

the (sydney) magazine



**Enter stage right:
How Richard Evans will
transform the Opera House**

Cheating chimps and
pig-eating dragons:
24 hours at Taronga Zoo

People to watch:
Our annual list of
stars in the making

Little black book:
Sydney's best massages,
facials and indulgences

Plus: The Veronicas as you've
never seen them before

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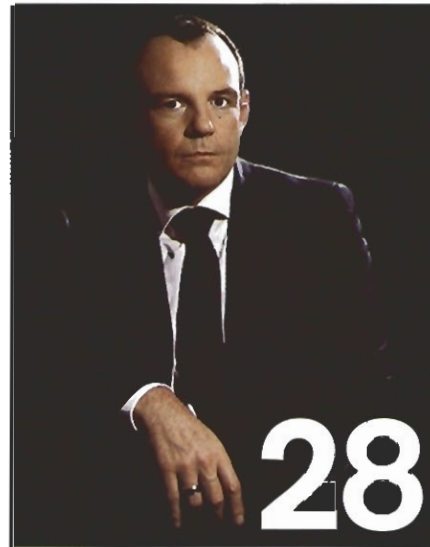
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**“Being an
Aboriginal is
not a job.
But it’s who
I am.”**

Actor Ursula Yovich, one of
our People to Watch for 2008

40



PEOPLE TOWATCH

It's going to be a big year for these rising stars. **Mark Chipperfield** meets 13 new talents all breaking ground in their chosen fields.

Photography **Wilk**
Hair and make-up **Claire Thomson and Desiree Wise**

Anupam Sharma
Filmmaker



Nathan Hawkes
Artist



Katey Bates
Cyclist

Who is he? Anupam Sharma, filmmaker
What might he do? Rival George Miller Entrepreneur. Producer. Director. Actor. Film tragic. Anupam Sharma is all of these things. His nascent film production company has already completed 157 projects, including two Bollywood movies. "Love Story 2050 was filmed in South Australia," he says. "It is India's first futuristic musical and stars former Miss World Priyanka Chopra."

Launched in 1998, Sharma's company, Temple, has five full-time staff and offices in Sydney and India. Its portfolio includes music videos, TV commercials, tourism campaigns and films. "Worshipping cinema is our motto."

Sharma, now 36, cut his teeth making documentaries at SBS-TV and doing voiceovers but it was an encounter with Indian director Feroz Khan that changed the course of his life. "Khan asked me to be his line producer on a project he was shooting in Australia. Basically, wherever Khan shoots, the rest of the [Indian film] industry follows. Suddenly, everyone wanted to make a movie in Australia. I had to get a new fax machine."

Life as an Indian expat is not without its complications – especially when auditioning in Bollywood. "I remember going for this major role and the casting director said to me, 'Anu, they loved you but you are not Indian enough for them,'" he laughs. "You can get caught in between [two cultures] but I'm quite comfortable with that – mostly because I'm working with film people from all over. We share a common bond."

Who is she? Ursula Yovich, actor
What might she do? Become a star
All actors risk being stereotyped but there's no danger that this pint-sized powerhouse from the Northern Territory will be seen purely as an Aboriginal actor. Yovich has starred in a string of Belvoir Street Theatre productions, including Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera*. "I'm not a trained singer but I got through it," says Ursula Yovich. "Luckily it wasn't in German."

But she hasn't turned her back on her heritage. Last year, Yovich, 30, was named best female actor in the Helpmann Awards for her portrayal of Tocky in *Capricornia* and Baz Luhrmann cast her as an Aboriginal maid in *Australia*. "Being an Aboriginal is not a job," she laughs. "But it's who I am."

Yovich's childhood had all the elements for an off-Broadway hit. Born in Darwin, she is equal parts Aboriginal and Serbian. School proved a challenge for a girl who was fluent in her mother's Arnhem Land tongue but spoke English with a heavy Serbian accent. "When I was learning English, I used to mimic my dad. At school I had to learn English as a second language."

