

POP STOP

A new chapter continues to unravel for comedian Chu Ko Liang...

Just last month Chu was ousted by Apple Daily paparazzi...

So far, Chu has been guarded about making a comeback...

Little Pig brushed off his past 'war of words' with fellow Mando-pop star...

But Chu has taken a turn for the better — he no longer smokes or chews betel nut...

One of Chu's biggest creditors said he will not harass the runaway about his debts...

Not that he's totally off the hook. "Later on if Chu Ko Liang makes a lot of money, I'll still be asking for the money back!" Yang said.

Little Pig (小豬), also known



Alan Luo knows how to bury the hatchet.



Later alligator. PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

as Alan Luo (羅志祥), fell short of the record sales goal he set for himself — 150,000 copies...

Little Pig brushed off his past 'war of words' with fellow Mando-pop star and competitor Wang Lee-hom...

"That's just something between companies," Little Pig told the Liberty Times, which pointed out that the two stars will soon meet each other in person for the first time at an awards ceremony in Beijing next month...

It's back to the old days for Mayday (五月天). The Mando-pop rockers are returning to their roots by holding an all-day anniversary concert this Sunday at Taipei's Riverside Live House...

And finally, Pop Stop shines its fashion spotlight on Zhang Ziyi (章子怡), who grabbed headlines for frolicking topless on a Caribbean island earlier this year in a display that both titillated and horrified the gossip blogosphere...

An Apple Daily reporter recently spotted Zhang in Seoul at a promotional screening of her recently released film Forever Enthralled (梅蘭芳) toting a shiny alligator skin bag worth a cool NT\$950,000. At least times aren't tough for all of us.

— COMPILED BY DAVID CHEN

New worlds, new rites

Igor Stravinsky's Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring) for the Ballet Russes revolutionized both the music and ballet worlds; it also triggered a near riot at its May 1913 Paris premiere.

Stravinsky's dissonant score and Vaslav Nijinsky's jerky choreography, as well as the pagan ritual subject matter, were not what balletgoers expected.

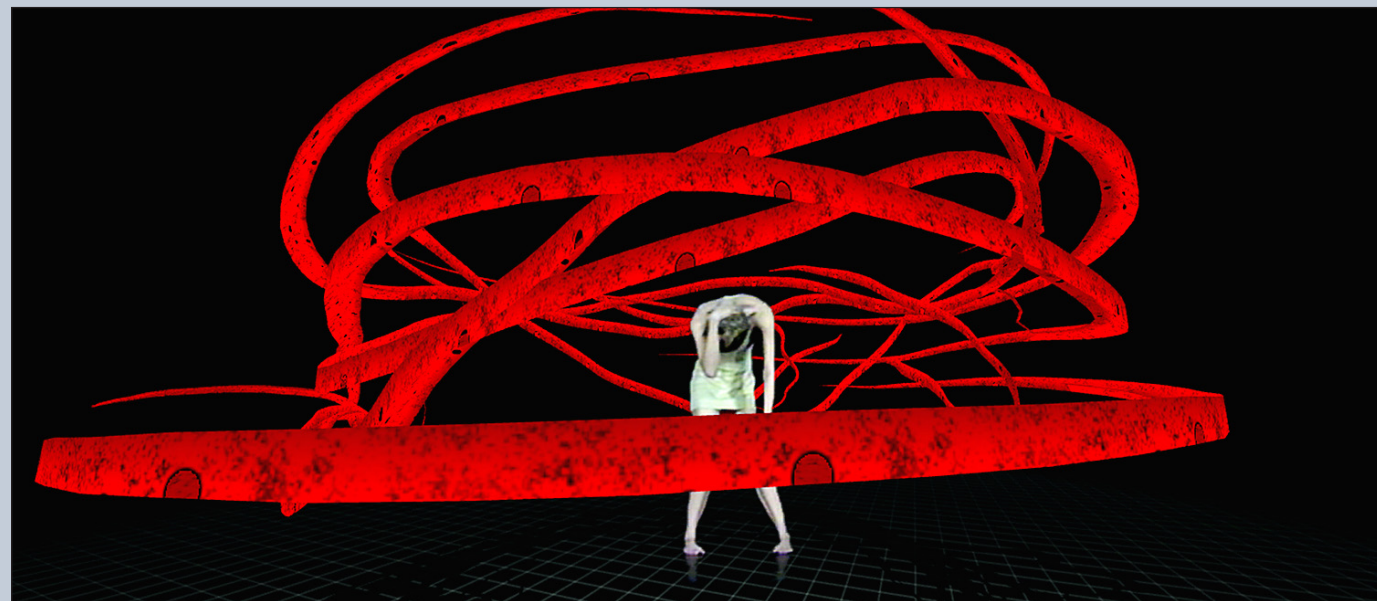
Sacre changed the way audiences heard and saw ballet and continues to inspire musicians and choreographers.

