

BY NOAH BUCHAN

CULTURE



From left: A wartime photo of the Kinkaseki POW camp, located in what is now Jinguashi in Taipei County; an abandoned copper processing plant downhill from the mine worked by Allied POWs at Kinkaseki during World War II; former POWs attend a Remembrance Day service in Jinguashi; Michael Hurst, director of Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society, stands beside the Taiwan Prisoner of War Memorial at Jinguashi.

PHOTOS: TAIPEI TIMES AND COURTESY OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Never forgotten

LECTURE NOTES:

WHAT: Taipei Salon (台北沙龍), They Were Prisoners of War, They Were in Taiwan
WHEN: Tomorrow from 2pm to 4pm
WHERE: Yue-han Hall (月涵堂), 110 Jinhua St, Taipei City (台北市中華街110號)
DETAILS: The lecture will be conducted in English. Admission is free, but those attending must pre-register online at www.civictaipei.org or by calling (02) 3322-4907

Michael Hurst vividly recalls one of his first real finds. It was 1997 and he was rummaging around a site in Jinguashi (金瓜石), Taipei County, when he spotted a piece of pottery lying partially buried in the dirt. After turning it over he couldn't believe his eyes.

"I was jumping up and down like a kid who just got handed a million bucks," he said referring to his reaction after discovering that the shard had the blue star of the Imperial Japanese Army etched into it.

"If anybody had seen this foreigner jumping around ... they would have thought that the guy had gone out of his mind. To find something from that era right there in the ground at the camp, what an exciting thing," he said.

Hurst's discovery might not elicit the same kind of reaction from the average person, but as director of Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society (www.powtaiwan.org) every object found at sites like Jinguashi, which was home to the notorious Kinkaseki POW camp, is a piece of a puzzle that sheds light on the living conditions of the men who were interned in Japanese prisoner of war camps in Taiwan during World War II.

Hurst, a long-time resident of Taiwan, will give a lecture tomorrow beginning at 2pm about the POWs entitled *They Were Prisoners of War, They Were in Taiwan*, for the Lung Ying-tai Cultural Foundation's (龍應台文化基金會) Taipei Salon (台北沙龍). He will discuss the development of the POW camps in Taiwan, provide a description of their conditions and place them in an historical context. Thomas Hodges, spokesman and public affairs section chief for the American Institute in Taiwan, will moderate the lecture.

Amateur historian, archeological enthusiast and occasional sleuth — Hurst wears many hats in his role as the organization's director. Since forming the society in 1997 with representatives from the Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and British trade offices, Hurst has spent countless hours scrutinizing maps, reading diaries and picking over the 14 resident POW camps — many of which he discovered — and one

temporary evacuation camp erected on Taiwan between 1942 and 1945.

"It's not like you go out and find the [camp] and you're done. It takes months or years of putting pieces together before things come together," he said, adding, "I've talked to about 300 POWs and their family members over the past 13 years."

Hurst's fascination with the POWs stems from the respect he held for his uncles who fought in both World Wars.

"I've always wanted to do more than just go to the Remembrance Day and wear the poppy every year. I always wanted to do something tangible," he said.

Whereas Hurst spent the first few years picking through the camps and collecting artifacts, today most of his time is spent making sense of the mountains of documents and objects in his possession, dealing with government officials and, most importantly, maintaining a daily correspondence with POWs and their families throughout the world.

"When [the soldiers] came home from the war their experiences were so terrible. POWs have said that after the war they quickly formed POW associations and clubs because they had to go and have a drink with their mates and talk about [the war] because nobody else would understand. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't get an e-mail about something to do with POWs or their family members regarding, you know, finding grandpa or dad or Uncle John or whatever. A lot of my work is helping the families to have closure and have knowledge of the men," Hurst said. "It's probably one of the reasons why I was awarded the MBE," he said.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

Known previously for its innovative attempts to make Beijing opera relevant to contemporary audiences by combining it with elements of Western theater, Contemporary Legend Theatre (當代傳奇劇場) is for the first time in its 23-year history staging traditional Beijing opera performances in a three-opera production titled **The Legendary Pear Garden** (梨園傳奇). The stellar cast is led by Beijing opera innovator Wu Hsing-kuo (吳興國) and diva Wei Hai-ming (魏海敏). Performances are in Mandarin with Chinese and English subtitles.

- National Theater, Taipei City
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Japanese media artist and musician Ryoichi Kurokawa teams up with Taiwanese composer Wang Sue-ya (王思雅) and percussionist Wu Shih-san (吳思珊) to present **Celeritas**, a visual theater composed of percussion and digital sounds, video installations and images. Kurokawa has been invited to perform and exhibit his works in the world's major museums and galleries including the Centre Pompidou and Tate Modern.

- Experimental Theater, Taipei City
- 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

The **2009 Kuandu Arts Festival** (2009 關渡藝術節) ends this weekend with a series of performances including Guangdong Modern Dance Company's (廣東現代舞團) *Rice Spice Zen Colors* (米辣顏色), which explores Asian culinary culture (today, tomorrow and Sunday), and music and audio performances by the percussion troupe from the Taipei National University of the Arts School of Music (國立臺北藝術大學音樂學院) (today and tomorrow). On the Net: kdarts.tnu.edu.tw/festival/

- Performances are being held at the Taipei National University of the Arts (國立臺北藝術大學) Dance Theater (舞蹈廳) and Music Hall (音樂廳), 1 Xueyan Rd, Taipei City (台北市學園路1號)
- Tickets are available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw
- For complete information on performance times, venues and ticket prices, see the festival's program (Chinese only), at kdarts.tnu.edu.tw/festival/file/0910_small.pdf

Based on the work of Japanese playwright Betsuyaku Minoru, **Here is the Toilet** (廁所在這裡) is a Beckett-influenced, absurdist drama in which a suicidal woman meets a man who makes a living by directing people to the restroom in a park.

- EsLite Xinyi Store (誠品信義店), 11 Songgao Rd, Taipei City (台北市松高路11號)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 8pm
- Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw
- Series of six flamenco performances will start tomorrow featuring dancers

and musicians from local flamenco groups including **Compania Flamenca** and **Mimbre**.

- Saffron Flamenco Studio (蕃紅花佛朗明表演廳), 2, Ln 142, Nanya S Rd Sec 2 Banciao City, Taipei County (台北縣板橋市南雅南路二段142巷2號). Tel: (02) 8967-5937
- Tomorrow at 8pm
- Tickets are NT\$350 and include a drink

Classical music

Elisabeth Bruss Piano Recital (伊麗莎白·布蘭斯鋼琴獨奏會) brings the young winner of the youth division of the 2009 Grotian Piano Competition to Taipei for a series of concerts. She will perform a program that includes works by Schumann, Chopin and Beethoven in a solo recital in Taipei and will perform with the Hsinchu Philharmonic Orchestra (新竹愛樂管弦樂團) in Hsinchu.

- Sunday at 7:30pm (Hsinchu) and Monday at 7:30pm (Taipei)
- 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); and Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
- Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$400 for Hsinchu and NT\$200 to NT\$500 for Taipei, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

The Vienna Boys' Choir (維也納少年合唱團) begins its week-long tour of Taiwan in Taipei with a concert on Wednesday. The program ranges from classics to international folk songs and contemporary compositions. After Taipei, the choir will perform in Hsinchu, Tainan, Kaohsiung and Changhua.

- Wednesday at 7:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw



A group of participants from Malaysia gather during the 2008 Taiwan Gay Pride Parade titled Run The Rainbow Way in Taipei. Around 20,000 people from Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Japan gathered in September of last year for the annual gay pride parade, which is in its sixth year.

PHOTO: REUTERS

With rainbow flags, carnival costumes and colorful signs, Taiwan's gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, transvestites and their supporters will take to Taipei's streets for the annual **Taiwan Pride Parade** on Oct. 31 to celebrate the diversity of human sexuality, raise awareness on a raft of LGBT issues, and, of course, have some fun.

Now in its seventh year, the parade is the largest of its kind in the Chinese-speaking world. Organizers expect more than 20,000 people to attend the parade next Saturday.

Contemporary

Hyper Chord — Tommy Emmanuel 2009 Taipei Concert (超級絃技 Tommy Emmanuel 2009台北演奏會) sees the veteran Australian guitarist famed for his complex finger-picking style return to Taipei for a single concert.

- Sunday at 7pm
- Howard International House, Taipei (台北市福華國際文教館), 30, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新生南路三段30號)
- Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$2,500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Tonight at **The Wall** (這牆) indie band **Echo** (回聲樂團) brings its stylish electro-rock to the stage. Later in the evening, it's nu-break and indie-electro DJ **Adam Freeland**, presented by Chance Chance. Don't be surprised if you can't get tickets for **Maximilian Hecker**, who takes the stage tomorrow night. The German alt-pop singer has a strong following in Taiwan and tickets sold out quickly for his show last year. On Sunday it's metal bands **Valcu**, **Hekate**, **EFTC** and **Forgiveness** (癩).

- 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 8pm tonight, 8pm and 11pm tomorrow, and 8pm Sunday
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight for the early show, NT\$900 for later show with Adam Freeland (NT\$600 in advance), NT\$1,200 (NT\$990 in advance) tomorrow and NT\$450 (NT\$400 in advance) on Sunday. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Witch House (女巫店) hosts indie rockers **GreenEyes** (綠色眼瞼) tonight. Taking the stage tomorrow are Puyuma singer **Leo Chen** (陳永龍), an active member of the Wild Fire Music Troupe,

and folk legend **Kimbo Hu** (胡德夫). On Thursday folk group **Curl and Her Friends** (捲與她的偷摸大雞) opens for **Lidehui** (利得彙).

- 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
- Entrance fee for music shows is NT\$300

Veteran jazz combo **JEG** (這個爵士樂團) plays standards, Latin, funk, rock and fusion tonight at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留聲). Tomorrow the venue hosts Taitung-based Aboriginal folk singer **Panai** (巴奈). Mando-pop singer **Shadya** (藍又時) makes an appearance 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, Sunday and 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\$450 on Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館), it's Mando-pop singer **Chi Hsin-pei** (季欣霏). Tomorrow indie act **Wizard of Oz** (綠野仙蹤) and happy-go-lucky pop and rock band **Relax One** (輕鬆玩) take the stage. On Wednesday the venue hosts German a capella sensations **Stouxingers**, who also appear at the Taichung Jazz Festival this Sunday. On Thursday **Miaojji Gongdehui** (嗶嗶功德會) plays fusion, funk and disco. The group opens for Paiwan singer **Matzka** and his rock-reggae band **DeHot**.

- 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 and tomorrow, 7:30pm on Wednesday and 8:30pm on Thursday
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$500 Wednesday and NT\$400 on Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Tonight at **Underworld** (地下社) **Twice a Week** opens for indie-electro rock band **Go Chic**. Tomorrow **The Freeloaders** and punk band **Blood Orange** split the bill. Performing on Wednesday are **An** (安) and experimental rockers **Godswounds**.

- 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
- 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
- Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow and includes one drink, NT\$100 on Wednesday

The **Earl Hines II Jazztet** appears tonight at **Sappho de Base**. **Black Mirror** plays tomorrow. The venue is closed on Tuesday for maintenance, but is back on Wednesday with **Ash** and

Friends, who play jazz on "unorthodox instruments." On Thursday, **MaJam Jazz Quartet** (麻將爵士樂團), whose Chinese name refers to the game mahjong, plays fusion, funk and blues.

- B1, 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
- Shows begin at 10:30pm on weekends, 10pm on weekdays. 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. 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 night. Highlights for the week include beloved female singer **Tiger Huang** (黃小琥), who performs two sets every Monday, and male crooner **Huang Chung-yuan** (黃中原), who performs every Friday.

- 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
- Shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am
- Entrance fee (includes two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer

Tonight **89k** in Taichung hosts an evening of punk with **Awesome Shit**, **Handknife** and **Damnkidz**. Tomorrow Kaohsiung expat jam band **The Blue Truckers** take to the stage.

- 21 Daguang Rd, Nantun Dist, Taichung City (台中市南屯區大觀路21號)
- Shows start at 10pm
- Entrance is NT\$300

Tomorrow **Roxy Roots** hosts electric blues band **BoPoMoFo** (ㄅㄛㄆㄇㄝ).

- 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路90號). Tel: (02) 2725-3932.
- On the Net: www.roxy.com.tw
- Show starts at 10pm tomorrow
- Entrance is free

Appearing tonight at **Franz and Friends** (城市舞台藝文沙龍), are **Denise Juan** (阮丹雫), a former pop singer turned piano teacher and television presenter, and her band **Sunshine Costa**. 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.
- Minimum charge of NT\$300 on Fridays and Saturdays, on other nights there's a one-drink minimum

The Other Side is a nightclub opened by Ling Wei (凌威), the owner of Taipei's long-standing Roxy venues. The club sports a modern lounge interior befitting of its locale in Taipei's East District, and plays danceable rock 'n' roll, hip-hop and some electronic. Wednesday night is ladies night, with DJs spinning indie rock.

- B1, 20 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路20號B1). Tel: (02) 2723-3257
- Open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10pm until 4am
- Entrance fee is NT\$300 and includes a drink. No cover charge for women on Wednesdays

THE VINYL WORD

BY TOM LEEMING



Anti Hero: bringing the noise to Taichung. PHOTO COURTESY OF IAN MICHAEL ARTHUR BRIGGS

Liam Michael Arthur Briggs, also known as **DJ Anti Hero**, says hip-hop has lost its way. Tomorrow night in Taichung at Light Lounge, he aims to put that to rights with **Marcus Aurelius** and **Mr Blends** in a night of block party hip-hop spun by DJs who really know their stuff.

"There are still plenty of artists pushing it and putting out quality, but it's the exception rather than the rule," said Briggs on the current state of rap.

After hip-hop blew up and the genre became more defined, "the industry saw a certain formula that worked, that consistently made money," said Briggs. "They chose a certain sound that worked ... formed a cookie cutter and started churning out what was safe for them to sell and what they knew would be easy to digest."

Tunes on offer at Light Lounge will include some golden era hip-hop, "which was the late 1980s and early 1990s, and was much more diverse than it is now," said Briggs.

Since the 1990s, "there is music produced that is as intelligent both in lyrics and beat production, by guys like Rhymefest and EMC," said Briggs, "but for the most part, the hip-hop people hear in clubs and on the radio is that it has become a self-perpetuating stereotype ... of the sort that hip-hop originally fought so hard against."

"Musically however," said Briggs, "the production value has gone up — but the musical quality has gone down."

Rock A Block, tomorrow from 10pm until 5am at Light Lounge, B1, 85, Huamei W St Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市華西街一段85號B1). Admission is NT\$300 with a drink.

As you may have heard already, there is only one other party going on note going on this weekend before Halloween.

Adam Freeland from the UK produces sounds perfectly pitched to The Wall, where he plays tonight: nu-breaks and indie-electro. Interestingly, he is only playing in Shanghai and Taipei in Asia before heading to San Francisco and then to cap it all off, Leeds, England on Nov. 5.

Adam Freeland tonight from 11pm until 4am 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). Admission is NT\$900 on the door.

On the Net: www.freeland.fm; www.thewall.com.tw