There seems to be a

eatery popping up in

Taipei every month.

RESTAURANTS

Alley (弄堂) Address: 311, Bade Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市八德路二段311號)

Average meal: NT\$700 to NT\$800 Details: Menu in Chinese,

**Telephone:** (02) 2777-2549 **Open:** daily from 6pm to 12am

English and Japanese; credit cards accepted

# Light, moving imagery and faded memory

Au Sowyee's live performance feels like an experimental

film screening at a cinematheque — geometrical shapes and blurry images overlap, split, hover and stutter on the VI: Songlines stage to eerie sounds.



A scenes from Au Sow-yee's Performatic Cinema

PHOTO COURTESY OF GULING STREET LITTLE THEATRE

The Malaysian artist calls her show "live cinema," for which she creates a unique audiovisual experience of light and shadow.

For Performative Cinema VI: Songlines, which takes place at the Guling Street Little Theatre this weekend, two LCD projectors and three 16mm film projectors are used to beam images, including still photographs taken from movies starring P. Ramlee, the legendary star of Malaysian cinema of the 1950s and 1960s, sometimes separately, sometimes simultaneously, onto the stage where Au plays with various objects such as a prism in front of the machines. The effect is kaleidoscopic.

To Au, performative cinema addresses the fragility and ephemerality of celluloid imagery and echoes the death of film at the hands of digital production techniques.

"For different generations of Malaysians, he [P. Ramlee] is part of our collective memory, albeit hazy and faded," Au told the Taipei Times.

JacAl Map, an experimental music duo from Malaysia, generate static ambient sounds for the performance.

### **PERFORMANCE NOTES:**

**WHAT:** Performative Cinema VI: Songlines WHEN: Tonight at 7pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7pm and Sunday at 2:30pm

WHERE: Guling Street Little Theatre (牯嶺街小劇場), 2, Ln 5, Guling St, Taipei City (台北市牯嶺街5巷2號) **ADMISSION:** Tickets are NT\$350 per performance, available through NTCH ticket outlets or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

**ON THE NET:** www.wretch.cc/blog/gltheatre

# Tha Shaman flying solo



Tha Shaman wants to take you deeper.

hen Tha Shaman (Elliot Tsai, 蔡一暐) and Vast (Kyle Sveinson) of THC (Taipei Hip-hop Crew, H中P在台北) were left without their third member, Babble On (Zachary Touzin) for a few months while he was on vacation in Canada, they didn't waste any time waiting around.

Shaman and Vast set to work on creating an album of Shaman's material called *Shamanizm*. The release party is tomorrow at Deep Passion, and features guest artists Foreign Affairs and DJs Mixter T and Gemini

"It's possible if he [Babble On] hadn't left, we'd be focusing on the next THC album, but I'm always working on my own material," said Shaman. "I was ready. I had tonnes of songs, Vast had tonnes of beats; it just made sense.'

The album was a collaborative effort between Vast, new THC member A-Chien (敬咀) on two tracks and Babble On, who emceed in French.

The album features guest vocals and two tracks created with New Hong Kong Hair City's Mac Wooley on saxophone. Mike Tennant on bass, and Kyle Bajcer on drums, all of whom will play live at the release party.

THC has expanded from its founding three members to six MCs and two DJs now.

"There's no way I could have done it by myself," Shaman said. "I'm really lucky that the whole crew supported me."

The album is "very much like me" said the American-born, half-Taiwanese artist. "English and Chinese, American and Taiwanese culture, all mixed together."

PHOTO COURTESY OF THA SHAMAN

Chinese marital arts movies into some of the tracks. Shaman started off with a surplus of material, which he found difficult to cut down for a single album. "I have a lot to say — I don't talk much compared to most people," he said.

Shaman attributes his approach to music to being a Sagittarius, as they are "into broad communication," an esoteric reference that is only the tip of an iceberg of mysticism, conspiracy theory and new age beliefs that he espouses.

"They represent different archetypal entities." In his lyrics he deals with "underlying themes of pain, love, power, freedom, spirituality and party music."

