AROUND TOWN 發光的城市 15

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Megan: Wiggin' out or not? PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN MURPHY

ll but the hardcore partiers stayed at A home last weekend when Typhoon Sinlaku rained on what little parade there was.

For all those poor unfortunate souls who, instead of getting their rocks off somewhere, had to make do with the appalling selection of movies on offer at Blockbusters, the Vinyl Word will navigate you through the party trail mix this weekend.

Club Fusion gets regal tomorrow night with House Queen Volume II, which features a live set from the watchable and unique Kolette. A tricksy blend of singing and subtle electro-house awaits those looking to get back into the game.

From 10pm tomorrow until late at Club Fusion, 483, Yunghua Rd Sec 2, Tainan City (台南市永華路二段483號). Tickets are NT\$450. Visit www.fusion-lounge.com.tw for more information.

Staying in tonight may be advisable as tomorrow is a biggie in Taipei. JAM Sessions is throwing Wiggin' Out II at China White, not seen since November 2006 at Deluxe. This bash celebrates Megan Murphy's birthday, one half of JAM. She will be 27. This could be her last birthday in Taiwan as she plans to leave in November to study Public Relations in Toronto. Megan has been playing, promoting and

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who, since transcending all genres, throws whatever he feels like and rarely misses. Tomorrow from 11pm to 5am at China White, 97-101 Dunhua S Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路二段97號至101號). Entrance is NT\$350 plus one drink if you wear a wig. NT\$400 without wiggin' out.

In Taichung, Paul Energy and Renf play Liquid Lounge. Paul Energy is a long-term veteran of the Taiwan house scene and is all about being all about the music. This probably explains why he can't be bothered to give his party a name and when questioned had this to say in typically modest style: "Renf is a relative newcomer

ancer/choreographer Sun Chuotai (孫梲泰) founded the 8213 Physical Dance Theater (8213肢 體舞蹈劇場) just over two years ago as a forum to explore the conflicts stemming from combining dance and drama as well as those between traditional Taiwanese values and Western influences in dance.

His latest production, *Boundless: My* Bliss (無國界 | 我的天堂), is a collaboration with director and producer Jocelyn Chang (張育嘉) and explores the issues of boundaries and identity.

Talking animatedly in the third floor rehearsal space of the Guiling Avant-Garde Theater, Sun said the genesis of the work was his travels in the past two years to Colorado Springs, Colorado and Paris, where he had residencies underwritten by Taipei Artists Village and Council for Cultural Affairs, respectively. It is also a progression from the piece he created for his sixmonth Paris residency, La Baguette, about miscommunication.

"We are dancers, so I believe we don't need language. But right now in the 21st century we have lost a lot of human feelings ... Taiwan people are scared to touch. In the US people shake hands, the French kiss, the Spanish kiss three times ... every touch I feel is important," he said. "I auditioned in Paris, had dancers from five different countries. We had so many conflicts, we fought like dogs and cats. Even when we use Mandarin, with the Chinese dancer, we don't understand each other because [some of] the words are different.'

As in Paris, the cast of *Boundaries* is international. There are two Americans, Casey Avaunt (who had residency at the Taipei Artist Village last fall) and Mimi Cave, Manon Greiner from Germany and three Taiwanese, Sun, Chen Xing-he (陳星合) and Hsueh Hsin-yi (薛欣宜).

"Everyone has a different talent. Casey does street dance very well, Mimi does yoga, the German does modern dance, one of the Taiwanese [Hsin-yi] has been hired by Cirque du Soleil for his martial arts training. Different countries, different talents," Sun said.

In addition, Chang, the director, also gave each dancer a character to portray. "For this piece I grew up a lot, I

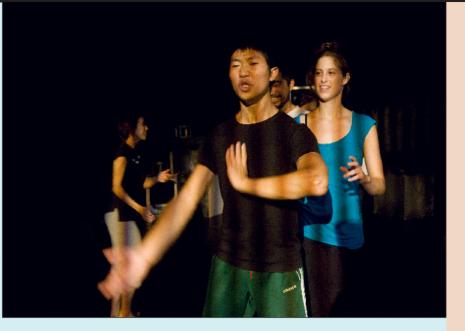
really had think about it: I am doing this for what? Why is each dancer is doing what they are doing? So I feel I really learned something," he said.

