

# POP STOP

At what was dubbed the Chinese-speaking world's wedding of the century, **Carina Lau** (劉嘉玲) and **Tony Leung Chiu Wai** (梁朝偉) exchanged marriage vows on a meadow in front of the Uma Paro hotel in Bhutan on Tuesday.

The 100 relatives and friends that attended the nuptials included A-list celebrities such as **Faye Wong** (王菲), **Brigitte Lin** (林青霞), **Wong Kar-wai** (王家衛) and **Chang Chen** (張震).

The happy couple coughed up for the guests' flights and accommodations and are estimated to have splurged some NT\$140 million on the nuptials, with Lau's 10-carat diamond ring clocking in at NT\$100 million.

The wedding was in the same league as royal marriage dos. Having gained the full support of Bhutan's royal family, the couple had their wedding photos taken last week in Ugyen Pelri Palace, which was sealed from prying eyes. Lau and Liu wore traditional attire usually only reserved for members of the mountain kingdom's royal family. After all, the pair are showbiz royalty.

The helpful and friendly monarchy was probably one of the reasons why the couple tied the knot in the isolated nation where liquor is banned and the government pays more attention to the country's Gross National Happiness than Gross National Product.

An estimated 30 journa made it to the hotel nestled on a mountain 2,300m above sea level, but which was sealed off by 80 policemen and 20 security guards.

Members of the press pack faced deportation, having their cameras smashed and photos deleted by force. This must have been one of their toughest cases to date, especially staking out the

Carina Lau and Tony Leung Chiu Wai worked with the monarchy in Bhutan to make sure that their wedding of the century wouldn't be spoiled by the press.

PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

hotel accompanied by flies, bees and cows while aware that their the celebrity quarry was ensconced inside feasting.

Meanwhile, Lau's former suitor, money bags **Terry Gou** (郭台銘), is set to marry his dancer girlfriend **Delia Tseng** (曾馨瑩) tomorrow at the Grand Hyatt Taipei. The wedding is to be held in a plain and simple style by the tycoon's normal standard and will be attended by **Chang Fei** (張菲), **Chang Hsiao-yen** (張小燕) and **Kevin Tsai** (蔡康永).

While Gao's personal life is on the up, his dream of building a film empire reportedly lies in tatters as the Chinese-language press pointed out last week that his film company closed down seven months ago.

Could his previously made promise to produce 100 Chinese-language films have been a ruse to pursue female stars?

In other nuptial news, has-been model **Flora Sun** (孫正華) has reportedly climbed up the social ladder by secretly marrying **Miao Hua-pin** (苗華斌), the heir to MITAC (神通集團).

Though friends of both parties denied the pair had got hitched, *Apple Daily* nevertheless ran a relationship family tree charting the couple's past flings. Sun was once romantically linked with Japanese soccer sensation **Hidetoshi Nakata** and Miao was said to be an eager wooer of local beauties including **Patty Hou** (侯佩岑) and **Sonia Sui** (蘇菲).

Love is in the air, it seems. In Bangkok, married Chinese diva **Gong Li** (鞏俐) was spotted by Hong Kong paparazzi feeding a "farang" in a restaurant this month. The gossip hounds later identified the man as a 29-year-old French photographer surnamed Chang who met Gong two years ago on the set of *Hannibal Rising*.

Pop Stop reckons this must be true love since Chang is the same guy who was spotted fondling the actress in Beijing in 2006 and enjoying a candlelight dinner with her in Shanghai last year.

A man who published 84 images of Hong Kong actor **Edison Chen** (陳冠希) engaged in sex acts with several actresses and entertainers was given a two-year jail sentence yesterday, suspended for two years.

Kwok Chun-wai pleaded guilty at Kowloon city court to three charges of publishing obscene articles.

Magistrate Andrew Ma said the offences were serious and a deterrent sentence was needed, but he suspended the penalty because the defendant was not the source of the pictures and he did not intend to harm the celebrities involved.

The images, showing Chen having oral sex with celebrities including singer **Gillian Chung** (鍾欣桐) and actress **Cecilia Cheung** (張柏芝), were taken from Chen's laptop computer.

The scandal, which broke in January, caused Chen to leave Hong Kong for Canada and the US. Chung, one half of the singing duo Twins, temporarily suspended her singing career, while Cheung separated from actor husband **Nicolas Tse** (謝霆鋒).

— COMPILED BY HO YI



## World beats do the twist

Belly dancing and Middle Eastern music hardly seem like an odd couple, but add electronic music and you have a more unusual mix. Stir in north African, Indian and hip-hop influences with the belly dancing, sprinkle in a bit of jazz and techno, and the result really adds a whole new layer of meaning to the phrase "fusion music."