### **PERFORMANCE NOTES:**

WHAT: Shamanizm CD Release Party

WHEN AND WHERE: Tomorrow, from 10:30pm to 2:30am, at Deep Passion, in the Mafia room, B1, 217, Nanjing E Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市南京東路三段217號B1)

**ADMISSION:** NT\$700 for men, NT\$400 for women (all you

**ON THE NET:** contact thebeatz@gmail.com and www.myspace.com/taipeihiphopcrew



Is less more? Tomorrow night sees way too many parties taking place in Taipei, all competing for head-shakers. For sure the music will be killer, but will the numbers?

The biggest story of the week is that Chris Sostad, aka Saucey, one of Taiwan's longest-serving foreign and favorite house DJs, is returning to Canada and his penultimate farewell set (before his last at Rise at DV8 on Sunday at 4am) will be at China White tomorrow for Return to Paradise with **SL** and **Matt Ward** keeping it deep and funky. It's sad to see Saucey leaving for good this time and the Vinyl Word bids him a fond farewell. Saucey's set is likely to be huge, and a little self-indulgent, hopefully.

"If I could say one thing to all the fans in Taiwan, it would be thanks for making my last seven years in Taiwan so much fun and [I] hope that they continue to support such a fun music scene," said Saucey. "I will be back one day for a visit, I have too many friends and memories to stay away forever."

Return to Paradise 3, tomorrow from 11pm to 5am at China White, 2F, 97-101, Dunhua S Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台 北市敦化南路二段97-101號2樓).

There is a new addition to the party scene. Taiwan MiXER is a group of promoters which helps new people in town get acquainted with its vibrant nightlife.

"Taiwan MiXER is a social networking and party group," said MiXER's manager, Peter Wan (萬力豪), 25, His aim is, "to connect people to form a social community where we just do fun stuff together like clubbing, KTV nights, barbecues, beach parties and birthday bashes."

Tonight's bash is looking pretty full already with music from Eben and Schism, who will, in their own words, play "unique melodic tech house."

"We are very casual," said Wan, "and our aim is to simply be a platform where people can meet new friends and widen their social circle, to connect mostly returning ABCs, CBCs (American and Canadian-born Chinese) and visitors to come out and have fun. We found that many of these ABCs don't have a lot of friends in Taiwan, so our group is able to help a lot of them make new friends here."

MiXER is slightly different from other promotion outfits as it helps members throw their own parties. "We will plan certain events," said Wan. "But we also encourage our Taiwan MiXER members enjoy a spot of networking.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER WAN

members to come up with their own idea of an event and we'll meet with them to discuss the details and how we can use Facebook and our contacts to help promote it. For these

events, we simply serve as facilitators. Unfortunately, if you don't have a Facebook account you don't qualify as a real person anymore and will have to get one to become a member. Find Taiwan MiXER in Facebook. com's search bar or Peter Wan for details.

Taiwan Mixer Summer Launch Party at W Shop, 185, Daan Road Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市大安路一段185號1F), tonight from 7pm until 10pm. The NT\$450 admission fee gets you drinks and snacks.

Tomorrow, Tone 56 bar serves up an all-funk affair with band Space Funk and yours truly, **Shorty**. Space Funk dishes up electro-funk with live vocals. Entry is free. If house doesn't float your boat, then this could.

Funk Night at Tone 56, 56, Minguan E Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市民權東路三段56號) from 10pm to 2am.

Finally, two quick shout-outs to a couple of musical

First, The Shaman from THC will be releasing his first solo album tomorrow at Deep Passion. Expect nothing but the best in live MC beats and quality tunes from DJs Mixer T and **Gemini**. [See story above for details.]

Secondly, good luck to Eben Pretorius from Too-Bad-Its-Not-Tronic, who is stricken with kidney stones. Fingers crossed he doesn't give birth while playing tonight. After speaking with him on Tuesday, he was in fine fettle and ready for his little bundles of agony to arrive. \_ TOM LEEMING

The crew incorporated samples from Star Trek and old

"This is my method of communication."

