

3 QUESTIONS TO... Nemr Abou Nassar

For our Winter Newsletter, we were lucky enough to have a chance to chat with renowned Lebanese stand-up comedian Nemr Abou Nassar. The *Epic* star is just as hilarious in real-life as he is on stage.

1. Favorite cereal?

Frosted Cornflakes! They're grrrrreat! Ok not really, I have to say that, Tony makes me.

2. Best Christmas present ever?

It was Christmas eve, 2012. At around 11:30 PM I got a knock at my door. I opened, and to my surprise, it was what seemed to be the figure of a woman dressed as Santa staring at me blankly with deadened and judgmental eyes. Shocked, I exclaimed, 'I'm sorry, do I know you?'. To which she swiftly retorted, 'Ho Ho Ho!' and undid her costume revealing *nothing* underneath. We made mad passionate love all night long. Who knew ghosts could be so phenomenal in the sack?

3. Favorite fictional character?

Gatsu from *Berserk*. Or Monkey D. Luffy from *One Piece*.

the GREATEST

- Dania El-Kadi, author of *Summer Blast*, has been listed amongst the top 5 Lebanese women making waves in the literary world.
- Badria Moghrabi, our Arabic project coordinator, attended the Arab Thought Foundation's conference in Amman this past November.

the LATEST

- Turning Point will be taking a stand at the Beirut Arab Book Fair from 6-19 December. Pop by and say hello at stand A12.
- The *Sitt Sobhiye* launch at Al Falamanki was a great success! Thanks to all who attended.



Editor's note

The busy holiday season is in full swing, with the tempting prospect of cozy family gatherings, stylish office parties and glamorous New Year celebrations. Selecting an appropriate gift for each occasion can be challenging. But, with Turning Point's range of sumptuous coffee table books, enchanting fairy tales, hilarious humor titles and informative self-help and guide books you can strike the right note at each event. Our office elves can even gift wrap your choices and have them delivered to your door. - Charlotte Hamaoui

the HIGHLIGHTED



Beirut Knights

Enter the world of Nadia and her friends and their stories about love, jealousy and everything in-between. From the surreal to the ridiculous and even amusingly tragic, these light-hearted tales – a veritable slew of Lebanese dating disasters – paint a social fresco of Lebanon, dishing out the good, the bad and the ugly. In a marriage-obsessed nation with slim pickings, bizarre dates and wacky experiences, is being single really the worst fate?

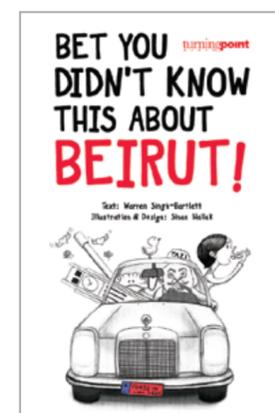


Sitt Sobhiye

Turning Point introduces its first bilingual children's book, written in English and translated into Arabic. A Lebanese village faces a big problem: its fortune teller, Sitt Sobhiye, can no longer see a white horse in her coffee cup! If it's not found, the village girls may never marry. Farida is sent on a long journey to find the magical creature and restore harmony in her village.

HOLIDAY TIPS FROM THE TURNING POINT TEAM

- **Charlotte:** *It might be tempting, but don't leave your Christmas shopping until the last minute.*
- **Eleena:** *Note everything down - save events on your phone's calendar, make present lists and even write your own wish list!*
- **Badria:** *Stuck on a present? Homemade cookies are always appreciated!*
- **Sarah:** *Avoid traffic jams and getting trampled on at the mall by shopping online. I recommend emall, Lebanon's very own online shopping website.*



WE BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THIS ABOUT BEIRUT...

With the exception of a 400 year stint under the Greeks when it was called Laodicea in Phoenicia and the addition of the prefixes Colonia Julia Augustus Felix in 14BC by Roman Emperor Octavian – in honour both of Berytus' ascension to fully-fledged colony and because his daughter, Julia Augusta, spent her winters here – Beirut has had more or less the same name since it was founded 5,000 years ago. It's been known as Biruta, Ba'urtu, Berytus, Beryte, Berouth, Barut, Borit and Beyrouth and its name is most likely derived from the three-letter Cannanite word for wells, B'rt.