

POP  
STOP

**Maggie Cheung** (張曼玉) and her chisel-faced squeeze, German architect **Ole Scheeren**, may be getting hitched soon, reports our sister newspaper the *Liberty Times* via Hong Kong gossip rag *Oriental Sunday*.

Cheung and Scheeren, who resembles Willem Dafoe's less ominous-looking younger brother, met last year after Cheung split up with jewelry magnate **Guillaume Brochard**. Scheeren, the business partner of **Rem Koolhaas**, designed the Prada Epicenters in New York and Los Angeles and is one of the brains behind the new CCTV Headquarters in Beijing. The *Liberty Times* breathlessly reports that the man has looks, talent and wealth — not to mention a penchant for making buildings that look like upside-down U magnets.

That combo supposedly has Cheung so enraptured that she may be willing to hitch up her pencil skirts and jet off to Paris to set up housekeeping with her alpha male. In fact, Cheung reportedly was ready for marriage earlier, but Scheeren wanted to wait until the CCTV headquarters had entered its final construction stage.

*Oriental Sunday* spotted Cheung and Scheeren visiting her dear friend **Cherie Chung** (鍾楚紅) recently. The magazine says Chung is helping the couple plan their nuptials, but the Hong Kong actress kept mum about any plans.

Marriage or not, Scheeren proved his adoration by unveiling a painting of his lady love at an art exhibit in Beijing. The portrait features a baby-faced Cheung with “glistering teardrops” in her widely spaced eyes. To Pop Stop, it makes the actress look like a fetus with lipstick on.

Speaking of fetuses, Hong Kong pop diva **Faye Wong** (王菲) is pregnant

for the third time. Let the bumpwatch begin! Her agent confirmed the news in a rather roundabout way by telling *Ming Pao Daily* that congratulations were due to the superstar and her husband **Li Yapeng** (李亞鵬).

The gestating Li-Wong bundle is the diva's third child: she already has two daughters, an 11-year-old from her first marriage to **Dou Wei** (齊唯) and a two-year-old with Li. The tyke was the flower girl at **Tony Leung** (梁朝偉) and **Carina Lau's** (劉嘉玲) lavish Bhutan nuptials last month and, according to film star **Brigitte Lin** (林青霞), the moppet was feted like a “little Buddha.”

Despite not needing a flower girl in the immediate future, Mando-pop star **Jolin Tsai** (蔡依林) was nonetheless zipped into a fluffy white wedding dress and paraded at a promotional event for Head & Shoulders shampoo earlier this week. The bridal theme is ironic considering that Tsai follows fellow **Jay Chou** (周杰倫) exes **Vivian Hsu** (徐若瑄) and **Patty Hou** (侯佩岑) as the hair-care brand's spokeswoman.

When asked if she felt a bit “awkward” about being the third Chou paramour to hawk Head & Shoulders shampoo, Tsai merely twinkled and said, “It's not awkward! We all have beautiful hair, that's why we're the spokeswomen.”

Tsai didn't lose her cool in that exchange, but nearly lost her top a bit earlier as she attempted to toss her bouquet, sending the bodice of her strapless gown southwards. The flustered Tsai grabbed her dress just in time, depriving the public of a chance to see if rumors of Tsai's boob job are indeed true.

Also caught in an awkward moment this week was Taipei socialite **Amy Ho** (何麗玲), who was photographed by *Next Magazine* in what appeared to be a passionate embrace with married Four Seas Gang (四海幫) “big brother” **Zhang Jian Ying** (張建英) on the street after a party.

As was to be expected, Ho immediately went on the defensive, calling a press conference to insist that she and Zhang are merely good buddies. “If I do become romantically involved with anyone, I'll be sure let everyone know right away,” said Ho with a straight face. Ho's ex-boyfriend, Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) legislator **Donald Hwang** (黃義交), declined to comment on his former flame's extracurricular activities.

Closer inspection of the photos reveal that the embrace was probably just as chaste as Ho insists it was. The pics were taken from behind Zhang and from that angle, yes, Ho and Zhang may have been engaged in a rigorous bout of French kissing — but only if their tongues were each 20cm long.

— COMPILED BY CATHERINE SHU

## Taitung festival a slice of island life



The rhythm and tempo of reggae, and its Rastafarian connections, are best suited to the pace of beach life — or island life. So it's not surprising that Taiwan, which has only recently developed a beach culture, is now nursing an interest in reggae, soca, roots and dub.

