

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater & dance

Department of Fun (笑樓樓) 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 (劉增鵬) 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 (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.

■ 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 (孫楚泰) 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狂瀾日耳曼 — 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

BY NOAH BUCHAN



Formosa Aboriginal Song and Dance Troupe examine an Ami creation myth in *Langod — The Tsunami*. PHOTO COURTESY OF NTCH

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

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

Acoustic guitarist Su-jeer (舒弱) 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 **Zulin (志寧)**.

■ 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 (河岸咖啡)** singer **Mickey Huang (黃子佼)** and the **Wen Jazz Band (文爵士樂隊)** 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 (季欣霏)** 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 (許哲瑛)**, **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 (蔻米)**. Also on the bill is **Come on! Bay Bay!** (來吧! 吧! 吧!), 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 (薄荷菓)** 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,

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 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 start at 10:30pm on weekends, 10pm on weekdays. Sappho 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 (黃子鴻)**, 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: 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 (張曉妮)**.

■ 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-the-sun-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

BY TAYLOR BRIERE



They bang. PHOTO COURTESY OF SHE BANG-A

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 band **Ashen**.

► 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

BY RON BROWNLOW



Underworld comes to town on Sept. 26. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 origins in a musical partnership between Karl Hyde and 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 heyday of dance music with *Born Slippy (Nuxx)*, known for its iconic lyrics, "Lager, lager, lager/mega mega white 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 (台北市松廉路3號)

► Underworld, Sept. 26 at Taipei World Trade Center 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)

► Tickets are NT\$2,500 for Underworld and NT\$1,200 to NT\$3,600 for the Pussycat Dolls, available through ERA ticketing outlets or online at www.ticket.com.tw

BY HO YI

FILM

Now showing: your tax dollars at work

Of 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:



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:

■ **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

WHAT: Alternation Film Festival (交替影展)
WHEN: Today to Sept. 27. The festival will tour Hsinchu, Taichung, Tainan and Kaohsiung 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

THE VINYL WORD

BY QUEEN BEE



New Blood: Yuxx, left, with Swingchild. PHOTO COURTESY OF YUXX

Upcoming gigs:

► JD and **Antihero**, tonight from 9pm to 4am at Bliss, 148, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市信義路四段148號). Admission is NT\$250 for guys. Ladies get in for free

► Tomorrow, JD plays **VU Live House (地下絲絨)**, 71, 77, Wuchung St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段71號), with **Mos, Elemenace** and **Coffeepot** and MCs **Babble On** and **Shaman** from Taipei Hip-Hop Crew (H中P在台北). From 10pm until 4am. Admission is NT\$350 and includes a drink

► On Sept. 25, JD, Mos, MC **Spitfire, Naked, Mixer-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 to 5:30am. Admission is NT\$300.

► Hedonists have a rare opportunity to revel for a worthy cause in Taichung tomorrow. "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 promoter Victor Yeh.

Tomorrow from 1pm to 9pm at Jhongjhen Swimming Pool (中正游泳池), 100 Syuei Rd, Taichung City (台中市學士路100號). The lineup: **Hawaii, Juni, D7** and **Victor Yeh**. Admission is NT\$500.

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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 (班昭)**, 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 (欄杆山)*.

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 Dou-dou (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 *Upstairs in Heaven (大鬧天宮)* to the big-budget animation *The Magic Astor (馬蘭花)*, released this June.