# In the mood for 'Love Scenes'

noncert of Chen Chien-chi: Love Scenes of Flowers and Farewell (陳建騏:花與告別的愛情場景) brings the enormously successful Taipei Arts Festival (台北藝術節) to a close with three sold-out shows this weekend. Chen is a figure normally seen in the credits rather than on the stage, and the concerts give prominence to a man whose work has played a major part in Taiwan's efforts at cultural globalization.

Chen is an enormously prolific composer of music for the cinema and theater and is adept at creating a sense of mood with his scores. Among other high-profile projects are his scores for the musical Sound of Colors (地下鐵) and films A Fish With a Smile (微笑 的魚) and Splendid Float (艷光四射歌舞 劇), and musical arrangements for Fish Leong's (梁靜茹) most recent album Worship (崇拜). He also composed the score for the new Wu Nien-chen (吳 念真) production Somewhere I Have Never Traveled (帶我去遠方), which

opens next week.

For tonight and tomorrow's concerts, Chen will be working together with singer Waa Wei (魏如萱) and other performers to create a kind of musical theater. The shows will also feature the work of installation designer Huang I-ju (黃怡儒) and multimedia designer Logico (郎機工).

In an interview with the *Taipei* Times, Chen said this was the first time he had presented a show in this fashion, focusing on music but including stage settings and speech.

While the songs have a Shakespearean connection, Chen said the tracks do not necessarily reflect any particular scene or character.

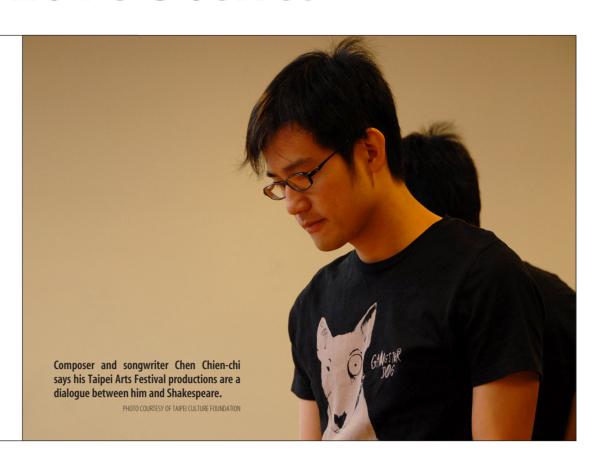
"It is a dialogue between Shakespeare and me," he said. "Prior to each number, there will be a brief introduction relating how the track was inspired. This will be quite brief, because I don't want the audience to have a one-to-one association with

anything specific in Shakespeare."

Chen said he had chosen to use a largely acoustic setup, in keeping with the smaller space of the Guangfu Auditorium (光復廳) of the Zhongshan Hall (中山堂). "The space is really quite intimate. This makes it ideal for an acoustic lineup, because you can feel the breathing, the rhythms of the performance."

While this style of presentation is new to Chen, his association with the Bard goes back to some of his theater music collected in the album Mad Scenes (瘋狂場景), released last year, in which, as the title suggests, he created music for the performance of various scenes of madness from Shakespeare's plays.

"As in the case of Ophelia. Her obsessive nature prevented her from accepting what was going on around her. This is a kind of madness. This has a close affinity to music, because it's a mood rather than a narrative," he said.



#### **EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

### Theater & dance

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre (雲門舞集) opened its three-week run at the National Theater on Wednesday night with **Cursive** (行草), part one of artistic director Lin Hwai-min's (林懷民) Cursive trilogy. Tickets of all price ranges are still available for tonight's show but all that's left for tomorrow night are the NT\$1,600 seats, while Sunday's matinee is sold out. Cursive II (行草貳) opens on Wednesday and Wild Cursive (狂草) begins on Sept. 16. Only the NT\$1,600 seats are left for Sept.18, while Sept. 19 is sold out.

- National Theater, Taipei City ■ Wednesdays to Saturdays through Sept. 19 at 7:45pm and Sundays, Sept. 6,
- Sept. 13 and Sept. 20, at 2:45pm ■ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or

online at www.artsticket.com.tw

There are still about 20 tickets left for Sunday night's Morakot-disaster fundraiser by former Martha Graham principal dancer Sheu Fang-yi (許芳宜) and her LaFa company. Since LaFa's

**Ode to Joy** show as part of the Taipei Arts Festival sold out weeks ago, Sheu and choreographer Bulareyaung Pagarlava (布拉瑞揚) added an extra performance to raise money for Bula's hometown, Jialan Village (嘉蘭), one of the many places in Taitung County and elsewhere hurt by the typhoon. All proceeds from the show will go to relief efforts.

- LAFA Ode to Joy, a Philanthropic Evening-Typhoon Relief Donation, Taipei Cultural Center, Wenshan Branch (台北市 立社會教育館文山分館), 32 Jingwen St, Taipei City (台北市景文街32號)
- Sunday at 7pm
- Tickets are NT\$3,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Inspired by William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Much Ado About Nothing, **Love Scenes of Flowers and** 

Farewell (花與告別的愛情場景) is a collaboration between celebrated composer and songwriter Chen Chienchi (陳建騏) and singer Waa Wei (魏如 萱), better know as Waa (娃娃), who will take audiences on a musical journey to Shakespeare's world of love and

- romance. [See story above.] ■ Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂). 98 Yenping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南 路98號)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 8pm and
- Sunday at 2:30pm ■ Tickets are sold out

The Lost Part (天堂的缺口) by Dance Body Company (體相舞蹈劇場) is a cross-over effort by choreographer Wu Pin-i (吳品儀), flute player Yu Ya-hui (游 雅慧) and Taiwanese opera performer Chien Yu-lin (簡玉琳). Performed by the trio and members of the dance company, the work centers on three

■ Experimental Theater, Taipei City

women and their life stories.

- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

As part of the Taipei Fringe Festival, Housewives' Rice (主婦的米) by Wu Eng Jeng Kow Moving Drama Band (無 印堅果流動劇團) recounts how a husband and wife rediscover the most important thing in their lives after the estranged wife turns into a cockroach.

- Somebody Cafe (貳拾陸巷), 2F, 131 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路
- 131號2樓) ■ Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
- and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

### **Classical music**

Super Time Space Symphony (超 時空交響曲) features the Kaohsiung County Symphony Orchestra (高雄縣交 響樂團), which will perform a program that includes easy-listening favorites such as Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, Mozart's Overture from "The Marriage of Figaro", the Star Wars Suite arranged by John Williams and music by Andrew

- Lloyd Webber. ■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm ■ Kaohsiung County Labor Recreation Center (高雄縣勞工育樂中心), 117, Dapi Rd, Niaosong Township, Kaohsiung
- County (高雄縣鳥松鄉大埤路117號) ■ Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.tickets.com.tw

Ju Percussion Group's 2009 **National Children's Concert Tour** (2009朱宗慶打擊樂團兒童音樂會全國巡 演) gets started this weekend at Novel

- Hall presenting a mixture of music and performance for the whole family. ■ Today and tomorrow 7:30pm,
- tomorrow and Sunday 2:30pm and Sunday 10:30am ■ Novel Hall (新舞台), 3-1 Songshou Rd,
- Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號) ■ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or

online at www.artsticket.com.tw

**Night of Four Hands With Liu** Chia-ling and Wu Chia-fang (劉家 伶與吳佳芳的四手聯彈之夜) presents pianists Liu Chia-ling (劉家伶) and Wu Chia-fang (吳佳芳) playing works for four hands including Dvorak's Slavonic Dances, Op. 46, Nos. 5-8, Bizet's Jeux d'Enfants, Op. 22, Erik Satie's Trois Morceaux en Forme de Poire and

- Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzers, Op. 52a. ■ Today at 7:30pm
- Forum Auditorium (十方樂集音樂劇場 演奏廳), 4, Ln 187, Minzu W Rd, Taipei
- City (台北市民族西路187巷4號) ■ Tickets are NT\$250, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Cho-Liang Lin & NTSO (與國臺交) features violinist Lin Cho-liang (林昭亮) performing with the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra (國立臺灣交響樂團) under guest conductor David Alan Miller. The program includes Tchaikovsky's Overture Fantasy From "Romeo and Juliet," Sibelius' Violin Concerto in D-Minor, Op.47, Copland's Suite from "Our Town" and Bernstein's Symphonic

■ Tuesday at 7:30pm ■ Chunghsing Concert Hall, Taichung

Dances from "West Side Story."