Japan, which has been cultivating a reggae scene for over three decades, is “the Mecca of reggae music in the world over the last 10 years,” said Red-I, aka Patrick Chen. He will be performing with his band, The Radical Outlawz, at the East Coast Music Festival in Taitung this weekend, along with bands from Japan, the Philippines and Taiwan.

“People are always saying reggae is so underground in Taiwan,” Red-I said. “A few years ago it couldn't have been any smaller; no one even talked about it.”

Red-I, who was born in Taiwan, raised in Canada and “reggae-ized” in Belize and Mexico for half his life, is one of the major progenitors of the genre here. He credits artists like Scott Cook, and the O'Brothaz Sound System (now Black Reign



International), for promoting the sound, but said ultimately it was the emergence of surf culture that switched the Taiwanese onto reggae.

“The surfing crowd getting bigger brought people to the beach, and the beach culture started to grow among the young people ... The surf videos, they use a lot of reggae,” Red-I said.

The second annual Taitung festival enjoys official support: it's put on not only by Socialroots Productions, but also by the Taitung Ministry of Cultural Affairs, and is sponsored by the county government.

Local bands on the lineup include Fan Yichen (范逸臣), Eat Music (吃音樂) and Song CD-farmers (宋唯農), to name just a few. The festival is an excellent chance to check out international acts such as Papa U-gee, aka Yuyuji



Matsumura, from Shizuoka, Japan, who also played last year and is a veteran of the scene (with a roster that dates back to his high school band in 1985).

Red-I said that many of the acts, including Papa Dom, Tropical Depression and Machaco, the female pioneer of reggae in Japan, “have over 15 years' of experience performing and recording ... Papa Dom hosts his own reggae show on Radio Manila, the first radio show like this in the Philippines.”

In addition to more than 20 groups from Taiwan, Japan, and the Philippines, there will be workshops by dance instructor Maria Matsumura, also known as Phatty Maria, who is the 2008 Japan Dancehall Queen Champion.

The main acts will be Saturday and Sunday this weekend and next, but there will be workshops, including Phatty Maria's free dance lessons, from Monday through Aug. 22.

The festival is free — in more than a monetary way: There will be an open stage for artists who want to join in, on a “first-come, first-served basis,” said Red-I.

Other scheduled bands like Digihai, Go Chic! and The Shine and Shine and Shine (閃閃閃閃) add an electro/punk edge to the proceedings.

— ALITA RICKARDS



Far left and third from left: Homegrown reggae talent Red-I. Second from left: Japanese reggae master Papa U-gee.

Above: Taiwan's east coast is the natural choice for a reggae music festival.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAPA U-GE, RED-I AND GIG LUI

## FESTIVAL NOTES:

**WHAT:** East Coast Music Festival (東海岸音樂季), also known as Island 2 Island Taitung Music Festival

**WHERE:** East Coast Jialulan (加路蘭) Recreation Area, located off Highway 11 (台11線公路), south of Dulan (都蘭), Taitung County and north of Taitung City, near the 157.5km marker

**WHEN:** Tomorrow through Aug. 23, with reggae shows Saturday and Sunday nights (both weekends) from 6pm to 10pm. Other bands play from 10pm to 12am. The open stage starts daily at 3pm

**TICKETS:** Admission is free  
**GETTING THERE:** Scooter and bikes can be rented across the street from Taitung Train Station. By scooter it's only a few minutes away, and on a bicycle it's about a 30-minute ride. Take Highway 11 heading north to Jialulan. The festival site is just after Fugang Harbor (富岡港). A free shuttle bus runs from the train station to the venue  
**ON THE NET:** tmf.cclt.tct.edu.tw

## Have music, will travel: Swiss jazz pianist Claude Diallo



Vocalist Angela Wang, left, performs this Sunday with Swiss jazz pianist Claude Diallo, right, at Kaohsiung City Music Hall.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGELA WANG AND CLAUDE DIALLO

“Europeans don't care if they sound like Charlie Parker ... we use the language [of jazz] as a base,” he said. “European jazz is having no fear of making a mistake ... The music is so free, so fresh.”

Despite the fact that “there is no market” for independent jazz musicians such as Diallo, positive feedback from audiences keeps him going: “[When] they love what I do, the love I feel, I want to return it.”

