

POP STOP

Fugitive funnyman **Chu Ke Liang** (豬哥亮) has come out of hiding and returned to showbiz to pay off the huge gambling debts that caused him to disappear for more than a decade. The 60-year-old entertainer's first gig is a television commercial for consumer electronics retailer Tsann Kuen Enterprise Co (3C, 燦坤) that began airing this week.

Chu Ke Liang plays five characters in the commercial — including a grandmother and seven-year-old boy — all wearing his trademark “toilet-lid” (馬桶蓋) hairstyle and is reportedly being paid US\$60,000 for his efforts. *Apple Daily* reports that Chu Ke Liang has received offers to do more commercials and appear on or even host a few television shows, and estimates that the comedian's earnings from these projects could add up to US\$840,000. That's a fraction of the US\$8.7 million to US\$14 million he reportedly owes.

While Chu Ke Liang is making money, **Cecilia Cheung** (張柏芝) is spending it. The actress, one of the prime victims of the **Edison Chen** (陳冠希) sex photo scandal, enjoyed a luxurious, five-day visit to Taipei last week, winning, dining and shopping, and going to amusement parks with her son, Lucas.

Cheung received a warm

welcome from her Taiwanese celebrity friends including sister duo **Big S** (大S) and **Little S** (小S); **Chen Jien-chow** (陳建州), better known as Blackie (黑人); and Chen's girlfriend, singer **Fan Fan** (范瑋琪). The paparazzi dutifully tailed the gang and provided gossip readers with day-to-day accounts of their itinerary, from one exclusive Japanese restaurant to another, and lavish spending on products made by a certain American shoe company.

“I am crazy about kids and want to have more,” Cheung was quoted as saying in the *Apple Daily*. “I have no wish to return to the movie business at the moment. My plan is to use **Nicholas Tse's** (謝霆鋒) money for a while longer.”

Though Hong Kong's Cheung isn't interested in making a comeback anytime soon, 23-year-old singer **Hsu Sung** (許茹芸) is getting plenty of attention as Cheung's doppelganger. She hit the celebrity radar after winning a talent show in China's Anhui Province and is now being called a *shan chai* (山寨版) version of Cheung. *Shan chai*, which translates roughly as “bandit stronghold,” was coined recently to describe fake goods made in China, which rip off a brand's image like bandits steal from people.

When asked how she felt about missing the chance to meet the real Cheung,

Hsu, who was in Taipei to promote her new single this week, said, “It's a pity. We may enjoy the thrill of seeing each other's mirror image.”

In other music news, alt-rock star **Faith Yang** (楊乃文) is scheduled to perform live in concert at Taipei Arena (台北巨蛋) next month, with erstwhile sweetheart **Lin Wei-tse** (林曉培) on board as the music director. ABT pop star **Jeff Huang** (黃立成), another Yang ex, made a video clip that was played at a press conference held last week in which he wished Yang luck.

When the subject of her old flames was brought up at the media event, the conversation between Yang and jourms went something like this:

The press: “Can you compare Lin and Huang?”
Yang: “One is my first, the other [is also] an ex. One is thin, the other chubby. One can do a back flip, the other can't.”
— COMPILED BY HO YI

A year ago a new band hit the scene: five hot young girls in brightly colored tights and short shorts, laughing and joking with the crowd as they pumped out raw, catchy, pop-electro.

Since then, Go Chic has lost a couple of members, gained a male drummer, and graduated to silver tutus and a coveted place as one of Nike's 10 top Taiwanese bands for the company's upcoming party on May 23. They play three other shows this month — tonight at Underworld (地下社會), May 29 at The Wall (這牆) with a DJ set by Scottish dance-punk act Shitdisco, and May 31 at Riverbush in Pinglin (坪林).

“Honestly, I think we get so much attention because we're all girls,” said Go Chic's lead singer Ariel Zheng (鄭思齊). “People think that if you want to get the upper hand you have to be more like a guy, but we're proud of showing what girls are: We're sexy, we flirt with the crowd.”

They've recently added a male band member to the group, Winston Lee (李昀聰), as it was “hard to find a girl drummer.” They made him wear a wig “because everyone advertises us as a girl band,” Zheng said, laughing.

At 21, she said they feel old because

they see people who are only 16 starting bands. Both she and bassist Sarah Wen (溫一珊) credit synthesizer and guitar player Sonia Lai (賴思勻) as the leader of the band. All three graduated from the same high school and hooked up last year around Spring Scream.

While in a music club in school, everyone had to choose an instrument. Though quite reticent, Wen pipes up: “I saw [that] everyone who plays bass is hot and sexy and really tall and I thought maybe [if I played bass] I'd become hot and sexy and tall.”

“People still don't know girls could play instruments,” Zheng added. The other girls in her band make fun of her because she is “only the singer.” “She's not really important,” said Wen, though Zheng does come up with the lyrics, most of which are “about girls, partying, and how we don't care,” according to Zheng.

She tries to avoid singing about anything with “depth” as that is “a bit too pretentious.”

“We get up there and we want to be cool, we want people to love us,” Zheng said. “But in the end it all comes down to the music.”

— ALITA RICKARDS

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Go Chic

WHEN AND WHERE: 10pm tonight at Underworld (地下社會), B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1); 10pm May 29 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)

ADMISSION: NTS300, includes one drink (Underworld); NTS600 in advance or NTS800 at the door (The Wall)

ON THE NET: www.myspace.com/gochictheband

Ariel Zheng shows what little girls are made of.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCH CHUNG



Girls just wanna have fun

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS APRIL 17 TO APRIL 23

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Jolin Tsai (蔡依林) and <i>Butterfly</i> (花蝴蝶) with 26.3 percent of sales | 3 | Li Li-wei (李立威) and <i>You</i> (你) with 7.02% |
| 2 | By2 and Twins with 10.14% | 4 | Compilation album <i>K.O. 3 Anguo</i> (三團鼎立SUPER大門陣) with 6.4% |
| | | 5 | A Chord Hsieh (謝和弦) with <i>Nothing but a Chord</i> (雖然很芭樂) with 0.7% |

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



[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Theater

The latest musical by Tafel Musical Theater (大風劇團), **It's a Wonderful Life** (美好的人生), is a light-hearted comedy about four young thespians pursuing their dreams while struggling to make ends meet in Taipei. The 21-member cast includes theater veterans Wang Bosen (王柏森) and Huang Shih-wei (黃士偉).

► National Theater, Taipei City
► Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
► Tickets are NTS900 to NTS3,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Founded by graduates of National Taiwan University's theater department, Dreamscape Theater is staging an adaptation of English playwright and novelist Anthony Shaffer's 1970 play **Sleuth**, a suspenseful tale about a role-playing game between a husband and his wife's paramour that turns fatal.

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre's (雲門舞集) second company, Cloud Gate 2, is celebrating its 10th anniversary with **Spring Riot** (春門), a tour that continues today in Taichung before moving to Kaohsiung next week. The program includes *Island of Silence* (緘默之島) by Gu Ming-sheng (古名伸) and Lin Hwai-ming's (林懷民) *Waiting for Spring Wind* (望春風).

► Chungshan Hall (台中市文化局中山堂), 98 Syuei Rd, Taichung City (台中市學士路98號)
► Tonight at 7:30pm and tomorrow at 2:30pm
► Tickets are NTS300 to NTS1,200, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

As part of an ongoing series of performances celebrating the 30th anniversary of Lanling Theatre Workshop (蘭陵劇坊), Ping Fong Acting Troupe's (屏風劇團) **Shamlet** (莎姆雷特) tells the story of a theater troupe struggling to put on a production of *Hamlet* amid disputes within the group that lead to chaos and comedy.

► National Theater, Taipei City
► Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30pm
► Tickets are NTS600 to NTS3,600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical

NSO Young Maestro Series — The Love Suite (NSO發現未來大師系列—時間與空間的愛情遊戲) sees the National Symphony Orchestra's (國家交響樂團) former artistic director Chien Wen-pin (簡文彬) return to conduct the world premiere of the *The Dream of Red Chamber Symphony* (紅樓夢交響曲) by Lai Te-ho (賴德和). The program will also include Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloe*.

online at www.artsticket.com.tw

TSO 40th Anniversary Concert — Bashkirova and the TSO (北市交40週年國慶音樂會—巴許基洛娃與北市交) features the Taipei Symphony Orchestra (臺北市立交響樂團) led by guest conductor Michael Sanderling with soloist Elena Bashkirova on piano. The program includes Shostakovich's *Festival Overture, Op. 9* and *Symphony No. 15 in A Major, Op. 141*, and Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, KV. 467*.

► Wednesday at 7:30pm
► National Concert Hall, Taipei City
► Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Yundi Li Piano Recital (李雲迪鋼琴獨奏會) brings the renowned Chinese pianist and respected interpreter of Chopin to Taipei for a concert that includes Chopin's *Piano Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58* and an arrangement of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* for solo piano. Li will also perform the Mussorgsky piece in a concert in Kaohsiung, paired with Tsiolkovsky's *Concerto for Piano No. 1 in B Flat Minor, Op. 23*.

Contemporary

Tonight **The Wall** (這牆) hosts an evening of metal with Norwegian group **Goddamn, Infernal Chaos, Bazooka** and **Horsemen**. Popular indie-pop singer **Deserts Chang** (張懸) and **Algae** split the bill tomorrow (the show is already sold out). Late night tomorrow it's Bounce Girlz,

Highlight

What animal lover doesn't have tons of photographs of his or her favorite four-legged buddy? **Peggy Chien** (簡佩筠) has taken cat photography to a different level, however, with lovingly composed portraits of cats in front of Taiwanese backdrops. Chien uses both film and digital photography to capture her feline muses in places like Yangmingshan and Jinguashi (金瓜石). The photos are both cute and beautiful, and vividly capture the different expressions her kitty subjects express on their furry little faces.

► Charming Attractive Taiwan



Cool for cats. PHOTO COURTESY OF PEGGY CHIEN

(貓博士夫人之貓像攝影)
► Jazz Photo Gallery (爵士攝影藝廊), 2F, 433, Bade Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市八德路二段433號2F), tel: (02) 2741-2256 X603
► Tomorrow until May 14. The gallery is open Mondays through Sundays from 10am to 6pm

featuring sets from electro duo **The Lowbrows, F Dragon** and **Spykee**. [See Vinyl Word.] As of press time tickets were still available for Sunday's encore **Deserts Chang** (張懸) and **Algae** show.

► 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 7:30pm tonight, 8pm tomorrow for Deserts Chang and 11:30pm tomorrow for Bounce Girlz, and Sunday at 8pm
► Entrance fee for music shows is NTS600 tonight at the door or NTS500 in advance, NTS500 tomorrow for Deserts Chang and Algae and NTS700 at the door for Bounce Girlz tomorrow and NTS500 on Sunday

► 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
► Admission for music shows is NTS300

Making an appearance at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸語言) tonight is saxophonist **Dong Shun-wen** (董舜文) and friends. **Liu No-no** (劉娜娜) performs tomorrow. And on Sunday it's **Skyline Jazz Band**, whose repertoire includes bossa nova, soul, funk, fusion and R'n'B.

► 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
► Admission: NTS400 tonight, NTS500 tomorrow, NTS350 on Sunday

recently released a new album that sees them moving decisively toward soft rock, perform tomorrow, **Denise Juan** (阮丹青), a former pop singer turned piano teacher, television presenter and traveler, plays Thursday, along with **Sunshine Costa**.

► 177 Xining 5 Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路177號). Call (02) 2370-8805 or visit www.riverside.com.tw for more information
► Shows start at 8:30pm
► Entrance fee is NTS450 tonight and Thursday, NTS550 tomorrow

Tomorrow **Bliss** hosts a “post” Urban Nomad Film Festival party (遊牧影展活動後派對) (the festival continues until May 9) with bands **Collider, New Hong Kong Hair City** and **Space-funk**, with **Mr Blends** spinning hip-hop, reggae, R'n'B, soul and funk.

► 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
► Tomorrow from 10pm. Bar/kitchen open from 7pm daily. Ladies night on Fridays; women get one free cocktail of their choice
► Entry fee is NTS200 tomorrow

EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. **Julia Peng** (彭佳慧) graces the stage every Tuesday and is always a major draw. Other highlights this week include **Phoebe Huang** (黃嘉千), who performs today, **Huang Chung-yuan** (黃中原) appearing tomorrow, and **Liu Wei-zen** (劉偉仁), on Wednesday.

► 211, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段211號). Call (02) 2738-3995 for more information or go to www.ez-5.com to check out the latest monthly lineup
► Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am
► Entrance fee ranges from NTS600 to NTS800, depending on the performer

Exhibition

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
► 8pm to 11pm every Wednesday
► No admission fee

Cloud Gate — Confronting the Ocean Exhibition (雲門特展—面對大海的進行式) is an exhibit that looks at the dance troupe's history. Taking last year's fire that devastated its rehearsal studio as a starting point, the display looks at how Cloud Gate has grown and evolved from a small dance company in 1973 to the world-class dance group that it is today.

► Taipei Story House (台北故事館), 181-1, Zhongshan N Rd, Sec 3 Taipei City (台北市中山北路三段181-1號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am to 6pm. Tel: (02) 2587-5565
► Until June 28