



David Blacker

Enter David Blacker, Creative Director at Pheonix Ogilvy, author of *A Cause Untrue*, winner of the State Literary Award, Gratien Award nominee and this week's pick for the 5-Minute Interview.

By Kshanika Argent

Any new books in the pipeline?

Yeah, there is one, but it's still mostly in the planning stages as my regular job leaves me very little time for writing.

What's the best and worst thing anyone's ever said about *A Cause Untrue*?

Well, a professional airline pilot once told me that I'd captured the cockpit scenes so perfectly that he felt like he was right there. That was encouraging to hear since I've never flown an aircraft myself. Fortunately I've not heard a lot of bad stuff about the book, but one blogger accused me of writing UNP propaganda, which was a bit hilarious.

What's the most un-creative thing you've come up with?

Oh, I come up with lots of uncreative things every day in my job in advertising.

If you could have one super human power what would you choose?

If it was a super power, I guess flight would be good, because then I could fly across and see my son whenever I wanted to. But if I had to choose a regular trait, I'd rather be brave, more than anything else.

What do you do on Fridays?

As little as possible.

Favorite childhood memory?

Christmas mornings, unwrapping presents.

You've been entered in a shadow puppet contest. What's your best pose?

John Travolta in Saturday Night fever.



A hideaway like no other

By Kshanika Argent

Located in 'pineapple central' Gampaha, The Hideaway was the first of its kind, inspiring many mushrooming 'hideaways' to open shop, but according to Managing Director Suren De Silva if you want an exclusively private and romantic holiday and you easily tire of typical hotel accommodation and service, but still need some pampering, this one-time ancient *Walawa* turned luxury villa is the place to head to.

The Hideaway is also the ideal place to do absolutely nothing. De Silva explained that if water sports, rock climbing and sight seeing is what you want, this isn't the place, although such activities could be arranged. De Silva said, "We're not that far from Colombo but far enough so that one feels away from the city life. The kind of guest who comes to The Hideaway comes here to get away from it all."

What the The Hideaway does have however is a swimming pool which is gorgeous to say the least at night when it's lit up, a BBQ pit for a night of dinner under the stars and by the pool, three spacious and lavish bedrooms, each with attached

outdoor bathrooms fitted with sleek Jacuzzis, a living room with comfy sofas and TV as well as a large collection of DVD's.

With a talented chef and round the clock service that enables you to have meals whenever and wherever in the premises, The Hideaway's staff go that extra mile to deliver to your every need. Said De Silva, "Need rose petals on your bed before you arrive on a romantic getaway? We'll do that - and much more. Want to have breakfast at noon? That can be arranged too. There's almost nothing we can't do for our guests and that's why people keep coming back, because of the laid back and relaxed atmosphere where they can be themselves and where they can be alone and not have to adhere to a hotel system where they have to be up before ten or they miss breakfast. Also the check in and check out times are more flexible."

The Hideaway takes personalized service in the hospitality trade to a whole new dimension, providing guests with what they want, when they want in an atmosphere of calm, quiet and luxury. For more information contact 2-599-900 or 0773-265-277 or email hideaway@slt.net.lk