— DAVID CHEN

## TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

AUG. 1 TO AUG. 7

- 1 Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) and *Jam Hsiao* (蕭敬騰) with 17.93 percent of sales
- 2 Wilber Pan (潘瑋柏) and *Future Tense* (未來式) with 7.1%
- 3 Bibi Zhou (周筆暢) and *NOW* with 5.55%
- 4 Various artists and *Always Open Your Heart* (大開天窗) with 4.31%
- 5 Van Fan (范逸臣) and *Wu Le Bu Tsuo* (無樂不作) with 4.11%

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

## Theater

**New Wave Guling 2008 (2008第三屆新湖實驗室)** is a series of experimental performances held at the famed Guling Street Theater. *Play in the •* (在 • 的世界裡 • 我們只能看著牆) is a production inspired by Maurice Maeterlinck's *The Blinds*. The interpretation combines lines from the original play with sound experiments, where actors playing different instruments alternate with the spoken word. The gates of hell have been thrown open and lonely ghosts are wandering the earth looking for humans to haunt; *Easy come, easy go* (黑白切), however, takes a different approach to Ghost Month. Rather than scaring people, the ghosts want to gossip. This multimedia production uses dialogue, music and puppets.

► Guling Street Theater (牯嶺街小劇場), 3F, 2, Ln 5, Guling St, Taipei City (台北市牯嶺街5巷2號3樓)

► *Play in the •* runs tonight, tomorrow and Sunday at 8pm and tomorrow at 11:55pm; *Easy Come, Easy Go* will be staged tonight, tomorrow and Sunday at 9:30pm

► Tickets for all performances are NT\$250, available through NTCH ticketing

► Cultural Affairs Bureau of Hsinchu County (新竹縣文化局), 146 Xianzheng 9th Rd, Chubei City, Hsinchu County (新竹縣竹北市縣政九路146號)

► Tonight at 7:30pm and tomorrow at 2:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$450, available through NTCH ticketing

**Heart of Ocean (海洋之心)** is a diabolical dance performance by Diabolo Dance Theater (舞鈴劇場) that portrays life underwater.

► Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中市中山堂), 98 Hsuehshi Rd, Taichung City (台中市學士路98號)

► Tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,100, available through NTCH ticketing

## Classical music

**Back to the Stage (重回舞台)** sees the group Cello 4, whose album *First Taiwanese Cello Quartet Live Recording* won a Golden Melody Award in 2005, makes a return to the performance circuit in preparation for the release of its new album *Back to the Stage*.

► Today at 7:30pm

► Kaohsiung Cultural Center's Chih Shan Hall (高雄市立文化中心至善堂), 67 Wufu 1st Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市五福一路67號)

► Tickets are NT\$100, available from ERA ticketing

**Nuance Chamber Ensemble (微分音室內樂集)** will present a mixed program including Handel-Halvorsen's *Passacaglia for Violin and Cello*, Piazzolla's *Primavera Portena* and *Otono Porteno*, Shoenfeld's *Cafe Music*, and Brahms' *Piano Trio No. 2 in C Major, Op. 87*.

## Highlight

Tokyo screamo/electro rocker **Aonami** plays **Underworld (地下社會)** on Monday night, with Japanese electro-crash trio **Clarabell**. Aonami (www.myspace.com/aonami) uses a Nintendo Game Boy and the Little Sound DJ tracking program to make 8-bit music and has appeared at the Knitting Factory in New York, South by Southwest in Austin, Texas, and Taipei's Formoz (野台開唱) rock festival. Monday's event is organized by Back 2 the Future, which brought Canadian electro-rock group **Dandi Wind** and Berlin breackcore artist **Drumcorps** to Underworld this spring. B2TF (back2thefuture.tw) will release its second compilation CD at the show.

► Tomorrow at 7:30pm

► National Recital Hall, Taipei City

► Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$500, available through ERA ticketing

**Songs of Love and Hope (愛與希望之歌：雋永的合唱樂章)** is a concert by the Chinyun Choir (音音合唱團), which is made up of alumni from the Taipei First Girls' High School (台北市立第一女子高級中學) and the Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School (台北市立建國高級中學), Taiwan's top high schools for girls and boys respectively. Under the direction of conductor Weng Chia-fen (翁佳芬), they will perform a mixed program ranging from sacred music to Taiwanese folk songs.