In 1996, Yovich enrolled at the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts in Perth and came to the attention of Company B's Neil Armfield. "Belvoir Street Theatre is like my extended family," she says. "Even when I'm not working I drop in to see everyone."

Not that finding work is a problem. In September, Yovich will tread the boards

"A UK magazine called me the bad girl of erotic fiction."

Emily Maguire

in *Yibiyung* and she is developing solo recording career. Whether her role in *Australia* will bring further movie offers remains to be seen but Yovich is happy to concentrate on the stage. "I count myself very lucky that I've been able to go on this journey."

Who are they? Van She, rock band
What might they do? Release a hit record
Building an international reputation on the strength of a five-track EP is no mean feat but that's exactly what Van She has pulled off. Formed in early 2005, the electro pop-rock outfit has already toured North America, Europe and Britain. As they saunter into the studio for this shoot, they're about to jet off to Brazil. "I've got two friends who have South American wives," laughs bass player Matthew Van Schie, who inspired the band's name. "Maybe that'll happen to us."

The real test for Van She comes in April

with the release of their debut album, *V*, which was recorded at Konk studios in London. "The studio was pretty cool," says drummer Tomek Archer. "We used the same desk that Pink Floyd used to record *The Wall*. Paul McCartney, Michael Jackson and Culture Club have all recorded there."

The four musicians – Nicky Routledge, 27, Van Schie, 27, Michael Di Francesco, 27 and Archer, 25 – say they met at a backyard barbecue. "I had a barbecue at my house. We all got really drunk and decided that we wanted to be in a band," says Van Schie.

After playing small gigs around Sydney, they were spotted by a talent scout for Modular Records in 2005. Three years later, there are planes to catch and Brazilian wives to meet – the whole rock'n'roll schtick. It is, says Di Francesco, "a ride of a lifetime".

Who is he? Nathan Hawkes, artist
What might he do? Be the next Whiteley
When you are an artist in a city as expensive as Sydney, it helps to be low-maintenance, as Nathan Hawkes cheerfully describes himself. So winning the 2007 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship was a much-needed boost – apart from a \$25,000 cheque. Hawkes will take up a three-month residency in Paris this year.

Understandably, the 27-year-old artist's plans do not extend much beyond his grand tour. On his return to Sydney, Hawkes will face the arduous task of finding studio space and perhaps a dealer to represent him but



Andrew Harris
Scientist



Emily Maguire
Writer

not yet. Apart from the chance to visit the art capitals of Europe, the Whiteley scholarship provides what he craves most – the space to be creative. "It's pretty amazing to be given time. Because that's what artists need. So there's room to experiment and explore."

In retrospect, Hawkes was destined to become an artist. The son of a bank manager, Ray, and an art-loving mother, Lee, he grew up in Bowral but his father's job meant constant change. "Every time we moved to a new house they'd just build it from scratch. That has a bit of influence when you're growing up – just seeing someone make something from nothing."

Trained to work across a number of formats – from line drawing to mixed media and video – Hawkes is best known for his dramatic landscapes. In recent months, he has been studying the Papunya Tula artists of the Western Desert. "Like most artists I'm interested in anything that feels genuine," he says. "The actual medium doesn't hold too much weight compared to the integrity and authenticity of the work."

Who is she? Katey Bates, cyclist
What might she do? Win Olympic gold
"We're not soccer players who get paid millions," says Katey Bates. "It's very much about living out of a suitcase and trucking around on trains. It's glorified backpacking."

For the past five years, Bates has been based in Frankfurt but the 25-year-old was back in Sydney in November to compete

at the UCI Track World Cup Classics in preparation for this year's Olympic Games. In Beijing, she will compete in both the points race (over 100 laps) and the individual pursuit (a 3km race against the clock). As the reigning world champion, she hopes to take gold in the points event but also wants to have a crack at the individual pursuit. "That's a really pure event. It's just you against the clock." The Sydneysider also wants to erase memories of the 2004 Olympics, where she finished fourth in the individual pursuit and seventh in the points race.

