitively makes you reflect on, must see this film. To feel, to make mistakes, that is a characteristic of a miserable human being, and that is what we are: nothing more, nothing less.



**Xochimilco Festival of the Prettiest Flower**

Xochimilco's Festival of the Prettiest Flower is a beautiful and colourful event honouring the goddesses of flowers and dance in order to ensure a good harvest. The local beauties parade around in their finery with flowers in their hair.

### **APS World Tour – Quicksilver Pro Surfer**

**When :** 21-28 March

**Where :** Xochimilco, Mexico

**Website:** <http://www.xochimilco.df.gob.mx/>.

# INTERVIEW WITH CA

by Laura Zarta Gutierrez

“Everybody is talking about climate change,, nowadays

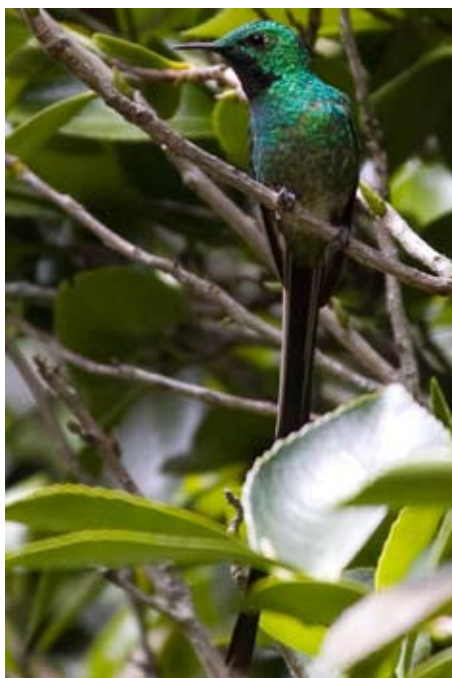


Photo from Carolina Figueroa

## WHO IS CAROLINA FIGUEROA IN A FEW WORDS?

Carolina was born in Bogotá, Colombia, 25 years ago. She had the chance to study in a French School in Bogota were she learnt pretty good French and English. She had a very intense sporty life at the end of high school and she is a still a disciplined sports women, she loves doing hiking, running, swimming, yoga, and many other activities. Besides, Carolina studied Political Science in Colombia and has focused her interests relating political science, environment and photography. She has worked for international organizations and currently she is working as climate change officer within Natural National Parks, the Colombian public institution in charged of protected areas.

### **Was your strong interest in outdoor activities and sports life an important trigger for you activism in the environmental field?**

Absolutely. Outdoor sports motivated me to discover nature and to do different and progressive kinds of hikes in Colombia. That's how I discovered the country side and its proper life style. I realized how important are natural resources for human living, in particular for people depending on agriculture as the primary economical input. We tend to forget this relationship in the city, buying things in supermarkets. Besides, spending time in the country side has a strong impact in me: colours, contrasts, smells, immensity, sounds and silence. It is inspiring and that's why I always take my camera with me.

### **Last year you presented the results of a community action program you co-designed about the Paramo ecosystem at the World Climate Conference-3 in Geneva. What made you choose that ecosystem to work with, among all the ones you could have found in the Colombian country side?**

# CAROLINA FIGUEROA



## events

Everybody is talking about climate change nowadays. It is a new concept and everything can fit inside because there is not really an accurate understanding of the concept. People think that changes in the weather everyday means climate change, even smoking or using mobile phones, which is not necessarily true. This was my initial preoccupation; it is a spread word with an empty concept and often related to polar bears. So I decided to link climate change to a local issue: how can this phenomenon have negative consequences to the people living in Bogota, for example.

Water stress in Bogota can be caused by climate change: an increasing temperature and human activity such as deforestation and lack of good land management can have severe impacts in the Paramo Andino, the strategic ecosystem capturing and storing water consumed in Colombia. In this context I designed a survey with Javier Sabogal WWF Climate Change Officer, aiming at understanding how people understood climate change impacts in Bogota and the surrounding Paramo.

