



Yaoyao aims to capture a share of the *otaku* market in Japan.

PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

Appearing in a suggestive advertisement for an online game in which your breasts are shown swaying as you ride an undulating exercise machine can put a wannabe on the fast track to superstardom. That, at least, has been the case for “big-breasted bodacious baby face” (童顏巨乳) **Yaoyao** (瑤瑤), real name Kuo Shu-yao (郭書瑤), who last week was spotted having a business dinner with representatives from Yoshimoto Kogyo, a major Japanese entertainment conglomerate.

Yaoyao's record company Seed Music (種子音樂) — yes, her debut album is slated to hit record stores next month — said there is indeed a plan for the sex kitten to become a pop star in Japan in the manner of **Vivian Hsu** (徐若瑄).

Seed Music appears to be on to something. Given the warm reception Yaoyao has received among Taiwan's *zhainan* (宅男) community, it is not a stretch to imagine the 19-year-old winning the hearts of Japanese *otaku* as well.

Meanwhile, former superstar **Joey Wang** (王祖賢) was in the news again this week after it was reported that the 42-year-old recluse has become a Buddhist nun.

Wang rose to fame after starring in 1987 blockbuster *A Chinese Ghost Story* (倩女幽魂) and enjoyed a notable career throughout the 1990s. She retired in 2002 and has led a low-profile life in Canada ever since, where she is said to have donned the habit last month.

Gossip observers think Wang's sudden ability to “see through the vanity of the secular world” (看破紅塵) has something to do with her two failed relationships. One was a 16-year-long romance with musician **Chi Chin** (齊秦), the other an extramarital affair with Hong Kong entertainment mogul **Peter Lam** (林建岳).

One of the few openly gay celebrities in Taiwan has aggravated members of the TV-watching public by referring to homosexuals as *niang* (娘), the Chinese equivalent of “sissy,” on a popular television show, reports the *Liberty Times* (the *Taipei Times*' sister paper).

Over the past month or so **Kevin Tsai** (蔡康永) of *Herc Comes Kang and Xi* (康熙來了), which he co-hosts with **Little S** (小S), has been using the word *niang* to address gay celebrities such as **Kuo Hsin** (郭鑫), **Ti Chih-chieh** (狄志杰) and **Hsu Chien-kuo** (許建國) when they appear on his show.

Viewers angered by his use of the term, which when used by a stranger is considered demeaning, posted angry comments on the Internet like the following: “The sissy host should think of himself before calling other people sissies.”

In other gay-related news, pop diva **A-mei** (阿妹), real name Chang Hui-mei (張惠妹), will introduce her new persona **A-mit** (阿密特) to gay fans at a party on July 18 at Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演館) in Taipei. Unlike A-mei, A-mit is said to have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to saccharine ballads and KTV-friendly tunes. Those who

have seen A-mit perform say the black-clad rocker screams, hisses and howls, but never croons.

To catch A-mit at Riverside, partygoers have to be biologically male or identified as male on their ID cards, and wear something “rainbowy.”

Professing concern that the star's female fans will feel left out, A-mit's record company, Gold Typhoon (金牌大風), promises a women-only A-mit party if the *gay pa* (gay派) goes well.

— COMPILED BY HO YI

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

JUNE 26 TO JULY 2

- 1 **A-mei** (張惠妹) and **A-Mit** — *Concept Album* (A-MIT 意識專輯) with 21.44 percent of sales
- 2 **Jerry Yan** (言承旭) and *Freedom, Secret* (多出來的自由：秘密自道) with 11.26%
- 3 **Chou Hwei** (周蕙) and self-titled album with 7.98%
- 4 **Alisa Galper** (高以愛) and *Alisa* with 4.82%
- 5 **Xiao Yu** (小宇) with *Just Standing Here* (就站在這裡) with 4.79%

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



Highlights

The **Taipei International Jazz Festival**, which began last month, continues with outdoor performances every weekend until July 25. Tomorrow's show features French drummer **Anne Pacey**, who last year was nominated for the Django d'Or for best young talent, and her trio **Triphase**. The festival coincides with the Taipei International Summer Jazz Academy, a one-week summer camp for aspiring jazz musicians, and concludes with two concerts showcasing international jazz performers on July 24 and July 25 at Da-an Park (大安森林公園). On the Net: blog.yam.com/tijs2009en/article/21438676 or www.annepacey.com. Pacey and Triphase also appear at *Sappho de Base* on Monday night for an impromptu jam session.



