

### ALUMNI PROFILE: ZIA TYEBJEE, CLASS OF 1996

In the summer of 2003, seven years after graduating from EB, my nostalgia got the best of me. I decided to forgo more lucrative, résumé-building prospects and spent the summer in Paris. I worked three days a week at a little design boutique and spent the rest of my time exploring the city I have been in love with all my life. Well, to be honest, I mostly explored the food. I had falafel on the Rue des Roses, tea and scones from Mariage Frères, and the best crêpes of my life from a little crêperie on Ile St-Louis. Oh, and of course, cheese from every shop I passed.

I lived in a little attic room in the 8th arrondissement. The room was 36 square meters, kitchenette included, and I shared it with Pilar Abascal, who fifteen years after I met her at EB is still my best friend. We suffered through the 105-degree heat wave with two tiny windows and a sad little fan that couldn't possibly vent heat faster than it rose up from the rest of the building. But it was fantastic. One of us picked up bread and lettuce on the way home every day, and we always had at least 5lb of cheese around. We had dinner in our shoebox flat then went out in the warm night, day-lit till almost midnight, and reveled in the Frenchness of everything. We sat around in cafés and neighborhood parks, not needing to actually do anything to appreciate being there. Both of us just simply loved France and were ecstatic just to be there.

The most profound impact EB has had on me, aside from giving me a stellar education, is the way that it has made me feel about France, and by extension the world. I feel about France the way I feel about California when I am away. It is more than just missing a place; it is a genuine homesickness,

like a part of me is very far away. When I am in Paris I am not a tourist, I am at home. I have a deep-seated connection to the place that comes from having French role models all my life. I have traveled a lot in my life and my ability to feel at home outside of America has served me very well. I am more than just American by nationality, Indian by ethnicity, or French by education, but truly feel (to use a cheesy cliché) like a citizen of the world.



Now, a year later, I have graduated from Yale, having majored in Architecture and Design. I am trying to start up a new stage of my life, trying to find my place in the world. I am back in California, having had enough of East Coast winters, and I absolutely love it here, but something is missing. I want to live on a crooked little street in the Marais and speak French every day. What I am coming to realize though, in the back of my mind, is that wherever I am something will always be missing, because there is no one place in this world for me. There are many. But that's OK, because though I don't live in Paris or Bombay or Spain or South America now, I know that I can, and for some of those places, I will. And that is enough, because I am young and I am not done, and never will be done, exploring the world.

PICTURE: ZIA (LEFT) WITH FRIEND PILAR ABASCAL

If you look forward to Alumni Profiles in the EB Gazette, you can meet some of our alumni in person on Wednesday, February 16, 2005 at an event designed for current parents.

Details will be forthcoming in the near future.  
Save the date!