

AROUND TOWN

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009

PAGE 13

BY ALITA RICKARDS
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER



No longer satisfied with having to choose between a weekend in nature or a weekend of partying? Today's movers and shakers seem to be on the ball with trying to provide it all. River Bash was a smash, last weekend's reggae beach party by Island Jam was slamming, and this weekend there's something new from Panda Productions — a two-day overnight trip to Sun Moon Lake (日月潭).

Panda has scheduled DJs for tomorrow and Sunday afternoons only, with tomorrow evening and Sunday morning devoted to relaxation and exploring nature.

"Some people don't like that," said promoter Patricia Tsou (鄒佩菁). "They want to party all night long. But if I want that, I can do it anywhere in Taipei. I want people to enjoy the mountains and the lake," she said.

Gareth Jones, left, and Matty D will be keeping the dock hopping with electro, house and indie tunes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PANDA PRODUCTIONS

Swim and play the day away at Sun Moon Splash this weekend.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CRAIG FERGUSON



Because sound echoes across the water, late-night music was not an option. Instead, early morning transportation tomorrow will have everyone at Sun Moon Lake by noon, where they will be ferried from Dehua dock (德化社碼頭) to a floating water bungalow. DJs will spin music all afternoon while partygoers dance, swim and eat barbecue. A jet ski will tow a banana boat and Tsou advises people to bring their own inflatable water toys to float on.

An early night will be followed by a choice of outdoor activities Sunday morning, including hiking and cycling, followed by another afternoon of music before shuttle buses return to Taipei and Taichung.

They want to have "every kind of music for every kind of people," said Tsou, with Black Reign doing dancehall and reggae and DJs Gareth Jones and Matty D and Marcus Aurelius spinning hip-hop and funk. Jones has branched out from electro house and also spins tracks by indie-dance music artists such as Alex Metric, Crookers and Evil Nine and remixes of bands like Passion Pit, MGMT and Phoenix. Matty D blends electro house, indie dance, breaks and big-ass bass, and wants to "bring something fresh to let your inhibitions float away" this weekend.

Food will also be fresh, catered by Chou Wen-lin (周文琳), best known for her barbecuing skills at the Spring Breeze pool parties in 2006. A few vegetarian choices will be available. Drinks include Taiwan Beer (NT\$50), Heineken (two for NT\$150) and cocktails (NT\$100).

Panda makes a splash

Nature and dance music combine at Sun Moon Lake Splash. Whether the mix is right, remains to be seen



■ PARTY NOTES:

WHAT: Sun Moon Lake Splash

WHEN: From noon tomorrow to 6pm Sunday

WHERE: Sun Moon Lake Waterpark (日月潭水上休閒中心)

GETTING THERE: From Taipei a private shuttle bus departs tomorrow at 8am from the front of Sogo's Fuxing branch and departs Sun Moon Lake at 6pm Sunday, arriving in Taipei at around 10:30pm. From Taichung a private shuttle bus leaves the Aloha Bus company's (阿囉哈客運) Chaoma stop (朝馬站) at 10am and departs Sun Moon Lake at 6pm Sunday, arriving in Taichung at around 9pm

ADMISSION: NT\$500 per day for admission to the party and shuttle boat to the water bungalow; NT\$2,200 to NT\$2,500 for a package deal that includes shuttle service to and from Taipei or Taichung, admission to the party, shuttle boat to the water bungalow and bed and breakfast

DETAILS: To purchase tickets and for questions about transportation call Patricia Tsou (鄒佩菁) at 0981-012-939, Miranda Liu (劉玉麗) at 0925-999-084 or Carol Liao (廖玉婷) at 0986-285-385, or send an e-mail to the.panda.fun@gmail.com. Additional shuttle services can be arranged

[DANCE]

Recognition comes to those who innovate

Capital Ballet Taipei raises its profile further with 'Ballet Pageant III,' a compilation of short ballets by four choreographers



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPITAL BALLET TAIPEI

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Capital Ballet Taipei, Ballet Pageant III

WHEN: Tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm

WHERE: Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號)

ADMISSION: Tickets are NT\$400, NT\$600, NT\$800 and NT\$1,000, available www.artsticket.com.tw

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE: Saturday, July 18 at 7:30pm at Chiayi Performing Arts Center (嘉義縣表演藝術中心演藝廳), 265, Jianguo Rd Sec 2, Minsyong Township, Chiayi County (嘉義縣民雄鄉建國路二段265號)

TICKETS: NT\$250 to NT\$400

BY DIANE BAKER
STAFF REPORTER

Capital Ballet Taipei (台北首飾芭蕾舞團) is one of those companies that can float under the radar for years, known mostly to a loyal fan base. Which is too bad because it has been around for 19 years, working hard to pursue a vision of ballet with a Taiwanese flavor in a country that has become a center for modern dance.

However, the company, founded by Hsu Chin-feng (徐進豐) and his wife Lee Shu-hui (李淑惠), has a higher profile this year, having won top prize in the performance arts category in the 7th Taishin Arts Award (第七屆台新藝術獎) last month for one of last year's works, *Surround* (井), an exploration of spatial and temporal relationships.

The company's output frequently focuses on the larger world outside the ballet studio, though still centering on Taiwan. For example, in January last year they performed *Media Tycoon* (媒體大亨), in which the protagonist gave up his family, friends and soul to gain wealth and power, while 2005's *Postman* (郵差) examined the cyclical nature of human history.

Tomorrow night and Sunday afternoon the company will be performing a more

mixed program, *Ballet Pageant III* (玩芭蕾3), a compilation of short ballets by four choreographers who have drawn on a diverse range of music and sources for their works.

The program begins with *Life, To Be Continued* (生命·未完待續), by dancer/choreographer Chiang Chiou-o (蔣秋娥),



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPITAL BALLET TAIPEI

inspired by Franz Schubert's plaintive string quartet *Death and the Maiden* (Der Tod und das Mädchen) and his own travels in Europe. Jiang danced in Germany and elsewhere in Europe for several years, and was in *When Ballet Meets Tchaikovsky* by Taipei Chamber Ballet (台北室內芭蕾舞) two years ago.

Next up will be Hsu Chin-feng's *Salome* (莎樂美), inspired by Oscar Wilde's play about the Biblical heroine and set to music from Richard Strauss' one-act opera of the same name. If the photos are anything to go by, this piece will be dramatic, with the dancer portraying Salome dancing a pas de deux with John the Baptist's head on a platter.

The third ballet will be *At the Other End, Unexpected Encounter* (在另一端遇見), choreographed by Lin Wei-hua (林惟華). This work, like Marcel Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past*, is a reflection of time spent with friends in years gone by, set to an eclectic mix of music by Yo-yo Ma (馬友友), Ennio Morricone and Lionel Richie.

The final work is *Chicago Swans* (芝加哥天鵝) by choreographer Liu Qiya (劉啟亞), which the company describes as an "elegant and wild work."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPITAL BALLET TAIPEI