

ENTERTAINMENT & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 2012

# 8 DAYS

“No money to buy drinks in school, so I had to steal water from the basketball team” p74

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Watermelon sashimi

# THE WOMAN WHO GOT OSAMA BIN LADEN

Aka the role that will (hopefully) win **JESSICA CHASTAIN** her first Oscar

(P/S: Why the real woman who found Osama didn't get a promotion)

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## WHAT THEY NEVER TAUGHT YOU IN SCHOOL

# Facebook and Twitter Flings and Teasing

Is she as sexy and fun in person as she is on Instagram? Is his killer sense of humour and popularity for real? Love and dating in the age of social media is fraught with new challenges. A psych expert has tips on how to navigate the minefield.

Associate professor Norman Li from SMU is a psychology expert whose research explores the science of attraction, love and lust.



According to him, people's online personas tend to be somewhat... embellished. If you're on the dating market and scoping out a potential mate's Facebook profile or other social media activities, here's what to look out for.

**1 She may not be as young as she looks.** This is quite the opposite of the problem certain men have recently encountered with certain girls who may not be as, ahem, old as they look. According to the professor, studies have shown that women can post photos of themselves from as far back as 20 years. So, if she says she's in her 30s but looks like a 21-year-old in her profile pic, you know why.

**2 He may not be as tall as he says.** Studies have shown that men tend to exaggerate their height by an average of about 5cm, says the prof. "This is part over-selling, or deceptive advertising. It's like how women may use make-up to appear more desirable." So you know what to do, ladies — subtract five.

**3 She may not be as happening as she seems.** "People put their best photos online, and obviously, they are always smiling and happy, doing interesting things and having fun. In actual fact, these may take up but a small fraction of their social life. The rest is spent finding and editing these pics to post," says the prof.

**4 He may not be as funny as he sounds.** Sadly, that hilarious chatroom dude may not be that witty in real life. "A sense of humour ranks highly when it comes to finding a mate, but during online

interaction, bear in mind that the person may have had two hours or even two days to think of that joke", says the prof. Or worse, his funnier buddy may be at the screen next to him, being responsible for the wisecracks.

**5 Who he takes pictures with can offer clues to his personality.** If he's always posting Facebook pictures of himself with female pals, it may mean that he is well-liked by other women, hence making him an object of desire. And if he's always in the centre of a picture with his beer buddies, it can mean he can fit in and is popular with the blokes. "A man in good social standing who is respected by his peers is an extremely desirable mate, since in evolutionary terms, this signals that he is able to command more resources and therefore provide for his offspring," says the prof. ■

Norman Li is part of a panel discussion about online dating called Love in a Time of Social Media (Feb 19, 11am at The Arts House Play Den) during Social Media Week 2013 (Feb 18 – 22). For more info, go to [socialmediaweek.org/Singapore](http://socialmediaweek.org/Singapore).



# The dos and don'ts of online dating

## Don't Photoshop yourself to look like Fiona Xie.

A click here, a drag there, and suddenly, you look like a thinner, bustier, and bigger-eyed version of yourself. Actually... wait, you don't look like yourself at all. While a hot profile pic garners more views and first dates, you're unlikely to get a second. It's easier to just be yourself.

## Do rely on mutual friends, to avoid looking like a stalker/creep.

Outside of the virtual world, the guy who's introduced to a girl by a mutual friend has better chances than the guy who approaches a girl at the bar. Likewise, if you take a shine to the profile pic of a friend's friend on Facebook, ask your pal if he can do a virtual introduction, instead of sending her a strange private message.



Tips cobbled together from our own experience and that of our friends.

## Do be consistent across social media.

If you're all sweet and princessy on Facebook, then come across as a wild party girl on Instagram and rant up a storm about politics on Twitter, it will just confuse and put off anyone trying to get to know you.

## Don't just live online.

After a few Facebook messages, move on to e-mails, then Whatsapp messages, then progress to phone calls. Don't linger on any medium for too long, and set up an in-the-flesh meeting if everything seems right. After all, it's about making the move to real life, right?



February issue

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