



Stanley Huang is Taiwan's reigning bad boy.

PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

The fallout from actress **Annie Yi's** (伊能靜) reported affair with fellow thespian and hot stud **Laurence Huang** (黃維德) continued this week, when Eastern Media Group's Shopping Channel (東森購物) terminated its contract with the disgraced star and demanded NT\$16 million from her in compensation.

The channel's spokesperson said the company's public image had been damaged by Yi's alleged transgression, namely, the tarnishing of her image as the devoted wife of singer **Harlem Yu** (庾澄慶) and loving mother of their six-year-old son, which were the main reasons why the company chose her to endorse its skin-care products in the first place.

The message, it seems, is that while it might be OK for male celebrities to play away, monogamy is the only option for female stars who want to safeguard their celebrity status and economic success.

Following in the footsteps of his action hero father **Jackie Chan** (成龍), **Jaycee Chan** (房祖名) continues to add to his reputation as the Lothario par excellence of his generation, having been romantically associated with celebrity belles such as pop singers **Elva Hsiao** (蕭亞軒), **Fish Leong** (梁靜茹), **Penny Tai** (戴佩妮) and **Gillian Chung** (鍾欣桐).

Next magazine reports that Junior's tastes have changed and that he now favors long-legged models like **Huang Ching-li** (黃景嫻), whom he was spotted with on his birthday on Wednesday at Taipei's Joyce Cafe and, later that evening, the nightclub Primo.

What surprised the

paparazzi even more, however, was how much the son's mother, **Joan Lin** (林鳳嬌), has aged. Lin married Jackie Chan some 20 years ago when her career as a movie superstar was at its peak, then promptly retired from public life.

Judging from a snapshot taken on Wednesday and printed in the magazine, Lin looks exactly like your typical 55-year-old housewife, rather than an aging celebrity who relies on Botox to maintain her looks.

Speaking of bad boys, American-born Taiwanese singer **Stanley Huang** (黃立行) beat out Hong Kong's **Edison Chen** (陳冠希) for the title of hottest bad-boy singer, according to the poll conducted by Yahoo! Taiwan at tw.music.yahoo.com/poll/list.html. Gossip-mongers attribute the heartthrob's success in this area to his album *We All Lay Down in the End* (最後只好躺下來), which was released earlier this month. Huang's music is regarded as a fine piece of sultry work and is loaded with suggestive lyrics such as, "I want to strip you, exploit you, suck you and thrust you. I want to torture you."

Local actress and television host **Pink Yang** (楊千霽) is attracting the media's attention with her debut on the high society scene. Pictures from Yang's blog show that the 26-year-old star spent five days dining, sightseeing and debauching in London with **Huo Qiren** (霍啓人) and his wealthy young friends at the end of last month. Huo — who reportedly had a girlfriend — is the 21-year-old scion of a Hong Kong family worth a reported NT\$80 billion.

Male members of the Huo clan are known for their high-profile affairs with famous women. Big brother **Kenneth Huo** (霍啓剛) has been going steady with top Chinese athlete **Guo Jingjing** (郭晶晶), and second brother **Huo Qishan** (霍啓山) dated **Zhang Ziyi** (章子怡), before the superstar moved on to Israeli capitalist **Vivi Nevo**. Now it's a Taiwanese girl's turn to have a go.

— COMPILED BY HO YI

Annie Yi is paying dearly for her alleged affair.

PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

Since 1988, the National Theater has played host to the New Idea Theater Festival (新點子劇展), which features a selection of the best local experimental theater. The 2008 incarnation of this event opens today with a production of *Liou Ching-ti's Hell* (劉青提的地獄) by the Taiwan Bangzi Company (台灣豫劇團), directed by Malaysian-born Fu Hung-cheng (符宏征). This will establish the theme of the festival, which runs to Dec. 28 and includes two other productions that are also experiments based on traditional opera styles.

This theme of variations on tradition is highly appropriate for a year that has seen an almost unprecedented number of large-scale productions that sought to give new life to traditional theater with an infusion of contemporary or Western blood.

"In the last two or three years, we have hoped that groups can find a path that leads from the traditional arts to something new," said Liu Chiung-shu (劉瓊淑), artistic director of the CKS Cultural Center (國立中正文化中心). Tonight's performance is based on Henan opera, also called *bangzi* (梆子). The second production in the series draws from the traditions of *nanguan* (南管) and *beiguan* (北管), and the final production takes *qun* (崑) opera as its point of departure.

The transfusion of new elements into a centuries-old tradition is a dangerous business, and over the last few years several very high-profile productions have barely survived the operation. With such bold experimentation it is often advisable to start small and, if nothing else, the shorter running times of these productions, which are to be staged in the National Theater's Experimental Theater, will certainly make them more easily digestible for audiences.

A string of directors, producers and actors interviewed in recent years have all commented on the richness of the Chinese operatic tradition and the many



How new is New Idea?

— IAN BARTHOLOMEW

Ethan Chen Production House's *The Drought Goddess* puts a new spin on the *nanguan* and *beiguan* performance traditions.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NTCH

High Tide rides the wave

No one was more taken aback at the outcome of this year's ICRT Battle of the Bands than the winners themselves: "We were really surprised because we had technical difficulties, our gear broke on stage ..." said Moshe Foster, lead singer for reggae band High Tide, which plays tomorrow night at VU Livehouse in Ximending.

"Shit had a whack attack!" added trombone player Andy Francis. "Despite that, we engaged the crowd, we had little kids up and dancing," said Bassist Mike Tennant.

Since the win they've been getting airtime at ICRT; this week they are being played three times a day.

"Look at ICRT's playlist," said Foster. "What are the chances of ever hearing music like that if we hadn't won? We thought we were the underdogs, it's not what the programmers are telling us people want to hear."

DJ Saucey will be joining them

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: High Tide with special guests Blood Orange and DJ Saucey

WHEN: Tomorrow from 8pm

WHERE: VU Livehouse, 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

TICKETS: NT\$350 includes one drink and entrance to the Inner City Life Dub party, which follows at 11pm with DJs Mixer T, Coffeept, Soul Basic and Juni

tomorrow for the early show at VU, playing between the sets and also doing live dub with the band, adding delays and effects to the percussion. Guest artist Richie Partridge, formerly of Massive Attack, will be jamming with them on percussion as well.

Also playing is Blood Orange, an instrumental band that is garnering a small but devoted following. "The basis of the music is punk," said trumpet player Charles McHale, with elements of experimental 1960s jazz and bossanova interludes. "There's a lot of hard, fast changes and jumps. Without a vocalist it allows the music to shift more quickly," said McHale.

High Tide plays a more modern version of reggae: "Instead of playing traditional roots reggae beat, the one-drop, we might do a 4/4 beat, something you hear more in dance music," said Foster. "[We] can go from a dub beat to a dance beat and all the instruments sequentially converge on a melody and a counter-melody. We'll do that for 15 seconds and dump it all back into a slow dub beat."

Tennant credits Hide Tide's unique sound to their experience playing in other bands: "We all have other influences so we bring that in, we want to play it with our own personalities and styles. There's a conservative mindset



From left: Charles McHale, Kader Bellahouel, Jubba van Wyk and Tony da Silva Medeiros of Blood Orange.

PHOTO: ALITA RICKARDS

about what a reggae band should look and sound like. We're just guys who like reggae and love to play it."

"We don't have dreadlocks, we're not Rastafarians," Foster said. "Reggae is the old rebel music, playing for the underdog, for the things you believe in, truth. It's not a corporate mainstream right-wing thing, but the idea that truth will outlive these systems of control."

— ALITA RICKARDS

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

NOV. 28 TO DEC. 4

- 1 Mayday (五月天) and *Poetry of the Day After* (後青春期的詩) with 31.67%
- 2 Judy Chiang (江蕙) and *Jia Ni Lan Lao Lao* (甲你攞牢牢) with 11.74%

- 3 Yida Huang (黃義達) and *Dedicated to Myself* (給自己的歌) with 9.29%
- 4 Original sound track from *Cape No. 7* (海角七號) with 3.53%
- 5 Jing Huang (黃靖倫) and *Jing-Jing's Note* (倫語錄) with 3.48%

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



Theater

The Taipei National University of the Arts' (國立台北藝術大學) theater department will stage two short plays: **For All Time**, a one-act play by Rita Wellman that tells the tragic tale of a group of women dealing with loss; and an adaptation of Rainer Werner Fassbinder's **Bremer Freiheit**, which is based on the life of 19th-century serial killer Giesecke Gottfried.

► Taipei National University of the Arts — Performing Arts Center (國立台北藝術大學展演藝術中心戲劇廳), 1, Xueyuan Rd, Beitou Dist, Taipei City (台北市北投區學園路1號)

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

► Tickets are NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing

The Jester (弄臣) is a Beijing opera adapted from Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*, which was based on a play Victor Hugo depicting the escapades of Francis I of France. [See story on Page 13.]

► Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Sungshou S Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)

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

► Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through ERA ticketing

Oracle (神諭) by Shine-House Theater (曉劇場) draws from Chinese mythology to tell the tale of a mother who beseeches a priest to help her ailing son. The boy's behavior, however, prompts the priest to refuse and leads the woman on a journey to find a cure.

► Huashan Culture Park (華山文化園區), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)

► Today, tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm and tomorrow and Sunday

at 2:30pm

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

Classical music

Anne Sofie von Otter and Her Merry Swedish Gentlemen (范歌塔與瑞典室內樂團) brings the highly regarded and versatile Swedish mezzo-soprano to Taipei for a concert with a Christmas theme. The program includes traditional hymns such as Bach's *Jesus, Joy of Men's Desiring* to songs such as *Baby Plays Around* by Elvis Costello, with whom Von Otter collaborated on the *For the Stars* album in 2001.

► Today at 7:30pm

► National Concert Hall, Taipei City

► Tickets from NT\$1,200 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing

NSO Young Maestro — Dancing Bohemia (NSO 發現未來大師系列 — 炫舞波西米亞) has the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) performing under the baton of guest conductor Christoph Campestini. The concert highlights the work of Dvorak, performing his *Symphony No. 8 in G-Major, Op. 88*. It will also feature the NSO's principle trombonist, Sung Kuang-ching (宋光瀾), in a performance of Tomasi's *Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra*. The concert will be rounded off with Brahms's *Akademische Frestouverture, Op. 80*.

► Sunday at 7:30pm

► National Concert Hall, Taipei City

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

Chang Chin-chuang Piano Recital (張欽全vs超技巧練習曲) brings the talented young pianist Chang Chin-chuang (張欽全) to the stage to

perform the technically demanding *Etudes d'Execution Transcendante* by Franz Liszt. The program also includes the composer's *Sonata in B Minor*.

► Tuesday at 7:30pm

► National Concert Hall, Taipei City

► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,000, available through ERA ticketing

An Exploration of the FORMOSA III — Contemporary Taiwanese Composers (探索福爾摩沙 — 台灣當代作曲家系列III) is a showcase of works by Taiwanese composers spanning both traditional arts and Western classical music.

► Tomorrow at 7:30pm

► National Recital Hall, Taipei City

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

Contemporary

Both established and aspiring Taiwanese pop musicians perform regularly at **EZ5 Live House**. This homey pub and restaurant on Anhe Road is one of the few places where people actually turn off their cell phones and listen attentively to the performers, with the clientele ranging from taxi drivers to prominent politicians. The venue hosts three different singers every night.

Recommended acts include beloved female crooner **Tiger Huang** (黃小琥), who does two sets every Monday, and **Julia Peng** (彭佳慧), who appears on Tuesdays.

► 211, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段211號). Call (02) 2738-3995 or visit www.ez5.com.tw for more information

► Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am

► Entrance fees vary, between NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer. Best to call venue for exact

Highlight

Wu Bai (伍佰) and his band China Blue appear tomorrow night at the Core Pacific Mall's Party Room. The nation's "King of Rock," revered by fans across generations and throughout the Chinese-speaking world, released a new album last month entitled *Spacebomb* (太空彈). Having played countless tours across Asia, Wu Bai practically wrote the book on Mando-rock with his band, which has performed and recorded with him since the early 1990s. Also a talented songwriter, he has penned for Mando-pop stars such as Andy Lau (劉德華) and Karen Mok (莫文蔚). Tomorrow's show is back-to-basics for the esteemed rocker, who chose Party Room for its small club vibe as opposed to a stadium show. Tonight's show is the fourth in a



Wu Bai, second left, and his band China Blue appear tomorrow night at Party Room in support of their new album, *Spacebomb*.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT MUSIC

five-weekend run that concludes on Saturday next week.

► Wu Bai (伍佰) and China Blue live at Party Room, Core Pacific Mall (京華城), 12F, 138, Bade Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市八德路四段138號12樓)

► Tomorrow night and Saturday next week at 9pm

► Tickets are NT\$900, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.tickets.com.tw; also available at the door. Ticket price includes one drink, no assigned seating

fees; includes two drinks

Tonight at **VU Live House** it's the Hard Fast and Heavy Show with **Into the Void**, a Black Sabbath tribute band, followed by New Zealand DJ **Ting**. Tomorrow **High Tide** celebrates its victory at ICRT's battle of the bands with a special show with post-punks **Blood Orange** and **DJ Saucey** (see story above). The festivities continue late-night with drum 'n' bass from DJs **Coffeept**, **Mixer-T**, **Soul Basic** and **Juni**.

► 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

► 11pm tonight; 8pm tomorrow for the bands and 11pm for the DJs

► NT\$250 tonight; NT\$350 for tomorrow's first show and NT\$250 for the late show; all admission prices include one drink

Tonight **The Wall** hosts a high-energy evening fueled by funk, rock and punk sounds from **Funky Brothers** (放克兄弟), **DidaCat**, **Clockworker** (發條人) and headliners **Si Zong Bu** (肆總部). Tomorrow the venue hosts Amnesty International Taiwan's Music for Human Rights show, with **White Eyes** (白目), **Aphasia** (阿飛西雅), **Lin Sheng-xiang** (林生祥) and **Ken Ohtake** (大竹研), **LTK Commune** (灣水溪公社), **Kou Chou Chung** (痞秋勤) and **Chang Jui-chuan** (張睿鈺) (see story on Page 15). The evening continues late into

the night with the Kings and Queens Reggae Party, featuring **Black Reign International Sound** and **Marcus Aurelius** [see Vinyl Word].

► 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

► 7:30pm tonight; 6pm tomorrow for the Amnesty International show and 11:30pm for the reggae show

► NT\$400 tonight; the Amnesty International Show is NT\$500 in advance (tickets are available at the venue) or NT\$600 at the door; Kings and Queens Reggae Party is NT\$350

Folk rocker **Deserts Chang** (張懸) appears tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). Chang used to work as the sound engineer at the venue and now plays to sold-out crowds on the alt-rock circuit.

Get there early for a seat. Tomorrow night it's indie-electronica group **Orange Doll** (橘娃娃) and neo-folk singer/guitarist **Enno Cheng** (鄭宜農).

► 7, Ln 56, Xincheng 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, includes one drink

Tonight at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留聲) there's funk, rock, and fusion jazz with **Yellow Funky Stuff**, featuring Japanese guitarist **Eiji Kadota** and drummer **Toshi Fujii**. Tomorrow **The Clippers** (夾子) return with a new lineup, but expect the same irreverent humor and bastardized Taiwanese

rock and nakasi music conceived by singer, actor and band mastermind **Xiao Ying** (小應).

► 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

► 9:30pm tonight; 9pm tomorrow

► NT\$400 cover charge includes one drink

Jazz Your Mind happens at **Sappho de Base** tonight. **Blues Vibrations** play blues, surf rock and jam band music tomorrow. The **Sappho Jazz Band** performs Tuesday, with an open jam afterwards. **The Chris Stiles Jazz Trio** appears on Wednesday, and the **Dafu Jazz Trio** plays on Thursday.

► B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號B1). Call (02) 2700-5411 (after 9pm) or visit www.sappho102.biz for more information

► Performances begin at 10:30pm on weekends, 10pm on weekdays

► No admission fee

Tonight at **Tone 56 Live Bar**, it's house band **Loaded**, which plays everything from "rock classics to today's hits." Tomorrow **Soma** plays rock and pop covers. Talking to the stage on Sunday are **The Blues Vibrations**, playing feel-good blues and surf-rock.

► 1F, 56, Minquan E Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市民權東路三段56號1樓), near the corner of Fuxing North (復興北) and Minquan East (民權東) roads

Call (02) 2517-3869 for more information

► Music shows go from 9:30pm to 12:30am tonight and tomorrow; 7:30pm to 9:30pm on Sunday

► No admission fee