### How would you describe that experience?

It was a wonderful and rich experience. From a professional perspective, I could work with Javier Sabogal and learnt from his experience in the climate change field: he has knowledge from a technical perspective and also knows the public institutions working in the issue, including the international NGO he works for. This gave me several tools for understanding the complexity of climate change in the country and its trends.

From a personal point of view, I was supported all the time by the Global Changemakers network, they believed in my project as an interesting community action project. I am very thankful towards them. I learnt how to make a project



**Yukigassen Snowball Fighting Competition**

The Yukigassen snowball-fighting tournament in Kemijärvi elevates winter horseplay to competition level. Unlike any old snowball fight, this one has rules, referees and a special playing area. Find six friends, strap on your crash helmets and get ready to rumble.

### Yukigassen Snowball Fighting Competition

**When :** 26-28 March

**Where :** Kemijärvi, Finland

**Website:** <http://www.kemijarvi.fi/>



**Move It in London**

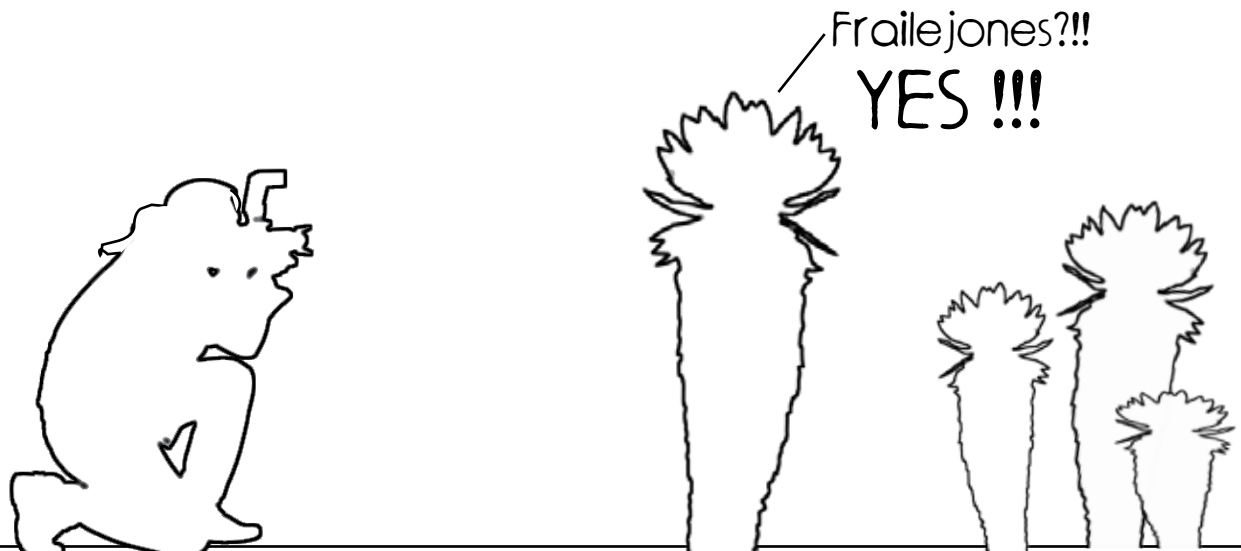


Photo from Carolina Figueroa

“ If you have the picture , you have the tool for proving a fact”



Photo from Carolina Figueroa

where I was the direct responsible for its administration and implementation. It was a big responsibility and motivated me to do my best: I did 100 polls myself in different parts of the city and it is not always easy for people to agree to take a poll without any economical stimulus. Nevertheless, I was lucky: only 3 people over 100 said no. It was an important experience that pushed me away from my comfort zone. I also had the pleasure to be in the Paramos, immersed in the nature for one week.

### **How would you say your project managed to relate your political and environmental interest with your photographic one?**

Images are very important for good communication, very often they can go beyond words. During all the research I was caring my camera and I took pictures to many of my “climate witnesses”. After the interview or the talk, the contact was already established and it was much easier to take a picture of them. I also took photographs of the Paramo and how human activities (in particular potato crops and livestock) are an increasing menace for the ecosystem. If you have the picture, you have the tool for proving a fact.

