



Ask a lot of questions, and watch out. PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

Singer and One Million Star (超級星光大道) fan favorite Aska Yang (楊宗緯) pitched a fit on his blog after a reporter asked him one too many questions about his relationship with a young male friend.

According to Yang's blog, he was innocently out shopping in the East District (東區) when he "stepped in some dog shit," ie, paparazzi. Prior to that, Yang had a fruitful day snapping up a sea-green OriginalFake hoodie, black corduroy shorts and a fancy cellphone strap.

But according to our sister paper the Liberty Times' (自由時報) version of the events, Yang threw a hissy fit when a reporter told him "readers are curious ... you seem to be very close to that young man," referring to Yang's male friend.

One can only imagine that this question was asked with a smarmy nudge and saucy lifting of the eyebrows, for the impromptu interview culminated in Yang screaming, "I will not answer your questions, all reporters do is write dirt!" Who can blame Yang for his outburst? But venting about it on his blog is a different matter.

If Yang was famously too old to compete on One Million Star, then he is also way too old to be peevish. Jolin Tsai (蔡依林) was happier to have reporters follow her on a recent shopping spree in New York City, where the songstress dropped northwards of NT\$10,000 — on sugar-free candy.

United Daily News (聯合報) reported that this was the first time in years Tsai had eaten chocolate. She spent the rest of her trip abroad continuously stuffing her face from an ever-present sack of candy, the vernacular daily said.

Cecilia Chung (張柏芝) may need to take a page from Tsai's book about calorie management. The Hong Kong actress and pop singer, whose friends have denied recent reports that she had suffered a miscarriage, was spotted by Sing Tao Daily News (星島日報) purchasing five cups of noodles, three cans of some unspecified foodstuff, two boxes of chocolates and three big bags of potato chips.

When asked if she were knocked up or just fat, Chung, shockingly enough, refused to answer. So Sing Tao Daily ran off and found a doctor who, based on grainy paparazzi photos, was willing to proclaim that there is a "good chance" Chung is indeed pregnant.

But Pop Stop thinks there is a much more plausible explanation. Chung was also recently spotted buying some computer games for husband Nicholas Tse (謝霆鋒), who has apparently become something of a gaming geek recently. After the Chen sex photo scandal, the media frenzy over the possible miscarriage and the continuing pregnancy speculation, Chung and Tse may have decided to save their sanity by adopting the simple, quiet life of a couple of zhai nan (宅男), or homebodies.

If that is the case, Chung and Tse might want to look at the sad case of Chang Chen-huan (張振寰) before they become too reclusive. Chang was a sought-after television actor in Taiwan before alcoholism, mental illness and accusations of spousal abuse sent his career plummeting and relegated him to working menial jobs, including his latest one at a restaurant.

Apple Daily (蘋果日報) reports that Chang's lateness and odd behavior almost got him fired, but his boss was too softhearted in the end. Chang said he'd talk to her "about how I can improve."

— COMPILED BY CATHERINE SHU

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS OCT. 3 TO OCT. 9

- 1 S.H.E with FM S.H.E.— Retro Version (我的電台FM S.H.E — 復古電台版) with 18.89 percent of sales
2 Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) and Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) with 11.31%
3 Original sound track of The Legend of Brown Sugar Chivalries (黑糖群俠傳) with 11.25%
4 Ronald Cheng (鄭中基) with The Best of Ronald (怪胎)
5 Y2J and Live for You (為你而活) with 6%

Jazz season returns to Taichung

Fall has arrived, and in Taichung, this means it's time for jazz. More than 40 groups, both international and local, will perform on three stages near the city's scenic Jingguo Boulevard Parkway (經國線園道) as part of the Taichung Jazz Festival (台中爵士音樂節), which begins tomorrow and runs through Oct. 26.



Japanese trumpeter Tomonao Hara, left, and Dutch trumpeter Saskia Laroo, below, are two of the featured acts at this year's Taichung Jazz Festival, which starts tomorrow and runs through Oct. 26. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE TAICHUNG CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

The event is expected to attract 300,000 people — 50,000 more than last year, according to the organizer, the Taichung Cultural Affairs Bureau. This year's festival will also run longer. Instead of two separate weekends, there will be jazz performances every night for nine days straight.

Along with the music, the festival features some 50 booths selling food and merchandise, located on the parkway, which runs along Gongyi Road (公益路).

Headlining tomorrow night at Civil Plaza (市民廣場) is Trio 3, a New York City "super-group" composed of saxophonist and flutist Oliver Lake, bassist Reggie Workman and drummer Andrew Cyrille.

Trio 3's music spans different jazz styles, from traditional to bebop to free jazz. The trio's members all boast long and accomplished resumes: Lake is a Guggenheim fellow; Workman has performed and recorded with John Coltrane and Art Blakey; and Cyrille has long been associated with free-jazz pioneer and pianist Cecil Taylor.

The group will hold a jazz workshop at the Windsor Hotel (裕元花園酒店) on

Sunday at 1pm. The hotel is also hosting a class next Saturday by legendary trombonist Slide Hampton, who performs at the festival next week. All workshops are free and open to the public.

Other international artists appearing at this year's festival include Japanese trumpeter Tomonao Hara Quartet and Dutch trumpeter Saskia Laroo and her band. Last

FESTIVAL NOTES: WHAT: Taichung Jazz Festival WHEN: Tomorrow until Oct. 26 WHERE: Civil Plaza (市民廣場), Jingguo Boulevard Parkway (經國線園道) and Gongyi Road (公益路) DETAILS: Admission is free ON THE NET: www.jazzfestival.com.tw

Slidin' through jazz history

Trombonist and composer Slide Hampton arrives in Taiwan for a performance and master class at the Taichung Jazz Festival next week. If you're a jazz fan, now would be the time to start getting excited.

in 2005 was honored with the title of Jazz Master from the National Endowment for the Arts, the highest official recognition for jazz musicians in the US. He currently serves as musical director for the Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band and leads the World of Trombones, as well as his own big band.

Recently Hampton has been busy completing a commission to compose four songs under the title theme, A Tribute to African/American Greatness. The four tunes, co-written with his manager Tony Charles, are named after and dedicated to Hampton's personal heroes: Nelson Mandela, Oprah Winfrey, Tiger Woods, and Venus and Serena Williams.

He imbued each song with a rhythm that he felt best described the person or people in question: "Nelson Mandela is based on an African approach to rhythm ... Oprah is based on a 'funk' kind of rhythm because that's the kind of music she seems to prefer ... With Tiger I put something for him that seems to relate to his ability to move so well, something that swings for him, something really fast. For the Williams sisters, I

did a bossa nova." Hampton is also widely recognized as an educator, having taught master classes at Harvard and Indiana universities. When he gets to Taichung next week, he plans to share some of his wisdom about jazz improvisation in a trombone master class that takes place on the 4th floor of the Windsor Hotel (裕元花園酒店) in Taichung next Saturday at 1pm.

The jazz maven says he usually starts by talking about the essence of jazz and the "individuality of the interpretation" of written music that Louis Armstrong crafted into an art.

For Hampton, it's a lesson worth repeating. "It's not a matter of copying or doing the same thing that someone else did — it's a matter of being inspired by something that someone else did, to do something of your own."

Admission for both Hampton's master class and his performance at the final concert of the Taichung Jazz Festival on Oct. 26 is free.

Slide Hampton can be contacted through his Web site at www.slidehampton.com. — DAVID CHEN



— DAVID CHEN

Theater

The Japanese occupation of Taiwan serves as the backdrop of Uhan Shih Theater Group's (歡喜扮戲團) production Gao Sha Guen (高砂館). Set in 1937 Keelung, the play takes an unromantic look at the illusions and dreams of a group of ordinary people living on the margins of society.

National Experimental Theater, Taipei City
Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm and tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm
Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing

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

Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號)
Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,100, available through NTCH ticketing

The Puppet and Its Double Theater (無獨有偶工作室劇團) revises its Happy Prince (快樂王子), a puppet performance based on Oscar Wilde's fairy tale of the same name.

Chiayi Performing Arts Center (嘉義縣表演藝術中心), 265, Jianguo Rd Sec 2, Minsyong Township, Chiayi County (嘉義縣民雄鄉建國路二段265號)
Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
Tickets are NT\$300, available through NTCH ticketing

Taiwan's expulsion from the UN in 1971 serves as the background for Ping-Fong Acting Troupe's (屏風表演班) latest work Stand by Me (六義勇). Written and directed by Hugh Lee (李國修), the story follows six youths who use an air raid shelter as a meeting place to discuss their roles in history.

Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號)
Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing

The Prince of Tennis

The Prince of Tennis is a musical based on the popular Japanese manga and anime series of the same name. The production takes the form of tennis matches, which in its Taiwan debut are between two rival schools in a national tournament.

Novel Hall (新舞台), 3-1 Sungshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
Sunday at 2pm and 7pm
Tickets are NT\$900 to NT\$2,200, available through NTCH ticketing

Dance

The Paul Taylor Dance Company opens its three-performance run of the Novel Hall 2008 Dance Series tonight at 8pm with Mercuric Tidings, Byzantium and Esplanade. [See preview on Page 13 of the Friday, Oct. 10 edition of the Taipei Times.] As of press time there were still a few tickets left for tonight, but tomorrow night and Sunday's matinee are both sold-out.

Tonight at 8pm
Novel Hall (新舞台), 3-1 Sungshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
Tickets are NT\$800, NT\$1,000 and NT\$1,500, available through www.ticket.com.tw. Call (02) 2723-7953 for information about tickets

Artistic director Yao Shu-fen (姚淑芬) presents Welcome: Flashmob to Yongkang Street, Taipei (世紀當代舞團2008「歡迎光臨·永康藝族」) held by Century Contemporary Dance Company (世紀當代舞團), which showcases the work of emerging choreographers. The festival features indoor and outdoor performances by six teams of choreographers.

