

## Just

CONTINUED FROM P13

## TT: What has kept you in Europe?

LM: I wanted to come home, but my husband is German. Destiny takes you to where you have to be. We are both working as artists in the German theater system.

The German system is great, having that kind of support. You are always able to learn, to try, to fail. I have to produce at least two new full evening productions every season ... At the start I had to do three. That is very hard, so a lot of people [choreographers or artistic directors] can't hold on for more than five years.

We divide the things by department, public relations, accounts, choreography, artistic director. I have people working with me, so I just have to make decisions. As artistic director I can choose the piece I want, the dancers I want.

It can be hard to find a balance between being artistic director and choreographer. The German system is very good in this way, although it took me a while to organize myself in doing these two jobs. When I'm in the studio rehearsing I think only as a choreographer, I don't ask about budgets or schedules. When I leave the studio and go to the office, then I ask questions about budget, scheduling. When you mix it, it can be hard, but if there's a conflict then I'm the choreographer. I always favor the artistic.

TT: Tell me about *Swan Song* (Schwanengesang), your latest piece.

LM: It premiered in November and now it is in repertoire, so our last performance of it was on Feb. 22.

I choose different themes for every piece. For this part I knew the opera, I was very curious and found it interesting so I read the novel. I decided it has inspirational possibilities. But I am not telling this story. I chose six different scenes, the motifs in the story while I was reading, they were what touched me, what I thought.

## TT: Looking at a video clip, the piece appears to mix very dramatic scenes with very humorous ones. The nuts with the strange wimples, for example. Is this mix normal for you — darkness with humor?

LM: I don't know if this is very typical, it's unconscious. The working title was "Demon Seed" because these kinds of demons are inside everyone. I show something very dark with a contrasting scene, it's like life, it's ironic. If people are very happy I want to know what's behind them, what's hiding, what's between the lines. I'm always reading the lines.

## TT: Would you say your choreographic style is very "German," like Bausch's?

LM: I come from a very different cultural background. I'm from Taiwan. I was in Italy at the most important age, as a teenager, and then I went to Germany at the right age [young adult]. But when I left school, I left that style. Pina Bausch is like a light but far away. I don't try to follow that light. I think I am going against German tradition, even after 20 years in Germany. Critics say I am pushing a renaissance in dance theater in Germany because I have no fear of combining influences, because I am willing to challenge tradition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TANZTHEATER DES STAATSTHEATERS DARMSTADT

BY HO YI

## Vinyl is back (again)

Initiated by Eslite music stores (誠品音樂館) in 2007, the annual vinyl mart expands to two venues this year.

While Eslite Bookstore in Taichung hosts Vinyl Underground in August, Taipei's Dunnan branch has already transformed its basement gallery into a showroom packed with some 12,000 records issued by nine music labels.

Compared to previous editions, which included exhibitions, live performances and DJ shows, this year's focus is more on vinyl records, says Wu Wu-chang (吳武璋), head of Eslite's record store.

Though classical music makes up the bulk of the collection, rare secondhand Chinese-language albums, many dating back 20 to 30 years, are prominent among this year's offerings.

"The 1970s and 1980s were the golden age of vinyl records in Taiwan. So [the secondhand collection] is like a review of the Chinese-language music during that time," Wu said.

Albums by former pop idols Teresa Teng (鄧麗君), Bobby Liu (劉文正) and Tsui Tai-ching (崔苔菁) are among the most collectable offerings at Vinyl Underground, at least in the eyes of their now middle-aged fans.

More recent performers include Julie Su (蘇芮), Taiwan's pioneering female rocker from the 1980s, erstwhile Mando-pop queens Sarah Chen (陳淑樺) and Tracy Huang (黃鶯鶯), boy band *The Little Tigers* (小虎隊) and 1990s Hong Kong pop group Grasshopper (草蜢). There are also a few records by The Wynners (溫拿五虎), a popular boy outfit in 1970s Hong Kong that will hold a concert at Taipei Arena (台北小巨蛋) on March 13.

One record that particularly caught this reporter's attention was by a very young and handsome Chow Yun-fat (周潤發) singing the theme tunes from several movies he did in the 1980s.

To vinyl enthusiasts like Wu, the merits of the music format are multifold: LP records not only deliver analog sound superior to most digital recordings, but can be appreciated as works of art in their own right.



Some of the records at Vinyl Underground are of historical value, reflecting the values of the times in which they were made.

For example, *The Songs of Ching Ching* (菁菁之歌), a Mandarin-language record, was produced in the 1970s when all forms of media were closely

controlled by the state. The album's *Song of Swimming* (游泳歌) encourages listeners to go swimming and lead healthy lifestyles so Taiwan can "re-conquer the Mainland (反攻大陸)."

Patriotic sentiments can also be found on retired entertainer and singer Chang Ti's (張帝) record *The*

*Nation* (國家), made two years after the US broke diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 1979. A sermon encouraging Taiwanese not to forget their roots, the title track prompted a wave of Taiwanese expatriates to return home, Wu said.

Next year is Kaohsiung's turn to co-host the fest.

## EVENT NOTES:

WHAT: Vinyl Underground (地下黑膠市集)

WHEN: Through March 14 from 11am to 10pm

WHERE: Eslite Bookstore — Dunnan B2 Art Space (誠品敦南B2藝文空間), B2, 245, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段245號B2)

ON THE NET: www.wretch.cc/blog/eslitemp

## EVENTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## Theater

Part of the 2010 Taiwan International Festival, *Snow White* by award-winning French choreographer Angelin Preljocaj is a romantic contemporary ballet set to Gustav Mahler's music. All the Ballet Preljocaj's 26 dancers will perform wearing costumes by Jean Paul Gaultier, and the set was designed by Thierry Leproust. [See story on Page 13.]

■ National Theater, Taipei City  
 ■ Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$3,600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

## The Sky Crisis (飛天行動)

begins its third run tonight at the Experimental Theater. The Party Theater Group (同黨劇團) production tells the tale of a mad scientist who threatens to launch nuclear missiles against China to ensure Taiwan's independence. Actors Chui An-chen (邱安忱) and Betsy Lan (藍貝芝) play six characters in the black comedy.

■ Experimental Theater, Taipei City  
 ■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Horse, Taiwan's first and so far only all-male dance company, (戲舞劇場) presents *M. Dans 2010*, a compilation of new work by the troupe's young artists, as well as American modern ballet choreographer Eliot Feld's *Proverb*.

■ 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 7:45pm, tomorrow at 2:45pm and 7:45pm and Sunday at 2:45pm.  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$500 and NT\$700, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Founded by television producer Wang Wei-chung (王偉忠) in June, All U People Theater (全民大劇團) presents *Television Station in Chaos* (瘋狂電視台—相聲了沒), a stand-up comedy performed in Mandarin that tells the story of five workers who try to rescue the TV company they work for from bankruptcy. The cast includes comedian Bacy Tang (唐從聖) and theater veteran Luo Bei-an (羅北安).

■ Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)  
 ■ Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$350 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

For *Search, Lost Footprint* (尋回·失落的印記), Formosa Aboriginal Song and Dance Troupe (原舞者) uses the music and dance of the Taroko tribe (太魯閣族) to tell the story of an urban Aboriginal man who becomes aware of his people's ancient beliefs.

■ Performance Hall of the Bureau of Cultural Affairs Hsinchu City (新竹市文化局演藝廳), 17, Dongda Rd Sec 2, Hsinchu

City (新竹市東大路二段17號).

■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$900, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

## Classical music

**Magnificent Recorder — TSO Concert With Maurice Steger** (笛聲好響——北市交與史蒂格) features the celebrated Swiss recorder virtuoso performing with and conducting the Taipei Symphony Orchestra (臺北市立交響樂團). The program includes Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, Telemann's *Suite in A Minor*, Vivaldi's *La Notte* and *Il Cardellino* and *Concerto for Woodwind and Strings in F Major, RV 574*.

■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm  
 ■ Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂), 98 Yanping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號)  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

## Ou Yang Ling-yi Solo Recital (歐陽伶宜大提琴獨奏會)

presents the young cellist Ou Yang Ling-yi (歐陽伶宜) performing a program that includes *Sonata for Violoncello and Piano No 1 in E Minor, Op 38* and *Sonata for Piano and Violoncello No 2 in F Major, Op 99* by Brahms. In addition to Sunday's concert, Ou Yang will perform at the National Recital Hall, Taipei City, on March 21.

■ Sunday at 2:30pm  
 ■ Sinhuang City Cultural Center (新莊文化藝術中心), 133 Jingong Rd, Sinhuang City, Taipei County (台北縣新莊市中平路133號)  
 ■ Tickets are NT\$100, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

## Contemporary

**Legacy Taipei**, located in a former warehouse at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), hosts top Taiwanese pop performers and international acts. Tonight's concert featuring Mando-pop singer **Julia Peng** (彭佳慧) is already sold out. **Julie Chu** (朱俐靜), best known for her appearances on the TV reality show *Super Idol* (超級偶像), performs tomorrow. On Wednesday Taitung reggae rockers **Matzka and Di Hot** appear for their weekly show at the venue.

■ Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), Center Five Hall (中五廳), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)  
 ■ Shows start at 8pm  
 ■ Tonight's show is sold out. Entrance is NT\$800 tomorrow (NT\$600 in advance) and NT\$400 Wednesday. Prices include one drink. Tickets available at 7-Eleven ibon kiosks, through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw or www.legacy.com.tw

Indie rock band **Bearbabe** (熊寶貝樂團) takes the stage tonight at **The Wall** (遠牆). Comedy rockers **Won Fu** (旺福)

appear tomorrow night and on Sunday. Also appearing on Sunday are **Funky Brothers** (放克兄弟的大計畫), electro-band **Jindowin** (勁斗雲) and punks **Beright**. On Thursday the venue hosts **The Tic Tac**, which mixes post-punk and baroque pop, and all-girl rock band **Pleasure Science**.

■ 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 7pm tonight, and 8pm tomorrow, Sunday and Thursday  
 ■ Admission is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$500 tomorrow and NT\$300 Sunday and Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online at www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

## Ying-ying and Friends (跨界音樂會)

perform classical and Broadway-influenced pop tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). Tomorrow is a cappella night with **Focal Plus** and **Voco Novo**. On Thursday **Shine Lin** (林倩), lead singer of **The Peppermints**, performs a solo set along with singer-actress **Enno Cheng** (鄭宜農).

■ 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

Veteran jazz combo **JEG** (這個爵士樂團) plays standards, Latin, funk, rock and fusion tonight at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸雷管).

■ Hilarious and wacky alt-rock legends **The Clippers** (夾子電動大樂隊) appear tomorrow. On Sunday it's pop-rock groups **No Key Band** and **SpyC** (史派西樂團). 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 and 9pm 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 and tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 Monday

Post-punk band **Psycho** and energetic garage rockers **White Eyes** (白目樂隊) play tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館). Electro-pop band **The Girl and the Robots** (女孩與機器人) appears tomorrow with special guest **Ciacia** (何欣穗). On Sunday **Miaoji Gongdehui** (瞄濟功德會) plays fusion, funk and disco, followed by solo pop artist **No Name**.

■ 177 Xinying 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  
 ■ Admission is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$500 tomorrow (includes band's

new CD single) and NT\$400 Sunday. Tickets can be purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

**Boyz and Girl** (男孩們女孩), an indie-pop group led by a singer with an airy-sweet voice, appears tonight at **Underworld** (地下社會).

Also on the bill are girl rockers **Pleasure Science** (愉悅科學). Happy punk bands **Children Sucker** (表兒) and **Random** (隨性) take to the stage tomorrow night. On Wednesday it's up-and-coming bands **Zoom In** and **Uncolored Unknown** (模稜未知).

■ 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 Wednesday

Flaneur Daguerre, a jazz quartet that plays everything from Bach to Bjork and Ornette Coleman to the Ramones, performs tonight at **Sappho de Base**.

Tomorrow it's the **Jo Jo Ma Quartet**, a group led by saxophonist Joseph Marchione. On Tuesday piano, drums and bass ensemble **Yohei Jazz Trio** takes the stage, and on Wednesday the **Kenyatta Jazz Ensemble** appears. On Thursday it's bossa nova sounds from the **Bossarella Trio**.

■ 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 tonight and tomorrow, 9:30pm Tuesday and Thursday and 10pm Wednesday. Closed on Sundays and Mondays  
 ■ Entrance is NT\$100 tomorrow and Wednesday, free on other nights

Tonight at **Roxy Roots Rock in Hose Burlesque** puts on a burlesque show.

Tomorrow expat hip-hop act **Dr Reniculous Lipz** takes the stage.

■ 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 NT\$300 on Fridays and Saturdays (NT\$200 credited toward food and drinks)

**EZS Live House** hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights for the week ahead include 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.ezs.com.tw  
 ■ Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am  
 ■ Admission (includes two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer

## THE VINYL WORD

BY LEO SHIA



DJ Mouss pushes the envelope this weekend at Club W and Spark.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUSS

It's the age-old conundrum faced by many an aspiring artist: Give the public what business thinks they want, or stay true to your own creative impulse.

This has become especially evident in the current music industry model where more experimental artists, if signed at all, tend to get smaller marketing budgets and promotions, while those following more established pop formulas are given a shot at international success at the expense of their own creative input.

This is why **DJ Mouss** is special. 2000 World ITF Team Champion (France), two-time French DMC Champion, three-time Moroccan DMC champion and one of the pioneering figures in the VJ, or video jockey, movement, the Parisian DJ isn't just any old DMC veteran.

From his first major championship win 13 years ago, Mouss has consistently pushed boundaries and aimed to redefine the DJ's status quo. From mixing traditional Moroccan songs with James Brown breaks to making capacity crowds rock to odd-metered scratch clinics, Mouss isn't afraid of changing it up.

"During the last Technoparade in Paris, I made 80,000 people dance to R'n'B music! It was awesome," he said.

This notable showing at one of Europe's biggest dance music events of the past few years is just one of a laundry list of accomplishments. Since emerging on the club scene, Mouss has shared a stage with Usher and Fatman Scoop, to name but a few, while holding international residencies at the infamous Queen Club and Mandala Ray in Paris, Teatro in Marrakesh, Mint in Hong Kong, Red Club in Luxembourg and Club Indochine in Zurich, as well as tours through dozens of cities across the globe.

"My favorite aspect of club deejaying is that internationally people all want the same things," he said, "having fun and forgetting about their worries and job restraints. The fact that I get to participate in their relaxation makes me so happy. People are different in every country but music has a way of bringing people together. It's magic."

When he's not rocking parties, Mouss has a weekly program on France's NRJ Radio, is a producer for several international artists and is the pioneering force and VJ for MTV Base's *Video Party* mixes.

At his Taipei dates, expect everything from hip-hop and house to electro and rock, never-before-heard remixes, cuts and tricks all blended into one amazing set.

"The Taiwanese really know fun," he recalls from his last visit. "Spark was incredible. For all those who couldn't make it last time do not miss this party. It'll be a musical journey to remember."

Tonight from 10pm at Club W, B1, 67, Roosevelt Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路二段67號B1). Admission: NT\$600 for men, NT\$350 for women at the door. On the Net: www.clubwtaipei.com

Tomorrow from 10pm at Spark, B1, 45, Shifu Rd, Taipei City (台北市市府路45號B1). Admission: NT\$800 at the door. On the Net: www.spark101.com.tw