Since turning professional in 2001, Bates has tasted the highs and lows of competitive cycling. The tragic death of fellow cyclist Amy Gillett in Germany three years ago had a profound impact. "For 12 months we all struggled a bit to find direction," she says. "But a lot of us have come out the other side more motivated and determined."

Who is he? Andrew Harris, scientist
What might he do? Help save the planet
"I'm an engineer and engineers are supposed to be problem-solvers," says Dr Andrew Harris. "But we can't solve our most urgent problem – the way we live at the moment – using the resources of two, three or four planets when we only have one."

Harris, 33, is head of the Laboratory for Sustainable Technology at the University of Sydney, which is tackling our most pressing environmental issues – drought, pollution and global warming. "We're trying to invent

new technologies that will give us a step-change improvement in the way we live."

A radical new pulping process for paper – developed while he was studying at Cambridge University and using straw instead of woodchips – is already being trialled in London. And Harris is particularly excited about a new water-harvesting system inspired by the Stenocara beetle from the Namib Desert in south-west Africa. The beetle drinks by standing on its head and turning its stomach into the prevailing wind. "The tummy has these microscopic bumps and little valleys. When the droplets are too big, they fall off into the valley and into the beetle's mouth. If you can mimic that on sheets of plastic and string them up on the coast of Australia we could do without dams."

Harris argues that the only way to preserve our forests, oceans and atmosphere is by developing and embracing new and sustainable technologies. "At some stage in the future, all of our energy will come from the sun," he says. "Split water into hydrogen and oxygen using the sun, recombine it in a fuel cell and you have endless free energy and no pollution. Not a little bit – just none."

Who is she? Emily Maguire, writer
What might she do? Be a literary icon
Insomnia and a job at Telstra were the two spurs for Emily Maguire's bestseller, *Taming The Beast*. Billed as a "modern Lolita", the 2004 novel tells the story of a 14-year-old schoolgirl seduced by her 38-year-old

English teacher. "A UK magazine called me the bad girl of erotic fiction," she laughs.

Maguire, 31, wrote her first novel during an unhappy stint at Telstra's payroll office. Unable to sleep at night, she channelled her pent-up emotions into the story – although she is quick to point out that it is a work of fiction. "At literary festivals people are really surprised at how young my husband is."

Her debut novel, published in Britain, was an instant hit. Shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize, *Taming The Beast* has been translated into 10 languages. Since then, Maguire has published a second novel, *The Gospel According To Luke* (about a sexual health counsellor taking on a group of religious fundamentalists), and in March will release her first non-fiction title, *Princesses And Pornstars*. "It's a call to arms for young women – and young men – to dump all these gender stereotypes," she says. "But I'm a fiction writer, not an academic. The book just came from my own daily frustration."

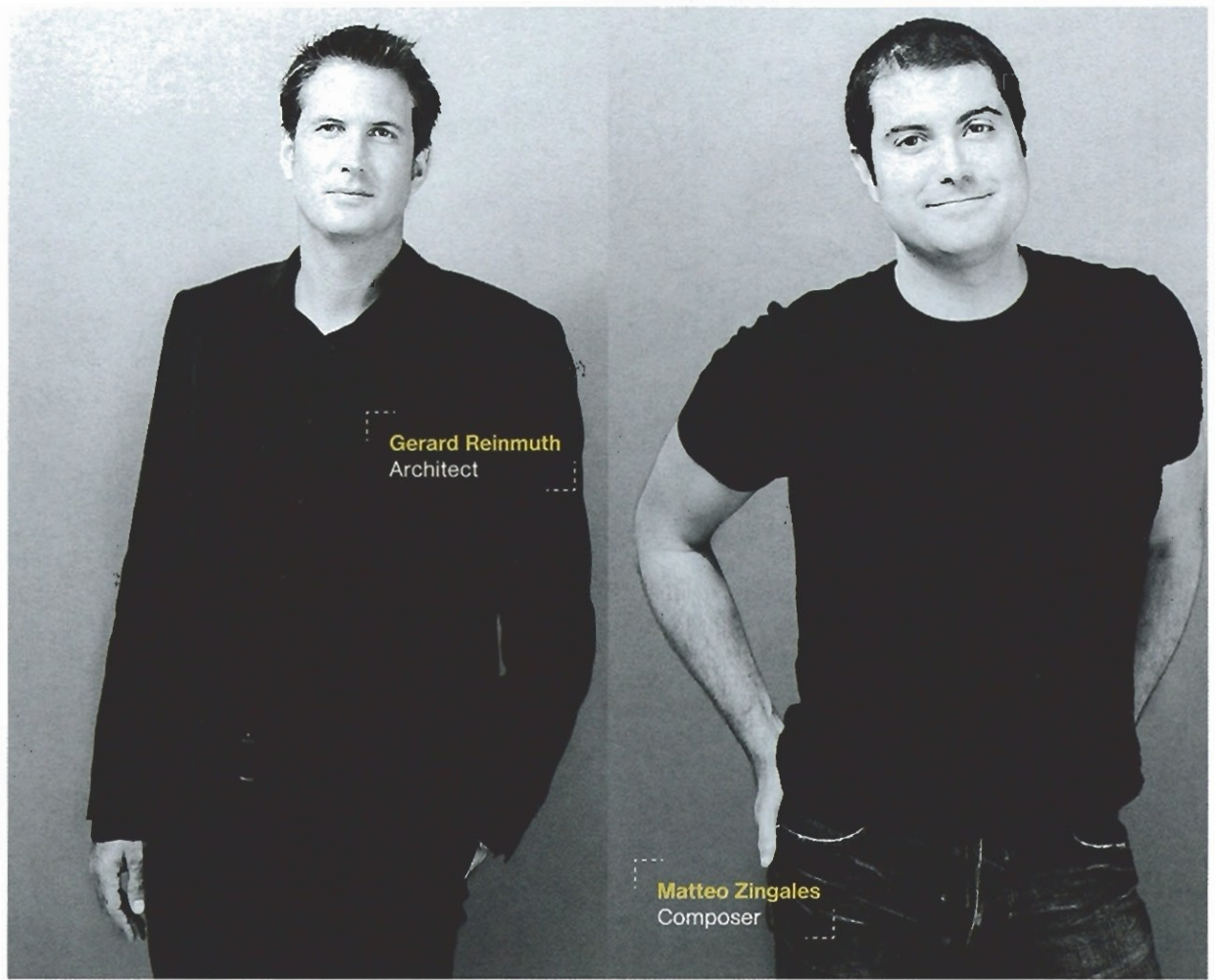
Who is he? Hugh Wennerbom, providore
What might he do? Change how we eat
When Hugh Wennerbom calls himself a "grass farmer", he's talking about healthy pasture and not the stuff they grow around Nimbin. "My primary concern," he says, "is for the health of the soil." Wennerbom's 65-hectare farm near Taralga in the Southern Highlands is the headquarters for his bespoke providore service, Hudson's Produce. →

"I adored movies. I wanted to be a director and then I realised what actually moved me was the music."

Matteo Zingales



Hugh Wennerbom
Providore



Gerard Reinmuth
Architect

Matteo Zingales
Composer

Wennerbom, 36, sources high-quality fish, meat and fine foods for just 200 private customers, selling his wares via a regular newsletter. The former philosophy student, chef and mushroom picker spreads a wide net, sourcing organic chooks from Camden, olives from McLaren Vale and sheep's milk yoghurt from Meredith. He buys beef and lamb from the saleyards and fish off the boat. "I find a product and then it's up to me to sell it," he says. "At its simplest, I go shopping for people – but shopping as close to the source as possible."

Over the next 12 months, Wennerbom (who also sources produce for Sean's Panorama and Glebe Point Diner) hopes to expand his distribution network from the eastern suburbs to the North Shore and begin growing Bresse-style poultry, veal, milk-fed goats and other produce on his farm.

Apart from nurturing small regional producers, Wennerbom believes that he has an important role as a food educator. "Most of the fish sold at suburban fishmongers is imported and frozen. The pork industry is on the point of collapse. Consumers in Britain and even parts of the US are miles ahead of us. We need to change our food-buying habits."

Who is he? Gerard Reinmuth, architect

What might he do? Change the way we live

Ten years ago, Gerard Reinmuth and two colleagues, Scott Balmforth and Richard Blythe, took the unusual step of launching an architectural practice in Hobart and Sydney simultaneously. They adopted the name *Terroir* to signify the importance of landscape in their work. "I grew up in an environment where you had to argue the ethics of how you deal with landscape from a young age," says Reinmuth, partner-in-charge of the Sydney office.

Here, *Terroir* is responsible for the new Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority building in George Street, completed in December. "It's extremely hard for young architects to work in a public realm in this city," laments Reinmuth, 37. "You've got a situation where younger people can't participate in making

public places – that's extraordinary. That isn't the situation in other countries, such as Spain, where young people are heavily involved in the public realm."

Terroir's Sydney office places a lot of emphasis on what it calls "the ethics" of each project – providing a detailed examination of the problems and client expectations. "We only do certain projects," says Reinmuth, who is also adjunct professor of architecture at UTS. "We're rigorous about how we do them. It's quite painful for clients. It also means we're more difficult to commodify. *Terroir* doesn't just do white boxes."

Who is he? Matteo Zingales, composer

What might he do? Conquer Italy (and then Hollywood)

Matteo Zingales never wanted to be a DJ, play in a band or run the gauntlet of fans, paparazzi and autograph hunters. "When I was nine, I adored movies. I wanted to be a director and then I realised what actually moved me was the music. I just used to sit down at the piano and write."

While he studied film composition at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, he fed his movie passion with a job at Hoyts. "I used to tear tickets. It was all good experience."

His talent was recognised by the University of Western Sydney, which accepted him into its specialist film music course at the age of 22 – three years below its normal entry requirement. Zingales, now 27, has been working as a composer ever since, creating music for TV (such as Channel Seven's *All Saints*), commercials and small movies. He has his own studio and his first feature film, *Broken Sun*, is due for release later this year. "All the big composers did their first feature film by the age of 30. I did *Broken Sun* when I was 27."

In 2008, Zingales plans to travel overseas. As the son of Italian migrants, he is particularly interested in exploring the movie scene in Italy. "Some of my music has an Italian sensibility to it so I'm keen to have a look at some of the films being made there. Australia has a lot of talent. We need to spread out and show them what we can do." (s)

What happened to the class of 2007?

Narelle Anderson's company, CBD Enviro Services, was purchased by Transpacific Industries to create one of Australia's largest waste management companies in October.

Chris Bosse set up an international network of architects, Laboratory for Visionary Architecture (LAVA). In November, he was honoured by the prestigious *Architectural Review* in London.

Gina Brescianini was promoted to soloist at the Australian Ballet and has performed feature roles in *Don Quixote*, the *New Romantics* triple bill and *The Nutcracker*.

Jim Chatto joined Pepper Tree as its chief winemaker and established his own wine consultancy.

Natalie Cohen's fashion label, Cohen et Sabine, enjoyed strong growth in 2007 and Cohen plans to open her first boutique in Sydney this year.

Jasper Knight launched his own gallery, Chalk Horse, in Surry Hills. His portrait of former NSW premier Bob Carr was a finalist in the 2007 Archibald Prize.

Brett Stewart made his debut appearance for Australia, helping the Kangaroos to a 58-0 victory against New Zealand in October.

Michael Valenzuela was instrumental in setting up a Neural Stem Cell laboratory at UNSW, which will explore stem cell therapeutic options in the treatment of dementia.

George Williams released a new book, *A Charter Of Rights For Australia*, and completed an inquiry into Australia's industrial laws for the NSW government.

Tara June Winch was named Young Australian Novelist by the *Herald* and received an Australia Council writing residency in New York.