One would think that after having his most intimate moments splashed across countless tabloids, his genitalia picked apart in minute detail by thousands, if not millions of strangers, and gangsters threaten him with mutilation (or worse), Edison Chen (陳冠希) would be happy to hole up in a monastery and dedicate himself to a lifetime of celibacy. But, no.

Hong Kong gossip rag Oriental Sunday (東方新地) reports that the pop star, who is gradually emerging from his self-imposed exile, enjoyed a hot night out in Malaysia a few days before arriving in Taiwan on Tuesday. Chen was in Kuala Lumpur for the grand opening of his clothing store and celebrated afterwards by throwing a bash at a nightclub, where he was photographed with scantily-clad revelers clinging to him, despite a strict ban on cameras at the party. Apparently, female guests had managed to stuff mini-cameras down their (presumably just as tiny) panties to take souvenir photos with Chen.

The Hong Kong actor and singer spent the early part of the evening chatting with his male friends and studiously avoiding contact with the opposite sex. But a few drinks later, he was unable to resist temptation and, judging by his wide grin in the snaps, didn't mind being photographed in the act.

A few days later, Chen (and his four bodyguards), looking none the worse for wear, discreetly arrived in Taipei to film a commercial for a certain brand of jeans. Ironically (or perhaps intentionally), the clothing company that hired him also counts Jolin Tsai (蔡依 林) among its roster of celebrity models. Followers of Chen's sexcapades might remember that Tsai was briefly sucked into the photo scandal when pictures of a woman resembling the pop singer in a compromising position found their way onto the Internet. The lingerie-clad beauty was dismissed as a look-alike, but Tsai continued to battle rumors that she'd made sex videos with Chen, a rumored ex-boyfriend. Gossip rags reported that the two will not be appearing in commercials together anytime soon.

Despite Chen's recent efforts, the *Liberty Times* [the *Taipei Times'* sister paper] somewhat prudishly speculated that the shots from Malavsia might undo his attempts at rehabilitation in the Hong Kong media. He can take heart that the gossip rags there might be too busy, however, with their strange and

Edison Chen is all mouth and trousers, and jeans.

somewhat morbid fascination with the miscarriages (real and alleged) of female stars. The glossies, which breathlessly covered pop queen Faye Wong's (王菲) miscarriage last year, are now targeting actress and singer (and former Chen paramour) Cecilia Cheung (張柏芝), who they say lost what would have been her second child with husband Nicholas Tse (謝霆鋒).

A Hong Kong news outlet said that the star has been depressed since the alleged miscarriage and refuses to leave the house. But Tse and his mother both angrily denied the rumors. In an interview with a Chinese newspaper, Tse snapped to a reporter, "if my wife were pregnant, don't you think I would know?"

In somewhat happier news, Zhang Zivi (章子怡) and her venture capitalist fiance Aviv **Nevo** are still very much in love, even though the two have no time to get married. The peripatetic duo had originally planned to get hitched next month on a private island in Italy, but have now postponed their nuptials indefinitely because of their work obligations. The Liberty Times reported that Zhang gave an interview last year to a Chinese newspaper where she expressed some trepidation about matrimony, despite her happy relationship. "What do you do if the marriage goes wrong?" she asked. "I want mine to last a lifetime, because the person I am with is wonderful."

Zhang and Nevo may still be going strong, but it seems that Taiwanese-American basketball star James Mao (毛加恩) and model Bianca Bai (白歆惠) have finally split for good. Tittle-tattle has been rife about the status of the duo's (known collectively in the media as Bai Mao, or white fur) on-off relationship, but Mao seemed eager to proclaim his single status at a nightclub last weekend, reports NOWnews. He was cavorting with an assortment of lamei (辣妹), or hot chicks, allegedly nibbling on one lady's ears. The 196cm tall Mao had to stoop to talk to many of his admirers, but NOWnews cheekily reported that he stooped so low figuratively and literally — that his eyeballs were hovering mere centimeters away from his conversation partners' buntlines.

Bai's reaction? "Whatever," she said. "If that's what makes him happy, then that's fine." She added that she's so busy shooting a new movie she barely has time to think about her ex and his earlobe-loving ways.

— COMPILED BY CATHERINE SHU









The root of the matter

he space between popular nightclub Room 18 and lounge bar In House in Taipei's upscale Xinyi District (信義) is an unlikely spot for a reggae bar. But with a street patio, dance floor and stage, Roxy's newest venture — Roots — is pulling in more than the expected crowd.

"A lot of the clubgoers only know Room 18 and Lava," said Skaraoke front man Thomas Hu (胡世漢), whose band played at the opening party last Friday. "This gives them something else to check out."

The grand opening also featured Taimaica Soundsystem (台買加環繞音效), and both bands played to a packed house.

"I couldn't see the floor. There were so many people," said Hu. He feels having a reggae bar in a posh area is a good opportunity for the scene. Black Reign's Oliver Harley, aka Lion,

who was also at the opening night, agreed, but added this caveat: "It can have a positive effect with what is happening with reggae," he said.

"But it's got to stick with the roots and make it real reggae, provide a space for us [Black Reign], High Tide, Skaraoke, Wailin' Soul ...

His concern is that while the upscale

crowd may spend more money, they may demand that the club water down its music with hip-hop, a genre Harley believes "has been murdered."

Harley said there is a two-tier system for every musical genre and this results in a lot of DJs and bands "playing Top 40 for fashion" while the real music stays underground. Because "reggae is so close to the underground roots" there is a

danger of it becoming a fad and fading out. "It's a ballsy thing he's done," Harley said of Roots' owner Ling Wei (凌威).

Promoter Alyson Schill said Roxy DJs Jonny Marr (馬奎元), Joyce (李菊華) and Fei Wen (周斐文) have been specifically trained to this end, and Wei said in a previous interview he is not interested in having any hip-hop played in his establishments except at Roxy 99.

Roots, located at 90 Songren Rd (台北市 松仁路90號), is open 24 hours a day.

The drinks menu features classic Caribbean rum cocktails and blended fresh fruit drinks.

Burgers, fries and deep-fried appetizers are served around the clock, with a menu of Chinese dishes available for lunch and dinner.

The food prices range from NT\$100

to NT\$350, with drinks from NT\$200 to NT\$300.

To promote the Chinese menu, on Sunday at 4pm the club is offering a free brunch buffet for members of the Roxy Roots Facebook group who RSVP.

There is currently no entrance fee, with DJs nightly spinning reggae, two-tone, ska, dancehall, Calypso and roots, and live shows are planned twice a month.

The decor is colorful, with red walls, and a red, yellow and green ceiling. A giant mural of Bob Marley graces one wall, and potted palm trees are scattered around the long, narrow room.

Low sofas and tables are positioned on an L-shaped platform that goes around two sides of the dance floor. Long tables with bar stools line one side. Ambient lighting adds to the atmosphere.

The patio has a view of both the street and the stage and is a comfortable place to watch — and to be watched.

"A lot of people don't think that something other than hip-hop or house can work," said Schill

"Only [jazz bar] Brown Sugar has been able to penetrate [the market], but from what I've seen over the past couple of days, everyone loves it." — ALITA RICKARDS

Fringe

CONTINUED FROM P13

Leaving the world of childhood behind, the Taipei Arts Festival offers a showcase of the darker side of human life with a program that is partially built around contemporary reworkings of Shakespeare's plays.

The opening event, a version of *Macbeth* (Aug. 12 to Aug. 15) by the Teatr Biuro Podrozy of Poland, is already sold out, and only a handful of tickets remain for director Peter Brook's Warum, Warum (Aug. 28 to Aug. 30).

The LAFA production *Ode to* Joy (Sept. 4 to Sept. 6) featuring Taiwan's own Sheu Fang-yi (許 芳宜) has also sold out.

Fortunately, lesser-known groups promise some very exciting theater, particularly K. Lear (Aug. 14 to Aug. 16) by France's International Visual Theater and Spain's Teatre Lliure's European House

— Hamlet's Prologue Without Words (Aug. 21 to Aug. 23). Both adaptations from Shakespeare plays, the former uses sign language and the latter body language to convey the story.

Summer Lei's (雷光夏) concert of music inspired by Shakespeare's sonnets, promises to reveal the acclaimed singersongwriter in a new light, and the work of choreographer Arco Renz will feature former Taipei Dance Circle member Su Wen-chi (蘇文琪), who is now principal dancer at Renz's Kobalt Works.

Further details of all the performances can be found on the festival's Web site.

With activities of the Taipei Children's Arts Festival aimed at kids aged 3 and over, the Taipei Arts Festival featuring some of the best known names in their respective artistic fields and the Fringe giving first-time artists a step-up onto the public stage, the three arts festivals cast a wide net.



Sobd, Aurora and Elysium performs Explosion of Bellydance! in the upcoming Taipei Fringe Festival.

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS JULY 3 TO JULY 9

- A-mei (張惠妹) and A-mit Concept Album (A-MIT 意識專輯) with 18.94 percent of sales
- Bibi Zhou (周筆暢) and *Time* (時間) with 15.42%
- Compilation album Faith Map with 13.71%
- Jerry Yan (言承旭) and Freedom, Secret (多出來的自由: 秘密自遊) with 4.34%
- Wilber Pan (潘瑋柏) and 007 (零零七007) with 4.05%



[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Theater

Written and directed by theater doyen Stan Lai (賴聲川), Performance Workshop's (表演工作坊) **Light Years** (陪我看電視) tells of the social

changes in China over the past 30 years through the journey of a blackand-white television named Xiao Bao. The play premiered in Beijing in September featuring actors from China and Taiwan, including Fang Fang (方芳), Zhang Jingchu (張靜初) and Chu Chih-ying (朱芷瑩).

- ▶ National Theater, Taipei
- ▶ Tonight and tomorrow at 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

Happiness Part III — Forget Me Not (浮浪貢開花3—勿忘影中人)

the latest installment of Golden Bough Theatre's (金枝演社) Happiness (浮浪貢開花) series, is a lighthearted, comic musical that tells the story of a young bohemian and his search for happiness.

- ▶ Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德 路三段25號)
- ▶ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,200, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Shitty Life (開運喜劇 ア 味人生) is for and about those who have been laid off, dumped by their lovers and face the disapproval of their own mothers.

- Comedy Club, B1, 24 Taihsun St, Taipei City (台北市泰順街24號B1) ▶ Today, tomorrow and Sunday at 8pm
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$500 at the door, NT\$450 in advance, available through tickets.books.com.tw

The Kingdom of Performance (2009說唱玩國) is Taipei Quyi Troupe's (台北曲藝團) latest attempt

- to raise children's interest in crosstalk (相聲), a Chinese comedic performance form.
- ▶ Red House Theater (紅樓劇場), 10 Chengdu Rd, Taipei City (台北市成都 路10號) ▶ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at
- 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm ▶ Tickets are NT\$300 and NT\$500,
- available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Capital Ballet, Taipei (台北首都芭蕾舞 團) presents Ballet Pageant III (玩芭 **蕾3)** inspired by Richard Strauss' 1905 opera Salome

- ▶ 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)
- ► Tomorrow at 7:30pm ► Tickets are NT\$250 to NT\$400,
- available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical music

Nuance Chamber Ensemble 2009 Concert (微分音室内樂集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. ► Sunday at 7:30pm

> ► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

National Recital Hall, Taipei City

Absolutely Jazz (爵對Absolutely Jazz) will feature a program including Andrew Beall's arrangement of the Pat Metheny Suite and Beck's Jazz Variants.

► Today at 7:30pm ▶ Performance Hall of the Bureau of Cultural Affairs Hsinchu City (新竹市文

化局演藝廳), 17, Dongda Rd Sec 2, Hsinchu City (新竹市東大路二段17號) ▶ Tickets are NT\$250 to NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing or

online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Lost in Wonderland (兒童樂園—彈 指之間室内樂團 樂活一夏) is a series of chamber concerts for children. This

week the concert will feature Chu Yuyou (朱育佑) on violin and Hsieh Yihsuan (謝宜璇) on cello. The program includes Reinhold Gliere's Eight Pieces for Violin and Violoncello, Op. 39, Handel-Halvorse's Passacaglia for Violin and Violoncello arranged by Michael Press and Zoltan Kodaly's Duo, Op. 7.

- ▶ Sunday at 2:30pm ▶ Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Henry Mazer Music and Culture (台北愛樂暨梅哲音樂文化館) at 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

Tzu-Shan Huang Vocal Recital (幻象-黃子珊獨唱會) presents singer Huang Tzu-shan (黃子珊) performing

Highlight

Seven bands are coming together tomorrow and Sunday at **The Wall** (這牆) to celebrate the first birthday

label U Loud Music. The diversity of the U Loud Music festival reflects the wide range of the label's output: tomorrow's show includes the warm acoustic indie rock of Silverbus, incendiary political rhymes from rapper Chang Jui-chuan (張睿銓), Orangegrass' (橙草) clever emopop stylings and Chthonic's (閃靈) symphonic extreme metal. Sunday's show features the bouncy ska punk of Shy Kick Apple (害羞踢蘋果),

Chthonic sings Happy Birthday to U Loud Music this weekend.

for everyone who wants to support a burgeoning independent musical collective, and as these bands have a strong local following, you can expect a high-energy, enthusiastic audience.

▶ The Wall (這牆), B1, 200, Roosevelt

There is a little something here

Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路 四段200號B1) ▶ Doors open tomorrow at 5pm and the show starts at 6pm, doors open

- on Sunday at 7pm and the show ► Single-day tickets are NT\$500, tickets for both days are NT\$800
- ► Call (02) 2930-0162 or visit www.thewall.com.tw for more

information — TAYLOR BRIERE

nu-metal group **Head Phones**

President. Tomorrow and Sunday Chang Jui-chuan (張睿銓), alt-

French rock duo Inspector Cluzo, which played at Spring Scream this year, returns for another show.

▶ 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

Plum Ferry (甜梅號). On Tuesday

- ▶ All shows start at 8pm except for
- tomorrow's, which starts at 6pm ▶ Entrance fee is NT\$550 tonight. Tomorrow and Sunday's shows are NT\$500 for one night, NT\$800 for two nights, tickets are available at White Wabbit Records, located inside the venue. Tuesday's show is NT\$400

Jun Lee (李昀熹) of Neon plays a solo show tonight at Witch House (女巫店). Tomorrow it's another set of solo acts: lan (芮唯) and Puyuma singer Leo Chen (陳永龍). Electronica-rock band **Dianzibiao** (電子婊樂隊) and post-rock group Mosquilephant (蚊子大象) take to

- the stage 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 ▶ Entry for music shows is NT\$300

It's jazz at the **Riverside Cafe (河岸** 留言) tonight with saxophonist Tung Shuen-wen (董舜文) and friends. Up-and-coming folk rocker **Connie** Lu (呂莘) appears tomorrow night, while Sunday features acoustic

performer Koumis (蓓麗) and Golden Melody Award-winning folk and pop singer **Europa Huang** (黃建為). 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 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 and 9pm tomorrow and Sunday. Open jam starts at 9pm; for a list of standard songs and ground rules, visit the venue's Web site
- ▶ Entrance is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 Monday

Taiwanese folk songstress Jasmine (庭 竹) takes to the stage tonight at

Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展 演館). Tomorrow pop diva A-mei (張 惠妹) appears as her alter-ego A-mit (阿密特). The concert is a "boys only" party: to get in, fans need to be identified as male on their ID cards and don something "rainbowy." No shows are scheduled for Sunday. On Thursday, it's Come on! Bay Bay! (來 吧!焙焙!), which has an indie-pop sound similar to **Belle and** Sebastian. Also appearing is indie-

folk duo katncandix2 (棉花糖). ▶ 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 (includes a drink) is NT\$450 tonight, NT\$450 on Thursday. For details on tomorrow's show (in Chinese), visit www.starmei.com/bbs_ page.php?pid=4662

of Taiwanese independent record

the anthemic pop punk of FireEx (滅火器) and the hypnotic post-rock of Sugar Plum Ferry (甜梅號).

▶ National Recital Hall, Taipei City ▶ Tickets are NT\$250, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com

► Tuesday at 7:30pm

the compositions of Benjamin Britten.

Contemporary

Metal is on the menu tonight at **The** Wall (這牆) with Alien Avenge (異族 亡魂), **Nemesis** (天譴) and Japanese

indie label U-Loud Music holds a party to celebrate its birthday. [See Highlight above.] Taking to the stage tomorrow are **Silverbus**, rapper rockers **Orangegrass** (橙草) and black metal group Chthonic (閃靈) On Sunday it's ska group Shy Kick Apple (害羞踢蘋果), punks Fire Ex (滅火器) and post-rock band Sugar