EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater & dance

Department of Fun (笑傻樓) by

Taipei Quyi Troupe (台北曲藝團) features renowned cross-talk (相聲), or Chinese stand-up comedy, artists who find humor in everyday-life situations. The lineup includes theater veteran Fan Guang-yao (樊光耀) and cross-talk comedians Liu Tseng-kai (劉增鍇) and Chu Te-kang (朱德剛)

- Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd,
- Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號) ■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday
- at 2:30pm ■ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,000, available through ERA ticketing or

online at www.ticket.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 (緑光劇團) Human Condition series. Written and directed by Wu Nien-ien (吳念真), the play centers on the lives of two sisters, one who works as a cleaner, the other at an international company

- 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\$3,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

A collaboration between Taiwanese

artist Sun Chuo-tai (孫稅泰) and American choreographer Casey Avaunt, **Electron (電子)** by 8213 Physical Dance Theater (8213肢體舞蹈劇場) addresses the alienation brought about by technology through simplified and functional movements and dance

- techniques. [See story on Page 14.] ■ Guling Street Theater (牯嶺街小劇場) 2, Ln 5, Guling St, Taipei City (台北市牯 嶺街5巷2號)
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$280, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

A rendition of the Oscar-winning Alan Ball play of the same title. **Five Women Wearing the Same Dress**

by Ren Shin Theatre (仁信合作社) is a comedy set at a wedding in the countryside near Tainan where five bridesmaids must confront their own desires and attitudes toward life. ■ Theater of the National Taiwan

- University (國立台灣大學台大劇場), 1, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市 羅斯福路四段1號) ■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at
- 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$360, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical music

The Glorious Germania: April 1879, in Portschach, Blue Sky (NSO狂飆日耳曼 — 1878年4月在貝加 合 天氣晴) sees the National Symphony Orchestra (國家交響樂團) under Gunther Herbig perform a program that includes Chien Nan-chang's (錢南章) Dragon Dance (龍舞) and Brahms' Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 77 and Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73. The concert features violinist Vadim Repin.

HIGHLIGHTS

■ Today at 7:30pm

■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City ■ Tickets are NT\$400 and NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

NSO Classics: Mahler No. 9 (NSO精選 — 馬勒第九) has conductor Gunther Herbig leading the National Symphony Orchestra (國家交響樂團) in a performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 9 in D Major.

- Thursday at 7:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City ■ Tickets are NT\$400 and NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical Chamber Music of Taiwan Series — Pro Arte Trio (藝 像台灣經典室内樂系列 — 伯牙三重奏) presents the well-regarded local trio performing a program that includes Tyzen Hsiao's (蕭泰然) The Formosa Trio (福爾摩沙), Beethoven's Piano Trio in B-Flat Major, Op. 97 and Chausson's Piano

- Trio in G Minor, Op. 3. ■ Today at 7:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City ■ Tickets are NT\$400 and NT\$600. available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Area51 Harp & Violin Duo (Area51 小提琴與豎琴二重奏) features violinist Li Hsuan (李瑄) and harpist Chen Shu-hsing (陳淑杏), who enjoyed huge success with a similar concert last year. The program they will present includes arrangements of Paganini's Sonata Concertante, Louis Spohr's Sonata in B-Flat Major, Op. 16. Piazzolla's Histoire du Tango and Bosch's Passacaille.

- Monday at 7:30pm
- National Recital Hall, Taipei City ■ Tickets are NT\$250 and NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Tomorrow night **VU Live House** hosts two parties, Drum and Bass 101 and From Old Skool to Nu Skool, featuring DJs JD and MOS, Elemence and **Coffeepot**, as well as MCs **Babble On** and **Shaman**. [See The Vinyl Word.]

- B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Tel: (02) 2314-1868
- From 10pm tomorrow ■ Entrance fee is NT\$350, includes a

Indie-folk duo **U.TA** (屋塔樂團) and indie rockers **Bearbabes** (熊寶貝) appear tonight at the The Wall (這牆). Tomorrow veteran alt-rockers **The** Chairman (董事長) hold a memorial tribute concert for their former lead singer, Guan Yu (过于), who died of leukemia in 2000. Late tomorrow night Dance Rock Taipei presents an all-night dance party called New Blood, with sets from DJs **Bounce Girlz**, **Dino** and **Spykee**. [See The Vinyl Word.] On Sunday, the venue hosts acoustic indie rockers **Silverbus** (銀巴士), ska band Cream Cheese Cookies of Tokyo, and Kaohsiung ska group **Shy Kick Apple**

band **Exodus**. ■ 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:

features legendary San Francisco metal

(害羞踢蘋果). Wednesday's show

- www.thewall.com.tw ■ Music shows start at 8pm tonight, 8pm and 11:30pm tomorrow, 8pm on Sunday and 7:30pm on Wednesday
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$400 tomorrow (NT\$350 in advance), NT\$400 Sunday and NT\$1,500 Wednesday (NT\$1,200 in

advance). Tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Acoustic guitarist Su-jer (舒喆) and keyboardist Anie Fann take to the stage tonight at Witch House (女巫店). Happy punks Children Sucker (表兒) and psychedelic alt-rock band Flat Club (假文藝青年俱樂部) play tomorrow night. The venue hosts a special show on Tuesday with Xiaojuan and Residents of The Valley (小娟 & 山谷裡的居民) of China. On Thursday, it's solo acoustic artist **Easy**, followed by singer-songwriter

- 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 queer/feminist bookstore and large collection of board games open 11am to midnight Sundays through Wednesdays, 11am to 1am Thursdays through Saturdays ■ Entry fee for music shows is NT\$300

Tonight at Riverside Cafe (河岸留言) singer Mickey Huang (黃子佼) and the Wen Jazz Band (文Jazz Band) perform "classic romantic jazz songs." Folk rocker Connie Lu (呂莘) is among several musicians appearing tomorrow for a benefit concert for victims of Typhoon Morakot, Mando-pop singer Chi Hsin**pei** (季欣霈) plays two sets on Sunday. Monday is the venue's 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). Tel: (02) 2368-7310. On the Net: www.riverside.com.tw ■ Shows start at 9:30pm tonight and
- 9pm tomorrow, on Sunday and on Monday. 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

Tonight **Riverside Live House (西門** 紅樓展演館) hosts Moshi Cup 2009, which features a lineup that includes

indie-pop musicians Peggy Hsu (許哲 珮), **Nylas** and **929** and Mando-pop singer **Shadya** (藍又時). All proceeds from the event go to If Kids Theater's (如 果兒童劇團) Typhoon Morakot relief fund. Pop singer **Z-Chen** (張智成) appears tomorrow in support of his new album Secret Love (暗戀). On Thursday, renowned fingerstyle guitarist Dong Yun-chang (董運昌) appears with singer Koumis (蓓麗). Also on the bill is Come on! Bay Bay! (來吧!焙焙!), which has an indie-pop sound along

- the lines of Belle and Sebastian. ■ 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 tonight, 8pm
- tomorrow and 8:30pm on Thursday ■ Entrance fee is NT\$500 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow and NT\$400 on Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/ livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Noise band **Shebang-a** (死蚊子) takes to the stage tonight at **Underworld** (地下社會). Also on the bill are punk band Inhuman Species (非人物種) and metal band **Ashen**. [See Highlight.] Post-rockers The Peppermints (薄荷葉) appear tomorrow with Tokyo ska band Cream Cheese Cookie. On Wednesday it's indie folk duo **U.TA** (屋 塔樂團) and Peppercat (胡椒貓).

- 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. Underworld is open daily from 9pm,

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHE BANG-A

closed on Mondays. Happy hour on

Tuesdays and Thursdays before midnight ■ Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow and includes one drink, NT\$100 on Wednesday

Metamorphosis Jazztet performs tonight at Sappho de Base. Tomorrow Jo Jo Ma Quintet, a group led by saxophonist Joseph Marchione, takes the stage. On Tuesday, pianist Andrew Page and his band The **Flock** play acid jazz and funk. On Wednesday the venue hosts David Foster and Friends. On Thursday, it's the **Sea Journey Jazz Combo** (海洋 知音爵士樂團), a four-piece group with vibraphone, bass, drums and guitar. ■ B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei

Tel: (02) 2700-5411. On the Net: www.sappho102.biz ■ Music shows start at 10:30pm on weekends, 10pm on weekdays. Sappho

City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號B1).

is closed on Sundays and Mondays ■ Entrance is free

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. ■ 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 Wednesdays ■ No entrance fee

EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights 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.

- 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 "party-until-thesun-comes-up" spot like the now-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. House DJs spin popular 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 they 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 cover charge for men is NT\$500



The summer concert season isn't over yet. Pop and dance group the **Pussycat Dolls** and electronica legends **Underworld** both visit Taipei later this month for separate shows at two World Trade Center venues. The Pussycat Dolls were formed in 1995 as a burlesque troupe and got their big break in 2005 when PCD debuted at No. 5 on the Billboard 200 with hit songs *Don't Cha* and *Stickwitu*. Underworld has its Rick Smith that started in 1980 in Cardiff. The duo was joined by DJ Darren Emerson in the 1990s (who has since left Underworld) and shot to fame during the thing," from the Trainspotting soundtrack.

- ▶ The Pussycat Dolls, Sept. 25 at Taipei World Trade Center Hall 2 (台北世貿二館), 3 Songlian Rd, Taipei City
- Nangang Exhibition Hall (台北世界貿易中心南港展覽 館), 1 Jingmao 2nd Rd, Nangang Dist, Taipei City (台北市 南港區經貿二路1號)
- NT\$3,600 for the Pussycat Dolls, available through ERA ticketing outlets or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Now showing: your tax dollars at work

If all the film festivals in Taiwan, Alternation Film Festival (交替影展) is the most unpredictable. Four years after its inaugural edition, the festival has returned and will showcase 34 short films and animations by emerging Taiwanese filmmakers at Spring Cinema Galaxy in Ximending starting today.

Why the wait? The festival screens short films made with subsidies issued annually by the Government Information Office (GIO), and it takes years before there are enough finished movies to make a presentable festival, according to the Chinese Taipei Film Archive (國家電影資料館), the event's organizer.

All films are shown in the original 35mm or high-definition digital format. Many of them receive limited public exposure, so the free screenings are a good chance for taxpayers to see how the GIO is spending their money.

Among the highlights at the second Alternation Film Festival:



• Lin Shu-yu's (林書宇) The Pain of Others (海巡尖兵). Lin made this short about cruelty in the military before helming his acclaimed feature debut, Winds of September (九降風).

• Waterfront Villa Bonita (水岸麗景) by Lou Yi-an (樓一安). This short examines the absurdity of urban life through the eyes of people living on the margins of society. Audiences may find a similar sensibility in Lou's first full-length feature, A Place of One's Own (一席之地), which

hits the big screen next month.

• Ho Wi-ding's (何蔚庭) technically polished black-and-white Summer Afternoon (夏午). Set inside a car, this short charts the capriciousness of emotion and desire between a man and two women with five masterfully executed long takes. Ho is currently working on his feature debut, Taipei Sunday (台北星期天), a film about Filipinos in Taiwan.

Other films worth seeing include the surreal love story A Flight to Yesterday (飛往昨天的 CI006) and The Tunnel (隧道), a lyrical take on a father-son relationship.



Above: Suicide Pact, directed by Liao Ming-i. Left: Pain of Others, directed by Lin Shu-yu.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TAIPEI FILM ARCHIVE

FESTIVAL NOTES:

WHAT: Alternation Film Festival (交替影展) **WHEN:** Today to Sept. 27. The festival will tour Hsinchu, Taichung, Tainan and Kaohsiung from next month to December WHERE: Spring Cinema Galaxy (絕色影城), 9F, 52 Hanzhong St, Taipei City (台北市漢中 街52號9樓) **ADMISSION:** Free

ON THE NET: alternation.pixnet.net/blog

Upcoming gigs:

NT\$350 and includes a drink

to 5:30am. Admission is NT\$300.

cause in Taichung tomorrow.

promoter Victor Yeh.

Yeh. Admission is NT\$500.

▶ JD and **Antihero**, tonight from 9pm to 4am at Bliss,

Admission is NT\$250 for guys. Ladies get in for free

with **Mos**, **Elemence** and **Coffeepot** and MCs

(H中P在台北). From 10pm until 4am. Admission is

148, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市信義路四段148號)

▶ Tomorrow, JD plays VU Live House (地下絲絨), B1, 77,

Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號).

Babble On and **Shaman** from Taipei Hip-Hop Crew

On Sept. 25, JD, Mos, MC **Spitfire**, **Naked**, **Mixter-T**

and Edify play Light Lounge, B1, 85, Huamei W St Sec 1,

Taichung City (台中市華美西街一段85號B1) from 10pm

▶ Hedonists have a rare opportunity to revel for a worthy

"This pool party is about showing our respect to the relief

workers helping victims of Typhoon Morakot. All proceeds

go to Taiwan's Red Cross Society to aid relief efforts," says

Tomorrow from 1pm to 9pm at Jhongjhen Swimming

Pool (中正游泳池), 100 Syuesi Rd, Taichung City (台中市

學士路100號). The lineup: Hawaii, Juni, D7 and Victor

New Blood: Yuxx, left, with Swingchild.

hough English electro-house rock crossover DJ and producer Fake Blood canceled his gig scheduled for tomorrow at The Wall (這牆), all is not lost. The party's promoter, Dance Rock Taipei, has arranged a bash called New Blood as way of recompense. "I was told that Fake Blood had to cancel all his shows in Asia because of health

issues," says Dance Rock Taipei's Spykee. "But the incident made me realize that it's important to support our local acts instead of worshipping big-name foreign DJs all the time ... Actually, there are many neglected gems all around us and we really ought to create more opportunities for them.

Supporting local talent is, perhaps, the only way to ensure the Taiwanese scene develops. And, in true Dance Rock Taipei form, the night's music will be as unconventional as the names of those in the lineup.

Four pairs of DJs will play back-to-back: Yuxx and Swingchild, Bounce Girlz (composed of two female DJs), Eat ME! Black Hole! (with two guys behind the decks) plus Spykee and **Dino**, spinning everything from indie dance to drum 'n' bass New Blood is tomorrow from 11:30pm to

4:30am at The Wall, B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Admission is NT\$300. Speaking of drum 'n' bass, JD, an up-and-

coming drum 'n' bass DJ from the south of England, is in town for a mini tour. He began his career as a DJ competition (Vinyl Meltdown) winner three years ago. He has since played alongside the likes of **Sappo**, Hype and Noisia, landed his own radio shows (on www.frequency.twistedbeats.com and www.bassjunkees.com) and became a regular act in the Portsmouth area. "I like to put a lot of energy into my sets and interact with the crowd as much as possible to get the crowd involved. I think if you have a good crowd and they like what you're playing, then it's a recipe for a good party!" he says.

BY **NOAH BUCHAN** BY TAYLOR BRIERE



Formosa Aboriginal Song and Dance Troupe examine an Ami creation myth in *Langod – The Tsunami*.

Formosa Aboriginal Song and Dance Troupe's (原舞 者) newest production, Langod — The Tsunami (大海嘯), examines an Ami (阿美) tribe creation myth, which the group interprets as a love story. The troupe aims to preserve and revive the disappearing songs and dances of its members' ancestors by exposing audiences to traditional Aboriginal stories and myths. In Langod, which takes to the stage at Taipei City's National Experimental Theater beginning tonight, Keseng and Madapidap are the mythical progenitors of the Tabalong community in Hualien County. In the tale, their youngest daughter, Diamacan, is considered the most beautiful girl in Tabalong. While walking along the seashore one day, she is spotted by the son of the ocean god, Kariwasan, who immediately falls in love with her. But Kariwasan's love becomes obsessive and when Diamacan rebuffs his amorous intentions, he creates a tsunami to entrap her

National Experimental Theater, Taipei City ▶ Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm and tomorrow and

Sunday at 2:30pm. Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw



They bang.

She Bang-a (死蚊子) takes the stage at Underworld (地下社會) tonight. The three-piece, whose name is romanized Hoklo [also known as Taiwanese] for "damn mosquitoes," is a continuation of a near decade-long collaboration between guitarist Stan Cash (錢史丹) and bassist Gus Ruan (阮國源). Their musical relationship began in 1999 as part of the art-core band The Stop, Look, Listen. Echoes of their experimental early work together can still be heard in She Bang-a, but the songs have been given more room to breathe with looser structures. Joining them on drums is Lin Yu-an (林昱安) from 88 Balaz (88顆 芭樂籽). The band cites numerous influences ranging from John Coltrane to The Pixies, and its music runs the gamut from math rock to funk to noise, often including energetic, improvised jams with jagged, angular melodies. Sharing the bill are punks Inhuman Species (非人物種) and death-metal

- ▶ She Bang-a, 9pm tonight at Underworld (地下社會), B1,45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1)
- ▶ Admission is NT\$300, includes a drink

origins in a musical partnership between Karl Hyde and heyday of dance music with Born Slippy (Nuxx), known for its iconic lyrics, "Lager, lager, lager/mega mega white

- ▶ Underworld, Sept. 26 at Taipei World Trade Center
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$2,500 for Underworld and NT\$1,200 to

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

FEST

The Shanghai Kun Opera Company (上海崑劇團) headlines next month's festival and will perform four complete operas and four programs of highlights. The operas include the award-winning new work Ban Zao (斑昭), as well as classics The Oil-Seller and the Courtesan (占花魁), The Tale of the Jade Hairpin (玉簪記) and Lanke Mountain (爛柯山).

The festival will also showcase the incomparable skills of China's young acrobats, featuring emerging artists from the Shanghai Circus School (上海馬戲學校). Also on the program are Huang Doudou (黃豆豆), who featured spectacularly in the opening of the Beijing Olympics, and erhu virtuoso Ma Xiaohui (馬曉暉), one of the few performers of a traditional Chinese instrument with an international reputation and perhaps best known for her performance with Yo-Yo Ma (馬友友) in the Oscar-winning soundtrack of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (臥虎藏龍). Five free performances of the variety program, including acrobatics, dance and music, will be held at the Mitsukoshi Plaza

(香堤大道中心廣場) in the Xinyi District. The Shanghai Culture Festival will also include an exhibition of works from the Shanghai Art Museum (上海美術館) hosted by Taipei Fine Arts Museum (北美館), and a Shanghai Film Festival at SPOT, which will include Shanghai productions ranging from 1964's Uproar in Heaven (大鬧天宮) to the big-budget animation *The Magic Astor* (馬蘭花), released this June.