"Every person is connected to certain deities," he said.

## new Japanese barbecue Alley on Bade Road is a relatively new addition to the gastronomic map of a city that loves its

late-night grilled snacks Prime fatty beef is a must-try at Alley.

and ice-cold beer. At first glance, the smart-looking restaurant could be mistaken for a pub with its Shanghai-chic vibe. Its bold red and turquoise palette is balanced with sedate brown hues and black. The plush appearance aside, the dining atmosphere is designed for hospitality. Wait staff chat like friends with patrons who sit along the bar

(鶯歌), Taipei County. Though Alley is a grill-it-yourself restaurant, the attentive, well-trained waiters are keen to share their barbecuing tips. Salted cow tongue with scallion (鹽蔥牛舌, NT\$220) is a recommended starter. The tongue is cut into thin slices and simply flavored with salt, pepper, chopped scallion and lemon juice.

and serve food on fine ceramic ware, which comes from Yingge

On the lighter side, the Matsusake pork (椒鹽霜降松阪豬, NT\$200) has a crispy texture. Salted and peppered king oyster mushrooms (椒鹽杏鮑菇, NT\$90), which are thinly sliced, ooze

Fresh from Keelung, the prime-quality thick cut salmon (厚切 鮭魚, NT\$180) can be enjoyed raw.

Diners who fancy a richer tasting option after a glass or several of Orion beer, shochu, sake or liqueur, could do no worse than the barbecued fatty beef (烤肉醬牛五花, NT\$240) or prime fatty beef (達拉斯, NT\$350).

The restaurant also has several specialties not found on the menu. Eaten raw with barbecue sauce and mustard, the scallop with crab roe (干貝蟹膏, NT\$180) is divinely sweet and has no hint of the fishy smell of less than fresh seafood. Curry-flavored chicken ankles (咖哩雞腳踝, NT\$180) are a grilled rarity whose textures are notable for their gelatinous skin and crunchy cartilage.

There are also a few choices available for dessert such as butter and cheese sweet potato (奶油起土地瓜, NT\$100) and baked banana (烤香蕉, NT\$60) with chocolate sauce.

The attentive service at Alley goes beyond the dining area and extends to the warmly lit restroom that offers feminine hygiene products. Lockers and a wardrobe are camouflaged as wooden walls for diners' outerwear and handbags. The restaurant is also cyclist-friendly with bike racks and locks for customers who arrive on two wheels.

### Climontine (克莉蒙汀麵包生活館)

Address: 149-1, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市信義路四段149-1號)

Telephone: (02) 2706-7061

**Open:** Meals served from noon to 10pm; bakery and cafe opens

Average meal: NT\$400 for lunch, NT\$600 to NT\$1,500 for dinner; 10 percent service charge

**Details:** Chinese menu only; credit cards accepted for purchases

On the Net: www.bazzurro.com.tw

Hidden at the back of an upscale bakery and cafe on Xinyi Road, Climontine looks more like an antiques showroom than a restaurant that serves buffet lunches and Italian-style cuisine for dinner.

The dining area, split into two rooms, has a classic European feel. The main room resembles a Viennese

The quality of the lunch buffet at Climontine is on par with that found at most five-star hotels in the capital.

cafe with its white tablecloths, dark wooden floors, crystal chandeliers and old lamps. There is also a Victorian vibe, provided by worn shelves full of vases and fine china, and

floral trimmings. The windows at the back of the main dining room look onto an orchid garden; the side dining room is full of mirrors encased in ornate frames. Diners sit either on sofas or French antique chairs with wine-colored upholstery.

Many of the furnishings can be bought from the owners, who run an import and export business. An Italian cupboard with glass doors can be taken home for NT\$48,000; the crystal chandelier above my table was marked at NT\$188,000. All this made the lunch buffet seem reasonable at NT\$388 (not including the 10 percent service charge). The spread was a fusion of Italian and Chinese-style dishes, with the emphasis on the latter. The main course on my first visit, which changes daily, was Taiwanese-style chilled chicken.