Indoor performances are at the Century Contemporary Dance Studio, 40, Ln 23, Yongkang St, Taipei City (台北市永康街23巷40號). Outdoor performances will be held "flash mob" style at various places around the Yongkang area.

Classical

Tickets for each indoor performance are NT\$200, available from NTCH ticket outlets. Visit www.artsticket.com.tw or call (02) 3393-9888

Trio Achat Concert Tour (艾哈特三重奏音樂會). German musicians Reinhold Heise (violin) and Ulf Schade (cello), and Tseng Yi-fei (鋼琴) play works by Beethoven, Dvorak and Franke.

Today at 7:30pm
National Recital Hall, Taipei City
Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$500, available through ERA ticketing

A Love Story about Taipei and Shanghai (上海·台北 — 雙城戀曲 — 2008台北愛樂合唱劇場) features the Taipei Philharmonic Chamber Choir (台北愛樂室內合唱團) and Taipei Philharmonic Theater (愛樂劇工廠) performing with special guest Qi Qi (齊齊) from the Shanghai opera scene, and Chung Hsiao-tan (鍾筱丹), Lin Tzu-yin (林姿吟) and Hu Yue-ji (胡月之) from Taiwan. The program includes popular pieces from both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm (Taipei) and Wednesday at 7:30pm (Hsinchu)
Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall (國父紀念館), 505, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段505號); 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\$300 to NT\$1,500 at both venues, available through NTCH ticketing

Laughing at the Spring Wind; Sighing Over an Autumn Journey — A Performance by Wang Xinxi (王心欣) brings nanguan (南管) virtuoso Wan Xinxi (王心欣) to the stage once again to perform with dance accompaniment. The concert is based on two famous historical stories, the first a panegyric of the great Tang Dynasty beauty Yang Guifei (楊貴妃) and the second of Wang Zaojun (王

Selected highlights

All music performances are free and take place at Civil Plaza (市民廣場) and the J1 and J2 Stages on Jingguo Boulevard Parkway. Shows also take place throughout the week; see the festival's Web site for a detailed schedule.

Tomorrow
3pm, Civil Plaza
1,000 Saxophones Spectacular (world-record attempt for most saxophonists at one time)
5pm, J1 Stage
Denny Euprasert Sextet (Thailand)
5pm, J1 Stage
Red River Jazz Band (Vietnam)
7pm, Civil Plaza
Barry Likumahua Project (Indonesia) and Trio 3 (US)

Sunday
1pm, Windsor Hotel, B1F Multipurpose Theater Hall (裕元花園酒店B1F國際演講廳)
Workshop with Trio 3
3:30pm, J2 Stage
Changhua City Orchestra (Taiwan)
5:30pm, J2 Stage
Sky 4 (Taiwan)
7pm, J1 Stage
Saskia Laroo Band (Netherlands)

Oct. 25
1pm, Windsor Hotel, 4th floor (裕元花園酒店4樓東側包廂)
Trombone workshop with Slide Hampton
3pm, J1 Stage
Makoto Kuriya Rhythmatrix (Japan)
5pm, J1 Stage
API (Malaysia)
5:30pm, J2 Stage
The Money Shot Horns (Taiwan/US/Canada/Australia)
7pm, J1 Stage
Tomonao Hara Quartet (Japan)

Oct. 26
1pm, Windsor Hotel, B1F Multipurpose Theater Hall (裕元花園酒店B1F國際演講廳)
Trumpet workshop with Tomonao Hara
3pm, J1 Stage
John Nam Quartet (South Korea)
5pm, J1 Stage
Free Breathing World (Taiwan)
7pm, Festival Finale at Civil Plaza
Tomonao Hara Quartet (Japan)
Slide Hampton (US)
Kupa Big Band (Taiwan)

Contemporary

Linkin Park's concert at Zhongshan Soccer Stadium, originally scheduled for tonight, has been canceled because lead singer Chester Bennington has sustained a back injury and was told by doctors not to travel, according to a statement issued by the band. The popular California rock group canceled its entire Music for Relief tour benefit tour for survivors of the Sichuan earthquake, which included dates in Macau and China.

Tonight at 7:30pm
National Concert Hall, Taipei City
Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing

Underworld

hosts this week's segment of the Taiwan Band Festival, which takes place at a different live music venue every week until Nov. 1. [See Page 14 of the Oct. 10, 2008, edition of the Taipei Times for details.] Tonight's lineup: indie-electronic singer Veraqueen and post-rockers Orange Sars (橙草). Performing afterwards are Chen Yi-ying (陳怡穎) and Lee Ruo-han (李若涵) take to the stage. Electronic rock outfits Unfamiliar Friends Party (不熟悉的朋友) and Digihai play tomorrow night.

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
Tonight's Taiwan Band Festival segment goes from 9pm to 10:30pm. The set afterwards goes from 10:30pm to midnight. Seating is limited. Tomorrow night's show is from 9:30pm to 11:30pm
Admission is free for the Taiwan Band Festival segment and NT\$300 (with one drink) for other weekend shows

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT