

POP STOP



It looks as though television actor Yao Yuan-hao (姚元浩) is not paying off the right people. The *Apple Daily* reported that Yao, the boyfriend of model Sonia Sui (隋棠), planned to hold a surfing competition for youngsters in Ilan last weekend but was shocked when 30 or so tattooed men dressed in black showed up with surfboards and a heavy dose of attitude.

The report said that on the morning of the competition, Yao received an anonymous phone call telling him to cancel the competition. Or else.

Clearly not one to cave in to threats, Yao simply called on local police to remove the pesky gangsters, who intentionally stood in front of the judges so as to obstruct their view. But the coppers said they couldn't do anything because it was a public beach. Miffed, Yao had no choice but to cancel the competition.

Perhaps Yao didn't read a report in last year's *Next Magazine* that speculated Sui worked in a hostess bar for a few days to pay off her mother's debts. Pop Stop wonders if there is a connection.

And speaking of celebs paying off debts, Yuki Hsu (徐慧鈺) went off to perform in China in April to help pay down the mortgage on her family's home as well as to revive her declining career.

But the 31-year-old singer got more than she bargained for at Very 88 (非常88), a pub in Hangzhou (杭州) with a hostess club atmosphere. Feeling somewhat uncomfortable with the ogling eyes and the wink-wink, nudge-nudge expressions of those present, she quickly finished her set and headed back to Taiwan, according to a report in *Next*.

Now, ordinarily, this might compel a person to look closer at her contract before signing. But not Hsu. At the beginning of this month she was back in China, and this time it was rumored that she wasn't even told where she would be performing.

Upon arriving at the "gig," she was ushered into a private room containing a handful of inebriated businessmen and a few hostesses.

Pop Stop was pondering Hsu's run of bad luck, both in terms of singing and advances made on her by Chinese men, until we saw her tasteless *Bad Girl* video on YouTube.

The surf's not up for Yao Yuan-hao.

It features a skimpily clad Hsu gyrating around a stage with half naked men. It's not surprising that drunken businessmen in China might expect Hsu to put on a show for them.

"It wasn't my fault." These were the words spoken by Zhang Ziyi (章子怡) in reference to the lurid photographs taken of her and Israeli fiancée Aviv "Vivi" Nevo earlier this year at a beach resort in St Barts.

Zhang made the comments while attending the Cannes Film Festival, where she was a judge. "I didn't do anything harmful," she said, a fact that seems to be backed up by her continued popularity. Yahoo Kimo released statistics for the most hits per person between January and April and Zhang came out on top.

In other wedding news, plastic surgeon and alleged lothario Li Jin-liang (李進良) is finally tying the knot with Hu Ying-chen (胡盈禎), the daughter of entertainer Hu Gua (胡瓜).

The announcement served as a perfect excuse for *Next* to exhume some of his old skeletons.

The magazine's sense of timing is impeccable. Nothing appeals more to short attention spans and puts gossip into a shallower perspective than a few lines (accompanied by a photograph or graphic) detailing the shenanigans of Taiwan's glitterati.

Readers of Pop Stop will recall Li's escapades last year when he entertained two friends and three hostesses at a Taipei hotel. Or, before that, when he was accused of sexual harassment by a Japanese porn star. Oddly, neither of these episodes made the cut in this week's edition of *Next*. What did was a night out last Christmas with a woman named Mao Mao (毛毛), and the suggestion of infidelity it implied.

According to an interview that Hu gave on a TV talk show on May 14, however, she questioned the veracity of that report because she was present with Li and Mao Mao.

On the same show, she cheekily thanked the gossip rag for running all these stories about them because it's free advertising for Li's plastic surgery clinic. It also helps her to keep an eye on her husband, she said.

— COMPILED BY NOAH BUCHAN



Into the Flood is a collaboration between Chang Wei-lai and Lin Yao-hua, both from Malaysia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUN SON THEATRE

It never rains, but it pours

The torrential rain dumped by Typhoon Krosa in 2007 forced Chang Wei-lai (張偉來) to put a halt on his directorial debut *The Passage* (秘徑). One year later, another deluge inundated the Bamboo Curtain Studio (竹園工作室) theater in Tamsui where he works. This time Chang bailed out the theater with a bucket.

"A memory ... welled up. It felt ancient and yet so familiar. I decided to create a work about the flood right away," the Malaysian-Chinese theater veteran said.

The result is *Into the Flood* (在大水之中), a theatrical performance that opens the two-weekend Sun Son Music and Physical Theater Festival 2009 (身聲2009小劇場藝術節) at the studio.

The narrative has a mythological feel. A young man embarks on a journey to seek help from a crab, as according to a wise toad the crustacean is the only one who knows how to chase away a snake eel that is causing the flooding by blocking water from draining away. The young man experiences a few adventures, some transformations and finally saves the day.