Nearly everything was good, and on par with, if not better than, the average five-star hotel buffet. Some memorable morsels included roasted peppers and sweet potato, and shrimp sauteed with celery served in a butter and garlic sauce. A humble serving of stir-fried green beans and braised pork was melt-in-the-mouth delicious, and sliced apples added a novel touch to a Thai salad. The sickly sweet corn soup was boring — an obvious concession to local tastes.

But there were no compromises with dinner at Climontine, which serves an excellent antipasto buffet spread (NT\$580 per person). Some notable selections on an evening visit included tasty, succulent roast chicken served on a bed of tomato and onion, and sliced pork loin with a tart and creamy tuna sauce. There were three green salads on offer, including a refreshing and flavorful combination of snow peas, black

The set menu includes the antipasto buffet, pasta of the day and a main course of either rib eye steak, rack of lamb, roast chicken or prawns. Set meals are priced at NT\$1,280

The house recommendation is the steak, but there should be no regrets with the lamb. I received a tender and juicy cut, which was dressed in a delicate red wine sauce.

Menus are in Chinese only, but a friendly server who speaks English is on hand to help. The wait staff seemed a half-step behind in keeping the water glasses full. But with the comforting food and the room's dated charm, it's easy to forget about the time.

The menu and atmosphere may seem familiar, as the wait staff and chefs are transplants from Portofino, the Italian restaurant on Dunhua South Road (敦化南路) that closed after the building it occupied was sold and torn down.

Getting there is easy enough — Climontine is on the northeast corner of the crossroad of Dunhua South and Xinyi roads. Look out for a bakery with a sign that reads Angelina's, the establishment's former name. As of press time, the sign had yet to be updated. — DAVID CHEN

# [ EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT ]

Tonight at **Tone 56 Live Bar** is New Orleans funk and rock ensemble **The** Kenyatta Trio. Tomorrow is electrodisco, hip-hop and funk with **DJ Shorty** and the band **Space Funk**. On Sunday it's acoustic duo **Diamond** 

- ▶ 1F, 56, Minguan E Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市民權東路三段56號1樓), near the corner of Fuxing North (復興 北) and Minquan East (民權東) roads. Call (02) 2517-3869
- ▶ The music starts at 9:30pm tonight and tomorrow. Sunday's music performance runs from 7pm to 10pm.

# **Exhibitions**

▶ No admission fee

Tu Pei-shih (杜珮詩) investigates the vagaries of human nature in her solo exhibition Happy Bubble Life (快樂 泡沫生活). Tu uses collage as her primary medium.

▶ 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

▶ Until June 21

#### Group exhibition **Matter and** Medium (物質。中界) features

sculpture and installation work by six contemporary Taiwanese artists. ▶ My Humble House Art Gallery, B1, 12, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北 市忠孝東路一段12號B1). Call (02) 3322-3833. On the Net: www.myhumblehouse.com

▶ Until June 15 Only Light (光的視覺考古) is a solo exhibition by Shyu Chune-i (徐純一) that brings together several of his multi-media works created over the past two decades. ▶ Angel Art Gallery (天使美術館), 1F, 41

Xinyi Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市信義 路三段41號1F). Open daily from 10am to 7pm; closed Sundays. Call (02) 2701-5229 ▶ Until June 7

Taiwanese artist Tsai Zung-lung's (蔡宗 隆) solo exhibit **Looking for the** Temperature of Tranquility (尋找 寧靜的溫度) comprises abstract work

▶ Yingge Ceramics Museum (鶯歌陶瓷 博物館), 200 Wenhua Rd, Yinge Township, Taipei County (北縣鶯歌鎮 文化路200號). Open Tuesday to Friday from 9:30am to 5pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9:30am to 6pm. Tel: (02) 8677-2727. On the Net:

www.ceramics.tpc.gov.tw ▶ Until June 14

A black-and-white photograph shows an armed officer moving through a trashed Cleveland, Ohio, home following an eviction — the consequence of a mortgage foreclosure. The cop has to make sure that the house is clear of weapons, and that the residents have moved out. The shot, taken by American photographer Anthony Suau for *Time* magazine, took top honors at the 52nd World Press Photo Contest. An exhibition of the winning

photographs in 10 different categories is currently on display at Dunhua Eslite Bookstore. ▶ Eslite Gallery (誠品畫廊), B2, 243, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦

化南路一段243號B2). Open daily from

# Highlight

Carreras, Domingo and Pavarotti they are not. But these "desperate tenors," who perform tomorrow night at Zhongshan Hall (中山堂) in Taipei, take their cue from the most famous opera trio ever by aiming for a wider audience.

In other words, this won't be a typical night at the opera. Desperate Tenors (三大男高音

— 山寨版本) promises some campy, self-deprecating humor to accompany earnest performances from Taiwanese tenors Chang Yaowen (張耀文) and Kung Hsiaocheng (孔孝誠) and Filipino tenor Vicente Fortunato Moran.

11am to 10pm. Call (02) 2775-5977

Liu Shih-tung (劉時棟) revises the

Chinese folk art tradition of paper

cutting and merges it with a contem-

porary aesthetic in **Start From Eyes** 

(始於眼). The exhibit features 36 of

Liu's mixed-media collage paintings.

▶ Main Trend Gallery (大趨勢畫廊), 209-

1, Chengde Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北

市承德路三段209-1號). Open Tuesdays

through Saturdays from 11am to 7pm.

Tel: (02) 2587-3412. On the Net:

www.maintrendgallery.com.tw

Taiwan's plants, animals and folk

customs serve as Hsiao Mei's (蕭媺)

visual language in her solo exhibit

► Until May 30

▶ Until June 6

The performance is being organized by the Taipei Philharmonic Foundation for Culture and Education (TPF, 台北愛樂文教基金會) and the Taipei Philharmonic Chorus (台北愛樂合唱團)

► Desperate Tenors at Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂), 98 Yenping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號) ► Tomorrow at 7:30pm

available through NTCH ticketing or

Here Is Where We Meet (飄遊·境 **遇)**. The show features more than 30 of

between 2003 to 2009. ► Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM), 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市中山北路三段181號). Open Tuesday to Sunday from 9:30am to 5:30pm; Saturdays open until 8:30pm. Tel: (02) 2595-7656. On the Net: www.tfam.museum

Landscape, Taiwan (風景・台灣) is a solo exhibition comprised of 21 landscape and seascape oil paintings by Taiwanese artist Yeh Tzu-chi (葉子 奇). The works are a visual diary of the

▶ Until June 26

► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,200,

online at www.artsticket.com.tw Three hilariously desperate but passionate tenors perform tomorrow night at Zhongshan Hall. PHOTO COURTESY OF NTCH

► Until May 31

her dreamlike oil paintings created exhibit provides insight into the

> 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:

artist's past, where place and memory merge in romantic depictions of the ▶ Until June 14

- country's natural scenery. ▶ Eslite Xinyi Bookstore (誠品信義店), 5F, 11 Songgao Rd, Taipei City (台北市 松高路11號5樓). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 7pm.
- Telephone: (02) 8789-3388 X1588 ▶ Until June 7

#### Legend of Future (未來的傳說) is a group exhibition featuring 11 of Asia's top artists working in the mediums of sculpture and painting. The show includes South Korea's Kown Ki Soo, Japan's Yoshitomo Nara and Yoshitaka Amano, and Taiwan's Yang Mao-lin (楊 茂林) and Hung Yi (洪易). The works on display are inspired by the aesthetics of anime and manga.

▶ Metaphysical Art Gallery (形而上畫 廊), 7F, 219, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段219號7樓). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 6:30pm. Tel: (02) 2771-3236

### **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 painter's evolution as an artist and the different schools of thought that

www.nmh.gov.tw