# 14 發光的城市

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009 • TAIPEI

#### AROUND TOWN

#### The Dragon King doesn't have time for Shu Qi PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMI

The biggest news this week is the imminent breakup of the nine-year marriage between Harlem Yu (庾澄慶) and Annie Yi (伊能 靜). This has been building for some time after Yi was caught on camera in China holding hands with Victor Huang (黄 維德) in November last year. It may simply have been the last straw to something bigger behind the scenes, judging from leaks about married life in the Yu household that emerged this week. After the couple spent a strained Lunar New Year holiday in Hokkaido, Yi has stated that the relationship is beyond saving, and all that remains is to complete the paperwork. Yu has neither confirmed nor denied this, refusing to discuss the affair with the media

The couple have kept relatively quiet since November when the incident with Huang emerged, but now with things coming to a head the rumor mill is working overtime. Yi is reported, in the Apple Daily, to have told friends that she was "never accepted into the Yu household," and that her relationship with Yu's mother and sisters had always been difficult. She is reported to have said that Yu, as a filial son, had always taken his mother's side in arguments. To add insult to injury, Huang has scooted off to China to finish work on the TV series Three Kingdoms (三國), and has been widely reported to have patched things up with his former girlfriend Hsiao Lu (小陸).

To get to the nub of the issue, Apple Daily interviewed fortune-teller Lin Chen-yi (林眞邑), who has revealed that Yi is unlikely to have much luck either in love or work this year. Her advice: the outlook improves toward the end of 2011

Shu Qi's (舒淇) romantic prospects also look far from rosy, and she too has sought mystical assistance. Last week she went to visit the White Dragon King (白龍王), a spiritual adviser, in Thailand. (Internet rumor has it that the WDK was an electrician or possibly a bicycle repairman before dis-

reported that he had advised Shu to take things as they come and not try and rush romance. But she has been unwilling to wait, and since breaking up with actor Leon Lai (黎明) four years ago, has been romantically involved, according to gossip rags, with numerous men, including singer Wang Lee-hom (王力宏) and actor Chang Chen (張震), but to no great effect.

It would seem that former boyfriend Lai has also paid heavily for ignoring the WDK's advice. Six years ago, together with Tony Leung Chiu-wai (梁 朝偉) and Andy Lau (劉德華), he became a disciple of the WDK, who warned him about getting involved with women. At this time his relationship with Shu was already the stuff of heavy speculation. The Apple Daily suggests that his refusal to drop Shu on the advice of the WDK may be the reason why his career failed to reach the same exalted heights of stardom as that of this two friends. Pop Stop wonders if the WDK is paying the Hong Kong-based publishing group a retainer for such testimonials. Unfortunately, even though he has now broken with Shu, it is unlikely that even his most recent role in the massive two-part biopic of opera singer Mei Lanfang (梅蘭芳) will boost his career. Ignore dragons at your peril.

For all the fans of CTV's One Million Star (超級星光大 道) "reality" talent show, the good news is that Momoko Tao (陶子) will definitely be back for Season Five, putting an end to the rather unedifying spectacle of a rotating roster of hosts including pop diva Ah-Mei (張惠妹) — she should stick to singing — and a tag team made up of Little S (小S) and Kevin Tsai (蔡康永) — who despite their vast experience as show hosts, have been widely criticized for not hitting the right note with the show. Producers are trying to get Tao back to give the finals of Season Four her magic touch on March 14, but the new mother said she will be focusing on losing weight and breast feeding. Recent additions to the roster of hosts, Tammy Chen (陳怡 蓉) and Phoebe Huang (黃嘉  $\pm$ ), have earned praise in the



Cloud Gate rose from the ashes of a fire at its home in Taipei County, and is now the subject of an exhibition at Taipei Story House.

