

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2008



Above, Tiffany Hsu is playing it safe with Ethan Ruan. Below, Coco Chiang is helping make the bronzed look more popular in Taiwan.

PHOTOS: TAIPEI TIMES

**E**than Ruan (阮經天) and Tiffany Hsu (許瑋甯) are an on-again off-again couple that people just love to talk about, probably because Ruan always seem on the verge of going off the rails with yet another bimbo. The couple were spotted by *Apple Daily* down in Kenting last weekend, and while they continue to strenuously deny that they are together, Hsu was sporting a contraceptive patch with her black bikini, which had the expected effect of whipping up media curiosity, and the two where tracked down to a guesthouse they were sharing. *Apple Daily* thought this shockingly inconsiderate behavior on the part of Ruan and Hsu, especially when they try so hard to avoid the media spotlight in Taipei. The fashionable pair also got their stories in a muddle when questioned by the media after taking to the stage this week at Paul Smith and Ferragamo catwalk shows. This all seems rather disingenuous given Ruan's reputation and his long association with Hsu, but the *Apple Daily* is relentless, to misquote the Air Supply song, in "making news out of nothing at all."

**Chen Chu-he** (陳楚河), a co-star with Ruan on the hit TV series *To Love You Is My Destiny* (命中注定我愛你), is also keeping the paparazzi busy at all hours of the night. Chen has been getting plenty of coverage for his recent, tempestuous liaison with **Ella Chen** (陳嘉樺) of the girl-group S.H.E, but now his attention

seems to have turned to the abundantly endowed lingerie model **Wang Yu-fei** (王毓菲), better known as Hsiung Hsiung (熊熊). For the record, Wang is said to have a 32F cup-size, and *Next* magazine suggests that this is more than sufficient reason for Chen's change of heart. Wang is said to be generous with her charms, and according to *Next* she is a well-known presence on the Internet, appearing in various photo sites. A delightful image of Wang holding a NT\$50 piece between her pendulous protuberances, one of many images on www.g-years.com, a Web forum, is recommended for anyone who shares *Next* magazine's breast fixation.

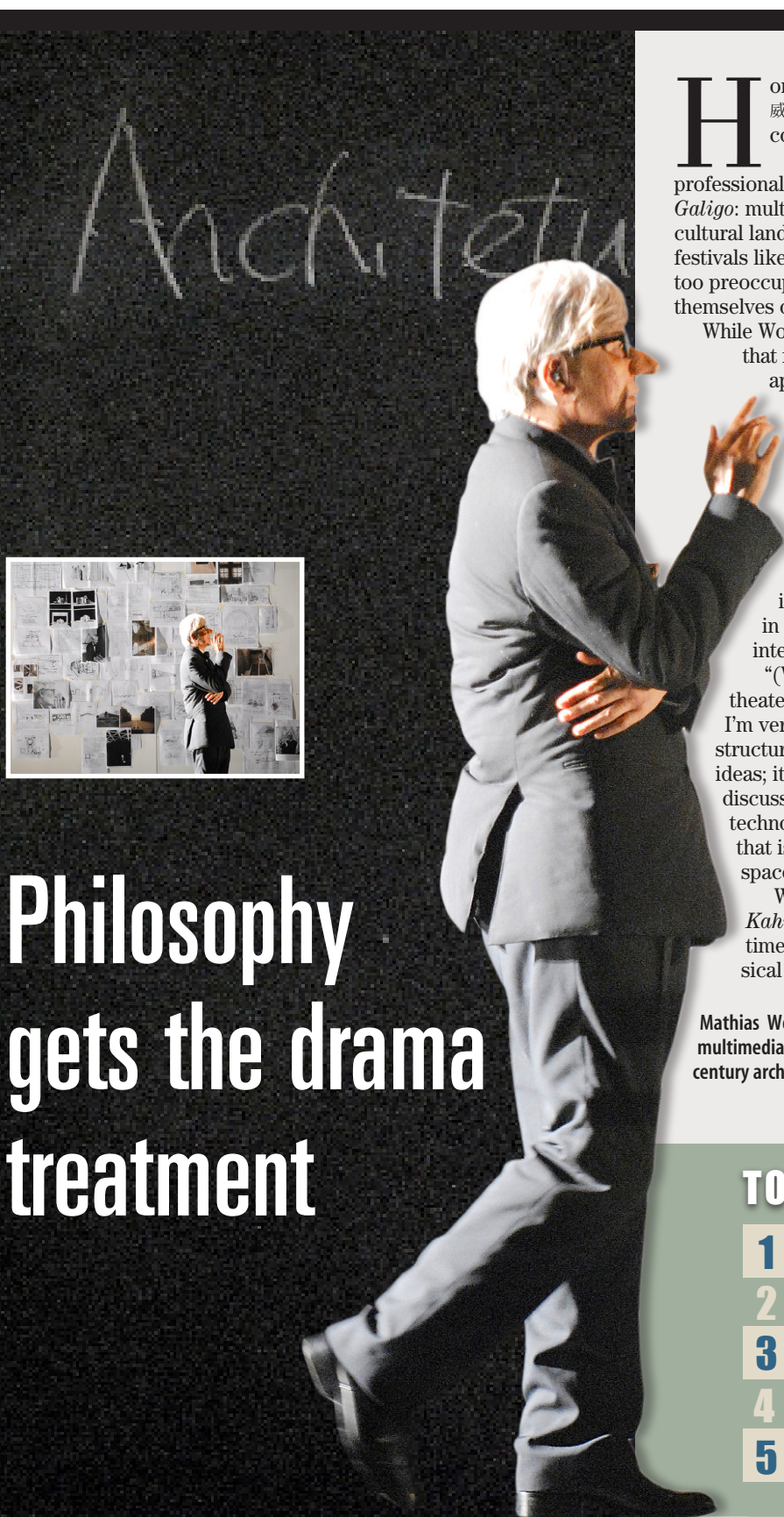
Carrying on the theme of the body beautiful, **Coco Chiang's** (蔣怡) success in the basketball romance *Hot Shot* (籃球火) is helping make the bronzed look more popular in white skin-obsessed Taiwan. Dark skin began to register on the style charts with the appearance of Guatemalan-Taiwanese model **Liz Yang's** (楊莉思) and her involvement with singer **David Tao** (陶喆), and is being reinforced by the relentless barrage of images of **Janet Hsieh** (謝怡芬), host of *Fun Taiwan*, whose career has blossomed recently following her romance with her manager Li Ching-bai (李景白).

While Pop Stop is sure that the spike in Hsieh's exposure it due totally to natural talent, there are others in the entertainment industry who seem less coy about getting a little help from a friend. Little **Pan-pan** (小潘潘) has been having something of a rough time recently, what with getting busted for drugs last November — she was cleared but her name got dragged through the mud — then the show she was hosting, Videoland's *The Incredible World* (不可思議的世界) got the chop. To console herself, she spent NT\$200,000 at the plastic surgeons before the Lunar New Year, and has now just moved into a new apartment costing nearly NT\$30 million. *Next* magazine suggests that it is an endorsement contract from Q.T. Skin (六只環有限公司) owned by "close friend" **Yen Chien-cheng** (嚴健誠), that is keeping the wolf from Little Pan-pan's door.

— COMPILED BY IAN BARTHOLOMEW



## Philosophy gets the drama treatment



Hong Kong director Mathias Woo (胡恩威) has some pretty definite ideas about contemporary performance art.

On the current training of theater professionals: archaic. On Robert Wilson's *I La Galigo*: multicultural trash. On Hong Kong's cultural landscape: largely barren. On Asian art festivals like the one that brought him to Taiwan: too preoccupied with establishing a name for themselves on the international theater map.

While Woo might be accused of biting the hand that feeds him, there is no doubt that his approach to theater has garnered plenty of attention both in Asia and overseas.

His much anticipated *The Life and Times of Louis I. Kahn* debuts tonight at Taipei's Zhongshan Hall. All three performances have sold out.

"The training of performing artists and performing technicians are still in the middle ages and there is no platform for experimentation in formal institutions," he said in an interview with the *Taipei Times*.

"(Whereas) the conventional concept of theater focuses on human beings on stage, I'm very interested in non-narrative dramatic structure. It could be presenting different ideas; it could be a lecture; it could be a discussion on a specific topic. Multimedia technology allows us to create a new form that is an interaction between images and space and light and sound."

With *The Life and Times of Louis I. Kahn*, Woo uses a lecture format in a multimedia setting infused with jazz and classical music played live by two musicians.

Mathias Woo's *The Life and Times of Louis I. Kahn* is a multimedia panegyric to the work and philosophy of 20th century architect Louis I. Kahn. PHOTOS: COURTESY OF TAIPEI ARTS FESTIVAL

## TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

AUG. 22 TO AUG. 28

- 1 Fish Leong (梁靜茹) and *Today is Valentine's Day* (今天情人節) with 17.62 percent of sales
- 2 Aska Yang (楊宗緯) and *Start! Start! Live Concert* (星空傳奇) with 10.9%
- 3 Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) and *Jam Hsiao* (蕭敬騰) with 7.29%
- 4 Kan Kan (康康) and *Grey, the Sequel* (灰色·續曲) with 6.69%
- 5 Nicky Lee (李玖哲) and *No, Perfect* (不·完美) with 3.36%



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

## [ EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT ]

### Theater

A family falls apart after the death of the family matriarch in *Short One* Player Theater Troupe's (三缺一劇團) latest work **An Obituary Written by Everybody** (大家一起寫訃文).  
 ▶ Crown Art Center Theater (皇冠小劇場), B1, 50, Ln 120, Dunhua N Rd, Taipei (台北市敦化北路120巷50號B1)  
 ▶ Tonight, tomorrow and Thursday at 7:30pm and tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$450, available through NTCH ticketing

**Wu-Yi Wei-Ji** (無以為繼) tells the story of a scriptwriter who, because he lacks inspiration, plagiarizes the work of others to maintain his creative output.

▶ Somebody Cafe (貳拾陸巷), 2F, 131 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路131號2樓)  
 ▶ Tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and Sunday at 8pm  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$200, available through NTCH ticketing

**The Stronger** is based on August Strindberg's play of the same name which uses two nameless women to investigate the nature of interpersonal relationships.

▶ Guling Street Theater (牯嶺街小劇場), 2, Ln 5, Guling St, Taipei City (台北市牯嶺街5巷2號)  
 ▶ Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$250, available through NTCH ticketing

**Ether Space** by Shang Orient theatre (上默劇團) is a one-woman meditative exploration of Taoism and Zen Buddhism. Accompanied by two musicians, the work seeks to recreate the existence of a hermit living close to nature and incorporates the elements of wind and water.

▶ Taipei Artist Village (台北國際藝術村), 7 Beiping E Rd, Taipei City (台北市北平東路7號)  
 ▶ Today, tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing

**The Story of the Tiger** is a solo performance by actor-director Chongtham Jayanta Meetei and is based on Dario Fo's *A Tale of a Tiger*.

▶ Red House Theater (西門紅樓), 10 Chengdu Rd, Taipei City (台北市成都路10號)  
 ▶ Tonight and tomorrow at 8pm  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing

**Mint, Rosemary and the Flower With No Name** investigates the relationships between women and focuses on a lesbian searching for love and meaning.

▶ Nanhai Gallery (南海藝廊), 3, Ln 19, Chongqing S Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市重慶南路二段19巷3號)

▶ Tonight, tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm  
 ▶ NT\$350 tickets are available by calling (09) 2731-6048

**Formosa (島上)** is a narrative-driven play that examines the enormous sociopolitical changes that have occurred on Taiwan over the past 30 years through the a love story that tells of a political prisoner, named Peter, who when released becomes a politician, and Marilyn, the woman he adores. But Peter will eventually have to make a choice between Marilyn and the political ideas he has sworn to uphold.

▶ Huashan Culture Park (華山創意文化園區), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)  
 ▶ Today at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$300, available through NTCH ticketing

The long-anticipated, Chinese-language production of Shakespeare's **Othello** (針鋒對決) by the Godot Theater Company (果陀劇場) continues, this week in Hsinchu, with headlines Li Li-quan (李立群) and Chin Shih-jie (金士傑), two of Taiwan's most accomplished stage actors.

▶ Tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
 ▶ Hsinchu Municipal Performance Hall (新竹市立演藝廳), 17 Tungta Rd Sec 2, Hsinchu City (新竹市東大路二段17號)  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$4,000, available through TRCH ticketing or from Godot Theater Company at www.godot.org.tw

### Classical

**Forum Music Weekend Concert Series — Hung Chia-hui Piano Recital** (十方樂集週末音樂會系列 — 洪佳樺鋼琴獨奏會) sees local pianist Hung Chia-hui (洪佳樺) perform a program that includes Beethoven's *Sonata No.14 in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 27 "Moonlight"*, Yi-Chen Tsai's (蔡宜真) *Prayer* (祈禱), Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 in C-Sharp Minor*, and Schubert's *Sonata in B-Flat Major*.  
 ▶ Tomorrow at 2:30pm  
 ▶ Forum Auditorium (十方樂集音樂劇場演奏廳), 4, Ln 187, Minzu W Rd, Taipei City (台北市民族西路187巷4號)  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$250, available through NTCH ticketing

**2008 Hsinchu Wind Orchestra The Moon Romancing (2008新竹交響音樂團音樂會 — 思月)** is a concert by the Hsinchu Wind Orchestra that features NSO principal violinist Wu Ting-yu (吳庭毓) and TSO conductor Kuo Lien-chang (郭聯昌). They play a mixed program ranging from works commissioned especially for the orchestra: *The Moon Romancing Violin Concerto* (小提琴協奏曲《思月》) by Weng Ching-hsi (翁清溪) and

*Wind, Feeling Bassoon Concerto* (低音管協奏曲《風·情》) by Shi Chieh-yung (史繼諤).  
 ▶ Sunday at 3:30pm (Hsinchu) and Wednesday at 7:30pm (Taipei)  
 ▶ Hsinchu Municipal Auditorium (新竹市文化局演藝廳), 17, Tungta Rd Sec 2, Hsinchu City (新竹市東大路二段17號); National Concert Hall, Taipei City  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing

**The Sensuous Painting and Chinese Music (NCO畫與樂 — 丹青樂響 林谷芳與臺灣國家國樂團)** aims to combine the aesthetics of classical Chinese painting and traditional Chinese music. The compositions to be performed are all inspired by masterpieces of painting, and the bridge between painting and music will be made by scholar Lin Ku-fang (林谷芳). The orchestra will be conducted by Wen Yi-jen (溫以仁) and feature *nankuan* specialist Wang Xinxin (王心沁).  
 ▶ Sunday at 7:30pm  
 ▶ National Concert Hall, Taipei City  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing

**Za Ondekoza** ("demon drum group," 鬼太鼓座) is back for yet another tour of Taiwan in their ever popular program of percussion and bare buttocks. Their Taipei show begins this Sunday, and they will go on to tour Jhongli, Chiayi and Kaohsiung through September.  
 ▶ Sunday at 7pm  
 ▶ Jhongli Arts Center (中壢藝術館), 16 Jhungmei Rd, Jhongli City (中壢市中美路16號)  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$800 to NT\$2,500, available through ERA ticketing

### Contemporary

It's **Jazz Your Mind** tonight at **Sappho de Base**, Taipei's favorite late-night venue for impromptu jazz sessions. Appearing tomorrow night is Texas blues band **Black Sheep**. On Tuesday night the **Grace Jazz Trio** plays a set, with an open jam afterwards. Wednesday features the **Double J Band**, and 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 on weekends, 10pm on weekdays  
 ▶ No entrance fee

Tonight at **The Wall** (牆牆) there's an evening of Beatles-esque indie-pop from two Japanese acts, solo artist **Hasegawa Takashi** (長谷川俊) and the band **Quizmaster**. Also appearing is Taipei's own indie-rock institution **1976**. No shows are

scheduled for tomorrow evening, but Sunday features the second installment of Come Together, Change — Who Are You? (合體變身Who Are You?), an eclectic lineup consisting of punk band **Random** (隨性), pop-rockers **Lumei** (露魅), hip-hop group **Living Force** (存活勢力), and hard-rock band **Rule Yell** (如愚).  
 ▶ 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.the-wall.com.tw for more information  
 ▶ 8pm tonight, 7:30pm on Sunday  
 ▶ NT\$450 tonight; NT\$350 on Sunday

Punk bands **Random** (隨性) and **Vanish** appear tonight at **Underworld** (地下社會). Japanese indie-pop rockers **Hasegawa Takashi** (長谷川俊) and **Quizmaster** hit the stage tomorrow night. On Wednesday indie-electronica band **Alluvial** (阿路米爾) appears with noise band **Black Faith With Sonic Pace** (黑色信念跟隨著音速腳步).  
 ▶ 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 go from 9:30pm to 11:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays, and from 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays. The bar is open from 8pm daily and is closed on Mondays  
 ▶ Entrance tonight and tomorrow is NT\$300 tomorrow and includes one drink; tickets on Wednesday are NT\$100 and do not include a drink

Indie-folk duo **UTA** (屋塔樂團) appears tonight at **Witch House**

(女巫店), followed by a solo acoustic performance by Rukai singer and guitarist **Gelresai** (陳世川) of **Echo GS** (艾可菊斯). Tomorrow folk singer **Huang Chien-wei** (黃建為) takes to the stage. Jazzy/bluesy act **Kukao** (鼓號大樂隊) plays on Thursday.  
 ▶ 7, Ln 56, Xinsheg 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

**Sam's Jazz Quintet** (蘇聖爵爵士五重奏) appears tonight at **Riverside Cafe** with a guest saxophonist. Tomorrow night it's alt-rockers **Sorry Youth** and post-rock band **Sugar Plum Ferry** (甜梅號). Performing on Sunday is low-key indie-rock duo **Zag Lope** (柴可洛嘆), followed by **White Eyes** (白目) a garage-punk band that won the battle of the bands at this year's Ho-Hai-Yan Rock Festival.  
 ▶ B1, 2, Ln 244, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段244巷2號B1), next to Taipower Building (台電大樓). Call (02) 2368-7310 or visit www.riverside.com.tw for more information  
 ▶ Shows start at 9:00pm  
 ▶ NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 on Sunday; admission includes one free drink

### Highlight

World music group **A Moving Sound** teams up with DJ Shiuian Liu (劉軒) for two shows tomorrow and Sunday at the Red House as part of the 2008 Taipei Fringe Festival. The two acts will present "new compositions with an improvisation vibe and electronic elements," and audiences should come ready to dance. A Moving Sound, which features the distinctive vocals and improvised dance of Mia Hsieh (謝麗雅), is starting to gain prominence on the international world music circuit. The group recently performed at the Netherlands' Dunya Festival and is gearing up for a 10-city tour next year, which includes the Chicago World Music Festival. The group met rising star Shiuian Liu while participating in the *Six Degrees* television series produced by Lonely Planet for the Discovery Channel. Liu, a classically trained musician, is known for his on-stage charisma and his innovations in Taiwan's electronic dance music



World music group A Moving Sound performs with DJ Shiuian Liu tomorrow and Sunday at the Red House Theater as part of the 2008 Taipei Fringe Festival. PHOTO: COURTESY OF A MOVING SOUND

scene. He got his chops as a DJ in New York City and then shook up Taiwan's dance scene with his unique fusion of Eastern and Western elements.

▶ A Moving Sound and DJ Shiuian Liu at the Red House Theater (西門紅樓), 10 Chengdu Rd, Taipei City (台北市成都路10號) as part of the 2008 Taipei Fringe Festival  
 ▶ Tomorrow at 3:30pm and Sunday at 7:30pm  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$500; available at the door, NTCH ticketing outlets and online at www.artsticket.com.tw  
 ▶ On the Net: www.amovingsound.com; www.taipeifringe.org



Pianist McCoy Tyner, who made a breakthrough in jazz as part of the John Coltrane Quartet in the 1960s, appears tonight at the National Concert Hall. PHOTO BY GENE MARTIN, COURTESY OF MCCOY TYNER

Joining Tyner tonight are bassist Gerald Cannon, drummer Eric Kamau Gravatt, and special guest Christian Scott, an up-and-coming trumpeter from New Orleans.  
 ▶ McCoy Tyner Trio with special guest Christian Scott on trumpet at the National Concert Hall (國家音樂廳), 21-1 Zhongshan S Rd, Taipei City (台北市中山南路21-1號)  
 ▶ Tonight at 7:30pm  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$3,000; available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw  
 ▶ On the Net: event.ntch.edu.tw/2008/JAZZ