



On The Ropes

With a seriously diverse list of jobs, nationalities and backgrounds, the contestants of *Fighting Fit Dubai* are a true reflection of the buzzing melting-pot city. One thing they all share in common? A fighter's spirit.

The drama. The tears. And the sweat. So much sweat. When Nomad Media TV decided to make a reality TV show out of an amateur boxing competition that took everyday people with no prior experience in fighting or boxing in a ring, they were on to a brilliant idea. But it wasn't just the undeniable recipe for success that turned the first season of *Fighting Fit Dubai* (formerly known as *White Collar DXB*) into one of the most buzzed-about and award-winning shows to come out of the

region in years—it was the story of the community and the locally-driven hearts behind it. The everyday people right here in the UAE, from all sorts of backgrounds and walks of life, entirely different types of jobs and lifestyles, that were ready to make the sacrifices and commit. So who are they, and why do they do it? We got the inside scoop on the names and faces you need to know. *Fighting Fit Dubai* airs on OSN Sport HD every Wednesday at 8pm.



Sonal Kotecha

(Fight Name: *Scorpion*)

Age: 31, Height: 1.52m, Weight: 46.1kg

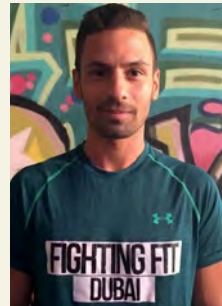
Nationality: British (Gujerati).

Job: Interior Designer.

Reason: The most petite girl in the line-up (who is now on a mission to put on enough weight to stay fighting), she wants to prove small girls can punch.

Years in Dubai: 6.5.

Walk-Out Song: *Insomnia* by Faithless.



Elliot Terz

(Fight Name: *MACHIAVELLIOT*)

Age: 29, Height: 1.585m, Weight: 77.5kg

Nationality: American

Job: MD of Ideas Plus

Reason: This self-described egotistical over-achiever wants to show the world that he can achieve anything, including this.

Years in Dubai: 4. Walk-Out Song: *Just The Two Of Us* (Original Classic) by Bill Withers.



Asma Darwish

(Fight Name: *The Destroyer*)

Age: 29, Height: 1.60m, Weight: 85.4kg.

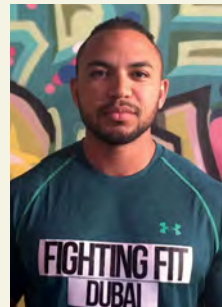
Nationality: Emirati.

Job: Interior Designer.

Reason: This determined Emirati woman wants to help dispel beliefs and stereotypes as well as help guide others towards a healthier lifestyle.

Years in Dubai: All her life.

Walk-Out Song: *Amazing* by Kanye West.



David McCall

(Fight Name: *The Terminator*)

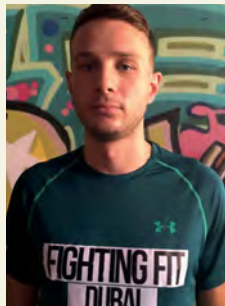
Age: 28, Height: 1.64m, Weight: 102.9kg

Nationality: British.

Job: Estate Agent.

Reason: This former rugby player (who played professional rugby for 6-7 years) wants to test himself in a new sport.

Years in Dubai: 4. Walk-Out Song: *Go Hard or Go Home* by Wiz Khalifa.



Matt Fortune

(Fight Name: *Jackpot*)

Age: 30, Height: 1.94m, Weight: 86.4kg

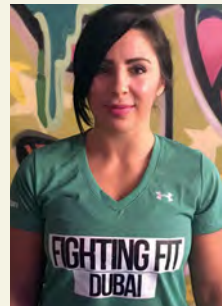
Nationality: British.

Job: Head of Digital Content for Time Out.

Reason: This workaholic has been out of the fitness game for a while and now wants to get it back.

Years in Dubai: 3.

Walk-Out Song: *Sirens* by Dizzee Rascal.



