

POP
STOP

Annie Yi and Laurence Huang have been caught in the act ... of holding hands.

PHOTOS: TAIPEI TIMES

Taiwan's paparazzi outdid themselves this week by portraying actress **Annie Yi** (伊能靜) as a partying harlot who doesn't want anything to do with her husband, **Harlem Yu** (庾澄慶), and their son, Harry (哈利), after the *Liberty Times* (自由時報) (the *Taipei Times*' sister newspaper) and *Next Magazine* (壹週刊) published photos of the singer and movie star walking hand-in-hand with fellow Taiwanese actor **Laurence Huang** (黃維德).

Rumors of the former soap stars' affair have been doing the rounds for a while, even before they both moved to Beijing to pursue acting careers in China. Reports claim that the two once lived in the same apartment building and currently have flats in the same complex.

The incriminating snaps, which clearly show the two holding hands while crossing a Beijing street, seem to put the matter to bed, as it were. When asked for comment, Yu denied that he and his wife were separating.

The images, incidentally, eclipse earlier rumors that Yi was involved with **Liu Tao** (劉鵬), the former owner of a talent agency, which emerged when the pair were photographed eating dinner together and singing at a KTV. Liu's associates promptly stopped tongues wagging by revealing he bats for the other team.

With so much rumor and innuendo surrounding Yi, perhaps Yu should have listened to his mother, who reportedly advised him against marrying the actress.

Yu's mother — who, in the picture published in *Next*, bears a striking resemblance to North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il — has also complained that she is now the primary female caregiver for young Harry.

Fortunetellers couldn't help but weigh in on the

whole affair. After studying Huang's nose, the geomancers determined that he must be good in bed. That's right, in Taiwan its not big hands or big feet, but a sharp nose that reveals sexual prowess.

The subtext of the whole "scandal," it seems to Pop Stop's feminist take, is this: Men, you may leave your family back in Taiwan and have a second wife (or girlfriend) and live it up in China, but Yi is blazing new ground and proving that what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

Although nothing compared to **Vivi Wang's** (王婉霏) infamous "black forest incident" or **Liu Zhen's** (劉真) nipple slip, punters got more than their fare share of skin this week when **Shatina Chen** (陳思璇) showed off a considerable amount of her leggy assets. The former "queen of the catwalk" had been laying low since she was caught last year in a late-night rendezvous with a married man on Yanmingshan. She returned to the spotlight this week in high style after performing a sexy number at a press conference during which she wore a skimpy black skirt that provided a clear view of her white knickers. Is there nothing models won't expose for a little exposure?

If gossip rags are to be believed, Chen's long legs were alluring enough to enrapture **David Tao** (陶喆), who sweated through her performance and drooled over her afterwards — an amazing feat, really, because Tao is notorious for pursuing sweet young things.

Meanwhile, yesterday's *United Evening News* reported the suicide of **Ivy Li** (黎礎寧), runner-up in the talent show *One Million Star's* (超級星光大道) third series.

Li reportedly took her own life by burning charcoal in her car in Taichung City.

— COMPILED BY NOAH BUCHAN

Shun Kikuta, left, and Lance Reegan-Diehl Band, far right, appear tomorrow at Blues Bash 5, which takes place at the Dream Community in Sijihh.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLUES BASH

Band schedule

Outdoor showcase

3:10pm	The Money Shot Horns
3:30pm	Jamsbee
3:45pm	Blues Vibrations
4:05pm	Musashino Minnie and Small Package
4:20pm	Black Sheep
4:40pm	Lance Reegan-Diehl Band
4:55pm	David Chen and the Muddy Basin Ramblers
5:15pm	Nacomi
5:30pm	The Rising Hedons
5:50pm	Shun Kikuta

Indoor performances

Theater stage

6:35pm	BoPoMoFo (ウタロロ)
7:25pm	Jamsbee
8:15pm	Musashino Minnie and Small Package
9:05pm	Lance Reegan-Diehl Band
9:55pm	Nacomi
10:45pm	Shun Kikuta
11:30pm	Jam Session

Coffee shop stage

6:15pm	The Money Shot Horns
7:05pm	Blues Vibrations
7:55pm	David Chen and the Muddy Basin Ramblers
8:45pm	Ah-Yi
9:35pm	Black Sheep
10:25pm	The Rising Hedons

Ain't nothin' but the blues

Japanese guitarist Shun Kikuta lives a life aspiring rock 'n' rollers dream about, except for one thing — he plays the blues.

And he couldn't be happier, with a thriving career as guitarist for America's "Queen of the Blues," Koko Taylor. The 42-year-old Kikuta will be in Taipei tomorrow to headline the annual Blues Bash, now in its fifth run.

The Tokyo-area native was enraptured by the blues after hearing BB King's classic 1964 recording *Live at the Regal* while studying jazz at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. After graduating he moved to his current home of Chicago, where he established his reputation through countless evenings jamming at blues clubs and playing on the streets. Through the years he has shared the stage with blues legends such as James Cotton, Junior Wells and Otis Rush.

Kikuta experienced an "unforgettable" moment in his career when King invited him to join him for a television special that aired in 2004 in the US.

"My dream finally came true,"

FESTIVAL NOTES:

WHAT: Blues Bash 5

WHERE: Dream Community (夢想社區) 95, Minzu 2nd St, Sijihh City, Taipei County (台北縣汐止市民族二街95號), near the intersection of Huqian Street (湖前街) and Kangning Road (康寧路)

WHEN: Tomorrow from 3pm to 11:30pm

DETAILS: Outdoor events are free; NT\$200 general admission for indoor evening shows

ON THE NET: www.bsot-bluesbash.info

Kikuta says on the phone earlier this week while visiting his hometown of Utsunomiya, a city 95km north of Tokyo, where he returns twice a year to hold guitar workshops. "I am still thinking about that day," he says.

Kikuta's show tomorrow marks his fourth appearance at Blues Bash, which has become a ritual on his regular visits to Japan. He says he "loves Taiwan" for

its "good atmosphere," "great people" and "great musicians." Among those musicians are members of the Taipei blues band BoPoMoFo (ウタロロ), who will back Kikuta at tomorrow's festival.

Blues Bash takes place once again at the Dream Community (夢想社區) with a host of other Taipei bands including the Blues Vibrations, Black Sheep and my group, the Muddy Basin Ramblers. Also scheduled are several bands from Taichung, including funk band the Money Shot Horns and blues-rock outfit The Rising Hedons.

Kikuta's enthusiasm about Taiwan has spread to several Japanese blues groups, who comprise much of this year's international lineup: Nacomi, a female guitarist and singer, whose blues and R'n'B style resembles Bonnie Raitt; acoustic trio Jamsbee; and Musashino Minnie and Small Package, another trio that plays early 20th-century blues and sings in Japanese.

Also appearing is the Lance Reegan-Diehl Band, a South Korea-based expat trio that has been described as "Yngwie Malmsteen meets Pink Floyd and Stevie

Ray-Vaughan."

The bands will partake in a one-day marathon of music. During the afternoon, each group will give a 10- to 15-minute performance as an outdoor showcase. The Dream Community will then hold a "blues parade," which leads into the featured event: the evening performances, where each band plays another 45-minute set in the community's newly built indoor theater and cafe.

As for blues music's reputation as "sad music," festivalgoers tomorrow will find the opposite. "It is music for losing your blues by dancing, partying and having a good time," says BoPoMoFo bandleader DC Rapier, who started Blues Bash in 2004. Burgers and beer will also be on sale throughout the day.

Expect an all-out performance from Kikuta, whose virtuosity and soulful expression has made him a Blues Bash favorite. On playing live, he shares the most valuable lesson he learned from Koko Taylor: "Always do your best, play like it's the last day ... play [truly] from your heart, and give it all to people."

— DAVID CHEN

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

OCT. 31 TO NOV. 6

- 1 Mayday (五月天) and *Poetry of the Day After* (後青春期的詩) with 33.75 %
- 2 Original soundtrack from *Cape No. 7* (海角七號) with 14.02%

- 3 Jay Chou (周杰倫) and *Capricorn* — *Deluxe Package* (魔杰座) with 6.28%
- 4 Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) and *Jam Hsiao* (蕭敬騰) with 3.98%
- 5 Shin (信) and *Planet Music* (集樂星球) with 2.61%

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

Theater

National Guo Guang Opera Company (國立國光劇團) revises its **Journey Through Hell** (闍維夢·天地一秀才), a Beijing Opera based on the classic Chinese novel of the same name written by Chen Yaxian (陳亞先). Guo Guang's Wang An-chi (王安祈) transforms the original work into a sumptuous performance that emphasizes the philosophical underpinnings of the original.

► National Theater, Taipei City

► Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm; tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing

Two love stories intersect in Off Performance Workshop's (外表演坊驕團) latest work **We'll Return Home This Morning to the End of the World** (今天早上我們回家·直到世界盡頭).

► Huashan Cultural and Creative Industry Center (華山創意文化園區), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)

► Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm; tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$500, 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** (六藝

幫). 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

► Sun Yat-sen Hall of National Sun Yat-sen University Art Center (高雄中山大學遠仙館), 70 Lienhai Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市蓮海路70號)

► Tonight at 7:30pm and tomorrow at 2:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing

The Little Matches Girl (賣番仔火的小女孩) by Taiyuan Puppet Theater Company (台原偶戲團), tells the story of a greedy grandmother who forces her granddaughter to work in a factory that makes matches. The girl befriends a little boy and together they discover that the matches are alive. One night, a disaster threatens the lives of both children and their match friends.

► Nadou Theater (納豆劇場), 79 Xining N Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧北路79號)

► Tomorrow at 3pm

► Tickets are NT\$200, available through NTCH ticketing

Lu Junyi (盧俊義) is a puppet performance by **I Wan Jan Puppet Troupe** (亦宛然掌中劇團) and is based on the character of the same name from the Chinese classic the *Water Margin* (水滸傳), who was renowned for his skills in martial arts.

► Guandu Arts Museum (關渡美術館 2樓), 1 Xueyan Rd, Taipei City (台北市北投區學園路1號)

► Tomorrow at 7:30pm; Sunday at 2:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing

Classical music

Ouyang Ling-yi and Su Meng-feng Cello and Guitar Duo Recital (歐陽伶宜·蘇孟風 ~ 大提琴與吉他二重奏), brings cellist Ouyang Ling-yi (歐陽伶宜), who graduated from the doctoral program in music from Michigan State University, East Lansing and Su Meng-feng (蘇孟風), a 2005 winner in the UFAM International Classical Guitar Competition, together in two concerts this week to perform a program that includes the Taiwan premiere of Ourkouzounov's *Tanzologia*, Falla's *Cinco Canciones Populares* and *Danza No.1*, Villa-Lobos' *Aria*, Gnatalli's *Sonata for Cello and Guitar*, and other works.

► Sunday at 2:30pm (Hsinchu) and Wednesday at 7:30pm (Taipei)

► 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); National Recital Hall, Taipei City

► Tickets are NT\$300 for the Hsinchu concert and NT\$300 to NT\$1,000 for Taipei, available through NTCH ticket outlets

Fly With the Wind — Masters With NSO Concert Series (名家與NSO的對話系列 — 記憶的風景) will feature the Austrian violinist Benjamin Schmid, who has been widely praised in both classical and jazz circles. The NSO will be led by guest conductor Adrian Leaper, who is currently director of the Spanish Radio TV Symphony Orchestra. The program will include Janacek's *Jealousy*, Wieniawski's *Violin Concerto No.2 in D Minor, Op.22*, and Mendelssohn's *Symphony No.3 in A Minor Op.56*.

► Today at 7:30pm

► National Concert Hall, Taipei City

► Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing

NSO Lecture Series — Bruckner Symphony No. 8 (NSO音樂學苑 — 布魯克納第八號交響曲) invites Charlie Yi-chang Chan (詹益昌), president of the Taichung Wagner Library, to introduce Bruckner's *Symphony No.8*.

► Tomorrow at 2pm

► National Recital Hall, Taipei City

► Tickets are NT\$200, available through NTCH ticketing

2008 NTSSO International Music Festival — Gewandhaus vs NTSSO (2008NTSSO國際音樂節系列 — 德國萊比錫布商大廈管絃樂團不管首席與國臺交) presents two concerts in which the National Taipei Symphony Orchestra (NTSO) performs together

with the Gewandhaus Woodwind Quintet. The program for tomorrow focuses on the music of Mendelssohn and that for Sunday will include music from Ligeti, Morzart, Nielsen and Strauss.

► Tomorrow (Taichung City) and Sunday (Taichung County) at 7:30pm

► National Taichung Library

Chungshing Concert Hall (台中市興堂), 291-3 Chingwu Rd, Taichung City (台中市精武路291之3號); NSO Recital Hall in Taichung (國立台灣交響樂團演奏廳), 738-2 Chungcheng Rd, Wufeng Township, Taichung County (台中縣霧峰鄉中正路738-2號)

► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500 for tomorrow; NT\$300 to NT\$800 for Sunday, available through NTCH ticketing

Indie-rockers **Silver Bus** and post-rock/folk-rock band **We Save Strawberries** (草莓救星) take to the stage tonight at the **The Wall** (這牆).

Tomorrow's show featuring German alt-pop singer **Maximilian Hecker** is sold out. Couldn't get tickets? Vent your frustrations on Sunday with metal bands **Nevermore**, **Hekate**, **EFTC** and **Infernal Chaos**. On Thursday pop-rock act **New Yorker** (紐約客) opens up for Taipei alt-rock favorites **Neon**.

► 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 visit www.the-wall.com.tw for more information

► Starts 8pm tonight and tomorrow; 7:30pm Sunday; 8pm Thursday

► NT\$400 tonight; tomorrow's show is sold out; NT\$350 on Sunday; NT\$300 on Thursday

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► NT\$400 tonight; tomorrow's show is sold out; NT\$350 on Sunday; NT\$300 on Thursday

Electronica-rock group **Bluevelvets** (藍絲絨) appear tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). Taking to the stage tomorrow is **Sirius Sharp** (天狼星口琴樂團), a group of virtuoso harmonica players that plays every genre, from classical to pop to blues. Indie-rockers **Feng Lai Fang** (風賴坊) appear on Thursday.

► 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

► Entrance fee for music shows is NT\$300, which includes one drink

Appearing tonight at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留言) is pan flute player **Eric Chang** (張中立). Indie-rockers **Feng Lai Fang** (風賴坊) and Taiwan's favorite anarchist indie rockers **LTK Commune** (濁水溪公社) appear tomorrow.

► 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 9:30pm tonight and 9pm tomorrow

► NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow