

POP
STOP

There's nothing like a strong comeback, and **Chu Ko Liang's** (豬哥亮) return to form after over a decade on the run from creditors is as spectacular as could be hoped for. Recording for his new variety show *Chu Ko Hui She* (豬哥會社) for FTV (民視) began this week, with co-host **Rene Hou** (侯怡君). Suggestions that he would present the program alongside **Little Pig** (小豬) (also known as Alan Luo or Show Luo, 羅志祥), who is a self-professed admirer of Chu Ko Liang and has imitated his acting style, came to nothing because of conflicting schedules.

Chu Ko Hui She is expected to be a massive hit, and Chu Ko Liang, despite his decade out of the limelight, has gone straight to the top, commanding NT\$300,000 an episode. According to Yam News, Chu Ko Liang's payment is only marginally less than top earner **Chang Fei** (張菲), who gets NT\$320,000 an episode for his *Variety Big Brother* (綜藝大哥大) program. Responding to this report, Chang said he thought Chu Ko Liang should be paid twice as much, because his talent, having matured over 10 years, would now be like a bottle of old wine: all the better for having been put aside.

Next Magazine also reported this week that Chu Ko Liang has agreed to become the spokesman for the Web-based game *AC Online* (明星三缺一). According to *Next*, game operator International Game Systems has been trying to get **Little S** (小S) to take over spokesperson duties from **Stephanie Hsiao** (蕭薏) for the last three years, but has been turned down because the game has associations with gambling. Little S, also known as Dee Hsu (徐熙娣), is quoted as saying she feared any connection with the game would tarnish her reputation. Chu Ko Liang, who is still in the process of paying off his gambling debts, seems to have no such qualms, and has pocketed the NT\$4 million endorsement. *Next* calculates that in the three months since he returned to show biz, Chu Ko Liang has signed contracts worth a total of NT\$9.6 million. Nice work, if you can get it.

While Chu Ko Liang is working hard to revive his bank balance, martial arts superstar **Jackie Chan** (成龍) is trying hard to give away his money, saying that he wants to achieve a personal bank balance of zero. According to a report in the *United Daily News*, Chan had already donated half his assets to charity 10 years ago, only retaining the other half because he was still responsible for his son **Jaycee Chan** (房祖名) and a number of employees.

He has also announced that he will donate three historic buildings (one to three centuries old) in Taipei County to the government for the establishment of a Jackie Chan Historic Building Display Center (成龍古建築展示區). In conjunction with this donation, Taipei County Government plans to build a Jackie Chan Film Museum (成龍電影展覽館). According to Taipei County's tourism chief, Chin Hui-chu (秦慧珠), the museum will hold a collection of props from Chan's movies, and possibly also his collection of red wine.

At a rather less elevated level, Little S has shown just how far she is willing to go to top up her coffers, without tarnishing her reputation, by having picked up an endorsement contract for Summer's Eve, a brand of feminine hygiene products. The actress, who is known for her uninhibited manner, opened the product launch Tuesday with the words: "Good afternoon, I have the best vagina in Taiwan" (各位好，我是台灣第一私處)。

According to a report in Sina.com, she said that as someone who often wore extremely tight-fitting clothes for her work, she had experienced considerable benefits from using the firm's cleansing wipes and washes. Such were the benefits, she added, that when kissing her now, her husband didn't know where he should start. The

Little S is feeling fresh.

PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

It's coming out again



Kou Chou Ching shares the stage at The Wall on Sunday with long-term collaborators and friends Chang Jui-chuan, MoShang and DJ Point.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KOU CHOU CHING

The last time Kou Chou Ching (拷秋勤) played at The Wall (這牆), the hip-hop group received NT\$200 for its efforts, the net earnings for the gig. Ever since, its members have avoided performing at live music venues, "unless it is something big and important, something new we like to show," MC Fan Chiang (范姜) said.

What draws the young rappers back to The Wall this Sunday is their desire to present *Unsung Heroes* (無名英雄), a new compilation album the outfit made with Taichung-based DJ and producer MoShang, socially conscious rapper Chang Jui-chuan (張睿尊) and DJ Point.

Kou Chou Ching, the members of which rap in Hakka and Hoklo [commonly known as Taiwanese] about their observations on society, will touch on Taiwanese cinema and con artists at the concert. The set list includes *Gray Coastline* (灰色海岸線), a

song about ocean pollution, and features samplings of traditional love songs from the Tao (達悟族) tribe on Orchid Island (蘭嶼) and Pau-dull's (陳建年) *The Crying Road Home* (哭泣的回家之路).

Tao musician Alilis will also perform.

"We first met Alilis when he asked if we could make a recording of his songs so his sister has something to listen to on the train," Fan Chiang said.

Sunday's gig includes stints from DJ Point, who has worked with such indie acts as nu-metal combo Monkey Insane (猴猴) and Adia (阿弟仔) and whose music is compared to that of DJ Krush, Chang, who raps about Taiwanese history, and South African musician MoShang, who's chill out lounge set will mix electronica with Tibetan chant.

Though Kou Chou Ching doesn't plan to release a new album before 2011, the group performs a steady schedule of

gigs, often at cultural and social events held by activists. The group embarks on a mini-tour of Tokyo's rock venues, its third, in September.

Meanwhile, band members have been trying to secure sponsorship so they can attend the Just Plain Folks Music Awards in the US. The group's first full-length album *Kou!! It's Coming Out!!!* (拷!!!出來了!!!) received four nominations at what is billed as the world's largest independent music awards program.

According to the Just Plain Folks' Web site (www.jpfolks.com), 42,000 albums and 560,000 songs were submitted to the competition this year. The award ceremony will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, on Aug. 29.

What most puzzles the young rappers about the awards is not their nomination, but who submitted their album for competition in the first place.

"At first we thought the mail [from the organizer] was an e-mail hoax. One day I clicked on one of them and realized they had been trying to contact us for quite a while," Fan Chiang said.

— HO YI

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Unsung Heroes release party

WHEN: Sunday at 8pm

WHERE: The Wall (這牆), B1, 200,

Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City

(台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1)

ADMISSION: NT\$300 at door, NT\$600 in advance; includes a copy of the album. Send an e-mail to info@kou.com.tw

for more information

ON THE NET: blog.roodo.com/kou

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Theater

Based on American playwright Neil Simon's play of the same title, Godot Theatre Company's (果陀劇場) **Fools** (傻瓜村) is a lighthearted comedy about a young schoolteacher trying to lift a 200-year curse of stupidity cast on the inhabitants of a remote Chinese village. Stars accomplished stage actor Lee Li-chun (李立群).

► National Theater, Taipei City

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

► Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

In **Classical Ballet Night** (古典芭蕾之夜), members of the Lan Yang Dancers (蘭陽舞蹈團) troupe will perform classical pieces including *Swan Lake*, *Giselle* and *Don Quixote*. ► Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號)

► Tomorrow at 7:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$800, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Brotherhood Falsehood (水滸·雄嘯) offers a different interpretation of the classic Chinese novel *Water Margin* (水滸傳). In this new rendition, the outlaws — who in

the original story are portrayed as heroes seeking justice in a corrupt world — become pragmatic tacticians, each seeking to advance within their clan's power structure.

► Central Fifth Hall (中五館), Huashan Culture Park (華山創意文化園), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)

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

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

Cat Man (貓神) is the latest work by Ming Hwa Yuan Arts and Cultural Group (明華園戲劇總團). The Taiwanese operatic production tells a story of individual heroism versus institutional injustice through Cat Man, a Robin Hood-like character by night and young politician by day. ► 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 and Sunday at 2:30pm

► Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$1,200, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Human Condition IV — 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) *Human Condition* series. Written and directed by Wu Nien-jen (吳念真), the play centers on the lives of two sisters, one who works as a cleaner, the other at an international company.

► 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)

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

► Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical music

2009 Taipei International Choral Festival (台北國際合唱音樂節) starts on Sunday with a program including highlights from Hyden's *Die*

Schopfung, and will feature the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Gabor Hollerung, the Philomela Choir from Finland, the Ateneo Chamber Singers from the Philippines and the Taipei Philharmonic Choir (台北愛樂合唱團). The festival will run through Aug. 2, with a total of seven concerts. On Monday, the Ateneo Chamber Singers will perform under Jonathan Velasco, on Tuesday the Philomela Choir from Finland will perform under Marjukka Riihimäki, and on Thursday there will be a concert by the a capella group Club for Five. There will be three more concerts the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday. [See story on Page 15.]

► Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30pm

► National Concert Hall, Taipei City

► Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

New Taiwanese Band Repertoire (幼獅新韻 — WASBE世界音樂年會) features the Youshi Brass Band (幼獅管樂團), recently returned from their participation in the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles conference in the US. To celebrate the occasion, the band will perform a program including Roger Boutry's *Evocation*, Chung Yiu-kwong's (鍾耀光) *Four Studies on the Theme of Picasso* (四首畢卡索主題練習曲) and *Clarinet Concerto* (豎笛協奏曲) and Ito Yasuhide's *Rapsodia Formosa for Band*.

► Today at 7:30pm

► National Concert Hall, Taipei City

► Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Jhong-Sin Liou 2009 Piano Recital (劉忠欣2009鋼琴獨奏會 — 經典·蕭邦) presents Liou Zhong-sin (劉忠欣), winner of the 10th International Taipei Chopin Competition, in three concerts this week.

► Today (Taipei County), tomorrow (Taichung County) and Tuesday (Taipei City) at 7:30pm

► Taipei County Arts Center (台北縣藝文中心演藝廳), 62 Juangjing Rd, Banciao City, Taipei County (台北縣板橋市莊敬路62號); Taichung County Cultural Center (台中縣立文化中心演奏廳), 782 Yuanhuan E Rd, Fengyuan

City, Taichung County (台中縣豐原市國環東路782號); Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)

► Tickets are NT\$200 for today's and tomorrow's concert and NT\$300 to NT\$500 for Tuesday's concert, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Tomorrow is a Reggae day at **Walilei** (哇哩咧), a beachside Italian restaurant in Tamsui (淡水). From the late afternoon until late evening, Jamaican sound system **Black Reign International Sound** spins roots, dancehall and dub.

► 12-1, Beishhizi, Sanjhih Township, Taipei County (台北縣三芝鄉北勢子12之1號). The fastest way to get there is to take the MRT Red Line to Hongshulin Station (紅樹林捷運站) and then a taxi to the restaurant. Call (02) 2636-8515 or visit www.walileitw.com for more information

► DJs start at 5pm

► No entrance fee

Riverside Cafe (河岸留言) is closed tonight for a private party. Tomorrow all-girl rock band **Cherry Boom** (櫻桃幫) celebrates its three-year anniversary. Mando-rock singer **Chi Hsin-pei** (季欣霏) appears on Sunday. On Monday the venue hosts the cast of the musical *Mulan* (木蘭少女), who are giving an "acoustic unplugged" performance.

► 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

► Shows start at 9pm

► Entry is NT\$400 tomorrow, NT\$350 on Sunday and NT\$400 on Monday

Alice (阿麗絲樂隊) and laid-back indie-folk band **Smoking** (煙圈) take to the stage tonight at **The Wall** (這牆). Tomorrow night the venue hosts Japanese band **D'erlanger**, a pioneer in Visual Kei, a Japanese glam rock genre in which performers often wear wild costumes and makeup. On Sunday Taiwanese hip-hop roots outfit **Kou Chou Ching** (拷秋勤)

appears with **DJ Point**, rapper **Chang Jui-chuan** (張睿尊) and South African DJ **MoShang**. [See story above.] On Wednesday it's indie-electronica bands **Space Cake** (太空蛋糕), **Sloth Scamper**, and **Hyakke** (百景) of Japan.

► 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 except for tomorrow's, which starts at 7pm

► Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$1,700 tomorrow at the door or NT\$1,500 in advance, NT\$300 on Sunday, and NT\$700 on Wednesday at the door or NT\$500 in advance. Advance tickets available at White Wabbit Records, located inside the venue

Jazzy/bluesy act **Kukao** (鼓鼓大樂隊) appears tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). Tomorrow it's indie-folk duo **U.T.A.** (屋塔樂團). On Thursday acoustic folk group **Xiaoyu Watermelon** (小玉西瓜) opens for folk-pop singer **Jasmine** (殷死貓).

► 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

Rapper **Soft Lipa** (蛋堡), who just released a new CD titled *Lotion* (收斂水), performs jazzy hip-hop tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館). Tomorrow indie-pop singer-songwriter **Peggy Hsu** (許哲珮) appears to promote her latest album, **Fine** (美好的). On Thursday the venue hosts indie-pop chanteuse **Waa Wei** (魏如萱). Wei's younger sister, **Queen** (魏如昀), opens the show.

► 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

► Shows start at 8:30pm

► Entrance fee is NT\$500 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow, NT\$500 on Thursday, includes a drink

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

JULY 10 TO JULY 16

- 1 Ariel Lin (林依晨) and *Meeting Happiness* (幸福遇見) with 18.84 percent of sales
- 2 Compilation album *Faith Map* with 13.53%
- 3 A-mei (張惠妹) and *A-mit — Concept Album* (A-MIT 意識專輯) with 12.26%
- 4 Nylon Chen (陳乃榮) and *Paradise* with 10.71%
- 5 Bibi Zhou (周筆暢) and *Time* (時間) with 5.24%

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



Highlight

Tomorrow and Sunday, Campo Life Art Carnival (CAMPO生活藝術狂歡節) will be celebrating its fourth birthday with **Campo Party**, a celebration of art, music and film. This year the party is moving from the cosmopolitan commercialism of Taipei to Taiwan's cultural heart, Tainan. DJs representing a number of different styles (rock 'n' roll, drum 'n' bass, electronica, house, dubstep, and more) will be spinning at various locations across the city. A series of films documenting musicians from China and Taiwan are to be screened, including *Insect Awaken — A Musician's Journey*,



Lim Giong camps out up at Campo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HSN YI

Assassin, P.K. 14 — A Tour of the Public Kingdom and *The Joyside of Europe*, an inside look at everyone's favorite drunk-punk band from Beijing. Other happenings include a "Life Art Carnival" for independent artisans with themed handicraft markets, a fashion show set to Detroit techno

and 1990s dance music, and a cornucopia of other artist exhibitions. Because the party is spread out over several locations, it is recommended that visitors first pick up a map at the "Life Art Carnival."

► Campo Party at Tainan Municipal Cultural Center (台南市立文化中心), 332, Zhonghua E Rd Sec 3, Tainan City (台南市中華東路三段332號)

► Tomorrow from 4pm to 4am and Sunday from 4pm to 10pm

► Most events are free. Some events require tickets, the most expensive of which is NT\$250

► On the Net: www.campoparty.com; campolive.blogspot.com

— TAYLOR BRIERE