Austrian composer and multimedia artist Klaus Obermaier said Sacre was one of his favorite pieces when he was studying classical music. But he hadn't listened to it for almost a decade when the director of the Bruckner Festival in Linz, Austria, asked him to create a new production of Sacre for the 2006 festival.

"I had to think for a month about it, what I want to do, but then I knew I wanted to do it," Obermaier told a press conference at the National Concert Hall on Wednesday.

He joined forces with Ars Electronica Futurelab and Austrian ballerina Julia March to create an interactive, 3D dance production that, with the help of stereoscopic camera systems, motion capture technology and 3D glasses for the audience, takes March and audience members into a whole new world.

March dances in a special box stage to the side of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) while her movements and her world are projected onto a



Julia March performs in Klaus Obermaier's Le Sacre du Printemps interactive multimedia dance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NTCH

screen hanging above the musicians. However, that is all in the second half of the program. The orchestra, under the baton of American conductor Brad Lubman, will open with Claude Debussy's Prelude a l'Après-midi d'un Faune (Afternoon of a Faun) and La Mer.

Lubman, who will be making his NSO debut, said the combination of Debussy and Stravinsky made sense, because Debussy was "the start of modern classical music."

"We were looking for pieces that would complement Stravinsky. Debussy

was himself at the Rite of Spring premiere and reportedly said afterwards 'that his time had passed.' There is also a passage in Sacre where you can hear Debussy," Lubman said.

While Lubman has not worked with Obermaier before, he has done multimedia performances of both his own work and Steve Reich's The Cave and Three Tales.

He had his first rehearsal with the NSO on Wednesday morning, out in the lobby because Obermaier and his team were inside the concert hall rigging the set.

Modern technology can create new

worlds, but it still takes human hands to build the stage.

Le Sacre du Printemps — Interactive 3D Media Dance (3D肢體狂想曲《春之祭》) is tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm at the National Concert Hall (國家音樂廳), 21-1, Zhongshan S Rd, Taipei City. Tickets are NT\$1,600, NT\$2,000 and NT\$2,500, available at the NTCH box office or online at www.artsticket.com.tw. A package discount is available if you also buy a ticket for Klaus Obermaier's Apparition at the National Theater from May 15 to May 17.

— DIANE BAKER

Life is hard, and so are they

Covered in body paint, half black, half white, and with a shaved head, Macgregor Wooley, lead singer of alternative hard rock band Doublewide, stepped on to the stage at the Lost Lagoon party in Wulai in August of last year and blew the crowd away.

The stark paint highlighted his wide, crazed eyes, and the pounding intensity of Doublewide's music provided an outlet for his powerful voice.

Wooley does it again tomorrow night when the group performs at Roxy Vibe, with all-girl street punk band BB Bomb (BB彈) and instrumental noise artists Collider. Doublewide is also headlining Perpetual Motion's River Bash, which takes place from May 29 to May 31 in Pingling (坪林).

Wooley and guitarist Tristan Newman (one of Perpetual Motion's organizers) have worked on Doublewide's sound for more than two years, but have had to start over when group members either left the band or Taiwan. After going through three drummers, they hooked up with Jon Snowdon a year and a half ago.

"I've never met anyone I'm more on the



There's no middle ground with Macgregor Wooley: it's all black or white.

PHOTO: ALITA RICKARDS

same page with as Tristan," said Wooley. He added that Snowdon has the same sort of vision as the duo.

With the newest member, Nick Chen (陳信伯), 19, aka Kid Nicky, (formerly of Johnny Fatstacks) on bass, they are free to focus on the music.

"We've been labeled a metal band and we are so not," said Wooley, who also plays in New Hong Kong Hair City and Into the Void. "We're hard rock, which is an anomaly among the foreigners."

He said playing this genre of music is cathartic. Newman agrees: "You can take all that pent up excess emotion from your life and pour your heart out."

In rehearsal, Newman said they push the envelope and play as hard as they can. "Life is annoying and frustrating — you have angst," said Wooley. "Most people don't get to hit things or scream at a wall or jump up and down, but we go into a room twice a week and Jon gets to hit things and we get to jump up

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS MARCH 13 TO MARCH 19

- 1 Wang Lee-hom (王力宏) and Heart Beat (心·跳) with 12.05 percent of sales
2 Fish Leong (梁靜茹) and Fall in Love & Songs — Don't Cry For Him Anymore (靜茹&情歌 — 別再為他流淚) with 9.05%

3 Alan Kuo (柯有倫) and One Day (2009 柯有倫全創作) with 7.84%

4 Ji Jia-song (紀佳松) and Blue J with 4.92%

5 Alan Luo (羅志祥) and Trendy Man (潮男正傳) with 4.46%

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



[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Theater

The prestigious Ballet Company and Orchestra of Russia's Mariinsky Theater perform timeless classics Sleeping Beauty from tonight through Sunday and Swan Lake from Monday through Wednesday...

Part of the interactive installation A Jiaocha Experience (闖), by Taiwanese theater and cinema artist Huang Pei-shan (黃珮珊) and artist and hacker BlueScreen, Puppet and Its Double Theater (無獨有偶工作室劇團) will perform live-action and puppet shows that encourage viewers to explore and experience different forms of communication...

In four classic tales including Jou Chu Eradicates Three Evils (周處除三害) and Smash Down the Rank (大破銅鑼陣), Hsiao Hsi Yuan Puppet Theater (小西園掌中劇團), led by puppet master Hsu Wang (許王), shows Taiwan's traditional glove

puppetry as a refined art form.
National Experimental Theater, Taipei City
Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Century Contemporary Dance Company (世紀當代舞團) presents Stravinsky's Les Noces, which weds the Russian composer's cantata with choreographer Yao Shu-fen's (姚淑芬) contemporary vocabulary and painting by award-winning visual artist Wang Pan-yuan (王攀元).
Novel Hall (新舞台), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm
Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

A daring collaboration between veteran Beijing opera director Li Xiao-ping (李小平) and a group of 20-something theater novices from Creative Society (創作社劇團), Bye Girl (掰啦女孩) tells the story of three lads and a mysterious girl. Hip-hop beats abound in this play written by young playwright Feng Po-li (馮勃棟), who is also a rapper and magician.
Crown Art Center Theater (皇冠小劇場), B1, 50, Ln 120, Dunhua N Rd, Taipei City (台北市敦化北路120巷50號B1)
Today at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
Tickets are NT\$450, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Upcoming

Spring Scream, Taiwan's foremost independent music festival, starts April 3 (next Friday) at the Oluanpi Lighthouse National Park (鵝鑾鼻燈塔公園)
April 3, April 4 and April 5. Performances start at 2pm on April 3, and noon on April 4 and April 5. All performances finish around midnight. Visit Spring Scream's Web site for scheduling information, which is subject to change
NT\$1,690 for a three-day, all events pass or as follows for single-day tickets: Friday only NT\$890; Saturday only, NT\$1,190; Sunday only, NT\$490. Tickets are available at FamilyMart ticket kiosks until April 5. Children under 12 years of age get in free with an adult guardian bearing a valid ticket. All attendees must present valid photo ID.
Pop star A-mei tops the bill at Spring Scream.



PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

Classical

AMA Principal Soloists Series — Andrei Yeh (亞塞首席獨奏家系列 — 葉孟儒鋼琴獨奏會) sees Taiwan-born, Russian-trained pianist Andrei Yeh (葉孟儒) conclude his

current Taiwan tour tomorrow at the National Recital Hall in Taipei City. The series opens tomorrow with a free performance in Taoyuan County. Yeh will perform a program that includes Debussy's Preludes and Rachmaninoff's Prelude Op. 23.

Tomorrow at 7:30pm
National Recital Hall
Tickets are NT\$250 to NT\$500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

The First Taipei International Lyricism in 20th Century Music Festival (第一屆台北國際二十世紀美好音樂節) has the Evergreen Symphony Orchestra (長榮交響樂團) performing a series of concerts that run until April 15. In the first concert on Wednesday, the orchestra will be led by guest conductor Israel Yinon and feature Gary Hoffman on cello. The program will include Brahms's Nanie, Op. 82 for Choir and Orchestra and Schicksalslied Op. 54, Franz Schreker's Schanengesang and highlights from Alexander Zemlin-sky's opera Es War Einmal.
Wednesday at 7:30pm
National Concert Hall, Taipei City
Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Sinfonia Pastorale (田園交響曲) sees the Taipei Symphony Orchestra (臺北市立交響樂團) performing under the baton of guest conductor Reinhard Seifried and featuring piano soloist Su Li-chun (蘇立群). On the program are Richard Strauss's Suite From Der Rosenkavalier, Burleske for Piano and Orchestra and Eine Alpinsonnie Op. 64.
Tonight at 7:30pm
Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂), 98 Yeping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號)
Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

The Taipei County Government's Bitan Music Festival (碧潭音樂節) concludes this weekend with free outdoor performances at the Bitan riverside area outside of Xindian MRT Station. Tomorrow's program features Shantaa!, which plays music from India, Central Asia, the Middle East and Spain. The band is composed of Taiwanese multi-instrumentalist Janelle Chang (張宜樂), and Waka and Yo, a Japanese duo who play tabla and sitar. Tomorrow the festival features vintage blues and jazz from David Chen and the Muddy Basin Ramblers. On the Net www.2009bmf.com.tw
The festival takes place at the Bitan riverside area, just outside of Xindian MRT Station (新店捷運站)
Shows go from 3pm to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday
No admission fee

Tonight VU Live House hosts UK group Super Milkmen, which mix hip-hop, drums 'n' bass, electro and house. [See story on Page 15.] Tomorrow night Caribbean music DJ crew Island Jam presents Reggae Fever.
B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Tel: (02) 2314-1868
Show begins at 11pm
Entrance fee is NT\$400 for men and NT\$300 for women tonight and NT\$350 tomorrow, includes one drink

Tonight The Wall (牆) hosts Chinese bands Snapline and Carsick Cars, who toured with Sonic Youth on their European tour in 2007 and are one of China's most popular indie-rock bands.

[Note: Last Friday's edition of the Taipei Times incorrectly listed this show as having been scheduled for yesterday. We regret the error.] Later on, Earworm, a party dedicated to techno/minimal, holds its anniversary bash. The event features John Selway of the CSM records and DJs BB, A-Tao, Databass and VJ Monkey Sun. [See Vinyl Word.] Tomorrow night Echo (回聲) brings its Brit-pop sound to the venue. On Sunday post-rock band The Cranes shares the bill with Engine No. 9 (九號引擎). On Wednesday Beijing rockers Muma (木瑪) and Third Party take to the stage. Pop jazz wunderkind Joanna Wang (王若琳) appears on Thursday.
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
8pm tonight for the bands and midnight for the DJs, 8pm tomorrow, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday
Entrance fee tonight is NT\$800 for the bands and NT\$500 for the DJ party, NT\$400 tomorrow, NT\$300 on Sunday, NT\$350 on Wednesday and NT\$500 on Thursday

Orangegrass (橙草) performs tonight at Witch House (女巫店). Folk singer Panai (巴奈) 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
Entrance fee for music shows is NT\$300, includes one drink