AIPEI TIMES • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

RESTAURANTS

## A380 In-Flight Kitchen (A380空中廚房)

Address: 168, Dingzhou Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市汀州路三段

**Telephone:** (02) 2367-3928 Open: Daily from 11:30am to 10pm Average meal: NT\$500

Details: Chinese and English menu; credit cards accepted

It's noon in Taipei, 5am in Paris and midnight in New York as I take my seat in economy class. The seatbelt and no smoking lights have been switched on and the monitor on the wall shows a plane taking off. A 'stewardess" comes over to take my order. Taipei has seen its



The food never quite gets off the ground at A380 In-Flight Kitchen.

PHOTO: NOAH BUCHAN, TAIPEI TIMES

fair share of theme restaurants over the years. The Jail (惡魔島) shackled diners with handcuffs and crossed the limits of cultural sensitivity by hanging photos of Nazi concentration camps on its prison-like walls. DS Music Restaurant played on a hospital theme, complete with IV drips for drinks, wait staff dressed as nurses and hospital beds for tables.

A380 In-Flight Kitchen is named after the largest passenger airliner in the world. The restaurant looks and functions much like the Airbus it's named after — though it only has one floor. "Passengers" sit in "first class," "business class," or, like this flyer, "economy class." I was assigned seat 10A. Large comfortable blue chairs with headrests covered with white headrest covers emblazoned with the "airline's" logo ensure optimum comfort for those long-haul meals. Stewardesses are dressed neatly in uniforms and dash back and forth with trays of "airplane food" or beverages on metal trolleys. A line of oval-shaped windows run along one side and look out onto a white "sky."

The a la carte and set menus include foie gras filet mignon, vanilla lamb, dory and German pig knuckle (NT\$480 for the set menu, NT\$420 for a la carte), as well as chicken and pasta. There is also chicken spaghetti (NT\$220) and stewed beef in red wine (NT\$220) — both set meals and served in the same plastic trays found on airplanes. I went with the grilled US steak set menu (NT\$480 set menu, NT\$420 a la carte).

The iceberg lettuce salad came with some withered sprouts, chunks of moistureless cucumbers and an out-of-place wedge of sliced boiled ham. The miso dressing didn't do much to enliven this salad, half of which I left in the bowl. The corn chowder soup wasn't much of an improvement. It was tasteless and seemed to have come from a packet.

The steak was adequate and came with a dollop of mashed potatoes, a few green beans and baby corn. Cooked to my specifications — medium rare — it was served with a gravylike sauce, the only purpose of which, aside from complementing the mashed potatoes, was to hide the generous marbling (dare I say gristle) of the beef. Dessert — coffee and sponge cake — was as memorable as the appetizer.

food will certainly not make me a "frequent flyer" in this midrange family restaurant. — NOAH BUCHAN

Although the decor is creative and the service prompt, the

## **Wedgewood Tearoom**

Address: 9F, 300, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東 路三段300號9樓)

**Telephone:** (02) 8772-0130

**Average meal:** NT\$450 Open: Daily from 11am to 8:30pm; closes at 9pm on Fridays and

Details: Main menu in Chinese and English, lunch and dinner set

Venerable English dishware manufacturer Waterford Wedgewood recently filed for bankruptcy, but you wouldn't know it by

menu in Chinese; credit cards accepted

looking at Wedgewood Tearoom in Sogo's Fuxing branch. Located on the ninth floor of the department store, the restaurant sits in

Wedgewood may be going bankrupt, but front of a window bank with a sweeping view of

Wedgewood Tearoom carries on. PHOTO: RON BROWNLOW, TAIPEI TIMES

the East District and directly across from an indoor Japanese garden. The setting would be peaceful if it weren't for the obnoxious 1990s pop music Sogo insists on pumping through its loudspeakers.

The tinkling of fine china and attentive service at the restaurant, however, almost make up for this auditory nuisance. Wedgewood Tearoom serves food a la carte or in lunch and dinner sets for NT\$399. Each set comes with a slice of garlic bread, soup or salad and your choice of any beverage from the main menu. Salad options include a chef's salad (主廚

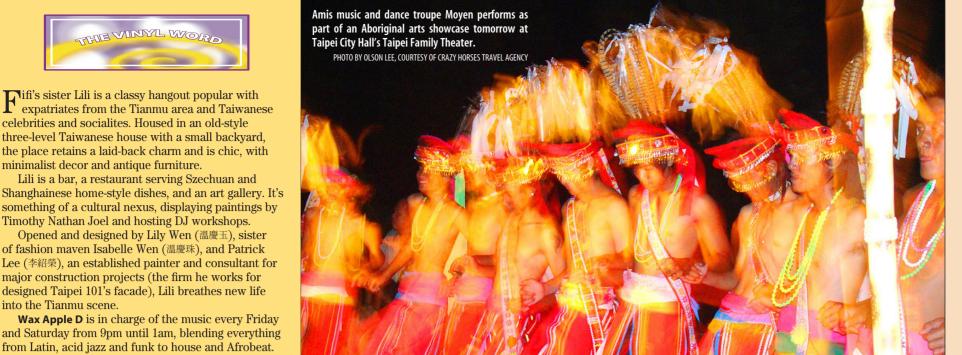
沙拉) and Caesar salad (愷撒沙拉). My companion ordered a salmon sandwich (鮭魚三明治) set, which arrived with a small dish of relish and what appeared to be nacho cheese Doritos, an odd lowbrow touch. The sandwich itself was good, with slices of smoked salmon and lettuce on toasted bread spread with a bit of mayonnaise, and the Caesar salad was topped with croutons, small slices of chicken and a

reasonable amount of a very garlicky dressing. My eggplant and mushroom Italian spaghetti (三茄蘑菇義 大利麵) had fewer vegetables than its name would suggest. Several eggplant slices and a few mushrooms, along with some other vegetables, topped the spaghetti, which was dressed with a very light tomato sauce and a few soft and delicious pieces of browned garlic. I had the chef's salad, which was garnished with corn, raisins and cherry tomatoes and paled in comparison to the Caesar salad.

The herb and lemon chicken leg on rice (香茅檸檬雞腿飯) I tried on a previous visit was a lot more satisfying than the somewhat bland spaghetti. Its tender, moist chicken was marinated in the right amount of honey-lemon sauce.

For dessert, we ordered a slice of cheese cake (老爺招牌起司 蛋糕, NT\$150) and jam tea (果醬紅茶, NT\$220). The cake arrived on a plate lightly drizzled with chocolate sauce and honey and a few pieces of fruit. Its texture was pleasantly firm and actually tasted of rich cream cheese, complemented by a crumbly graham cracker crust. Another dessert option is the bread pudding (麵包 布丁, NT\$150), which I liked less than the cheesecake. The bread crust was practically drowned by the soft, flan-like pudding.

Wedgewood Tearoom's teas are somewhat pricey, but worth it for the experience of sipping from the dainty little bone china cups and saucers. Our tea set was Wedgewood Grace, a floral pattern with gilt edging along the rims of the cups and saucers. The black tea came with a dollop of blueberry jam on the side for flavoring (other flavors are also available). The jam added a subtle hint of fruitiness, with the blueberries sinking to the bottom of our cups for a refreshing finish. Afternoon tea includes various sweets and a sandwich (NT\$400 for one person) and is served from 2pm to 5:30pm. — CATHERINE SHU



## Not the same old song and dance

'usic and dance of the Atayal (泰雅), Seediq (賽 德克) and Siraya (西拉雅) tribes are among the L featured performances tomorrow afternoon at Taipei Family Theater (台北市政府親子劇場)

The three-hour event — titled 2009 Musical Dedicated to Taiwan's Tribal Angels — is being held by Taipei's Crazy Horses Travel Agency (瘋馬旅行社), which arranges "eco-travel" tours to Aboriginal villages and towns

"My goal is to let more people hear the sounds of [Taiwan's tribes], see the beauty of their homes and hear some of their ancient songs," says event organizer and Crazy Horses general manager Olson Lee (李文瑞).

But don't expect the typical song-and-dance routines you might find at a five-star hotel in Hualien or Taitung, says Lee. He aims to present a more authentic picture of Aboriginal performing arts and culture.

"I want our customers to see the performances in their most original form. This way you can see something different," he says.

The show naturally offers Lee a channel to promote his business, but it is also of personal importance to the 48-year-old, who is a Siraya Aborigine.

Lee says he conceived the event with the hope of establishing a "cultural connection" between Han Taiwanese and Aboriginal communities, while presenting the artists in a less "commercial" setting.

The show also differs in that performers choose their own material, a departure from the norm for Aboriginal artists in the tourism industry, Lee says. "Performers have always been asked to perform what the mainstream market wants to see. So every tribe's dance routines

Tomorrow's acts include some experienced artists. Pidelo Wuga (比得洛-烏嘎), a member of the Seediq tribe, makes and plays his own xylophones and piccolo flutes. Wuga is also the lead actor in the upcoming film Seediq Bale (賽德克巴萊) by Cape No. 7 (海角七號) director Wei Te-sheng (魏德勝).

Tungtung Houwen (東冬-侯溫), a member of Taiwan's renowned percussion and dance ensemble, U-Theater, will play the mouth harp and other traditional instruments of the Taroko Tribe (太魯閣族).

Also playing traditional instruments are Dali and

Sayum (達利夫婦), a 30-something couple who were among the first to revive the facial tattooing practices of the Atayal since the practice was banned during the Japanese occupation.

Another highlight will be award-winning Puyuma singer Dingko Nan (南賢天), who has made numerous appearances at the National Concert Hall with singer Susie Chien (簡文秀).

Dance segments include a performance from the Hamoana Arts Group (哈莫瓦納舞團), which was started by Avai (陳友福), a member of the Tsou tribe and graduate of Fu Jen Catholic University's (輔仁大學) law school. The group performs a "warrior's dance" that depicts the relocation of Laiji (來吉), a Tsou village in the mountainous Alishan (阿里山) area.

One dance presents a more modern narrative. The Chike Hills 13 Turns Musical Group (十三灣劇場) recounts how a group of Siraya families relocated from Chiayi to their current home in Hualien County in 1959 because of a major flood.

The artists are long-time performers for Lee's tours and have cooperated with him for more than a decade. Bringing them to Taipei, Lee says, will let more people "hear the voices of our tribes."

"But the reason we can do this [event] is not because of me," Lee says. "It's because of the strength of the tribes."

— DAVID CHEN

## **PERFORMANCE NOTES:**

WHAT: 2009 Musical Dedicated to Taiwan's Tribal Angels

(2009部落天使 感恩音樂劇) WHEN: Tomorrow from 2pm to 5pm. A market selling

Aboriginal crafts opens at 1:30pm

**WHERE:** Taipei Family Theater (台北市政府親子劇場), 2F, Taipei y Hall, 1 Shifu Rd, Taipei City (台北市市府路1號2樓) TICKETS: NT\$200, NT\$350, NT\$600 and NT\$1,000. For reservations contact Crazy Horses Travel at (02) 2778-1230. Tickets also available

ON THE NET: www.crazytravel.com.tw; www.travelrich.com.tw/members/leewenjui/index.aspx

minimalist decor and antique furniture.

Lili, 760, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 6, Taipei City (台北

The scene in Tainan consists of three clubs: The Orient, La Sight and Club Fusion. With the first two

favoring Top 40 hip-hop, Fusion is the only one

that caters to electronic music heads. Besides, it is considered the only venue in the city that has a real

club setting — decent sound and lighting systems.

Fusion first opened as an electronic club about

five years ago and has since struggled to balance

its music policy between mainstream hip-hop and

electronica. There's a monthly night dedicated to

electronic music, which tomorrow features Naked

from South Africa and local DJs Mark, Ugly, Dipper

Club Fusion, 483, Yonghua 2nd Rd, Tainan City

all-you-can-drink bash is NT\$450 for men and NT\$300

The graffiti stencils, sculptures and video works by

(台南市永華2路483號), from 10pm to 4am. Entry to the

cutting-edge urban/street art crew Scall Art lend this

party artsy kudos. DJs Chi Funk, Ripper, Renf and Dao

will be in the mix, complementing the art with house,

Scall Art Party at Liquid Lounge, 98 Chungming S

It's about time Taipei rekindled a passion for deep

house. And who could be better than Saucey and Sona

to get off first base? This much-loved weekly event is

back after a yearlong hiatus. Bump, tomorrow from

10pm to 2am at Opus Bar, 104, Civil Boulevard Sec 4,

Taipei City (台北市市民大道四段104號). Admission is free.

Rd, Taichung City (台中市忠明南路98號). From 11pm to

On the Net: lili-arts.com/index.htm.

into the Tianmu scene.

市中山北路6段760號).

and FatDirty.

breaks and electro beats.

6am. Entry is NT\$300.

Tianmu's relaxed new affair, Lili.

— QUEEN BEE

## [ EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT ]

Sea Journey Jazz Combo (海洋知音 爵士樂團), a four-piece with vibraphone, bass, drums and guitar, plays tonight at Sappho de Base. Canadian/British folk and roots outfit **Dana Wylie Band** performs tomorrow night. On Tuesday it's the **Joel Holmes Taiwan** Trio. The Sappho House Band hosts the venue's weekly open jam on Wednesday. Performing on Thursday is acoustic duo T-Bone and Yasu.

- ▶ 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

Tomorrow night at **Bliss** it's **Space Funk**, a collective of musicians from Taiwan, North America and the UK who play R 'n' B, electro-disco, hip-hop and swing with a funk edge. Thursday is open jam night: all are welcome to perform either three songs or a 15-

▶ 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

minute set

- ► Tomorrow at 10pm. Bar/kitchen open from 7pm daily. Ladies night Wednesdays, women get free sparkling wine with NT\$100 specials on mixed cocktails. Open jam starts at 9pm
- ▶ NT\$200 tomorrow, free on Thursday Every Wednesday night at the **Cosmopolitan Grill** there's a blues open mic held by the Blues Society on Taiwan. All are welcome to bring their instruments
- and sit in on guitar, bass or drums. ▶ 1F, 218 Changchun Rd, Taipei City (台北市長春路218號1樓). Call (02) 2508-0304 or visit www.cosmo.com.tw for

- more information
- ▶ No admission fee

**EZ5 Live House** hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights this week include Julia Peng (彭佳慧), who appears on Tuesdays, and Liu Wei-zen (劉 偉仁), who appears on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

- 市安和路二段211號). Call (02) 2738information
- ► Entrance (including two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer

Taking to the stage tonight at rockers **The White Eyes** (白目), Squeaker. Indie-pop act Lucky Q

- ▶ B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師 大路45號B1). Call (02) 2369-0103 or visit www.upsaid.com/underworld for
- 11:30pm tomorrow, 9pm to 11pm on Wednesday

Tonight at **Tone 56 Live Bar** 

**Rubber Band** plays rock, pop and dance music. Tomorrow all-girl pop ▶ 1F. 56. Minguan E Rd Sec 3. Taipei City (台北市民權東路三段56號1樓),

▶ The music starts at 9:30pm tonight and tomorrow, 9pm on Wednesday ▶ No admission fee

New Animamix (新動漫) features works by such renowned figures in Asian art as Yoshitaka Amano, from Japan; Kim Don Yoo, Kwon Kisoo, Eddie Kang and Lee Lee Nam from South Korea; China's Tang Zhigan (唐 志岡); and Taiwan's Liao Yu-an (廖堉 安) and Hung Yi (洪易). Also included in the exhibit are works by superrealist, post-pop artist duo Thukral & Tagra, from India. Animamix is an art movement that draws from the aesthetics of anime and comics. ▶ Metaphysical Art Gallery (形而上畫

廊), 7F, 219, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段219號7樓). Open daily from 11am to 6:30pm, closed on Mondays. Tel: (02) 2771-3236 ▶ Until Feb. 28

Those wanting to gain a deeper understanding of one of Asia's oldest trade routes can check out **Legends** of the Silk Road — Treasures

From Linjiang (絲路傳奇—新 **疆文物大展)**. The exhibit provides viewers with a glimpse of life in the ancient world by displaying 150 items unearthed along the Silk Road, including a 4,000-year-old mummified body of a woman in sandals known as the Loulan Beauty (樓蘭美女) and

artifacts from the Tang Dynasty. ▶ National Museum of History (國立歷 史博物館), 49 Nanhai Rd, Taipei City (台 北市南海路49號). Open daily from 10am to 6pm, closed on Mondays ▶ Until March 15

**Ancient Pottery of the Paiwan** Tribe in Taiwan (祖靈的居所—台 灣排灣族古陶壺特展) shows how ceramics are closely associated with

origins, and how pottery helps to

- National Museum of Natural Science (國立自然科學博物館), 1, Kuanchien Rd, Taichung City (台中市館前路1號). Open daily from 9am to 5pm, closed on

Jewels of 25 Years Museum Collection (25年典藏精粹) provides

an excellent overview of Taiwan's recent art history in an exhibit of 34 works by Taiwanese artists from the Japanese colonial period to the 1990s, revealing how two occupying powers imposed

- (台北市中山北路三段181號) ▶ Open daily from 9:30am to 5:30pm,
- closed on Mondays. Tel: (02)

The God of Earth in Taiwan (台 灣土地公特展) explains the origins

continues to play an important role in folk worship throughout the country. ▶ National Museum of Natural Science (國立自然科學博物館), 1, Kuanchien Rd, Taichung City (台中市館前路1號). Open daily from 9am to 5pm, closed on

▶ Until May 31

Skies of Northern Tibet (藏北的

天空) is a solo exhibition of 13 of Chiu Hsien-te's (邱顯德) watercolors. The exhibit shows the continuing evolution occupying a greater proportion of the picture surface than ever before. Stylistically, the paintings possess a freer, more lyrical expressiveness and a tremendous richness of layering and tonal shifts in color.

▶99 Degrees Art Center (99藝術中心), 5F, 259, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City

(台北市敦化南路一段259號5F). Open daily from 11am to 6pm, closed on Mondays

▶ Until Feb. 28

100 works by 40 emerging and established contemporary artists working in a variety of different mediums including painting, sculpture, photography and printmaking. ▶ Project Fulfill Art Space (就在藝術空 間), 2, Alley 45, Ln 147, Xinyi Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市信義路三段147巷 45弄2號). To arrange a viewing call (02)

► Until March 8

painting with its exhibit **The Art and** from the History of Chinese

Dynasties period and moving up to the Qing Dynasty, the show represents a selection of individual works from the museum's collection arranged chronologically to provide an overview of major traditions and movements in Chinese painting

▶ National Palace Museum (國立故宮博 物院), 221, Zhishan Rd Sec 2, Shilin Dist, Taipei City (台北市士林區至善路二段 221號)

▶ Until March 25

### Madden Reality: Post-Taipei Art Group (叛離異象:後台北畫派) features

72 works, ranging from sculpture to painting, by eight of Taiwan's most well-respected contemporary artists. ▶ Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM), 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City

(台北市中山北路三段181號). ▶ Open daily from 9:30am to 5:30pm, closed on Mondays. Tel: (02)

► Until April 5

▶8pm to 11pm every Wednesday **Exhibitions** 

- ▶ 211, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北 3995 or visit www.ez5.com.tw for more
- ▶ Music shows run from 9:45pm to
- 12:30am

Underworld (地下社會) are garage followed by DJs Spykee and Freaky (辣激卷) and indie-rock band Capelin (柳葉魚樂團) play tomorrow. Post-rock band **Redcoat** (紅外套) performs on Wednesday.

- more information ▶ 9pm to 1am tonight, 9:30pm to
- ▶ Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow and includes one drink, Wednesday's show is NT\$100

band **Donuts** hits the stage, and on Sunday there's an open acoustic jam. near the corner of Fuxing North (復興 北) and Minquan East (民權東) roads. Tel: (02) 2517-3869

the legends of the Paiwan tribe's

# perpetuate the tribe's social hierarchy.

Mondays ► Until May 17

- their aesthetic views on local artists. ▶ Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM), 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City
- 2595-7656 ▶ Until Jan. 1, 2010

of the Earth God (土地公) and why it

- Mondays
- of the artist's style with the sky now

Art on Balcony (露台開賣) presents

2325-0023

The National Palace Museum does a superb job of explaining the history and importance of Chinese ink

**Aesthetics of Form: Selections** Painting (造型與美感—中國繪

畫的發展). Beginning with the Six

2595-7656