TAIPEI TIMES • FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010

#### **EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

#### Theater

#### **National Guoguang Opera** Company (國立國光劇團) bids

farewell to the lunar year with a series of highly anticipated productions under the themes of imposters and mistaken identity. The presence of Peking opera diva Wei Hai-min (魏海 敏), veteran performer Tang Wen-hua (唐文華) and renowned Kungu Opera (崑曲) artist Wen Yuhang (溫宇航) alone is bound to guarantee a large turnout. The selected pieces include A Handful of Snow (一捧雪), Stopping the Horse (擋 馬), Lotus Meets Pearl (荷珠配) and Phoenix Returns to the Nest (鳳還巢).

- Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂), 98 Yanping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,200, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

#### What Is Becoming of Macbeth (馬 克白!?什麼東西) by Lyric's Studio offers a comic take on Shakespeare's play that mixes elements of mime and

- Taiwanese opera. ■ 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 6pm and 8pm
- Tickets are NT\$350. For more information, call Ms Tsai at 0927-161-978

Founded by a group of diabolo artists in 1986, Diabolo Dance Theatre (舞鈴 劇場) has staged over 300 shows in more than 20 countries. Its latest production, Entrance (奇幻旅程), shows off the troupe's eye-dazzling styles and techniques in an imaginative story about a little girl's dreams and fantasies.

- Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德 路三段25號)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Taipei-based English-language troupe **Tellus Theatre** is holding a series of workshops that are open to all. Several participants will be chosen for roles in the company's upcoming spring production scheduled for April 10 to May 2. Workshops are conducted in English, and participants are advised to wear comfortable clothing.

- O Space, 1-8, Ln 34, Quanzhou St, Taipei City (台北市泉州街34巷1-8號)
- Workshops will be held tomorrow from 6pm to 10pm, on Sunday from 2pm to 6pm and Jan. 23 from 8pm and 10pm
- Fees are NT\$120 for three workshops. Call troupe director Daniel at 098-1472-451 or Nita at 0982-204-577 for more information

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 Hsuehliang (卜學亮) and Renzo Liu (劉亮佐). The four play a total of 48 characters in this Mandarin adaptation of the play. This is the first major Broadway production licensed in Chinese. The original continues to run in New York

■ 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

- 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

Who's There, In the Shadow (NSO 2010旅人之歌 — 交錯的浪漫身 影) features pianist Chang Chiao-ying (張巧縈) and cellist Lana Hsiung (熊士蘭) performing with the National Symphony Orchestra (國家交響樂團) under the direction of Chien Wen-pin (簡文彬). The program includes Tyzen Hsiao's (蕭 泰然) Piano Concerto in C Minor, Op. 53

- and Cello Concerto in C, Op. 52. ■ Today 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

36th Junior Original Concert (第 36屆山葉兒童創作曲發表會) is a concert for child composers and performers. Performances will be on piano or Electone, as solos or with orchestral

On the Net: www.yamahakhs.com. ■ Sunday at 7pm (Taipei) and Jan. 23

or choral accompaniment.

- at 7pm (Kaohsiung) ■ Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號) and National Chiang Kai-shek Cultural Center, Kaohsiung City (高雄中正文化中 心至善廳), 67 Wufu 1st Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市五福一路67號)
- Tickets are NT\$300 for Taipei and NT\$150 for Kaohsiung, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

#### **Contemporary**

**Legacy Taipei** tonight hosts The Next Big Thing, a showcase of up-andcoming artists, which the venue is promoting with its sister company, streetvoice.com. Performers include electronica group Frande, rapper Soft Lipa (蛋堡), electro-pop band The Girl and the Robots and post-punk band **Psycho**. Tomorrow popular Taiwanese shredder **Marty Young** (楊沛霖) takes the stage. On Wednesday, reggae rockers Matzka and Di Hot make their weekly appearance, along with Aboriginal singer Jia-jia (家家). On Thursday, it's famed mashup outfit 2manydjs [see Page 13].

- 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市 八德路一段1號)
- Shows start at 8pm tonight and
- tomorrow, and 10pm on Thursday Entrance is N1\$200 tonight, N1\$900 tomorrow (NT\$800 in advance), NT\$400 on Wednesday and NT\$1,800 on Thursday (NT\$1,700 in advance). Prices include one drink. Tickets are available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw or

www.legacy.com.tw

Folk-pop rockers **Staycool** play tonight at the The Wall (這牆). Tomorrow post-rock/folk-rock band We Save Strawberries (草莓救星) and post-rock group Selfkill take the stage. Later on, it's Stylicon Asia, a dance party featuring Japanese DJs Verbal and Mademoiselle Yulia [see the Vinyl Word]. On Sunday, metal buffs will likely be out in full force for Finnish band Ensiferum. Girl and The Machine, an atmospheric lounge rock act from Canada that is currently touring Asia, takes the stage on Thursday [See Highlights].

■ 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 for music shows, NT\$900 tomorrow (NT\$600 in advance) for the dance party, NT\$1,000 on Sunday (NT\$900 in advance) and NT\$300 on Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online through www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Tango Negro (黑探戈) brings an Argentinean mood to Witch House (女巫店) tonight. Appearing tomorrow is American musician Ken Stringfellow, best known for his work with powerpop band the Posies, REM and Big Star. Indie rock band Queen Suitcase (皇后 皮箱) is also on the bill. Girl and The Machine, an atmospheric lounge rock act from Canada, appears on Sunday [see Highlights].

- 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 gueer/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, except this Sunday, which is NT\$400

Expect a full house tonight at Riverside Cafe (河岸留言), which hosts JACK, or "jazz plus rock," featuring pianist **Chang Kai-ya** (張凱 雅) and violinist Hsieh Chi-pin (謝啓 彬). The two lead a jazz band that performs classic rock and pop songs. which in the past have included Led Zeppelin's *Immigrant Song* and the Jackson Five's Going Places. Indie-folk duo katncandix2 (棉花糖) appear tomorrow. On Sunday it's pop singer Alan Kuo (柯有綸). 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 fee is NT\$400 tonight. tomorrow and Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Pop singer **Alien Huang** (黃鴻升) splits the bill with pop-rock band Rock Oriental Express (搖滾東方) tonight at Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演 館). No shows are scheduled for tomorrow. The venue hosts Mandopop singer **Chi Hsin-pei** (季欣霈)

on Sunday. ■ 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 Sunday ■ Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight and Sunday. Tickets can purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/ livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Indie-pop band Come On! Bay Bay! (來吧!焙焙!) opens up for The Peppermints (薄荷葉), who play tonight at **Underworld (地下社會)** in support of their newly released album, Banished (流放地). British hard-rock band Goober Gun appears tomorrow, sharing a bill with expat funk rockers New Hong Kong Hair City. On Wednesday, it's **CC Zone** and Looking Glass.

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

Jo Jo Ma Quintet, a group led by saxophonist Joseph Marchione, performs tonight at Sappho de Base. South African expat pop-rock musician David Vorster appears tomorrow night. Pianist Andrew Page brings his group, The Flock, on Tuesday night, Edamame Jazz Trio (毛豆) plays on Wednesday and on Thursday, it's the Jason Hayashi Trio. ■ B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei

www.sappho102.biz ■ Music shows begin at 10pm on Friday and Saturday and 9:30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Tel: (02) 2700-5411. On the Net:

City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號B1).

Closed on Sundays and Mondays ■ Entrance is NT\$100 tomorrow, free on other nights

Highlights for the week at **EZ5 Live House** include beloved female singer Tiger Huang (黃小琥), who performs two sets every Monday, male crooner Liu Wei-zen (劉偉仁), who appears on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and 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 hosts British hard rockers Goober Gun and indierock favorites 88 Balaz (88顆芭樂籽). Tomorrow night is Fiesta Latino, with live music from **Taipei Latin Soul** and DJs afterwards. Wednesday night is the venue's musical showcase, featuring a roster of bands organized by a different musician every week. This week is hosted by folk rocker TJ **Higgins**. Come ready to dance on Thursday for 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.roxv.com.tw
- Shows start at 10pm ■ Entrance is free

The Mercury (水星酒館), a club that opened a few months ago in Kaohsiung, features indie bands. Windmill (風籟坊) takes the stage tomorrow.

- 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 NT\$200

Tonight Taichung's 89k hosts Girl and The Machine, an atmospheric lounge rock act from Canada currently touring Asia. Also appearing is indierock singer Andy Goode. Gruveballs and Mr Dirty (骯髒先生) split the bill tomorrow.

- 21 Daguan Rd, Nantun Dist, Taichung
- City (台中市南屯區大觀路21號)
- Shows start at 10pm ■ Entrance is NT\$300

#### CORRECTION

Because of an editing error, our report on Chthonic on Page 13 of Monday's edition of the Taipei Times incorrectly stated that they won British magazine Terrorizer's readers' poll for best band. Chthonic placed ahead of Megadeth and Slayer as noted in the article, but took second place overall. The Taipei Times regrets the error.

BY HO YI

# Joanna Wang performs her first stadium gig in Taiwan tomorrow. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SONY MUSIC

## Night and day

espite her tender years, Joanna Wang's (王若琳) voice conveys complex and mature emotions.

**BY ANDREW C.C. HUANG** 

Since the singer's debut album, Start From *Here*, released in 2008 when she was just 18, Wang has risen to become the Chinesespeaking world's preeminent jazz vocalist.

Tomorrow night she presents her first stadium concert in Taiwan, titled 2010 Taipei Concert Adult Storybook (2010台北演唱會大人故 事書), at the National Taiwan University Sports Center (台大綜合體育館).

Behind the image of a highly coiffured, impeccably mannered jazz singer lies a restless young spirit who yearns to be taken seriously as a musician in her own right. Wang, known for her renditions of cover songs, said in an interview earlier this week that she wants to record "an album of my own songs."

Wang spent four years performing in Taiwan's pub circuit before launching her studio career.

For tomorrow's concert, the title of which comes from Wang's second album, a two-CD set (Joanna and 王若琳, The Adult Storybook), she will sing a duet with Mando-pop idol Rainie Yang (楊丞琳) of the latter's Running Into Love (遇上愛).

For more information, see Page 13 of yesterday's edition of the *Taipei Times* for an in-depth interview with Wang, or go to http:// bit.ly/4IXAJa to read the article online.



**PERFORMANCE NOTES:** 

WHAT: Joanna Wang's (王若琳) 2010 Taipei Concert Adult Storybook (2010台北演唱會大

WHEN: Tomorrow at 7:30pm **WHERE:** National Taiwan University Sports

Center (台大綜合體育館) at the intersection of Xinhai and Xinsheng South roads (台北市辛亥 路與新生南路交叉口)

**ADMISSION:** NT\$1,200 to NT\$10,000, available through ERA ticketing at www.ticket.com.tw

**ON THE NET:** www.sonymusic.com. tw/pop/joannawang



#### THE VINYL WORD

an industry where facades and inflated egos are not only nurtured but championed, it's often the most established artists who cause the biggest problems.

DJ, journalist, boutique owner, clothing line CEO and occasional model, Lin Zhe-yi (林哲儀), better known to partygoers as Mykal, has plenty of reason to be enamored with his accomplishments. Yet, upon sitting down with him at his M@M Boutique, one can't help but be disarmed by his humble and gentle demeanor. "Is it alright if I eat while we do this?" he

politely asks.

A 15-year veteran DJ, promoter and pioneer of the Taiwanese club scene, Mykal's playlist is as diverse as his accomplishments, running the gamut from rock and drum 'n' bass to hip-hop and electro.

"When I was just starting out, I had the opportunity to play with Paul Oakenfold," says Mykal. "He told me that a DJ can only get so good before they hit a wall. And the only way to break past is to really know your music. The more you know, the better

Mykal undoubtedly took those words to heart, as he now boasts a resume that few, if any, in Taiwan can measure up to. But even though he's shared the stage with the likes of James Lavelle (UNKLE), DJ Shadow, DJ Krush, Andy C and Adam Freeland, and held residencies at the now-defunct Spin and Party Room nightclubs, as well as a brand new monthly in Luxy's Onyx room, Mykal attributes his success to "good timing."

"I used to go to Spin just to hang out and listen to new music," he reminisces. "They always played songs I had never heard before so I would always ask the DJ for track names. Eventually they got to know me and offered to teach me ... I never intended to actually become a DJ."

Now, after over a decade of rocking parties, Mykal finds himself in a predicament. Several of Taiwan's cuttingedge clubs have closed, giving way to watering holes that play Top 40 music. But Mykal remains optimistic. "Although current club culture [favors] commercial hits," he says, "it's up to DJs like myself, who are still in a privileged position, to go against the grain and provide an alternative. The point isn't to get rid of Top 40, but to have a balance. It'll be tough, but it can be done."

#### Mykal's upcoming performances:

▶ Decadence with Mademoiselle Yulia and Verbal (m-flo) tomorrow 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). Tickets are NT\$600 in



Mykal, still at the top of his game.

advance, NT\$900 at the door. On the Net: www.the-wall.com.tw

▶ Louder with **Diplo** on Thursday at Luxy, 5F, 201, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市 忠孝東路四段201號5樓). Tickets are NT\$600 presale and admission is NT\$800 at the door. On the Net: www.luxy-taipei.com

▶ The second Wednesday of each month in Luxy's Onyx Room with Noodles

M@M Boutique (mamboutique.blogspot.com) is located at 4F-3, 112, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段112號4樓之3). To learn more about Mykal's clothing line, Brainchild, go to brainchildclan.blogspot.com. To listen to Mykal's mixes, go to www.myspace.com/djmykaltaipei.

### HIGHLIGHTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIRL AND THE MACHINI

Canadian group Girl and The Machine, which calls its music "electrorock and experimental pop with an ethnic flavor of world music," has been in Taiwan for a run of shows that started last week. The group appears on Sunday at **Witch** 

House (女巫店) for a pared-down acoustic set and at **The Wall (這牆)** on Thursday for its full "visual circus show," when video and light images will accompany its live performance. Judging from the band's MySpace page and YouTube clips, it tries to create a loungerock atmosphere, with lead singer Jackie Liew playing the modern-day cabaret singer with an eye-catching wardrobe. ▶ Girl and The Machine, 9:30pm on Sunday at Witch House, located at 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台 北市新生南路三段56巷7號) and

▶ Admission is NT\$400 on Sunday and NT\$300 on Thursday

市羅斯福路四段200號B1)

Thursday at 8pm at The Wall (這牆), B1,

200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北



PHOTO COURTESY OF CECIL MATHIEU



Power pop troubadour Ken Stringfellow plays Witch House tomorrow night.

Power-pop fans and aspiring indie troubadours won't want to miss **Ken** Stringfellow's show on Sunday night at Witch House (女巫店).

Best known as the frontman for the beloved 1990s power-pop group the Posies, with whom he still tours, Stringfellow has collaborated with a who's who of the US' modern rock scene. He's toured with REM, and is part of the current lineup of Alex Chilton's legendary underground band Big Star. The Paris-based American musician is on a solo tour of Asia to promote material from one of his side projects, the Norwegianbased band, THE DISCIPLINES. Stringfellow told the *Taipei Times* to expect a "stripped-down affair — just me, my electric guitar and some songs

on the piano." ▶ Ken Stringfellow, 9:30pm on Sunday at Witch House, located at 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新 生南路三段56巷7號)

▶ Admission is NT\$300

Private Lessons. directed by Joachim Lafosse.

Cinema of Tomorrow (明日電影), Spot — Taipei Film House's (光點一台北之家) newest POP Cinema program, comprises 27 films that showcase emerging trends in filmmaking, such as international co-production, and new talent from across the world. South Korean director Hong Sang-soo went to Paris to make Night and Day, in which a Korean fugitive wanders aimlessly through the city. Dutch director David Verbeek weaves together three parallel stories in Shanghai Trance, which reveals a

Up-and-coming directors that are worth keeping an eye on include 25-year-old Valeriya Gai Germanika from Russia, who won the Golden Camera award at Cannes last year with her feature debut Everybody Dies But Me, a film about three teenage girls who rebel against their school, parents and, eventually, each other.

In Tony Manero, young Brazilian filmmaker Pablo Larrain takes a sober look at Chile during Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship. The film's protagonist is a middle-aged man who is obsessed with impersonating Tony Manero, John Travolta's character in Saturday Night Fever. Much lighter in tone is Our Beloved Month of August by Portuguese director Miguel Gomes, which tells the story of a film crew that shoots a romance in a picturesque mountain village.

▶ Tickets cost NT\$170 for Spot members and NT\$200 for non-members, available at the door or through NTCH ticket outlets

▶ Cinema of Tomorrow runs through Jan. 29 at Spot and from Feb. 2 to Feb. 7 at the Kaohsiung Municipal Film Archive (高雄市電影圖書館), where screenings are free. On the Net: www.twfilm.org/tomorrow