

All tomorrow's

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While Slurpee Revolt takes an ambivalent attitude towards globalization, Urban Nomad's film program at the Biennial embraces more "anti-corporate" and social activist themes.

Urban Nomad, an annual underground and indie film festival in Taipei, worked with the Biennial's curators to create a program that includes topics such as foreign brides in Taiwan, poverty in the Philippines, and anti-World Trade Organization activism. The films will be shown every weekend, with most screenings at the Taipei Brewery (see schedule for details).

The program also features some unusual but compelling stories. *Crossing the Line*, which screens on Sunday, is a documentary about a US soldier stationed in South Korea who defected to North Korea, and is currently the only living American defector in the country.

Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, which closes the program on Oct. 18, tells the story of six Sierra Leonean musicians that met while living in a refugee camp and formed a band. This documentary follows the musicians as they tour refugee camps, record an album, and return to their war-torn country.

Urban Nomad's organizers also want to bring a community feel to their program as part of the Biennial. They worked with one Biennial participant, Italy-based artist Bert Theis, who created a pentagram-shaped seating area made of bamboo that serves as the film screening area.

Hopefully Urban Nomad's program will serve as an "access point" for people unfamiliar with the Biennial, and encourage people to visit the other exhibitions, says Sean Scanlan, one of Urban Nomad's co-founders and organizers.

"There's a lot of great artists [in the exhibition] ... we want to get people to come to the Biennial," he said.

Tonight and tomorrow, Urban Nomad will hold an informal party at the bottle recycling area of Taipei Brewery, and will show selected film clips and video art not included in its official program.

— DAVID CHEN

The weekend, get your kicks on Route 66

Summer is over, and like migrating birds, band members flock back and prepare to shake things up a little. This weekend has a lot of great acts playing in Taipei, with new rockabilly bad boys Full House excited about their upcoming show *The Way to the Route 66*. "We are going to rock. The three of us have been saving up all our rock all week long. That's a long week for a teacher itching to play a Taipei show with some great bands," drummer and back-up vocalist Adam Goring said in an interview on Tuesday.

Goring is traveling up from laidback Tainan with fellow band members and vocalists Kyohei Takahashi (高橋恭平) on "slap" bass, and Akira Jingbing (黃俊彬) on guitar. He's looking forward to performing, though he says he is "sick of getting shit for wearing flip flops to shows. That's how we rock down here." Best not try to get into Luxy or Primo, my dear.

Jingbing, who hooked up with Takahashi, one of the only locally based musicians to play electric stand-up bass, founded Full House. Goring also drums for punk band Divebomb, and said their sound has "sped up a bit" since he joined the act.

Their music is a heel-kicking mix of rockabilly, psychobilly, ska and punk, and their stage show is full of high-energy antics. "Before playing with Full House, I didn't know I could keep a beat and do a shot at the same time," said Goring. He gets "a little jealous" when his bandmates get to jump around on stage while he is "stuck behind the drums." This could explain the drumsticks that occasionally get lobbed at the crowd while Jingbing climbs up on the bass as Takahashi plays.

When the crowd gets into the act, the band has been known to keep sections of songs going, which has led to "some really long thrashing guitar solos." When



Full House in action.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVEN VIGAR

I ask how far it could go, Goring replies: "If we're asked to take off clothes ... well that could be funny right?"

These rockabilly boys will be playing with a great lineup of crowd-pleasing acts: 130 Dollars, Auto da Fe, New Hong Kong Hair City, and The Deadly Vibes.

130 Dollars serve up 1950's inspired greaser rock — vocalist and guitar player Michimori Shirota said that they took Chuck Berry and "added some punk." Shirota is one of the organizers of the night, and said he chose the bands he thought would "let people shake, twist and jive."

This will be the last chance to catch Auto da Fe, which means "an act of faith" and refers to the burning of heretics, before they go on hiatus. Their sound is classic punk with a new wave edge, and band members include musicians from former bands the Unrelentless and the Departed.

New Hong Kong Hair City plays funk, punk, rock and saxophone-metal.

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

What: The Way to the Route 66**Where:** VU Livehouse, B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 3, Taipei (台北市武昌街二段77號B1)**When:** Tomorrow from 10pm to 3am**Tickets:** NT\$300, includes one drink

To give credit where credit is due, I have to add that rockers The Deadly Vibes put on a stylish, killer pulp-fictionesque show with some of the best merchandise I've seen: g-string panties, flasks of whiskey and condoms all emblazoned with their logo. It's like a pre-made package for a great night.

Come prepared to tear up the dance floor, sweat like a pig, and rock your heart out.

I'll be the one at the front yelling "take off your clothes!!" — ALITA RICKARDS

RESTAURANTS



Biff's Pita, which recently moved to a larger space at Lane 49 off Shida Road, has added cheese burritos to its menu.

PHOTO: DAVID CHEN, TAIPEI TIMES

Biff's Pitas and PT Tea Stand

Address: 9-3, Ln 49, Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路49巷9-3號)**Telephone:** 0921-779-279**Open:** From 11:30am to 11pm**Average meal:** NT\$100 to NT\$120**Details:** Chinese and English menus**On the Net:** biffspita.blogspot.com

Having quickly established a reputation for cheap and tasty sandwiches, Biff's Pitas has raised things up a notch, moving a few blocks up to a more spacious storefront in an alley off Shida Road. The casual street vendor atmosphere is still there but it's a little cleaner and comfier, and new menu additions offer more choices for healthy, satisfying grub.

The menu still revolves around chicken sandwiches, sauteed on a teppanyaki-style grill with your choice of special sauce: Masala or Thai curry, Xinjiang cumin, Thai tom yum (hot and sour sauce), Mexican jalapeno, and Yunnan fermented tofu (similar to blue cheese in flavor and consistency).

Prices have gone up but remain at a reasonable NT\$65 per sandwich (NT\$120 for two). Submarine buns are available at the same price as a more filling alternative to pita bread.

New additions include two "Tex-Mex" burritos, the Mexican cheese (NT\$89) and salsa and lemon (NT\$79), which has marinated chicken, refried beans, sour cream, tomato, lettuce, onion, cilantro, jalapenos, and shredded cheese, was good but fell short of authentic. In my burrito, the jalapenos overpowered everything. I barely noticed the presence of refried beans and sour cream. But you can ask for extras or less of any ingredients, and the tortilla wraps appear to be made by the Florida Bakery, the only game in town for pre-made tortillas.

For beverages, Biff's shares a space with tea vendor PT (印度拉茶), whose Malaysian-style pulled milk tea (印度拉茶) hits the spot on a hot day. PT's offerings include Okinawa-style (沖繩拉茶) pulled milk tea with black sugar and Hong Kong-style (鴛鴦奶茶) coffee mixed with milk tea. All teas come in a plastic bag with a straw sticking out the top (also Malaysian-style) and run NT\$35 per bag or NT\$30 each when you buy a sandwich.

Biff's new place keeps the Shida night market vibe as diners still sit outdoors. One improvement over the old place is a large awning, which keeps things cool and dry. There's also more room to sit. The shop would consider moving again if a better location pops up, says the proprietor, who goes by the name Biff Cappuccino. For the time being, Biff's modest move upwards should keep regulars happy, and its unique menu offerings remain good value, especially in comparison to chain shops like Subway. If I had one request, it would be more non-meat options.

— DAVID CHEN



Mexican food doesn't come much more authentic than Eddy's Cantina.

PHOTO: NOAH BUCHAN, TAIPEI TIMES

Eddy's Cantina (艾迪墨西哥餐廳)

Address: 151-1 Zhongshan Rd, Tamsui Township, Taipei County

(台北縣淡水鎮中山路151-1號)

Telephone: (02) 2628-2638**Open:** Mondays through Fridays from 11:30am to 2:30pm and 4:30pm to 10pm; weekends from 11:30am to 10pm; closed on Tuesdays**Average meal:** NT\$150 to NT\$250 plus 10 percent service charge**Details:** Chinese and English menu; credit cards not accepted**On the Net:** www.eddyscantina.com

Eddy Gonzalez's burrito stand was so popular with customers that on most weekends he would run out of ingredients to make his burritos and quesadillas.

"People would travel a long way and to have run out of food would be a real disappointment," he said earlier this week, adding, "So I'd usually give them a drink."

Turning hungry customers away should be a thing of the past because Gonzalez has moved from Tamsui's night market into new digs on a tiny cliff overlooking a small park, less than 15-minute walk from the Tamsui MRT Station (淡水捷運站).

The stand, where he used to ply his trade, sits on the terrace and serves as a kind of a reminder of his former life in the night market. Inside, prints of Mexican revolutionary heroes (copies of originals photos collected by his father) adorn the brightly painted walls — sunset orange, chili red and guacamole green — and serve as a reminder of Gonzalez's Mexican heritage. Two-person wooden tables make up much of the seating. In the back there's a sofa, and a bar where patrons can watch a flat screen television.

Although Gonzalez expanded the menu, he still applies the made-from-scratch ethos — tortillas rolled to order, guacamole made fresh daily — that was passed down from his mother and grandmother. The grilled chicken (NT\$160) sets the standard for Taiwan: A crispy tortilla shell, an inner layer of refried beans, red rice and grilled chicken, served with a piquant hot sauce, sour cream and guacamole made from fresh lime, garlic and avocado. The steak quesadilla (NT\$140) contains generous portions of seasoned meat and cheese. Other main course dishes included fajitas (NT\$155 to NT\$180), burritos (NT\$140 to NT\$180) and tacos (NT\$140 to NT\$185), all of which I will try when I return in the future.

As would be fitting for a place that bills itself as a Mexican cantina, there is Corona (NT\$200 and NT\$120), tequila shots (NT\$90), tequila sunrise (NT\$130), sombrero (Kahua and milk, NT\$130) and, of course, margaritas (NT\$130 for a glass; NT\$1,000 for a pitcher).

Can't make it to Tamsui? Gonzalez said delivery is possible to anywhere in Taiwan. Call for more details.

— NOAH BUCHAN

us, which is brilliant.

AG: It's definitely one of our favorites.**VW:** When you make a track, do you have any rituals?**LR:** We used to test the music by listening to it when we're drunk. So we'd make it, and get drunk, then we'd listen to it again at four in the morning. [Laughs.] Now we just trust our own ears so we don't need to do that.**VW:** Do you like to dance?**LR:** Yeah, we love to dance! Unfortunately we don't look as good as we used to so we only dance in private now. [Laughs.]**VW:** If you could've done the musical score of any movie that's existed, what would it be?**LR:** Probably *Blade Runner*, love the film and the music of Vangelis. The whole thing has a really powerful vibe and I'd love to have been involved in that.**AG:** Probably *Requiem for a Dream*.**VW:** What's your favorite kind of venue to play?**AG:** We've done loads and loads of festivals, especially in the UK over the summer. Now it's nice to go back to some small clubs. And the contrast is really good.**LR:** The joy in every venue is totally

The Plump DJs: Andy Gardner and Lee Rous.

PHOTO: QUEEN BEE

different. We've had a great break this year with gigs, playing main-room in Ibiza's Space for the first time, playing main-room at Zouk [in Singapore] for the first time. These breaks are really important for us even though the venue might be used to a different style of music.

VW: Do you usually plan out the set before you play?**AG:** No. We have a couple of tracks that work together but the direction depends on what the crowds are responding to.**VW:** Do you play CDs or vinyl?**AG:** Just CDs now.**LR:** We are mixing with four decks. We've set things up a little bit this year, which has been working really well. We've burned loads of soundscapes and effects, combining them mixed in with effects and accompanying sounds, so it gives the old set a kind of new unique dimension.**VW:** Would you prefer playing on turntables?**LR:** Definitely, if they didn't jump. ...

The biggest problem with vinyl is that we make a lot of the music we play in the set. To cut everything to acetate would be very expensive.

VW: Do you ever think about using

Ableton Live?

AG: Not really, because there's two of us. Also, I think it's a little bit boring to watch.**LR:** When you're dealing with a crowd in a big venue, there's big things happening, drinks being spilled, people shouting, trying to focus on a tiny bit of writing on the screen and trying to focus on the room again, it's just too ... When you can look at a CD with big writing, you can slap a CD in, a bit like the way you used to play records. It's much more hands-on, track-by-track in a clearer way.

— QUEEN BEE

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Harmonica trio **Sirius Sharp** (天狼星口琴) plays tonight at **Witch House (女巫店)**. Tomorrow night Aboriginal folk singer **Panai** plays a solo acoustic show, and on Thursday, it's **Marine**, a guitar and vibraphone duo, along with alt-rock band **Mango** (芒果樂隊).

► 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

Skyline Jazz Band, whose repertoire includes bossa nova, soul, funk, fusion and R'n'B, plays tonight at **Riverside Cafe**. Tomorrow night folk singer **Huang Chien-wei** (黃建為) makes an appearance. Mando-pop singer **Lan You-shi** (藍又時) performs on Sunday.

► 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

Performing tonight at **VU Live House** is pop punk band **Abandoned Machines**, along with hillbilly punks the **Pinetop Surgeons** and **Nevermore** (自我介紹). Tomorrow night the venue hosts the *Way to Route 66*, which features a handful of expat bands: rockabilly outfits **Full House** and **130 Dollars**, funk rockers **New Hong Kong Hair City**, and garage bands **Auto da Fe** and **The Deadly Vibes**.

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

► Shows begin at 10pm

► NT\$400 tonight, includes two free drinks; NT\$300 tomorrow night, includes two free drinks

Tonight at **Tone 56 Live Bar**, a new restaurant near the corner of Fuxing North and Minquan East roads, is the **Rubber Band**, which plays rock, pop and dance music at the venue every Friday. Tomorrow it's house band **Loaded**, which plays everything from "rock classics to today's hits." Sundays feature a regular rotation of groups; this week it's jazz and blues from the **Dafu Trio**.

► 1F, 56, Minquan E Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市民權東路三段56號1樓), near the corner of Fuxing North Road (復興北路) and Minquan East Road (民權東路). Call (02) 2517-3869 for more information

► Music shows go from 9:30pm to 12:30pm tonight and tomorrow, and from 7:30pm to 9:30pm on Sundays

► No entrance fee

Every Wednesday night at the **Cosmopolitan Grill** there's a blues open mic, held by the **Blues Society on Taiwan** and hosted by Torch Pratt. All are welcome to bring their instruments and sit in on guitar, bass, or drums.

► 1F, 218 Changchun Rd, Taipei City (台北市長春路218號1樓). Call (02) 2508-0304 or visit www.cosmo.com.tw for more information

► 8pm to 11pm every Wednesday

► Free admission

Upcoming

Vibe is commonly host to all kinds of freaks, but what makes this weekend special is that they'll be on stage. You couldn't get a more divergent lineup of musicians if you tried.

Dr Renculous Lipz will be word-smithing his unique style of hip-hop, which integrates solid lyrics and an almost surreal sense of humor. His London accent and billy-goat trip-trip-tripping-across-a-bridge rhythms make for an original show that is a far cry from commercial hip-hop. Each of the bands playing is a true original, with alt-country **Point 22** (22) bordering on the ridiculous but keeping it together with very talented musicians who are all veterans of the local scene. Wade Davis, Steve Taylor and Pete Holmes were dressed in Royal Tenenbaums-style tennis outfits at their gig during Canada d'Eh, and like to rock the crowd with tunes like *Dry*



Dr Renculous Lipz is on fire.

PHOTO: PHOTO COURTESY OF DR RENCULOUS LIPZ

Humping. The cherry on this cake of weirdness is **Rabbit is Rich** (兔子很有錢), a band that has been likened to the Yeah, Yeah, Yeahs. Lead singer Andrea Huang (黃盈誦) belts huge sound out of her tiny body and has a hair-thrashing, high-energy performance.

► Point 22 vs Rabbit Is Rich vs Dr Renculous Lipz

► Roxy Vibe Livehouse, B1, 155, Jinshan S Rd Sec 1, Taipei (台北市金山南路一段155號B1)

► Tomorrow from 10pm until late

► NT\$300 cover includes one free drink and all-night entrance

Sundays from 10am to 6pm. Call (02) 2361-0270 for more information

► Until Oct. 26

Indian Art (九月印樺邦). As the Indian economy grows, the country's art market has come under international scrutiny. A collaboration between the India Taipei Association and Capital Art Center, this exhibition features works by 12 renowned Indian artists and introduces local audiences to three generations of contemporary Indian artists.

► Capital Art Center (首都藝術中心), 2F, 343, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段343號2樓). Open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10am to 7pm.

Call (02) 2775-5268 for more information

► Until Sept. 21

The Memory of the Elementary School (小學的回憶). Ceramic artist Ah Leon's (阿亮) latest series invites audiences to revisit their childhoods through ceramic sculptures of elementary school tables, tofu hawkers and other items from olden times.

► Metaphysical Art Gallery (形而上畫廊), 7F, 219, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段219號7樓). Open Tuesdays through Sundays from 11am to 6:30pm. Call (02) 2771-3236 for more information

► From tomorrow to Oct. 5

The 8th SLY Art Membership Exhibition — The Event of Libido (新樂園第八期成聯展—里比多事件), features works by 17 local artists making different interpretations of Carl Jung's theory of libido.

► Shin Leh Yuan Art Space (新樂園藝術空間), 15-2, Ln 11, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市中山北路二段11巷15-2號). Open Wednesdays through Sundays from 1pm to 8pm. Call (02) 2561-1548 for more information

► Until Sept. 28

Environment, Fashion and Consumerism — Yuan Chin-ta's Solo Exhibition (生態·時尚·消費—袁金塔作品展). Chinese painting heavyweight Yuan Chin-ta combines ink painting and ceramic art to address social, cultural and environmental issues in Taiwan.

► Taishin Tower (台新金控大樓), 2F, 118, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段118號2樓). Open Mondays through Sundays from 9am to 6pm. Call (02) 3707-6955 for more information

► Until Oct. 3