### **Finally, Carolina: What would you show aliens if they came to visit us? :)**

I would show them how they have inspired us in literature and cinema for many decades. Maybe we would laugh about how we, human beings, are afraid of loneliness and haven't been able to believe we were the only specie in the universe producing and creating amazing and scary things. This also reveals how we became obsessed by facts and science, which slowly conduced us to think that maybe there's something less rational: their existence.

# A MODERN STORY

by Filip Ilievski



## A MODERN STORY

**Floccari was his name, loneliness his game.  
He lived in a world far, far away.  
The morning, would come,  
He would rise and shine,  
Following laws and rules,  
As the words in this song rhyme.  
Floccari was his name, stupidity his game.  
He was the boy that didn't know what to say.  
Demethra is her name, and society her game.  
She is a girl who will make you insane.  
Russian blood is in her veins, with Aphrodite's face.  
She is as hell wonderful forever, the poor man claims,  
For whom in her heart there will never be space.  
Destiny is the name, human life it's game.  
It knew that the boy's life will never be the same.  
It happened by luck or not,  
Destiny tied the knot.  
And soon, as the time passed  
Between Floccari and Demethra, that love was.  
Love is the name, unhappiness it's game.  
The tricks of feelings on Floccari it played.  
Feelings killed sense and propriety,  
And all that destroyed Floccari's sobriety.  
Love for him was too much.  
His sanity was destroyed by a single touch.  
Death is the name, peace and silence it's game  
For Floccari will never suffer, nor complain!**

## events

### Move It in London

Move It! is the UK's main dancing exhibition. Complete with dance classes and competitions, Move It 2010 at London Olympia promises to impress.

With hundreds of professionals from the dancing industry, Move It 2010 will present a huge variety of dance courses, dance fashion shows, dance styles and all other aspects of the dancing industry.

Of Strictly Come Dancing fame, dancing professional Erin Boag is the forefront of Move It in London Olympia. He will run many dance classes and offer dancing tips to thousands of visitors to Move It London.

Come and celebrate dancing in all its forms at Move It 2010 Olympia London.

### Move It in London

**When :** 11th - 14th March, 2010  
**Where :** Olympia Grand Hall, Hammersmith Road, **London**  
**Website:** [http://www.lth-hotels.com/london\\_events/move-it-dance-london.htm](http://www.lth-hotels.com/london_events/move-it-dance-london.htm)

### **Team of Libertas:**

Lucie Ferlin  
Daniel Nunes  
Dragan Atanasov  
Christine Moore  
Scott Pinkster  
Stevica Levajlkovski

### **Contributors (to this edition):**

Daniel Nunes  
Tiberiu Iacomi  
Camila Carvalho  
Silvia Romero  
Filip Ilievski  
Nina Vorgic  
Lina Vosyliute  
Laura Zarta Gutierrez  
Valentin Petreski

### **Designed by:**

Lucie Ferlin

### **Published by:**

Youth Association creACTIVE

# WELCOME TO OUR PLANET "LIBERTAS"

LIBERTAS is a monthly youth magazine fully prepared by a group of young people from different countries, supported by the Youth Association creACTIVE ([www.cre-act-ive.org](http://www.cre-act-ive.org)). Published for the young people worldwide, LIBERTAS is distributed through the internet to anyone who is interested - free of charge.

All texts published in LIBERTAS represent solely the opinions of their authors, not of the magazine or of its publishers. LIBERTAS and creACTIVE are not responsible in any way for the contents of the articles, or for the photos published with them.

\* Have you signed up? Send an empty message to [libertas@cre-act-ive.org](mailto:libertas@cre-act-ive.org) and receive your personal copy of LIBERTAS by e-mail every 5th in the month!

\* Have something to say? Contact us at [libertas@cre-act-ive.org](mailto:libertas@cre-act-ive.org) and read your article in the next edition!

March 2010  
Skopje, Macedonia  
[libertas@cre-act-ive.org](mailto:libertas@cre-act-ive.org)  
[www.cre-act-ive.org](http://www.cre-act-ive.org)

## About libertas