(台中中興堂), 291-3 Chingwu Rd, Taichung City (台中市精武路291之3號) ■ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,200, available through NTCH ticketing or

online at www.artsticket.com.tw

## Contemporary

ICRT's third annual Battle of the **Bands** final takes place tomorrow from 3pm to 5pm at Breeze Center's (微風廣場) outdoor plaza on Civil Boulevard (市民大道). The previous winners were Point 22 (.22) and High **Tide**. This year's combatants are fouryear-old rock, metal and power ballad outfit Black Heart (黑心), GunPowder, which fuses American hard rock and Japanese speed metal in its songs, electro-pop group Go Chic, pop band io and disco, blues and hip-hop outfit Electric MessAge (電子混亂世代). The grand prize is NT\$60,000 in cash and instruments and one-week airplay

- Breeze Center (微風廣場), 39, Fuxing S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City. (台北市復興南路 一段39號6樓)
- Tomorrow from 3pm to 5pm

on ICRT

Tomorrow night **VU Live House** hosts all-girl street punk band **BB Bomb** (BB彈) and another all-girl group, Go **Chic**, which opens for industrial rockers **Roughhausen**, led by Jeff Stoddard, a recording engineer protege of Skinny Puppy. The show celebrates the release of Roughhausen's new EP and the evening ends with DJ Spykee Fat. [See

- story on Page 14.] ■ B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Tel: (02) 2314-1868
- Show begins at 9pm
- Entrance fee is NT\$500 at the door, includes a copy of the new Roughhausen EP

Tonight's a heavy metal evening at **The** Wall (這牆) with Respect (尊敬), Hekate (席卡堤), Nemesis (天譴) and Flesh Juicer. Tomorrow veteran punks Fire Ex (滅火器) play a special show to preview new songs from their new album, due out next month. On Sunday it's another round of Challenging the Fire (火焰大挑戰), a battle of young or otherwise unknown bands. On Wednesday it's **Slow Motion**, an act that attempts a mix of hard rock and French disco thump a la Daft Punk.

- Homework (轟沃克) and H!Jack. ■ B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Tel: (02) 2930-0162. On the Net:
- www.thewall.com.tw ■ Shows start at 7:30pm tonight, 8pm tomorrow, 7pm on Sunday and 8pm on Wednesday
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$300 tomorrow (covers payment for Fire-Ex CD pre-order; registration required online at The Wall's Web site), NT\$250 on Sunday and NT\$300 on Wednesday. Tickets can be purchased online at www.thewall.com.tw or

tickets.books.com.tw

**Le Cher Sextet** puts a new spin on classic pop and rock tunes tonight at Witch House (女巫店). Tomorrow it's Brother Fifth (搖滾點唱機五哥), which is composed of two fingerstyle guitarists and a drummer, followed by a solo set by **A-Chang** (阿彰), the guitarist for Manchester rock-influenced band **Bitter**. Appearing on Thursday are indie rockers **Gayyung** (假勇) and Soundboss.

- 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新生南路三段56巷7號). Tel: (02) 2362-5494. On the Net: www.witchhouse.org
- Performances start at 9:30pm. Restaurant/bar with gueer/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

Tonight Riverside Cafe (河岸留言) hosts a tribute to Japanese fusion band **T-Square**, which appears in Taipei next week, featuring **Skyline** (融合爵士樂團) and the Timeless Fusion Project, a fusion group led by pianist Fred Lu

(呂聖斐) and saxophonist **Tung** Shuen-wen (董舜文). Taiwan's "little prince of R 'n' B," Afalean Lu (盧學叡) takes to the stage tomorrow, opening for indie-rockers Love Manana (愛的大 未來). Rockers Five in the Morning (清 晨五點) and **Indie Famous** appear on Sunday. The venue's weekly open jam is on Monday.

- 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). Tel: (02) 2368-7310. On the Net: www.riverside.com.tw
- Shows start at 9:30pm tonight and 9pm tomorrow and on Sunday. Monday's open jam starts at 9pm. For a list of standard songs and ground rules,
- visit the venue's Web site ■ Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 on Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Singaporean Mandopop star **Tanya** Chua (蔡健雅) appears tonight at Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演

館). Xiao Yu (小字), who stirs his Mando-pop with a little hip-hop, takes to the stage tomorrow. On Thursday, nu-rock and funk group **Coach** (教練樂 隊) opens for pop-rock band **Rock** 

- Oriental Express (搖滾東方). ■ 177 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西 寧南路177號). Tel: (02) 2370-8805. On the Net: www.riverside.com.tw
- Shows start at 8:30pm ■ Entrance fee is NT\$500 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow and NT\$400 on Sunday. Tickets can purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/

livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Taitung reggae rockers Matzka and De Hot play tonight at Underworld (地下社會), opening for happy punks Children Sucker (表兒). Taking to the stage tomorrow are solo blues act **Jack** Conqueroo and Ilan expat garage rockers **The Deadly Vibes**. On Wednesday it's emo-rock group **BRTD** 

- and Sunset Rollercoaster (落日飛車). ■ B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師 大路45號B1). Tel: (02) 2369-0103. On the Net: www.upsaid.com/underworld
- Music shows run from 9:30pm to 11:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays. Sunday's show is from 7pm to 11pm. Underworld is open daily from 9pm, closed on Mondays. Happy Hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays before midnight
- Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow and includes a drink, NT\$100 on Wednesday

Claude Diallo, a New York-based jazz pianist and composer, performs at Sappho de Base tonight. Tomorrow 3 Little Giants (3小巨人) take the stage. The **Jason Hayashi Jazz Trio** appears on Tuesday, and on Wednesday the **Bossarela Trio** performs bossa nova. T and T Jazz Trio and Friends

- play on Thursday night. ■ B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號B1). Tel: (02) 2700-5411. On the Net: www.sappho102.biz
- Music shows begin at 10:30pm on weekends, 10pm on weekdays. Sappho is closed on Sundays and Mondays ■ Entrance fee tonight is NT\$150. Free all other nights

Every Wednesday night at the Cosmopolitan Grill there's an open mic hosted by keyboardist Andrew Page, with the music mainly covering blues and jazz. All are welcome to participate, and participants receive 20 percent off drinks.

■ 1F, 218 Changchun Rd, Taipei City (台 北市長春路218號1樓). Tel: (02) 2508-0304. On the Net: www.cosmo.com.tw

■ 8:30pm to 11pm on Wednesday ■ No entrance fee

**EZ5 Live House** hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every niaht. Hiahliahts this week include pub legend and songstress Tiger Huang (黃 小琥), who performs every Monday. Julia Peng (彭佳慧) is another major draw who appears every Tuesday. Pop crooner Liu Wei-zen (劉偉仁) appears

- on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. ■ 211, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北 市安和路二段211號). Tel: (02) 2738-3995.
- On the Net: visit www.ez5.com.tw ■ Music shows run from 9:45pm to
- 12:30am ■ Entrance fee (includes two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer

Franz and Friends (城市舞台藝文沙 龍), an upscale restaurant and

performance space in Taipei's East District, hosts music shows every night The music tends to play it safe, ranging from wistful love songs and opera to lounge jazz. Weekly highlights include Denise Juan (阮丹青), a former pop singer turned piano teacher and television presenter, and her band Sunshine Costa. They play tonight. Tomorrow it's **Buona Sera**, featuring

- soprano Chang Hsiao-ni (張曉倪). ■ 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北 市 八德路三段25號B1). Tel: (02) 2579-0558.
- On the Net: www.franzandfriends.com.tw ■ Minimum charge of NT\$300 on Fridays and Saturdays. On other nights

there's a one-drink minimum

The Other Side is a new nightclub opened by Ling Wei (凌威), the owner of Taipei's Roxy venues. The new club is a "party-until-the-sun-comes-up" spot like one of Ling's past ventures, the now-closed Roxy Vibe, but it promises a classier atmosphere, with sofa seating and a modern lounge interior befitting of its locale in Taipei's East District. House DJs spin classic dance and rock from acts like Nirvana, The Ting Tings, Oasis, the Cure and

- Michael Jackson. ■ B1, 20, Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北 市松壽路20號B1). Tel: (02) 2723-3257.
- On the Net: www.roxy.com.tw ■ Open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 10pm until 4am and on Fridays and Saturdays from 10pm
- until 7am ■ Cover charge for women is NT\$300, except Wednesdays, when women get in free. Cover charge for men is NT\$400 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and on Fridays and Saturdays before 1am. After 1am on weekends

Lili Restaurant and Gallery in Tianmu has teamed up with the Community Services Center to hold The

Morakot Relief Live Art Auction: Artists

cover charge for men is NT\$500

Beat the Flood. Throughout the day, 20 local and foreign painters will work together to fill a blank canvas. There will also be performances by musicians including Australian jazz singer Ayesha Mehta, world music group A Moving Sound, ethnic jazz group Orbit Folks, singersongwriter **David Foster** and Paiwan singer **RS Legend**. All proceeds go to help victims of Typhoon Morakot. For more information contact Prashantha Lachann at 0975-021-931. On the Net: www.facebook.com/event.

- php?eid=145174285239&ref=mf ■ Lili Restaurant and Gallery, 760, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 6, Taipei City (台北 市中山北路六段760號)
- Tomorrow from 10am to 10pm ■ Entrance fee is NT\$500, includes
- a drink



BY QUEEN BEE AND TOM LEEMING



DJ Dragon fights the good fight for psytrance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MODI

Dragon (劉龍江) has been at the forefront of the psytrance scene since 1997. He used to be a resident DJ at Taipei's legendary (and notorious) club. Edge. during the period when Goa trance took Taipei's clubbers and ravers by storm. Although the club was later shut down because of drug and mafia issues and the music slowly lost its popularity, eventually going totally underground, Dragon has kept the torch burning by organizing parties and composing music. Moreover, he's one of only a few jet-setting local DJs,

having traveled as far as England and South Africa to perform. VW: How do you see the progression of the psytrance scene? **D:** The scene has always been very underground but I

think it's getting a whole lot better as far as drug abuse is concerned. Although psytrance seemed to be a major hit at the time when Edge was open, its prosperity didn't last long. The music began to get a bad rap because a lot of people who were into it were on drugs. But the times have changed and the people have also changed, the younger generation is now able to enjoy the music in an intuitive way. And there are more people getting into music production and injecting

new vitality into the scene. VW: Tell us about your company 26D.

**D:** 26D was formed by me and some friends in 2001. There are producers, DJs and installation artists amongst us and we throw parties and produce music together.

VW: What is it about psytrance that appeals to you the most? **D:** The unrestrained structure — psytrance doesn't have a formula like many other kinds of music. It's very free-form. And the abundant layers and sounds are especially enchanting when you hear them through big outdoor sound systems.

VW: When and how did you start to make music? **D:** It was the complexity of psytrance that got me intrigued and I started making music about five years ago. But I wasn't actually so serious about it until I came back from my South Africa tour in 2007. In South Africa I got to visit a famous psytrance producer's house and it totally blew my mind — what he used to produce music was just some basic stuff: a small monitor, a somewhat out-dated computer and headphones! It wasn't till then that I realized we should be satisfied with what we have in Taiwan. That

had a huge impact on me and really pushed me forward. VW: You've been working in the broadcasting industry.

Have you ever thought about hosting a psytrance radio show? **D:** I've been offered the opportunity, but I passed on it. I don't think the time is right yet. I want to wait until Taiwan has more psytrance producers because I believe that playing music that's made in Taiwan would be a good way to approach the local audience. Right now I see more and more DJs starting to make their own music, and if that trend continues, it'll probably be just another year or two before everything's ready.

On the Net: tw26d.com/bb (Taiwan's psytrance community); www.indievox.com/kerlivin (DJ Dragon). DJ Dragon's upcoming dates: Sept. 11 at Earthfest

Revolutions, Kunlun Herb Gardens (崑崙藥用植物園) in Taoyuan County; Sept. 12 at After Eclipse in Osaka, Japan. Last Friday at Luxy, the small crowd that showed up witnessed a treat in the form of drum 'n' bass DJ Makoto from Tokyo and MC Deeizm from London. Prior to their arrival, **Spykee**, as was expected, threw down an epic set, filled with twitchy, rocky beats that had everyone in the Onyx room on the floor and provided further evidence that

Spykee truly is one of the best DJs in town, no question. Spykee's set came after a last-minute change that put him on before Makoto, which was, in hindsight, a shrewd move. Makoto's drum 'n' bass was excellent and, using Serato, flawlessly mixed. Deeizm sang mellifluously despite sound issues with low mids and highs, a problem artists rarely encounter at Luxy, though Deeizm's difficulties were possibly due to a spat with Makoto during sound check,

after which the MC left early. At the end of the night, Makoto was a touch upset that there wasn't a bigger crowd and that, by the time his final track came around, only 30 or so happy punters remained on the floor. While Makoto fell victim once again to the leave Luxy early malady, Deeizm was left ruing her sound complications.