

POP STOP



It's been how many months since **Edison Chen's** (陳冠希) said he would leave the Hong Kong entertainment industry forever? That was in February, and there are already rumors that he is angling for a ticket back. According to a report on Sina.com (新華網), director **Andrew Lau** (劉偉強) of *Infernal Affairs* (無間道) fame might be prevailed upon to give the lad a helping hand. The two developed a friendship during the making of Lau's groundbreaking trilogy. Interest in Chen spiked slightly after he appeared in the Batman blockbuster *The Dark Knight*, albeit for just two seconds, but do we really want him back so soon? Watch this space.

Taiwan's favorite supermodel **Lin Chi-ling** (林志玲) showed her quality on Wednesday when attending Catwalk's (凱渥) 2nd Star of Your Dreams (第二屆凱渥夢幻之星) modeling competition. (Catwalk is Taiwan's most influential modeling agency.) And *Apple Daily* showed its quality yesterday by using the lead paragraph of its story on this event to note that Lin sports a cup size of 34C and that she was wearing a NT\$9,810,000 necklace. Loosely translated, the headline yesterday read "Massive tits overawe aspiring models." You can always be sure *Apple Daily* will give you the key points at a glance.

But back on the subject of Lin, she has shown that she can take the rough with the smooth. News that her gig as the host of CCTV's Mid-Autumn Festival variety show had been nixed broke earlier this week, but local media angling for a big response were disappointed. Speculation abounds that this last-minute casting

Lin Chi-ling shows her quality. The super-model blamed no one but herself for getting the push from CCTV.

PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

change is the result of Lin's father expressing himself rather too freely in support of former president **Chen Shui-bian** (陳水扁). Lin played it cool, taking the responsibility onto herself, saying that she had been too busy to prepare for the task sufficiently well, and that she hoped that in future she'd have another chance to host the program. End of story. Then again, perhaps she was simply embodying the philosophy with which she encouraged the competition's participants: "The job of a model is to make everybody happy," she said in her speech to the competitors.

Kate Moss and **Naomi Campbell** may beg to differ.

The skies above Taiwan may not be safe for very much longer. Variety host **Zhang Fei** (張菲) has taken up flying. He has just spent NT\$5 million on purchasing a light aircraft of his own, but has been practicing using a friend's. Having clocked up a grand total of 25 hours of flying time, he has told the media that he now aims to start a flying school. And Pop Stop thought the streets of Taipei were dangerous. According to the *Apple Daily*, he has already been in touch with the Civil Aeronautics Administration to establish better regulations for recreational flying in Taiwan.

When asked why he had taken up flying, the debonair show host quipped: "It's the only way to keep above Taiwan's plummeting share market."

— COMPILED BY IAN BARTHOLOMEW

All tomorrow's parties



Above: The Hihak Band in concert. Top: A still from *Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars*, screening at Urban Nomad.

PHOTOS OF SLURPEE REVOLT

Globalization and social activism are among the themes of this year's Taipei Biennial, a contemporary art exhibition that officially opened yesterday and runs until Jan. 4. The topics will spawn endless conversation, argument, and declarations, but who says you can't discuss the issues while having a little fun?

The Biennial celebrates its launch tonight with an indie music mini-festival, and continues with a six-week film program run by the organizers of the Urban Nomad Film Festival (城市游牧影展). Both events are free and take place at the Taipei Brewery (台北啤酒文化園區) on Bade Road.

The music fest, entitled Slurpee Revolt, features a who's who of Taiwanese indie groups, with musical styles ranging from folk and hip-hop to punk and electronic rock.

Even though it invokes the infamous 7-Eleven concoction, the event's name is not meant as an overt anti-globalization statement, says Huang Yi-chin (黃一音), whose indie record label Silent Agreement was hired to organize the show.

Instead, the slurpee, with all its colors and flavors, describes the diversity of Taiwan's indie music scene, says Huang. Also, with a short history in rock, Taiwanese bands had "to learn fast and learn a lot" from their Western counterparts; Taiwan's music scene is like a

slurpee cup that overflowed and then "exploded," he says.