# A slice of Cloud Gate life

xactly one year to the day a predawn fire destroyed the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre's (雲門舞集) home in Pali, Taipei County, founder Lin Hwai-min (林懷民) stood in front of the Taipei Story House on Wednesday, a huge banner with dancer Chiu I-wen (邱怡文) leaping in the air hanging behind him. Lin was there to open an exhibition that provides a behind-the-scenes look at one of the nation's cultural treasures.

"Actually, this exhibit was supposed to open last September for the [company's] 35th anniversary, but then there was the fire and then the anniversary was gone, so we decided to do it this year. But we did it lighter," Lin said.

"I insisted the photos have a feeling of light," he said, taking a deep breath and throwing open his arms, "of openness."

But to get to the light, visitors have to pass through darkness. A burned shipping container used at Cloud Gate's old Pali home sits to the right of the building's front door. A small wooden walkway takes you into the container to view a video of firefighters battling the blaze and news coverage of it.

Taipei Story House's entryway has been painted eggshell blue, with dancers suspended in mid-air (Chiu again on the right wall and Huang Pei-hua (黃珮華) on the left). On the back wall is a floor-to-ceiling photo of the original troupe.

In the first room, titled "Life Under the Tin Roof," Cloud Gate archivist Chen Pin-hsiu (陳品秀) has recreated a slice of the main Pali studio. The black mylar floor has tape rehearsal markings, a ballet barre stands in front of a mirrored wall, pinned on a corkboard are weekly work schedules for the company from the week prior to and after the fire, alongside a photocopy of a *Village Voice* review. Resting on the fireplace mantelpiece is a collection of charred coffee mugs and chopsticks salvaged from the kitchen. Dancers' personal belongings dot the room.

monitor shows footage of a different aspect of life for the dancers of the first and second companies: performing at Pina Bausch's International Dance Festival in Germany, performing at hospitals and schools around Taiwan, riding on a bus while on tour, rehearsals and daily classes.

PHOTOS: DIANE RAKER TAIPEI TIMES

The third room is just plain fun, offering everyone the chance to feel like a Cloud Gate dancer or stagehand. The walls and floor are pitch-black, there are several small fans and thousands of pink cloth flower petals like those used in last year's Whisper of Flowers. Feel free to dance around throwing armfuls of petals in the air.

Upstairs is a small display of photos: a close-up of a dancer's taped and bandaged feet, rain-soaked audience members at an outdoor performance. Many of the images were taken by photographer Liu Chen-hsiang (劉振祥), who recently published a book titled In Between The Moments Cloud Gate: In a Photographer's Memory.

In the last room, titled "Confronting the Ocean," is a video recounting the tale of the Pali blaze and the company's ongoing struggle to rebuild itself and create a new home at the site of the former Central Radio Station in Tamsui.

The Taipei Story House is a tiny place, but the Cloud Gate troupe has maximized its potential.

As part of the exhibition, there will be a lecture series from 7pm to 8:30pm on three Saturdays. Lin will speak on March 21, writer Yang Chao (楊照) on April 11 and Cloud Gate 2 manager Liao Yung-wei (廖詠葳) on May 16.

There is also a weekend concert series that gets underway tomorrow and runs until April 26th, featuring traditional flute and erhu (二胡) music. Friday night concerts will be from 7:30 to 9pm, while Saturday and Sundays concerts will be from 3pm to 5pm. A complete listing of the events can be found in the Taipei Story House's calendar brochure or its Chinese-language Web

### Mei CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Hau Pei-tsun (郝柏村), who as a former premier and minister of national defense once had a large section of Taiwan's Beijing opera establishment under his command (until quite recently, most major Beijing opera troupes were affiliated with the armed services), was present at a press conference to welcome the troupe to Taiwan. He lauded the military rigor with which opera performers are trained.

"After I took office, when I first went to inspect the opera troupes run by the armed services, I saw that the training they received met the highest standards of military rigor," he said. "I took this discipline and introduced it to the training of troops. In Beijing opera, there is not a single action that is not regulated. Even the way a certain word is sung follows strict rules ... This is what is demanded in the military.'

Certainly a demonstration by Zhan Lei (詹 磊), a young exponent of the martial male role, showed a degree of athletic prowess and assurance that could only be the result of the most intensive training. Zhan was the winner of China's CCTV Best Young Beijing Opera Performer award last year, and watching him rise effortlessly into the air during a martial display, seemly without the use of any muscular strength, it was not difficult to see why. Zhan will be featured in the excerpt Yantang Mountain (雁蕩山), which is part of tonight's program.

This is not to say that this weekend's performances will have anything in common with a military parade. What is truly impressive is not simply that these performers are able to reproduce stylized actions of the most demanding sort, but also the intense commitment that is present every second they are on stage. This is evident even to a novice, and though there is no English in either the subtitles or the program, the performances can be enjoyed for themselves by anyone who appreciates theater.

This weekend's performances have been selected to showcase the wide variety of talent encompassed in the youth troupe, and are comprised mostly of scenes from famous operas, with the exception of a full production of Si Lang Searches for His Mother (四郎探母) tomorrow evening. A performance of highlights featuring all the main performers in the troupe will complete the tour on Sunday evening.



covering that he was actually a reincarnation of a dragon king.) Unfortunately, the WDK

was too busy fending off the massive crowds of far didn't have time for Sh romantic difficulties, Apple Daily reported sage simply ignored h left her despondent. H he felt he had already the advice he had to g a previous visit, Apple

Exhibition-goers should spend most of their time in the second room, a corridor really, where 16 video monitors of varying sizes have been placed along the two walls. Each

site (www.storyhouse.com.tw); unfortunately the Englishlanguage site hasn't been updated in more than a year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HUASHENG

fans and r Shu's	blogosphere for their comedic talents. The two are currently stars of CTV's super-successful <i>The Story of Time</i> (光陰的故 事), and have brought some of the allure of the soap to the floundering <i>One Million Star</i>	TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS JAN. 30 TO FEB. 5		
es, and the red that the			3 Fish Liang (梁靜茹) and Fall in Love & Songs — Don't Cry for Him Anymore (静茹&情歌 — 別再為他流淚) with 11.53%	
		Alan Luo (羅志祥) and <i>Trendy Man</i> (潮男正傳) with 18.79%	4. Fahrenheit (飛輪海) and <i>Love You More and More</i> (越來越愛) with 10.13%	
o give. On ple Daily	series. — Compiled by Ian Bartholomew	2 Wang Lee-hom (王力宏) and <i>Heart Beat</i> (心·跳) with 14.16%	5 Cheer Chen (陳綺貞) and <i>Immortal</i> (太陽) with 4.84% ALBUM CHART COMPILED FROM G-MUSIC (WWW.G-MUSIC COM.TW), BASED ON RETAIL SALES	
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## Theater

Organized by the Paper Windmill Theater Troupe (紙風車劇團), the Taipei County Children's Performance Art Festival (台北縣兒童表演藝術節) is staging

carnival-like performances by theater and dance troupes, interactive games and bazaars during its tour of 29 villages and towns. Big Feet Troupe (大腳丫劇團) performs this Sunday in Sansia Township (三峽鎮). Comma Theater Company (逗 點創意劇團) performs on Wednesday in Wanli Township (萬里鄉)

- ▶ Sansia Elementary School (三峽國小), 16 Chungshan Rd, Sansia Township, Taipei County (台北縣三峽鎮中山路 16號); Tapeng Elementary School (大鵬國小), 14 Jiatou Rd, Wanli Township, Taipei County (台北縣萬里鄉加投路14號) Shows run from 1:30pm to 4:30pm
- ▶ No admission fee

#### In Pipo Fairies (碧波仙子) bv

Taichung's highly regarded Kuo Kwang Taiwanese Opera Troupe (國光歌劇團), a penniless young scholar whiles the time away feeding fish and turtles in a lake after being rejected by the wealthy father of his beloved. One day, the turtle and carp spirits in the lake decide to repay their benefactor's kindness by making his wishes come true. Taipei Culture Center, Yanping Branch (台北市社教館延平分館), 9F, 21, Dihua St Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市迪化

- 街一段21號9樓)
- Tomorrow at 2pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$100 at the door

The latest production of the Dance Shoe series, initiated by Kaohsiung City Ballet (高雄城市芭蕾舞團) in 2004 to provide a platform for nurturing new talents, Dance Shoe VI (點子

鞋系列六) features works by six young promising choreographers. It will later tour Tainan City and Kaohsiung City. [See story on Page 15] National Experimental Theater, Taipei

City Tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm

Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www. artsticket.com.tw

#### The Youth Beijing Opera Troupe of Beijing (北京京劇院青年團) teams

up with seasoned Taiwanese artists in a series of Beijing opera classics that includes Si Lang Seeks His Mother (四郎 探母) and Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea (八仙過海). [See story on Page 13.] ▶ Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段

25號) ▶ Today at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$5,000, available through NTCH ticketing or

online at www.artsticket.com.tw Choreographer Lin Li-min (林麗敏) fuses elements of ballet, modern and jazz dances in Heritage Innovation (傳承,創新) performed by teenage dancers from the Dance Village (舞鄉舞

團) troupe. ▶ Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段 25號)

Thursday at 7:30pm Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

## **Classical music**

Amore, Amore — Duet of Accordion and Soprano (手風琴 與女高音的二重奏) brings together

Slovenian accordionist and Germantrained soprano Chen Hsin-ying (陳心 瑩) in a program that includes songs by Rosa, Caccini, Scarlatti and Rodrigo. Today at 7:30pm

National Recital Hall, Taipei City Tickets are NT\$300 and NT\$500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

#### Romantic Kaohsiung (高雄是這樣浪

漫音樂會) is a concert by the Kaohsiung Symphony Orchestra (高雄市國樂團), which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The program, which features pieces such as April Rain (四月望雨) and The Song of the Ai River (愛河之 歌), was compiled to complement the atmosphere of Valentine's Day. Tomorrow at 7:30pm

▶ Kaohsiung City Concert Hall (高雄市 音樂館演奏廳), 99 Hesi Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市河西路99號) ▶ Tickets are NT\$200, available

through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

#### The 50th Anniversary of the Butterfly Lovers (NCO 梁祝五十

系列《情·迷·梁祝》) will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Butterfly Lovers Concerto for Hugin (《梁祝》胡 琴協奏曲), which is based on one of the best-known love stories of Chinese literature. The concert features the National Chinese Orchestra (NCO) and the program includes the Taiwanese premiere of the cello sections of Tan Dun's (譚盾) music from the film Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (《臥 虎藏龍》大提琴協奏曲). The orchestra will be conducted by Wen Yi-jen (溫 以仁), with Lu Chao-lun (呂超倫) on

huqin and Yen Jiemin (嚴潔敏) on cello. Today at 7:30pm

▶ Novel Hall (新舞台), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)

## [ EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT ]

Highlight

Surrounded by candy hearts and greeting cards, it's easy to forget that Valentine's Day is named after a succession of early Christian martyrs. If you've got the blues on "Singles Awareness Day" you're in good company. The Blues Society On Taiwan is hosting a blues party tomorrow, "Because 'broken hearts are for assholes.

The party's tagline is inspired by the Frank Zappa song of the same name, said lead vocalist of blues band BoPoMoFo (クタロビ), DC "Deacon" Rapier, who also plays harmonica, guitar and tenor sax. The group plays authentic Chicagostyle blues reminiscent of Rapier's hometown, original songs and vintage R 'n' B.

Canadian Mike "Steel-fingers" Tennant sings backing vocals and plays bass, with Aki "the Flame" Ikeda on guitar, and Daisuke "Dafu" Neishi on drums, both from Japan. Also on vocals and piano is Klaus "Amadeus" Tseng from Germany. With songs like You Done Me

 Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing on online at www.artsticket.com.tw

#### In Fantasy of an Artist Lost in Love (一位失戀藝術家的幻想告白),

cellist Janet Chien (簡成玄) performs with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra (TSO) conducted by Wu Shou-ling (吳琇玲). The program includes Debussy's Clair de Lune (arr. by Alfred Reed), Saint-Saens' Cello Concerto in A Minor, Op. 33 and Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique, Op. 14.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOPOMOEO

DC Rapier has a lot of heart.

Wrong, Empty and What Went Wrong, BoPoMoFo brings you a Valentine's Day colored all hues of blue. Sappho de Base, B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安 和路一段102巷1號B1). Tomorrow, from 10:30pm to 1:30am. Call (02) 2700-5411 (after 9pm) or visit www. sappho102.biz for more information. Entrance is NT\$200 BoPoMoFo plays next in Taichung, on Feb. 21 at 89K, 21 Takuan Rd, Nantun Dist, Taichung City (台中市南 屯區大觀路21號), and every Friday at Capone's, 312, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段

Sunday at 2:30pm

312號) beginning in March

- ▶ Taipei 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\$200 to NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing on online at www.artsticket.com.tw

## Contemporary

Eric Mandala brings his "world music fusion" to **VU Live House** tomorrow night. Afterwards, Konkrete Jungle

presents British DJ Miss Represent, who spins "liquid funk." Also appearing are DJs NoNSeNsii and Too Bad It's Not Tronic. [See Vinvl Word.] ▶ B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Tel: (02) 2314-1868 First show begins at 8pm, DJs start

at 11pm Admission for first show is NT\$350,

includes one drink; second show is NT\$600 for men and NT\$400 for women, includes one drink

#### Tonight and tomorrow The Wall

(這牆) hosts LM.C. a Japanese electrorock duo renowned for their wild costumes and high-energy shows. On Sunday indie-pop icons 1976 performs, with an opening set from indie rockers Orangegrass (澄草). Appearing on Wednesday are newcomers io, postrock band Mosquilephant (蚊子大 象) and Slow Motion, a band that attempts a mix of hard rock and French disco thump a la Daft Punk. 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 Shows start at 8:30pm tonight, 7pm tomorrow and 8pm Sunday and Wednesday

Entrance is NT\$1,500 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$400 on Sunday and NT\$300 on Wednesday

#### Tonight at Witch House (女巫店),

solo acoustic artist Takanow (達卡鬧) sings in the Rukai (魯凱), Hokkien and Hakka languages. Afterwards, Taitung Amis singer Long-ge (龍哥), who is known for his rousing drinking songs, takes to the stage. Singer Huang Jie (黃玠) appears tomorrow.

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 Admission for music shows is NT\$300, includes one drink

#### Taking to the stage tomorrow at Riverside Live House (西門紅樓

**展演館)** is college pop-rock favorite Crowd Lu (盧廣仲), whose popularity continues to grow. Advance tickets are likely to sell out, but the venue is holding 50 tickets to sell on the day of the concert starting at 6pm.

- ▶ 177 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市 西寧南路177號). Call (02) 2370-8805 or visit www.riverside.com.tw
- Show starts at 8:30pm
- NT\$550 admission includes a drink

Electro and disco-punk DJs Sinister Sound Syndicate are on tonight at **Bliss**, while tomorrow it's Tainan punk band **Divebomb** and pop-punk rockers Abandoned Machines. Thursday is open-mic night. All are welcome to perform either three songs or a set running 15 minutes long. ▶ 148, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市 信義路四段148號), one block east of Dunhua South Road (敦化南路). Call Bliss

at (02) 2702-1855 or log on at www. bliss-taipei.com. For more information on live performances at Bliss, visit www. myspace.com/blisslivehouse

Tomorrow at 10pm. Bar/kitchen open from 7pm daily. Ladies night Wednesdays, women get free sparkling wine with NT\$100 specials on mixed cocktails

▶ Free tonight and Thursday, NT\$200 tomorrow