



Do you suffer from FAD (Facebook Addiction Disorder)? If you do, here's a big fix in the form of a rundown of Facebook groups concerned with dance music in Taiwan.

Islandjam (614 members)

Islandjam is an event organization team based in Taipei that has been throwing reggae parties for about five years. "In Taiwan, the reggae scene is still underground," Thierry Cu villier, one of the founders of Islandjam, said. "But compared to when we first started, now we have more connections, people know us and we try to do bigger events and get in touch with more Chinese people." And much to their credit, there are definitely a lot more reggae events these days. They host Reggae Lounge Night at Nakhla Shisha, 74-1 Houcuo Village, Sanjhih Township, Taipei County (台北縣三芝鄉後厝村74-1號), every Friday. Stay tuned for Islandjam's reggae beach party on June 6.

Liquid Lifestyle Promotions (2,449 members)

Founded in 2002 by three American-born Chinese, Liquid

Lifestyle was the team that helped turn Luxy's ladies night into the biggest midweek hip-hop bash in town with creative ideas such as themed events and "sexy-girl" contests. Although it can be said that the music and DJs don't always come first at its parties, Liquid Lifestyle has been involved in bringing international hip-hop acts such as Black Eyed Peas, 50 Cent and Fort Minor to Taiwan. Currently, Liquid Lifestyle hosts a regular Friday Xclusive night at Primo, 2F, 297, Zhongxiao E Rd, Sec 5, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路五段297號2樓), and is organizing a concert with Pussycat Dolls on June 7.

Minimal Techno Fans (562 members)

If the likes of Carl Craig, Richie Hawtin and M.A.N.D.Y tickle your fancy, here's where to find like-minded peers. This group caters to minimal techno fans. It features lots of related resources as well as updated info on minimal techno events in Taipei.

Taiwan Drum and Bass (677 members)

A number of drum 'n' bass promoters have emerged in Taipei over the past year, and now there's a drum 'n' bass event about once a month. To keep junglists in the loop, this group aims at providing information on upcoming party and a forum for Taiwan-based drum 'n' bass heads in Taiwan.



Islandjam hosts Reggae Lounge Night every Friday. PHOTO COURTESY OF ISLANDJAM

Amateur DJ Promotion (素人DJ音樂推廣, 161 members)

There are plenty of DJs and music lovers out there, but many of them have no outlet to express and share their interests with others. Here's a solution. Amateur has been hosting monthly events for music lovers and bedroom DJs since 2007. As far as music genres, anything goes. But to spin at the group's events, members have to sign up first.

— QUEEN BEE

River

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Though the hotel rooms for 230 people, many of which are fitted with Jacuzzi tubs, are all sold out, there is free camping available for more than 700, with hot showers, toilets, and electrical outlets for air pumps, fans, or to charge cell phones. The venue also has full cell phone coverage.

If it rains, almost all of the six camping areas — named after famous albums such as *Paul's Boutique* and *Dark Side of the Moon* — are covered. The main stage, dancing area, DJ warehouse and food area are also all covered.

Brunch is available tomorrow and Sunday 9am to 2pm, with eggs, choice of sausage or bacon, hash browns, and toast for NT\$150, with coffee or juice for NT\$50.

Other vendors include the organizers' favorite kinds of food: Mexican, from El Gallo; Italian and French style sandwiches from Le Rouge; and Gasthaus Zum Adler, which will have five kinds of sausage, potato salad, goulash and cheese rolls. The restaurant at the resort will have a full menu of Taiwanese seafood.

There will be free water as usual at Perpetual Motion events, and plenty of tables and chairs for sitting down and relaxing. "Taking a rest will not be a problem," said Ordoyne, "there will always be an extra chair for your friend to come join you."

If River Bash goes as well as they hope, they plan to make it a yearly event, along with their annual Lost Lagoon party in Wulai (which will be held on Aug. 28 to Aug. 30 this year).

"If you find yourself on the side of the majority following current party trends, it's time to ... break the mold," said Newman. "It's what we try to do and I think people are starting to notice."



Heavy metal/grunge rockers Doublewide play tonight at River Bash.

PHOTO: ALITA RICHARDS

Getting there:

By bus:

From Taipei: Shuttle buses run every 30 to 45 minutes from the corner of Songren (松仁) and Xinyi (信義) roads in front of New York Bagels at 122, Xinyi Rd Sec 5, Taipei City (台北市信義路五段122號) from 2pm to 10pm today, 10am to 10pm tomorrow, and noon to 6pm Sunday. Tickets are NT\$100. No reservations necessary.

From Zhongli (中壢) and Taoyuan: Buses depart from in front of Sogo (Chungli) and from in front of Minsheng Hospital (Taoyuan) at 2pm. Prices will depend on how many people take the bus, but will not exceed NT\$350 one-way. The buses will return Sunday at 3pm and 4pm. Check the Web site for contact information to reserve a seat.

From Banciao: Buses run from in front of Le Rouge restaurant at 1F, 419-6, Wenhua Rd Sec 1, Banciao City (台北縣板橋市文化路一段419-6號1樓). Prices will depend on how many people take the bus, but will not exceed NT\$350 one-way. Buses will run at 2pm and 8pm today and tomorrow and return at 3pm and 4pm Sunday. Check the Web site for contact information to reserve a seat.

From Taichung and Changhua: Check the Web site for contact information to reserve a seat.

By car or motorbike:

There is limited parking near the venue with room for about 80 cars. For directions in English and Chinese, go to the Perpetual Motion Web site or Facebook (River Bash @ Pinglin). The drive takes about half an hour from Taipei City by car and close to an hour by scooter. Please don't drink and drive.

DJ SCHEDULE:

TONIGHT:

10pm Digit
11pm Charles
12pm CAP 10
1am Marcus Aurelius
2am Edify
3:30am Fratzuki
5am vDub

TOMORROW:

10pm Shorty
11pm Juni
12:30am Marcus Aurelius
1:30am Mixer T
2:30am Too Bad It's Not Tronic
3:30am Dominik Hooker and Burn Electric
4:30am Anti Hero

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: River Bash (端午節台北坪林溪流搖滾音樂季)

WHEN: Today through Sunday. Bands tonight from 7pm to 2am, tomorrow from 4pm to 2am, and Sunday from noon to 5pm. DJs today and tomorrow from 10pm to 5am.

WHERE: 5-1, Shueide Village, Pinglin Township, Taipei County (台北縣坪林鄉水德村苦苓腳5-1號)

ADMISSION: NT\$1,300 at the door for the entire festival. Free water and camping facilities

DETAILS: On-site bar. Bags will be searched for outside alcohol and contraband at the gate

ON THE NET: www.taipeimotion.com

BAND SCHEDULE:

TONIGHT:

7pm to 8pm The Blue Trucks
8:30pm to 9:30pm Alice's Tears
10pm to 11pm Three Day Bender
11:15 to 11:30 Rock in Hose Burlesque
11:30pm to 12:30pm Doublewide
12:40 to 12:55 Rock in Hose Burlesque
1am to 2am The DoLittles

TOMORROW:

4pm to 5pm David Foster
5:30pm to 6:30pm Tyler Dakin and the Long Naked Bottles
Space Fuxk
New Hong Kong Hair City
10pm to 11pm The Money Shot Horns
11:30pm to 12:30am Taimaica
1am to 2am High Tide

SUNDAY:

12pm to 1pm Go Chic
1:30pm to 2:30pm Skaraoke
3pm to 5pm River Jam (open to all performers)

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Franz and Friends (城市舞台藝文沙龍)

an upscale restaurant and performance space in Taipei's east district, hosts music shows every night. The music tends to play it safe, ranging from wistful love songs and opera to lounge jazz. Weekly highlights include **Denise Juan** (阮丹菁), a former pop singer turned piano teacher, television presenter and traveler, and her band **Sunshine Costa**. They play tonight. Tomorrow, it's **Buona Sera**, a group featuring soprano **Chang Hsiao-ni** (張曉倪).

► 25, Bade Rd, Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號B1). Call (02) 2579-0558 for reservations. On the Net: www.franzandfriends.com.tw

► Minimum charge of NT\$300 on Fridays and Saturdays, all other nights minimum charge is one drink

Exhibitions

A Thousand, Thousand Churning Waves — The Legendary Red Cliff Heritage (捲起千堆雪—赤壁文物特展) is an exhibit that revisits the Battle of Red Cliffs (赤壁之戰), a famous skirmish fought at the end of the Han Dynasty. The National Palace Museum recounts this legendary battle with historical documents, books, works of art and prints depicting the period and its people.

► National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院), 221, Zhishan Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市至善路二段221號). Open Tuesday to Sunday from 9am to 5pm; Saturdays open until 8:30pm. Tel: (02) 2881-2021. On the Net: www.npm.gov.tw

► Until August 31

In the summer of 2008, video artist Seth Lower received a bizarre message from a person in Taiwan named Lee Ming, who said that Lower had been in one of his or her dreams. **Seth Lower Looking for Lee Ming (尋找李明)** is a video that documents Lower's search for this mysterious person and how he comes into contact with numerous people in Taiwan bearing the name Lee Ming.

► Taipei National University of the 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 Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm. Tel: (02) 2896-1000 X2432. On the Net: kdmofa.tnua.edu.tw

► Until Sunday

Pan Ping-yu (潘鴻玉) weaves together a variety of media such as fabric, wire, colored beads and spangles into dreamlike sculptures as a means of probing the mythologies of modern life in **Eternal Nature (永恆是情景的回響)**.

► 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

► Until June 28

Tu Pei-shih (杜鵬詩) 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 Jung-lung's (蔡宗隆) solo exhibit **Looking for the Temperature of Tranquility (尋找寧靜的溫度)** comprises abstract work in clay.

► Yingge Ceramics Museum (鶯歌陶瓷博物館), 200 Wenhua Rd, Yingge 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 (台北市松高路11號5樓). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 7pm. Tel: (02) 8789-3388 X1588

Taiwan's plants, animals and folk customs serve as Hsiao Mei's (蕭梅) visual language in her solo exhibit **Here Is Where We Meet (飄遊·境遇)**. The show features more than 30 of her dreamlike oil paintings created between 2003 and 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

► Until June 26

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 artist's past, where place and memory merge in romantic depictions of the 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. Tel: (02) 8789-3388 X1588

► Until June 7

Film

Ahead of the Asian premiere of Ultima Vez's new work **New Black** at the National Theater from June 26 to June 28, the Taipei Arts International Association is showing "From the stage to the film," a retrospective film festival of 13 short films made by the Belgian contemporary dance company and its founder/director Wim Vandekeybus over the past 23 years. Many of the films were used as part of the company's dance productions. The 13 films have been divided into four sets. A listing of the sets and films can be found on the Web at www.taf.org.tw/epaper/epapernewblack-movie.html. Senior theater lecturer Geng Yi-wei (耿一偉) will also give a lecture on Vandekeybus and his work at 3pm on Sunday.

► The B2 auditorium of the Dunhua branch of Eslite Bookstore, B2, 245

Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段245號B2)

► Sunday at 11am, 1:30pm, 5pm and 7:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$100 per set or NT\$300 as a package for all four sets, available at www.artsticket.com.tw. Admission to the lecture is free.

► More information is available by calling Miss Chang at (02)2772-8528, ex.11 or www.taf.org.tw

Dance

For **Crystal Tun-Hwang (水晶瓶中的敦煌)**, the latest production by Jade and Artists Dance Troupe (肢體音符舞團) 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 Huangjing Rd, Banciao City, Taipei County (台北縣板橋市莊敬路62號)

► Tomorrow at 7:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$300 and NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

The dance department at Taipei National University of the Arts is holding its "Early Summer Production" this weekend, offering a mix program of modern, Chinese and Aboriginal dance, including **White Adhesives** by Cloud Gate 2 resident choreographer Cheng Tsung-lung (鄭宗龍), **Harvest Festival of Kiwit Village, Ami Tribe** by TNUA professor and Dance Forum Taipei founder Ping Heng (平恆) and Martha Graham's **Steps in the Street**, directed by former Graham principal dancer Sheu Fang-yi (許芳宜).

► TNUA Dance Theatre

► Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$350, available at the door. For more information, call the dance department at 02-2893-8778

RESTAURANTS

Bruce's Kitchen (布佬廚房)

Address: 137 Chezih Rd, Sindian City, Taipei County (台北縣新店市車子路137號)

Telephone: (02) 8666-6181 **Average meal:** NT\$300

Open: Daily from 11am to 10pm; closed on Mondays

On the Net: Chinese and English menus; credit cards not accepted

Located just off Ankang Road (安康路), one of Sindian's busiest through roads, Bruce's Kitchen manages to supply a very passable imitation of rustic idyll in its hillside cottage setting and with its wide wooden verandas. While there is plenty of indoor space, if the weather is fine, the terraces are where you want to be. These outdoor areas have been carefully designed with marquees and huge sunshades to ensure that even in the warm weather, diners are shaded from the worst of the sun and are able to catch the mountain breeze.

The other feature of Bruce's Kitchen, which will be decisive in whether you decide to go there, is that it is a fully vegetarian establishment, even to the extent of catering to strict Buddhist vegetarians who object to the stimulating effects of garlic and onions. All dishes can be served without these offending ingredients if required.

The food is primarily Western in style, though with a Taiwanese twist, that it must be said is not always successful. Service is fast and efficient, but overall the food tastes a little too obviously as though its been designed for speed and ease of service. It is not surprising that its most successful dishes are those with the closest links to fast food.

One of Bruce's most popular dishes is the tempura with herbs (香草天婦羅, NT\$50), a light, crispy batter held together by finely sliced vegetables and western herbs. It has a subtle herbal fragrance, and the light texture is almost enough to convince you that the batter, which is by far the main ingredient, has no calories at all.

Working through the menu, it was clear that while all the ingredients were vegetarian, they were not necessarily fresh, and the mushrooms with basil (羅勒鮮香菇), another side dish, may have made use of canned mushrooms, which somewhat detracted from the appeal. On the other hand, the cheese dumplings (巧達起司餃), crisp pastries with a soft white cheese, where really quite interesting.

There is a selection of 10 main dishes that can be ordered individually or as a set menu that includes a soup, salad and dessert, all priced at NT\$160 and NT\$300, for a single dish or set respectively. Pumpkin and mushroom soup were on offer the day I visited, with the former tasting suspiciously like it had been reconstituted from a powder.

The main dishes themselves were competently put together, and featured a variety of pastas and paellas that covered a wide range of flavors and textures. The fried rice with pine nuts and herbs (香草松子草飯) was a personal favorite, probably because it was the simplest. Other dishes such as the pumpkin and cheese pasta (南瓜起司麵) were a little stogy, and lacked the bright, crisp flavors that I associate with the best vegetarian cuisine. But then, the prices are extremely reasonable for such a well thought-out venue, and while Bruce's Kitchen may err on the side of efficiency over quality in relation to its food, it certainly does not shortchange its customers. Bookings are essential for weekends.

— IAN BARTHOLOMEW

Gindaco (築地銀)

Address: 276, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段276號)

Telephone: (02) 2364-6459 **Average meal:** NT\$100 to NT\$150

Open: 11am to 9:30pm

Details: Chinese menu; credit cards not accepted

On the Net: www.gindaco.com

Gindaco is a novelty among Japanese fast food restaurant chains in Taipei. It serves a street food staple — *takoyaki*, or octopus dumplings — in an airy, minimalist setting that feels a bit like a Japanese inn. There are lots of natural colors, low wooden tables and benches and round paper lanterns.

While the dining area is clean and Zen-quiet, the shop puts on a festive air. You'll hear the constant, hypnotic plucking of the *samisen*, Japan's version of the banjo, piped through the shop's stereo, luring passersby away from the clothing shops and brisk traffic on Roosevelt and Xinsheng South roads. Walk in and get a jolt of the requisite hospitality as service staff in matching hats and blue robes yell out "welcome" in Japanese.

The ball-shaped takoyaki are made from a batter mixed with pickled ginger, spring onion and boiled octopus, and cooked upon order on griddles in full view at the front of the shop. Sip on Coke, Sprite or Nestea lemon tea (NT\$25) from the soda fountain or matcha (powdered green tea NT\$50) while waiting for your food — it usually takes around five minutes.

While local versions of takoyaki can be found at night markets, the finer details of Gindaco's recipe make it worth the trip for fans of this Osaka treat. Each dumpling, which measures around 2cm in diameter, is crispy golden on the outside and full of deep-fried goodness without tasting too oily. The savory filling is creamy from the batter and chewy from the octopus. The filling can be scorching hot, so be careful with the first few bites. Popping a whole one into your mouth wouldn't be wise.

As if the dumplings weren't rich enough already, Gindaco garnishes them with a dollop of sweet mayonnaise and soy sauce along with one of three toppings: "original flavor," which means topped with bonito flakes (NT\$110 for six, NT\$140 for 10), scrambled egg (NT\$120 for six, NT\$160 for 10) and green onions and seaweed shavings (NT\$120 for six, NT\$160 for 10).

The shop menu pushes a set meal of six original flavor takoyaki and a drink for NT\$120, which makes a reasonably filling meal for one or a light snack for two.

For those not feeling adventurous, there are three kinds of fried noodles: salad vegetable (清香野菜燒麵), pork (濃厚豚骨燒麵), and the "house specialty" (招牌銀燒麵) (NT\$110 each or NT\$69 for a small portion). The house specialty has pork, cabbage and sprouts cooked in a tangy Worcestershire-like sauce. Other standard Japanese fare is also available on the side. Miso soup is NT\$35, matcha ice cream is NT\$45 and sweet red bean or cream griddle cakes are NT\$30.

Long lines were common when Gindaco opened its first branch in Gongguan (公館) in 2005. It's much easier to get a space these days, and the Japanese chef that often manned the griddle wasn't there on a visit earlier this week. But the chain continues to expand, and opened branches in Tianmu (天母) and Ximending (西門町) last year.

For information on other locations in Taiwan, go to www.gindaco.com/contents/store/kaigai/taiwan.html#taiwan01.

— DAVID CHEN



Cheese dumplings with tomato salsa show the creativity of Bruce's Kitchen.

PHOTO: IAN BARTHOLOMEW, TAIPEI TIMES



The takoyaki, or octopus dumplings, are a favorite at Gindaco.

PHOTO: DAVID CHEN, TAIPEI TIMES