



BY TOM LEEMING



Up Against the Wall at Light Lounge.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE VIGAR



Saturday saw two parties in Taichung go head to head, with the relatively new promotion team Colour Wolf at 89k and Greg Russell and photographer Steve Vigar with their even newer promotion crew Up Against the Wall throwing Get It at Light Lounge.

Over the weekend four Taipei-based DJs played in the middle city. At Light Lounge **Anti-Hero**, **Bobby Bonestorm** and **Mr Blends** performed alongside Jhongli-based **Rich** and Taichung-based **Naked** and **MC Stoppa**, while **vDub** worked the decks at 89k.

Though the venues couldn't be more different, it was a treat to see both parties so well attended. 89k is primarily a live music venue and although vDub played a killer electro-grunge set and Colour Wolf had kept things going beforehand, the sound system is not up to electro. The party was mainly outside on the street, with a makeshift sumo-wrestling ring and fat suits for anyone wanting to throw their weight around. The presence of mixed martial arts ring girls dressed in bikinis and doing a photo shoot was a real talking point. Should 89k wish to continue as a DJ venue, the speakers could do with an upgrade. Even so, the Taichung crew knows how to party and supports local independent nights.

Light Lounge's bash was lining up to be a monster when the Vinyl Word left at 3am. Having missed most of the Taipei DJs, a sweet catch was Rich and MC Stoppa on a drum 'n' bass tip. Stoppa's claim to be the best drum 'n' bass MC is a big one and he sounded tight. Great show and flow. Huge boasts are always good to hear when backed up. Russell was gutted that the two extra bass bins which were meant to be in place fell through. Nonetheless, the sound was enough to rile the police, said Russell.

Vigar snapped partygoers holding a small white-board on which they'd written personalized messages. To view the results, log on to www.stevenvigar.com.

It is surprising there are not more city-to-city DJ crossovers like these. Hopefully some of the Taichung DJs will have the favor returned and hit Taipei up in the near future.

And now, meet Taipei's newest DJ. Just arrived on Sunday, from eastern Canada, is Kirk Parsons, aka **Kaptain K**, from St John's in Newfoundland. Parsons, 34, has been playing for 13 years and has shared the stage with the likes of George Acosta, Above and Beyond, Kai and Infusion.

"When I'm looking for music all I want is filthy, bouncy dirty bass lines," said Parsons. "I switch back and forth between fidget and jackin' house. My sound is unique and very different to what a lot of other DJs play." Parson plays at Fly on Sunday morning at around 5am. "This is gonna be a very distinct sound," he said.

Kaptain K at Fly, Sunday from 4am until 8am at Cocky, B1, 26-3, Renai Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路三段26-3號B1). Admission is NT\$300, which includes a drink. On the Net: www.soundcloud.com/djkaptain.

If you are going to see one other DJ this weekend and are not a regular at FiFi lounge bar on Renai Road, then a trip to China White at around 1:30am on Sunday will get you a dose of FiFi resident **Kay**, a vastly experienced Taiwanese DJ respected for her wide musical knowledge, who gets great press whenever her name is mentioned. Also in the mix are **EnterStereo**, **Kaoru** and **Sanki**.

Virus II Party, tomorrow from 10pm until 5am at China White, 2F, 97-101, Duhua S Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路二段97-101號2樓). Admission is NT\$350 with a drink.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

Over the past 20 years, Rom Shing Hakka Opera Troupe (榮興客家採茶劇團) has strived to preserve the tradition of Hakka operatic art. For its latest production, **The Yang's Daughter-in-Law** (楊家心白), the company mixes modern theatrical vocabulary with Hakka musical elements such as mountain songs to tell the famous story of the Yang Family Generals (楊家將).

- National Theater, Taipei City
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Scarecrow Contemporary Dance Company (稻草人舞團) started its "dance versus literature" series with Hans Christian Andersen last year. This year, three young women choreographers enter the world of Emily Dickinson in **I Died for Beauty — Emily Dickinson** (我為美殉身—艾靈頓狄金森).

- Experimental Theater, Taipei City
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$450, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

What is Love? Concert (關於洛美的15首), Representation Theatre's (再現劇團) official debut, is a concert-cum-theatrical performance themed on love. The cast includes six performers/musicians and five guest artists.

- 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B1)
- Tonight, Monday and Tuesday at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500, available online at tickets.books.com.tw

For its children-friendly **Beauty and the Beast** (美女與野獸), Tainaner Ensemble (台南人劇團) uses acrobatics, magic tricks, music and dance to tell the classical fairy tale reinterpreted by the troupe's founder, Lu Po-shen (呂柏申).

- 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 Thursday at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 and NT\$700, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical music

Legend of Rainbow Fairy Nanguan vs Kunqu (霓裳羽衣 — 南管崑曲新編) is a performance of *nanguan* (南管) music by Wang Xinxin (王心心), one of Taiwan's most respected exponents of the art form. She will be accompanied on stage by *kun opera* (崑曲) star Qian Yi (錢翹), creating a unique mixture of two ancient musical and performance styles.

- Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm
- Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
- Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

2009 Ju Percussion Group Winter Concert (2009朱宗慶打擊樂團冬季音樂會) will showcase the art of steel drums. The country's most famous percussion orchestra will perform

pieces ranging from Dizzy Gillespie's *A Night in Tunisia* to Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2*.

- Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm (Taipei), Sunday at 2:30pm (Taichung)
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City and National Taichung Library Chungshing Concert Hall (台中中興堂), 291-3 Jingu Rd, Taichung City (台中市精武路219-3號)
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,500 (Taipei) and NT\$400 to NT\$1,200 (Taichung), available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

The Northern Inextinguishable Passion (不滅的冰火熱情 — 北市交與居爾辛·歐內) is a concert by the Taipei Symphony Orchestra (臺北市立交響樂團) featuring guest conductor Wu Shouling (吳秀玲) and pianist Gulsin Onay. The program includes Tabin's *The Goblin*, Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A Minor*, Op. 16, and Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 5 in B Flat Major*, Op. 100.

- Sunday at 2:30pm
- Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂), 98 Yanping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號)
- Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

A Night of Flute Concertos (長笛協奏曲之夜) presents the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra (國立臺灣交響樂團) performing a program that includes concertos for flute and orchestra by Jolivet, Ibert, Nielsen and Mercadante.

- Tuesday at 7pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$100, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Earl Hines II Jazztet performs tonight at **Sappho de Base**. Appearing tomorrow is **Aashti** (汎絲路樂團), a group of Macedonian and Taiwanese musicians playing "world music from Macedonia, Bulgaria, the Middle East

and Xinjiang." On Tuesday the **Brian, Grace and Kinya Jazz Trio** takes to the stage. On Wednesday it's **Flaneur Daguerre**, a jazz quartet that plays everything from Bach to Bjork and Ornette Coleman to the Ramones. The **Ginger Men** play Latin, funk and fusion jazz on Thursday.

- 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 10pm. Closed on Sundays and Mondays
- Entrance is NT\$450 tomorrow, free other nights

Indie-rock band **Totem** (圖騰) appears at **The Wall** (這牆) tonight. The group recently released their second album, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* (放羊的孩子), which is full of eclectic sounds ranging from folk rock to electronica. Tomorrow night J-pop artists **SOFFet**, **May J**, **May's** and **N.O.B.U.** take to the stage as part of Sun High, a special tour of Japanese pop "mini-concerts." On Sunday the venue presents Cross the Sea/Island Paradise, featuring Okinawa artists **Kiyotaka Ishikawa** (石川清貴), **Chihiro Kamiya** (神谷千尋) and **All Japan Goith**. Also on the lineup are Taiwan-based reggae and ska bands **High Tide**, **Skaorake** and **Matzka and De Hot**.

- 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

- Music shows start at 8pm tonight and tomorrow, 5pm Sunday
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$1,600 tomorrow (NT\$1,400 in advance), NT\$500 on Sunday. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Yanjue (嚴爵), who plays blues, funk and folk, opens for metal-core/emo band **B31** (八三天) tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). Tomorrow night it's pop-rock duo **Nature Morte** (靜物樂團). Neo-folk singer/guitarist **Enno Cheng** (鄭宜農) and **Every Planet** (美味星球樂團) appear on Thursday.

- 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 **Fusion Night** plays jazz at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留聲).

Tomorrow indie-pop institution **1976** performs in support of its latest album *Life or Live* (不合時宜). On Sunday folk-rock singer **Hanni** (涵妮) and friends open for female acoustic performer **Koumis** (高麗). 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 9pm tonight, tomorrow and Sunday. Open jam starts at 10pm (this week only). For a list of standard songs and ground rules, visit the venue's Web site
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$500 tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 Monday

Tonight **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館) hosts **Yang Chien-shih** (楊清時), a singer featured on the TV reality show *Super Idol* (超級偶像), as part of an ongoing concert series that concludes next Friday. Tomorrow rapper **Soft Lipa** (羅墨) performs jazzy hip-hop. No shows are scheduled for Sunday. On Wednesday Hakka rock band **Zenkwun** (神棍樂團) shares the bill with emo-punks **Punkhoop** (胖虎).

- 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 8pm tonight, 9pm tomorrow, 8:30pm Wednesday
- Entrance fee is NT\$500 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow and NT\$400 Wednesday. Tickets can be purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

HIGHLIGHT

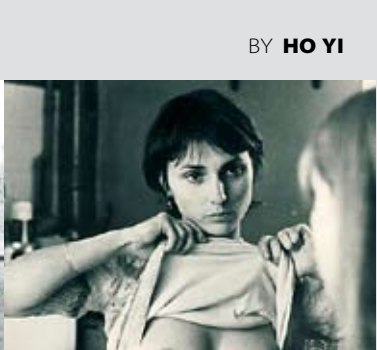


Spot — Taipei Film House (光點—台北之家) is wrapping up its annual POP Cinema program with highly anticipated retrospectives on Jean-Luc Godard and Anne-Marie Miéville, Godard's partner both in life and work and a feminist director in her own right.

The festival features 18 short and feature-length works by Godard that span the French auteur's career from the 1960s to the present. The lineup includes *The Little Solider* (1963), which addresses the Algerian struggle for independence, *Band of Outsiders*, possibly Godard's most accessible and popular work after *Breathless*, as well as the sci-fi film noir *Alphaville* (1965) and one of Godard's most discussed films, *Week End* (1967), which is a ruthless attack on French bourgeois values. After the events of May 1968, Godard moved on to make politically radical

works with the Maoist Dziga Vertov group he formed. Films made during the director's revolutionary period include the relatively audience-friendly *Everything's All Right* (1972) and *Here and Elsewhere* (1976), which explores representations of the "Other."

Touching upon consumerism, violence and other social ills of capitalism, *Slow Motion* (1980) is seen as Godard's return to cinema after spending the entire 1970s working with video. *For Ever Mozart* (1996) is lauded as a masterpiece that reflects the director's philosophical views on war. Miéville made a splash at the Cannes Film Festival in 1988 with her feature debut *My Dear Subject*, which entwines portraits of three women across three generations. Her *Reaching an Understanding* (2000) has its four characters, two of which are played by



From left to right, Jean-Luc Godard's *Band of Outsiders* (1964), *Everything's All Right* (1972) and *Slow Motion* (1980).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPOT

Godard and the director herself, asking fundamental questions about life. French film scholar Dominique Paini will hold a lecture on Godard's cinema at Spot tomorrow starting at 2pm. Paini is a former director of Cinematheque Francaise and curator at the Louvre.

- ▶ The festival runs from today through Dec. 25 at Spot and moves to Kaohsiung Municipal Film Archive (高雄市電影圖書館) on Jan. 1 next year
- ▶ Tickets cost NT\$170 for Spot members and NT\$200 for non-members. Screenings in Kaohsiung are free
- ▶ For more information and a complete screening schedule, visit www.twfilm.org/godard

Tonight **Underworld** (地下社會) hosts **Come on! Bay Bay!** (來吧! 嗶嗶!), which has an indie-pop sound along the lines of Belle and Sebastian, and **Yoz Tiger** (豹子虎), a solo project of a former member of post-rock band Sugar Plum Ferry (甜梅號). Tomorrow it's heavy metal bands **Epitaph** and **La' Dies** (靈骸樂團) of Singapore. On Wednesday **Doodle** and **The Pixels** take to the stage.

- 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, which includes one drink; NT\$100 on Wednesday

EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights for the week ahead include beloved female singer **Tiger Huang** (黃小琥), who performs two sets every Monday, **Julia Peng** (彭佳慧), a major draw who appears every Tuesday, and male crooner **Huang Chung-yuan** (黃中源), 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: 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

Three Day Bender plays blues, rock and soul tonight at Taichung's **89k**. Tomorrow folk rockers **Wounded Night**, a four-piece expat/Taiwanese band with mandolin and fiddle as the lead instrumental voices, shares the bill with country and bluegrass band **Waysoon** and one-man blues band **Jack Conqueroo**.

- 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

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- Shows start at 10pm
- Entrance is NT\$300

Tonight **Roxy Roots**, a bar and restaurant dedicated to reggae and blues fans, hosts nu-metal/funk band **Coach** (教練), which is celebrating the release of a new CD. Tomorrow it's **Pan Africana**, a drum ensemble of African and Caribbean expats. On Wednesday, there's a showcase jam hosted by jazz pianist **Andrew Page** and his group **The Flock**.

- 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 9:30pm tomorrow
- Entrance is free

Franz and Friends (城市舞台藝文沙龍), an upscale restaurant and performance space in Taipei's East District (東區), 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** (阮丹菁), 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

BY ALITA RICKARDS

MUSIC

Brick by brick

Barflies who frequent a newly opened live music house and restaurant in Kaohsiung this weekend may experience a bit of deja vu. Brickyard, so called because "there's lots of brick" according to co-owner Graham Dart, has been assembled from the pieces of three other establishments that have closed or changed owners recently. Dart says he and partner Ryan Fernandez were "left with 50 grand worth of liquor and sound equipment" after leaving live house Join Us. Then the pub Happy Buddha closed and "we took a bunch of stuff from there, too." When the Pig and Whistle closed the same weekend, they "took a circular saw to the third-floor bar and just took the whole" thing out, he says.

Dart and Fernandez teamed up with chef Wero Rudzinskis who trained at the Culinary Institute of America. He built a "Deep South smoker" out of a steamer they bought at a secondhand store to cook barbecue ribs, pulled pork, beef brisket and smoked vegetables. The menu also has American classics like macaroni and cheese and coleslaw. Dart says it is "totally a coincidence" that all three hail from the US: "We're not some exclusive cabal of Americans."

One weekday activity they'll offer is beer pong, in which players stand at a table with full-cup cups of beer and attempt to throw a ping-pong ball into the opponent's cup. If successful, the opponent must quaff the beverage. According to Fernandez, the regulation size for a table is 8 feet (2.4m), which the bar will adhere to. Members of the Kaohsiung Beer Pong Association should be pleased.

The bar has free Wi-Fi and pool, and several big LCD screens for games and movies. Though the main weekend attractions will be bands and DJs, Brickyard will also host an improv night.

Upcoming events include a soft opening tonight at 10pm, with DJs Squid and Belize. Reggae band High Tide plays tomorrow at 10pm. Next Friday will feature free dance lessons from 11pm, music from the Latin Soul Project at midnight, followed by DJs Sapó and Christian from 1am until sunrise. The official grand opening party is on Dec. 12, which will double as a CD release party for popular funk band Coach (教練).

The following weekend features blues artist Jack Conqueroo and new-grass band Waysoon playing a style of music combining traditional bluegrass and country with pop and modern beats on Dec. 18. Brickyard's big night is Dec. 19, when Art of Fresh will be playing. Juno-nominated producer Slakah the Beachchild teams up with rapper DO, who set a Guinness World Record when he freestyled for more than eight consecutive hours. The duo released their debut album *Back to the Earth* last year.

Cover charge at Brickyard ranges from NT\$250 for Latin night to NT\$300 for bands, which includes one drink. Admission for international acts will be higher: Art of Fresh is NT\$350. "We don't want to scare people off" with the prices, says Dart. Drinks are NT\$120 for standard highballs, NT\$100 for half a liter of San Miguel draft.

"We're trying different kinds of events," says Dart. "We're not going to be one of those places that has the same thing night after night."



Brickyard uses sound equipment salvaged from Join Us and the Pig and Whistle.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAHAM DART

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Brickyard soft opening with DJs Squid and Belize
WHEN: Tonight at 10pm
WHERE: 507, Jhongshan 2nd Rd, Cianjin Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市前金區中山二路507號)
ADMISSION: Free
ON THE NET: www.brickyard.com.tw