The "revolt" lies in this explosion, but it also represents Taiwanese bands adding their unique touch to Western style rock. "We need to learn from Europe and the US, but we also have to have our own special qualities," says Huang. The festival performers are also connected by an interest in societal issues, which are either directly or indirectly reflected in their music, notes Huang.

Tonight's lineup features a comedy and video routine by Hsiao-ying (小應) of the Clippers (夾子), Taiwanese and Hakka hip-hop from Kou Chou Ching (拷秋勤), and Hakka folk from the Hohak Band (好客樂隊), comprised of former members of the protest-rock group Labor Exchange (交工樂隊).

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FESTIVAL NOTES:

What: Slurpee Revolt, the opening concert for the Taipei Biennial at Taipei Brewery (台北啤酒文化園區), also known as Taipei Beer Factory, 85, Bade Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市八德路二段85號)

When: Tonight from 7:30pm to 9:30pm and tomorrow from 3pm to 9:30pm

On the Net: revolt.taibeibiennial.org

Details: Beer and food for sale at the venue

Tickets: Enter the venue for free by filling out a brief survey printed on the event flyer that is available at EsLite bookstores and at the door. A downloadable version is available at revolt.taibeibiennial.org

BAND SCHEDULE

TONIGHT

» 7:35pm to 8:05pm

Hsiao-ying of the Clippers (夾子小應)

» 8:20pm to 8:50pm

Kou Chou Ching (拷秋勤)

» 9:05pm to 9:35pm

Hohak Band (好客樂隊)

TOMORROW

» 3:00pm to 3:30pm

Gelresai and Leo Chen (農村武裝青年)

» 4:40pm to 5:10pm

Come On! Bay Bay! (來吧! 煙鬼1)

» 5:30pm to 6:00pm

Tizzy Bac

» 6:20pm to 6:50pm

Go Chic

» 7:10pm to 7:40pm

88 Balaz (八十八顆芭樂籽)

» 8:00pm to 8:30pm

Angry Young Man (生氣年輕人)

» 8:50pm to 9:20pm

LTK Commune (濁水溪公社)

What: Urban Nomad Film Program at the 2008 Taipei Biennial wedding of actor Jimi Zhang (張赫米)

Where: Brewery (台北啤酒文化園區), also known as the Taipei Beer Factory, 85, Bade Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市八德路二段85號); Taipei Fine Arts Museum (台北市立美術館), 81 Zhongshan North Road, Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市中山北路3段181號); Taipei Art Park (中山美術公園), located next to the museum

When: tarts Sunday, runs until Oct. 18

On the Net: urbannomadfilmfest.blogspot.com; www.taibeibiennial.org

Film Schedule

All films have Chinese and English subtitles
» Sun, 7:30pm, Taipei Art Park (outdoors, next to the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, will be rescheduled in the event of typhoon, check Urban Nomad Web site for updates)

• Short Films by James Hong (US, 35min)
Examines cross-cultural relationships between the West and Taiwan and China
• Crossing the Line (UK, 2007, 90min)
Documentary about a US soldier stationed in South Korea who deserted his unit and defected to North Korea

» 9/20 (Sat), 7:30pm, Taipei Brewery
• The Voyage to Happiness (Taiwan, 2007, 60 min)
Documentary about history of foreign brides in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan
• Welcome to Nollywood (US, 2007, 57 min)
A look at Nigeria's film industry, which is the third largest in the world, and its impact on culture in West Africa, at home and abroad

» 9/27 (Sat), 7:30pm, Taipei Brewery
• The Campaign (Japan, 2007, 120min)
Documentary about a candidate for a seat the Kawasaki City Council, and a look at the old-boys club mentality in Japanese politics

» 10/4 (Sat), 7:30pm, Taipei Brewery
• Filipino Activist Shorts (Philippines, 2005-08, 30min)
Short films, including animation from an opposition collective, Southern Tagalog Exposure
• Tribu (Philippines, 2008, 95min)
Journalist Jim Libiran recruited rival teenage gangsters in Manila to act in this film about their slum's gang wars. In the process of making the film, a real truce was created among the gangs.

» 10/11 (Sat), 7:30pm, Taipei Brewery
• Odds and Ends (US, 2001-08, 35min)
Collection of short films and music videos from Portland, Oregon's indie music scene
• The Yes Men (US, 2003, 80min)
Based on activist group of the same name, this film follows anti-corporate pranksters that pose as World Trade Organization spokespersons on TV and business conferences around the world

» 10/12 (Sun), 2:30pm, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, B2 Auditorium
• A repeat screening of 10/4's films, Filipino Activist Shorts and Tribu; members of the Filipino community and other foreign nationals are especially invited

» 10/18 (Sat), 7:30pm, Taipei Brewery
• Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars (USA, 2005, 80min)
Documentary about six Sierra Leonean musicians that each fled their war-torn country, met while living in a refugee camp, and formed a band
• Random Shorts (USA, 2004, 45min)
Film about skateboarding, shot in 8mm film
— David Chen

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

AUG. 29 TO SEPT. 4

- 1 Fish Leong (梁靜茹) and *Today is Valentine's Day* (今天情人節) with 21.92 percent of sales
- 2 Aska Yang (楊宗緯) and *Star! Start! Live Concert* (星空傳奇) with 9.98%
- 3 Black Girl (黑Girl) and *Black Girl* (黑Girl) with 9.46%
- 4 Kan Kan (康康) and *Grey, the Sequel* (灰色·續曲) with 6.69%
- 5 Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) and *Jam Hsiao* (蕭敬騰) with 7.29%



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

Crossover dances through Mid-autumn

What better way to prepare for the Mid-Autumn Festival, that yearly celebration of the ripeness of the moon, than to spend it inside a theater watching a handful of dancers do things that ordinary mortals can only dream of? The folks of the Taipei Crossover Dance Theater (台北越界舞團) have at least opted for an autumn-themed program for their performances tomorrow night and Sunday afternoon, and the Sunday matinee will allow dance-lovers to feast themselves on choreographer Zhang Xiao-xiong's (張曉雄) latest work and still be able to spend the Moon Festival outdoors in the evening.

Taipei Crossover Dance Theater was founded in 1994 by four dancers from the first generation of Cloud Gate Dance Theater (雲門舞集): the late Lo Man-fei (羅曼菲) Cheng Shu-gi (鄭淑姬), Yeh Tai-chu (葉台竹) and Wu Su-chun (吳素君), plus stage/lighting designer, Lin Keh-hua (林克華).

The dancers wanted a platform to continue dancing as they entered their 40s and to nurture their choreographic skills, while all five were interested in pushing the boundaries of modern dance theater and staging.

The founders have now turned the dancing duties over to a younger generation, but both the dancing and the choreography remain first rate.

While Zhang, who danced with the Australian Dance Theater and Dance Canberra, was not one of the founders of Crossover, the company turned to him first as a guest choreographer. He now serves as artistic director. He has provided works that challenge both the dancers and audiences and this weekend's program offer a similar promise.

The program features Zhang's newest work *The Autumn Song* (秋歌) and a piece he created two years ago for an



Crossover showcases Zhang Xiao-xiong's most recent works this weekend.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CROSSOVER DANCE THEATER

international dance conference in Hong Kong, *The Floating Life* (浮生).

The Autumn Song is an older person's reflection on his teenage years, the happy memories of a time shared with someone you loved, he said in a telephone interview.

"The piece comes from inside, rather than talking about the environment, external factors," he said.

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

What: Taipei Crossover Dance Company, *The Autumn Song*. *The Floating Life* (秋歌·浮生)
When: Tomorrow night at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
Where: Novel Hall (新舞台), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
Tickets: From NT\$400 to NT\$1,200, available at www.artsticket.com.tw

The Floating Life is much darker, though it also comes from Zhang's memories.

"The piece is very heavy, ... (it is) about people who could not choose the time and environment in which they lived, but who had the courage to face what they had to and the pride to do so."

"I am so proud of my dancers," he said. "They are so beautiful, they have really matured with the piece."

Theater

Jimmy Liao's (幾米) illustrations are among the most easily recognizable by a Taiwanese artist. His *A Chance of Sunshine* was turned into a movie called *Turn Left, Turn Right* (向左走·向右走); now it's getting treatment as a musical. It tells the story of a man and a woman who live parallel lives and seem perfect for each other — but fate keeps them apart.

► Taipei Arena (台北小巨蛋), 2, Nanjing E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市南京東路四段2號)
► Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm
► Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$3,600, available through NTCH ticketing

A family falls apart after the death of its 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 City (台北市敦化北路120巷50號B1)
► Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm and tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm
► Tickets are NT\$450, available through NTCH ticketing

Tickets for Godot Theater Company's (果陀劇場) much-anticipated Chinese-language production of Shakespeare's *Othello* (針鋒對決) are running out fast. The production features accomplished Taiwanese stage actors Li Li-qun (李立群) and Chin Shih-jie (金士傑).

► Tainan Municipal Cultural Center (台南市立文化中心), 332, Chunghua E Rd Sec 3, Tainan City (台南市中華東路三段332號)
► Tomorrow at 7:30pm
► Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$4,000, available through NTCH ticketing

The relationship between individuals, cultures and humans and the physical forces of nature underlie the dance project *Heavy Orbits*, a choreographic collaboration between Wang Pei-chun (王佩君) and New York's Abigail Levine, who are both part of the performance art group Strange Company. The work includes two dance movements fused together with music composed by double bassist Martijn Vanbuel, who will perform live.

► 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)
► Today at 8pm and tomorrow at 3pm
► Tickets are NT\$300, available through NTCH ticketing

What does a Lost Dog Mean? (一隻狗失蹤的意義) is a mime performance by Vis-a-Vie Theater and tells the story of two people brought together by a stray dog.

► IP Dance School, 3F, 114-4, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段114-4號3樓)
► Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
► Tickets are NT\$250, available through NTCH ticketing

After the death of their parents, an older sister is forced to take care of her younger sister. Oddly, rather than focus on the psychological impact of losing one's parents, *Will Always Be My Doll* (芭比娃娃加工廠) takes the tragedy in a different direction. The elder sister decides that its time for her younger sister to start dating and blows a wad of cash on a party, the dividend being to find her a partner. But the party changes both sisters in ways that they could never have imagined.

► 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)
► Sunday at 2:30pm and 6pm
► Tickets are NT\$250, available through NTCH ticketing

Classical music

Falling In Love With Nodame Cantabile: 2008 Eric Chen Piano Recital (愛上交響情人夢—陳冠宇2008鋼琴獨奏) has popular pianist Eric Chen (陳冠宇) performing a program that includes Beethoven's *Piano Sonata No. 8 in C Minor, Op. 13 "Pathétique"* and *<Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp Minor, Op. 27, No. 2 "Moonlight"*, Mozart's *12 Variations in C Major* on "Ah! Vous dirai-je, Mamma," K. 265 and other favorites.
► Tomorrow at 2:30pm
► 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)
► Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$400, available through ERA ticketing

The Baroque and Now (巴洛克與現代), features the Hotshot Cello Choir (名加大提琴合奏團), who are returning to the performance circuit with a program that includes Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No.6 BWV1015*, Vivaldi's *Concerto Grosso Op. 3, Michael Kibbe's Dark Moon Op. 135*, Isaac Albeniz's *3 Stucke fur vier Violoncelli* and Mariano Mores' *Drei Argentinische Tangos*.
► Tomorrow (Taipei) and Sunday (Kaohsiung) at 7:30pm
► Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂), 98 Yenping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號); Kaohsiung City Concert Hall (高雄市音樂館演奏廳), 99 Hehsi Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市河西路99號)
► Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$500 for Taipei and NT\$200 for Kaohsiung; available through ERA ticketing

Highlight

American jazz vocalist **Dianne Reeves** appears on Monday at the National Concert Hall to conclude the venue's annual Summer Jazz Party. Reeves often draws comparisons with singers Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughn, and she recently gained wider attention as the featured vocalist on the soundtrack to the George Clooney film *Good Night, and Good Luck*. She has won four Grammy awards and is the only artist to have won a Grammy Award in any vocal category three years in a row. Reeves, who last appeared in Taipei in 2005, keeps a full touring schedule and is known for her engaging live performances. Her touring band features Romero Lubambo on guitar, Peter Martin on piano, Reuben Rogers on bass and Gregory Hutchinson on drums. Before the concert there will be an introductory talk on Reeves' music given by Fu Ching-liang (傅慶良), head of Universal Records Taiwan's



The National Concert Hall's summer jazz series ends on Monday with American jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves

PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN LANTRY, COURTESY OF DIANNE REEVES

foreign division, in the foyer of the concert hall. Wine, soft drinks and snacks will be available before the show.

► Jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves live 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)
► Monday at 7:30pm; introductory talk starts at 7pm
► NT\$600 to NT\$3,000 tickets, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw
► On the Net: event.ntch.edu.tw/2008/JAZZ

TCO Grand Masters Series 2 — Sharon Bezaly and TCO (TCO大師系列2—長笛繆斯—莎朗·貝札利) brings Sharon Bezaly, who is emerging as one of the world's outstanding female flautists, back to Taiwan to perform with the Taipei Chinese Orchestra (臺北市立國樂團) at the National Concert Hall. This performance will be followed by **Queen of Flutes — Sharon Bezaly Flute Recital** (長笛天后—莎朗·貝札利長笛獨奏). Bezaly's program includes Doppler's *Hungarian Fantasy*, Bach's *Sarabande, BWV 1013*, Bolling's *Jazz*

Autumnal Chant — Songs My Mother Taught Me (秋之頌—母親

Suite and Messiaen's *Le Merle Noir*.
► Tuesday at 7:30pm (National Concert Hall) and Wednesday at 7:30pm, Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂), 98 Yenping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號)
► Tickets for the concert at the National Concert Hall are NT\$300 to NT\$1,200, available through NTCH ticketing; tickets for Zhongshan Hall are NT\$200 to NT\$1,000, available through ERA ticketing

Tonight at **The Wall** (牆) post-rock band **Aphasia** (阿飛西雅) launches its

new CD, *The Crocodile Society of Aphasia*. In addition to new material, the band will revisit songs from its former incarnation as the Sonic Youth-inspired **Nipples**. Tomorrow the evening starts with metal bands **Infernal Chaos**, **Beyond Cure**, and **Triple Six** (666). Later on, Jamaican sound system **Black Reign International** will have people dancing to Caribbean beats, joined by guest DJs **Justdabe** and **Mixer T**.
► 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
► Tonight 8pm, tomorrow's shows start at 8pm and 11:30pm
► NT\$450 tonight; ticket plus CD is NT\$600 at White Wabbit Records, located at the Wall. NT\$500 at the door tomorrow for the metal shows, NT\$400 advance; NT\$350 for Black Reign International

Two Japanese bands appear at **Underworld** (地下社) tonight: acoustic rockers #lichizu# and #Vibraslap#, who wear robes and call themselves a "spiritual Japanese punk-rock band." Tomorrow night it's indie-rockers **Love Manana** (愛的大未來). Wednesday night features sitar trio **See You** (西尤), and young bands **Hang Glider** (滑翔翼樂團) and **Deepest** (深層樂團).
► 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, closed Mondays
► Entrance tonight and tomorrow is NT\$300 and includes one drink; tickets on Wednesday are NT\$100 and do not include a drink