Michelle Spinnato

(Fight Name: *Miss Mighty Michelle*)

Age: 29, Height: 1.70m, Weight: 70.2kg

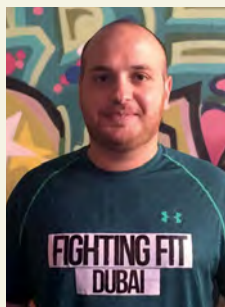
Nationality: Australian.

Job: Personal Trainer.

Reason: This friendly and thoughtful Aussie girl suffers from intense anxiety and needed something to help pull her out of her slump.

Years in Dubai: 8 months.

Walk-Out Song: *24K Magic* by Bruno Mars.



Yuseph Hawatt

(Fight Name: *Raging Bull*)

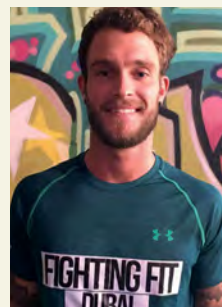
Age: 30, Height: 1.76m, Weight: 100.9kg

Nationality: Australian.

Job: Aviation Recruitment.

Reason: This genuine Aussie bloke has struggled with his weight and now wants to shift it and his overall state of health, so he can play with his kids.

Years in Dubai: 3.5. Walk-Out Song: *Hands Up* by Lloyd Banks ft. 50 Cent.



Alex McNally

(Fight Name: *The Yorkshire Terrier*)

Age: 26, Height: 1.77m, Weight: 68.7kg.

Nationality: British.

Job: Assistant Manager at Tom & Serg.

Reason: This everyday Dubai lad works hard at everything he does and wants to physically test his limits through this challenge.

Years in Dubai: 1.

Walk-Out Song: *I Predict A Riot* by Kaiser Chiefs.



Alaa Jazmati

(Fight Name: *Duppy*)

Age: 36, Height: 1.55m, Weight: 77.3kg

Nationality: Syrian. Job: Art Director.

Reason: This funny guy (who moonlights as a stand-up comedian) went through a dramatic weight loss a few years back but let himself get unfit again and now wants to fix that.

Years in Dubai: 15.

Walk-Out Song: *Kings Never Die* by Eminem.



Manpreet Pannu

(Fight Name: *The Sikh Warrior*)

Age: 42, Height: 1.73m, Weight: 87kg

Nationality: British.

Job: Business Development in Virtual Gaming.

Reason: The oldest guy in the competition, "Mamps" feels like he's finally got his life on track and now wants his health to follow suit.

Years in Dubai: 13.

Walk-Out Song: *It's A Fight* by Three 6 Mafia.



Natalie Divers

(Fight Name: Natalie 'Duckin' Divers)

Age: 33, Height: 1.63m, Weight: 70.3kg.

Nationality: Scottish.

Job: Lawyer.

Reason: This bubbly Scot wants to get back down to her wedding-day weight.

Years in Dubai: 7.

Walk-Out Song: *Simply The Best* by Tina Turner.



Yi-Hwa Hanna

(Fight Name: Poco Loco)

Age: 31, Height: 1.62m, Weight: 62.3kg

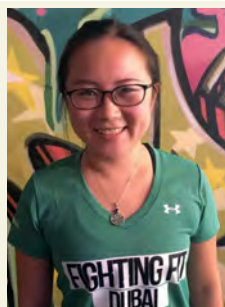
Nationality: American

Job: Editor-in-Chief, Women's Health Middle East

Reason: With an always-hectic work schedule and demanding personal pressures, she struggles to find time for herself and wants to change that.

Years in Dubai: On and off for 24 years

Walk-Out Song: *Lapdance* by N.E.R.D.



Xini Wei

(Fight Name: Shanghai Smasher)

Age: 26, Height: 1.61m, Weight: 58.4kg.

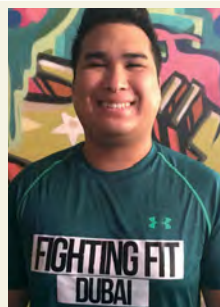
Nationality: Chinese.

Job: Digital Marketing/Media Manager.

Reason: This gutsy girl loves throwing herself into all sorts of different challenges and loved the idea of the show and this competition.

Years in Dubai: 3.

Walk-Out Song: TBD.



Lloyd Capistrano

(Fight Name: TBD)

Age: 26, Height: 1.68m, Weight: 96kg.

Nationality: Filipino.

Job: Emergency Nurse.

Reason: This overweight nurse who admits that he has a "terrible diet" and always eats on the go now wants to lose weight for his patients.

Years in Dubai: 11.

Walk-Out Song: TBD.



Oliver Page

(Fight Name: Oli 'Emlak' Page)

Age: 24, Height: 1.23m, Weight: 123kg.

Nationality: British.

Job: Operations Manager.

Reason: This young guy has always struggled with his weight, and lost both of his parents to heart attacks; he now wants to get healthy for keeps.

Years in Dubai: 3.

Walk-Out Song: *Last Resort* by Papa Roach.



Manjula Dias

(Fight Name: TBD)

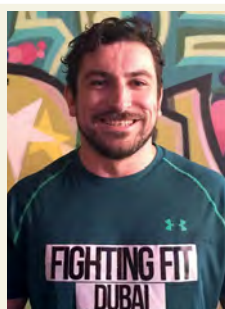
Age: 34, Height: 1.70m, Weight: 70.4kg.

Nationality: Sri Lankan.

Job: Bellman.

Reason: This hard-working bellman provides for his family back home, and wants something good to happen to him out here—and hopes this is it.

Walk-Out Song: TBD.



Joseff Williams

(Fight Name: Black Sheep)

Age: 30, Height: 1.76m, Weight: 99.6kg.

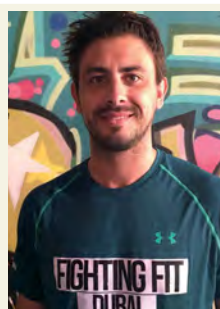
Nationality: Welsh.

Job: Marketing Manager for MEFit Pro.

Reason: This affable fit guy loves his CrossFit and wants to see how he'd do in boxing.

Years in Dubai: 5.

Walk-Out Song: *Rock It* by Sub Focus.



Joff Cowling-Bryant

(Fight Name: Joff "Digger" C-B)

Age: 35, Height: 1.85m, Weight: 86.3kg.

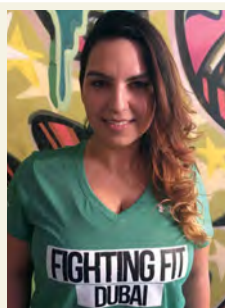
Nationality: British.

Job: Regional Sales Manager.

Reason: This expat guy says he's lived the "Dubai Dream" but now, at the age of 35, wants to start finally sorting his life out, starting with his health.

Years in Dubai: 8.

Walk-Out Song: *Panda* by Designer.



Nour Martinez

(Fight Name: TBD)

Height: 1.58m, Weight: 76kg.

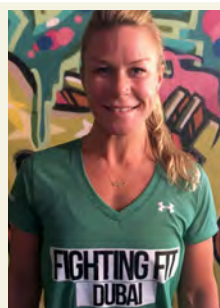
Nationality: American.

Job: Artist's Manager.

Reason: This strong independent mother has had a dark past and wants to learn how to defend herself.

Years in Dubai: On and off all of her life.

Walk-Out Song: TBD.



Helle Bachofen Von Echt

(Fight Name: Helle 'The Hurricane' von Echt)

Age: 35, Height: 1.68m, Weight: 68.4kg.

Nationality: Danish.

Job: Flywheel Instructor.

Reason: This über-fit elite cyclist throws herself wholeheartedly into every challenge and wants to use boxing to better herself as an athlete.

Years in Dubai: 3.

Walk-Out Song: *Hurricane* by The Fray.



Paris Norriss

(Fight Name: Trojan)

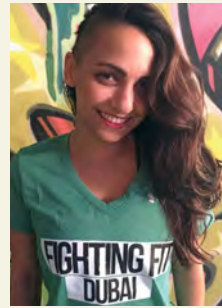
Age: 31, Height: 1.88m, Weight: 91.6kg.

Nationality: British.

Job: MD in Education Recruitment.

Reason: This socialite went to a very athletic school when he was growing up, and is now striving to get that level of fitness back.

