

# POP STOP



# Rockin' the cradle



From left: Patrick Byrne, Andy Francis and Dooley Chandler of The Money Shot Horns. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MONEY SHOT HORNES

Those keeping abreast of the battle raging between busy sex kittens Shushu (舒舒) and Yaoyao (姚瑤瑤) will want to note one point for Shushu after her triumphant appearance in a regal evening dress made entirely out of condoms.

As readers of Pop Stop may recall, Shushu, whose real name is Tseng Ya-ling (曾雅鈴), recently ticked off media watchdogs and feminists when she appeared in television ads wearing a low cut top while operating a jackhammer. At the same time, another commercial aired featuring Yaoyao, real name Kuo Shu-yao (郭書瑤), enjoying a rigorous workout without the benefits of a properly fitted sports bra.

Perhaps jealous of the attention her rival's ad was receiving, Yaoyao had her agent announce that Shushu was merely copying her. All eyes were on Shushu last weekend, however, as she strutted around at a wedding dress show in the somewhat uncomfortable looking dress, which was made out of hundreds of condoms in their wrappers.

Not to be outdone, Yaoyao appeared in public wearing a cleavage revealing top and trousers that "left nothing to the imagination," but unfortunately, at least for what was left of Yaoyao's dignity, Shushu succeeded in knocking her off the gossip pages.

One of the wedding dress show's organizers let slip that they had originally wanted to hire Yaoyao for the event, but changed their minds because she was difficult to work with and instead hired Shushu "because she has similar style." That is no doubt a slap in the face for both women, who, despite their similar hairstyles, figures, nicknames and career paths, continue to insist that they are two totally unique individuals who aren't weirdly obsessed with one another.

Unlike the boobly twins, Alyssa Chia (賈靜雯) has been running away from the press, which is obsessed with the custody battle that is raging between the actress and her estranged husband Sun Chihhao (孫志浩).

Chia managed to give a crowd of waiting crowd photos the slip at Taoyuan International Airport on Monday before boarding a flight to the US, where her young daughter is currently living with Sun.

Chia's lawyer recently issued a statement begging the paparazzi to leave her alone, but she is partly to blame for the brouhaha. Chia tearfully announced at a press conference two weeks ago that she had not seen her child in four months.

Storm in an E cup: Shushu, above, has upstaged her rival, Yaoyao. PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

Reports say Sun is determined to keep the little girl in the US with him and has applied for an American passport for the tot. Sun's uncle, however, issued a statement accusing Chia of being a negligent mom. "She knows very well where her daughter is," Liu Chengchung (劉正中) said. "All she has to do is go back to her family."

Chia might want to get some points from fellow actress Annie Yi (伊能靜), who is fresh off her newly granted divorce from Harlem Yu (黃禮德). Yi appeared on Hong Kong talk show *Be My Guest* (志雲飯局) to refute rumors that she'd given up shared custody of their young son in exchange for a hefty settlement of real estate.

Yi also insisted that her alleged affair with Victor Huang (黃維德) did not break up her nine-year marriage, even though the two sparked a media frenzy last November when they were photographed holding hands in Beijing. The marriage just ran its course, said Yi, adding that Yu was "the love of a lifetime and he can't be replaced." Maybe things look rosier in hindsight. The couple's marriage was constantly plagued with rumors of marital discord, many of which centered on Yi's beef with her in-laws.

One celebrity couple that still manages to get along is Cecilia Cheung (張柏芝) and Nicholas Tse (謝霆鋒), who are preparing to move into a luxurious new home in Hong Kong. *Oriental Sunday* (東方新地週刊) reports that Cheung, who has been taking a career break since the Edison Chen (陳冠希) sex photo scandal broke, spent NT\$4 million remodeling the 300m<sup>2</sup> abode. She combined two bedrooms into a giant playroom for her son Lucas and remade another bedroom with an ocean view into a home spa with a tub big enough for two. *Oriental Sunday* said Cheung plans to treat Tse to romantic massages there, which is supposedly one of the secrets to their happy marriage.

— COMPILED BY CATHERINE SHU



The Taipei Culture Passport opens doors into the capital's soul. PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH VILLAGE

## Passports, please

Begun as a brochure that listed places worth visiting in the capital and distributed annually by Taipei City government's Cultural Affairs Bureau (台北市政府文化局), the Taipei Culture Passport (台北文化護照) expanded to become a series of events that invites members of the general public to explore the city and experience its traditions, history and culture. Co-organized by South Village (南村), this year's event includes nearly 100 activities running from March to September.

This month's theme is tea and mountain life. Tea experts and cultural workers such as Ho Chien (何健), Tseng Chih-hsien (曾至賢) and Lulu Han (韓良露), who is also the head of South Village, will lead tours to Dadaocheng (大稻埕), Nangang (南港) and the Yungkuang (永康) neighborhood taking in old and contemporary teahouses, museums and plantations. Celebrated writer Liu Ke-xiang (劉克襄) is back with his popular walking tour of Muzha (木柵), which follows part of the old tea trade trail between Taipei and Ilan (宜蘭).

Next month, a series of exhibitions and lectures by cultural luminaries such as Chang Hsiao-hung (張小虹) and Chiang Hsun (蔣勳) will be held to mark the 90th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement (五四運動). June's theme is contemporary design and art, with guided tours of local designers' boutiques and galleries in Tianmu (天母), Beitou (北投) and Shida (師大) and along Zhongshan North Road (中山北路).

From July to September, the food, religion, historical sites and ancient crafts of Wanhua (萬華) become the center of the attention.

Because of the limited number of places for outings and workshops, the activities fill up fast. Registration can be done by calling (02) 8369-2963 or online at [www.southvillage.com.tw](http://www.southvillage.com.tw).

Culture Passport brochures containing detailed information on destinations and activities can be picked up at South Village or the Taipei Department of Cultural Affairs as well as various cultural venues including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (台北當代藝術館), Lin Yu-tang Residence (林語堂故居), Spot — Taipei Film House (光點—台北之家) and Red House Theater (西門紅樓). It can also be found online at [culturepassport.culture.gov.tw](http://culturepassport.culture.gov.tw). — HO YI

This is not a story about a great night of live music — though there will be one tomorrow at 89K. It's not about the release of a CD with songs by 14 different bands, all of which are or were based in Taiwan. This is a story about a community of people coming together to support one of their own. It's a story about what happens when expatriates living abroad reach out to one another to form a bond as strong as that of an extended family.

It began when text messages were forwarded across the country looking for donations of rare type O negative blood for Fionn Byrne, born two months premature on Jan. 15, and announcements were made at open jam nights and gigs from Kaohsiung to Taipei. "People donated blood from around the island," said Fionn's father, Patrick Byrne, who plays saxophone for popular super-funk band The Money Shot Horns.

Byrne is a household name on the Taichung live music scene for his role in booking acts and organizing local festivals; as owner of the now-defunct Grooveyard he gave many bands their start. A friend, Shaun Bettinson, had organized a sponsored walk that surpassed its goal of NT\$100,000 by a factor of four, but the baby's medical bills were still mounting. Mark Harris, guitarist for Dirty Skies, compiled the CD as a way to "give local foreign musicians the opportunity to give something back to Patrick Byrne for all he has given to the musical community."

The CD, *Songs for Fionn* (sounds like "Fin"), includes tracks by The Money Shot Horns, Wailin' Soul, Three Day Bender,



### PERFORMANCE NOTES:

**WHAT:** Songs for Fionn CD release party  
**WHERE:** 89K, 21 Daguan Rd, Nantun Dist, Taichung City (台中市南屯區大觀路21號)  
**WHEN:** Tomorrow from 10pm to 2am  
**ADMISSION:** NT\$500 minimum donation, includes a copy of the CD  
**ON THE NET:** For information on private contributions contact Patrick Byrne at [byrnejazz\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:byrnejazz[at]gmail.com)

## TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

APRIL 3 TO APRIL 9

- 1 Jolin Tsai (蔡依林) and *Butterfly* (花蝴蝶) with 31.1 percent of sales
- 2 Hsiao Hung-jin (蕭薊仁) and *His Name is Fu\*k* (法克這個人) with 7.68%
- 3 Compilation album *K.O. 3 Anguo* (三國鼎立SUPER大鬥陣) with 5.46%
- 4 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 4.01%
- 5 Power Station (動力火車) and *Moving On* (繼續轉動) with 3.77%

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

## Theater

Seasoned actress and film director Sylvia Chang (張艾嘉) returns to the stage after a two-decade hiatus with *Design for Living* (華麗上班族之生活與生存). Directed by Hong Kong theater director Edward Lam (林奕華), the star-studded play takes a humorous and compassionate look at the life and dreams of white-collar workers.

- ▶ National Theater, Taipei City
- ▶ Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$4,000, available through ERA ticket outlets or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw)

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre's (雲門舞集) second company, Cloud Gate 2, is celebrating its 10th anniversary with *Spring Riot* (春鬥), a tour which begins today at Taipei's Novel Hall and will next month take in Hsinchu, Taichung and Kaohsiung. The bill includes *Island of Silence* (靜默之島) by Gu Ming-sheng (古名生) and Lin Hwai-ming's (林懷民) *Waiting for Spring Wind* (望春風).

- ▶ Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
- ▶ Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,200, available through NTCH ticket outlets or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

Celebrated theater director Wang Jia-ming (王嘉明) teams up with songstress Cheer Chen (陳綺貞) and composer and music producer Chen Chien-chi (陳建騏) for his latest work *Once, Upon Hearing the Skin Tone* (膚色的時光), a mystery thriller musical about love and the atrocities and madness it entails.

- ▶ 6F Performance Hall, EsLite Xinyi Store (誠品信義店6F展演廳), 6F, 11 Songgao Rd, Taipei City (台北市松高路11號6樓)
- ▶ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm, Tuesday to Thursday at 7:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$600, available through NTCH ticket outlets or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

Ping-Fong Acting Troupe's (屏風表演班) 2002 *The Aurora Borealis* (北極之光) returns with a countrywide tour. The big-budget production examines first love and commitment.

- ▶ Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號)
- ▶ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$3,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

A Zhaihan's Fantasy (宅男的魔法與與想像世界) tells the tale of a homebody who has plenty of love but is short on looks.

- ▶ Comedy Club, B1, 24 Taihsun St, Taipei City (台北市泰順街24號B1)
- ▶ Today, tomorrow and Sunday at 8pm and 11pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$250 at the door and include one drink

Lanling Theatre Workshop (蘭陵劇坊), a pioneering experimental theater, is celebrating its 30th anniversary by restaging three works from its repertoire. The first, *Cats' Paradise* (貓的天堂), premiered in 1980, and, by conveying emotions through body movements, dances rather than dialogue, challenged theatrical orthodoxy.

- ▶ Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
- ▶ Thursday at 7:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

## Classical

Jerome Rose Piano Recital (傑羅姆·羅斯鋼琴獨奏會). Jerome Rose, a gold medalist at the International Busoni Competition, will visit Taipei to present two master classes and two concerts. The program includes Beethoven's *Sonata in E-Flat Op. 3*, Schumann's *Humoreske*, and *Benediction de Dieu dans la Solitude*, *Funerailles* and *Mephisto Waltz* by Liszt.

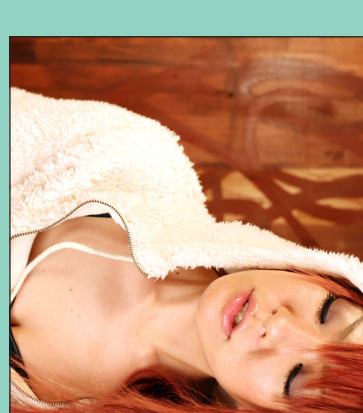
- ▶ Sunday at 7:30pm (Hsinchu) and Wednesday at 7:30pm (Taipei)
- ▶ Performance Hall of the Bureau of Cultural Affairs Hsinchu City (新竹市文化局演藝廳), 17 Dongda Rd Sec 2, Hsinchu City (新竹市東大路二段17號) and National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500 for the Hsinchu concert and NT\$400 to NT\$2,000 for the Taipei Concert, available through ERA ticketing or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw)

*Ode to the Earth* (用音樂愛地球) is a concert of music on the theme of nature performed by the Taipei Symphony Winds (臺北市立交響樂團附設管樂團), a group formed from members of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra (臺北市立交響樂團) performing under Hsu Shuang-liang (許雙亮). The program includes Philip Sparke's *Earth, Water, Sun, Wind — Symphony for Band*, Bert Appermont's *Microtopia*, Alexander Glazunov's "Autumn" from *Ballet Suite "The Seasons"*, Satoshi Yagisawa's *Ode to Sun* and Tsumoto Tajima's *24 Solar Terms*.

- ▶ Today at 7:30pm
- ▶ Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂), 98 Yanping 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](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

## UPCOMING

Next weekend several Japanese musicians visit Taipei for a one-day festival of reggae music held by Islandjam at The Wall (這牆). The event, which takes place on April 25, features several headline acts from Japan: five-piece band *Carib Rock*, female singer *Miffer*, Big H and DJ Yahman. Local performers include Skaraoke, Ice and Sunny Small, expat roots group *High Tide*, *Junior Alfa* of Guinea and a member of *Black Reign*. Upcoming events include a performance by Black Reign in Taichung next month and a beachside party at Cianshui Bay (淺水灣), Sanchih Township (三芝), in June.



Japanese singer Miffer headlines a one-day festival of reggae music at The Wall in Taipei next week. PHOTO COURTESY OF MIFFER

NCO Power Series — The Legend (NCO王者系列—大玉四神記) is a presentation of the world premiere of a newly commissioned work by the NCO. The work, by Japanese composers Joe Hisaishi and Koji Sakurai, is based on a Korean mythological story that became popular in Taiwan after a television series, titled *The Legend*, was shown here. In addition to the premiere of *The Legend — A Symphonic Poem* (交響詩—大玉四神記), the program includes Tan Dun's (譚盾) *The Rite of Fire* (火祭), and Hsu Chien-chiang's (徐堅強) *Annular Eclipses* (日環蝕).

- ▶ Today at 7:30pm
- ▶ National Concert Hall, Taipei City

Islandjam Live Reggae concert featuring Carib Rock, Miffer and Big H of Japan, at The Wall (這牆), B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). To learn more, call (02) 2930-0162 or visit [www.thewall.com.tw](http://www.thewall.com.tw)

- ▶ April 25, 10:30pm
- ▶ NT\$400, available at the door only

Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

## Contemporary

Tomorrow night **VU Live House** hosts funk combo **New Hong Kong Hair City**, garage rockers **The Deadly Vibes** and a new expat rock band, **The Blue Trucks**.

- ▶ 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\$350, includes one drink

**Sugar Plum Ferry** (甜梅號) takes to the stage tonight at **The Wall** (這牆). Tomorrow Japanese pop and rock musician **Inoran**, formerly of the band **Luna Sea**, performs in a concert entitled **Pleased to Meet You Again**. On Sunday it's indie bands **The Tic Tac** and **The Capelin** (柳葉魚).

- ▶ 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](http://www.thewall.com.tw) for more information
- ▶ Starts at 8pm tonight, tomorrow and Sunday
- ▶ Entrance is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$1,500 tomorrow and NT\$300 on Sunday

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

At **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留聲) tonight **Wailin' Soul**, a group of local and expat jazz musicians, perform rhythm and blues, reggae, ska and world music. Tomorrow night former **Sticky Rice** frontman **Ma Nienshien** (馬念先) and friends take to the stage. On Sunday there's classical and contemporary jazz with **Hung Yun-hui** and **Wei Liang's Quartet** (洪筠惠與威良) and pop music played by串 and wind quartet **Livets Chamber** (利未人室內樂團).

- ▶ 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 (中電大樓). Call (02) 2368-7310 or visit [www.riverside.com.tw](http://www.riverside.com.tw) for more information
- ▶ Show starts at 9:30pm tonight, 9pm tomorrow and Sunday
- ▶ Entrance is NT\$450 tonight, NT\$400 tomorrow and NT\$350 Sunday

"Brit-pop" group **1976**, which released its first major label album *Asteroid 1976* late last year, appears tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演廳). Tomorrow it's pretty boy pop-rock group **Rock Oriental Express** (搖滾東方) with newcomers **The Little** playing an opening set.

- ▶ 177 Xinying S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路177號). Call (02) 2370-8805 or visit [www.riverside.com.tw](http://www.riverside.com.tw) for more information
- ▶ Shows start at 8:30pm
- ▶ Entrance fee is NT\$450, includes one drink