

## **NEWS RELEASE**

# **GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH HOLLYWOOD AND HONG KONG CELEBRITIES**

**CELEBRITY PHOTOGRAPHER, DOMINIC KHOO, ANNOUNCES PUBLIC  
EXHIBITION, 'ACCESS ALL AREAS' FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY TO 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2010  
SPONSORED BY AND HELD AT EFG BANK  
ADMISSION IS FREE**

## **ABOUT ACCESS ALL AREAS**

The AAA (“Access All Areas”) pass is commonly used in the entertainment industry to permit a select few to enter all private and public spaces on and off-stage. This privilege is usually reserved for VVIPs, select crew and only one authorised photographer.

Dominic Khoo, Celebrity Photographer, is one of these authorised photographers. Often provided unparalleled access to glittering events, Dominic shares what he sees as a photographer at these events by extending his pass to the public through “Access All Areas”. Capturing the allure and mystique of the red carpet and beyond, Dominic astutely and beautifully captures fleeting, telling and sometimes poignant moments in the lives of celebrities on and off the red carpet when they may or may not know it. Watch out for a priceless shot of American contemporary singer Tom Jones at the end of his concert in Singapore earlier this year. Also catch football star Zinedine Zidane, an ethereal Gate Blanchett, an enigmatic shot of Tony Leung and Taiwanese actress Lin Chiling in a compromised social situation. Local celebrities Michelle Chia and Fiona Xie will also be featured in the exhibition. In sharing the moment through Dominic’s eyes, he breaks through the façade of celebrity glamour to reveal their momentary vulnerabilities and their humanity.

This will be the 14<sup>th</sup> time Dominic has exhibited internationally in the past three years. He last held his first solo exhibition in Singapore in 2007 at the launch of ‘Pure’- a celebrity coffee-table book of celebrities like Nadya Hutagalung laughing and crying in the nude. Of his second solo exhibition, Dominic says, “I delve further into the subject I first followed with ‘Pure’ which is the truth about people. This time, instead of laughing and crying, we observe more emotions like fear and worry on the faces of our smiling celebrities in their more private moments, encouraging us to probe a little further into their internal universe for a moment in time.”

The exhibition will be held in a dark room set up specially for the occasion, on the top floor of the EFG Bank, a Swiss private bank located next to the Treasury Building with a fantastic view overlooking the Singapore river and skyline. The exhibition will be open to the public from 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010 to 7<sup>th</sup> August 2010, 10am to 7pm. Admission is free.

Of the sponsorship, EFG Bank is excited to continue its support of the arts. Having sponsored local and international jazz sensation, Jeremy Monteiro’s performances, Dominic will be the second local artist supported by EFG Bank. “Dominic’s prestigious social and celebrity clientele is complementary to our status as a niche, exclusive bank,”

says Managing Director Kees Stoute. Of opening up their private rooftop to the public for the first time, “We have made Singapore our home and would like to give back a part of ourselves to the public that has embraced us,” adds Kees, “Dominic’s polished photographs are the perfect complement to our scenic surroundings.”

## **MORE ON THE EXHIBITION**

The exhibition is divided thematically into three sections, **Reel vs Real**, **I-You?** and **Behind-the-Scenes**. Every picture in the exhibition captures the journalistic, personal and questioning style of Dominic’s photography. We gain a sense of his sharp eye for inconsistency and contrast coupled with his awareness and grasp of the moment at hand as depicted by his clever compositions.

### **Reel vs Real**

This largest section winds through a miramar of famous transcontinental smiles of varying intensity and graduation, some plastered, forced, sincere and shy then makes a turn towards disappointment, flashes of anger, smug superiority and passionate expression. Capturing celebrities like Cate Blanchett , Tom Jones, Tony Leung, Gisele Bundchen, Maggie Cheung, Lin Chiling, Boris Becker and Bernie Ecclestone, the gradation of smiles in turn invites us to compare our understanding of their public personas with their private personas, prompting us to wonder about their true natures and their public and private faces.

### **I-You?**

In this section, Dominic questions the identities of the artists and other times, explores the dynamic tension between photographer and subject and its effects on the picture at hand. The audience is stimulated to consider how their identities have shaped themselves, their work and public perception of who they are.

### **Behind-the-Scenes**

Think the celebrity life is everything you thought it was? Is glamour reserved only for front-of-house and leading ladies and gents? A tongue-in-cheek or insider’s portrayal of life backstage and away from the limelight.

