14 發光的城市 AROUND TOWN

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2009 • TAIPEI TIMES



heartfelt, and all on the account of show business.

Canto-pop star **Eason** Chan (陳奕迅) blubbered his way through a concert in Guangzhou last weekend, in the midst of swirling rumors of personal troubles.

While singing the song Shall We Talk, a tune about family relationships, Chan lost his composure and burst into tears, and never quite snapped out it for the rest of the gig. At one point, he quipped, "I'm turning 35 in a few days, there will always be regrets in life, I need to learn how to relax.'

The Oriental Sunday offered a rumor to explain the Chan's onstage breakdown: the singer may be under financial strain because of his ill father's high medical bills. Meanwhile, Chan's wife, actress Hilary Tsui (徐濠榮) has reportedly moved out of the marital home over his alleged romance with fellow singer Kay Tse (謝安琪).

Meanwhile, comeback comedian Chu Ko Liang (豬 哥亮) cried buckets through a recent episode of his new, highly anticipated variety show on FTV (民視), Chu Ko Hui She (豬哥會社). Perhaps it dawned on the 62-yearold comedian that with the NT\$300,000 per episode he's earning, he just might be getting close to paying off those gambling debts that had him hiding for over a decade.

The show began with a performance by **A-mei** (阿 妹), or A-mit (阿密特) as she's calling herself these days, which had Chu "sobbing backstage," according to the Liberty Times (the Taipei *Times*' sister newspaper).

Then it was comedianturned-legislator Yu Tian's (余 天) turn to pull the heartstrings. Yu, who helped engineer his

old friend's

return

to the

Guey Lun-mei, above, and Jay Chou are everyone's favorite on-screen couple. Eason Chen, below, is feeling the heat. PHOTOS: TAIPEI TIME

entertainment business, sang Judy Chiang's (江蕙) classic song Wife (家後) as a tribute to Chu Ko Liang's wife. A visibly moved Chu Ko Liang managed to joke afterwards, "you did that just to make me cry."

Towards the end of the episode, the comedian famous for his "toilet-lid" (馬桶蓋) haircut, declared to his wife that he would swear off gambling.

A-mei often leaves her audiences misty-eyed, but the tables turned last week when she shared some heartbreak on Pauline Lan's (藍心湄) talk show. The pop diva spoke of her regret of missing the chance to be at her father's side when he passed away.

She described rushing to Taipei's Songshan Airport upon hearing that her father was in critical condition, only to find that all flights had been delayed because of thunderstorms. She tearfully pleaded airport personnel to let a flight go to her hometown of Taitung, but to no avail.

At this point in recounting the tale, A-mei broke down in tears and the room went dead silent for 30 seconds, according to a *Liberty Times* report.

In less tear-jerking news, pop heartthrob Jay Chou (周杰 倫) and actress Guey Lun-mei (桂綸鎂) won a poll for the top couple in Chinese-language movies, reports the Apple Daily. According to the poll, taken by Yahoo Taiwan, 9,965 people voted for Chou and Guey as the "best match on the silver screen." The two co-starred in Chou's directorial debut, Secret (不能說的祕密). Coming in second were Cape No. 7 (海角七號) co-stars Van Fan (范逸臣) and Tanaka Chie, who netted 7,092 votes. Looking for a break into showbiz? Janet Hsieh (謝怡芬) is searching for a co-host for the next season of her hit show Fun Taiwan, reports the *Liberty Times*. Both men and women are welcome to apply, and candidates should be aged between 18 and 35. More details can be found at www.youtube. com/watch?v=9SFwE3D1gO0 - COMPILED BY DAVID CHEN



\mathbf{T} e're keeping tradition alive by keeping up with the by keeping up what Wen-lang times," said Huang Wen-lang

(黃文郎), manager of the Wu Zhou Yuan Puppet Theater Troupe (五洲園掌中劇團), referring to the 10 performances he and his troupe will be giving at the Red House Theater over the next three weeks.

Having built on a tradition developed by Huang's grandfather, puppet master and national treasure Huang Hai-tai (黄 海岱), that saw the emergence of one of the country's most distinctive art forms, the Taichung-based group remains one of the biggest names in Taiwanese glove puppet theater.

Huang leads what is generally billed as the Second Troupe (第二團) of Wu Zhou Yuan, which since its formation under Huang's father Huang Chun-ching (黃俊卿) in 1975 has been acclaimed as the "king of theater puppetry."

"There are two main kinds of puppet theater," Huang said, explaining the inspiration for the current program. "There are free outdoor performances, mostly at temples, and theater performances, where you have to buy a ticket to get in. The golden age of theater performances was from 1945 to 1969 and then from 1973 to 1990. They played mostly in secondrun cinemas. In the 1990s it wasn't that people didn't like puppet theater any more, but that most of the second-run cinemas started to close [because of the penetration of cable television], and we didn't have suitable venues any more."

The shows at the Red House Theater are being touted as a return to the golden age of theater-based puppet shows, and will show

off the eclectic nature of Taiwanese puppetry. Huang said the show *Conquering* All Under Heaven (爭霸天 下系列布袋戲) is drawn from his father's repertoire, though he has rewritten and condensed it for a contemporary audience.

"We keep the tradition, but now this troupe is in its third generation. Changes have been made. We have sped up the pacing of the story and added all kinds of special effects," Huang said. The puppets too have taken on a more contemporary appearance, with styles that have fed into the contemporary cosplay fashion trend.

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Conquering All Under Heaven by Wu Zhou Yuan Glove Puppet Theater Troupe (五洲園掌中劇團—爭霸天下系列布袋戲)

WHERE: Red House Theater (紅樓劇場), 10 Chengdu Rd, Taipei City (台北市成都路10號)

Huang's troupe shares many similarities with the Pili (霹靂布袋戲) television puppet shows, run by another branch of the Huang family.

"We have stuck to stage shows," Huang said, "carrying on a family tradition that goes back nearly a century. We want to keep stage puppets alive, and this is part of the reason for these performances." Huang believes the

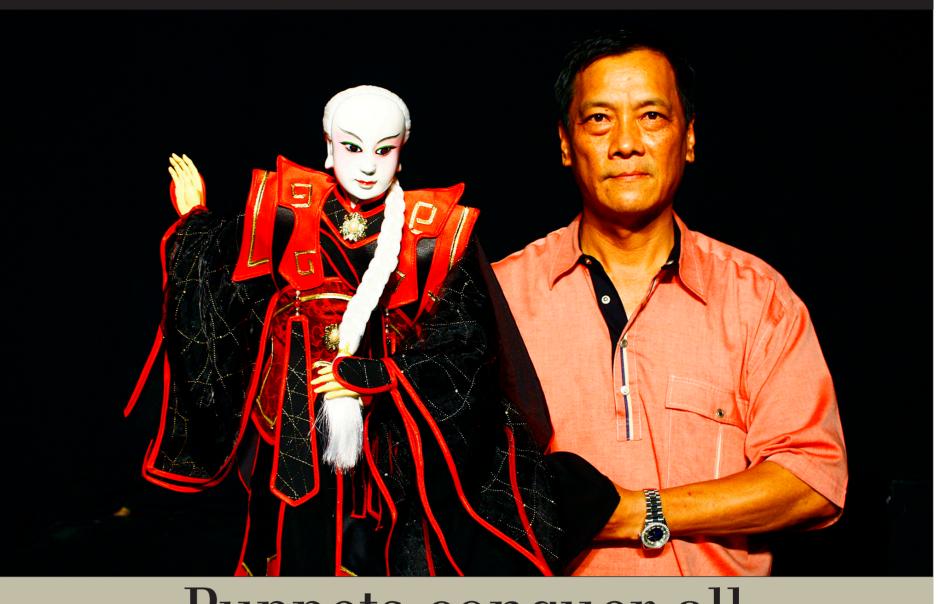
vitality of Taiwanese

puppetry lies in its ability to absorb all kinds of influences. "In China, they have tried to maintain traditional styles, but here [in Taiwan], puppetry has shown incredible imagination, with all kinds of weird stuff like three-headed monsters and such making an appearance on stage ... Some of the characters even have neon

lights worked into their costumes." The martial arts trilogy Conquering All Under Heaven tells the tale of a war between good and evil forces, which battle to obtain a sutra that contains the secret to conquering the whole world. The conflict provides plenty of opportunity for Huang to show off the technical skills in the manipulation of glove puppets that have won Taiwan international praise. These will be supplemented by light and sound effects to create an absorbing stage experience. Conquering All Under Heaven will be presented in two versions, a theater show in the Red House Theater and an outdoor version in the plaza.

Huang added that Wu Zhou Yuan's productions offer a chance to hear Hoklo (commonly known as Taiwanese) at its most expressive: "The kind of language used in these shows is not the sort of Taiwanese you can learn at school," Huang said. "It's getting really popular with kids down south, though it's a bit more difficult up here [in Taipei]."

In conjunction with the performances, an exhibition of items from the heyday of glove puppetry will be held at the Red House Theater, including antique puppets used by puppet master Huang Hai-tai,



WHEN: I omorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm, Aug. 8 and Aug. 12 to Aug. 15 at 7:30pm Aug. 9 and Aug. 16 at 2:30pm; free outdoor performances Aug. 3 to Aug. 6, Aug. 10 to Aug. 11 and Aug. 17 to Aug. 20 at 7:30pm

ADMISSION: Tickets are NT\$200 and NT\$300, available at the venue, through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

ON THE NET: www.redhouse.org.tw

Huang Wen-lang, above, manager of the Wu Zhou Yuan Puppet Theater Troupe

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RED HOUSE THEATER

	OP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS JULY 17 TO JULY 23	3	Jerry Yan (言承旭) and <i>Freedom, Secret</i> (多出來的自由:秘密自遊) with 10.03%	
)	1 Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) and <i>Princess</i> (王妃) with 33.1 percent of sales	4	Nylon Chen (陳乃榮) and <i>Paradise</i> with 9.56%	
N	2 Compilation album <i>Faith Map</i> with 13.65%	5	Ariel Lin (林依晨) and Meeting Happiness (幸福遇見) with 6.05%	LENTRE
			ALBUM CHART COMPILED FROM G-MUSIC (WWW.G-MUSIC.COM.TW), BASED ON RETAIL SALES	

Theater

Taipei Children's Art Festival

(台北兒童藝術節) ends this weekend with a series of performances that include A Good Time at Antique Le-Le's Music Box (古董店的幸福時光~樂樂的 音樂盒) by Shiny Shoes Children's Theatre (鞋子兒童實驗劇團), Dance Forum Taipei's (舞蹈空間) The Adventure of Spiders — Spiderina (史 派德奇遇記之八腳玲瓏) and The Princess and the Jesters (小丑與公主) by The Puppet and Its Double Theater (無獨有偶親子劇場)

▶ Venues include Family Theater at Taipei City Hall (台北市政府親子劇場), Da-an Forest Park (大安森林公園) and Kuandu Nature Park Auditorium (關渡 自然公園多媒體演講廳).

Today through Sunday ▶ For performance times and ticketing information visit www.taipeicaf.org, call (02) 2528-9580 X191 to X199 or send an e-mail to info@taipeicaf.org

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). Tickets for tomorrow evening and Sunday's shows are sold out ▶ National Theater, Taipei City ▶ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm ▶ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500,

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

The latest musical by Tafen Musical Theater (大風劇團), It's a Wonderful Life (美好的人生), is a light-hearted comedy about four young thespians pursuing their dreams while struggling to make ends meet in Taipei. The 21member cast includes theater veterans Wang Bosen (王柏森) and Huang Shihwei (黃士偉). [See story on Page 15.]

▶ Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall (國父紀念 館), 505, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台 北市仁愛路四段505號) Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm

▶ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$3,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Holo Taiwanese Opera Troupe (河洛歌 子戲) gives Taiwanese opera a feminist touch in Love and Hatred in

Mountain Fortress (山寨情仇), which tells the tale of a woman's struggle against patriarchal society. ▶ 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\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Le Sacred du Printemps (春之祭),

Stravinsky's celebrated ballet, is Chamber Ballet Taipei's (台北市内芭蕾) latest production. ▶ Tainan Municipal Cultural Center (台南市立文化中心), 332, Jhonghua E Rd Sec 3, Tainan City (台南市中華東路

三段332號) Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm

and Sunday at 3pm ▶ Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or

online at www.artsticket.com.tw **Classical music**

Paganini Festival in Taiwan (帕 格尼尼大賽四位首獎得主聯合大師班暨 系列音樂會) includes concerts and

master classes that feature emerging local violinists Lu Siqing (呂思清), Huang Bin (黃濱), Huang Mengla (黃蒙 拉) and Ning Feng (寧峰). In concert, they will perform with the Everareen Symphony Orchestra (長榮交響樂團) under Gernot Schmalfuss. The festival begins today with a recital by Huang Bin of works by Paganini, Tchaikovsky, and Dvorak (arranged by Kreisler). On Wednesday all four violinists play a program of concertos by Saint-Saens, Bruch and Beethoven. Members of the public may sit in on master classes, which begin today and run through Aug. 7.

Concerts today and Wednesday at 7:30pm; daily master classes start tomorrow and end on Aug. 7 ▶ Today at the International Convention Center of the Chang

Yung-fa Foundation Building (財團法 人張榮發基金會國際會議中心), 11 Zhongshan S Rd, Taipei City (台北市中 山南路11號); Wednesday at Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號); master classes at the Chi Mei Museum in Tainan (奇美 博物館), 59-1 Sanjia Village, Rende Township, Tainan County (台南縣仁德 鄉三甲村59之1號) and International

HIGHLIGHT

Danish band **Mew** brings its grandiose art rock to Taipei this Wednesday for a show at Nangang 101 (南港101).

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

The trio has enjoyed wide acclaim from major indie music publications such as Web site Pitchfork.com, which praised its 2006 release And the Glass Handed Kites as "cuttingedge elegant."

The group was the opening act for a run of shows with Nine Inch Nails this summer. In the middle of an international tour, Mew arrives in Taiwan to promote its latest album from Columbia Records, which sports the lengthy title No More Stories / Are Told Today / I'm Sorry They Washed Away / No More Stories / The World Is Grey / I'm Tired / Let's Wash Away. Xingnan St, Nangang Dist, Taipei City (台北市南港區興南街71號)





Danish post-rockers Mew hit Nangang 101 on Wednesday. PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY MUSIC TAIWAN

Tickets are NT\$1,600 and NT\$2,600 in advance, available at The Wall (這牆), B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段 200號B1). Tickets are also available through tickets.books.com.tw. Admission at the door is NT\$2,000 and NT\$3,000 On the Net: www.thewall.com.tw; www.mewsite.com

— DAVID CHEN

The 2009 Taipei International Choral Festival (台北國際合唱音樂

節) ends this weekend with concerts by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, under Stephen Cleobury (today), The University of North Texas A Cappela under Jerry McCoy (tomorrow), with a finale on Sunday featuring four of the choirs that took

part in the festival, including Club of Five, The University of North Texas A Cappela and Fred Sjoberg leading the Taipei Philharmonic Choir with mezzo soprano Shih I-chiao (石易巧) and tenor Mu Fu-chun (穆福淳) in a performance of Argentine composer Luis Enriquez Bacalov's Misa Tango. Today and Saturday at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm

▶ National Concert Hall, Taipei City ▶ Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Lost in Wonderland — Guess Who I Am (兒童樂園 — 猜猜我是誰)

sees the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra (台北市愛樂管弦樂團) continue its series of children's concerts with a quartet composed of violin, cello, piano and flute performing music from cartoon and movie favorites, including the theme from ET and The Mickey Mouse March. 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), 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.tw

Contemporary

The Other Side, a new nightclub opened by Ling Wei (凌威), owner of the capital's long-standing Roxy venues, has its grand opening tonight. The new club is a "party-untilthe-sun-comes-up" spot like one of

Ling's old ventures, the recently closed Roxy Vibe. But The Other Side promises a classier atmosphere, with sofa seating and a modern lounge interior befitting of its locale in Taipei's East District (東區). House DJs will spin classic dance and rock from bands like Nirvana, The Ting Tings, Oasis, the Cure and Michael Jackson. Entrance is free tonight. ▶ B1, 20, Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北 市松壽路20號B1)

▶ Venue is open Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday from 10pm until 4am, and from 10pm until 7am on Fridays and Saturdays. To reserve a sofa (NT\$3,000 minimum charge for six to eight persons) or a table, call (02) 2723-3257 Entrance is free tonight for the grand opening. Entry, which includes one drink, is NT\$400 on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday and NT\$500 on Friday and Saturday

Tonight at **The Wall (這牆)** it's io, a

group of Chinese-Canadians from Vancouver, and a set of new rockers on the scene, The Little. Tomorrow post-rock group **Aphasia** shares the bill with folk rocker **Europa Huang** (黃建為). On Sunday pop singer Fan Fan (范瑋琪), who launched her new album *F One* at the venue several weeks ago, returns for an encore performance.

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

Admission is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow. Sunday's show is NT\$500, or free with the purchase of three CDs

Convention Center of the Chang Yung-fa Foundation Building in Taipei City

at 6:30pm

▶ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$1,500 for today's recital, NT\$800 to NT\$2,000 for Wednesday's concert, and NT\$250 for master class audience tickets, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

► Mew ▶ Nangang 101 (南港101), 71

Wednesday at 8pm. Doors open