Audiences will get to experience this brew for themselves when San Francisco global electronica producer and musician **Jef Stott** and a Taiwanese belly dance group partner for performances in Taichung and Taipei on Aug. 1 and Aug. 2.

Stott and dancer **Betty Lee** (李梅林), the organizer of Shimmy Dancers, hatched plans for the show while both attended Tribal Fest, an annual alternative dance festival, in San Francisco this year.

"I saw Jef's show and I said, wow, this rocks, this is awesome, and I thought 'maybe we can do this in Taiwan,'" says Lee, who saw a chance to expose her students and fellow belly dancers to a new form of music.

The shows will combine a DJ set, during which Stott will improvise with electronic music and recordings, with contributions by DJs **Nate D** and **Jez Bob**, and live performances on the oud by Stott. Other Middle Eastern instruments audiences will be able to hear include the string instruments *saz*, *tambur* and *santur*, and the wind instruments *ney* and *zurna*, many of which were recorded in Stott's San Francisco studio.

While the performances may fall under the category of world music, fusion is the predominant theme.

"The feel of the show is really a dance party, electronic music made for dance clubs. It has hip-hop and techno influences, and

"I got rid of all my guitar equipment and became totally fascinated with the oud. I became sort of like a Sufi for a while."

— Jef Stott, global electronica producer and musician

it's loud and exciting," says Stott. The partnership between Shimmy Tribe and the musicians will be based largely on improvisation.

"We get inspired by watching dancers, because they have certain form and language of movement, gestures that they do and those gestures inform us as to what sort of sounds we should be making," says Stott.

The dancers will perform American tribal-style belly dancing, which derives its influences from North African Berber and Bedouin culture, as well as Indian and flamenco dance. Traditional-style belly dancing, on the other hand, comes from Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt, says Lee, who has trained in both.

The costumes of tribal belly dancers cover more of their bodies, and movements are stronger and more defined. Dancers sometimes fuse influences from yoga, Pilates, and popping from hip-hop dance, which **Essa Wen** (聞子儀), Lee's dancing partner, specializes in.

Lee became curious about alternative forms of belly dancing after she began studying the traditional style in 2002. Since then, she has trained in Egypt, Turkey and the US. She was first introduced to American tribal-style belly dance at the 2006 Tribal Fest in San Francisco.

"Before I saw the fusion style, I had only studied traditional cabaret-style belly dancing," says Lee. "At Tribal Fest, I saw a lot of different elements with the dance, not just cabaret or

Egyptian style. Stott, meanwhile, was first turned on to global electronica while listening to musicians like Peter Gabriel, Brian Eno, Massive Attack and Ali Khan as a youngster in Los Angeles during the early 1990s.

While collaborating with the group Stellamara, Stott discovered the oud, a Middle Eastern lute, and his interest in the region's music took off.

"I got rid of all my guitar equipment and became totally fascinated with the oud. I became sort of like a Sufi for a while and worked with the music and culture, the religious devotional aspects of the music," says Stott. Taking an anthropological approach to music, Stott has studied with teachers from all over the Middle East, including Iran and Algeria, traveled to Turkey and plans to visit Morocco this year.

While Stott initially focused on the traditional aspects of Middle Eastern music, he found himself missing electronic music, and began fusing his two passions. Stott is now signed to Six Degrees, the San Francisco record label that includes world music luminaries like **Cheb i Sabbah** and **Karsh Kale**.

Stott hopes people who watch the show will be exposed to the different possibilities in fusion music.

"It doesn't just have to be an American guy playing the oud or Asian dancers who do Egyptian belly dance," he says. "What we are trying to do is encourage people to open up a bit."

— CATHERINE SHU



Above: Jef Stott incorporates live performances on the oud with electronic music.

Top: The Shimmy Tribe performs American tribal-style belly dancing, which derives its influences from North African Berber and Bedouin culture, as well as Indian and flamenco dance.

### PERFORMANCE NOTES

**WHAT:** Jef Stott, Betty Lee, Essa Wen and the Shimmy Tribe, Nate D and Jez Bob

**WHERE:** Wednesday at 10pm at Bliss, 148, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市信義路四段148號); Thursday from 7pm to 7:30pm at Sababa's Yongkang branch (DJs only), 3, Ln 12, Yongkang St, Taipei City (台北市永康街12巷3號); Friday, Aug. 1 from 9pm to 12pm at 89K, Takuan Rd, Nantun Dist, Taichung City (台中市南屯區大觀路21號); Saturday, Aug. 2 from 5pm to 5:30pm at Sababa's Gonggung branch (DJs only), 17, Ln 283, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段283巷17號); Sunday, Aug. 3 at 10pm at Underworld (DJs only), B1, 45, Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1); **TICKETS:** NT\$500 each and available for pre-purchase at the following Sababa locations in Taipei City: 3, Ln 12, Yongkang St, Taipei City (台北市永康街12巷3號); 17, Ln 283, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段283巷17號); 8, Alley 54, Ln 118, Heping East Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市和平路二段118巷54弄8號)

**ON THE NET:** www.jefstott.com; www.bellydancing.com.tw

### TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS JULY 11 TO JULY 13

- 1 Fan Wei-chi (范瑋琪) and *Faces of Fan Fan* with 12.18 percent of sales
- 2 Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) and *Jam Hsiao* (蕭敬騰) with 7.94 percent
- 3 Joshua Band (約書亞樂團) and *Supernatural* (超自然) with 7.9%
- 4 Knights of Princess (公主幫) with *Adventure Now!* (公主幫冒險世界) with 5.2%
- 5 Yoga Lin (林宥嘉) and *Mystery Guest* (神秘嘉賓) with 4.43%

ALBUM CHART COMPILED FROM G-MUSIC (WWW.G-MUSIC.COM.TW), BASED ON RETAIL SALES

### Theater

**Boris Godunov** by the renowned Catalan theater group La Fura dels Baus is a play that fuses a historical event, the attack on the Moscow's Dubrovka Theater in October of 2002 by Chechen rebels, with Alexander Pushkin's play, which takes its title from the Czar of the same name, who, according to the play, gradually sinks into madness after murdering the Czarovich Dimitri to usurp the throne. The production is about terrorism and what motivates those who commit acts of terrorism.

► National Theater, Taipei City  
► 7:30pm tonight and tomorrow, and 2:30pm Sunday  
► Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$3,000, available through NTCH ticketing

**Dharma Master Wu-Da's Penance** (慈悲三昧水懺) is a *gezai* opera (歌仔戲) by the Hsu Ya-fen Opera Company (許亞芬歌子劇坊). The opera takes place during the Tang Dynasty and tells the story of a humble monk, Wu-Da, who develops a fiercely arrogant personality after becoming one of the emperor's spiritual confidants. A painful bodily affliction helps Wu-Da realize the errors of his ways and eventually find redemption.

► Kaohsiung County Labor Recreation Center (高雄縣勞工育樂中心)  
► 7:30pm tonight and tomorrow, and 2:30pm tomorrow  
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$2,500, available through ERA ticketing

### Classical music

**Composition 7 Saxophone**

### Quartet (第七樂章薩克斯四重奏)

are a quartet made up of Ku Po-yu (古博元), Li Cheng-yu (李承育), Wu Chia-chia (吳嘉佳) and Wu Chih-huan (吳志桓), who perform extensively in North America and Europe. They have returned to Taipei and will play a program that includes *Petit Quatuor*, *Mountain Road*, *Grave et Presto* and *Tango Virtuos*.

► 7:30pm Tuesday  
► National Recital Hall, Taipei City  
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing

### Luo Hui-chu in Concert

— **Homage to the Baroque** (絡惠珠獨唱會—巴洛克歌詠) is a concert of pieces from the Baroque period by singer Luo Hui-chu (絡惠珠), who has made the period her specialty. The program will include Cesti's *Amanti io vi disido, Intorno all'idol mio*, Bassani's "Dormi bella" from *La Serenata*, Scarlatti's *Le Violette*, *Gliail sole dal Gange* and Vivaldi's *Sposa son dispresata, son quell gelsomino*.

► 7:30pm Wednesday  
► National Recital Hall, Taipei City  
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing

### 8th Taipei International Choral Festival (2008第八屆台北國際合唱音樂節)

opens tomorrow with the Chamber Choir of Stuttgart under conductor Frieder Bernius. On Monday, the St John's College Choir of South Africa will perform, followed by the Tapiloa Chamber Choir from Finland on Tuesday, the Chanters Group of the Church of St Pantaleimon the Healer from Georgia on Wednesday and he Idea of the North from Australia on Thursday.  
► 7:30pm tomorrow and 7:30pm Monday through Thursday  
► National Concert Hall, Taipei City  
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$2,000,

### Highlight

Eric Mandala and his "world music fusion" group **Mandala** start a tour of Taiwan with a musical performance tonight at **Bliss** in Taipei. The group, which is currently based in Kyoto, Japan, aims to "bring sacred styles of art together for a new fusion in this new multicultural world." They play trance grooves and jam band music on many different instruments, in particular those from Africa, India and Indonesia. Mandala has also staged several multimedia and art performances, with past shows in Indonesia including a live painting performance mixed with jazz music played by a traditional *gamelan* ensemble. And the group is no stranger to Taiwan, having played at Spring Scream in 2004 and at several venues in Taipei in 2005. One of Mandala's musical themes is the search for a "universal language," also the title of one of the group's CDs. At the beginning of the song *Jilumonaya*, Mandala says in a voice-over interview: "Universal language is hard to explain ... because it is communication without any words, any talking ... we live in peace ... singing from our hearts ... like a bird." Mandala also performs

available through NTCH ticketing

### Contemporary

The month-long Taipei International Jazz Festival concludes this weekend with free shows tonight and tomorrow evening in **228 Peace Park** (228和平紀念公園).



Eric Mandala and his world music fusion group, Mandala, play tonight at Bliss.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC MANDALA

tomorrow at **VU Live House** and in Taichung on Sunday and Monday.

► Mandala  
► 10pm tonight at Bliss, 148, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市信義路四段148號); 10pm tomorrow at VU Live House, B1, 77 Wuchang St, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1); 8pm Sunday at Retro Taichung, Wuchuan W Rd, Taichung City (台中市五權西路一段116號); 8pm Monday at 1-1, Chingcheng 22nd St, Taichung City (台中市西區精誠22街1-1號). The final venue is a private residence. Call (04) 2310-0836  
► Entrance fee NT\$200  
► On the Net: www.myspace.com/mandalaworldmusic

**平紀念公園**). Featured performers include trombonist **Steve Davis**, saxophonist **John Rocco**, trumpeter **Saskia Laroo**, singer **Denise Jannah**, violinist **Hsieh Chi-pin** (謝啓彬) and pianist **Chang Kai-ya** (張凱雅). See Page 13 of the June 20, 2008, edition of the *Taipei Times* for the full festival preview.  
► 228 Peace Park (228和平紀念公園),

Main Stage, near NTU Hospital MRT Station (台大醫院捷運站), exit No. 1  
► 7:30pm to 9:30pm tonight and tomorrow  
► No entrance fee

Expat drum ensemble **Pan Africana** appears tonight at **VU Live House**. Tomorrow, it's **Mandala**, playing "ethnic fusion world music" (see highlight above). Every Thursday is Island Paradise night, featuring reggae, ska and Caribbean music. This Thursday, it's DJ **Katzu**, of Jamaican sound system **Black Reign International**, and **Skaraoke**.  
► B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Call (02) 2314-1868 for more information  
► Performances start at 10pm  
► NT\$300 entrance fee, includes one drink

Appearing tonight at **Center Stage** (formerly the Living Room, now under new management) is **DJ Hamish**. Performing tomorrow are **The Accidentals**.  
► 3F, 8, Nanjing E Rd Sec 5, Taipei City (台北市南京東路五段8號3樓). Call (02) 8787-4154 or visit www.myspace.com/taipeicenterstage for more information  
► Performances start at 10pm  
► Free tonight; NT\$200 tomorrow

Appearing tonight at the **Underworld** (地下室) is **White Eyes** (白目), a garage band that took first prize at this year's battle of the bands at the Ho-Hai-Yan Rock Festival (海洋音樂祭). They share a bill with **Black Summer Days** (黑色夏口), whose music is based on hard rhythm rock 'n' roll mixed with blues and punk. One-man electro-rock band **Sonic Deadhorse** and **ZX43** take to the stage tomorrow night.  
► B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1). Call (02) 2369-0103 or visit www.upsaid.com/underworld for

more information  
► Live shows run from 9:30pm to 11:30pm. The bar is open from 8pm daily; closed Mondays; drinks are buy-one-get-one-free on Tuesdays and Thursdays before midnight  
► Cover for the music shows is NT\$300 on Fridays and Saturdays and includes one drink; NT\$100 on Wednesdays

**Witch House** (女巫店) hosts singer **Su Erh-chen** (蘇兒真), a lawyer by day and aspiring pop musician by night. **Rock Song Machine Wuge** (搖滾點唱機五哥) appears tomorrow

night, playing original fingerstyle guitar compositions backed by a bassist and drummer.  
► 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新生南路三段56巷7號). For more information, call (02) 2362-5494 or visit www.witchhouse.org  
► Performances start at 9:30pm. Restaurant/bar with queer/feminist bookstore and large collection of board games open 11am to midnight Sundays through Wednesdays; 11am to 1am Thursdays through Saturdays  
► NT\$300 entrance includes one drink