A natural progression from talking about boundaries is discussing identity.

Paradise

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The carpet of camellias reminded him of lines from Dream of the Red *Chamber*, the classic Chinese novel that had inspired his 1983 work of the same name. But Lin was also inspired by Russian author and playwright



Your papers, please

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: 8213 Physical Dance Theater (8213肢體舞蹈劇場), Boundless: My Bliss (無國界 | 我的天堂)

WHEN: Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm; Sept. 26 (Taoyuan) and Sept. 27 (Hsinchu)

WHERE: Taipei Guiling Street Avant-Garde Theater, 2, Ln 5, Guiling St, Taipei (台北市中正區牯嶺街5巷2號);

Performing Arts Hall of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Taoyuan County Government (桃園縣政府文化局演藝廳), 21 Xianfu Rd, Taoyuan County (桃園市縣府路21號); Hsinchu Iron-Roof Theater (新竹鐵屋頂劇場), 3F, 1, Ln 227, Gongyuan Rd, Hsinchu City (新竹市公園路227巷1號3樓)

TICKETS: NT\$400 for the Taipei and Hsinchu performances, available through www.artsticket.com.tw; the Taoyuan show is free. Call (03)332-2592 to reserve tickets

In this day and age, being able to prove your identity is crucial, especially when you are traveling. But for an artist, this raises the question of defining identity.

"From 9/11 everything is changed. In America, oh my god, the security [level] will kill you, but you go to France it is the same. So every time I go to the airport I feel boundaries; this gives me a bad feeling. I don't want to go," Sun said. "In France, you have to have show all these different papers."

To establish their identities, each dancer has a portable DVD player showing their face on the screen. But sometimes the expressions on the screen will be at odds with those on the

"This time for the first time I have

senior dancers [sitting] out; I only

use young bodies. It's like a younger

version of the company, they really

jump," he said. "The seniors deserve

Cloud Gate also looks like a

different company in the first half of

Whispers because of the costumes,

and swinging little dresses in muted

color: hundreds of pinkish-red petals

on a progressively darker tone, both

in the staging and the choreography,

But, like *Moon Water*, mirrors are a

in Chiayi, famed stage and lighting

changes without giving too much away.

crucial, and visually stunning, element.

After last Friday's world premiere

though it is hard to describe the

which are a collection of jeans, T-shirts

Easter-egg tones. The stage is awash in

cover the floor, with more being added

The second half of Whispers takes

company.

at intervals.

dancers' faces.

"What you see outside its sugar, but inside it is different. Sometimes you see the dark side," Sun said.

He had a huge grin on his face as he recounted how the boyfriend of one of the dancers in his Paris show was upset when he saw the performance, which featured some very physical clashes, because he saw something he had never seen before — his girlfriend's dark side.

"In a small theater, we can talk about the small things, the audience can see the dancers' skin, the sweat, the real fights. We are very close to the audience, we can really touch them," Sun said. - DIANE BAKER

on his dancers' knees. Lin wanted a designer Lin Keh-hua (林克華) said Lin lot of height in his new piece, so he Hwai-min had just three words for him focused on the junior members of the when they starting working on the Whispers last fall: petals, mirrors, hair.

While the petals might have been the easy part (they're similar to what the company used in *Dream* and Cloud Gate 2's Oculus), getting the right effects with the mirrors and figuring

RESTAURANTS

Erh Liang Barbecue (貳兩炭火燒肉) Address: 324, Jianguo S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City

(台北市建國南路一段324號) Telephone: (02) 2709-5261 Open: Mondays through Fridays from 5pm to midnight; Saturdays and Sundays from midnight to 3pm Average meal: NT\$399 plus 10 percent service charge Details: Chinese menu; credit cards not accepted

Erh Liang Barbecue (貳兩炭 火燒肉), which has been in business for a decade, is a prototype of sorts for the multitude of all-you-can eat bargain-priced barbecue restaurants that are now ubiquitous in Taipei. Its popularity has

nothing to do with the

atmosphere. Staff do not

wear fancy uniforms, and

there is no ambient light-



Erh Liang doesn't skimp on the portions. PHOTO: HO YI, TAIPEI TIMES

ing or decoration of any kind. On weekends, the restaurant is frequently crowded and customers are likely to be seated near families with loud children. The tables, after years of constant grilling, are rather greasy. And the smell of barbecue will linger on your clothes and in hair for hours after a visit.

Clients, however, don't seem to mind. The cramped dining space and somewhat questionable hygiene are more than trumped by generous portions of meat, vegetables, meat, and more meat, all of which go nicely with bottles of ice-cold Taiwan beer (NT\$90).

Erh Liang is infamous for offering its patrons more food than they can consume. On a recent visit, staff recommended that my dining partners and I sample every meat choice on the menu for our first order. (More expensive items such as cow's tongues can only be ordered once.) Our table was soon covered with platters of beef, chicken, pork and intestines, each of which was large enough to be shared by at least four people.

All the meat and seafood items were reasonably fresh. The beef and pork were both well marbled with fat, which in addition to tempting our taste buds also helped fuel the charcoal fire. The cuts of meat are marinated with Erh Liang's special soybean and miso sauces before being served, making them savory without the need for additional seasoning. A light dusting of salt and pepper should suffice for those who prefer a richer flavor.

Half an hour after our feast had begun, I had already consumed my average weekly intake of meat. Half an hour after that, even my most carnivorous friend was turning to the plate of lettuce (which can be used to make wraps out of the meat) to add some balance to his meal. We finished our meal with sticky rice cakes, one of Erh Liang's specialties, which are grilled until they puff up and can then be dipped in honey.

We visited Erh Liang on a busy weekend evening (when customers must complete their meals in two hours), so the service was forgivably careless. During peak hours, patrons may need to ask two or three times for their orders. Service is reportedly better when there are fewer customers, and servers have been known to help diners grill dishes like shrimp and fish that require advanced barbecuing skills. - HO Y

Mushroom Park (伯菇園)

Address: 17, Ln 71, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段71巷17號); 60, Mingsheng E Rd Sec 5, Taipei City (台北市民生東路五段60號)

Telephone: (02) 8773-3160 (Renai branch); (02) 2753-0625 (Mingsheng branch)

Open: From 11:30am to 2:30pm and 5:30pm to 10:30pm Average meal: NT\$400 to NT\$710



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FREDRICK LU

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AroundTown

紅藍黃黑

to the DJ scene and plays funky old school house and breaks." Definitely the dark horse of the weekend.

Tomorrow from 10pm to 5am at Liquid Lounge, 98 Chungming S Rd, Taichung City (台中市忠明南路98號). Entrance is NT\$300 and includes one drink. Entry is free for ladies before midnight.

A live set by Paul Energy is available for listening or downloading for free at djpaulenergy.podomatic.com.

Final word: No one who knows **Scottyballer** was surprised by his stamina last weekend at a his open-house typhoon party when he played a six-hour set that melded old, electro and deep house, which got better and better as Saturday night turned into day.

Guitarist Hao-en (吴恩) and vocalist

Jia-jia (家家) perform a fusion of

blues, jazz and their native Puyuma

店). Rebel rocker-turned-mainstream-

Tamsui River Band (陳明章與淡水

走唱團) appear tomorrow night. On

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

Restaurant/bar with queer/feminist

board games open 11am to midnight

Sundays through Wednesdays; 11am

to 1am Thursdays through Saturdays

▶ NT\$300 entrance includes one drink

Metamorphosis (變形蟲爵士樂團),

one of the first jazz groups in Taiwan

to perform and record original music,

plays tonight at **Riverside Cafe**.

tomorrow along with indie-rockers

Bearbabes (熊寶貝). On Sunday, in

the early evening, pop singer **Alan**

the victims of the 9/21 earthquake.

▶ B1, 2, Ln 244, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3.

to the stage.

Later on Sunday, Puyuma acoustic duo

Hao-en (吴恩) and Jia-jia (家家) take

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

bookstore and large collection of

or visit www.witchhouse.org

▶ Performances start at 9:30pm.

the stage.

— TOM LEEMING

Anton Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard. a break

In both stories, the gardens (or orchard) play a key role in the life of the main characters. Both stories conclude with the destruction of the garden, the end of an era, of paradise lost.

"The Cherry Orchard is about a lot of things, but I just take the beauty and the chopping of the cherry trees at the end ... Cherry Orchard, Dream of the *Red Chamber*, are talking about the same thing: youth gone, about living unaware of doom ... In short it's about life — life happens," he said.

Life happens to dancers as well, as time takes its toll on the body. Lin's use of deep plies slowly segueing into taichi sweeps must be awfully hard

權東路)

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

near the corner of Fuxing North Road

(復興北路) and Minquan East Road (民

out how to get the hair to do what they wanted took months, he said.

> Lin Hwai-min calls the hair "special performing hair."

"The black hair, it's tricky, creepy. You are not aware of it until the dancers start to move and it starts to move as well. The audience doesn't know what it is at the beginning. It's fine hair, not like a Japanese horror flick, but it gradually gains power," he said.

But the hair, like the mirrors, disappears in the end.

"At the end the mirrors are gone, the dancers are gone and the audience confronts an empty stage, all white. It's the end of *Whispers*, perhaps the beginning of Moon Water," Lin said.

Details: Chinese menu; credit cards accepted On the Net: www.baigu.com.tw

Taipei's hot pot restaurants are almost as ubiquitous as its 7-Elevens and the variety available reads like a scene from Forrest Gump: Sichuan hot pot, shabu shabu, Mongolian hot pot, all-you-can-eat hot pot, and so on. The cozy and elegant Mushroom Park (伯菇園), however,

offers a particularly

novel twist on this dining



Magic mushrooms indeed PHOTO: CATHERINE SHU, TAIPEI TIMES

tradition. As the name suggests, dozens of different mushrooms varieties are available for diners to toss — or place lovingly — into a boiling pot of fragrant broth.

Mushroom Park's meals are sold in sets that include everything from appetizers to dessert. The beauty and health set (美容瘦身套餐, NT\$450 per person for parties of two or three, NT\$410 each for four people or more — larger parties get additional plates of meats or mushrooms with each meal) has mushrooms that are supposed to improve your skin or slim your body. Both the nature health set (自然健康套餐, NT\$520 per person or NT\$490 for larger parties) and healthy delicacies set (保健美食套餐, NT\$430/NT\$390) are geared towards healthconscious diners. The vegetarian set (素食套餐, NT\$550/NT\$500) features hearty "chicken" mushrooms in place of the beef, pork or chicken that come with the other meals.

My dining companion and I settled on the VIP set (VIP 套餐, NT\$710/NT\$630). All meals start with small dishes of crunchy wasabi-flavored dried mushrooms and a generous portion of mushroom floss, a vegetarian version of the rousong (肉鬆), or dried shredded meat, that is usually found in sandwiches and on top of bowls of congee. The snacks were followed by Mushroom Park's addictive ice-chilled mushroom "sashimi" appetizer, which is made from the thick, tender stems of king oyster mushrooms (杏鮑菇). Served with a plate of soy sauce and wasabi just like fish sashimi, the moist mushroom slices are pleasantly firm, smooth and cool on the palate.

As soon as you are done with your appetizers, Mushroom Park's attentive wait staff places a large pot of hot broth on the burner in the middle of your table. A scoopful is offered to each diner so you can savor its preservative- and artificial coloring-free goodness before food is added. Each set includes four or five different types of mushrooms; your server will introduce each mushroom's unique flavor and health properties one-by-one. Our VIP set also came with slices of premium beef and DIY meatballs, a ground pork mixture for you to shape into balls with a spoon before dropping in the boiling broth. A pre-set timer lets you know when your food is ready.

While the mushrooms are the main highlight, each set comes with plenty of extra touches, like a giant mug of tea made from a colorful bouquet of herbs and dried blossoms, handmade mantou (饅頭), or steamed buns, that are served as a palate cleanser in the middle of your meal (you can opt for dumplings instead), and a delicious flan- or green tea-flavored jelly for dessert (the vegetarian set gets a sweet soup with agar). While mushrooms may not seem like a hearty meal, we left Mushroom Park fully sated — and with a generous bag of leftovers. — CATHERINE SHU

Shows start at 9:30pm tonight and 9pm tomorrow, 5pm and 9pm on Sunday

music tonight at **Witch House (女巫** tomorrow, NT\$450 for early show on folk idol Chen Ming-chang and the Sunday and NT\$400 for late show; admission includes one free drink

Thursday alt-rock group **Neon** takes to There are two music sets tonight and tomorrow at **VU Live House**. Tonight starts off with Japanese rock from Kiri and Friends and then pop rock from Clockworker (發條人) and **OK Bomb**. Later on, it's The Get Down with **D.Soto**, **Tom Leeming** and **DJ** Zulu. Early tomorrow it's Zakura, a Japanese rock band, slow rock from **Coma** and melodic alt-rock from Cigarette Band (哈根草). The second set features Full Count, The Mash, **Explosive** (爆物) and, once again, Cigarette Band (哈根草). ▶ B1, 77 Wuchang St, Taipei City (台北 市武昌街二段77號B1). Call (02) 2314-1868 for more information First sets start at 7:30pm, second sets

Indie-folk duo UTA (屋塔樂團) appears at 10pm ▶ NT\$400 per set tonight and tomorrow; cover for the first set includes one free drink, cover for the Kuo (柯有綸) performs in a benefit for second set includes two free drinks

> Tonight at **Tone 56 Live Bar**, a new restaurant near the corner of Fuxing North and Minquan East roads, it's the Rubber Band, which plays rock, pop, and dance music every Friday. Tomorrow it's house band Loaded, which plays everything from "rock classics to today's hits." Every Sunday

features a regular rotation of groups; this week it's surf rock from the **Blues** Vibrations. ▶ NT\$350 tonight and NT\$400 ▶ 1F, 56, Minguan E Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市民權東路三段56號1樓),

Call (02) 2517-3869 for more information Music shows go from 9:30pm to 12:30pm tonight and tomorrow, and 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

Exhibition

Taipei 2008 Mammoth Exhibition (長毛象特展). This large-scale exhibition of more than 140 displays about the extinct animal includes two well-preserved remains of mammoths on loan from the Mammoth Museum in Yakutsk, the capital city of the Sakha Republic. One is a 40-year-old

male, named Yukagir, and the other is a one-year-old female, named Oymiakon, which were unearthed four years ago and date back to 30,000 years ago. National Taiwan Democracy Memorial Hall (台灣民主紀念館), 21 Zhongshan S Rd, Taipei City (台北市中 山南路21號). Open Mondays through Sundays from 10am to 6pm. Call (02) 2343-1146 for more information Until Nov. 4

Gwangju Museum of Art in Korea Exchange Program — Si Young Jin and Tae Yun Kong Solo Exhibitions (韓國光州美術館交 換計畫—晉始瑩、孔泰硯雙個展). Two Wheels by Si Young Jin mixes old and new images of Taipei. Tae Yun Kong's Tie's section features installation pieces made from trash. ▶ 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). Open Mondays through Sundays from 10am to 7:30pm. Call (02) 3393-7377 for more information Until Sept. 28

This is Not a Fairytale - Contemporary Thai Art Exhibition (這不是童話—泰國當代

藝術群展). Put together by veteran Bangkok curator Ark Fongsmut, this exhibition features video art, sculpture, photography and installation works by seven contemporary artists from Thailand known for their sharp observations and critiques of their country's present-day society. ▶ Soka Art Center Taipei (台北索卡藝術

中心), 2F, 57, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段57號 2樓). Open Tuesdays through Sundays from 11am to 9pm. Call (02) 2570-0390 for more information Until Sept. 28

Flowering — Chen Chien-ron Solo Exhibition (顫顫花開—陳 建蓉個展). It took Chen three years to complete the Flowering series, in which the well-known "peony"

paintings by Hsu His (徐熙), who lived during China's Five Dynasties period, are deconstructed and reconstructed using contemporary visual vocabularies and cultural contexts. ▶ Pacific Cultural Foundation (太平洋文 化基金會藝術中心), B1, 38, Chongching S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市重慶南路 三段38號B1). Open Mondays through Saturdays from 10am to 5pm. Call (02) 2337-7155 for more information Until Sept. 27

Liu Han-wen Solo Exhibition (嬉

色遊彩—劉漢文個展). Liu, an interior designer, makes bold visual innovations in his watercolor paintings by juxtaposing realistic and virtual spaces, giving his works a playful feel by adding fairytale-like metaphors and symbols.

▶ Cathay United Art Center (國泰世華 藝術中心), 7F, 236 Dunhua N Rd, Taipei City (台北市敦化北路236號7樓). Open Mondays through Saturdays from 10am to 6pm. Call (02) 2717-0988 for more information

Until Sept. 27