

POP  
STOP

**Faye Wong's** (王菲) domestic life may be about to get a little bit less domestic. The Chinese-language press is going ga-ga with rumors that the Hong Kong pop superstar is unloading her husband **Li Yapeng** (李亞鵬) and may have already signed divorce papers. When pressed by journalists, Wong's buddy **Na Xin** (那辛) refused to confirm or deny the rumors and reportedly acted shiftily.

The couple have been plagued with rumors of marital strife since almost as soon as they got hitched three years ago. This time the scuttlebutt focuses on Wong's recent miscarriage, which some say has made the 39-year-old reluctant to try for another baby. Li was also recently photographed holding hands with actress **Miao Pu** (苗圃), who angrily denied rumors of an affair. Meanwhile, Wong has recently been spotted window-shopping all by her lonesome self.

Wong may take some cold comfort in the fact that the troubled state of **Annie Yi** (伊能靜) and **Harlem Yu's** (庾澄慶) marriage continues to dominate the gossip pages. The *Liberty Times*, the *Taipei Times*'s sister paper, reported that Yu brought the couple's six-year-old son **Harry** (哈利) to Beijing in June in an effort to tug at his wayward wife's heartstrings and lure her back to Taiwan. According to an unnamed friend of Yu, the singer is a Leo and therefore obsessed with saving face. He was all too ready to believe Yi when she brushed off rumors of an affair with actor **Laurence Huang** (黃維德), who she'd been photographed walking hand-in-hand with, by exclaiming "he's gay!" (What is with all these celebrities and their public displays of extramarital hand-holding?)

Maybe it's not fair to call Yu naive — after all, another man his wife had been spotted with, former talent agency owner **Liu Tao** (劉鵬), did in fact turn out to be gay. Yu's confidence in his wife's fidelity began to waver, however, after a continuing blaze of news reports stated that Huang was not only straight, but also most likely fooling around with her. The *Liberty Times* reports that Yu had asked **Pace Wu** (吳佩慈) if the rumors were true after the



Top: Faye Wong, left, and Li Yapeng may be going the way of Madonna and Guy Ritchie. Above: Annie Yi's marital strife dominated gossip news this week.

PHOTOS: TAIPEI TIMES

model allegedly bumped into Yi and Huang during one of their not-so-clandestine trysts, but the model refused to answer.

The couple may have reached a temporary truce, however, reports the *United Daily News*. Yi has agreed to stay out of Taiwan and remain mum on the matter until the end of the year, not only to give her husband time to think things through, but also to let the media furor die down so that little Harry and Yu's mom, who has been taking care of the boy, can go about their daily routine unassaulted by paparazzi.

Yu and Yi's problems pale in comparison to those of the family of **Ivy Li** (黎礎寧), who came third in the third season of *One Million Star* (超級星光大道). The singer, who had only just turned 23 last month, killed herself on Nov. 12. The *Liberty Times* reports that Li had called her sister in Nantou to tell her she was feeling suicidal, but the cellphone connection had dropped and Li did not answer her sister's frantic phone calls afterwards. Her friends and family rushed to Taichung but found that Li had already passed out inside her car from carbon monoxide poisoning. She was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors were unable to revive her.

Gossip pages speculated that Li's despondency over the state of her relationship with Sinon Bulls starting pitcher **Oswaldo Martinez** (勇壯) had launched her into a state of depression. A friend of Li's defended the Dominican-born baseball player, however, saying that Li and Martinez had been broken up for a while and that the relationship probably had nothing to do with Li's suicide.

— COMPILED BY  
CATHERINE SHU

## TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

NOV. 11 TO NOV. 13

- 1 Rainie Yang (楊丞琳) and *Rainie's Proclamation — Not Yet a Woman* (半熟宣言) with 28.86 percent of sales
- 2 Mayday (五月天) and *Poetry of the Day After* (後青春期的詩) with 25.72%
- 3 Original sound track from *Cape No. 7* (海角七號) with 3.39%
- 4 Jay Chou (周杰倫) and *Capricorn — Deluxe Package* (魔杰座) with 2.6%
- 5 Genie Chuo (卓文萱) and *My Favorite Kind of Genie* (超級喜歡) with 2.57%



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

## Dance until the moon falls down

Some go bad. Others turn to drink. Many fall in love. Taiwan can do funny things to expats. While living here last year, Canadian singer/song-writer Shayne Lazarowich penned the sincere and down-to-earth *Dance Until the Moon Falls Down*.

