

POP STOP

Does A-mei have a secret love child?

PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

Taiwanese entertainer **Da Bing's** (大炳) bad habits have caught up with him. Again. Readers of Pop Stop will recall that the cross-dressing performer, whose real name is Yu Bing-hsian (余炳賢) and goes by the English name Tony Fish, was arrested in 2007 for using amphetamines, which resulted in 50 days of rehab.

Things were beginning to look up when he became a poster boy for Taiwan's anti-drug movement (反毒運動). But signs that Da Bing was returning to his old ways were on show earlier this year when he and his brother, **Xiao Bing** (小炳), were involved in a drunk driving accident. For Taiwan's media, however, that was small potatoes.

Last weekend it all went downhill for the 33-year-old actor when he was busted with amphetamines, according to reports in the *Apple Daily* and *Liberty Times* (the *Taipei Times*' sister newspaper).

The papers said police, apparently responding to a noise complaint, found him in a hotel room barely dressed in a towel and allegedly watching a porno. The police said Da Bing was trying to hide a bag of amphetamine when they entered the room.

To make matters worse, he was found alongside **Huang Chin-lung** (黃金龍), a somewhat shady character who has a criminal record that includes drug and gun possession and assault charges.

At a press conference held the following day, Da Bing, tears streaming down his face, admitted to using the drug and begged forgiveness. The hoard of assembled media, characteristically unsympathetic, asked him if he thought anyone in the entertainment industry would ever work with him again. Unsurprisingly, he declined to respond.

The moralizing continued over the weekend and reached a climax when Da Bing's agent, **Shen Yu-lin** (沈玉琳), said if the allegations prove true, "I will probably break his contract,"



Just say no, to Da Bing. PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

because he would be a poor role model and has hurt those who are close to him. Pouring salt on his wounds, **Chang Hsiao-yen** (張小燕), the so-called godmother of television, said Da Bing needed to see a psychiatrist.

Meanwhile, feng shui master **Tsai Shang-chi** (蔡上機) weighed in and said the disgraced performer's bad luck could be attributed to his face, according to a report in *Apple*. Drawing on his years of geomantic experience, Tsai determined that Da Bing never cherished his good luck and wasted it through drug use.

Meanwhile, according to reports from China, it looks like Taiwan's top supermodel, **Lin Chih-ling** (林志玲), will marry **Scott Qiu** (邱士楷), Taiwan's "Toilet Prince" (馬桶王子), a moniker he acquired because of his position as heir to HCG Corporation (和成集團), a bathroom equipment company that specializes in commodes.

The rumor stems from an interview Qiu allegedly gave to Human Satellite Television (湖南衛視), in which he said the couple plan to marry in the second half of this year.

The *Liberty Times*, however, questioned the report and said gossip from the Chinese paparazzi is notoriously, er, unreliable (unlike, of course, the eminently reliable gossip published in Taiwan).

For her part, Lin scotched the rumor at the Hong Kong Film Awards (香港電影金像獎) held on Sunday, where she was hoping to pick up a gong for best new act, when she said she has no plans to marry this year and hasn't been in contact with Qiu recently.

"This has been a rumor for five years. You'd think [the media] would come up with something more creative," she said.

And finally, a man sumamed Lin (林) told the *Apple Daily* that he and Chang Hui-mei (張惠妹), better known as pop diva **A-mei**, have an 18-year daughter together. He also said that they were married. Upon further questioning by reporters, however, he was unable to provide any proof. Perhaps he should send his resume to the Chinese entertainment press.

— COMPILED BY NOAH BUCHAN



Choirs for Tomorrow is Taiwan Haibizi's latest work of tent-theater, a form of performance that uses society's marginal spaces as stages from which to voice social criticism.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TAIWAN HAIBIZI

Revolt in the form of chorus

Tuan Hui-min (段惠民) came across *Wheat Wave Chorus* (麥浪歌詠隊) while rummaging through bookshelves for something to read.

The oft-neglected story about a club founded in 1946 by students from National Taiwan University (台大, Taida) and National Taiwan Normal University (師大, Shida) immediately caught the veteran theater activist's eye. A few months later, *Choirs for Tomorrow* (無路可選), Taiwan Haibizi's (台灣海筆子) latest play, began to take shape.

"Wheat Wave Chorus consisted of Taida students arriving from China and Taiwanese students from Shida. They toured southern and central Taiwan, introducing Chinese folk songs to locals and picking up Taiwanese ballads. They were Chinese and Taiwanese who wished to break boundaries and foster mutual understanding," said Tuan, who co-directs the play with Lin Hsin-i (林欣怡).

For the past 10 years, Taiwan Haibizi has worked in close collaboration with Japanese director and playwright Sakurai Daizo, the foremost advocate of tent-theater, a type of left-wing theater that originated in Japan in the late 1960s, a time of social unrest.

