BY ANDREW C.C. HUANG

CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

hether you like or dislike Tiger Huang's (黃小琥) music, one thing is for certain: she is always entertaining. A veteran singer in the Mando-pop industry, Huang finally became a household name a few years ago after she landed a role as a judge on the TV talent show One Million Star (超級星光大道).

This newfound fame rejuvenated what had been a sagging career. Last month, Huang released Simple, Or Not (簡單/不簡單), her first new album in eight years. Huang will present a mini concert titled 2010 Tiger

Full Throttle Not So Simple (2010號力全開不簡單演唱 會) tomorrow at Legacy Taipei to promote the album's release. She also performs regularly on Monday nights at EZ5 Live House in Taipei.

A straightforward, take-no-prisoners kind of gal, Huang is best known as the acid-tongued judge on One Million Star who spews scathing criticism at the show's impressionable young contestants. She was no less straightforward during a phone interview with the Taipei Times on Tuesday.

"I have a very eclectic style on this new album. It's not just love songs anymore," Huang says. "There is funky dance, R 'n' B and even rock songs.'

Winning the Best New Comer gong at the 1990 Golden Melody Awards for her debut album Not Just Friends (不只是朋友) failed to propel Huang to the fore of the music world. An odd figure in a Mando-pop landscape populated with photogenic, prepackaged idols, she was mostly overlooked by the major labels



and spent much of her career recording more cover albums than original releases.

Performing on the pub circuit to cultivate a fanbase earned Huang the moniker of "the Queen of Pubs" (Pub女王), a singer with a smoky voice that conveys the aura of a woman who has been places and seen things.

Despite a lack of quality original songs, Huang manages to put her personal stamp on every cover she's interpreted with her distinctively throaty, soulful voice and jazz-infused phrasing. Her virtuosic renditions of classic tunes in both Chinese and English have endeared her to audiences in the know.

When asked how she would describe her voice, she responds somewhat tersely, "Get my CDs and listen to them. I don't know how to describe it."

Pressed further, she relents and answers, "It's unique and very low. Actually my voice is husky but not low. I can sing in very high notes."

Asked how she feels about her newfound fame as a TV talent show judge, she responds, "These are all

platforms. I simply need a platform."

A diva, in both senses of the word

When asked what oldies she intends to tackle at tomorrow's concert in addition to her new songs, she hisses, "I can't tell you that, and this information is of no use to you anyway."

Asked what music projects she intends to pursue in the future, such as theater, she moans, 'You're probably too young to know this. I've done theater, actually, but nobody knows."

For her highly acclaimed concert in 2008, Huang made headlines when she tackled Jolin Tsai's (蔡依林) Dancing Diva (舞孃) and No Mercy (愛無赦), complete with all of Tsai's dance moves. Last year, Tsai sent a gift card challenging Huang to have a go at her song Butterfly (花蝴蝶), according to media reports.

Asked which of Tsai's songs she might consider tackling again, Huang snarls, "Whether I hold a concert or not is not related to Jolin Tsai. Jolin Tsai does not affect what songs I want to sing!"



WHAT: Tiger Huang performance night WHEN: 10pm to midnight every Monday WHERE: EZ5 Live House, 211, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段 211號). Tel: (02) 2738-3995

ADMISSION: NT\$850, includes two

ON THE NET: www.ez5.com.tw

### **PERFORMAI NOTES:**

WHAT: Tiger Huang (黃 小琥) — 2010 Tiger Full Throttle Not So Simple Concert (2010 號力全開不簡

WHEN: Tomorrow at 8pm WHERE: Legacy Taipei (傳 音樂展演空間), located at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), Center Five Hall (中五館), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段

ADMISSION: NT\$1,200 at the door, NT\$1,000 if ordered in advance through ERA ticketing at www.ticket.com.tw ON THE NET: www.legacy. com.tw; www.lovetiger.com. tw/index-1.php



# **Theater**

Men in Tutus comes to town for those looking for serious ballet that doesn't take itself seriously. The world's largest 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) ■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow and
- Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm ■ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$3,600, available through ERA ticketing or online at www. ticket.com.tw

In celebration of its 15th anniversarv. Taipei Crossover Dance Company (臺北 越界舞團) presents Time Hotel (越界 **15**—時光旅社), a locker-room detective story where each of the company's performers has his or her moment as a lead. The first-rate production crew includes theater director Michael Li (黎 煥雄) and fashion designer Sophie

- Hong (洪麗芬). [See story on Page 13.] ■ Taipei National University of the Arts — Dance Theater (國立台北藝術大學舞 蹈廳), 1 Xueyuan Rd, Taipei City (台北市 學園路1號)
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT600 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Riverbed Theatre Company (河床劇團) presents **Electric X!**, an audio-visual feast devoid of language and story. The performance — which is off-limits to people aged under 16 — speaks to the subconscious and is designed to be felt

- rather than understood. ■ Taipei Artist Village (台北國際藝術村), 7 Beiping E Rd, Taipei City (台北市北平東 路7號)
- Today at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at
- www.artsticket.com.tw Cat Man (貓神) is the latest work by

Ming Hwa Yuan Arts and Cultural Group (明華園戲劇總團). The Taiwanese operatic production tells a story of individual heroism in the face of institutional injustice through Cat Man, a Robin Hood-like character by night and young politician by day.

- 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 ■ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500,

available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw Godot Theatre Company's (果陀劇場) The 39 Steps (步步驚笑) 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 (下學品) 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

night at EZ5 Live House.

- Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中中山 堂), 98 Syueshih Rd, Taichung City (台中
- 市學士路98號) ■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at
- 2:30pm ■ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

## Classical music

**Cello & Piano Classics From the** Nineteenth Century — Dialogue **Between Thomas Landschoot** and Wang Liang-yu (十九世紀大提 琴與鋼琴之歌《湯瑪斯蘭舒與王亮予的音 樂對話》) presents cellist Thomas

Landschoot performing a program that includes works by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Chopin, with Wang Liang-yu (王亮予) on piano.

- Today at 7:30pm ■ National Recital Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$350 to NT\$600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artstickets.com.tw

A Night at the Opera (『蝙蝠』華麗 選秀歌劇之夜) has some of Taiwan's top operatic talent featured together with the Taipei Philharmonic Opera Studio (台北愛樂歌劇坊), Taipei Philharmonic Theater (台北愛樂劇工廠), Taipei Philharmonic Chorus (台北愛樂合唱團) and Taipei Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (台北愛樂青年管弦樂團) under the baton of Chun-Chiang Chiu (邱君 強). Arias to be presented include a good dose of Johann Strauss, mixed

- with Bizet, Mozart, Gounod and Puccini. ■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm ■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artstickets.com.tw

**Lover's Discourse: Transfigured** Night (NSO室内樂—戀人絮語之「昇華 之夜」) is a program presented by the National Symphony Orchestra's Chamber Orchestra and featuring works

- by Dvorak, Glinka and Schoenberg. Tomorrow at 7:30pm ■ National Recital Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artstickets.com.tw

### **Contemporary**

**Legacy Taipei**, located in a former warehouse at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), hosts top Taiwanese bands and international acts. Appearing tonight is off-the-wall pop rocker **R.Chord** (謝札茲) and his band Sea Level (海平面樂團). Legendary pub songstress **Tiger Huang** (黃小琥) appears tomorrow night. [See story above.] On Wednesday reggae rockers Matzka and Di Hot make their weekly appearance, along with ska band Skaraoke.

- 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八
- 德路一段1號) ■ Shows start at 8pm
- Entrance is NT\$600 tonight, NT\$1,200 tomorrow (NT\$1,000 in advance) and NT\$400 Wednesday. Prices include one drink. Tickets are available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw or www.legacy.com.tw

All-girl band The Fen-Fens (紛紛樂團) celebrate their one year anniversary tonight at the The Wall (這牆). They open for another all-girl band, **8assion** of Japan. Taking the stage tomorrow are power-pop band Mister Mouth (嘴哥) and emo-punks Punkhoo (胖虎). On Sunday it's a trio of indie bands: electronica outfit Orange Doll (橘娃娃), Sorry Youth (拍謝少年) and low-key duo Zag Lope (柴可洛噗). On Wednesday the venue hosts American singer-songwriter Chris Garneau, whose baroque pop style has been featured on the television show **Grey's Anatomy**. Folk group **Smoke Ring** (煙圈) opens

- the show. ■ 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 is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$300 Sunday and NT\$500 Wednesday (NT\$400 in advance). Tickets can be purchased online through www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Come on! Bay Bay! (來吧!焙焙!), which has an indie-pop sound along the lines of Belle and Sebastian. appears tonight at Witch House (女 巫店). Also on the bill is acoustic folk group Xiaoyu Watermelon (小玉西 瓜). Indie rockers Green!Eyes (緑色眼 睛) take the stage tomorrow night. On Thursday it's solo act Mia Tzeng (曾鈺 婷) and Yanjue (嚴爵), who plays blues, funk and folk

- 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei Citv (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

Tiger Huang, who appears tomorrow at Legacy Taipei for a concert to promote her new album, also plays two sets every Monday

The **Taipei Youth Jazz Big Band** (台 北青年爵士大樂團) appears tonight at Riverside Cafe (河岸留言).

Tomorrow it's pop singer Shino Lin (林 曉培). Singer **Devin Wu** (吳佩珊) appears on Sunday, along with **No Key Band**. 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\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150

Pop singer **Victor Wong** (品冠) appears tonight at Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演館). Shin (信), a pop singer who had a recent hit titled Take Advantage of Me (趁我), performs tomorrow night. Thursday features a trio of up-and-coming singers: GJ, Nese (倪子崗) and Freya

- 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, NT\$550 tomorrow and NT\$400 Thursday. Tickets can purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Indie rockers Queen Suitcase(皇后皮 箱) and 13 perform at Underworld (地下社會) tonight. Grunge rockers The Capelin (柳葉魚) play two sets tomorrow night. On Wednesday it's emo-punks Full Count and Macbeth

- 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 on Fridays and Saturdays is NT\$300, which includes one drink, and NT\$100 on Wednesdays

Earl Hines II Jazztet performs tonight at Sappho de Base. Dance tomorrow to the sounds of **Space** Funk and Gruveballs from Tainan. Italian Jazz drummer and composer

Pietro Valente appears on Tuesday to perform songs from his CD, Tales from the Far East. [See story on Page 14.] Appearing on Wednesday is **Girl** and the Machine, a multimedia arts collective that combines electro-rock, space pop and ethnic music with video and photography. T and T Jazz **Trio** and Friends play on Thursday and

- host an open jam afterwards. ■ 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 NT\$200 tomorrow, free on other

**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 [See story above], Julia Peng (彭佳慧), a major draw who appears every Tuesday, and male crooner **Shin** Lung (辛龍), 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: www.ez5.com.tw ■ Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am
- Entrance (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 expat electric funkmetal band Jindown (筋斗雲) and altrock band the Silent Toads (啾吉惦 惦). Waysoon plays country, bluegrass and folk tomorrow night. Wednesday night is the venue's musical showcase, featuring a roster of bands organized by a different musician every week. This week it's hosted by Lanny Waugh of the Blues Vibrations. Thursday is 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

The Mercury (水星酒館), a new club that opened a few months ago in Kaohsiung, features live music by indie bands. Solo singer and guitarist **Seamas** Manly plays rock tomorrow. Also

- appearing is indie-rock duo Dim Bulb. ■ 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 QUEEN BEE

LEO37 and the rest of HHHT have three shows lined up for this month, starting tomorrow in Taichung. PHOTO COURTESY OF DESIREE BUTLER



hether you're a hip-hopper, a funk-soul brother or an offbeat EDM cat, this weekend's gonna be a good one if you hit the right spots.

For starters, the HHHT (High Heels & Hi-Tops) crew is ready to kick off a tour with member Leo Shia (aka LEO37, the Canadian MC who's known as a versatile musician, producer, lyricist and turntablist) back in town. Joining him in Taichung tomorrow are Marcus Aurelius and Edify at Light Lounge.

**Taipei Times: How would you introduce HHHT?** 

**LEO37:** We're the alternative. If you come to one of our nights, you're gonna hear great songs that you've never heard before or haven't heard in a long time. No DJ in HHHT is from the same place or the same age so we offer the unique ability to cover most genres spanning at least a half-dozen decades. If you like hip-hop, house, funk, soul, electro, breakbeat, dancehall, rock or any of those subgenres in between, then this party's for you. TT: Did you find it hard to promote the gigs outside of

Taipei?

**LS:** When it's up to us to promote a show, it can be difficult. I learned that the hard way. HHHT has never really done a show outside of Taipei without a legitimate promoter but individually we all have and, well, we know better now. Regardless, though, those are bumps that you have to deal with when you're grinding.

TT: What brought you back to Taiwan?

**LS:** My girl. Food. Weather. I'm also here working on my third album entitled *Autumn*, that's due out this September on my label (PPF House). Look out for it. TT: What's new?

LS: I brought back my last project with Sunclef called Applause. You can check it out at leo37.bandcamp.com. TT: How was your New Year's Eve?

**LS:** Rowdy! I was part of Frog in a Sock's "Last Minute" New Year's party and it was a blast. I ended up being on the decks and mic for five hours or so and loved every minute of it.

HHHT can be seen tomorrow from 10pm to 5am at Light Lounge, 85 Huamei W St Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市華美西街一段85號), admission is NT\$300; Jan. 23 at 10pm at Brickyard, B1, 507, Jhongshan 2nd Rd, Cianjin Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市前金區中山二路507號B1), admission is NT\$300; and Jan. 30 at 10pm at Seven, 7, Ln 63, Alley 53, Dunhua S Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路

二段63巷53弄7號), admission is NT\$100. Meanwhile, Earworm's new deep-house weekly "Music For Cats" is going down at Hook in Taipei starting

tomorrow.

What's the story? "We found that most parties in Taipei were just one shots, and that the scene needed a more regular thing, for like-minded souls to be able to gather and hear new music every week," BB from Earworm said.

"Also, we discovered during the last couple of years so many young and promising DJs who seldom have an opportunity to show their skills, so we [aim] to program three or four DJs every Saturday at this party.'

Also playing are Baptiste, Al Burro and Soundsquash. Music For Cats happens every Saturday from 11pm to 5am at Hook, 1, Alley 7, Ln 205, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4. Taipei City (台北市大安區忠孝東路4段205巷7弄1號). Admission