



# THE MAGNETIC ISSUE

BECAUSE RAGMAG IS BENT ON  
RESTORING + RENEWING OURSELVES

We hope you all had a great holiday season! We got great feedback for our December Golden Gates issue and we were very engaged this month on Twitter and Facebook! One of our goals is commitment to our readers: This is why we hope you continue to test us by tweeting our way and definitely commenting on our fan page. We especially enjoy the pictures you send us of your copies or when the mag turns up in unlikely places. Keep them coming!

We're kind of glad to get back to business as usual here at RAGMAG because we were excited to be one of the only magazines to do a January issue. In honour of 2012, we decided to do something that every magazine talks about but rarely puts into practise. Rather than telling you to kick your addictions and lecturing you on the ills of your personal shortcomings, we attacked our own. It is my habit to tell my writers to write about what they know or else it is not believable and generally, it is not well written. What good is writing about resolutions and self-improvement if we don't even have first-hand experience? I've read a million articles that tell you how to break your bad habits but I've seen very few that actually position the writer as the habit breaker. I thought to myself so many times that these writers should practise what they preach. Instead of being all talk no action, we chose a few of our core team and had them get restored + renewed via detox missions. Our Restore + Renew section is a special January-only

occurrence. It has replaced a few of our regular sections but they'll be back next issue. Gina Gabriel, our Publisher, went smoke-free for 10 days to get the nicotine out of her system. Youmna Chagoury, our Webmaster and Contributor, went caffeine-free for 5 and that included tea and soft drinks. Our Creative Lead Odette Kahwagi, to whom we owe the entire artistic direction of the magazine (including photography), stopped drinking for 10 days. And of course, my personal lead-by-example fiasco meant I had to do something- so I went offline for 2 full days: No BlackBerry and it was absolutely hideous. Check out the Restore + Renew section and watch us try to practise what everyone else just talks about.

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Fida Z Chaaban | Editor in Chief



WE WERE THERE TO WATCH HADY BEYDOUN'S LATEST MURAL COME TO LIFE IN HAMRA AT BIG SHOT PUB. THE TUPAC + BIGGIE ARTWORK IS 4 METERS BY 4 METERS AND TOOK 14 STRAIGHT HOURS TO COMPLETE.