"Ten years ago when I first came to Taiwan, the relationship between the two countries [Taiwan and Japan] was post-colonial. Taiwan has entered a new phase. It is forming its viewpoints about its history and future and its relations to China, Asia and the rest of the world," said Daizo, who now spends much of his time promoting political theater in China.

The play begins with the death of a homeless man named Lao Fei (老廢). His hobo friend A-Q (阿

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Choirs for Tomorrow (無路可選)
WHEN: Tonight, tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm
WHERE: Fuhe Riverside Park (永和市福和河濱公園) in Yonghe, Taipei County
ADMISSION: Tickets are NT\$400 in advance and NT\$450 at the door. A limited number remain for tonight's performance. Call 0922-606-094
ON THE NET: blog.roodo.com/taiwanhaibizi

Q) discovers that, 60 years previously, Lao Fei was a Chinese student named Hung Shan (紅善) who was a member of Wheat Wave Chorus.

The group members' ideals and dreams were crushed by the April 6 Incident (四六事件), when police raided the two universities. The event, which occurred in 1949, is often viewed as the beginning of the White Terror era.

"Sixty years later, we've lost faith and a spiritual birthplace to return to. We have to keep our eyes wide open because there is no clear path either in front or behind," Tuan said.

Located in a parking lot adjacent to the weekend flower market at Fuhe Riverside Park in Yonghe (永和) and built by volunteers, the play's venue is a two-story tent that contains a stage and seating. Detailed directions can be found online at blog.roodo.com/taiwanhaibizi.

— HO YI

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS APRIL 10 TO APRIL 16

- 1 Jolin Tsai (蔡依林) and *Butterfly* (花蝴蝶) with 22.16 percent of sales
- 2 By2 and Twins with 8.33%
- 3 Compilation album *K.O. 3 Anguo* (三團鼎立SUPER大門陣) with 5.53%
- 4 Li Li-wei (李立威) and *You* (你) with 5.52%
- 5 Power Station (動力火車) and *Moving On* (繼續轉動) with 5.16%

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



Theater

Tainaner Ensemble's (台南人劇團) six-hour long **K24** returns to the National Theater this weekend. In this humorous play within a play featuring nine actors in more than 70 roles, the "K24 Bureau of Investigation" discovers a plot to assassinate the president's daughter, who's been cast in the role of Juliet for a professional theater production.

► National Theater, Taipei City
 ► Tomorrow and Sunday at 2pm
 ► Tickets are NT\$800 to NT\$3,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

In **Elevator** (電梯) by 4 Chairs Theatre (四把椅子劇團), two men get stuck in an elevator. To kill time, the men play a game that will soon reveal their ugly inner natures.

► Gulung Street Theater (特爾街小劇場), 2, Ln 5, Gulung St, Taipei City (台北市祐嶺街5巷2號)
 ► Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
 ► Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Lanling Theatre Workshop (蘭陵劇坊), a pioneering experimental theater troupe, 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 movement and 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)
 ► Tonight at 7:30pm
 ► Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Ping-Fong Acting Troupe's (屏風表演班) 2002 production **The Aurora Borealis** (北極之光) returns for a countrywide tour. The theme of this star-studded, big-budget production is first love over three generations and the promises and commitment that run through it.

► 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\$600 to NT\$3,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

In **O Sabbe Dharmakaya**, Mia Hsieh (謝韻雅) from A Moving Sound (聲動劇場) turns to the story of her mother, who was separated from her parents after coming to Taiwan in 1949. What begins as a family history becomes a monument to a collective tragedy.

► Eslite Bookstore, Tainan (台南誠品書店), B2, 181, Changrun Rd Sec 1, Tainan City (台南市長榮路一段181號B2)
 ► Tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
 ► Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical

Sounds of Taiwan (台灣風情) by Ten Drum Art Percussion (鼓擊樂團) bills itself as a neo-classical percussion performance. It combines traditional Taiwanese folk performances, folk religion, Aboriginal music and drumming in a production that gives a new perspective on the beauty of Taiwanese culture.

► Sunday at 7:30pm in Taipei, and Tuesday at 2:30pm and at 7:30pm in Ilan

► Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall (國父紀念館), 505, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段505號); Ilan Performing Arts Center (宜蘭縣政府文化局演藝廳), 428, Zhongshan Sec 2, Ilan City (宜蘭市中山路二段428號)
 ► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$2,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

NSO Meet the Master — Eroica (NSO 遇見大師系列—印刻英雄) will feature Peter Rosel on piano performing with the National Symphony Orchestra (國家交響樂團) under Gunther Herbig. The program will include Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3 in E Flat Major, Eroica, Op. 55* and Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Op. 26*.
 ► Today at 7:30pm
 ► National Concert Hall, Taipei City
 ► Tickets are NT\$600 and NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Les Petits Chanteurs de Saint-Marc (法國聖馬克兒童合唱團), the highly popular children's choir aged 10 to 15, have won hearts around the world. They will commence their tour of Taiwan on Thursday and continue over the next week with performances in Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung, Chungli and Hsinchu.
 ► Thursday at 7:30pm
 ► National Concert Hall, Taipei City
 ► Tickets from NT\$1,200 to NT\$2,000 are still available, and can be obtained through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Tomorrow in Kaohsiung, the pub **Join US** celebrates its two-year anniversary with reggae acts **The Blue Truckers** and **Jahson the Scientist**, a band called **Fuck You and DJs Paty and 2 Hands**.
 ► 169 Jianguo 3rd Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市建國三路169號). Join US is a five-minute walk from Kaohsiung Train Station (高雄車站), next to a FamilyMart (全家便利) convenience store at the corner of Jianguo 3rd and Nantai (南台) roads. For more details, visit www.sanbaparty.com
 ► Party begins tomorrow at 6pm
 ► Entrance fee is NT\$300 or NT\$250 with student ID, includes one drink

Tomorrow night **VU Live House** hosts Don't Believe the Hype, a drum 'n' bass DJ session presented by

Tranquility Bass Productions.
 ► 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\$500 for men, NT\$400 for women; all you can drink

Tonight **The Wall** (這牆) hosts indie band **Red Flower** (紅花), **Zoom In** and veteran combo **The Chairman** (董事長). Indie-folk and pop band **929** plays tomorrow night. Later tomorrow evening it's Islandjam Live Reggae, a mini-festival featuring headline acts from Japan: **Carib Rock**, **Miffer**, **Big H** and **DJ Yahman**. Local reggae acts are also on the bill. [See story on Page 15.] On Sunday it's **Slow Motion**, a band that attempts a mix of hard rock and French disco thump a la Daft Punk. **Green Field** (綠野仙蹤); and **Elisa** (一粒沙).
 ► 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 8pm tonight and Sunday; 929's set tomorrow starts at 10:30pm
 ► Entrance fee for music shows is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$500 tomorrow for 929, NT\$400 for tomorrow's reggae show, and NT\$300 on Sunday; includes one drink

Comedic indie-pop band **Open Eyes** (歡眼愛) appear tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). Tomorrow **Weibird** (韋禮安), an up-and-coming

singer-songwriter, will present a set of soul pop material with his backing band. Singer **Huang Jie** (黃玠) takes to the stage on Thursday.
 ► 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

Making an appearance at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留言) tonight is the **Wen Rhythm Jazz Band**. Tomorrow night Hakka singer-songwriter **Lin Sheng-xiang** (林生祥) and Japanese guitarist **Ken Ohtake** (大竹研) perform in support of their newly released CD, *Growing Up Wild* (野生). On Sunday pop-fusion act **They're Lisa** (他們是力殺) and **La Petite Nurse** (小護士樂團) split the bill.
 ► 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 starts at 9:30pm tonight, 9pm tomorrow and Sunday
 ► Entrance fees: NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow and NT\$350 Sunday

Tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館), it's pop-rock act



CIHL leading scorer Ryan "Rhino" Lang, third from right, tries to break through the Taipei Wolves' defense. The Taipei Rhinos face off against the Wolves tonight in the first semifinal series game at the Taipei Arena.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CIHL

Enter the attack zone

When the Chinese Ice Hockey League (CIHL) began five years ago, 80 percent of the players were expats.

Not anymore. "Taiwanese players make up about 35 or 40 percent now," said Dave Campbell, the league's vice commissioner.

"The new kids coming up are in shape and fast and they keep their heads up. It's kind of a shift from the previous generation," he said, adding that a larger local fan base has accompanied the increase in the number and quality of local players.

"For the foreigners, it's generally the expat, English-teaching and beer-swilling crowd. But for the Taiwanese, especially with the kids, they will bring their families out," he said.

Spectators will get to see both expats and Taiwanese take to the ice this weekend as four teams compete in the league's semifinals. The first game begins tonight at 9:15pm when the top-seeded Taipei Rhinos face off against the Taipei Wolves, which finished sixth place in regular season play. Immediately following the one-hour game, the second-ranked Hsinchu Raptors play Taichung Lions, seeded fourth. That game begins at 10:45pm.

All games will be played at Taipei Arena and admission is free.

Tomorrow night's games begin when the Lions face off against the Raptors at 9:15pm, followed by the Rhinos playing the Wolves. If teams tie tomorrow with a victory apiece, the action will continue on Sunday, beginning at 7:15pm.

The teams that prove their mettle on the ice this weekend will move on to the championships, which begin on May 1.

More local players means more teams, Campbell said. This year there were nine teams compared to eight last year. The league began five years ago with four.

Campbell said that Sababa Pita Bar will serve snacks tomorrow night.

— NOAH BUCHAN

HOCKEY NOTES:

WHAT: Chinese Ice Hockey League (CIHL), semifinal series
WHERE: Taipei Arena (台北小巨蛋), 2, Nanjing E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市南京東路四段2號)
WHEN: Tonight and tomorrow from 9:15pm. In the event of a tie, games will be played on Sunday beginning at 7:15pm
ADMISSION: Free
ON THE NET: www.cihl.com.tw/international