The idea comes from a Bunun (布農) story that Chang came across when he was investigating deluge myths. "What I like about the Bunun myth is that, unlike others, the flood is not a form of punishment for wrongdoing. It one of life's inevitabilities that you have to go through," Chang said.

In *Into the Flood*, traditional arts are fused with contemporary theatrical elements.

The traditional lion and dragon performances at temple celebrations provided inspiration for the play's lively snake eel dance. The performers act both as musicians and puppeteers, an arrangement that was inspired by Senegalese dance.

While maintaining the troupe's distinctive style

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Sun Son Music and Physical Theater Festival 2009 (身聲2009小劇場藝術節)
WHEN: Tonight at 8pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 8pm, June 5 through June 7 at 8pm
WHERE: Bamboo Curtain Studio (竹園工作室), 39, Ln 88, Chungcheng E Rd Sec 2, Tamsui, Taipei County (台北縣淡水鎮中正東路二段88巷39號)
ADMISSION: NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw
ON THE NET: www.sunsontheatre.com

of performance art that combines music, dance and theater infused with tribal inspirations, Chang invited his childhood friend and theater director Lin Yao-hua (林耀華) on board to inject a little humor.

Known for their freestyle technique and spontaneity, the play's performers take on the roles of storytellers, actors, dancers and musicians playing a variety of instruments including didgeridoos, drums, Southeast Asian gongs, guitars and a rubber flute made for elementary school students.

Next weekend's lineup includes solo performances by two female artists from Sun Son. *The Panay Monologue* (第一百零八個巴黎) by Panay is a personal journey through which the Amis (阿美) dancer reconnects with her late grandmother and Aboriginal roots. In *Engulfed* (吞蠟), which employs animation, Liu Wan-chun (劉婉君) plays an ugly mermaid who is lost in her search for love on Earth.

— HO YI



Miss employs testimonials from Asian women in a multimedia performance that explores ideas of cultural identity.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WANG CHUN-CHI

Layers of identity

Every summer, Ann leaves Taiwan for the US, where she grew up, to relive her past.

"I go back ... so I can be the other part of me," she wrote on *Project Miss*, a Web site devoted to exploring women's experiences of living across cultures.

The Web site, created by Taiwanese curator Wang Chun-chi (王俊琪), provides a forum for Asia-born women to share their perspectives on living in Western countries and the cultural difficulties they encounter when they return home.

The testimonials, given from women throughout the world, are combined with live interviews for *Miss*, a video and dance performance that Wang developed in collaboration with South Korean-born director Eunice Maurice, who was adopted by Dutch parents at a young age. The performance is part of the Guling Street Little Theatre Arts Festival and premieres tonight at 8:30pm.

"Eunice grew up in the West and I lived there for 10 years. When I came back to Taiwan I wanted to search for my identity," Wang said. "When Eunice came here she was ... confused and I understood that because that's how I felt when I first came back." It is this sense of uncertainty that the performance examines.

Miss investigates how cultural backgrounds shape and influence woman's collective memories, the places that become part of their identities and nostalgia.

The stage resembles an enormous aquarium, with fabric for glass, and the play's single performer gradually sheds layer after layer of clothing. This process suggests that to discover inner identity, and gain a deeper understanding, a person must first peel away the outer layers of their experiences.

— NOAH BUCHAN

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: *Miss*
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)
WHEN: Tonight and tomorrow at 8:30pm and tomorrow and Sunday at 4pm
ADMISSION: NT\$350 tickets are available through NTCH ticketing
ON THE NET: www.chunchiwang.com

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS MAY 15 TO MAY 21

- 1 Chang Yun-jing (張芸京) and *Out of the Blue* (破天荒) with 29.19%
- 2 Penny Tai (戴佩妮) and *Forgive Me for Being the Girl I Am* (原諒我就是這樣的女生) with 21.39%
- 3 Jolin Tsai (蔡依林) and *Butterfly* (花蝴蝶) with 8.27%
- 4 Amber Kuo (郭采潔) and *Ai Yi Hsiang* (愛異想) with 7.49%
- 5 Original soundtrack from *Black and White* (痞子英雄) with 4.36%

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



[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Theater

Human Condition 4 — The Same Moonlight (人間條件四 — 一樣的月光) is the latest installment of Green Ray Theater's (綠光劇團) series titled *Human Condition*. Written and directed by Wu Nien-jen (吳念真), the play centers on the lives of two sisters, one of whom works as a cleaner; the other is employed at an international company. Performances will be given in Taichung, Tainan and Kaohsiung starting next month.
 ▶ National Theater, Taipei City
 ▶ Today and tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$3,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Based on Austrian playwright and novelist Elfriede Jelinek's play of the same title, **What Happened after Nora Left Her Husband** is the latest production put together by the department of theater arts at Chinese Culture University (中國文化大學). The production puts a gender twist on the original work by having a male actor play Nora, who is abused by her husband.
 ▶ Experimental Theater, Taipei City.
 ▶ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Made up of six afternoons of performances, **Blue Dragon White Tiger (靑龍白虎三世纏鬥)** by the National Guoguang Opera Company (國立國光劇團) recounts the ancient legend of two sacred beasts, Blue Dragon and White Tiger, who battle each other over the course of their

three lives. The first two parts take place this weekend at Guoguang Theater. The remaining four follow next and July.
 ▶ Guoguang Theater (國光劇場), 8-1, Ln 66, Mucha Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市木柵路三段66巷8號之1)
 ▶ Tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$200 and NT\$300, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

For **Crystal Tun-Hwang (冰晶瓶中的敦煌)**, Jade and Artists Dance Troupe's (肢體音符舞團) latest production, the group's artistic director and choreographer, Hsu Yu-ju (徐玉如), teamed up with music producer Lin Lung-hsuan (林隆璇) and flutist Eric Chang (張中立) to present a spiritual journey of self-discovery inspired by the murals found inside the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas in Gansu Province, China.
 ▶ Taipei County Arts Center (台北縣藝文中心演藝廳), 62 Jhuangjing Rd, Banciao City, Taipei County (台北縣板橋市莊敬路62號)
 ▶ Tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$300 and NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Based on Tennessee Williams' play of the same title, **The Glass Menagerie** by Godot Theater Company (果陀劇場) stars veteran actress Tan Ai-chen (譚艾珍), seasoned stage actress Yan Chia-le (顏嘉樂) and television actor Shih I-nan (施易男).
 ▶ Chiayi Performing Arts Center (嘉義縣表演藝術中心演藝廳), 265, Jianguo Rd Sec 2, Minhsiung Township, Chiayi County (嘉義縣民雄鄉建國路二段265號)
 ▶ Tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000,

available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical Music

Chun Chang Violin Recital (張群小提琴獨奏會) presents Taiwanese-born, German-trained violinist Chang Chun (張群) in a concert of music ranging from Bach's *Violin Partita II BWV1004 Ciaccona*, Schbert's *Violin Sonata in D Major D384, Op. 137*, Brahms *Violin Sonata in D Minor, Op. 108* to Tzuyen Hsiao's (蕭泰然) *The Song of Taiwan* (台灣頌) and Wieniawski's *Variations on an Original Theme Op. 15*.
 ▶ Tomorrow at 7:30pm
 ▶ National Recital Hall, Taipei City
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$400 and are available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

2009 Summer Concert — Dances with Sabers (2009夏季音樂會 — 夏之舞—劍舞) is a performance by the Taiwan Soloists Chamber Orchestra (台灣獨奏家室內樂團), featuring Natalia Amosova on piano, Hsiao Pang-shing (蕭邦亨) on violin and Alexander Dardynkin on cello. The program includes Hoffmeister's *Duet in C Major for Violin and Cello*, Gliere's *Four Duets*, Neruda's *Berceuse Slave*, Beethoven's *Piano Trio No. 3 in C Minor Op. 1 No. 3*, among other works.
 ▶ Tomorrow at 7:30pm (Kaohsiung); Monday at 7:30pm (Taipei)
 ▶ Kaohsiung Cultural Center's Chihteh Hall (高雄市立文化中心至德堂), 67 Wufu 1st Rd, Kaohsiung City, (高雄市五福一路67號) and National Recital Hall
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$200 for Kaohsiung and NT\$300 for Taipei, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Thierry Miroglio and Ancuza

Aprodu (法國擊樂鋼琴三重奏) brings French composer and percussionist Thierry Miroglio and pianist Ancuza Aprodu to Taiwan to perform together with Taiwan's Music Forum percussion orchestra. The program will include Maurice Ohana's *Etude d'Interpretation XII*, Huges Dufort's *An Schwager Kronos* and Chao Ching-wen's (趙菁文) *SoundStates* (純化), among other works.
 ▶ Wednesday at 7:30pm
 ▶ Forum Auditorium (十方樂集音樂劇場演奏廳), 4, Ln 187, Minzu W Rd, Taipei City (台北市民族西路187巷4號)
 ▶ Tickets are NT\$300 and are available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Miss Stocking, which plays dreamy indie rock, appears tonight at **The Wall (牆壁)**. Get your groove on late night with electro-punk band **Go Chic** and DJs **Wayne 909** and **Spykee Fat**, all of whom are supporting the main act, **Shitdisco**, a band and DJ outfit from Glasgow. Tomorrow is a post-rock feast featuring Japan's **Mono** and Taiwan's **Sugar Plum Ferry** (甜梅號). Sunday is an eclectic mix of Taiwanese hip-hop group **Kou Chou Ching** (拷秋勤), indie-electronica band **The Shine and Shine and Shine and Shine** (閃閃閃閃) and psychedelic alt-rock band **Flat Club** (假文藝青年俱樂部).
 ▶ 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
 ▶ Show starts at 8pm tonight for Miss Stocking and 11:30pm for Shitdisco; 8pm tomorrow and Sunday
 ▶ Entrance fee for music shows is

NT\$400 for Miss Stocking and NT\$800 for the Shitdisco show, NT\$1,400 tomorrow (NT\$1,200 in advance) and NT\$300 on Sunday; includes one drink. All advance tickets available at White Wabbit Records, located at the Wall.

Yujun (楊鈞) reads poetry to the music of Japanese sitar player **Yo** tonight at **Witch House (女巫店)**. Tomorrow folk-pop singer **Europa Huang** (黃建為) takes to the stage. On Thursday, it's solo act **Ian** (芮祥麟) and one-man electro-rock band **Sonic Deadhorse**.
 ▶ 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

Tonight is the Electric Bass Show III at **Riverside Cafe (河岸留聲)**, featuring two jazz bass virtuosos, **Ning Zi-da** (甯子達) and **Huang Chun-han** (黃群翰). Performing tomorrow is folk group **Miss Dessy** and a newly-formed rock band, **The Little**. On Sunday, the venue hosts **What Century** (花世紀), an outfit of 20-year-old rockers, who open for slick emo-punks **Pa Pang** (怕胖團).
 ▶ 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 (台電大樓). Call (02) 2368-7310 or visit www.riverside.com.tw for more information
 ▶ Show starts at 9:30pm tonight, 9pm tomorrow and Sunday
 ▶ Entrance fees: NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow and NT\$350 Sunday

Tonight, **Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演廳)** hosts **Hsiao Nan and Friends** (小南 and Friends), a new folk rock group. They open for Mandopop singer-songwriter **Debbie Hsiao** (蘇貞碩), who won the Best Newcomer prize at the 2008 Golden Melody Awards. Tomorrow night the venue hosts a milonga, which features three local tango groups: **iTango Orchestra** (愛探戈), **Tango Negro** (黑探戈) and **Fusion Blanca** (白融合). [See story on Page 13.]
 ▶ 177 Xining S 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
 ▶ Tonight at 8:30pm, tomorrow from 5pm to 10pm.
 ▶ Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, includes one drink. Tomorrow's event is NT\$500, includes one drink and one free tango lesson. For more information, visit milonga.pixnet.net/blog

Taking to the stage tonight at **Sappho de Base** is the **Jo Jo Ma Quintet**, a group led by saxophonist **Joseph Marchione**, a founding member of the Austin, Texas, large jazz ensemble the **Creative Opportunity Orchestra**. Tomorrow, it's New Orleans native **Nbugu Kenyatta** and friends. On Tuesday, the venue hosts **Cry of the Wild Goose**, a duo consisting of **Blues Vibrations** guitarist **Lanny Waugh** and drummer **Ed Schaefer**. On Wednesday, it's **Minstrels Unlimited**, a group exploring jazz, African and hip-hop music, while **The Grace Jazz Trio** appears on Thursday.
 ▶ B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號B1). Call (02) 2700-5411 (after 9pm) or visit www.sappho102.biz for more information
 ▶ Performances begin at 10:30pm on weekends, 10pm on weekdays

▶ No admission fee
 Every Wednesday night at the **Cosmopolitan Grill** is open mic hosted by Jake Stanley of the acoustic duo **Stoked Pokey**. All are welcome to participate, and participants receive 20 percent off drinks.
 ▶ 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.
 ▶ 8:30pm to 11pm every Wednesday
 ▶ No admission fee

EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights include male crooner **Hsing Lung** (辛隆) tomorrow and **Julia Peng** (彭佳慧), a major draw who appears every Tuesday.
 ▶ 211, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段211號). Call (02) 2738-3995 or visit www.ez5.com.tw for more information
 ▶ Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am
 ▶ Entrance (including two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer. Call venue for exact fees

Metal bands **Vulcan** and **Demise** (霹靂) play tonight at **Underworld (地下社會)**. Taking to the stage tomorrow are **Shishukong** (屍術控) and **Fuxing Xiaozhi** (福星小子). On Wednesday, punk bands **Vanilla** and **Random** push revelers over the mid-week hump.
 ▶ 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 and 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays
 ▶ Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow and includes one drink; NT\$100 on Wednesday