Although it is a personal love song, "it is also about being here in Taiwan, all the beautiful things that I was blessed with, people I've known ... as well as many regrets, things that should have been ... things I should have, or should not have done. But that is life, here or anywhere else," Lazarowich says. "There ain't no turning back. In the end you're just left with the choice to love or not to love. I think it's always important to try to choose love."

*Come away with me tonight, my love  
I've got nowhere to hide and I've  
swallowed my pride  
I'll tell you everything that I've ever known  
I was wrong, but come along, let me  
sing you a song  
and we'll dance until the moon falls down*

These sentiments are much like those on his album *Spirit*, with its blend of blues, folk and country-influenced songs that are reminiscent of a bygone era but sung in an incredibly powerful, emotive voice.

Lazarowich is back on tour after a year in his hometown of Saskatoon and will be playing his final shows tonight and tomorrow in Taipei.

"I was only back here for a day and I realized why and how much I miss and love this place," says Lazarowich who learned guitar as a child at his uncle's knee and as a result was strongly influenced by blues and folk music. "He was from the Bob Dylan generation, which is a time that sometimes I wish I could have been born into," Lazarowich says of his uncle.

Lazarowich may be new to many in Taipei as he lived in Kaohsiung County for seven years, during which time he performed primarily in southern Taiwan. He says that while Taiwanese

audiences may not always understand his lyrics, "they are not as loud and drunk as foreigners, and are really attentive." Lazarowich also has "a Chinese song or two" but says "that's what I mean about spirit. If you can feel it, you can dig it. It's our spirit that makes us human, makes us real. It's not about language or religion, it's about a person's essence."

While on an early morning shoot for *Spirit* with photographer Steven Vigar, he ran into a group of Tibetan monks outside of a temple near Alian Township (阿蓮鄉), Kaohsiung County, which influenced the album's name.

"It was a really special moment. Some things transcend cultural boundaries, or nations, or what we do for a living, like spirit, like music," he says. The monks stopped to watch him play, and he was touched when he noticed that some of them "started clapping and moving their feet."

Lazarowich plays VU Live House tonight with Sons of Homer, who are perhaps more appreciative of a "loud and drunk" crowd, with songs like *Good, Good Lovin' HDAU*, which is about "doggie-style sex." "My intention with the song ... is to completely shock the listener into fits of 'I can't believe he just says that!'" says lead singer Brandon Thompson. Like Ween, Sons of Homer play a range of styles, from rock and country to reggae, funk, and soul, with a rocking, energetic show dominated by Thompson's exuberance.

Pat Reid from the Black Lung Inner City Choir will harmonize with Lazarowich, and The Dana Wylie Band will also be performing tonight.

Tomorrow Lazarowich's show at Bliss features Tyler Dakin and the Long Naked Bottles. The group does a "roots interpretation of country, R'n'B and ska," says Dakin. With Russell Picard using brushes on drums, and Roger Smith of The Moneyshot Horns on keyboards, the music has a spacey, down-home appeal.

— ALITA RICKARDS



Below: Canadian musician Shayne Lazarowich, left, entertains Tibetan monks outside of a temple near Alian Township, Kaohsiung County.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVEN VIGAR

## PERFORMANCE NOTES:

**WHAT:** Canadian country and folk musician Shayne Lazarowich concludes his tour of Taiwan this weekend with shows tonight and tomorrow in Taipei  
**TONIGHT:** VU Live House, B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1) with Sons of Homer, MC Rankin Kim of Pan Africana and guests Pat Reid and The Dana Wylie Band. From 10:30pm to 3am. Entry is NT\$250 and includes a drink  
**TOMORROW:** With Pat Reid, and Tyler Dakin and the Long Naked Bottles at Bliss, 148, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市信義路四段148號). From 10pm to 1:30am. NT\$200 cover  
**ON THE NET:** www.myspace.com/shaynelazarowich



## Out of the shadows

Akiko Yosano's *Midaregami* (Tangled Hair) caused a sensation when it was published early in the last century. Critics praised the Japanese poet's deft lyricism while women lauded its feminine themes, leading one later reviewer to call her the Mary Wollstonecraft of Japan.

Local poet and filmmaker Hung Hung (鴻鴻) revives the work this weekend at Guling Street Theater (牯嶺街小劇場) and will direct Yosano's words in a performance of music and acting. Billed as a shadow play, the show serves as the coda for this year's Taipei Poetry Festival (臺北詩歌節).

"Tangled hair," said Hung Hung, also the festival's curator. "It's a great image." In early 20th-century Japan the words "tangled hair" conjured up images of confusion, chaos and even madness. The phrase, however, is also an opaque reference to the state of a woman's hair after making love — a sense of freedom that in Yosano's deft hands grows to include the emancipation of women from a strict patriarchal society.

The "poetry performance," as Hung Hung calls it, also incorporates poetry written by Hakka poet Tu-pan Fang-ko (杜潘芳格) who, similar to Yosano, explores female independence in traditional societies.

Hung Hung's team of poets distilled Tu-pan's work into a piece that seeks to preserve the lyricism of the original while adding musical and theatrical elements



that visually highlight the original themes of "intimacy and [women's] complicated external situations."

The poetry for *Midaregami* is based on a script compiled and edited by local poet Hsia Hsia (夏夏) of *Poetry in a Matchbox* (火柴詩) fame and will be read by experimental theater actor Wu Kun-da (吳昆達). Two musicians will also perform live: accordion player Wang Yang-meng (王雁盟); and Wang Wen-hsuan (王文萱), who will play the samisen (a traditional Japanese three-stringed lute used to play folk music) to complement the spoken poetry and shadow puppetry. The shadow puppets were created by shadow puppet director Shih Pei-yu (石佩玉) of the Flying Group Theater (飛人集社劇團).

*Midaregami* will be performed tonight at 7:30pm and 9pm, tomorrow at 3:30pm, 5pm and 6:30pm and Sunday at 4pm and 5:30pm at Guling Street Theater (牯嶺街小劇場), 2, Ln 5, Guling St, Taipei City (台北市牯嶺街5巷2號). NT\$150 tickets are available through NTCH ticketing.

— NOAH BUCHAN



This year's Taipei Poetry Festival ends with *Midaregami*, a shadow play with music adapted from a book of poems by Japanese poet Akiko Yosano.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TAIPEI POETRY FESTIVAL

## Theater

**Human Condition** (人間條件), Green Ray Theater's (綠光劇團) newest play, centers on the life of a 17-year-old girl who rebels against her dysfunctional family's listless existence.

► Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號)  
► Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm; tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm  
► Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$3,000, available through NTCH ticketing

Directed by Chongtham Jayanta Meetei, EX-Theater Asia (亞洲戲團) will perform Indian writer Girish Karnad's play **Hayavadana**. The main plot follows the story of Hayavadana, a horse-headed man whose quest for wholeness underscores the play's exploration of identity and reality.  
► Eslite Bookstore, Tainan (台南誠品書店), B2, 181, Changjung St Sec 1, Tainan City (台南市長樂路一段181號B2)  
► Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm; Sunday at 2:30pm  
► Tickets are NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing

Blessed with a beautiful voice, a girl

moves to the city in search of her dreams in **Li'l Flora** (小花) by If Kid's Theater (如果兒童劇團). While working at a flower shop, Flora is "discovered" by a music executive who encourages her to be the ghost singer for an untalented but beautiful star. After accepting the offer, Flora finds it increasingly galling that the person receiving all the accolades is less talented than herself — a reality that gradually changes her idealistic personality.  
► Performing Arts Center of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Hsinchu County (新竹縣文化中心演藝廳), 146 Xianzheng 9th Rd, Jhupei City, Hsinchu County (新竹縣竹北市縣政九路146號)  
► Tomorrow at 10:30am, 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing

**On Fire** (黃番仔火的小女孩), 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 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

## Classical

**Soprano Violet Chang 2008 Solo Recital** (女高音張縷2008獨唱會) pairs Violet Chang (張縷) with pianist Norman Shetler to present a program of songs by Schubert, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Reger and Mahler.

► Tuesday at 7:30pm (Taichung) and Thursday at 7:30pm (Taipei)  
► Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中市中山堂), 98 Hsuehshih Rd, Taichung City (台中市學士路98號); Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂), 98 Yenping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號)  
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500 for both Taichung and Taipei, available through ERA ticketing

**Ju Percussion Group Winter Concert — Percussion Happens Daily** (朱宗慶打擊樂團冬季公演 — 擊樂進行式) features works by international composers including Emmanuel Sejourne, Eric Sammut, Gerard Leconte, Aurel Hollo,

Toshimitsu Tanaka and Chang Yu-hui (張玉慧) that were written specifically for the Ju Percussion Group.  
► Today at 7:30pm  
► National Concert Hall, Taipei City  
► Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,200, available through NTCH ticketing

**The Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra — Breaking the Dawn** (台北愛樂管弦樂團 — 馬勒交響之夜) brings to the stage guest conductor Andreas Delfs, who has recently completed an 11-year stint as the conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. He will lead the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra in performances of Mozart's *Symphony No.35 in D Major* and Mahler's *Symphony No.1*.  
► Today at 7:30pm (Hsinchu) and Sunday 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 Concert Hall, Taipei City  
► Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$1,500 for Hsinchu; NT\$500 to NT\$2,500 for Taipei, available through NTCH ticketing

**Music Forum 2008 Annual Concert** (十方樂集2008年度公演)

— **時空交擊** sees the percussion orchestra perform a program that includes the world premiere of Li Yuan-chen's (李元貞) *Ring* (鐘) and the Taiwanese premiere of Chang Chao-yan's (張超然) *Beyond the Boundary* (極限之外).  
► Tomorrow at 7:30pm  
► Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂), 98 Yenping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號)  
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$900, available through NTCH ticketing

## Contemporary

Hitting the stage tonight at **VU Live House** are folk singers **Pat Reid** and **Shane Lazarowich** and irreverent rockers **Sons of Homer**. [See story above.] Tomorrow evening it's the Squeeze Reggae Party with **Black Reign International** and guest singers **Sunny Smalls**, **P-\$Money**, **Ras Junior Alpha** and **Ice**.  
► 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 11pm tonight and tomorrow  
► NT\$250 tonight, includes one drink; NT\$400 tomorrow, includes two drinks

Alt-rock chanteuse **Faith Yang** (楊乃文) appears tonight at **The Wall** (這牆) for a concert titled **Selected 2008**. Indie-rock group **Bear Babes** (熊寶貝) takes to the stage tomorrow for the first in a four-show series called **Hunting Bears**. Those who attend all four shows can trade in their ticket stubs for an upcoming DVD documentary on the band. Visit the band's Web site at [bearbabes.idv.tw](http://bearbabes.idv.tw) for more details. On Sunday, Brit-pop band **Bitter, The Blue Velvets** (藍絲絨) and **Johnny and Eeyore** are scheduled to perform.  
► 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](http://www.the-wall.com.tw) for more information  
► Starts at 8:30pm tonight (doors open at 8pm); 8pm tomorrow and Sunday  
► NT\$900 tonight; NT\$400 tomorrow; NT\$300 on Sunday

**Tango Negro**, which plays accordion music inspired by Argentinean tango composer Astor Piazzolla, performs tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). Tomorrow it's the soft folk and bossa nova sounds of **Sheyuti** (徐幼庭) and her signature pink guitar, backed by a second guitarist and bassist. Indie singer

**Huang Pei-yu** (黃培育) plays afterwards.  
► 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](http://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, includes one drink

Funk, rock and blues instrumentals take center stage at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留言) tonight with a group of session musicians: bass player **Brain Chiu** (邱培榮); guitarist **Mike McLaughlin**; drummer **Chiang Yong-cheng** (姜永正), aka **Douzi** (豆子); and **Fen-da** (勞達) on keyboard. Young Mando-pop talent **A-bin** (方炯鑌) performs tomorrow night.  
► 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](http://www.riverside.com.tw) for more information  
► Shows start at 9pm tonight and tomorrow  
► NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow