



MAKE MY BITS BARE

Victim #1: **Joachim Leong, 27, PR Consultant**
Treatment: **Boyzilian**
Pain Mantra: **'No biggie.'**



'Ooh, now I see what all the fuzz is about ...'



FROM BOYS TO MEN

They can change tyres and catch creepy-crawlies. But dare they get waxed like a girl? Here are three men who braved our beauty treatments. **BY MAVIS NGUI**

I'm not exactly high maintenance, but I do like to keep my bits neat, and it's not just for vanity. When you're very hairy (like me), it's more hygienic because you sweat more and that excess perspiration gets caught in your hair. Even if you don't get the full works, it's good to keep the growth under control.

I'd never tried hot wax before, and it was totally different from strip waxing. With the latter, molten wax is brushed on and a paper strip is pressed on the area before the therapist rips it away. Hot waxing eliminates the use of strips, so once the wax cools it's yanked off. It's faster, and a lot less painful.

In my quest to be fuzz-free, I've also tried shaving. Worst. Idea. Ever. You know how when you shave, the hair grows out with blunt, pointy ends? Well, imagine having lots of sharp, short hairs criss-crossing

around your happy place. The prickles poked my skin, and I ended up with an abscess in my nether region. After surgery, I had to wear sanitary pads for two whole months for the bleeding down there!

If you're going for a wax, you've got to manage your expectations. You don't get a perfect one all the time as little strands can get left behind. That, and the pain level both depend on the skill of the therapist. I liked how Winky (the director of Wink Wax) gave ample warning to help me relax and breathe. Some therapists don't do that and that's when the screaming starts. I wasn't expecting a pampering cooling mask after the wax either, so that was an added bonus!

The Verdict: "The pain was bearable, and you can't get that perfect smoothness easily. I would have a boyzilian again — especially if I have a hot date!"

WAX DO, WAX DON'T

- ✓ Do exfoliate your skin right before waxing.
- ✓ Do inform your therapist if you're on medication.
- ✓ Do wear well-ventilated and loose-fitting clothes.
- ✓ Do relax throughout the process. Tensing up will only make you more sensitive.
- ✓ Do take a warm shower prior to the treatment. This helps to open the pores for easier removal.

- ✗ Don't use whitening products a week before your session.
- ✗ Don't shave in-between sessions as this will make your next one more painful.
- ✗ Don't take extremely hot showers or visit the sauna after waxing.
- ✗ Don't exfoliate the skin or work out within 24 hours after waxing.
- ✗ Don't sunbathe 24 hours before and after waxing.



WOW MY BROW

Victim #2: **Danny Osman, 24, Sales Executive**
Treatment: **Brow waxing**
Pain Mantra: **'FTS!' (Use your imagination. We're not allowed to say.)**

I believe that eyebrows, like hair, make a huge difference to how you look. Yet it remains an area that most boys neglect (Hello, unibrow?) or are wary about grooming. From past experiences, over-plucking can leave you looking surprised for a few weeks

— which is why this is a job best left to the pros. Even though I'm fussy about my brows, I'm a total wax virgin. I guess the idea of having hot liquid dribbled on my face and then pulled off just doesn't appeal to me ...

First, the therapist applies heated wax, which is about one or two degrees shy of excruciating. After cooling, the wax hardens and is yanked off your skin. Agony ensues.



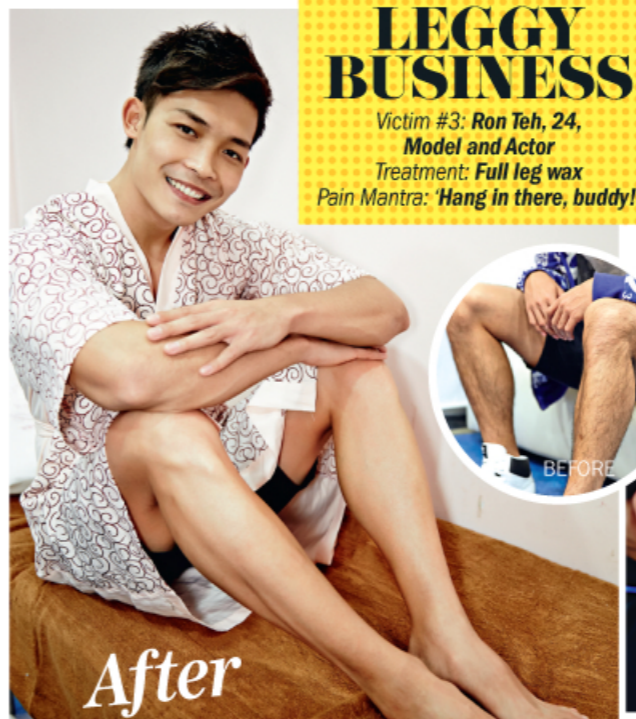
The Verdict: "I'd stick to getting my brows plucked. Waxing is too clean and defined — I felt like I was losing a bit of my masculinity with every strand of hair removed."

It was pretty bad. I mean, I expected pain, but this felt like my skin was getting ripped off. My mind was empty and I was holding my breath throughout the session. To put it simply, if I could preserve my groomed brows the way they are without going through this regularly, I would.

But I do think that some methods of hair removal are definitely preferable over others. I once dated this girl who shaved down there, and when it grew out, it was pricklier than my stubble. Bedtime with the Esplanade was ... not fun.

LEGGY BUSINESS

Victim #3: **Ron Teh, 24, Model and Actor**
Treatment: **Full leg wax**
Pain Mantra: **'Hang in there, buddy!'**



I'm always looking for a challenge, so I wanted to find out if I could handle the pain. Having never had one before, the anticipation of a leg wax was terrifying! However, when the treatment started, it was tolerable. Sharp but brief.

As the therapist moved towards the thigh area, the sensation was a lot more intense. I was breaking out in cold sweat and

wishing for it to end. I kept convincing myself the agony would be worth it though, and Instagram is a great distraction, too!

I do prefer girls who wax, and having now gone through it myself, I really respect those who have it done regularly. It shows that they care about themselves and want to look good for their partners, so major kudos to them. ■

The Verdict: "It's awesome! I love how much smoother my legs feel without all the fuzz, though I'm not big on the process. But would I do it again? Definitely."



PHOTOGRAPHY: RAYMOND TOH/WINEYARD PRODUCTIONS. VENUE: WINK WAX, 64B PECK SEAH STREET AND #01-07 STARHUB CENTRE, 51 CUPPAGE ROAD