French jazz drummer **Anne Pacey**, center, and **Triphase** perform tomorrow as part of the **Taipei International Jazz Festival**, which started last month and continues until July 25.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE PACEY

- **Anne Pacey** and **Triphase** at Neihu Sports Park (內湖運動公園), Taipei City, located near the intersection of Minquan East Road, Section 6 (民權東路六段) and Jiuzong Road, Section 2 (舊宗路二段)
- Tomorrow at 6:30pm
- Free admission

— DAVID CHEN

Since March, Rock in Hose has brought a splash of sex appeal to Taiwan's nightclubs and music festivals. But members of the burlesque troupe, which will perform tomorrow at the Taiwan Air Guitar Championships at Carnegie's and next Saturday at Tin Pan Alley in Tainan, say their performances are more than just about looking hot.

“There is an emphasis on women's lib. We're owning our sexuality,” says Alita Rickards, one of the founders of Rock in Hose (and a contributor to this newspaper). Rock in Hose's skits and dance numbers satirize sexist stereotypes and gender conventions, with the five members (four women and one man) doing their own take on bored housewives, Playboy bunnies, sexy schoolgirls and even dolls.

The troupe was founded in March when Rickards (who goes by the moniker Alita D'Bone when she performs burlesque) and Anja Whitehead (stage name Onyx), who had previously performed together in Rockin' Ho, a predecessor to Rock in Hose, joined up with Kathleen Batchelor (Miss Kitty N. Heat), Marika McTague (Trixie Treatz) and Tinus Stander (Duke Vita) for a debut performance at Rock 'n' Roll Circus.

Burlesque performances traditionally mix a broad sense of humor with sexual innuendo. Rock in Hose adds a satirical twist to their repertoire, which includes a light-hearted air guitar version of Jimi Hendrix's legendary performance of *Purple Haze* that the members perform while wearing fluffy rainbow clown wigs in homage to the rocker's famous afro. Other acts include sexy takes on props like hula-hoops and skits that, like an erotic version of pantomime, use very little spoken language in an effort to appeal to non-English speaking audiences (the troupe's members are from Canada, the US and South Africa).

Rock in Hose's raunchiest act by far is a dance number to Nine Inch Nails' *Closer* in which the troupe's members form what can best be described as a pulsating human mountain. But Rock in Hose is quick to defend itself against charges that the group's performances are exploitative or sexist.

“We satirize sexual stereotypes. The performances aren't supposed to be taken seriously,” says Whitehead. “We want people to get over things that they find offensive, and think about it and then laugh about it.”



Members of Rock in Hose show off their acrobatic prowess.

“We approach it with a sense of humor,” says Stander. “It's not about stripping down to panties. We're actually quite modest.”

“During the performance, I'm still wearing three pairs of tights and a corset,” adds McTague.

The troupe's self-designed costumes include the aforementioned hosiery and bustiers, and feature more leggings, tank tops and tutus than G-strings or pasties (which are, indeed, nowhere in evidence).

Jason Capps of rock band The Deadly Vibes, which collaborated with Rock in Hose at Rock and Roll Circus, says the troupe brings a much-needed female presence to nightclubs and live music venues, where performance rosters are often dominated by men.

“I think that women, especially

in Taiwan, need to see other women performing, that they can get up there, they can be sexual, but also funny,” says Capps. “In Taiwan, there are not a lot of women getting on stage,” says Capps. “There are a few women in bands here and there, but [Rock in Hose] is definitely bringing something that's needed.”

The troupe's members themselves report that the loudest and most positive responses have been from female audience members. During some performances, Rickards performs an original song, *POGO* (*Put Out or Get Out*), that was written in collaboration with Shiuan Liu (劉軒, who performs as DJ SL), and has a refrain that insists, loudly and proudly, that “women have a higher sex drive!” And performing in Rock in Hose has also made the troupe's

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Rock in Hose at the Taiwan Air Guitar Championships
WHEN: Tomorrow from 6pm
WHERE: Carnegie's, 100, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段100號). Tel: (02) 2325-4433
ADMISSION: NT\$300 at the door, free for contestants
ON THE WEB: www.airguitar.com.tw; www.airguitarworldchampionships.com

WHAT: Going Down (South) — Rock in Hose Burlesque takes Tainan
WHEN: July 18 from 10pm until late
WHERE: Tin Pan Alley, 28, Beimen Rd Sec 2, Tainan City (台南市北門路二段28號)
ADMISSION: NT\$300

NOTE: See story on Page 16 of tomorrow's Taipei Times for coverage of the Taiwan Air Guitar Championships



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROCK IN HOSE

members more comfortable with their own sexuality, they say, a confidence boost that they hope spreads to the women watching them.

When Rickards strapped on a garter belt for one of their first performances, “I felt so chubby,” she recalls. “I got invited to a pool party around the same time and I didn't want to go because I'd gained weight and felt self-conscious. But after performing, I go to the beach and pool parties. I'm still the same weight I was, but I'm more confident now. Confidence is what makes you sexy.”

For more information about Rock in Hose, check their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Rock-In-Hose-Burlesque/71306437999. For bookings, send an e-mail to rockinhose@gmail.com.

— CATHERINE SHU

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Theater

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, **Taipei Children's Art Festival** (台北兒童藝術節) is offering a wide range of activities including plays and outdoor performances by international troupes, a children's film festival and workshops by Australia's Snuff Puppets. One of the highlights is *Petit Piere*, a theatrical collaboration between the festival and Canada's Le Carrousel, Compagnie de Theatre. Other participating theater companies include Das Meininger Theater from Germany, Austria's Dschungel Wien and Taiwan's Ifkids Theatre. For more information, go to www.taipeicaf.org.
► Venues include Metropoliwan Hall (城市舞台), Taipei Zhongshan Hall (台北中山堂), Family Theatre at Taipei City Hall (台北市政府親子劇場), Da-an Forest Park (大安森林公園) and Puppetry Art Center of Taipei (台北偶戲館)
► The 26-day festival runs through Aug. 2
► Tickets are NT\$150 and NT\$200 for theatrical performances, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

English-language theater company Tellus Theatre presents Anton Chekhov's **Three Sisters**, a play about the decay of the privileged class in the Russian Empire as seen through the lives of the Prozorov family.
► Cafe Mezone (米倉咖啡), 83 Longquan St, Taipei City (台北市龍泉街83號)
► Tomorrow and Sunday at 3pm and 7pm
► Tickets are NT\$350, available

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

A tribute to the late writer Yeh Shih-tao (葉石濤), who died of cancer last December, Kaohsiung-based Spring Wind Art Theatre's (南風劇場) **Mr Chien** (鵝先生) follows a White Terror victim who returns to his hometown years after the era of authoritarian rule has passed.
► Chiayi Performing Arts Center (嘉義縣表演藝術中心), 265, Jianguo Rd Sec 2, Minsyong Township, Chiayi County (嘉義縣民雄鄉建國路二段265號)
► Tonight at 7:30pm
► Tickets are NT\$300, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

In **Hercules** (大力士), by children's theater company Apple Theatre (蘋果劇團), young Hercules, together with his best pal Cupid, overcome different trials in order to return to the kingdom of Zeus after taking part in a failed revolt by Medusa.
► Taichung County Seaport Art Center (台中縣立港區藝術中心), 21, Chungchen Rd, Chingshui Township, Taichung County (台中縣清水鎮忠貞路20號)
► Tomorrow at 2:30pm
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$600, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Classical

Nuance Chamber Ensemble 2009 Concert (微分音室內樂集2009) presents a program that includes Faure's *Pavane Op. 50* for Violin and

Cello, Beethoven's *Piano Trio Op. 70 No. 1* “Ghost Trio” in D Major and Brahms' *Piano Quartet Op. 25* in G Minor.
► Thursday at 7:30pm
► Hsinchu Municipal Performance Hall (新竹市立演藝廳), 17, Tungta Rd Sec 2, Hsinchu City (新竹市東大路二段17號)
► Tickets are NT\$100, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

The Blossom of Love — Alexander Puley & Pei-wen Chen Piano Duo (指間邂逅—亞歷山大·帕雷與陳佩雯雙鋼琴演奏會) sees these two accomplished musicians perform a program that includes works by Weber, Chopin and Rachmaninoff.
► Today at 7:30pm
► National Concert Hall, Taipei City
► Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Steven Leek and the Australian Voices (史蒂芬·里克&澳洲之聲合唱團), part of the 2009 Taiwan Youth Choir Concert Tour (2009台灣青年合唱團巡迴音樂會) organized by the Formosa Singers (福爾摩沙合唱團), presents a program that includes Leek's *My Country*, *Wirindji* and *Red Earth*, and Matthew Orlovich's *Tides of Ocean*.
► Sunday at 7:30pm
► National Concert Hall, Taipei City
► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Lost in Wonderland (兒童樂園—彈指之間室內樂樂活一夏) is a series of chamber concerts for children. This week, the concert features Wang Kuan-ting (王冠婷) on piano, Chu Yu-yu (朱育佑), Liu Ying-wen (劉穎文) on viola and Kuo Yi-ling (郭怡伶) on cello. The program includes Ravel's *Pavane Pour une Infante Defunte* for String Trio, Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante in E Flat Major for Violin and Viola*, first movement, *Piazzolla's Four Seasons Piano Trio* and Handel-Halvorsen's *Sarabade Con Variazioni* for Violin and Viola.
► Sunday at 2:30pm
► Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Henry Mazer Music and Culture Hall (台北愛樂暨梅哲音樂文化館), B1, 7, Jinan Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市濟南路一段7號B1)
► Tickets are NT\$250, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com

Italian artist behind brand Tokidoki, will be signing autographs (today at 3pm and tomorrow at 2pm), as will Japanese designer Touma of Toumart (today at 5pm). On the Net: www.taipeitoystfestival.com.
► Through Sunday, from 10:30am to 8:30pm at East Room 2, Huashan Culture Park (華山創意園區·東二館), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)
► Tickets are NT\$150, available at the door

— CATHERINE SHU

Taipei's Xinyi District. **The 50th Spring: Tibet Freedom Concert** (第50個春天—西藏自由音樂會) starts at 1:30pm and features performances by nine acts, including **Panai** (巴奈), **Dog G** (大支), **Chthonic** (閃靈) and **LTK Commune** (濁水溪公社), as well as a message from the Dalai Lama to the people of Taiwan. For more information, including directions (in Chinese), go to www.freetibet.tw, or see the story on Page 16 of tomorrow's *Taipei Times*.
► Parking lot, A8 Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Xinyi Department Store (信義新光三越A8旁廣場停車場), 12 Songgao Rd, Taipei City (台北市松高路12號)
► Tomorrow from 1:30pm to 9:40pm
► Free

Pop singer **Fan Fan** (范瑋琪) appears tonight at **The Wall** (牆牆) to launch her new album *F One*. Tomorrow indie band **Echo** (回聲樂團) brings its stylish electro-rock to the stage. Sunday gets heavy with metal bands **Hekate**, **Sideeffect**, **Vulcan** and **Nemesis**. The venue hosts nu-metal groups **Kiri and Friends** (霧與他友), **Punch Lime** (萊姆力道) and **Chant the Dirge** on Wednesday.
► 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
► All shows start at 8pm
► Entrance for tonight's show requires “Pass Card” tickets only available with advance purchase of Fan Fan's new CD. Entrance fee is NT\$500 tomorrow. Sunday's show is NT\$300 in advance, NT\$350 at the door, tickets available at White Wabbit Records, located at the venue. Wednesday's show is NT\$300

Bangourake, a master percussionist from Guinea, appears tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店) at the invitation of the Chungli-based African Culture and Art Association. Aboriginal folk singer **Panai** (巴奈) takes to the stage tomorrow. Pop rockers **Soundboss** and indie folk outfit **Daxiaojie** (大小姐樂團) split the bill on Thursday.
► 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
► Admission for music shows is NT\$300

Tonight the **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留言) hosts jazz drummer **Steven Chang and friends**. Female Mando-pop vocalist **Shadya** (藍又時) appears

tomorrow. On Sunday, two jazz groups take to the stage, **Cool A** and **Amanda's Jazz Trio**. On Monday, the venue hosts its weekly open jam.
► 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 Taipei Power Building (台電大樓). Call (02) 2368-7310 or visit www.riverside.com.tw for more information. For a list of standard songs and ground rules for open jam, visit the venue's Web site
► Shows start at 9:30pm tonight, 9pm tomorrow and Sunday. Open jam starts at 9pm
► Entrance is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Hong Kong pop star and actor **Andy Hui** (許志安) appears tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館). Tomorrow is “Circus Night” with three indie bands: **Rock Bang** (洛客班), **Relax One** (輕鬆玩) and **Wizard of Oz** (綠野仙蹤). On Sunday, the Riverside's Summer Rock Camp holds performances from its participants. **Shi Ying-ying** (史茵茵), who appears in musicals and has a new debut album titled *Someone is Praying For You*, takes to the stage on Thursday.
► 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
► All shows start at 8:30pm
► Entrance is NT\$600 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow, NT\$200 on Sunday and NT\$450 on Thursday. Admission includes one drink, except for Sunday's show

Every Wednesday night at the **Cosmopolitan Grill**, there's an open mic hosted by Jake Stanley of the acoustic duo Stoked Pokey. All are welcome to join in, 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 entrance fee

EZS Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights this week include male crooners **Huang Chung-yuan** (黃中源) tonight and **Hsing Lung** (辛隆) tomorrow. Pub legend and songstress **Tiger Huang** (黃小琥) performs every Monday. **Julia Peng** (彭佳慧), another major draw, appears every Tuesday.
► Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am
► Entrance (including two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer