

Theater

As part of the NTCH's New Idea Series, which focuses on Ming Dynasty playwright Tang Xianzu (湯顯祖), 1/2 Q Theatre's (二分之一劇場) **Dream Digger** (掘夢人) draws from Tang's *Peony Pavilion* (牡丹亭) to explore the playwright's conception of love from a contemporary point of view.

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

Godot Theatre Company's (果陀劇場) **The 39 Steps** (步步驚天) is a comedic espionage thriller adapted from the novel of the same title by John Buchan. The star-studded cast includes veteran thespians Chin Shih-chieh (金士傑) and Tien Hsin (天心) and television and theater actors Pu Hsueh-liang (卜學亮) and Renzo Liu (劉亮佐). The four play a total of 48 characters in the Chinese adaptation of the play. This is the first major Broadway production licensed in Chinese while the original continues to run in New York and London.

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

Man Gang — The Unarmed Men (男人幫—霸王卸甲) is a play by Taiwan Drama Performance (台灣戲劇表演家) that tells a story about five middle-aged men, their memories, yearnings and lost loves.

- Taipei City Government Family Theater (台北市政府親子劇場), 2F, Taipei City Hall, 1 Shifu Rd, Taipei City (台北市市府路1號2樓)
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm.
- Tickets are NT\$250 to NT\$1,200, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Taiwan Bangzi Company's (台灣豫劇團) **Bond** (豹/東) is a bangzi opera (梆子) (otherwise known as Henan opera or *yu opera*) adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. Wang Hai-ling (王海玲) plays Shylock, which requires the opera diva to shift between different role types ranging from *sheng* (生), or leading male, to *chou* (丑), the clown.

- Sun Yat-sen Hall of the National Sun Yat-sen University Art Center (高雄中山大學逸仙館), 70 Lianhai Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市蓮海路70號)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Legend Lin Dance Theatre (無垢舞蹈劇場) returns to the National Theater with a flagship production for the National CKS Cultural Center. **Song of Pensive Beholding** (Chants of a Destinee, 觀) is artistic director Lin Li-chen's (林麗珍) first new work in eight years and completes the trilogy she began with *Mirrors de Vie* (鏡) in 1995. Lin's usual production team, including Academy Award-winning costume designer Tim Yip (葉錦添), ensures the show will be as eye-catching as her previous work. [See the full preview on Page 13 of the Dec. 4 edition of the *Taipei Times*.]

- National Theater (國家戲劇院), 21-1, Zhongshan 5 Rd, Taipei City (台北市中山南路21-1號)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Seats remain for tomorrow afternoon in the NT\$700 to NT\$1,200 price range. All other performances are sold out. Tickets are available at through NTCH ticketing or www.artsticket.com.tw

The flying feet of Irish-American Michael Flatley and his Irish step-dancing company are back in Taiwan with their production of **Feet of Flames**. The two-act *Feet of Flames* by Flatley and Irish composer Ronan Hardiman has been wowing international audiences since 2000. The troupe performs in Taichung tonight, Taipei this weekend and Kaohsiung on Monday.

- Taichung Arena (台中戶外圓頂劇場), also known as Taichung City Fulfillment Amphitheater (圓滿戶外劇場), in Wenhsin Park (文心森林公園), which is at the intersection of Wenhsin Road Section 1 (文心路一段) and Hsiangshang Road Section 2 (與向上路二段) in Taichung City's Nantun District (台中市南屯區). Tonight at 7:30pm. Tickets are NT\$1,500 to NT\$6,800
- Taipei Arena (台北小巨蛋), 2 Nanjing E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市南京東路四段2號). Tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm. Tickets are NT\$800 to NT\$8,000
- Kaohsiung Stadium (高雄巨蛋), 200, Jhonghai Rd, Zuoying Dist, Kaohsiung City (傳愛三路2號高雄市左營區). Monday at 7:30pm. Tickets are NT\$1,500 to NT\$6,800
- Tickets can be ordered online at www.kham.com.tw or at 7-Eleven ibon kiosks

Classical music

Schumann's Delusion of Fantasy, 1851 (舒曼的幻夢遺囑) features the National Symphony Orchestra (國家交響樂團) performing Schumann's *Symphony in D Minor, No. 4* and Bruckner's *Symphony in D Minor, No. 9*.

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

2009 Taiwan Connection Music Festival — An Evening of Chamber Music (2009 Taiwan Connection音樂節 — 室內樂之夜) presents guest soloists Dong-suk Kang on violin and pianist Shigeo Neriki on piano performing with the Taiwan Connection Chamber Orchestra (TC室內樂團). The program will include Stravinsky's *Suite from "L'Histoire du Soldat"* for Clarinet, Violin and Piano, Kreisler's *String Quartet in A Minor* and Ernest Chausson's *Concerto for Piano, Violin and String Quartet*.

- 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\$300 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Wang Yan-pei Clarinet Recital (王妍沛單簧管獨奏會), part of Music Forum's (十方樂集) weekend concert series, has clarinetist Wang Yan-pei (王妍沛) performing works by German composers, including Spohr's *Andante mit Variationen*, Sutermeister *Capriccio*, Barmann's *Introduction and Polonaise, Op.25* and Carl-Maria von Weber's *Grand Duo Concertant, Op.48*.

- Sunday at 2:30pm
- 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

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (紐約林肯中心室內樂協會音樂會), brings Arnold Steinhardt, Philip Setzer and Ani Kavafian on violin, Leon Fleisher on piano and David Finckel on cello under Wu Han (吳昊), the orchestra's director, to Taipei to perform a program that includes Schubert's *Violin Sonata in A Major "Duo"*, Shostakovich's *Piano Trio in E Minor, Op. 67*, and Brahms' *Piano Quintet in F Minor, Op. 34*.

- Monday at 7:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Legacy Taipei, located in a former warehouse at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), is Taipei's newest mid-sized rock venue for top local bands and international acts. Tonight the venue

HIGHLIGHTS



Yo La Tengo returns to Taipei for a show at Legacy Taipei tomorrow night.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEGACY TAIPEI



Legacy drops some bass at Underworld tonight.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPYKE



Dr Reniculous Lipz and the Skallyunz open for Canadian hip-hop duo Art of Fresh tonight.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR RENICULOUS LIPZ

hosts Taiwan's top rocker, **Wu Bai** (伍佰) and his band **China Blue**. Tomorrow US indie-rock group **Yo La Tengo** takes the stage, with high-energy garage rockers **88 Balaz** (八十八顆芭樂籽) opening. **DJ Floaty** keeps the party going after the show. On Wednesday it's reggae-rock group **Matzka and Di Hot**.

- 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)
- Shows start at 8pm tonight, tomorrow and Wednesday
- Entrance tonight is NT\$1,200, NT\$2,000 tomorrow (NT\$1,800 in advance) and NT\$400 on Wednesday. Prices include one drink. Tickets for tomorrow's and Wednesday's shows are available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw or www.legacy.com.tw

Tonight **Rainbow Cafe** is celebrating its opening with a performance by **Pierre Hujuel** (胡月), a Belgian singer, pianist, author and composer who produces "classical electronic fusion combined with Chinese lyrics." Hujuel will sing in Mandarin, play piano and add an electronic background while accompanied by three Taiwanese string players: two violins and a cello. He'll perform four songs from his first album, *Taipei City* (台北市松壽路3-1號).

- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

■ Show starts tonight **Friday (Dec 18)** at 8pm

- Entrance is free, drinks and a free buffet will be provided

Singer-songwriter **William Wei Li-an** (韋禮安) plays soul pop tonight at the **The Wall** (這牆) [see story to the right]. Later tonight, it's the Reborn Drum 'n' Bass Party, which was originally scheduled to take place at Underworld (地下社會). [See Highlight below.] Tomorrow's show with Japanese rock band **Plastic Trees** is sold out. Later on, it's **Dim Your Mak**, featuring DJs **Mark, Ugly, Fat Dirty** and **Spykee Fat**. On Sunday goobal rocker **A Chord** (謝和弦) makes an appearance for a show called "Going into the army is actually not so dangerous."

- 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
- William Wei Li-an takes the stage tonight at 8pm. The drum 'n' bass party follows at 11:30pm. Plastic Trees performs tomorrow at 7pm. Tomorrow's DJ show starts at 11pm
- Entrance is NT\$400 tonight for William Wei Li-an's show. Tomorrow's show with Plastic Trees is sold out. Tonight's drum 'n' bass party is NT\$250. Tomorrow's DJ party is NT\$300. Sunday's music show is also NT\$300. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Performing tonight at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留聲) are the veteran session musicians of **RAY Band** (雷樂隊), who play power rock originals and covers.

BY DAVID CHEN

Legacy Taipei (傳奇音樂展演空間), the city's newest rock venue, hosts a hard-hitting weekend of live music that starts tonight with the country's "king of rock," **Wu Bai** (伍佰) and his band **China Blue**. Tomorrow US rock band **Yo La Tengo**, which has made semi-regular appearances in Taiwan since 2001, returns to Taipei fresh from a tour of Japan. The New Jersey trio enjoys a loyal following among indie fans worldwide for their unique mix of catchy melodies and pop hooks weaved together with noise and distortion. Their latest album, *Popular Songs*, came out in September. Local indie rock favorites **88 Balaz** (八十八顆芭樂籽) opens the show.

- Wu Bai and China Blue tonight and Yo La Tengo tomorrow live in concert, at Legacy Taipei, located at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914) (formerly known as Huashan Culture Park, 華山文化園區), Center Five Hall (中五館), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)
- Wu Bai performs tonight at 8pm. Yo La Tengo performs tomorrow at 8pm
- Entrance is NT\$1,200 tonight and NT\$2,000 tomorrow (NT\$1,800 in advance). Admission includes one drink. Tickets are available at the door or online through ERA at www.ticket.com.tw or www.legacy.com.tw

BY TAYLOR BRIERE

The **Reborn Drum 'n' Bass Party** originally scheduled for tonight at **Underworld** (地下社會), has been moved to a larger venue, **The Wall** (這牆). Relegated to the underground, drum 'n' bass has never been very popular in Taiwan, where hip-hop dominates the nightclubs and house music is often the one side dish on the menu. Organizer Lin Chao-wei (林召偉) aka **Legacy** hopes to change all that in the first of what he hopes will be many monthly drum 'n' bass events. He spins tonight with DJs **Lai, diNO** and **Spykee Fat**. Expect to hear a variety of drum 'n' bass subgenres, including techstep, jump-up, dubstep and darkcore. Spykee Fat, who has recently created a buzz in Taiwan's underground dance music scene, may also be tossing some electro into his mix. [Note: The online version of this page has been changed to reflect the change of venue.]

- Reborn Drum 'n' Bass Party
- 11:30pm tonight 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). Tel: (02) 2930-0162. On the Net: www.thewall.com.tw
- Admission is NT\$250, includes a drink

BY DAVID CHEN

British expat rapper **Dr Reniculous Lipz** appears tonight at Taichung's **Light Lounge** as the opening act for Canadian hip-hop duo **Art of Fresh**. [See Vinyl Word on this page.] Dr Lipz and his rhyming partner-in-crime, **Daddy Phat Saks**, will be backed by his live band **The Skallyunz**, with new members **Greg Russell** of High Tide on drums and **DJ Subtle** on turntables.

The group's funky brand of live hip-hop should be the perfect warm-up for the house-influenced sounds of Art of Fresh, which recently signed with Universal Records. Art of Fresh is finishing up a two-week tour of Taiwan and also performs tomorrow night in Kaohsiung at the Brickyard, 507, Jhongshan 2nd Rd, Cianjin Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市前金區中山二路507號)

- Dr Reniculous Lipz and The Skallyunz, with the Art of Fresh
- 10pm tonight at Light Lounge, B1, 85, Huamei W St Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市華美西街)
- Cover is NT\$300

Tomorrow Mando-pop singer **Shadya** (藍又時) makes one of her regular appearances at the venue. On Sunday the venue hosts indie act **Wizard of Oz** (綠野仙蹤) and pop-rock band **Clockworker** (發條人). An open jam takes place every 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, 9pm tomorrow and Sunday. Open jam starts at 9pm. For a list of standard songs and ground rules, visit the venue's Web site.
- Entrance is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 Monday

Tonight **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演廳) hosts a trio of established indie bands: Brit-pop-influenced **1976**, post-rock/folk-rock band **We Save Strawberries** (草莓救星) and hilarious and wacky rockers **The Clippers** (夾子電動大樂隊). Tomorrow Aboriginal pop heartthrob **Van Fan** (范逸臣) takes the stage. On Sunday folk singer-songwriter **Hsiao Huang-chi** (蕭煌奇) holds a concert to promote a new album of tunes sung in Hoklo (commonly known as Taiwanese). On Thursday indie-pop duo **JS**, signer **Tong En** (同恩) and pop-punk group **The Fen-Fens** (紛紜樂團) split the bill.

- 177 Xining 5 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, 8pm Sunday and 8:30pm Thursday
- Entrance is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow, NT\$500 Sunday and NT\$450 Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Tonight at **Underworld** (地下社會) **Until Seeing Whale's Eyes** (直到看見鯨魚的眼睛) and metal band **Ashen** open up for indie-pop group **Boyz and Girl** (男孩們女孩). The Reborn Drum 'n' Bass Party, originally scheduled for tonight at Underworld, has been moved to The Wall (這牆). [See Highlight below.] Tomorrow the venue hosts **Crystal Dancer** (舞孃), who spins a mix of electronic melodic metal, and alt-rock band the **Blue Velvets** (藍絲絨). On Wednesday Australian electro band **God-sounds** shares the stage with **Drum 'n' Keyboard** (敲打鍵盤).

- 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.
- Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow, which includes one drink. Cover charge for tonight's late night dance party tonight is NT\$250, which includes one drink. Entrance on Wednesday is NT\$100

Tomorrow **The Mercury** (水星酒館) in Kaohsiung hosts solo artist **Luke Woo**, who plays soul pop on acoustic guitar.

- 46 Liwen Rd, Zuoying Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市左營區立文路46號). Tel: (07) 550-8617. On the Net: mercurybar.blogspot.com

Standing on the shoulders of idols

In Taiwan, the term "quality idol" (優質偶像) (referring to someone who is good-looking, talented, has a good education, and is almost too good to be an entertainer) usually summons up images of Wang Leehom (王力宏). Now, another name is set to join the ranks of the quality idols: **William Wei Li-an** (韋禮安).

Winner of the first season of the now-defunct music show **Happy Sunday** (快樂星期天), Wei entered the public eye just before the **One Million Star** (超級星光大道) reality talent show started churning out its own torrent of minor celebrities. As one of the first of this current batch of TV-created idols, Wei will present a themed evening entitled **Climbing the Wall to Become an Idol** (爬上這牆當偶像), in which he will pay tribute to the different generations of idols in pop history. Wei will perform songs by Taiwanese idol **Jimmy Lin** (林志穎) and Usher, in addition to tunes he wrote himself.

With his matinee idol good looks and as a bona fide singer-songwriter, Wei captured the admiration of many fans upon his television debut in 2006. After his **Happy Sunday** triumph, Wei avoided the conventional route of immediately releasing an album, opting instead to return to his studies at National Taiwan University. He has spent the past two years performing at live house venues, writing songs for the likes of **Rene Liu** (劉若英) and

Angela Chang (張韶涵), and releasing his first EP **Waiting Slowly** (慢慢等) in March this year.

In a phone interview, Wei explained his decision to put his career on hold: "I was exhausted after the half year in competition. It was both the stress and the attention. I wanted a break."

Wei said he managed to return to a normal life quite quickly as he did not go out of his way to be recognized. "I think all the packaging for an idol can make them very vulnerable and they can break easily," he said. "I wanted to build a firm foundation [before embarking on a full career]."

Wei's period of hibernation will soon end. His compositions on the indie music site tw.streetvoice.com have for the past two years ranked in the top 10. **Waiting Slowly**, the title track from his EP, debuted at No. 2 on www.kkbox.com.tw without much promotion. Wei is scheduled to release his first full-length album during the Lunar New Year holiday.

Audiences can expect songs that ride high on emotionally poignant lyrics and infectious melodies, the hallmarks of Wei's music.

"I enjoy pop and lean towards music that is melody driven. My music has broadened from early emotional experience to observation of social events these days."



PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: William Wei Li-an (韋禮安)
WHEN: Tonight at 8pm
WHERE: The Wall (這牆), 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
ADMISSION: NT\$400
ON THE NET: www.weibird.com/tw.beta.streetvoice.com/music/wweibird

THE VINYL WORD

BY LEO SHIA AND RON BROWNLOW

Famed Irish songwriter and activist **Bob Geldof** once asked, "Do they know it's Christmas?" And although it was actually more of a rhetorical question aimed to shed light on Ethiopia's famine problem, the answer Bob is: Yes, the Taiwanese do. And no, it's just not their thing.

Fortunately, there are a few movers and shakers who do their best to maintain the holiday spirit in both expats and Taiwanese alike. First up, Taipei's newest contender for best live house, **Roxy Roots**, will be celebrating its first Christmas this year with **Christmas Carols Special**, a party led by **Coach**, Taiwan's answer to the Red Hot Chili Peppers, with support from **the Blues Vibrations** and **Kenyatta Quartet**. Expect funky renditions of some of your favorite Christmas songs, along with classic Christmas movies and more than a few surprises.

Christmas Carols Special happens on Thursday from 10pm until 4am at **Roxy Roots**, 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路90號). Admission is NT\$600.

Also in the capital, **Brass Monkey** will once again be holding down St Nick as it presents the **Red Christmas Party**. Anyone sporting red attire gets free entrance to the Monkey before 11:30pm, and ladies wearing red get free drinks from 9pm to midnight. As an added bonus, sexiest Santa of the evening goes home with NT\$5,000.

Red Christmas Party is tomorrow from 10pm at **Brass Monkey**, 166 Pushing N Rd, Taipei City (台北市復興北路166號). Door damage for guys is NT\$300, or free before 11:30pm for men wearing red. There is no cover charge for women before midnight. After midnight, women also pay NT\$300. On the Net: www.brassmonkeytaipei.com.

Never one to be outdone, **Luxy** has lined up not one, but two events to get your festive mojo pumping. Tomorrow there's **Santa's Secret Social** featuring DJs **Anti-Hero** and **Hooker** spinning a mash of house and hip-hop. With advance tickets going for NT\$500



Defected Records' Andy Daniell spins happy birthday to Barcode.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BARCODE

(includes four drinks), your best bet is to reserve a spot now by calling 0955-904-600.

Then, on Christmas Eve, it's **So So Def** signee **DJ Felli Fell**. Known as a West Coast version of Funkmaster Flex, Felli Fell is known for his unrelenting energy and ability to create mayhem on the dance floor.

Tomorrow and Thursday from 10pm at **Luxy**, 5F, 201, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段201號5樓). Admission for tomorrow is NT\$500 in advance or NT\$600 at the door. Cover charge on Christmas Eve is NT\$1,000 at the door. On the Net: www.luxy-taipei.com.

Meanwhile, Canadian hip-house dup **Art of Fresh**, who tore up Taipei last week, are still on the island with two shows left, tonight in Taichung and tomorrow in Kaohsiung. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see two world-class performers do their thing.

Art of Fresh tonight from 10pm at Light Lounge, B1, 85, Huamei W St Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市華美西街一段85號B1), and tomorrow from 10pm at the Brickyard, 507, Jhongshan 2nd Rd, Cianjin Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市前金區中山二路507號).

And last — but certainly not least — trendy East District hotspot **Barcode** is celebrating its fourth anniversary with special events through Dec. 26. Expect an uplifting mix of funky and soulful house tonight with British DJ **Andy Daniell**, whose remixes have appeared on releases from **Strictly Rhythm**, **Defected Records** and **Ministry of Sound**. Daniell, 23, is also Defected's assistant A&R man and is responsible for compiling and mixing the label's *Bargrooves* series CDs. Opening set by **Room18** and **Barcode** resident DJ **Andrew Ford**.

The party moves to **Barcode's** Kaohsiung location tomorrow.

Andy Daniell tonight from 9pm at **Barcode Taipei**, 5F, 22, Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路22號5樓), and tomorrow from 9pm at **Barcode Kaohsiung**, 30-1, Siwei 3rd Rd, Lingya Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市西維三路130號-1). For reservations, call 0920-168-269 (Taipei) or 0918-859-085 (Kaohsiung). Admission is free for both evenings.