

# POP STOP



This week has seen the emergence of a genuinely self-made celebrity in the shape of **Huang Chao-kang** (黃朝暉), a 16-year-old trickster whose most recent exploit of taking former president **Chen Shui-bian** (陳水扁) for a ride has given him the type of media coverage that aspiring stars could only dream of.

The saga's latest installment, which started with Chen's visit to Huang's house on Sept. 14, has developed into a publicity disaster for the nation's beleaguered former leader. Chen, who is under investigation, along with family members and associates, for corruption, reportedly sought Huang's fortune-telling skills. Huang, who adopted the professional name **Huang Chi** (黃琪), had set himself up as a tarot card reader and medium of 10-years' experience and boasted of a dual master's degree from the UK. As it turned out, the vivacious and articulate youngster, who has indulged his game of impersonation before, only recently graduated from high school.

In a previous exploit, Huang wrangled himself a job as an assistant executive manager of a creative arts management company for a few months, and obtained celebrities' personal details by impersonating senior management from several media outlets.

Local media have been delighting in the similarities of Huang's career to that of con artist Frank Abagnale, who was portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio in the Steven Spielberg film *Catch Me If You Can* (2002).

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) legislator **Chiu Yi** (邱毅) earlier this month claimed, in allegations that have been denied, that Huang reduced Chen to tears when he drew the "death" card during his reading for the ex-president. (Chen admits to visiting Huang but denies he had a reading.)

In other news, **Jay Chou** (周杰倫) again confirmed his position as the king — or the Chairman, indeed — of the

The Chairman is back at the top of the Mando-pop charts.

Chinese-language pop music world with *Capricorn* (魔杰座), his latest album, which has put virtually every other wannabe star in his or her place. Even the members of girl group S.H.E, which has recently dominated the charts, could only look on aghast as *Capricorn* blew them out of the water with massive sales.

On the cover of the deluxe package, Chou is portrayed as a character from a sword-and-sorcery fantasy game, but the figure-hugging black leather suit he wears has given rise to comparisons to a similar outfit donned by ex-girlfriend **Jolin Tsai** (蔡依林) for her album *Special Agent J* (特務J).

Another musical success story has been created by boy band F4, which has had a very profitable run in Japan. A series of seven concerts in Tokyo and Osaka earned the band NT\$300 million in ticket sales and merchandising, making this the most profitable concert tour by a Taiwanese band in Japan.

In the run-up to the Golden Bell Awards (金鐘獎) next Friday, a Yahoo Kimo survey found **Ethan Ruan** (阮經天) and **Chen Chiao-en** (陳喬恩), both stars of the super-successful television soap *Fated to Love You* (命中注定我愛你), topped respondents' lists of this year's television idols.

Ruan beat his closest rival, F4 singer **Jerry Yan** (言承旭), by 14,669 votes to 8,994. Chen's lead over her rivals was even greater, winning 29,458 votes compared to singer-actress **Ariel Lin** (林依晨) who garnered 8,902 and **Rainie Yang** (楊丞琳) who notched up 4,377.

Fans are up in arms that Ruan and Chen have yet to transfer their onscreen chemistry to real life, and according to the *Apple Daily* (蘋果日報), Set-TV (三立) has had to quell rumors that the pair might attend the Golden Bell Ceremony with partners of their own choice.

— COMPILED BY IAN BARTHOLOMEW



Musicians and journalists in Taipei come together tomorrow at the Taipei Artist Village for a full day of live music that commemorates the life of Daniel Pearl, the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was brutally murdered in 2002 while on assignment in Pakistan.

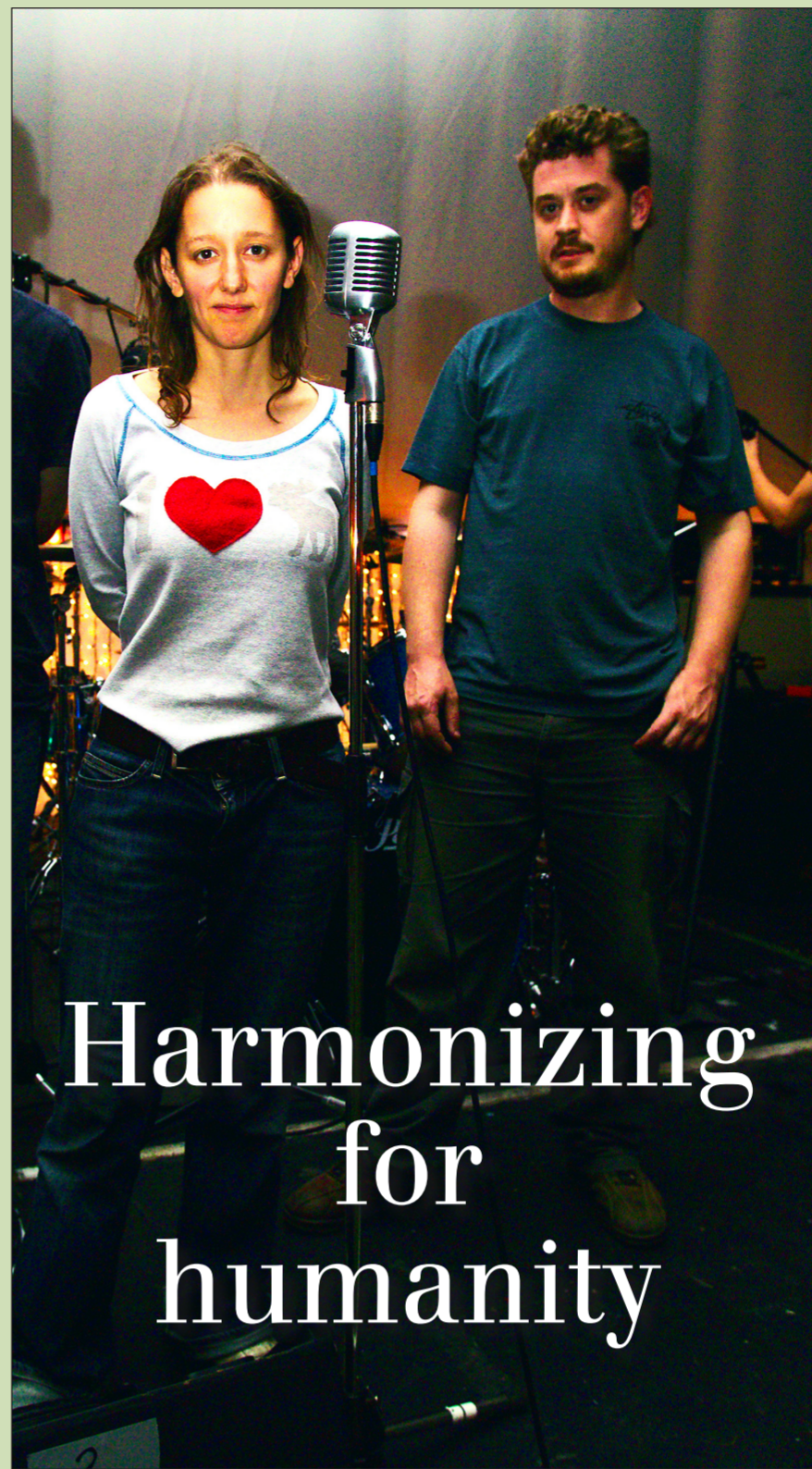
As Pearl was both a music lover and musician, his parents started a series of live music concerts in his memory, which grew into a global event, with musicians all over the world performing as part of the Daniel Pearl World Music Days. Taipei has held an annual World Music Day since 2002. The Daniel Pearl Foundation's stated purpose for the events is to "use the universal language of music to inspire unity, tolerance and cross-cultural understanding," under the theme of "harmony for humanity."

"Danny was a passionate believer in the power of music to bring people together regardless of ethnic, religious or cultural differences," said his father **Judea Pearl**, president of the Daniel Pearl Foundation, in a recent press statement.

Pearl was a classically trained violinist who also played the mandolin in a bluegrass and rock band.

The World Music Days, which traditionally take place around Pearl's birthday on Oct. 10, have grown in size and stature. During their first year, the commemorations were marked with 117 concerts in 18 countries; last year, there were more than 500 concerts in over 40 countries, according to the foundation's Web site. A number of high-profile musicians have lent their talents to Daniel Pearl music events in recent years, including jazz pianist **Herbie Hancock**, violinist **Itzhak Perlman**, and rock stars **Elton John** and **REM**.

