



BY TAYLOR BRIERE



Steve Aoki rocked out at Luxy last weekend.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DIM MAK AND RICHUNG



Steve Aoki's performance at Luxy last Saturday was a raucous affair well worth the price of admission. "We're being bombarded with the best feedback one could expect," said Olivia Wycech from Dancing Through Sunday, the new promotion team responsible for bringing Aoki to Taipei. "He [Aoki] crowd-surfed; us promoters even crowd-surfed!"

Aoki was all over the stage when he wasn't diving off of it, howling into a microphone and spraying the audience with bottle after bottle of champagne, all while spinning an eclectic set that referenced nearly every genre of music available at your local record store.

The crowd responded enthusiastically, with pumping fists and dancing feet. Finally, after running the gamut from hard-nosed electro to Swedish hardcore punk (seriously), Aoki's two-hour set ended on a high (though incredibly cliché) note with Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*. A little bit of alcohol always makes the cheese go down, and the audience — particularly the foreigners — ate it up, all singing and air-guitaring in unison.

Truth be told, Aoki's mixes are not breaking any new ground musically, and one could not escape the sense that the audience was there to see him as much as they were to hear him — a feeling rendered all the more tangible by the bevy of cameramen on stage, including globe-trotting party photographer Mark "The Cobrasnake" Hunter.

Nonetheless, Aoki's on-stage energy is both palpable and contagious. He is an entertainer through and through, and his brand of indie-trotting dance music is readily accessible, particularly to rockers just getting their feet wet in the electro pond. Not surprisingly, Luxy was awash with Converse All-Stars last Saturday. There is something to be said for that.

The Vinyl Word would be remiss to not mention **DJ Spykee**, who proved himself to

be a perfect choice as a warm-up for Aoki, no doubt surprising some folks who had never heard him spin before. If you get the chance, go see him work.

For the aforementioned Dancing Through Sunday promotion group, Aoki was just the first of what it hopes will be a string of artists coming to Taiwan through them. "Dancing Through Sunday's main objective is to diversify Taiwan's stagnant club scene," Wycech said. "Saturday was a strong indicator that Taiwan is ready and welcoming and we're going to keep pushing it strong."

The group has forged a relationship with Aoki's Dim Mak label, and that means there could be some good things in store for the country. "It doesn't end with Aoki," said Wycech. "**MSTRKRFT, Felix Cartal, Diplo, Laidback Luke, the Bloody Beetroots, and Bloc Party** are just a few of the artists on Dim Mak within our reach."

Aoki was a good start. Let's hope for more.

For those of you willing to battle through the inevitable New Year's hangover and keep the party going tonight: The Vinyl Word admires your tenacity.

Tiger Hunting, which opens with a trio of punk and metal bands before blending (though surely not seamlessly) into an electronica event featuring everything from ambient to breakcore to psychedelic trance, takes place tonight from 9pm to 6am on the border between Gongguan (公館) and Jhonghe (中和), beneath the Fuhe Bridge (福和橋) in the Fuhe River Park parking lot (福和河濱公園停車場). For more information, go to tiger-hunting-index.blogspot.com.

Colorful, which features a trance-laden bill courtesy of Revox Records, takes place from 11pm to 5am at Japan Box at B1, 9, Lane 27, Renai Rd Sec 4 (台北市仁愛路四段27巷9號B1). For more information visit: www.revorexrecords.blogspot.com.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

With dazzling light, thumping techno music and a standing crowd encouraged to jump up and down and dance, **Fuerzabruta** promises a sensational performance extravaganza where audience participation is mandatory. One of the features includes female performers splashing and sliding around in a massive shallow pool.

■ Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Department Store (新光三越) A10 parking lot (A10停車場), Ln 20, Songgao Rd, Taipei City (台北市松高路20巷)
■ Shows run every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30pm, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm and 10:30pm and Sunday at 4:30pm and 7:30pm, until Jan. 24
■ NT\$1,900 and NT\$2,300, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Celebrating the New Year this weekend at **Comedy Club** are funnymen MC Birdy and Rifat, singing combo Moses and A-chin (廖西與阿瑾) and the Ric Pretty Boy Magician Ensemble (Ric帥哥魔術團). On Sunday, Brian David Phillips demonstrates the mind-altering power of comedy with his comedy hypnosis show, which is performed in English with interpretation in Mandarin.
■ Comedy Club, B1, 24 Taihsun St, Taipei City (台北市泰順街24號B1)
■ Today and tomorrow at 8pm, Sunday at 7:30pm
■ NT\$350 today and tomorrow, NT\$300 Sunday, available at door or through tickets.books.com.tw

Men in Tutus comes to town for those looking for serious ballet that doesn't take itself seriously. [See story on Page 13] The world's biggest all-male comedy ballet company, Les Ballets Grandiva from New York, has generated rave reviews for brilliant choreography, excellent technique and the sheer entertainment of watching men dressed as ballerinas dancing classics such as *Swan Lake*.
■ Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall (國父紀念館), 505, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段505號)
■ Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30pm
■ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$3,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.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
■ Tickets are NT\$600 and NT\$800, 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.

■ Kaohsiung Cultural Center's Chih-teh Hall (高雄市立文化中心至德堂), 67 Wufu 1st Rd, Kaohsiung City, (高雄市五福一路67號)

■ Tonight and 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

Classical music

International Band and Orchestra Conference Fourth Taiwan Clinic (第四屆臺灣國際音樂節 — 中美交流音樂會) features a concert that brings together the Ministry of National Defense Symphony Orchestra ROC (國防部示範樂隊) and The United States Coast Guard Band Saxophone Quartet and Brass Quintet under the batons of Hou Yu-piao (侯宇彪), Wang Chi-chiang (王治強) and Liu Yu-min (劉佑民).

■ Monday 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\$500 and NT\$700, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Zhong-Hua Chinese Orchestra 2010 New Year Concert (中華國樂團2010新年音樂會) is a concert of traditional Chinese orchestral music by the Zhong-Hua Chinese Orchestra (中華國樂團).
■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm
■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City
■ Tickets are NT\$300 and NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Music Forum's Weekend Concert Series — Fang Hsing Percussion Concert (十方樂集週末音樂會系列 — 方馨打擊獨奏會) will highlight the skills of percussion artist Fang Hsing (方馨), who will perform a program including *A Minute of News* by Eugene Novotney, *Marimbasonic* by Markus Halt and *November Evening* by Christophe Norton.
■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm
■ 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

Contemporary

Peshawar Cafe in Shida hosts a one-off session of "Urban Teahouse," a mix of traditional Asian melodies and progressive independent music. The event began a few years ago as a night of obscure music under the guise of "The Peshawar Sessions."
■ 3, Ln 80, Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路80巷3號). Tel: (02)2362-2218. On the Net: blog.roodo.com/peshawar
■ Tomorrow from 9pm

Legacy Taipei, located in a former warehouse at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), is Taipei's newest mid-sized rock venue hosting top local bands and international acts. Tonight's show is billed as "Men Power," featuring veteran bands with loyal cult followings: hard rock and metal band **Assassin (刺客)**, blues and garage rock outfit **Celluloid (賽璐路)** and **Sissey Chao (趙一豪)**, who sounds like Jim Morrison singing in Mandarin, and his band

Double X. Tomorrow and Sunday the venue hosts college rock superstars **Sodagreen (蘇打綠)**. [See story above.] 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, Sunday and Wednesday
■ Entrance is NT\$600 tonight, NT\$800 tomorrow, Sunday and NT\$400 on Wednesday. Prices include one drink. Tickets available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw or www.legacy.com.tw

Post-rock band **Sugar Plum Ferry (甜梅號)** kicks off the New Year at **The Wall (這牆)** tonight. Long-standing punk band **Fire Ex (滅火器)** appears tomorrow to promote its latest release. On Sunday noise band **Sunset Rollercoaster (落日飛車)** shares a billing with indie electronica band **Telephone Booth (電話亭)**. One-man electro-rock band **Sonic Deadhorse** and **MacBeth** are among the performers on Wednesday night.
■ 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
■ Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$300 Sunday and Wednesday. Tickets at the door or online at www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Pop-rocker pretty boys **Champion (強辯樂團)** take the stage tonight at **Riverside Cafe (河岸留言)**. Tomorrow it's all-girl rock band **Cherry Boom (櫻桃幫)**. Slick emo-punks **Pa Pang (怕胖團)** play 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 9pm tonight, tomorrow and Sunday. Monday's open jam starts at 9pm. For a list of standard songs and ground rules, visit the venue's Web site.
■ Entrance is NT\$500 tonight, NT\$400 tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 Monday

Chiang Ming-juan (江明娟), best known from the TV reality show *Super Idol (超級偶像)*, appears tonight at **Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演館)**. Indie pop band **Tizzy Bac** takes the stage tomorrow night. On Thursday it's electronica rock group **Frande** and folk pop singer **Wu Jia-hui (伍家輝)**.
■ 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, tomorrow and Thursday
■ Entrance is NT\$500 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$400 Thursday. Tickets can purchased at the door or online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Metal band **Ashen** and electro-rock band **Go Chic** play tonight at **Underworld (地下社會)**. Tomorrow the venue hosts experimental rockers **Godswounds**, who use sampled video game sounds in their music, and **The Tic Tac**. Emo-pop band **Emotion Gate**

(情緒出口) and emo-punk band **Crazy Lazarus (瘋狂拉薩路)** share the stage on Wednesday.

■ 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 on weekends, which includes one drink, NT\$100 on Wednesdays

Flaneur Daguerre, a jazz quartet that plays everything Bach to Bjork and Ornette Coleman to the Ramones, performs tonight at **Sappho de Base**. Appearing tomorrow is Argentine saxophonist **Alejandro Chiabrando** and friends. On Tuesday it's the **Emo Jazz Trio**, on Wednesday it's pianist **Mark Kuo (郭馬克)** and his trio, and on Thursday it's **Rocky, Richard and Friends**. There will be an open jam after Wednesday and Thursday's shows.
■ 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 on Friday and Saturday and 9:30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Closed on Sundays and Mondays
■ Entrance is NT\$100 tonight and tomorrow, free on other nights

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, **Julia Peng (彭佳慧)**, a major draw who appears every Tuesday, and male crooner **Shin Lung (辛隆)**, who performs every Saturday.

■ 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

Tonight **Roxy Roots**, a bar and restaurant dedicated to reggae and blues fans, hosts **Wailin' Soul**, which plays funk, soul and reggae. Tomorrow it's folk rock band **Wounded Night**. Wednesday night is the venue's musical showcase, featuring a roster of bands organized by a different musician every week. This week **Nathan Javens** hosts an evening of folk and rock music. Come ready for Thursday's Salsa and Mambo night with DJs **Francisco** and **Daniel**.
■ 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路90號). Tel: (02) 2725-3932. On the Net: www.roxy.com.tw
■ Shows start at 10pm
■ Entrance is free

Iconic Hoklo folk singer **Chen Ming-chang (陳明章)** and his Dan Sui Tour Band (陳明章與淡水走唱團) make an appearance tonight at **Witch House (女巫店)** tonight. Tomorrow Taitung Amis singer **Long-ge (龍哥)**, who is known for his rousing drinking songs, takes the stage. Performing on Thursday is ethnic folk and jazz trio **Orbit Folks**.
■ 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

HIGHLIGHT

BY RON BROWNLOW

If you haven't seen **Godswounds**, the recently formed, quirky electro band from Sydney that has been hanging out in Taiwan for the past three months, tomorrow night at **Underworld (地下社會)** may be your last chance, as the group departs for a tour of Japan beginning next week. Band mastermind and multi-instrumentalist Lachlan Kerr — stage name Herbie Greenfish — samples the sounds of a Nintendo Game Boy on an 88-note keyboard for carefully crafted songs that evoke images of Kaiju monsters like Godzilla and Mothra. As inspiration for the music, Kerr cites quantum physics, video game designer Shigeru Miyamoto and his obsession with the Large Hadron Collider. **The Tic Tac** opens. [For a review of Godswound's EP, *Xiaochi (小覓)*, see Page 14 of the Dec. 20, 2009 edition of the *Taipei Times*.]

► Godswounds with The Tic Tac
► Tomorrow night at 9:30pm at Underworld, B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1). Tel: (02) 2369-0103. On the Net: www.upsaid.



Godswounds does it one more time tomorrow night at Underworld.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GODSWOUNDS

com/underworldmyspace.com/godswounds
► Admission is NT\$300, includes a drink

DANCE

BY NOAH BUCHAN

The sport of life

Wandering into the rehearsal space at the Taipei Cultural Center, Wenshan Branch (台北市立社會教育館文山分館), I see seven actors dressed in athletic garb going through stretching exercises that seem more suited to a sports competition than a theatrical performance. Ping-pong paddles, swimming fins and baseball mitts lie on the periphery of the stage floor — props that will be used in M.O.V.E Theater's (動見体劇團) *Fight Me Now! (戰)*, a frenetic performance that merges sport, dance and theater. The play runs the Crown Theater (皇冠藝文中心小劇場) until Jan. 10.

As the warm-up warms down, the actors take up their starting positions and rehearse the 90-minute work. Directed by Fu Hung-cheng (符宏征) — whose earlier credits include *Drifting Wanderer* (行者漂泊), which used castration as a theme to examine cultural disjunction, and *After Darwin* (達爾文之後), which explored the evolution of personal and national identity — *Fight Me Now!* examines the successes and failures of human relationships inside the office, at home or on the pitch through the metaphor of sport.

Much like a tennis match or baseball game, there is little dialogue and no central plot to the play. The value of the work lies in its physicality and the precision of the movements by the actors on the stage is crucial to pulling it off.

It works. The motions of the actors are meticulously timed to depict the internal state of the characters. Whether sped up to illustrate the stress of a young man coming to terms with his youth, or slowed down to show a wife's anxiety about her marriage, the frequent shift in pace enables the audience to contemplate the underlying emotions that give rise to the movements.

But this could also be its greatest drawback. In its attempt to employ as many different sports to narrate the concerns of as broad a swath of society as possible, the play becomes somewhat repetitive.

The original production, which premiered earlier this year at a theater festival in France, was 50 minutes long. The Taipei production sees an almost doubling in length and as a result comes dangerously close to overkill. But *Fight Me Now!*, though it drags at times, still deftly combines two disparate elements — the movement in sport and the intensity of theater — to illustrate the need for people to overcome their perceived failures so they can lead healthier lives.

M.O.V.E Theater uses competitive sport to examine the success and failure of human relationships in *Fight Me Now*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF M.O.V.E THEATER

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Fight Me Now! (戰)
WHEN: Tonight, tomorrow, Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, Jan. 8 and Jan. 9 at 7:30pm, and tomorrow, Sunday, Jan. 9 and Jan. 10 at 2:30pm
WHERE: 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)
ADMISSION: Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH or online at www.artsticket.com.tw