

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Sun Son Theatre's (身聲劇場) Wild Beat (狂打樂擊) percussion group WHERE: Sun Son Theatre's Tribal Sound Music Room, 36, Ln 88, Jhongjheng E Rd Sec 2, Tamsui Township, Taipei County (台北縣淡水鎮中正東路二段88巷36號) WHEN: Tomorrow at 7:30pm. Additional shows on April 27, June 26 and July 24 **ADMISSION: NT\$350**

GETTING THERE: Sun Son Theatre is a five-minute walk from Zhuwei MRT Station (捷運竹圍站) **DETAILS:** Reservations recommended. Call Sun Son Theatre's office at (02) 2809-5885. The Tribal Sound Music Room is open by appointment on Saturdays from 2pm to 6pm. Group inquiries for workshops are welcome. For information, call Sun Son Theatre's office **ON THE NET:** www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=134882232580 (Note: Sun Son's official Web site has been identified as posing a security risk)

In tune with the times

┏ he Sun Son Theatre's (身聲劇場) Tribal Sound Music Room is a living museum. Hundreds of instruments from across the world hang on the walls, dangle from the ceiling, hide in corners and are even part of the furniture.

Tomorrow night visitors can hear some of the venue's collection – African drums, a two-string lute from Albania, Malaysian gongs and Native American flutes — when Sun Son's Wild Beat (狂打樂擊) percussion group launches a series of monthly shows.

Wild Beat is an offshoot of Sun Son Theatre, a performing troupe with a penchant for tribal music and dance.

"We combine many different kinds of music, from places like Taiwan, Africa, Indonesia and Southeast Asia," said Sun Son Theatre's artistic director Ng Leon-son (吳忠良) in an interview at the group's studio workshop, which is located in a sleepy riverside neighborhood of Tamsui (淡水).

Wild Beat and Sun Son's members see themselves as nomads in a world of percussion and dance. Since forming in 1999, they have performed in countries such as Senegal, Brazil and Indonesia, returning to Taiwan with new instruments, techniques and ideas, which they then incorporate into novel performances.

"It's using all kinds of drums to create a new kind of expression," said Ng of Wild Beat's music. "So, it's not about playing the drums of a particular country. It's more of a new style in Asian percussion."

Wild Beat's six members also try to put a new spin on local instruments, such as Chinese drums and the gongs associated with traditional temple

and funeral music.

Taiwanese audiences tend to dismiss these instruments as "noisy," says Ng, so Wild Beat plays them using African beats.

"The effect is great," he said. "People start to realize the sounds from [these drums] can be enjoyable."

In addition to live shows, the Tribal Sound Music Room, which holds around 40 people, hosts educational workshops, where attendees can try out the instruments and build one of their own. Recently visitors have been building rainsticks, bean-filled tubes that imitate the sound of rain.

Many of the instruments at the Tribal Sound Music Room come from Ng's personal collection, which he started with a simple bamboo tube drum from his native Malaysia. He decided to bring his instruments to Sun Son Theatre and create an interactive space after seeing how "excited" his friends became whenever they saw his collection.

Ng showed me one of the more unusual instruments from a trip abroad: a rattler made out of part of a horse's skull, which he obtained from an Easter Island musician. The sound comes from slapping the skull, which shakes the teeth that are held loosely in place by wire.

It's not as creepy as it sounds. The skull has been polished smooth and is painted with intricate patterns that resemble Aboriginal art, designs that look like the vibrant lines and colors which adorn the walls of the Tribal Music Sound Room.

"I hope this room can let people get closely acquainted with the instruments," said Ng.



Sun Son Theatre's artistic director Ng Leon-son poses in the group's Tribal Sound Music Room, where Sun Son's percussion group, Wild Beat, performs tomorrow.

Theater

In **M.E.D.E.A** by Theater Unikate from Germany, legendary performer Gilla Cremer plays a spurned woman and mother of two sons who vents her rage and distress through the voice of Medea, the central character in Euripides' play of the same title. Instead of resorting to murder, she hires a

- Experimental Theater, Taipei City
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Dance Exponent Five (舞次方舞蹈工坊) presents its annual project in collaboration with artists from different fields. For this year's shows the group, formed by professional dancers, engineers, students and housewives, teams up with musician Hsu Hsiang-hao (許向豪) and Fu Tzu-hao (傅子豪), director of Van Body Theater (梵体 劇團), to create **Temperature (溫度)** and **Just One, Pick It Up!**. Both pieces blend

- theater, dance, music and installation art. ■ 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 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Flower on the Other Side of the Bank (彼岸花) is a gezai (歌仔) opera by the Holo Opera Company (河洛歌子戲團) in which the death of two lovers becomes the catalyst for the resolution of a feud between two tribes.

- Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

In **Prediction (預言)** by Taiwan Drama Performance (台灣戲劇表演家), a university professor suffers from amnesia after being assaulted. But as a detective delves into the case, he begins to suspect that the scenario is all part of the scheme to fulfill the *Prediction*, a best-selling novel written

- by the professor. ■ 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) ■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

The Village (實島一村) takes a nostalgic look at Taiwan's veterans' villages, or juan cun (眷村), by following the story of three families from 1949 to the present day. Television producer Wang Wei-chung (王偉 忠) teams up with director Stan Lai (賴聲川) to produce a dramatic and humorous work about the communities that did much to shape modern Taiwan.

- Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中市中山 堂), 98 Syueshih Rd, Taichung City (台中市 學士路98號)
- Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,800, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical music

2010 Kaohsiung Spring Arts Festival — Through the World of Haruki Murakami's 1Q84 (2010高雄 春天藝術節 — 穿梭在村上1Q84異托邦)

will present the Kaohsiung City Symphony Orchestra (高雄市交響樂團) and pianist Liu Meng-chieh (劉孟捷) performing under the baton of Cheng Chiu-sheng (陳秋盛) The program includes Mozart's Overture From "The Marriage of Figaro" and Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, Dvorak's "Carnival" Overture and Janacek's Sinfonietta.

- Tomorrow at 7:30pm
- Kaohsiung's Chih-Teh Hall (高雄市文化 中心至德堂), 67 Wufu 1st Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市五福一路67號)
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Forum Music Weekend Concert Series — Chang Chia-mi Flute Recital (十方樂集週末音樂會系列 — 張 家蜜長笛獨奏會) sees flautist Chang Chiami (張家蜜) presenting an unusual program that ranges from Mozart's Andante in C Major, KV 315 to Fukushima's Mei and Borne's "Carmen" Fantasie for

- Flute and Piano. ■ Today 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

Marimba's World From Keiko Abe and Chen Chun-ting (從古代寄來的信 **— 安倍圭子與陳俊庭馬林巴琴的世界)**

presents marimba legend Keiko Abe performing together with Chen Chun-ting (陳俊庭) and the Japanese Marimba Orchestra. Abe will give a lecture and master class at the Yamaha Music Display Center (YAMAHA音樂家展示中心) located at 2F, 18, Nanjing E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市南京 東路四段18號2F) tomorrow at 2pm.

- Sunday at 2:30pm ■ Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd,
- Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號) ■ Concert tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,200, lecture tickets are NT\$600, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.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. No events are scheduled for tonight. Tomorrow the venue hosts off-the-wall pop rocker R.Chord (謝和弦), indie-folk duo katncandix2 (棉花糖) and Hsu Chia-ying (徐佳瑩), a winner from a previous season of the One Million Star (超 級星光大道) pop idol show. On Sunday it's pop singer **Shino Lin** (林曉培). Performing on Wednesday is ABS (All Blues and Soul), the band of drummer **Dino Zavolta**, also drummer for Wu Bai (伍佰) and China Blue. ■ Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914),

Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號) ■ Shows start at 7pm tomorrow and

Center Five Hall (中五館), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1,

- Sunday, 8:30pm Wednesday
- NT\$600 (NT\$500 in advance) tomorrow and Sunday and NT\$400 Wednesday. Prices include one drink. Tickets are available

HIGHLIGHT

The annual pilgrimage to the beaches of Southern Taiwan starts next weekend, as rock fans and college students will be gathering in Kenting for the Tomb Sweeping Day holiday. The festival that started it all, Spring Scream (春天吶喊), starts April 2 at the Oluanpi Lighthouse National Park (鵝鑾鼻燈塔公園) in Kenting (墾丁), and runs until April 5. Entering its 16th year, Spring Scream

will be hosting around 200 bands from Taiwan and abroad. This year's international acts include UK hip-hop and jazz group Lazy Habits, Thee Out **Mods** of Japan and French indie-rock duo Vialka, while Taiwanese performers include hip-hop outfit Daximen (大囍門) and pop-rock duo Nature Morte (靜物樂團). This year's event also sees the return of **The** Clippers (夾子), festival veterans favored by audiences for their kitschy rock, social satire and dancing girls.

Discounted prices on tickets are available until Wednesday — visit www.springscream.com for details. Look out for more on Spring Scream in next Friday's edition of the Taipei Times. ▶ Spring Scream at Oluanpi Lighthouse buses run directly from Taipei to the

National Park (鵝鑾鼻燈塔公園) ► April 2 through April 5

through ERA ticketing, online at www.ticket. com.tw or www.legacy.com.tw or at ibon electronics kiosks at 7-Eleven stores

Post-rock band Sugar Plum Ferry (甜梅 號) appears tonight at **The Wall (這牆)** to celebrate the release of its latest CD. Tomorrow all-girl rock band **Cherry Boom** (櫻桃幫) shares the bill with hip-hop group Daximen (大囍門). A quartet of Japanese bands performs on Sunday: punks **Locofrank**, indie rockers **The Band Apart** and emo punks **Drive Far** and **Bulimia**. Also appearing are Taichung emo and ska group Broken Flowers (碎紙花) and

- upbeat punks Punkhoo (胖虎樂團). ■ 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 ■ Music shows start at 8pm tonight,
- tomorrow and Sunday ■ Admission is NT\$500 tonight, NT\$400 tomorrow and NT\$800 Sunday (NT\$600 in advance). Tickets can be purchased online at www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Indie rockers **Silver Bus** take the stage tonight at Witch House (女巫店). Tomorrow it's **HE** (有激人), a singer-songwriter duo on electric guitar and bass, and folkpop singer **Europa Huang** (黃建為)

- 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

Riverside Cafe (河岸留言) tonight hosts rock and jazz fusionists Yellow Funky **Stuff**. Male-female pop duo **JS** performs Disney songs tomorrow night. On Sunday it's Hsiao Nan and Friends (小南 and Friends), a new folk-rock group, and acoustic performer Koumis (蓓麗). Monday is the venue's weekly open jam session. Popular funk rock band **Coach**

BY **DAVID CHEN**



The Reniculous Lipz are performing at this year's Spring Scream, Taiwan's foremost indie PHOTO COURTESY OF SPRING SCREAM music festival.

- ▶ Visit Spring Scream's Web site (www.springscream.com) for scheduling information ▶ Prices are for advance tickets on sale
- until Wednesday are NT\$1,560 for a four-day, all-events pass, or as follows for single-day tickets: Friday only NT\$600 (NT\$500 for students), NT\$990 for all other days. Reserve tickets at www.springscream.com and pick them up at 7-Eleven ibon kiosks. Ticket prices increase starting Thursday
- ▶ Now is the time to start making travel and lodging arrangements. Official park; on-site hotel lodging and camping are available

(教練樂隊) appears Tuesday.

- 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 all other nights. For a list of standard songs and ground rules for the open jam, visit the venue's Web site
- Admission is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and Tuesday, and NT\$150 Monday

Tonight Riverside Live House (西門紅 樓展演館) hosts up-and-coming Mandopop singers GJ, Nese (倪子崗), pop-rap group Cool Silly (傻酷樂團) and Mandopop group Every Planet (美味星球). Tomorrow's program features an evening of female rock and Mando-pop singers: Princess Ai (戴愛玲), Shino Lin (林曉培), Waa Wei (魏如萱) and Diana (戴安娜). On Thursday it's folk rockers **Miss Dessy** and electronica rock group Frande.

- 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, 8pm tomorrow, 7pm Sunday, 8:30pm Thursday ■ Admission is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$600 tomorrow (NT\$500 in advance) and NT\$400 Thursday. Tickets can purchased online through tickets.books.com.tw or www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse

Kaohsiung indie rockers Orange Doll (橘 娃娃) and all-girl punk band BB Bomb (BB彈) play tonight at Underworld (地下 社會). Tomorrow expat rockers **Homo Jews** split the bill with indie group Rowen (再生草). There is no show scheduled for Wednesday as of press time.

- 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, 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays. Underworld is open daily from 9pm, closed Mondays. Happy hour Tuesdays and Thursdays before midnight
- Entrance fee for music shows is NT\$300 Fridays and Saturdays, which includes one

drink, and NT\$100 Wednesdays. No cover charge on other nights and after performances end

The Earl Hines II Jazztet appears tonight at **Sappho de Base**. Tomorrow it's South African expat pop-rock musician David Vorster and friends. On Tuesday piano, drums and bass ensemble Yohei Jazz Trio takes to the stage. On Wednesday **Ash and Friends** play jazz on "unorthodox instruments." The **DD** Quartet performs fusion on Thursday. ■ 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. Closed Sundays and Mondays
- Entrance fee for music shows is NT\$100 tonight, free on other nights

Tonight **Roxy Roots** hosts funk rockers New Hong Kong Hair City and alternative rock band **The DoLittles**. Tomorrow **Taipei Latin Soul Band** performs live music for the venue's Fiesta Latino ladies night. Jazz pianist Andrew Page hosts an open jam on Wednesday. ■ 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 Fridays and Saturdays (NT\$200 credited toward food and drinks). Women enter for free on Saturdays

EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights this 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

The Mercury (水星酒館) in Kaohsiung hosts indie bands every week. This week's performer is **Random 80%**, a group that mixes shoegazer rock and pop hooks. ■ 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 ■ Show starts at 9:30pm
- Entrance is NT\$200

VU Live House tonight hosts an evening of drum 'n' bass with DJs **C-Type**, **Rich**, Richie, and Subtle and MC Stoppa. ■ B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Tel: (02) 2314-1868

- Show begins at 11pm
- Admission is NT\$600 for men, NT\$400 for women

Taipei Swing holds dance socials on Friday nights at **Capone's**, with live music from **BoPoMoFo** (クタロC). Dancers of all levels are welcome, and beginner's lessons are offered while the band takes a break. Tomorrow is salsa night with live music from Latin on Fire. ■ 312, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段312號)

- Live music from 9pm to 11:30pm Fridays, 8pm to 11:30pm Saturdays
- On Fridays there is a minimum charge of one drink, dancers receive a free drink coupon. On Saturdays the minimum charge is NT\$300

THE VINYL WORD

BY LEO SHIA

omprised of Kuala Lumpur natives Blink (aka Lau Hoe Yin) and XU (aka Puah Kok Leong), Lapsap, which is Cantonese for "rubbish," is anything but. With a passing resemblance to Sesame Street's Bert and Ernie, the pair cite Manchester United, Roger Federer and Argentinean band Pork as three of their major influences, and have, in the space of three years, amassed a fan base they lovingly refer to as "Freaks."

"To be honest, we don't really care what the media think of us," Blink said. "From the start it was all about the music and the attitude ... just go out and have straight-up fun. We've had problems with our name because 'rubbish' has a negative image, but once the media saw us getting [recognition], it didn't matter."

As solo DJs for the better part of a decade and as Lapsap for the past three years, Blink and XU have garnered an impressive list of accolades that include 2004's Heineken sponsored Found@Thirst championship, 2007 and 2008's "Best DJ" and 2008's "Most Stylish DJ" from Juice Magazine and 2007's "Men of the Year" from Clive Magazine. The pair were the first Malaysians to be invited to play at the Global Gathering electronic music festival in the UK, have shared the stage with an eclectic range of artists including 2manydjs, Brodinski, A-Trak, Jack Beats and Simian Mobile Disco, to name a few, and toured Asia and Australia several times.

What is it that sets a Lapsap night apart from the rest?

"We've never believed in playing one genre," says Blink. "We like to play everything under the sun. As long as we think it will get people grooving, we'll play it."

With their career firmly on an upward trajectory, the future looks rosy.

"I think there's another shift about to happen in club culture," Blink says. "The whole rock 'n' roll DJ thing is fading and what we're hoping for is that an 'Asian sound' emerges. As one country it'll be very tough to achieve, so we need to connect everyone in this region and start something. Taipei, we're coming for you!"

Lapsap with Mykal (ER Discotheque) and Matty D (Swank) tonight from 10pm 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\$500 at the door. On the Net: www.luxy-taipei.com

For more information on Lapsap, visit www.myspace.com/wearelapsap