The public exhibition showcases the professionalism and technical expertise of local talent like Dominic Khoo which will in turn help to raise the profile of photography in Singapore. The celebrities featured in the exhibition have mass appeal that will serve to draw the public out- be it so as to vicariously appreciate the beauty of glamour up close or to generate further discussion after the exhibition. It serves to unite through the pictorial medium, with very few words, appreciable art across all demographic and geographical boundaries.

Dominic’s exhibited works and his award-winning fine art prints will also be available for sale during the exhibition. Each exhibited photograph comes in a limited edition of five with prices ranging from \$3,888 to \$6,888.

**About Dominic Khoo, Celebrity Photographer**  
**By Appointment to H.R.H. Prince Hakeem Jefri of Brunei Darussalam**  
**A First for an Asian Photographer**

Profiled more often than any other photographer in Asia over the past 2 years, touted as a “creative genius on a roll” by Sony Style and named by Agency.Asia as one of the very best in the world, Celebrity Photographer Dominic Khoo took control of his first SLR a week before he left for a yearly watch convention in Basel and Geneva in 2005.

In 2006 the Singaporean achieved his Masters Photographer’s Association (UK) accreditation under two categories of avant-garde portraits and journalism – becoming the first professional photographer to ever qualify for two categories simultaneously. Dominic brought this one step further by winning runner-up awards for Photographer of the Year in both categories. In November 2007, Dominic went on to win both 1st and 2nd prize in the MPA Press / PR Photographer of the Year competition.

Since then, the self-taught photographer has been engaged to shoot for international brands such as Hermes, Chopard, Mont Blanc, Baume & Mercier, the Westin Hotel, Epson and Hewlett Packard; and has taken pictures of and worked with more than 150 international and Asian celebrities, including actors Cate Blanchett and Kevin Spacey, soccer star Zinedine Zidane, F1 owner Bernie Ecclestone, pop stars Lindsay Lohan, The Black Eyed Peas, Korean singing sensation Rain, Jose Carreras and DJs Will.I.Am, Samantha Ronson and Darren Emerson. In Asia, Dominic has also worked with Indonesian celebrity Nadya Hutagalung to shoot for her jewellery collection O-sel and photographed the weddings of MediaCorp actress Michelle Chia and MTV VJ May.

In 2008, Dominic became the first photographer in Southeast Asia to be fully sponsored by Nikon, with his work recently showcased by Nikon in conjunction with the launch of their new pro-series flagship camera the D3 on 20 November the same year, and in and on the cover of the Jan '09 of Focus magazine.

In May to August 2009, Dominic’s work was exhibited at “Emotions in Transportation”, which was held at the Singapore Art Museum from May to August 2009. One of the opening acts in the Singapore Arts Festival, the exhibition featured 15 of Dominic’s prints, in a never-done-before size of 5ft by 7.5ft fine art print, in the main space gallery of the Singapore Art Museum. Two of his works have since been purchased by the museum for its permanent collection, with the rest on his exhibits on loan for an art exhibition in Brussels in 2010.

In September 2009, Dominic’s work was exhibited at the Emily Harvey Foundation Gallery in New York City. A collaboration with French born photographer Matthew Rose and based on the theme of death, the exhibition was executed by printing of photographs on to thousands of postcards which visitors to the gallery could take away with them so that the exhibition “died” by itself. The exhibition has since then travelled to the Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles, The River Mill Art Gallery in New Jersey, The Mobius Gallery in Boston, MA, The Queens Museum in Queens, New York, The Sexta Literary Arts Festival in Tijuana, Mexico and is in the permanent library collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art Research.

Dominic is also an avid philanthropist. In February 2008, Dominic completed his first charity project called PURE, where 100% of the *revenue* earned from a coffee table book featuring photographs of Asian celebrities and socialites laughing and crying in the nude was donated to charity. Claiming the titles of the world's most expensive photography *and* coffee table book at S\$52,000, PURE was designed by Baume & Mercier design chief Alexandre Peraldi, and supported by companies including Emirates Tarian Capital, and many South East Asian luminaries.

Following the success of PURE, the Singapore National Heritage Board nominated Dominic for the Innovative Fund-raiser Award at the Singapore National Volunteer and Philanthropy Awards in 2008. Dominic was subsequently invited to join as board member of the Heritage Industry Incentive Programme and in the same year, became the youngest *ever* recipient of the "Patron of Heritage" award.

Dominic started 2010 with a bang by winning a merit award at the Worldwide Photography Gala Awards.

His work entitled "Um Livro Sobre a Morte" was exhibited at the Museu Brasileiro da Escultura, Sao Paulo, Brazil on 6 February 2010, at the Mobius Artrages in Boston, May 2010 and his next work exhibited is at The RNG Gallery at Omaha Nebraska, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

(Updated: June 2010)

#### **Selected corporate client list**

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