Donations from tomorrow's Daniel Pearl World Music Day in Taipei 2008



# Harmonizing for humanity



Country band 2 Acres Plowed, far left, and singer-songwriter Dana Wylie and multi-instrumentalist Jez Hellard, above and left, play tomorrow at the Daniel Pearl World Day of Music.

PHOTOS: DAVID CHEN, TAIPEI TIMES AND COURTESY OF THE DANA WYLIE

will be used to cover the costs of the venue with the remainder going to the Daniel Pearl Foundation. My band, the Muddy Basin Ramblers, will be there tomorrow playing American roots music along with a host of other locally based groups: solo rock act **Nathan Javens**; folk rock musicians **Tyler Dakin** and **Russell Louis Picard**; country music band **2 Acres Plowed**; singer-songwriters **Dana Wylie** and **Jez Hellard**; blues guitarist **Steve Ray**; and indie-rock band **88 Balaz** (88顆芭樂籽).

Tomorrow's event is sponsored by the Taipei Foreign Correspondents Club, the Taipei Artist Village and the newly opened Village Cafe, which will be selling burgers, sausages, vegetarian food and beer.

To get to the Taipei Artist Village, get off at Shandao Temple MRT Station (善導寺捷運站), exit No. 1, walk to Tianjin Street (天津街) and then turn right at Beiping East Road (北平東路).

— DAVID CHEN

## FESTIVAL NOTES:

**WHAT:** Daniel Pearl World Music Day in Taipei 2008

**WHERE:** 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)

**WHEN:** Tomorrow from 2pm to 9pm

**DETAILS:** No entrance fee, but suggested donation of NT\$300 to cover venue costs

**ON THE NET:** www.danielpearl.org; www.danielpearlmusicdays.org

## TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS OCT. 10 TO OCT. 16

1. Jay Chou (周杰倫) and *Capricorn* — *Deluxe Package* (魔杰座) with 58.95 percent of sales
2. S.H.E and *FM S.H.E* — *Retro Version* (我的電台FM S.H.E—復古電台版) with 6.35%
3. Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) and *Jam Hsiao* (蕭敬騰) with 4.28%
4. Original sound track of *The Legend of Brown Sugar Chivalries* (黑糖群俠傳) with 3.96%
5. Van Fan (范逸臣) and *Wu Le Bu Tsuo* (無樂不作) with 2.4%

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

## A play that 'tortures' its actors

Whenever **Denny Wu** (吳定謙) encountered difficulty translating **David Lindsay-Abair's** *Rabbit Hole*, he would recall **Dharma Drum Mountain** (法鼓山) Master **Sheng Yen's** (聖嚴法師) four precepts for problem-solving.

"We are always dealing with [setbacks]," Wu said before a run-through of the play last week. "You know it and you accept it and you deal with it and you leave it," he said, paraphrasing Yen's philosophy.

The connection between Yen's philosophy of dealing with adversity and the play's central theme of coming to terms with the death of a loved one intersect and inform Wu's translation of **Lindsay-Abair's** 2006 work that deals with sorrow, which is **Green Ray Theater's** (綠光劇團) most recent adaptation of a Western play.

"There is always a sense of loss ... You feel pain at first. It hurts but you have to pass through it and no matter how hard it is you have to work at resolving it ... that is something that **Lindsay-Abair** reveals in the play," he said.

Wu, who is new to the directorial chair, has worked on or translated a number of scripts for **Green Ray**, most recently *Proof*. The challenge with *Rabbit Hole*, he said, wasn't so much the directing but translating the play in a way

to retain the dialogue-heavy nuance and tear-jerking pathos of the original.

Wu said that because of its emotional intensity, "It's a play that tortures the actors." After watching the run-through, it is easy to understand why.

The opening scene sets the tone of her young son, who died eight months previously. Though the audience is unaware of the tragedy, a silent sadness overwhelms the scene.

**Gwen Yao** (姚坤君) reveals herself to be one of Taiwan's more accomplished stage actors in the lead role of the grieving mother, a character that requires the actress to juggle several disparate emotions at once. She delivered a performance of quiet rage that avoided melodramatic bathos.

Becca's inability to overcome her sadness unintentionally alienates her husband, **Howie**, played by **Wang Yao-ching** (王耀慶), who maintains a nuanced performance of remaining sympathetic to his wife while trying to hold back the frustration he feels because she monopolizes the couple's sorrow.

**Cheng Kai-yun** (鄭凱雲), who plays the man who accidentally hit and killed the boy, doesn't manage to evoke feelings of guilt and looks more like a dog who's been



Plenty of tissues are needed to sit through **Green Ray Theater's** excellent adaptation of **David Lindsay-Abair's** *Rabbit Hole*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREEN RAY THEATER

caught peeing on the carpet. Similarly, **Becca's** sister, played by **Lin Wei-i** (林微微) doesn't quite capture the struggle between mourning her sister's loss and celebrating her own pregnancy.

The set accurately recreates a middle-class American home, with its fully stocked fridge and toys scattered about, which lends a sense of homey verisimilitude — ironic in the context of a family that is falling apart

— NOAH BUCHAN

## PERFORMANCE NOTES:

**WHAT:** *Rabbit Hole*

**WHERE:** National Taiwan Arts Education Center (國立台灣藝術教育館本部及演藝廳), 47 Nanhai Road, Taipei City (台北市南海路47號)

**WHEN:** Tonight, tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm; tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm

**TICKETS:** NT\$500 to NT\$1,000, available through ERA ticketing

## Theater

**The Room** (房間) by **Flying Group Theater** (飛人集社劇團) investigates the shifting nature of memory and how impressions of the past fill in the blank spaces of the present. Twenty years after the disappearance of his father, a young man returns to the house where the old man lived in an attempt to gain a greater understanding of his family's past.

- ▶ **Crown Theater** (皇冠藝文中心小劇場), B1, 50, Ln 120, Dunhua N Rd, Taipei (台北市敦化北路120巷50號B1)
- ▶ Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm; tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$450, available through NTCH ticketing

2:30pm  
▶ 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** (六義軍). Written and directed by **Hugh Lee** (李國輝), the story follows six youths who use an air-raid shelter as a meeting place to discuss their roles in history.

- ▶ **Hsinchu County Cultural Affairs Bureau** (新竹縣文化局), 146, Sianjheng 9th Rd, Jhubei City, Hsinchu County (新竹縣竹北市縣政九路146號)
- ▶ Tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing

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

- ▶ **Ilan Performing Arts Center** (宜蘭縣文化局演藝廳), 482, Jhongshan Rd Sec 2, Ilan City (宜蘭市中山路二段482號)
- ▶ Tomorrow at 1:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing

## Classical music

**2008 Tommy Emmanuel Taipei Concert** (2008 Tommy Emmanuel 台北演奏會) brings the Australian guitarist to Taipei for a single concert. Emmanuel is known for

his complex "fingerpicking" style and was named **Best Acoustic Guitarist** in a readers' poll by *Guitar Player Magazine* in May this year. [See story on Page 16 of tomorrow's *Taipei Times*.]

- ▶ Sunday at 7:30pm
- ▶ **Armed Forces Cultural Center** (國華文藝活動中心), 69, Zhonghua Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市中華路一段69號)
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$2,000, available through ERA ticketing

**Chai Found Music Workshop and Ensemble 2e2m** (柴風樂坊—采風樂坊與Ensemble 2e2m) is a collaboration between the Taiwanese experimental music group **Chai Found Music Workshop** (柴風樂坊) and French group **Ensemble 2e2m**. The program includes five new compositions specially commissioned to display the innovative orchestration and talents of these two groups.

- ▶ Today at 7:30pm
- ▶ **National Concert Hall**, Taipei City
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,200, available through NTCH ticketing

**Ethnomusicological Lecture Performance by Liang Ming-yue and Huang Hao-yin** (民族音樂學堂名家經典—響與寧的對話) is a concert by masters of two of Chinese culture's most representative solo instruments, the *qin* (琴) and the *zheng* (箏).

