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Log on

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Besides, he said, "it doesn't have to be girl tits, if a guy wants to clap his tits, either against his own if they're big giant fatman tits, great. Or if he claps against a friend, fine. As long as it's boobs against boobs, you know the party level goes up a notch. That's the whole point of that song."

Talk to Log long enough, and it's hard not to wonder if he hasn't gotten carried away with his breast obsession. He says one of his weirdest gigs took place in Belgium, where he says a woman with three breasts came up on stage for Boob Scotch.

"And she's presenting all three of them, like 'which one do you want in your drink?' And it's like, the middle one of course! How can I not take the middle one?'

Log sounds a bit like Primus playing thrash metal with Tom Waits (who is reportedly a fan), and says he draws inspiration from Delta blues musicians like Mississippi Fred McDowell.

In keeping with hill country blues, Log churns out funky, hypnotic rhythms, but he adds a modern touch by playing at faster speeds, often using an electronic drum machine for an additional layer of beats.

Log cut his teeth playing in the 1990s with punk-blues outfit Doo Rag, which toured Europe with The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion and R.L. Burnside, the Mississippi delta blues legend who died in 2005.

During that tour, Log wound up filling in for Burnside's accompanying guitarist, who had to miss a few shows. "I learned more in eight days than I learned in eight years, playing with him," he said.

After Doo Rag dissolved, Log decided to pursue his current one-man band act and released his debut album, School Bus, in 1998 through Burnside's record label, Fat Possum.

The album turned out to be a cult hit in Japan, where, according to Log, he outsold Celine Dion for two weeks. He enjoys a loyal following there; Sony Japan even has a special Web site in Japanese dedicated to Log.

For Log, who cites AC/DC and Screamin' Jay Hawkins as major influences, his goal is to both entertain and rock. "What you got to do is turn the party up, however you can, but the music's got to be able to stand on its own, on a CD as well. You can't just get up there with a skull on a stick and expect someone to buy your record, the song's got to be something people want to hear."

After his show in Taipei, Log, who says he loves to tour, heads to the US for 36 gigs in 36 days. He knows his body will pay for it someday, but he says it's already worth it.

"Someday I'm not going to be able to walk like a normal human being, but it will be because I bounced too many women on my knee. So if it's that's the case, every time I limp, I will smile," he said.



ood aside, Friday nights at PS Underground just got better. If this were Oliver Twist, begging, he would be saying, "Please sir, I want some more ... soul



Taipei's reggae scene turns it up a notch

eggae in Taipei takes a break from the sound system and goes live with promoter Islandjam's mini-festival of bands playing roots, rock steady, ska and dancehall tomorrow night at The Wall (這牆).

The event features seven bands, including headliners Miffer and Carib Rocks of Japan and up-and-coming local acts such as ska and rock steady band Skaraoke, expat roots group High Tide and vocalist Junior Alfa, an expat from Guinea.

Tomorrow's show will be one of the biggest live reggae events ever held in Taipei, says DJ Taili, one of Islandjam's organizers and a member of the Jamaican sound system Black Reign International Sound.

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Islandjam Live Reggae concert with Carib Rock, Miffer, DJs Yahman and Big H of Japan, and Skaraoke, Ice, Sunny Smalls, High Tide, Junior Alfa and Jamaican sound system Black Reign International Sound

WHEN: Tomorrow from 10:30pm until late WHERE: The Wall (這牆), 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 ON THE NET: www.myspace.com/taili9, www.caribrocks.net,

www.myspace.com/miffermiffermiffer **ADMISSION:** Tickets are NT\$400 at the door and include one drink

Soul food, glorious

With Islandjam, Taili says he wants to bring more visibility to Taiwan's small but growing reggae scene and to "take it out of the underground.'

His strategy for the event is to give exposure to newer local artists like singers Sunny Smalls and Ice, and to present experienced, professional musicians that "put on a good show." For such performers, Taili and Islandjam looked to Japan, which has an active scene and where reggae is huge industry.

Taili says he's confident that Miffer, a popular reggae singer in Japan, will inspire audiences. She sings most of her songs in Japanese and a variety of styles, from roots to the electronic-laced sounds of dancehall. Her impressive vocal range and tight, polished sound can be sampled on her MySpace page

Miffer will be backed by Tokyo-based band Carib Rocks, which plays rock steady — a classic reggae style originally marked by vocal harmonies — among other versions of the genre.

Carib Rocks writes and performs their own songs, which comprise half of their live sets, says bassist and singer Tori Takashi. The band has some novel cover tunes in its repertoire, including a reggae-techno version of French composer Erik Satie's Gymnopedies No. 1 and the Beatles' Tomorrow Never Knows.

Even though live music is the focus tomorrow, selectors from Black Reign International will spin tunes between band sets. Joining them will be Japanese DJs Yahman and Big H, who are credited with helping popularize reggae in Japan in the 1970s, according to Taili. - DAVID CHEN

many will last? Music today is disposable. Soul is timeless." Catch Cap and get some Soul Food every Friday night from 8pm until 10:30pm. PS Underground is located at B1, 37, Ln 187, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路 -段187巷37號B1).

"There is hardly any drum 'n' bass being pushed here," says Richard Greenland, aka DJ Rich, promoter of Don't Believe the Hype, "and even though most people here

RESTAURANTS

La Mairie Cafe (市長官邸咖啡餐廳) Address: 46 Xuzhou Rd, Taipei City (台北市徐州路46號)

Telephone: (02) 2392-9510 Open: 9am to 10:30pm, meals not served after 9pm Average Meal: NT\$310 to NT\$660 **Details:** Chinese and English menu; credit cards accepted **On The Net:** www.mayorsalon.com.tw (in Chinese only)

The quiet and green La Mairie Cafe offers such relief from the typical Taipei streetscape that one could almost forgive the restaurant for its overpriced, mediocre food. The restaurant is

located within The Mayor's

Residence Arts Salon (市長

官邸藝文沙龍), a Japanese-

built in 1940 as an official

style house originally



The baked mussels with breadcrumbs were plain awful, but La Mairie Cafe is still worth the trip for its spacious grounds and Japanese architecture. PHOTO: DAVID CHEN, TAIPEI TIMES residence for the capital's mayor.

The space is now run privately as a gallery space and venue for meetings and events.

Upon entering, visitors will likely be struck by the spacious grounds, which cover approximately 800 ping (2,645m²). Tall camphor trees dotted around the perimeter shade the entire grounds, which also sport a well-kept garden. The house has been well preserved structurally, with its most distinctive feature the sliding doors commonplace in traditional Japanese houses.

But La Mairie feels more like a homey Taiwanese teahouse that has taken over a Japanese restaurant. I sat with two companions on well-worn rattan chairs and tables at the cafe's outdoor terrace, a space that was a little crowded for three. The terrace, however, did exude a certain charm with its creaky old wooden floor and Chinese lamps adorned with Hakka floral prints.

The menu consists of a hodgepodge of Western food that caters to local tastes.

A house recommendation, the La Mairie-style lamb shank (NT\$450, NT\$650 with set menu) was disappointing: the meat was too chewy and gamey, and the overly salty brown sauce didn't help.

Main course set meals, which range from NT\$650 to NT\$780, include soup, salad and an appetizer. With the latter, avoid the baked mussels, which were a letdown. The dish arrived artfully presented, with diced red, green and yellow pepper and crushed herbs sprinkled on top, but the mussels were rubbery and tasteless while the breadcrumbs on top appeared stale.

One of my companions had the risotto with mushroom (NT\$260, NT\$460 with the set menu), which she liked but said was excessively peppery. The other was unimpressed with the rice and fried pork chops, which came with thousand island dressing (千島焗排骨NT\$330).

Other moderately priced meals include pasta dishes that cost between NT\$240 to NT\$300. There's no need to splurge to enjoy the grounds, though. The cafe has a NT\$90 minimum charge, which can be covered easily by choosing from an extensive selection of beverages and desserts. Coffee and tea drinks range from NT\$110 to NT\$200, well worth the price for a quiet afternoon and tranquil scenery without having to leave the city.

Visit on weekdays or outside of lunch to avoid the crowds. La Mairie is located across from the National Taiwan University College of Social Sciences and College of Law on Xuzhou Road (徐州路). A quick way to get there on public transport is to get off at Shandao Temple MRT Station (善導寺捷運站), walk south on Linsen South Road (林森南路) and turn left at Xuzhou Street. - DAVID CHEN

Showa (笑和)

Address: 9, Ln 75, Yunhe St, Taipei City (台北市雲和街75巷9號) **Telephone:** (02) 8369-1220 Open: 5:30pm to 10 pm (kitchen hours); 10pm to midnight (sake menu) Average meal: NT\$250 Details: Chinese, English and Japanese menu; credit cards not accepted



music." One of Taipei's best hip-hop, soul and funk DJs, Carl Mitchell, aka **Cap**, is bringing his beloved soul to this establishment every weekday number five for PS patrons.

"When I started Soul Food, I was looking to fill a void," says Cap. "I hadn't seen any soul music-related events and I also wanted to be able to play some good music without the pressure of keeping a dance floor moving."

"The reason people don't listen to soul out here is beyond me," says Cap. "Maybe it's too real for some people. Maybe the language barrier distances people from connecting to it. But there are so many reasons to listen to soul, it's feel-good music.'

It's called soul for obvious reasons — "music about love and sometimes about lost love, but mostly about being happy, feeling good, enjoying your life, enjoying your love and enjoying the love of your life," says Cap. "Look at some of the most popular song titles, Love and Happiness, Let's Stay Together, Baby Love, Dancing in the Streets, Stop in the Name of Love."

Cap will also be playing some sample breaks to educate hip-hop lovers who are unfamiliar with the genre's history. "A lot of people don't realize that hip-hop is sample-based music," says Cap, "and a lot of the artists that were sampled for many hip-hop songs are soul artists from this era."

"I'm playing Motown-era soul, artists like The

Supremes, Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, Nina Simone, Roberta Flack, Marvin Gaye, Al Green, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, and other artists that are not so well-known from that era," says Cap.

"At the end of the day, after the iPod, computer, cell phone and TV is off, we really just want to feel good." "When music today becomes 'old school,' how many

timeless artists will come out of this era of music? How

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

aren't diehard followers, they all like to hear it loud and bassy from time to time.'

Come tomorrow night, that is exactly what is to be expected at VU Live House as Tranquility Bass Productions presents an all-you-can-drink drum 'n' bass night. "In six years that I've been here, the d 'n' b scene hasn't really changed," says Rich. "It's always been relatively two-factioned — the foreigners and the Taiwanese. We all put on parties ... we get some of them to play from time to time and vice versa, but there's never been long-term cooperation."

With a sweet laser show from **Freeform1** and **MC** Shamen from THC on the mic, DJs Elemence, Rich, C-Type and Gil T Azell are in excellent company.

Don't Believe the Hype at VU Live House (地下絲絨), B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號 B1). Tomorrow from 11pm until 4am. NT\$500 for the boys and NT\$400 for the girls gets you five hours of tunes and drinks galore.

PS. Supercool duo Supermilkmen, who rocked Taipei a few weeks back at Rise, VU, Bliss and then Light Lounge in Taichung, took a little treat back with them to England in the form of Mickey Avalon's track My Dick and remixed the hell out of it. Check it out at www.myspace.com/ supermilkmen. These boys got dicks like Jesus.

- TOM LEEMING

Located on Yunhe Street, a boutique-lined alley that is inexplicably neglected by the hordes of shoppers in nearby Shida night market, Showa is a Japanese restaurant that specializes in hearty, Osaka-style dishes. It's moderately priced signature omelets and stir-fried noodles will



Showa's rich omelet and noodle dishes are leave both your wallet and easy on the wallet.

PHOTO: CATHERINE SHU, TAIPEI TIMES

belly full. Your arteries, on the other hand, might end up screaming for mercy.

Showa's interior is cozy without being cramped and the restaurant is outfitted with several tables, a narrow bar and the decor's piece de resistance, a corner where diners can eat in traditional Japanese style, sitting cross-legged in front of low tables on tatami. On one of our visits, a boisterous group had commandeered the corner, which can be sequestered from other diners with roll-down shades, for a birthday party.

We started our meal with the delicious saikoro steak appetizer (骰子牛排, NT\$180), cubes of juicy beef sauteed in a spicy-sweet sauce with onions. Every piece was tender and just a few had luscious bits of savory fat.

My friend ordered the stir-fried kimchi yaki udon (泡菜燒鳥 龍麵, NT\$150) for his entree. The thick noodles are first cooked al dente and then stir-fried with vegetables and slices of pork in a tangy-sweet sauce. The combination of the thick, white noodles with the rich sauce and large slices of fatty pork was overwhelming and a bit too oily. We preferred the yaki soba dish we had on a previous visit. The soba noodles are prepared and stir-fried in the same way, but the thin, buckwheat noodles complement the fatty meat better than the udon version. Our classic yaki soba (燒麵, NT\$170) had crunchy slices of cabbage and succulent strips of pork, and was good enough that we were picking the last tiny bits of noodle off the plate.

Showa's signature dish is its daban shao, or thick, multilayer Osaka omelets topped with bonito flakes that dance and curl from the warmth of the dish and melt in the mouth. The mentaiko omelet (明太子大阪燒, NT\$250) is made with substantial chunks of fish roe, which added a burst of saltiness to the dish. On a previous visit, we tried the classic mixed meat (綜合大阪燒, NT\$180) and modern (現代燒, NT\$180) omelets. The mixed meat version featured huge slices of pork that covered the top of the omelet, while my modern omelet had udon noodles layered inside, which gave some much appreciated texture to the layers of fluffy egg.

Showa boasts a fairly extensive drink menu of sake and fruit liquors (the restaurant transforms into a sake bar after the kitchen closes). I ordered momo syu or peach liquor (桃, NT\$160), which was served in a lowball glass over ice. Its cloudy pink color and sweet fruity flavor is reminiscent of Calpis, the Japanese soft drink, and is more of a dessert liquor that did not pair well with my rich, savory meal, though it would have been fine as a palate cleanser afterwards. A beer from Showa's selection of Japanese imports would have been a better choice. — CATHERINE SHU

Post-rock band Collider and indie

tonight at Underworld (地下社會) Arcadie features 83 original works Tomorrow it's indie-folk rocker **Ban** by 42 masters working in the Ban (斑斑) and her new band Boyz and Girl and all-girl punk band BB including Pablo Picasso, Henri Bomb (BB彈). On Wednesday it's ChillDaDog and Dangzai Kong-Centre Pompidou.

▶ 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 more information ▶ Shows are from 9:30pm to 11:30pm

on Fridays and Saturdays, 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays ▶ Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow and includes one drink,

rockers Hi-Life Wedding play

experimental electronica band

zhong (蕩在空中).

Exhibition

NT\$100 on Wednesday

The Deep seeks to reveal the mysteries found in the deepest parts of the world's oceans, including some of the bizarre creatures that live there. ▶ National Taiwan Museum (台灣博物 館), 2 Siangyang Rd, Taipei City (台北市 襄陽路二號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am to 5pm. Tel (02) 2382-2566. On the Net: www.ntm.gov.tw

▶ Until July 12

Western tradition of modernism, Matisse and Joan Miro. The exhibition is co-organized by TFAM and France's ► Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM),

galleries 1A and 1B, 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市中山北路三 段181號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 9:30am to 5:30pm, closes at 8:30pm on Saturdays. Tel: (02) 2595-7656. On the Net: www.tfam.museum ▶ Until July 12

Life, Illusion of Bodies (空身幻影)

is a solo exhibition by Taiwanese artist Lee Kuang-yu (李光裕). Lee's abstract sculptures investigate themes such as the shifting line between the real and unreal, movement and stillness and the visible and the invisible. Taipei National University of Arts — Guandu Museum of Arts (台北藝術大學

關渡美術館), 1 Xueyuan Rd, Beitou Dist, Taipei City (台北市北投區學園路1號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am to 5pm. Tel: (02) 2896-1000 X2432. On the Net: kdmofa.tnua.edu.tw Until June 14

Chang Dai-chien: Memorial Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition (張大千110—書畫紀念特

展) displays 96 works by one of the 20th century's most revered painters working in Chinese art. From his early output, which was firmly rooted in

tradition, to his later paintings, which were influenced by modernism, this exhibit provides insight into the painter's evolution as an artist and the different schools of thought that influenced him ▶ 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 Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am to 6pm. Tel: (02) 2361-0270. On the Net: www.nmh.gov.tw ▶ Until June 14

Toward the Twilight (行走在消逝

之中) is a dual exhibition by photographer Chen Po-i (陳伯義) and painter Hsu Pei-cheng. Chen's photos capture the destruction of temples that have been rased to make way for development. Hsu's expressionist canvases contemplate ordinary scenes of backyards, parks and playgrounds on a background that depicts twilight in various shades of radiant colors.

▶ 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) 2325-0023. On the Net: www.pfarts.com Until April 26

Cuba: The Island Garden is an exhibit by US photographer Keith Brown that sympathetically documents the people and architecture of the last bastion of communism in Latin America. Pethany Larsen Gallery (Pethany) Larsen藝坊), 30, Ln 45 Liaoning St,

Taipei City (台北市遼寧街45巷30號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 8pm. Tel: (02) 8772-5005. On the Net: www.pethanylarsen.com Until May 17

Kamatani Tetsutaro employs mixed media materials, such as Barbie dolls and plastic toy soldiers, as well as acrylic on canvas to explore the constantly shifting nature of reality in his solo exhibition **Ultra Superficial**. Gallery J Chen, 3F, 40, Ln 161, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市 敦化南路一段161巷40號3F). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 12pm to 9pm. Tel: (02) 2781-0959. On the Net:

www.galleryjchen.com ▶ Until April 30

Collision Between Taboo and Desire: Hou Chun-ming Works of Print, 1992-2008 (六腳侯氏— 衝撞在慾望與禁忌之間的版畫創作

1992-2008) displays 13 sets of the artist's printmaking. Bearing titles such as Erotic Paradise and Paradise Lost for the Heterosexuals, the prints unflinchingly explore religion, sexual desire and the artist's own life experiences.

National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts in Taichung (國立台灣美術館), 2, Wucyuan W Rd Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市五權西路一段2號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 9am to 5pm. Tel: (04) 2372-3552 ▶ Until May 24

The God of Earth in Taiwan (台灣

土地公特展) explains the origins of the Earth God (土地公) and why it 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, Guancian Rd, Taichung City (台中市館前路1號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 9am to 5pm. On the Net: www.nmns.edu.tw ▶ Until May 31