

BY TOM LEEMING



Room 18 evokes mixed feelings. To many it's the beautiful epicenter of all that is classy and refined within Taipei's party scene; to others it's a hollow venue and showy.

Tomorrow **Reflex**, Kanye West's tour DJ and Los Angeles-based hip-hop radio station Power 106 DJ steps up to the decks.

"My sound is a reflection of how I was raised in California," said Reflex, real name Anthony Jaramillo. "DJs can be quite limited to playing what people demand to hear. I choose to give people what they want and a little more."

After starting out at Power 106 in 1999, he came up quickly and was recently picked to tour with West. "I am close with Kanye and his inner circle," said Reflex. "Touring with him is like a long family vacation. Kanye is a focused and passionate person. He has helped make me better at everything. He taught me to pay attention to detail and to understand your audience."

Mixing up hip-hop and other genres is how Reflex pays attention. "This will be the finale of my first Asia run and I want to go out on a great note," said Reflex, "so bring comfortable shoes to dance in because it's going to be a party." In theory this is everything a decent night needs, whatever you think of the venue.

Reflex at Room 18, B1, 88 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路88號B1), tomorrow from 10:30pm until 5am. Admission is NT\$700 (includes two drinks).

Tonight at The Loft in Luxy, **Jack Beats** from the UK is bringing dirty bass lines and dubstep wobbles to Taipei.

Presented by Dancing Through Sundays, **Matty D**, who joins **Bounce Girlz** and **Mykal** on the lineup, is coming up from Taichung to support.

Jack Beats at The Loft, 6F, 201, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段201號6樓), tonight from 10pm to 4am. Admission is NT\$1,000 at the door (includes two drinks).

After Jack Beats head over to Player nightclub to check out **ConRank**, also from the UK at the latest after-party in town, Grit, hosted by **Shawn Kidd's Spiked**.

ConRank plays a unique style of drum 'n' bass, hip-hop and dubstep. After listening to his mix, this guy sounds tight and full of energy. On the Net: www.mixcloud.com/conrank.

ConRank at Player, B1, 26-3, Renai Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路三段26-3號B1), tomorrow from 4am to 8am. Admission is NT\$300 (includes one drink).

Reflexology. PHOTO COURTESY OF DJ REFLEX



EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

China's **Tianjin Peking Opera Theatre** (天津京劇院) brings together a troupe of award-winning Beijing opera performers from different schools to present 15 classics including *Ruse of the Empty City* (空城計), *The Jewelry Pouch* (鎖麟囊) and *Prosperity Brought by the Dragon and the Phoenix* (龍鳳呈祥).

- National Theater, Taipei City
- Tonight at 7pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2pm and 7pm
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

For contemporary dance piece **Too Much Vinegar** (黑醋加太多), choreographer Chang Hsiu-ping (張秀萍) from Sun-Shier Dance Theatre (三十五舞踏劇場) starts with asking questions like "Why does one add too much vinegar?" and "How does one deal with an accident?" as the starting point for an absurd tragedy.

- Experimental Theater, Taipei City
- As for press time, only tickets remain for tomorrow's show at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Organized by Representation Theatre (再現劇團), **Go to Hell** (地獄樂園) can best be described as a sort of theme park where visitors can check out live theater and music performances as well as interactive installations and sound pieces at any time of the day before the park closes. All shows and exhibitions at the park are inspired by the idea of hell. For detailed schedules of live performances, go to www.wretch.cc/blog/rpt20080229/12807541.

- Representation Theatre's Arts Factory (再現劇團藝術工場), B1, 43, Nanchang Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市南昌路一段43號B1)
- Tomorrow and Sunday from 2pm to 10pm, Wednesday and Thursday from 6pm to 10pm
- Tickets are NT\$100, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Guts Improv Theatre (勇氣即興劇場), which bills itself as Taiwan's first theatrical company that specializes in improvisational theater, presents **Unscripted Sci-fi Movie** (科幻電影院), a piece that takes audiences on a trip through outer space that no one knows how it will end.

- Comedy Club, B1, 24 Taishun St, Taipei City (台北市泰順街24號B1)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 8pm, Sunday at 3pm
- Tickets are NT\$300 (includes one drink), available at the door or through tickets.books.com.tw

To celebrate a career that has spanned 50 years, *bangzi* opera (梆子) diva Wang Hai-ling (王海玲) is treating her fans with a series of performances that include one of her favorite pieces, **Carrying the Bridal Sedan Chair** (抬花轎), a classic of *bangzi* opera, otherwise known as Henan opera or *yu* opera (豫劇). The Taipei shows that took place a couple of weeks ago sold out quickly. Tickets for the Kaohsiung shows are also selling fast.

- Kaohsiung Chih-teh Hall (高雄至德堂), 67 Wufu 1st Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄五福一路67號)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm

- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical music

Fairytales in the Music (童話故事交響樂— 台中市交響樂團2010定期音樂會) is a regular element of the Taichung City Symphony Orchestra's (台中市交響樂團) annual program designed specifically for children. The performance will include many popular classical works including marches by Sousa, waltzes and polkas by Strauss and movie music such as the theme from *Pirates of the Caribbean* by Klaus Badelt and the *Raiders' March* from the *Indiana Jones* films by John Williams.

- Sunday at 7:30pm
- Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中市中山堂), 98 Syueshih Rd, Taichung City (台中市士路98號)
- Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.tickets.com.tw

Fall, 1885, My Sorrow and Loneliness (1885年秋— 我的哀愁與孤寂) presents pianist Peter Rosel performing with the National Symphony Orchestra (國家交響樂團) under the baton of guest conductor Pietari Inkinen. The program includes Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58* and Brahms' *Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98*.

- Tomorrow 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

Borealis String Quartet (加拿大包瑞里斯弦樂四重奏) is a Canadian-based ensemble that came to prominence after making it onto the cover of *Opus* magazine in 2006. Taiwan-born cellist Chen Shih-lin (陳世霖), who has also worked closely with Hu Nai-yuan's (胡乃元) Taiwan Connection ensemble, will be joined by Patricia Shih and Yuel Yawney on violin and Nitika Poagrebnoy on viola. The program will include Imant Raminis's *String Quartet No. 1*, Schubert's *Movement for String Quartet in C Minor*, Beethoven's *String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 95* and a selection of Taiwanese folk songs.

- Thursday at 7:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500, 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. Tonight the venue hosts emo-metal outfit **The Hindsight** (光景消逝) and pop-punk band **Fire Ex** (滅火器). Tomorrow world music group **A Moving Sound** takes the stage in preparation for a European tour. On Thursday it's The Next Big Thing, a showcase of up-and-coming indie bands.

- 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)
- Shows start at 8pm tonight, tomorrow and on Thursday

- Entrance fee is NT\$500 tonight, NT\$600 (NT\$500 in advance) tomorrow and NT\$200 on Thursday. Tickets available through ERA ticketing, online at www.ticket.com.tw or www.legacy.com.tw, and at ibon electronics kiosks at 7-Eleven stores

Indie-pop group **Miss Silk Stockings** (絲襪小姐) appears tonight at **The Wall** (迷牆) to launch a new CD. Tomorrow night features an eclectic lineup including metal band **Emerging From the Cocoon**, pop-rock group **Stand Out!**, **George**, funk rockers **PageDown** and nu-metal band **Respect** (尊敬樂團). On Sunday it's **Bugs of Phonon** (響子蟲) and post-rock band **Sorry Youth** (抱歉少年).

- 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, 7:30pm tomorrow and 8pm on Sunday
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$450 (NT\$400 in advance) tomorrow and NT\$300 on Sunday. Tickets can be purchased online at www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Alt-rock band the **Silent Toads** (歐吉咕咕) play tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). They open for reggae group **Otaku3** (浪行雷鬼團). Girl-group **Pleasure Science** (愉悅科學) play 80s-influenced rock tomorrow night, sharing the bill with indie-pop band **Radicalo**. On Thursday it's indie-electronica outfit **Alluvial** (阿路米爾).

- 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
- Entry for music shows is NT\$300

RAY Band (雷樂隊), a trio of veteran session musicians, plays power-rock originals and covers tonight at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留聲). Up-and-coming Mando-pop performer **Chase Chang** (張秋勤) appears tomorrow. Young rockers **Hi Jack** and **Always Monday** perform on Sunday. 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 (台大大樓). 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
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 on Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Pop singer **Jan Tu** (杜寶珍), who appeared on the TV reality show *Super Idol* (超級偶像), sings her signature ballads tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館). Tomorrow the venue hosts socially conscious hip-hop outfit **Kou Ching Ching** (擲秋勤) and high-energy garage rockers **88 Balaz** (88顆芭樂籽). On Thursday it's electronica group **Frande** and folk rockers **Stay Cool**.

- 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 fee is NT\$500 tonight and NT\$400 tomorrow and on Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

All-girl punk band **BB Bomb** (BB彈) and pop-punk group **GaBa** play tonight at **Underworld** (地下社會). Later on, it's Earthquake, a dance party with indie rock tunes spun by DJs **Randy** and **Floaty** [see story opposite]. Tomorrow, the venue hosts indie-rock band **MacBeth** (馬克白) and screamo group **One Question** (一個問題). On Wednesday it's guitar and drums noise-rock duo **SlackTide** and **Roxymoron**.

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

Faneur Daguerre, a jazz quartet that plays everything Bach to Bjork to Ornette Coleman to the Ramones, performs tonight at **Sappho de Base**, a late-night lounge and jazz venue. Tomorrow it's the **Jo Jo Ma Quartet**, led by American expat saxophonist Joseph Marchione. On Tuesday funk and Latin quartet **Ginger Men** take the stage. On Wednesday **Faneur Daguerre** appears again to open for renowned Japanese free-jazz drummer **Sabu Toyozumi**.

- 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, 10pm on Tuesday and 9:30pm on Wednesday. Closed on Sundays and Mondays
- Entrance is NT\$100 tonight and tomorrow and NT\$350 on Wednesday; free on Tuesday

Tomorrow night **VU Live House** hosts Hungry Ear, an electronic music program featuring live sets from **Jindowin** (筋斗雲), **Telephone Booth** (電話亭), **The Okay Cars** and **KbN** (凱比馬). Also appearing are DJs **Mamos** and **VDub**.

- B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Tel: (02) 2314-1868
- Tomorrow from 8pm
- Entrance fee is NT\$350, includes one drink

Tonight at **Roxy Roots** it's acid jazz band **Electric MessAge** (電子混亂世代) and **Trying Times** (雙樂園), an R'n'B capella group. Appearing tomorrow is Tainan expat reggae group **The Combulatorz** and DJ **Two Hands**.

- 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 drink)

EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights for the week include **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: 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

Taipei Swing holds dance socials on Friday nights at **Capone's**, with live music from blues band **BoPoMoFo** (ㄅㄛㄆㄛ). Dancers of all levels are welcome, and beginner's lessons are offered while the band takes a break. Saturday 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 on Fridays, 8pm to 11:30pm on Saturdays
- Minimum charge of one drink on Fridays (dancers receive a free drink coupon) and NT\$300 on Saturdays

Tomorrow night **VU Live House** hosts Hungry Ear, an electronic music program featuring live sets from **Jindowin** (筋斗雲), **Telephone Booth** (電話亭), **The Okay Cars** and **KbN** (凱比馬). Also appearing are DJs **Mamos** and **VDub**.

- B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Tel: (02) 2314-1868
- Tomorrow from 8pm
- Entrance fee is NT\$350, includes one drink

BY CHUNZHEN CHIN

MUSIC



He's here to float your boat.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DJ FLOATY

Music of seismic proportions

Never mind that it's a shady little hideaway, **Underworld** has been holding it down for Taiwan's non-mainstream sounds for more than 15 years. And as for why you would want to go to this cramped, dark space for tonight's Earthquake dance party? Ariel Zheng (鄭思齊), singer of all-girl punk rock group **Go Chic**, gives reason enough: "All the underground bands started [at] Underworld and we're all friends, so we hang out there a lot. In that way it's more chill than the newer venues like **The Wall** (迷牆) or **Legacy**."

Go Chic was born at **Underworld**, and Zheng says the bar "has character and this is how I want it. You could get just 20 people to show up and it looks packed so the vibe is more friendly. The atmosphere is a lot less pretentious than some of the other bars out there, which is why everybody likes going."

Tonight's party will feature the latest alternative rock, indie and dance tunes. Spinning are long-established house DJs **Randy** and **Floaty**. The former, aka **Randy Lin** (林志堅), promises a loud straight-up dance-your-ass-off rock party. **Yell**, jump, sweat, laugh, drink. Repeat.

"Of course we never play your average pop," says Randy. "The fun thing about being a DJ isn't just pumping out the latest hits, but what everyone there enjoys and whatever gets people moving. In fact I often like to throw in some classics to keep things fresh."

He isn't letting on what will be played specifically, because he likes a good surprise. DJ Floaty's playlist will include **Ida Maria**, **Gogol Bordello** and **Melt Banana**.

A word of warning from Randy: "Parties at the **Underworld** can get pretty crazy. So if this will be your first time, be mentally prepared."

Bands playing before the party from 9pm are local punk rock girls **BB Bomb** (BB彈) and **Gaba** from Taichung. Admission is NT\$300 for the music show and NT\$100 for the dance party.

PARTY NOTES

WHAT: Earthquake: Underworld Dance Rock Party!
WHEN: Tonight from midnight to 3am
WHERE: Underworld (地下社會), B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1). Tel: (02) 2369-0103
ADMISSION: NT\$100
ON THE NET: www.upsaid.com/underworld



Where there's smoke, there's water: Deep Purple performs in Taipei on May 8.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DA DA ARTS

HIGHLIGHT

BY DAVID CHEN

Hard rock legends **Deep Purple** will be in town on May 8 for a concert at the Taipei World Trade Center Nangang Exhibition Hall (台北世界貿易中心南港展覽館). The British band, best known for 1970s rock classics like *Smoke on the Water* and *Highway Star*, has just launched a global tour of around 70 shows that takes in Australia, Asia and Europe.

Few bands have seen as many lineup changes as Deep Purple, with members often quitting and then returning throughout the group's 40-year history. But since the 1990s, the band has held steady with bassist Roger Glover, drummer Ian Paice and vocalist Ian Gillan, who is the voice on many of the band's most well-known songs, including *Smoke on the Water*, along with newer members keyboardist Don

Airey and guitarist Steve Morse.

- ▶ Deep Purple live in concert
- ▶ May 8 at 7:45pm at the Taipei World Trade Center Nangang Exhibition Hall (台北世界貿易中心南港展覽館), 1, Jingmao 2nd Rd, Taipei City (台北市經貿二路1號)
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$800 to NT\$4,000, available through 7-Eleven ibon kiosks or at www.tickets.com.tw