

MALAYSIA

SURF!

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SOUL DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION

Khaw Chia Hui

She's mad about singing, fashion and blogging...not necessarily in that order.

It is so easy to see why Janet Lee has four blogs, the amount of stories and anecdotes she wants to share is unbelievable. She is known as the Soul Doctor and has a good explanation for this.

"I love to sing and believes music is good for your soul, hence the nickname. There were some people who thought I was a *bomoh*," she laughed. Always true to her beliefs, her blogs are about her passions.

Her very first blog, www.souldoc.blogspot.com was her friends' last laugh because Janet used to think bloggers have no life and that it was just another passing trend. But after some time she finally succumbed and now finds that she is truly addicted to blogging.

Later she also launched a singing blog (<http://janetsing.blogspot.com>) that serves as her website for her portfolio. "I usually post pictures, descriptions and testimonials of jobs I did. It is sort of my official website and anyone interested to book me can go over to have a look," she said.

"Right now, the shopping blog (<http://shopwithsouldoctor.blogspot.com>) draws the most traffic and activities. I just love to shop! And many people came up to me to ask me where I got this and got that so I decided to start a shopping portal," she shared.

Spoken like a true female. Her shopping blogs showcase her latest buys and bargains. She also encourages her readers to send

in information about garage sales and any sales information that they might have. The announcements are more inclined towards second hand shopping.

"I am not ashamed to admit I buy second hand clothes from flea markets and garage sales. You can find so many one-of-a-kind gems and designer clothes for a very low price," she said.

But she also lets out a small secret; she is not tech savvy unlike some hardcore bloggers. "It took me some time to explore and use certain features. So far I've yet to try linking my pictures via Flickr," she smiled.

With a new fashion blog (<http://souldocfashion.blogspot.com>) up, how much time does she actually spend online and blogging? She readily reveals she is hooked to the Internet and is online most of the time. But spend about an hour only daily updating her blogs. "The shopping and fashion blogs takes most of my time but I love doing it so it's OK."

For the shopping blog, she would love to go up to people she sees on the streets that are stylish and take their photos. "But so far I have not tried. It is somewhat scary but I've done it secretly," she quipped.

A full time singer, she finds her blogs rewarding but not in terms of Google AdSense. Rather, she finds her blogs helps her get bookings for singing gigs. There were readers who saw her singing blog and it generated emails and correspondence that later landed her gigs in Singapore, London, Sydney and of course KL.

"Besides getting booked via my blogs, I also got booked when I go shopping. Once I was in a boutique in Mont Kiara and ended up chatting with the boss. A couple of weeks later I got a call to help with the opening ceremony," she said.

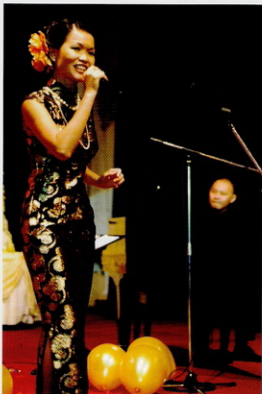
What does an avid blogger like to read online?

"I used to read KL Konfidential (<http://klkonfidential.blogspot.com>) but it has stopped. Another favourite blog would be <http://batdude.blogspot.com> and a close friend, www.bigbigplanet.com/blog," she said.

Her other favourite website is YouTube for professional reasons. "I love to search for videos of opera and classical singing performances and observe their showmanship and style. If it is suitable



Theatre, voice-overs and belting out classics are her passion, aside from collecting gorgeous cheongsams.



I try and adapt to my performances as well. I do not really watch the funny clips and weird videos because there are the singing videos to keep me occupied already," she said.

Other than being hooked to the Net, she is hooked to theatre. She spends time to watch plays, operas and even finds time to be involved in productions. Currently she is busy with *The Magic Flute*, Mozart's last opera. This is really one busy woman despite not having a 'day job'.

She has no plans yet to start another blog but we suggested that she posts videos of herself performing on YouTube so more people would get to know how great a singer she is. To catch her, visit her blogs and get a ticket to her shows. **S**

