



## Face's voice shines like a 'Diamond' in new release

'Face' and 'Fadi Films' collaborate with a novel vision

By Sahar Moussa

Once again Kuwaiti artiste Faisal Marei aka Face was able to entertain his elite audience and deliver a very unique video with his new single 'Diamond'. Face is a singer, songwriter and former band member of Army of One. The vocally-gifted musician is known for his R&B music. He began his music journey at an early age and continues to pursue his musical passions today. As a child, Faisal remembers singing along in the car to an array of musical genres from the '60s and '80s with his parents. He began to gain an interest in R&B music in the '90s.

During the pandemic, with more free time on his hands, Faisal reconnected with his musical creativity and began writing, producing, and collaborating with artistes to create his R&B singles. Faisal's latest release - his comeback song 'My World' - in collaboration with Rahaf from the band Guitara, merged Arabic and English R&B into one to create a new sound, quite unique to the music scene in Kuwait.

Faisal later worked on his first solo 'I Need

You', followed by a music video produced by Rashid Al-Neaimi 'rashidvisuals'. Faisal also collaborated with an underground Jamaican artist named Kozmik to create the song 'Come Down'. Finally, Faisal created the song 'Diamonds', a track that mixes old and new school sounds.

Kuwait Times interviewed Face to talk about the launch of his new music video and upcoming projects in Kuwait. Some excerpts.

**Kuwait Times: What is the name of the song and what does it talk about?**

**Faisal Marei aka Face:** The song's name is 'Diamond'. It is a simple love song with a simple storyline that talks about a man showing his appreciation and love to a woman.

**KT: Who wrote the song lyrics and composed the music? Who are the artistes that collaborated with you in the video (director, music, production)?**

**Face:** The song was performed and written by me. The video production, directing, editing and DOP was done by the talented Fadi Attia Al-Mograby, also known as "Fadi Films".

**KT: Where did you shoot the video?**

**Face:** The video was shot in the desert in order to take the perfect sunrise shot.

**KT: What were the main difficulties in producing this song?**

**Face:** For me, it was the first time working with Fadi Attia Al-Mograby, and like any artiste you are scared that the outcome wouldn't serve your vision. Fadi had his own vision that I had to trust and follow. It took us two days of intense overnight shooting and work, but all the hard work came to life. He did a great job and exactly what we planned for.

**KT: What are your upcoming projects? When can we expect another song from you?**

**Face:** Currently I'm working on R&B jams and some Arabic music. I'm planning to continue dropping singles every few months, and hope to continue collaborating with artistes from all over the globe to experiment with different sounds and genres and continue sharing my music with the world.



## Ramadan lifestyle back to normal in Malaysia after easing COVID-19 restrictions

Ramadan life is back to normal in Malaysia, as the country announced re-opening its borders for visitors on 1 April, after moving to the "living with the coronavirus" phase. Although Malaysia is open now for tourists, the country still demands wearing masks in public areas

including mosques, as well as scanning phone codes upon entry to shopping malls and worship places. In mosques, the country cancelled social distancing between worshippers for the first time in two years.—KUNA



## Sheets to shirts: Uniforms for South African students

Discarded bedsheets from some of Cape Town's finest hotels are finding a new life, transformed into school shirts for some of the city's poorest children. Posh hotels throw away their bedsheets before they show signs of wear and tear. Danolene Johannesen takes thousands of those sheets and brings them into her company's sewing workshop to make the crisp white shirts that schoolchildren across South Africa are required to wear. "We wanted to look at a way, how we keep our children in school, how we get them dressed for school, and how we just... boost their self-esteem," Johannesen said.

The project runs through her company Restore SA, using the popular abbreviation for South Africa. Since starting in 2015, Johannesen and her team have dressed almost 100,000 children using old linen. From one king-sized bedsheet, they can make five shirts. South African public schools require children to wear uniforms, one small way of bridging the country's glaring social divides. From the richest suburbs to the poorest slums, primary children dress in white shirts, grey shorts or skirts, and knee-high socks.

But in the poorest families, even these simple outfits can cost too much. South Africa's dismal unemployment rate of more than 35 percent was worsened by the COVID pandemic. But through recycling old linen donated by hotels, Johannesen keeps children in school. "Every year we do at least 10,000 shirts, and that is about 1,800 sheets that we cut up and make shirts from," she said. In Tamboerskloof, one of the city's most desirable neighborhoods, Pamela Nayler runs the Parker Cottage boutique hotel on the slopes of the iconic Signal Hill.

The beds are picture-perfect, piled high with throw pillows. The sheets have to be replaced often to meet their guests exacting expectations. Nayler learnt about the sheets-to-shirts project through her linen suppliers, and "we are giving them the old linen now, to make school shirts". Nearly 200 kilometers (120 miles) away in Bonnievale, Lemiese Pieterse's daughter attends a local school. With simple blue buildings and modest gardens, Bonnievale Primary School is humble but far better than many in South Africa.—AFP



## Japanese enjoy cherry blossom viewing season

Spring is a season to enjoy viewing cherry blossoms (sakura), Japan's national flower. The blooming period of sakura is quite short and petals fall within one week after they start flowering. To celebrate the coming of spring, many

Japanese gather under the trees or hold viewing parties with their families, friends or colleagues.

During the Edo period (1600-1868), the government encouraged citizens to plant cherry trees, and nowadays over 400 different species can be observed in the country. Most of cherry blossom viewing events have been canceled and people have been asked to refrain from having parties since 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, but people can still enjoy flowers through a stroll and picture taking while practicing social distancing.—KUNA

