# Welcome 2010 with a bang



Taipei 101's pyrotechnics display this New Year's Eve will be its biggest ever.

ven though New Year's Eve is on Thursday, now would be a good time to start making plans, with countdown parties in cities and counties across the country.

Wherever you are in the capital, all eyes will likely be on Taipei 101 come midnight. The building welcomes 2010 with 22,000 rounds of fireworks — 6,000 more than last year — for a show lasting 188 seconds and costing a total of NT\$30 million.

But back to that important number, 2010. This also happens to be the price in NT dollars to view the fireworks from inside Taipei 101's 89th floor observation deck. The Light Taiwan 101 party, which starts at 9:30pm, features R 'n' B band Hot Shock, as well as lucky draw prizes that include Nokia cell phones and free ice cream coupons from Cold Stone Creamery. Tickets had not yet sold out when the Taipei Times contacted the organizer, Lion Travel (雄獅旅行社), earlier this week, but space is limited to 1,200 persons and the event sold out last year. For reservations, call (02) 2175-6611 or visit www.liontravel. com/Comm/2Dom/HotSale/101/index3.asp.

Another sky-high option for viewing the fireworks is the Miramar (美麗華) Ferris wheel in Taipei's Neihu District, but expect long lines. Even if you don't get a spot, there will be a concert celebration at the Miramar Entertainment Park (美麗華百樂園), at 20 Jingye 3rd Rd, Neihu Dist, Taipei City (台北市內湖區敬業三路20號), with a roster of musical guests that includes Cape No.7 (海角七號) star musician Ma Nian-hsien (馬念先) and pop duo JS. Getting to Miramar is easier than ever now that the MRT's Wenhu Line (文湖線) has been completed (provided there are no service interruptions). The stop is Jiannan Road MRT Station (捷運劍南路站).

Or stick to Taipei tradition and see some of Taiwan's biggest pop stars at Taipei City Hall (臺北市政府) at 1 Shifu Rd, Taipei City (台北市 市府路1號). TV funnyman Hu Gua (胡瓜) and Pauline Lan (藍心湄) start warming up the crowd at 7pm, with music acts appearing throughout the evening. Performers include Wang Lee-hom (王力宏), Mayday (五 月天), S.H.E and Crowd Lu (盧廣仲). The party is the city's largest gathering and goes until 1am.

Taichung City will be sharing Wang Lee-hom with Taipei for its party, which is organized by GTV (八大) and takes place at National Taiwan Sport University Stadium (國立台灣體育大學體育場), 16, Shuangshih Rd Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市雙十路一段16號). Rainie Yang (楊丞琳) and Aska Yang (楊宗緯) are among a long list of pop stars slated

Not to be outdone by Taipei, Kaohsiung City is planning a 199second fireworks spectacle, along with appearances and performances by a host of entertainers including Kaohsiung native Tiger Huang (黄 小琥), actor Mark Chao (趙又廷), Crowd Lu (who is splitting his time with Taipei's celebration) and Japanese pop duo Hangry and Angry. The party takes place on the block near the Dream Mall (夢時代廣場), at 789, Jhonghua 5th Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市中華五路789號). The main stage festivities run from 7:30pm to 1:30am, but the party continues

Tainan is throwing a party at the city government building's western plaza (台南市政府西側廣場) starting at 7:30pm. Keelung's New Year's Eve party takes place once again at Pier 3 East and Pier 4 East in the harbor district and starts at 8pm. Taitung's Taimali Township (太麻 里鄉), which was hit hard by Typhoon Morakot in August, is adding a prayer ritual to their New Year's celebration in commemoration of their losses. A full list of New Year's Eve parties can be found at 2010ny.emmm.tw (in Mandarin only).

If you're attending a celebration in a major city, plan for traffic  $\,$ and crowd control measures. In Taipei and Kaohsiung, expect large crowds and restricted access to certain stations on the MRT, which will run extended hours. Have a safe holiday and please don't drink and drive.

#### **EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

#### **Theater**

To celebrate the holiday season, Da-Guan Dance Theater (大觀舞集) is presenting classical ballet The Nutcracker. Established by the National Taiwan University of Arts (國立台灣藝術大學) department of dance in 2005, Da-Guan is a professional dance troupe that collaborates with the different departments, students and faculty at the university to create interdisciplinary productions. [See story on Page 14.]

- National Theater, Taipei City ■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at
- 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Part of the NTCH's New Idea Series, which focuses on renowned Mina Dynasty playwright Tang Xianzu (湯顯 祖), Mobius Strip Theatre's (莫比斯圓環 創作公社) The Archetype of Ant Hole (螞蟻洞中的原型記號) is a dream where Tang meets and debates with Carl Jung, and modern theater actors

- play with Kun opera performers. ■ 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

Sandra Li (李婉菁), a former keyboard player for heavy metal band Chthonic (閃靈), teams up with DJ point, rapper Chang Jui-chuan (張睿銓), heavy metal vocalist Chi (小祇) and soprano Chen Wen-yu (陳文鈺) for the experimental Dark Baroque (黑暗巴洛克), a hybrid theatrical show of classical music, hiphop and heavy metal sounds.

- Guling Street Avant-Garde Theatre (牯嶺街小劇場), 2, Ln 5, Guling St,
- Taipei City (台北市牯嶺街5巷2號) ■ Tomorrow and Sunday at 4pm and
- Tickets are NT\$400, available through
- NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Wanhua Theater (萬華劇團) aims to free the body from social conventions with four dance and theater pieces featuring real-life nude models that explore the eroticized body and carnal

- desire. ■ Crown Theater (皇冠藝術中心小劇場) 50, Ln 120, Dunhua N Rd, Taipei City (台北市敦化北路120巷50號)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 8pm, Sunday at 2:30pm.
- Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

For its child-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 reinterpret the classic fairy tale. ■ National Taiwan University Theater (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, Sunday at 2:30pm, Thursday at 9:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$600 and NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

### Classical music

NSO New Year Concert (NSO跨新年 音樂會—歡樂頌) sees the National Symphony Orchestra (國立臺灣交響樂團) celebrate the arrival of 2010 with a

program that includes Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, "Choral, Op. 125". The concert features the Taipei Philharmonic Chorus (台北愛樂合唱團) and soprano Chu Tai-li (朱苔麗), mezzo soprano Chen Pei-chi (陳珮琪), tenor Steven Harrison and bass Liau Chong-boon (廖聰文). The conductor will be Gunther Herbig.

- Thursday at 10pm and Jan. 1 at
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

See in 2010 With Chang Cheng**jie (張正傑陪您迎接2010年)** is a musical evening complete with food and wine provided by the Ritz-Landis Hotel. Cellist Chang Cheng-jie (張正傑) provides a program of music including Beethoven's Cello Sonata No.4 and Brahms Sonata No.1 to ring in the New Year. Cheng will be accompanied by Liao Chia-hung on violin and Liao Jiao-

■ Thursday at 9:30pm ■ National Recital Hall, Taipei City

han (廖皎含) on piano.

■ Tickets are NT\$800 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

### Contemporary

Japanese rock star **Sugizo**, the guitarist from Visual Kei band Luna Sea. performs tonight and tomorrow at **Legacy Taipei**. On Thursday the venue hosts a showcase of girl-power bands: Go Chic, Miss Stocking (絲襪 小姐), Boyz and Girl (男孩們女孩) and White Eyes (白目樂隊).

- 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八
- 德路一段1號) ■ Shows start at 8pm tonight,

or www.legacv.com.tw

tomorrow and Wednesday ■ Entrance is NT\$2,500 tonight and tomorrow and NT\$600 on Thursday (NT\$500 in advance). Prices include one drink. Tickets are available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Indie band **Echo** (回聲樂團) brings its stylish electro-rock to The Wall (這牆) tonight. Later on, it's X'pecial Gift, a dance party featuring DJs Code, Stanley and BB and VJ louxuan. Tomorrow Taiwan's most renowned metal band. Chthonic (閃靈), which recently completed a tour of the US and the UK, returns to the venue. **Crescent** 

The mentality of winning and losing

forms the central conceit in M.O.V.E

Wednesday night at Taipei's Crown

Theater (皇冠小劇場). Combining

theater, sport and dance into one

dramatic whole, Taiwanese director

competitive nature of international

subordinates" dress as athletes and

recognition that comes with taking

references to such global events as

the Olympics and the World Games

— events tinged with elements of

serve as a starting point to

nationalism and fanaticism — which

humorously examine the underbelly

first place. Overlying the work are

politics, where "supervisors and

"compete" for gold — or the

sport as a means of examining office

Fu Hung-cheng (符宏征) employs the

Theater's (動見体劇團) Fight Me

Now! (戰), a frenetic theatrical

performance that begins next

BY **NOAH BUCHAN** 

HIGHLIGHT

**Lament** and **Hekate** open the show. On Sunday it's nu-metal/emo-core band Lazy Lady, Overdose and Back-On of Japan. On Thursday The Wall celebrates New Year's Eve with LTK Commune (濁 水溪公社), rock crooner Sissey Chao (趙

- 一豪) and his group **Double X**. ■ 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's
- DJ party starts at 11:30pm ■ Entrance is NT\$400 tonight for the music show and NT\$700 for the DJs, NT\$500 tomorrow, NT\$500 Sunday (NT\$400 in advance) and NT\$400 Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online at www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

At Witch House (女巫店) tonight, it's folk-pop singer Europa Huang (黃建 為). Tomorrow night lead singer and multi-instrumentalist **Suming** (姜聖明) of indie-rock band **Totem** (圖騰) takes the stage. No shows are scheduled for Thursday, as the venue's New Year's celebration features a board games and roleplay costume party. See their Web site for details.

- 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 for music shows is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$450 on Thursday, NT\$350 for those wearing

Tonight at Riverside Cafe (河岸留言), pop singer **Shin Lung** (辛龍) performs in a free show. Tomorrow features pianist and vocalist Si Han (思涵) and poprockers Color Band. Yanjue (嚴脅) plays blues, funk and folk 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, 9pm tomorrow and Sunday. Open jam starts
- Entrance is free tonight, NT\$400 tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 Monday

# Competitive sport and office politics go under the microscope in Fight Me Now!,

beginning next Wednesday at Crown of competition, where losers are shunned and winners are glorified. ► Fight Me Now! at Crown Theater

(皇冠藝文中心小劇場), 50, Ln 120,

Dunhua N Rd, Taipei City (台北市敦化 北路120巷50號) ▶ Performances are Wednesday and Thursday at 7pm and 9pm. There will also be performances on Jan. 1, Jan. 2, Jan. 6, Jan. 7, Jan. 8 and Jan. 9 at

7:30pm and Jan. 2, Jan. 3, Jan. 9 and

Jan. 10 at 2:30pm ► Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

## HIGHLIGHT

BY **DAVID CHEN** 

Chthonic (閃靈), Taiwan's biggest metal band and perhaps the nation's most well-known rock export, brings it home this weekend after a 30-date tour of the US and the UK. The band plays in Taichung tonight, Taipei tomorrow and Kaohsiung on Thursday.

The five-member black metal group has been building on international exposure received during their 2007 UNlimited tour in the US, so named to protest Taiwan's exclusion from the United Nations. The tour included a spot at Ozzy Osbourne's Ozzfest and an appearance at Wacken Open Air, Germany's largest metal festival.

The band's music continues to draw from Taiwanese folklore and mythology as well as contemporary history. Their latest album Mirror of Retribution, which was released in August, ties the 2-28 Incident with an "ancient myth of hell," according to the band's bassist and spokesperson Doris Yeh (葉湘怡).

Tonight **Riverside Live House** (西門 紅樓展演館) hosts singer-songwriter Peggy Hsu (許哲珮), who will perform songs from her new album, Snowman. Tomorrow comedic indie-rock band Wonfu (旺福) perform all new material, and on Sunday, it's folk legend **Kimbo** Hu (胡德夫) and the Wild Fire Music Troupe (野火樂集). On Thursday the venue celebrates New Year's with singer Waa Wei (魏如萱), better known as Waa (娃娃), who performs with composer and songwriter Chen Chien-chi (陳建 騏). The two recently collaborated on a musical theater performance inspired by

- several Shakespeare plays. ■ 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, and 7:30pm Sunday and 9:30pm Thursday
- Entrance is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$450 tomorrow, NT\$500 Sunday and NT\$600 Thursday. Tickets can purchased online at www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Selfish Sucker and metal punk band Bazooka (鐵拳火箭) play tonight at Underworld (地下社會). Tomorrow the venue hosts the Yellow Turban Rebellion 2009 party, featuring hip-hop act Kou Chou Ching (拷秋勤) and **Bubble-B** of Japan. On Wednesday it's noise-rock from **Shebang-a** (死蚊子) and experimental electronica from Shishukong (屍術控). Thursday's New Year's Eve party features punks Inhuman Species (非人物種), highenergy garage rockers **88 Balaz** (八十八 顆芭樂籽) and White Eyes (白目樂隊), followed by a dance party with DJs Floaty Keith, Randy, Chema, Spykee and Fish.

■ 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 for music shows is NT\$300 tonight, NT\$400 tomorrow, NT\$300

Wednesday and NT\$500 Thursday, which includes one drink. The New Year's Even late night dance party is NT\$500, which includes one drink



Chthonic, Taiwan's biggest metal band, plays in Taichung tonight and Taipei

- ▶ Chthonic live in concert ▶ Tonight at 7pm at Sound Live House (迴響音樂藝文展演空間), B1-1, 429, Henan Rd, Sec 2, Situn Dist, Taichung City (台中市西屯區河南路二 段429號B1-1): tomorrow at 8pm 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); Thursday at 7pm at Pier 2 Art District (高雄駁二藝術特區), 1 Dayong Rd, Yanjheng Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市鹽埕區大勇路
- ► Tickets are NT\$400 tonight and Thursday and NT\$500 tomorrow, available at 7-Eleven ibon kiosks or online through www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

The **Earl Hines II Jazztet** appears tonight at **Sappho de Base**. Appearing tomorrow is blues and surf rock the Blues Vibrations. On Tuesday it's the MaJam Jazz Quartet (麻將爵士樂團). On Wednesday it's **Ash and Friends**. who play jazz on "unorthodox instruments." On Thursday the venue celebrates New Year's Eve with live music from a large cast of musicians, including pianist Peng Yu-wen (彭郁雯) and singer-songwriter **Dawid Vorster**.

- 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 begin at 10pm
- Entrance is free

It's a punk rock Christmas tonight at Taichung's 89k with 88 Balaz (八十八 顆芭樂籽), Awesome Shit and Hand Knife. Punk band Inhuman Species (非人物種) takes the stage tomorrow.

- 21 Daguan Rd, Nantun Dist, Taichung

Tonight Roxy Roots throws a "Reggae

City (台中市南屯區大觀路21號) ■ Shows start at 10pm

■ Entrance is NT\$300

Party Green Christmas" featuring The Warm Ups, Dangzai Kongzhong (盪 在空中) and DJ Allenblow. Tomorrow it's Fiesta Latino with live music from the Taipei Latin Soul. Wednesday night is the venue's open jam night. This coming week features **David** Chen of the Muddy Basin Ramblers, who hosts a blues, jazz and roots music

Taipei Latin Soul and reggae DJ Soto. ■ 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松 仁路90號), Tel: (02) 2725-3932. On the

revue. The venue's New Year's Eve

rock veterans **Celluloid** (賽璐璐).

celebration features blues and garage

Net: www.roxy.com.tw ■ Shows start at 9:30pm

■ Entrance is free except Thursday, which is NT\$600

88 Balaz (八十八顆芭樂籽) perform tomorrow at The Mercury (水星酒館)

in Kaohsiung.

- 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
- Shows start at 9:30pm ■ Entrance is free



BY TOM LEEMING AND QUEEN BEE



DJ Shogun rings in the New Year in Kaohsiung. PHOTO COURTESY OF MIND PUNCH PRODUCTIONS

he new decade is very close and Thursday gives you the opportunity to get out there and celebrate the end of the noughties. Read on for a rundown of New Year's Eve parties from Taipei to Kaohsiung.

"The best thing about New Years Eve," said Shawn Kidd, "is that you get to do a little more than the usual night out." Kidd is co-hosting Milkface with Tommy Milloy at Barbados in the Xinyi District. According to Kidd, Milkface is "one of the UK's up-and-coming nights," and now Taipei will experience it first-hand.

The lineup is strong: Anti Hero, vDub, Edify, Code, Sinister Sound Syndicate, Subtle and 006. Dom, aka Fratzuki, will be hosting and rapping. "I wanted to have a well-rounded night starting with funk, b'more and some 80s rock," said Kidd. 'Heading into the main part of the night will be a mix of dance-rock, funky breaks and electro glitch. Finishing with good ol' dirty ass electro tech house and nu breaks."

10pm until 8am at Barbados, 101, Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路101號). See Milkface2010 on Twitter for details. Over at the Sunworld Dynasty Hotel, Frog in a Sock is throwing The Last Minute in the Presidential Suite with a rooftop overlooking the city. Last year's event was packed and this year the DJ lineup is the Sofa Kings,

Marcus Aurelius and Baer in the hip-hop room. Over in the

dance hall are G.M.B. Yoshi. Hooker and Jimmy Chen. 9:30pm until 6am at Sunworld Dynasty Hotel, 100 Dunhua N Rd, Taipei City (台北市敦化北路100號). Pre-sale tickets are NT\$800, NT\$1,000 on the door. Call Matt for details at 0988-421-990.

Fusion Psytrance Party invites revelers to a rave in a beautiful outdoor setting. This likely-to-be the "psytrance party of the year" packs a solid lineup with Moski, Emerson, Spike-J, Fancy, Kirlivin, Koala, Sean, Merv and Jocy. On-site accommodation and campgrounds are available.

6pm to 8am at Fei Feng Yuan Ecological Park (關西飛鳳 園生態園區), 80, Siahenggeng, Sinli Ward, Guansi Township, Hsinchu County (新竹縣關西鎮新力里下橫坑7鄰80號). Presale tickets (available today and tomorrow) are NT\$350, NT\$550 at the door. For more information, send an e-mail to shakasale@hotmail.com or call 0930-722-415.

Tiger-Hunting, an alternative outdoor event, features bands and DJs including We are So Sad, Bazooka, Ashen, Asian Desperation Frontline, Zephec, DataBass, Fish, DJ Mezak and DJ City. "We aim to attract metal-heads and punk kids willing to give electronic music a try, as well as ravers who can feel the thrill of punk and metal," says DJ City. 9pm to 6am at Fuhe Riverside Park Parking Lot (福和

河濱公園停車場), beneath the Fuhe Bridge (福和橋) in Taipei City. Presale tickets (available until Wednesday) are NT\$250, NT\$300 at the door. Go to tiger-hunting.blogspot. com for more information. It's got rock, hip-hop, electro, drum 'n' bass and break

beat, plus DJ Mykal and hot Japanese girl DJ Alyn — and it's being held in a warehouse. Partyroom Party, with its big acts but underground vibe, is where Taipei's hipster contingent is likely to end up.

10pm to 4am at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號). Presale tickets are NT\$600 (available through www.ticket.com.tw), NT\$900 at the door.

In Taichung, Colour Wolf is going at it again at 89k with a lineup that includes two rock bands, The DoLittles and The Stackers, and DJ Arctic Wolf. "Our resolution," said organizer

Kyle Merriman, "is to rock harder than ever before." 10pm until 5am at 89k, 25, Daguan Rd, Taichung City

(台中市大觀路25號). NT\$500 at the door with a drink. It's rare to see a big non-club event in the south on New Year's Eve, so look out for Magician if you're into trance parties. Headlining the night is DJ Shogun, a rising American-born Taiwanese DJ and producer who's been signed to Armin Van Buuren's Armada label and made a huge impression on the global dance music scene with works supported by the likes of Paul Van Dyk and Aly & Fila. Also

playing are Eason, Satan, Amati, Nova and Eros. 9pm to 6am at Kaoshiung Gaisyuan World Trade Center (高雄凱旋世貿中心), 600, Gaisyuan 4th Rd, Kaohsiung City (高 雄市凱旋四路600號). Tickets are NT\$800.