

# Society

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NOT FOR SALE

**BISEXUALITY**

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## Body Piercing : A Trend or Just A Lifestyle !

*Hadi claims to have performed a piercing job on a young girls clitoris*

Through the ages piercing parts of the body has become popular either to decorate the body or as part of rituals. Body piercing has been practised for hundreds of years and still is in Africa, South America, the Far East, and India.

In the last few years, body-piercing has become a trend in Europe. People-especially the younger generation have pierced different parts of their body in defiance to norms. They use piercing to make a statement.

Nowadays, pierced fads are seen everywhere in Europe. Actually this craze began in Europe and the US as a show of machism. As for Beirut, my guess is that it all began as an imitation. It has become a common sight to see people with body-piercing in Beirut. Here's a short walk with a few natives who have had their share of piercing.

Zeina Freiwat, a 24-year-old graphic designer, sports a belly-button ring. You cannot help noticing it especially when she wears one of many of her VERY short T-shirts. "It is an art like

tattooing. It's decorative and sexy, so why not?" Zeina had her belly-button pierced two years ago in Soho, London. She says it took less than five minutes to have the ring on her belly, and there was no time for pain. "It wasn't painful, but after a week or so it became infected and that is when I felt the pain." All body piercers advise people who are interested in body-piercing to take extra care in cleaning the wound with a little water and alcohol in addition to taking a dose of antibiotics. Zeina's infection took about six months to recover completely and only then did she really begin to enjoy its feeling. "It is personal, I don't allow anyone to touch it except very close people." She does not like to show it to people because, first she says it is personal and, second it might give a wrong impression here in Lebanon. So much for wearing all these very short T-shirts!!

What made her do it?!?!? "It was the rave at the time and I have a weakness for sexy bellies." Reason enough won't you say?!? If you fancy having your belly-button pierced make sure you insist on a ring made of zinc metal rather than silver because it never rusts and it never accumulate all the yucky stuff that oozes out. Still interested?

Wait till you hear about nipple piercing. Yes, Roy Awaad, also 24, is a model and had his nipple pierced 2 months ago here in Lebanon. Still fresh and painful Roy endures all in the name of fashion. "I find it very sexy and I love shocking people." So much for being provocative. I guess the nipple is the most painful area to pierce.

Oh, hold on a second, Hadi Baydoun the allegedly sole body piercer in Lebanon interrupts, "The most painful pierce is on more private areas". Hadi claims to have performed a piercing job on a young girls clitoris. Talk of pain!

Hadi Baydoun who is a graphic designer, also does tattooing. He bought all his equipment from London and makes cleanliness mandatory. He claims, "A small infection could cause endless pain for quite some time and the person might be forced to remove the ring and allow the wound to heal." Hadi performed over 100 body-pierces this year including eyebrow piercing and plans to begin tongue-piercing soon once he receives the appropriate rings.

No one denies the shocking value of certain body-pierces and this might be the reason finally behind many people having their lips, nipples, tongue and other parts of their body pierced. It is definitely unusual. The good thing about it is that the rings can be taken off. Thank God aplenty.

A beautiful person does not really need piercing to become more beautiful but Ghalya Saadawi, a 21-year-old student of Psychology disagrees, saying she had her nose pierced in London two months ago. "I just wanted a diamond on my nose." She did not do it for attention, it was not such a big deal she claims. "To me it was like buying a new pair of shoes." (I'll think of a pierce next time I go shopping).

*by Hala Habib*

