

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

The International Kaohsiung County Puppet Theater Festival (高雄縣偶戲藝術節) celebrates puppetry this year with a lineup featuring more than 90 traditional and contemporary performances by 29 groups from South Korea, Taiwan, Australia, France, Italy, Brazil and Bulgaria. For more information, visit the event's bilingual site at 2010puppetry.kccc.gov.tw.

■ Preparatory Office, Wei Wu Ying Center for the Arts (高雄縣衛武營藝術文化中心籌備處) 449-1, Nanjing Rd, Fengshan City, Kaohsiung County (高雄縣鳳山市南京路449-1號)
■ The festival runs from Sunday through Feb. 21. For the complete schedule, visit 2010puppetry.kccc.gov.tw/en/en04.html
■ No admission fee for outdoor shows. Indoor performances cost NT\$150, with tickets available through NTCH outlets or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Dazzling lights, thumping techno and audience participation: **Fuerzabruta** is an exuberant display of theatrics. The show features a large shallow pool in which female performers splash and slide about. The production will run through the Lunar New Year holiday until March 7.
■ Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Department Store (新光三越), A10 parking lot (A10停車場), 12 Songgao Rd, Taipei City (台北市松高路12號)
■ Sunday and Monday at 7:30pm and 10pm, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30pm. For the complete schedule, go to fb.show.gmg.tw
■ Tickets are NT\$1,900 and NT\$2,300, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Part of the annual Taiwan International Festival, **1433 — The Grand Voyage (鄭和1433)** is a musical inspired by Chinese mariner Zheng He's (鄭和) legendary 15th century sea voyages. The work is an international collaboration between U-Theatre, stage director Robert Wilson and other renowned artists including Oscar-winning art director Yip Tim (葉錦添), jazz musicians Ornette Coleman and Richard Landry and Taiwanese opera diva Tang Mei-yun (唐美雲). [See story on Page 13.]
■ National Theater, Taipei City
■ Feb. 20, Feb. 24 and Feb. 25 at 7:30pm, Feb. 21 at 2:30pm
■ Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$3,600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Billed as the country's only professional performing group specializing in Huangmei opera (黃梅調), Wang You-lan's Huangmei Opera Theater Studio (王友蘭黃梅調劇藝坊) has put together a program of the genre's

classics, including **The Butterfly Lovers (梁山伯與祝英台)** and **Consort Prince in Disguise (女駝馬)**.

■ National Taiwan Arts Education Center (國立台灣藝術教育館), 47 Nanhai Rd, Taipei City (台北市南海路47號)
■ Feb. 20 at 7pm
■ Tickets are NT\$100 to NT\$1,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Make a funny face and you could win NT\$3,000 in a competition being held at the **Comedy Club** on Feb. 19. On Feb. 20 the winner of the club's lip-synching contest will walk away with NT\$5,000. Participants are asked to register online at www.comedy.com.tw/node/387. The registration fee is NT\$50 for each competition.
■ Comedy Club, B1, 24 Taishun St, Taipei City (台北市泰順街24號B1)
■ Preliminaries begin at 3pm. Finals begin at 8pm
■ Tickets are NT\$100 at the door, which includes one drink

Classical music

Dream of the Red Chamber vs The Emperor of Chu (紅樓夢vs西楚霸王) is a program of zheng (箏) music, which presents the premiere of a new work by Yu Hsiu-ling (游秀玲), titled *Dream of the Red Chamber (紅樓夢)*, and includes other works designed to show off the range and expressiveness of this versatile instrument.
■ Feb. 23 at 7:30pm
■ National Recital Hall, Taipei City
■ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Kunita Tomohiro Horn Recital (國田朋宏法國號獨奏會) presents French horn specialist Kunita Tomohiro, accompanied on piano by Huang Jen-hsien (黃任賢), performing a program that includes Eugene Bozza's *En Foret*, JW Kalliwoda's *Introduction and Rondo Op.51* and Sarasate's *Carmen Fantasy*.
■ Feb. 24 at 7:30pm
■ National Recital Hall, Taipei City
■ Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$300, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Please note that most venues will be closed this weekend for the Lunar New Year

holiday. Below are shows for next week, as the Around Town section will not be published in the Feb. 19 edition of the *Taipei Times*. Around Town returns on Feb. 26.

EZ5 Live House, which hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night, will be open throughout the Lunar New Year Holiday except on Sunday night. House favorite **Tiger Huang** (黃小琥) will be taking the night off this Monday but returns the following week. You can still catch other popular performers such as **Julia Peng** (彭佳慧), who appears every Tuesday, and male singer **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: www.ez5.com
■ Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am
■ Entrance (includes two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer

There won't be any live performances when

Witch House (女巫店) reopens on Tuesday, but it might be a good time to check out the venue's extensive collection of German board games. On Thursday Witch House hosts indie-pop band **Come on! Bay Bay!** (來吧! 培培!). On Feb. 19 it's Amis singer **Hsiao Mei** (小美) and accompanist **A-luo** (阿洛), and on Feb. 20, Amis singer **Long-ge** (龍哥) performs a set of soulful and rousing drinking songs.
■ 7, Ln 56, Xincheng 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

Legacy Taipei, located in a former warehouse at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), hosts top Taiwanese bands and international acts. On Feb. 20 the venue holds its first show of the Lunar New Year

with **Hawawa Yang** (楊雋時), a singer best known for her appearances on the *Super Idol* (超級偶像) TV reality show.
■ 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1號)
■ Show starts at 8pm
■ Entrance is NT\$800 at the door, NT\$600 in advance. Prices include one drink. Tickets available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw or www.legacy.com.tw or at ibon electronics kiosks at 7-Eleven stores

The Wall (牆牆) reopens on Feb. 23 with Toronto post-rock band **Do Make Say Think**. On Feb. 24 it's noise band **Sunset Rollercoaster** (落日飛車) and indie-rockers **Macbeth and Radicalo**. On Feb. 25 actress and neo-folk singer **Enno Cheng** (鄭宜農) performs with indie bands **Ride to Where** (騎去哪) and **Tuesday** (星期二樂團).
■ 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
■ Shows start at 8pm
■ Entrance is NT\$1,300 for Do Make Say Think and NT\$300 for the other shows. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Riverside Cafe (河岸留聲) welcomes the Lunar New Year on Feb. 19 with **Real Collective Jazz Quartet** (爵士四重奏). On Feb. 20 it's pop rocker **Misi Ke** (柯武黨) and her band **D-Power** and up-and-coming Mando-pop singer **Mon Mon** (蔡孟臻). On Feb. 21 solo act **Mia Tzeng** (曾鈺婷) takes the stage. Feb. 22 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 on Feb. 19 and 9pm on Feb. 20 and Feb. 21. Feb. 22'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 on Feb. 19 and Feb. 20, NT\$350 on Feb. 21 and NT\$150 on Feb. 22

Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演館) reopens on Thursday with metal band **Assassin** (刺客) and Hakka rock band **Zenkunw** (神棍樂團). On Feb. 19 pop-rock singer **Tong-en** (同恩) takes the stage, sharing the bill with up-and-coming Mando-pop performer **Chase Chang** (張傑). Pop-rock group **Champion** (強辯) appears on Feb. 21.
■ 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 on Thursday and on

Feb. 19 and 7pm on Feb. 21
■ Entrance fee is NT\$400 on Thursday and Feb. 19 and NT\$500 on Feb. 21. Tickets can be purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse/ or tickets.books.com.tw.

Underworld (地下社會) resumes live shows on Feb. 19 with indie bands **MacBeth** and girl rockers **Pleasure Science** (愉悅科學). Expect this small club to be packed on Feb. 20 when beloved indie-pop band **1976** takes the stage.
■ 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. NT\$100 on Wednesdays

Sappho de Base reopens on Wednesday with the **Kenyatta Jazz Ensemble**, led by New Orleans expat drummer Nbugu Kenyatta. On Thursday it's blues duo **Blurrs Brothers**. The venue hosts regulars **Earl Hines II Jazztet** on Feb. 19 and **Jo Jo Ma Quartet** on Feb. 20.
■ 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 10:30pm on Friday and Saturday and 9:30pm on Thursday and 10pm on Wednesday. Closed on Sundays and Mondays
■ No entrance fee

Roxy Roots opens on Sunday, but no live performances are scheduled until Wednesday night, which is the venue's special music showcase. This week is hosted by rocker **Chiao Yu-long** (喬玉龍). Come ready to dance on Thursday for Salsaton and Reggaeton night. On Feb. 19 expat rockers **Sons of Homer** take the stage, and on Feb. 20 **Taipei Latin Soul** performs Latin music [see Highlight].
■ 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) in Kaohsiung features indie bands every week. On Feb. 20 the venue hosts acoustic folk rock band **The Angles** (角落).
■ 46 Liwen Rd, Zuoying Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市中營區立文路46號). Tel: (07) 550-8617. On the Net: mercurybar.blogspot.com
■ Show starts at 8:30pm
■ Entrance is NT\$200, includes one drink



Next weekend Sons of Homer are throwing Homerfest, two shows dedicated to a former bandmate in need.

Sons of Homer, which appears on Feb. 19 at **Roxy Roots** in Taipei and Feb. 20 at the **Red Wolf** in Tainan, is an expat rock band with a keen sense of humor and a big heart. The band's five members re-named the group in honor of their friend and former guitarist Homer Pastore, a Filipino worker who ran into bad luck after leaving Taiwan several years ago. His son died soon after he returned to the Philippines, and in September his home was flooded during a typhoon. Next weekend's shows have been dubbed "Homerfest" and the band is donating all proceeds to Pastore. The mood at the shows, as usual, will be lighthearted. The group's music is full of irreverent slacker wit and catchy beats ranging from surf rock and

reggae to pop ballads. Vocalist Brandon Thompson's *Night Mescal Blues*, sung in Mandarin, Hoklo (commonly known as Taiwanese) and English, is a hilarious take on foreigners trying to pick up Taiwanese women. Supporting the group on both nights are expat bands **Space Funk** and **The Green Machine**. For more information, visit the Sons of Homer page on Facebook
► Feb. 19 at Roxy Roots, 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路90號) and Feb. 20 at Red Wolf Tavern, 229 Gongyuan Rd, Tainan City (台南市公園路229號)
► Shows start at 9pm
► Suggested donation of NT\$200 on Feb. 19, free on Feb. 20 (proceeds from the bar go to Pastore's family)
► On the Net: mspace.com/sonsofhomer

Out and about during the Lunar New Year

BY DAVID CHEN
STAFF REPORTER

The mad rush starts this weekend as everyone heads home for the Lunar New Year holiday, which runs nine days this year. If traveling, save yourself the headache of driving in heavy traffic and take buses and trains where possible.

For those making last-minute plans, the Tourism Bureau advises that train and bus tickets are often fully booked on Lunar New Year's Eve and the first day of the Lunar New Year, which fall tomorrow and Sunday, respectively. Whether you're driving or using public transportation, expect large crowds and traffic delays all next week, especially at major scenic areas around the country.

Before heading out, you can see how big the crowds will be at tourist hot spots. The Tourism Bureau's Scenic Spot Alert System (tourspots.tbroc.gov.tw/land/trvplc_opn.asp), a Web site (in Chinese only) that gets updated every few hours, posts the number of visitors at over a dozen major attractions including Taipei 101, Sun Moon Lake (日月潭), and Kending (雞丁). There's even a tourist "forecast" for the entire week: The Web site estimates that the National Palace Museum will see around 3,000 people on Sunday, the first day of the Lunar New Year, with attendance peaking on Wednesday with more than 5,000 visitors.

For Taipei residents who don't want to travel far, most major shopping areas, movie theaters and museums will remain open. For day trips or overnight getaways, hot springs resorts in Yangmingshan and Wulai offer respite from the cold weather that usually arrives at this time of year.

Note that tomorrow is Lunar New Year's Eve, which means that shops and stores will close early, usually around 5pm or 6pm. Some bus lines will run reduced services, but the MRT will follow its normal schedule for the entire holiday.

PLACES TO GO IN TAIPEI

Taipei 101
Address: 7, Xinyi Rd Sec 5, Taipei City (台北市信義路五段7號)
Telephone: (02) 8101-7777

Open: The Observation Deck is open from 9am to 6pm tomorrow and 9am to 10pm each day for the rest of the holiday. The shopping mall is open from 11am to 6pm tomorrow and 11am to 10pm during the rest of the holiday

Sogo Department Store
Address: Zhongxiao Branch (忠孝館), 9F, 45, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段45號9樓); Fuxing Branch (復興館), 300, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路三段300號)
Web site: www.sogo.com.tw
Open: Both the Zhongxiao and Fuxing branches are open from 11am to 5pm tomorrow and 11am to 10pm each day for the rest of the holiday

Miramar Entertainment Park (美羅華百樂園)
Address: 20 Jingye 3rd Rd, Neihu Dist, Taipei City (台北市內湖區敬業三路20號)
Telephone: (02) 2175-3456
Open: The ferris wheel is open from 11am to 6pm tomorrow, 11am to midnight from Sunday to Saturday

Miramar Cinemas (美羅華影城) and IMAX Theater
Address: 6F, 22 Jingye 3rd Rd, Neihu Dist, Taipei City (台北市內湖區敬業三路22號6樓)
Telephone: (02) 8161-1900
Open: Normal opening hours throughout the entire holiday. Visit www.miramarcinemas.com.tw for movie listings and screening times and to reserve tickets

National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院)
Address: 221 Zhishan Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市至善路二段221號)
Telephone: (02) 2881-2021
Open: 9am to 4pm tomorrow, 9am to 5pm for the rest of the holiday

Taipei Fine Arts Museum (台北市立美術館)
Address: 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市中山北路三段181號)
Telephone: (02) 2595-7656
Open: Closed tomorrow and Sunday, special exhibitions open from 9:30am to 8:30pm each day for the rest of the holiday

SPOT — Taipei Film House (台北光點)
Address: 18, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市中山北路二段18號)
Telephone: (02) 2511-7786
Open: Closed tomorrow, Sunday and

Monday. Open starting Tuesday from 11am to 10pm. For a list of films and screening times, visit www.spot.org.tw

HOT SPRINGS

Tien Lai (天籟溫泉會館)
Located near Yangmingshan National Park (陽明山國家公園), this hot springs resort has rooms for two starting at NT\$8,000 during the holiday and day trip specials, including lunch and access to hot springs facilities for NT\$999 plus 10 percent service charge.
Address: 1-7 Mingliu Rd, Zhonghe Village, Jinchuan Township, Taipei County (台北縣金山鄉重和村名流路1-7號)
Telephone: (02) 2659-6888
On the Net: www.tienlai.com.tw

Villa 32 (三二行館)
Spending the night at this Zen-inspired luxury hot springs resort in Beitou can cost between NT\$16,000 to NT\$25,000. But you don't have to spend your entire Lunar New Year's bonus to visit. More affordable packages are available for a day visit that includes a meal and a dunk in the hot springs, at NT\$2,570 for lunch or NT\$3,570 dinner. Reservations are a must.
Address: 32 Zhongshan Rd, Beitou Dist, Taipei City (台北市北投區中山路32號)
Telephone: (02) 6611-8888
On the Net: www.villa32.com

Wulai Spring Resort (烏來溫泉會館)
For a sulfur-free hot spring, head to Wulai. The rooms at this hot springs hotel are fully booked, but you can still visit the public baths for NT\$500 per person.
Address: 36 Laka Rd, Wulai Township, Taipei County (台北縣烏來鄉卡路36號)
Telephone: (02) 2661-6161
On the Net: www.wulai-spring.com.tw

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

The following nightspots and restaurants will remain open throughout the Lunar New Year holiday. Some places close early tomorrow for Lunar New Year's Eve — it's always best to call ahead and confirm the establishment's business hours.

Hell's Kitchen
Address: 1, Civil Blvd Sec 5, Taipei City (台北市市民大道五段1號)
Telephone: (02) 2748-6407
Open: Daily from 8pm till late

JB's
Address: 148 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路148號)
Telephone: (02) 2364-8222
Open: Daily from 5pm to 1am or 2am. Kitchen closed this Saturday and Monday, but the bar will remain open

On Tap
Address: 49, Ln 308, Guangfu S Rd, Taipei City (台北市光復南路308巷49號)
Telephone: (02) 2741-5365
Open: Daily from 6pm till late. Kitchen closed this Sunday, but the bar will remain open

Barcode
Address: 5F, 22 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路22號5F)
Telephone: (02) 2725-3520
Open: Daily from 9pm to 2:30am, except tomorrow, when Barcode opens at 11pm

Room 18
Address: B1, 18 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路18號 B1)
Telephone: (02) 2345-2778
Open: Sundays through Thursdays from 9pm to 2:30am. Fridays and Saturdays from 9pm to 3am, except tomorrow, when Room 18 opens at midnight

Brass Monkey
Address: 166 Fuxing N Rd, Taipei City (台北市復興北路166號)
Telephone: (02) 2547-5050
Open: Weekdays from 5pm to 1am, closes at 4am on Thursdays and 2am on Fridays and Saturdays

Carnegie's
Address: 100, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段100號)
Telephone: (02) 2325-4433
Open: Daily from 11pm to 2am throughout the entire holiday

The Tavern
Address: 5, Lane 380, Keelung Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市基隆路一段380巷5號)
Telephone: (02) 8780-0892
Open: From 5pm to 2am throughout the

entire holiday

Jake's Country Kitchen
Address: 705, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 6, Taipei City (台北市中山北路六段705號)
Telephone: (02) 2871-5289
Open: Tomorrow from 6:30am to 3pm, Sunday and Monday from 9:30am to 9:30pm and Tuesday through Feb. 18 from 9:30am to midnight

Grandma Nitti's
Address: 8, Ln 93, Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路93巷8號)
Telephone: (02) 2369-9751
Open: Tomorrow from 10am to 5pm, Sunday to Tuesday from noon to 8pm. Normal business hours resume on Wednesday

A worker carries a replica of a tiger head, which will be used for the Chinese Tiger Dance, ahead of Lunar New Year celebrations at a shop in Shah Alam outside Kuala Lumpur. PHOTOS: REUTERS