Years in Dubai: 4. Walk-Out Song: *Welcome To The Jungle* by Guns n' Roses.



Faten Huraimi

(Fight Name: Fiery Filistine)

Age: 31, Height: 1.52m, Weight: 52.8kg.

Nationality: Jordanian.

Job: Event Planner.

Reason: This easygoing girl says she has never really committed to anything in her life, and now wants to finally make a change.

Years in Dubai: 7. Walk-Out Song: *Supermassive Black Hole* by Muse.



Tumelo Khoza

(Fight Name: The Zulu Warrior)

Age: 28, Height: 1.65m, Weight: 74.4kg.

Nationality: South African.

Job: Senior Barman at Brunswick Sports Club.

Reason: Tumelo "Tumi" Khoza says he just wants to commit himself to something and actually see the whole thing through.

Years in Dubai: 3. Walk-Out Song: His own mix.



Nadia Dean

(Fight Name: The Phoenix)

Age: 29, Height: 1.73m, Weight: 84.7kg.

Nationality: Kenyan.

Job: Auditor.

Reason: This emotional eater has been through some family difficulties and wants to try and overcome her inner issues through this experience.

Years in Dubai: 7. Walk-Out Song: *Sail* by AWOLNATION.



Leanne Dore

(Fight Name: Leanne 'Dubainamite' Dore)

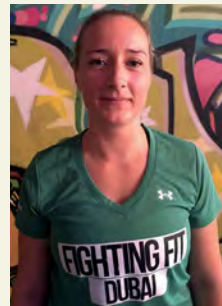
Age: 28, Height: 1.70m, Weight: 64.9kg.

Nationality: British.

Job: Account Manager.

Reason: This everyday Dubai girl wants to challenge herself through the competition.

Years in Dubai: 5. Walk-Out Song: *All Of The Lights* by Kanye West.



Toni Rogan

(Fight Name: The Torch)

Age: 32, Height: 1.64m, Weight: 66.8kg.

Nationality: British.

Job: Personal Trainer.

Reason: This ex-military PT lost her beloved cage-fighting brother in a road accident and wants to make him proud through this challenge.

Years in Dubai: 8. Walk-Out Song: *Simply The Best* by Tina Turner.



Shavon Simpson

(Fight Name: The Cherry Bomb)

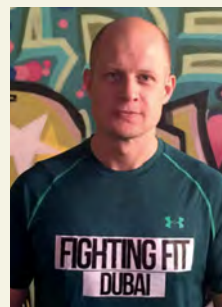
Age: 34, Height: 1.70m, Weight: 65.5kg.

Nationality: American.

Job: Gear Store Manager.

Reason: This tough-nut, fun-loving adrenaline junkie (who loves a good skydive!) now wants to test her hand in the ring.

Years in Dubai: 5. Walk-Out Song: *Sabotage* by The Beastie Boys.



Tom Watterson

(Fight Name: The Wild Man)

Age: 31, Height: 1.85m, Weight: 96.9kg.

Nationality: British.

Job: Senior Recruitment Consultant.

Reason: This former party guy said his younger days have put him in bad health and he'd like to change that through this challenge.

Years in Dubai: 8. Walk-Out Song: *Jungle* by X Ambassadors.



Daud Amer

(Fight Name: The King David)

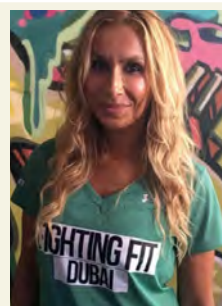
Age: 29, Height: 1.60m, Weight: 75.5kg.

Nationality: Indian.

Job: Banker.

Reason: This banker says his lifestyle is "less than healthy"—a heavy smoker and drinker, he now wants to get fit and healthy for his daughter.

Years in Dubai: 8. Walk-Out Song: *Warrior* by Krepost.



Eve Jaso

(Fight Name: Evalicious)

Age: 33, Height: 1.70m, Weight: 64kg.

Nationality: British.

Job: Radio Presenter.

Reason: This radio presenter said she wants to quit her unhealthy eating habits and finally find a solidly healthy routine.

Walk-Out Song: *Bootylicious* by Destiny's Child.