

# POP STOP



The Hong Kong gossip rags' obsessive watch over the contents of **Carina Lau's** (劉嘉玲) uterus continued unabated over the Lunar New Year holiday. The actress was spotted carrying two big shopping bags from children's clothing stores, including Baby Dior, and stopping at a bookstore to look for parenting manuals and children's picture books.

*Singtao Daily* (星島日報) wondered if Lau was building a layette for her future spawn, even though it appears that her superstar husband **Tony Leung** (梁朝偉) has yet to impregnate her. The newspaper speculated hopefully that Lau was indulging her baby fever — but pragmatically admitted that she might have been buying holiday presents for the two young daughters of her best friend, fellow Hong Kong star **Faye Wong** (王菲).

Also getting her bump watched over the holidays, but for completely different reasons, was Golden Horse-winning actress **Loletta Lee** (李麗珍, also known as Rachel Lee), who in the 1990s was dubbed the "sex goddess of Hong Kong cinema" because of her penchant for disrobing on-screen.

But now the 44-year-old actress's taut hourglass figure has allegedly become so distorted by the ravages of age that it makes one want to cry, sighs *Oriental Sunday* (東方新地). Lee was spotted on the street by a photographer, looking so frumpy in a sweater and horn-rimmed glasses that it made the magazine nostalgic for her naked past.

Unflattering sweater aside, Pop Stop thinks Lee looked just fine in the paparazzi shots (if a little annoyed). There is no reason to make the woman neurotic about her weight. Speaking of neurosis, Taiwanese pop singer and heartthrob **Jam Hsiao** (蕭敬騰) had the unfortunate experience of discovering his latent claustrophobia during a recent flight to the US. Hsiao, who the press dubbed the "New King" after just three appearances on *One Million Star* (超級星光大道) propelled him to pop fame, was traveling to Los Angeles to

Even though she's yet to be officially impregnated, **Carina Lau's** offspring is already famous. PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

take voice classes.

On previous flights in economy class, Hsiao would settle in and go straight to sleep, his manager told reporters, but on this flight he had upgraded to pricier seats that give each passenger a small, private cabin of space — and as a result became anxious and fidgety. A full-scale panic attack was averted, however, by a mid-flight showing of *Mamma Mia*.

Call us cynical, but Pop Stop thinks that the only reason his manager gave the public a glimpse into Hsiao's newly-uncovered phobia is to make the famously bashful singer seem even more cuddly to his legions of female fans, who no doubt have plenty of ideas about how they would calm the tall, chisel-jawed, raven-haired crooner the next time he finds himself stuck in a tight, secluded space.

Also feeling the squeeze, but financially speaking, is Taiwanese actress **Shu Qi** (舒淇). The push-lipped vixen told Xinhua News Agency (新華通訊社) that she has cut her wage demands by 30 percent in response to the dearth of offers since the global economic crisis hit. Some of Shu's peers are following suit, including Hong Kong actress and singer **Josie Ho** (何超儀), who disclosed that her earnings for her last job consisted of a *hong bao* with a token amount tucked inside. But Ho may not have to tighten her purse strings as much as other starlets — her daddy is casino magnate and billionaire **Stanley Ho** (何鴻燊).

The credit crunch has forced consumers all around the world to cut back on luxuries and instead find pleasure in simple things, including, it would appear, Mando-pop singer **Fish Leong** (梁靜茹). The Malaysian songstress was spotted by our sister newspaper, the *Liberty Times* (自由時報), when she went out for a sushi lunch in Xinyi District with her paramour, the press shy, bespectacled gentleman known to gossip rags as just "Tony."

At one point during the meal, the *Liberty Times'* intrepid spy saw Leong excitedly hand a tissue to her beau and exclaim, "I got this pack of really nice tissues, they are *beyond* soft. See for yourself." The smitten Tony plucked the delicate sheet from Leong's slender fingers and tenderly dabbed his mouth with it before going back to making goo-goo eyes at his ladylove. Simple pleasures, indeed.

— COMPILED BY CATHERINE SHU



## On your mark, get set ...

Some thirst for the excitement of dodging fireworks at the Beehive Firecracker Festival (鹽水蜂炮) in Tainan County's Yenshui Township, while others risk severe burning at ceremonies like Taitung's Bombing of Master Han Dan (炸寒單). But for the past seven years, Lize Village (利澤村) in Ilan County (宜蘭縣) has been holding a safer activity for Lantern Festival, though one that's retained the celebratory atmosphere.

Known as the God's Sedan Chair Race (走尪), the two-day competition, which begins on Sunday, takes place every year on the 15th day of the first Lunar month on Lize's Old Street (利澤老街), located in the heart of Wuchieh Village.

"It's the only competition of its kind in Taiwan," said Wang Chang-fu (王長福), head of the Lize Community Development Association (利澤社區發展協會).

The competition sees teams of four race a palanquin, made with a chair affixed to two bamboo poles, 120m down Lize's old street. Last year 55 teams competed for the NT\$30,000 prize, and organizers expect as many or more competitors this year.

The local government and the Temple of Eternal Peace (永安宮), located at the far end of Old Street, jointly run the competition. And though the temple's name evokes images of serenity and bliss, the ritual's history is less than peaceful.

Wang said the race began as a procession devoted to Mazu (媽祖) more than 200 years ago. Villagers believed that worshipping the goddess could help banish evil spirits and prevent disease. The sedan race developed into a competition between nearby villages at the end of the Qing Dynasty and continued into the Japanese colonial period.

But what began as a friendly contest soon led to fierce rivalry between the villages. "There were intense disputes over which team was first past the post because

there was no accurate way of measuring who crossed the finish line first," Wang said.

Arguments and fisticuffs prompted local officials to suspend the sport indefinitely.

In 2000 the local government resurrected the event to boost tourism. To avoid any disputes, Wang said, they began using laser technology similar to that used at sports competitions to accurately determine the winner.

The two-day event also features a number of carnivalesque activities and concludes with teams engaging in a fire-walking (過火) ritual. Those wanting to catch the official ceremony on Sunday are advised to leave early as it begins at 8:30am. — NOAH BUCHAN

### PERFORMANCE NOTES:

**WHAT:** God's Sedan Chair Race (走尪)

**WHERE:** Lize's Old Street (利澤老街) in front of the Temple of Eternal Peace (永安宮), 26 Lize St, Lize Village, Wuchieh Township, Ilan County (宜蘭縣五結鄉利澤村利澤路26號)

**WHEN:** Sunday and Monday

**GETTING THERE:** Kamalan Bus (葛瑪蘭汽車客運, tel: 0800-220-899) runs several buses to Luodong (羅東) from its depot next to Taipei Main Station. Take the Taipei-Luodong bus and get off at the Luodong bus station. Traveling time is approximately one hour. The temple is a 15-minute taxi ride from the Luodong bus station

**ON THE NET:** 2009wujich.emmm.tw (in Chinese)



Dave Feldberg in disc golf action.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INNOVA DISC GOLF

### Highlight

This weekend, Taipei's Huachung Bridge Sports Park (台北市華中橋運動公園) on the banks of the Xindian River (新店溪) will be the venue for the Disc Golf Asia Open Tournament. Organized under the auspices of the Asia Disc Golf Association and featuring guests such as 2008 World Champion Dave Feldberg, the competition is the first major disc golf event to be held in Taipei. Competitors

from Australia, Sweden, Japan and South Korea will compete for glory. Players will meet today at 1pm at the park for a trial run. The competition starts tomorrow and finishes Sunday. Competition will take place in three categories: the open category has 51 competitors; the seniors (over 50) category 18; and the women's category six. More information about this weekend's competition can be found at www.ezflyingdiscs.com.tw (Chinese) and detailed information about disc golf at www.innovadiscs.com.



Lize Village in Ilan County celebrates Lantern Festival with the God's Sedan Chair Race.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAWRENCE CHANG

### Frankfurt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Ulrich Janetzki, head of the Literary Colloquium Berlin, runs an organization that seeks to foster new German literature and, in an effort to promote it internationally, develop translation talent as well.

In Janetzki's view, translation gives access to unique elements in other cultures, and it is the unique voice that is the essence of literature. "Reality is not the sum of facts, but the sum of possibilities ... It is a kind of reality that we did not know yet," Janetzki said. It is translation that gives access to these other possibilities, and the Colloquium provides opportunities for translators to have an intimate association with the world that they are trying to interpret through residency and exchange programs. In regard to Taiwan's promotion of its authors, he suggested "that you [need to] find good translators for this special Taiwanese literature. You have to invite them to Taipei or other towns to connect them to the author. Let's talk to them. Let's understand what he means. Then he can make the connection. All the countries that are successful with their literature do it in this way."

"You have to send your authors to other countries," Janetzki said, without hesitation when asked about promoting literature. "You need translations and you need readings. This is how to make it successful ... You need participation in book fairs. For the first time, we will present three Taiwanese authors at the Leipzig Buchmesse [March 12 through March 15]. This will make them well-known, maybe make them famous. We translate them, we present them and connect them."

Janetzki believes strongly in getting authors out in front of the crowd, interacting with their readership. Leipzig Buchmesse will be a test, as authors such as Egoyan (伊格言), who represents a new generation of Taiwanese modernists, and Hung Hung (鴻鴻), an active figure in Taiwan's theater and poetry scene, have been invited to attend.

With greater exposure to Chinese-language literature, Janetzki said German readers now wanted to know about the regional variations in Chinese literature. "We are more and more interested to know if it comes from Taiwan, or from the north, south, west or east of China. It makes a difference."

In line with Janetzki's emphasis on presenting authors to the public, the German Pavilion will offer a rich program of readings and discussions during the exhibition. Janetzki himself will provide an introduction to German writers and literature today at 12:40pm, and other authors to be featured will include the prolific young German author Juli Zeh and writer-musician Jan Böttcher. To highlight the fact that books are not just about words, there will also be a display of manual printing techniques by print artist Guido Hafner and a display of work by illustrator Wolfgang Nocke. A similar menu of readings, talks and lectures will also be presented by other specially featured nations: Thailand, France and the US.



### BOOK FAIR:

**WHAT:** 2009 Taipei International Book Exhibition (2009 台北國際書展)

**WHEN:** Until Monday

**WHERE:** Exhibition Halls One, Two and Three of the Taipei World Trade Center

**OPENING HOURS:** 10am to 10pm today, tomorrow and Sunday, 10am to 6pm Monday

**ADMISSION:** NT\$100, NT\$50 after 6pm

**ON THE NET:** www.tibe.com.tw

### Classical music

**35th Yamaha Junior Original Concert (第35屆山葉兒童創作曲發表會)** is a concert for child composers and performers. Performances will be on piano or Electone, as solo performances or with orchestral or choral accompaniment. More information about this international event for children can be found at www.yamahakhs.com.  
 ▶ Tomorrow at 7pm  
 ▶ Social Affairs Bureau, Kaohsiung City Government Senior Citizen's Service Center (高雄長青綜合服務中心), 51 Siwei 2nd Rd, Lingya Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市苓雅區四維二路51號)  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$150, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

▶ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

**Between Yu-Ying & Ya-Hsin — Another Night with the E1002 Percussion Duo (E1002擊樂二重奏又一夜 — 青瑛雅心擊樂Duo之夜)** presents percussionists Chang Yu-ying (張育瑛) and Cheng Ya-hsin (鄭雅心) performing a program that includes Jan van Landeghem's *Sohum and Shakti*, Andy Pape's *CaDance*, Emmanuel Sejourne's *Departure* and Bach's *French Style Overture in C Minor*.  
 ▶ Wednesday at 7:30pm  
 ▶ National Recital Hall, Taipei City  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

### Theater

The **Fei-Yang Folk Dance Group (飛揚民族舞團)** from Tainan City has prepared a series of classical Chinese dance performances for its nationwide tour, which will visit Kaohsiung, Tainan, Taipei and other cities.  
 ▶ 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 7:30pm  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$200 and NT\$300,



available through NTCH ticketing

The long-defunct Taiwan Walker Theater (台灣暹克劇團) is making a comeback with **Popular Music (音樂怕比樂)**, written and directed by Chen Amou (陳梅毛). The love story combines comedy with "sadcore," a rarely used term for downbeat alternative rock, to create a new kind of theater Walker Theater calls "comsadcure."  
 ▶ Comedy Club, B1, 24 Taihsun St, Taipei City (台北市泰順街24號B1).  
 ▶ Today, tomorrow and Sunday at 8pm  
 ▶ NT\$300 for admission and one drink, available at the door or through tickets.books.com.tw

New talents from the **Youth Peking Opera Troupe of Beijing (北京京劇院青年團)** team up with seasoned Taiwanese artists to perform a series of Peking opera classics, including *Si Lang Seeks His Mother* (四郎探母) and *The Jewelry Pouch* (鎖麟囊).  
 ▶ Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號)  
 ▶ Feb. 12 at 7:30pm  
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$5,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

### Contemporary

The sounds of reggae and ska fill **VU Live House** tomorrow night with **Uli and the Rulers and Skaraoke**, followed by New Zealand DJ **Ting**. [See story on Page 15.]  
 ▶ B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Tel: (02) 2314-1868  
 ▶ Begins at 11pm tonight  
 ▶ Admission is NT\$350, and includes one drink

Alt-rock songstress **Sandee Chen** (陳珊妮) plays a sold-out show tonight at **The Wall (這牆)**. On Sunday a host of indie groups take to the stage, including **Abay** (鄭煥隆), who sings ballads accompanied by acoustic guitar, harmonica and flute, post-rock flavored trio **Orangegrass** (橙草), garage rockers **The White Eyes** (白目) and Kaohsiung punks **FireX** (滅火器).  
 ▶ 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.thewall.com.tw for more information  
 ▶ Tomorrow and Sunday at 8pm  
 ▶ Admission is NT\$660 tomorrow (sold out), NT\$500 on Sunday

Jazzy/bluesy act **Kukao** (鼓號大樂隊) takes to the stage tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). Tomorrow night it's acoustic group **Passiwali** (巴西瓦里), led by Amis singer-songwriter **Chalaw** (查勞). On Thursday **WeiBird** (韋禮安)

an up-and-coming singer-songwriter, presents a set of soul pop material with his backing band.  
 ▶ 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, includes one drink

Local jazz combo **Delta on the Main Street** appear tonight at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留言). A relatively new Mando-pop singer on the block, **Lan Yu-shi** (藍又時) performs tomorrow night. Canadian/UK roots and folk outfit **The Dana Wylie Band** and indie rockers **Neon** take to the stage on Wednesday 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 for more information  
 ▶ Shows start at 9:30pm tonight and 9pm tomorrow, Wednesday's show begins at 9pm  
 ▶ NT\$400 for admission and one drink tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 admission on Wednesday