► Monday and Tuesday at 7:30pm

► National Recital Hall, Taipei City

► Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$500, available through ERA ticketing



B2TF's Chiu Sheng, center, with fans, at May's Night of the Living Metal party.

PHOTO: RON BROWNLOW, TAIPEI TIMES

► 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

► Monday at 9pm

► NT\$300 admission

**2008 Asian Youth Orchestra Taiwan Tour (2008亞洲青年管弦樂團訪台音樂會)** features Moscow Tchaikovsky International Competition winner Elmar Oliveira as violin soloist performing with the orchestra on Tuesday and cellist Wang Chien (王健) on Wednesday. The program for Tuesday includes Chen Yi's (陳怡) *Momentum*, Tchaikovsky's *Concerto in D Major for Violin and Orchestra* and Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*. On Wednesday, the orchestra will present Barber's *Essay for Orchestra No. 2*, Elgar's *Concerto in E Minor for Cello and Orchestra* and Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet, Selection from Suites I and II*.

► Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30pm

► National Concert Hall, Taipei City

► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500,

available from NTCH ticketing

## Contemporary

Tonight at **VU Live House** it's local hard rock bands **Wang Xiao Ming** (王小茗樂團), **Bridge** and **V Pryz**. Tomorrow the venue holds its reopening party with **Spiked Taiwan**, presenting DJs **Sona**, **vDub** and **Scotty Baller**. [See today's Vinyl Word.]

► B1, 77 Wuchang St, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Call (02) 2314-1868

► Starts at 10pm

► NT\$300 entrance fee tonight includes one drink. Admission is free tomorrow for the re-opening party. Wednesday night is ladies' night, with free admission and one drink for women; cover for guys is NT\$200 and includes one drink

Appearing tonight at **Center Stage** (formerly the Living Room, now under new management) is **The Sinister Sound Syndicate**. Electronica-rock and video band **Gross Fugue** plays tomorrow with hillbilly punks the **Pinetop Surgeons**. On Tuesday it's jazz trio **Tall Boy**.

► 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

► Shows start at 10pm

► Entrance fee is NT\$200 for music shows

**Jazz Your Mind** appears tonight at **Sappho de Base**, Taipei's favorite late-night venue for impromptu jazz sessions. Appearing tomorrow night are **Double J and Friends**. On Tuesday night the **Grace Jazz Trio** plays a set, with an open jam

afterwards. Wednesday features experimental sounds from **Cool Jazz Machine**, “exploring cool jazz grooves for a chill-out vibe.” On Thursday it's **DJ Zulu**, spinning what he calls “timeless and positive black sounds.”

► B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號B1). Call (02) 2700-5411 (after 9pm) or visit www.sappho102.biz for more information

► Performances begin at 10:30pm

► No entrance fee

Tonight at **The Wall (這牆)** it's neo-

## PERFORMANCE NOTES:

**WHAT:** One Night of Jazz on the Love River, featuring Swiss jazz pianist Claude Diallo, vocalist Angela Wang, drummer Toshi Fuji and bassist Vincent Hsu

**WHERE:** Outdoor music plaza at Kaohsiung City Music Hall (高雄市音樂館), 99 Hesi Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市河西路99號); behind the Kaohsiung Museum of History (高雄市歷史博物館)

**WHEN:** Sunday at 7:30pm

**ON THE NET:** www.claudediallo.com

An early Hakka and Hoklo (commonly known as Taiwanese) musical, **April Rain (四月望雨)** returns to the stage tonight. The multilingual performance — Hoklo, Hakka, Mandarin and Japanese — is based on the life of Teng Yu-sian (鄧雨賢), a Japanese-colonial era composer who has been hailed as the father of Taiwanese folk music. Teng is portrayed as an artist caught between different cultures and torn between idealism and reality.

folk singer/guitarist Enno Cheng (鄭宜農), indie-rockers **Feng Lai Fang** (風賴坊) and pop-punk outfit **Fire Ex** (滅火器) [See Highlight]. Tomorrow night is a CD release party for the compilation *Kafka Urban Folk Vol 2*, which features a host of indie-folk rockers, including **Ban Ban** (班班), **Huang Jie** (黃玠), **929** (九二九) and **Nylas** (耐拉斯).

► B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Call (02) 2930-0162 or log on at www.thewall.com.tw for more information

► 8pm tonight, tomorrow and Sunday

► NT\$450 tonight; NT\$600 tomorrow

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