- ▶ Tomorrow at 7:30pm
- ▶ **National Recital Hall**, Taipei City
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$400 and NT\$600, available through NTCH ticketing

**Frederica von Stade and UBS**

## Upcoming

Showcasing the latest works by new talents and heavyweight filmmakers that include **Jean-Pierre Luc Dardenne's** *The Silence of Lorna*, **Wim Wenders' The Palermo Shooting** and **Changeling** by **Clint Eastwood**, Taiwan's oldest and biggest international film festival, the 2008 **Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival** (台北金馬影展) will open on Nov. 6. The festival program is divided into thematic sections under headings such as **LGBT**, **Midnight Fever** and **Window to Southeast Asia**. Made in USA is a new addition that aims to present the cream of American independent productions. This year's edition shines the spotlight on Russia's most celebrated animation director, **Aleksandr Petrov**, and features retrospective programs on **Jean-Pierre Melville** and **Kon Ichikawa** of Japan.

In another blast from the past, there



Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDEN HORSE

will be two special screenings of **Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey** to mark the film's 40th anniversary.

- ▶ The festival takes place at **Vieshow Cinemas Sun** (日新威秀), **Vieshow Cinemas Xinyi** (信義威秀) and **Shin Kong Cineplex** (新光影城) from Nov. 6 to Nov. 21
- ▶ Tickets cost NT\$230 per screening, or NT\$200 for students, available through ERA ticket outlets or online at www.ticket.com.tw. For more information about the festival, visit www.goldenhorse.org.tw

- ▶ **National Concert Hall**, Taipei City
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing

**Duo Concertos for Levin and Chuang** (魏謙琴聲—羅伯烈文與莊雅斐協奏曲音樂會) is part of the **Taiwan International Piano Festival** (2008台灣國際鋼琴藝術節). The month-long event continues this week with a program featuring renowned pianists

**Robert Levin** and **Chuang Ya-fei** (莊雅斐), who will perform with the **Evergreen Symphony Orchestra** (長榮交響樂團) in concerts in Taipei and Tainan. The program in Taipei includes **Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op.58** and **Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Minor, Op.21**. The program in Tainan includes **Mozart's Sonata for Two Pianos in D major, K.448**, **Debussy's En Blanc et Noir**, **Lutoslawski's Variations on a Theme by Paganini** and **Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances, Op.45**.

- ▶ Tomorrow (Taipei) and Monday (Tainan) at 7:30pm
- ▶ **National Concert Hall**, Taipei City; **Tainan Municipal Cultural Center Performance Hall** (台南市立文化中心演藝廳), 332, Zhonghua E Rd Sec 3, Tainan City (台南市中華東路三段332號)
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,500 for Taipei and NT\$400 to NT\$2,000 in Tainan, available through NTCH ticketing

## Contemporary

Tonight **VU Live House** hosts **Dub Selecta**, presented by **Tranquility Bass Productions**. The music will be spun by DJs **Saucey** from Canada and **Ting** from New Zealand. Live band **Dub Supervisors** plays afterwards. Tomorrow night it's **Old School Science** with **Coffeeop, Rich, Mixer T** and **Soulbasic**. On Sunday the venue hosts the **Mandinga Latin Jazz Quartet**, followed by **DJ Zulu**, spinning what he calls "timeless and

positive black sounds."

- ▶ B1, 77, Wuchang St, Sec 2, 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 cover includes two drinks

Tonight **Underworld** (地下社會) hosts metal rockers **Hardcase** and **Sidefect**. Tomorrow night it's indie-band **Red Flower** (紅花) and loud rockers **Shi Zhen** (十震). **Scream Silence** and emo rockers **One Way to Die** (死路一條) perform on Wednesday.

- ▶ 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 on Mondays
- ▶ Entrance tonight and tomorrow is NT\$300 and includes one drink; entrance on Wednesday is NT\$100. Drinks are buy-one-get-one-free on Tuesdays and Thursdays before midnight

UK alternative pop group **Camera Obscura** takes the stage tomorrow night at **The Wall** (這牆). See Page 13 of today's *Taipei Times* for full story.

- ▶ B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). For more information, call (02) 2930-0162 or go to www.thewall.com.tw
- ▶ 8pm tomorrow
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$1,100, available at White Wabbit Records and at the venue