

# The Loop gets wet and wild for 10th anniversary

For the past decade, promotion company The Loop has been the epicenter of Taiwan's dance music scene.

The outfit, which was instrumental in nurturing the nascent genre here, and brought dozens of top-drawer acts to these shores, including the likes of **Laurent Garnier**, **Takkyu Ishino**, **Paul Oakenfold**, **Paul van Dyk**, **Timo Maas**, **Armin van Burren**, **Tiesto**, **Deep Dish** and **Ferry Corsten**, to name but a few, and operates clubs **Luxy**, **Primo**, and **Xaga**, celebrates its 10-year anniversary tomorrow with the **Fantasia Waterpark Festival** from noon until midnight.

The party is being held at **Formosa Fun Coast** (八仙海岸), and a lineup of almost 30 acts will provide the entertainment.

"Throughout the decade, The Loop has been fortunate enough to be always at the front, bringing clubbers and party animals the latest and greatest party experience," said co-founder **David Hsia** (夏天倫). "I guess when it comes to spoiling the crowd, we're the one to blame. Nowadays people come out to party with a wild collection of expectations, and it's become more and more difficult to satisfy all of them."

With that in mind, tomorrow's blowout has three stages. International acts include **Playboy's** official DJ **KayJay** and 2008 centerfold playmates the **Essex Twins**, **Billboard** top-selling artist **Fat Joe**, electro-hop turntablist **Craze**, house producer **Dan**, Hed Kandi DJs and **Treasure Fingers**.

Live bands and MCs run the gamut from down-tempo hip-hop by **Soft Lipa**, underground rap by **Dog G** and **Young Souljaz**, to electro-dance-rock by **Go Chic**, Kraftwerk-inspired music from **UFP**, ghetto hit-pop by **Daximen** (大關門) and **Allen Wes'** underground metal.

Add to that a bevy of local DJs, notably **Reason**, **J-Six**, **Hooker**, **Cookie**, **Skunkrice**, **Xuan** (軒軒) and **Matty D**.

There will be a bikini contest made up

of a catwalk and talent show, followed by competitive games such as **Hot Chick Boxing**, with the overall winner taking home a grand prize of NT\$20,000. Five runners-up will each receive NT\$5,000.

Writing about the **Fantasia Waterpark Festival** is a bit like being a game show host: "And that's not all..."

Other events include a mechanical bull-riding competition, the **Floating Log Dash**, for which contestants cross a log bridge while being shot at by water guns, and a wet T-shirt contest hosted by **Liquid Lifestyle Promotions**.

Since 2001, The Loop has been putting on huge events. Some of the biggest include **Spring Love**, **Winter Love**, **Godskitchen's Halloween Massive** and the **White parties** at Taipei's **World Trade Center**.

Hsia describes starting out "as a bunch of party kids with no connection, no funds, nothing. We were nobody, trying to throw parties where we could dance our asses off."

He said the last 10 years were "a hell of a bumpy ride." "It was this wild ride — the ride that saw nightlife itself elevated from the shady corner of society to an essential part of civil recreation — that we [are] most proud of," he said.

His brother, **Alan Hsia** (夏天倫), co-founder of The Loop, moved to the US two months ago to invest in the Supperclub chain, which integrates fine dining with parties and DJs.

Both **David Hsia** and **Luxy investor Marco Lapka** have closely followed the evolution of dance music.

"We saw the skyrocketing of European dance music in the first half of the decade, and then we witnessed the booming of American hip-hop and rap in the latter half," said David Hsia. "Now ... we find American hip-hop knocks on Europe's door for some friendly cultural exchange."

"Three years ago we'd snap at the thought

that hip-hop would eventually sound like dance music and dance music would feature more and more rap," said **David Guetta**.

"So now what have we got? **David Guetta** spinning at **Black Eyed Peas**' gigs and **Three 6 Mafia** rapping for **Tiesto** ... It would have sounded mental a few years back."

**Lapka** agrees: "Now we see that hip-hop is morphing into electro-hop, BPMs are speeding up, house/techno/trance are coming back into the mainstream."

Over the years, The Loop team has drawn inspiration from some unlikely places. At an early **Spring Love** party in **Kenting**, they borrowed **Sony's PlayStation** shuttle bus and christened it the **Love Shuttle**: "You pushed a button and the 32-foot-long [9.8m] truck simply converted to a shining stage, Transformer-style," said Hsia.

But the free party they threw near the main drag was shut down. They hadn't booked rooms, so "we boys had to cram into the container of the truck," said David Hsia. "That was one damn hot and humid metal box ... Once we were back [in Taipei], we came up with the idea which has become our flagship brand of gay parties, **G5**, reproducing the male-bonding intimacy in that dark, humid space ..."

**Fantasia Waterpark Festival** (The Loop Productions' 10th Anniversary) tomorrow from noon to midnight at **Formosa Fun Coast** (八仙海岸), 1-6, **Neighborhood 1**, **Siagu Village**, **Bali**, **Taipei County** (台北縣八里鄉下厝村1鄰下厝子1之6號). To get there take the **MRT** to **Guandu Station** (關渡捷運站), then take the **Red No. 22** (紅22) bus directly to the water park, or take a taxi. Admission is NT\$2,000 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at **Luxy**, **Xaga** and **7-Eleven** ibon kiosks, or through **ERA** ticketing, online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw) or by calling (02) 2341-9898.

On the Net: [www.theloop-production.com](http://www.theloop-production.com) and [www.fantasia.tw](http://www.fantasia.tw)



Fat Joe performs at tomorrow's Fantasia Waterpark Festival.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOOP

## EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Theater

A collaboration between **Taipei Royal Ballet** (台北皇家芭蕾舞團) and **Taipei Civic Symphony Orchestra** (台北市民交響樂團), **Love Poetry** (魔幻情詩) tells a love story between two men and a woman inspired by **Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker**.

- National Theater, Taipei City
- Tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,000, available through **NTCH** ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

Israel-born, France-based choreographer **Emanuel Gat** makes his debut in Taipei this weekend with his six-year-old **Emanuel Gat Dance** company presenting three works including **Winter Voyage**, **Silent Ballet** and **The Rite of Spring**. Gat's performances open this year's **Novel Hall Dance**, a showcase of international choreographers and dance companies.

- Novel Hall (新舞臺), 3 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3號)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 8pm, Sunday at 3pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through **NTCH** ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

**WCdance** (林文中舞團) presents **Small Songs** (情歌), a contemporary dance piece that studies the changing concepts of love and romance in different times and places by having performers dancing to 13 musical works selected from classical, opera, *nanguan* (南管) and *Mando-pop* music. [See story on Page 14.]

- Wenshan Theater (文山劇場), 32 Jingwen St, Taipei City (台北市景文街32號)
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500, available through **NTCH** ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

Cloud Gate 2's (雲門舞集2) annual spring performance, **Spring Riot 2010** (2010春門), is touring Chiayi this weekend. This year's performances consist of new works by three choreographers. **Huang Yi's** (黃翯) *The Floating Area* (浮動的房間) involves a lone dancer in a sealed room. *Crack* (裂) by **Cheng Tsung-lung** (鄭宗龍) is about change. **Ku Ming-shen's** (古名伸) *Endless Shore* (碎浪海岸) was inspired by Taiwan's southeast coast.

- Chiayi Performing Arts Center (嘉義縣表演藝術中心演藝廳), 265, Jianguo Rd Sec 2, Minsyong Township, Chiayi County (嘉義縣民雄鄉建國路二段265號)
- Tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,200, available through **NTCH** ticketing or

online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

The **Sky Crisis** (飛天行動) continues its third run in Tainan this weekend. 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 this black comedy.

- EsLite Bookstore, Tainan (台南誠品書店), B2, 181, Changrong St Sec 1, Tainan City (台南市長榮路一段181號B2)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400, available through **NTCH** ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

### Classical music

**Spark** ("極光"木笛樂團音樂會) is a quintet featuring **Andrea Ritter** and **Daniel Koschitzki**, who tackle unusual music using unconventional flutes to give a spark to a style of music that they describe as being "classical band." They are joined by **Stefan Glaus** on violin, **Victor Plumetz** on cello and **Juta Peipers** on jazz piano. The program covers a wide range of musical styles from **Bach** to **Michael Nyman**, with detours into folk music.

- Tomorrow at 2:30pm (Kaohsiung), Sunday at 2:30pm (Taichung), and Wednesday at 7:30pm (Taipei)
- 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)
- Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中市中山堂), 98 Syuehshih Rd, Taichung City (台中市學士路98號), and 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\$300 to NT\$1,200 (Kaohsiung) and NT\$300 to NT\$1,500 (Taichung and Taipei), available through **ERA** ticketing or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw)

**Concert by Ivo Pogorelich** (波哥雷里奇鋼琴獨奏會) as part of the **International Chopin Festival 2010** (2010國際蕭邦國際音樂節) presents the highly acclaimed Croatian pianist in a program that will include **Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 3**, **Listz's Mephisto Waltz**, and **Ravel's Gaspard de la Nuit**. [See story on Page 13.]

- Tomorrow at 7pm, doors open at 6pm (Taichung), Sunday at 7:30pm (Taipei) and Tuesday at 7:30pm (Kaohsiung)
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City 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) and Taichung Arena (台中戶外圓滿劇場), also known as **Taichung City Fulfillment Amphitheater** (圓滿戶外劇場), in

### HIGHLIGHT

BY HO YI

**The International Indigenous Film Festival** (國際原住民族影展) kicked off on Tuesday with a program of 30 feature, documentary and short films from Taiwan and abroad that aims to raise awareness of issues concerning indigenous communities around the world. Among the films to be screened are *The Strength of Water* and *Taua*, which examine aspects of Maori society in New Zealand, multi-award winning *Samson and Delilah*, and four documentaries by Amis filmmaker **Mayaw Biho** (馬耀比吼) about Aboriginal name rectification and the controversial relocation of the **Sanying** Aboriginal Community (三鶯部落).

The festival runs through May 30 at venues in Taipei, Kaohsiung and various Aboriginal communities in Nantou, Pingtung, Taitung and Hualien counties. All screenings are free of admission. For more information, visit [iiff.ap.gov.tw](http://iiff.ap.gov.tw). The film festival is being held in advance of next month's



Samson and Delilah, directed by Warwick Thornton.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

annual **International Austronesian Conference** (南島民族國際會議) organized by the **Executive Yuan's Council of Indigenous Peoples** (行政院原住民族委員會). The three-day conference takes place in Taipei and Nantou on June 8, June 9 and June 11. To learn more, go to [2010austronesian.ctu.com.tw](http://2010austronesian.ctu.com.tw).

**Wenhsin Park** (文心森林公園) at the intersection of **Wenhsin Road Section 1** (文心路一段) and **Siangshang Road Section 2** (興向上路二段) in **Taichung City's Nantun District** (台中市南屯區)

- Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$4,500, available through **ERA** ticketing or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw). The Taichung performance is free

**Summer, 1883, Oh Lovers!** (1883年—夏戀人!) a concert in the **National Symphony Orchestra's** (國家交響樂團) German music series, presents a program that includes **Strauss' Tod und Verklärung** and **Duet Concertino for Clarinet, Bassoon and Orchestra** and **Brahms' Symphony No. 3 in F Major, Op. 90**, with **Ju May-lin** (朱玟玲) on clarinet and **Jian Kai-yu** on bassoon (簡凱玉). The orchestra will be conducted by **Lu Jia** (呂嘉).

- 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](http://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. The **Spark Anniversary Party** tonight features **Miami rapper Pitbull**. Tomorrow night it's the **RockN'Girl-Festival 001** with all-female rock groups from Asia.

- Tomorrow at 7pm, doors open at 6pm (Taichung), Sunday at 7:30pm (Taipei) and Tuesday at 7:30pm (Kaohsiung)
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City 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) and Taichung Arena (台中戶外圓滿劇場), also known as **Taichung City Fulfillment Amphitheater** (圓滿戶外劇場), in

com.tw or at **ibon electronics kiosks** at 7-Eleven stores

Indie rockers **Aphasia** (阿飛西雅) and **Cicada** split the bill tonight at the **The Wall** (牆). **Suming** (舒米恩) of indie-rock band **Totem** (圖騰) appears tomorrow night. Indie-electro pop group **Soft Ears** (軟耳聲) is on the lineup for Sunday evening.

- 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](http://www.thewall.com.tw)
- Shows start at 8pm
- Tickets for tonight and tomorrow's shows are NT\$400. Sunday night's performance is NT\$300. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.thewall.com.tw](http://www.thewall.com.tw) or [tickets.books.com.tw](http://tickets.books.com.tw)

Indie rockers **Queen Suitcase** (皇后皮箱) perform tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店). **Matzka** (馬斯夫), who mixes

reggae with Chinese, Taiwanese and Aboriginal influences, takes the stage tomorrow night.

- 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](http://www.witchhouse.org)
- Performances start at 9:30pm. Restaurant/bar with queer/feminist bookstore and large collection of board games open 11am to midnight
- Shows start at 9pm on Wednesdays; 11am to 1am Thursdays through Saturdays
- Entry for music shows is NT\$300

**The Sound of Jazz Quartet** (爵士四重奏之聲) performs tonight at **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留聲). Tomorrow's show with **Shadya** (藍又時) is already sold out. **Csha** (思涵) and **Baba Band** (爸爸辦桌) appear on Sunday. Monday is open-jam night.

- B1, 2, Ln 244, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段244巷)

### HIGHLIGHT

BY CHUNZHEN CHIN

Some of the biggest names in the world of trance music, including Australian-born **Emma Hewitt** and **The Thrillseekers** from the UK, hit the stage next Saturday for **DancePort 2010** (電音港) at **Kaohsiung's Ocean Theater** (海上劇場), the only large-scale performance venue in Taiwan situated on the sea. The lineup consists of a dozen artists, including **DJ Odin** (大馬), techno spinner **DJ Kenji** and house/trance mixer **DJ Eros**. Also on the bill are the **Samadhi VJ Team** and fire dancers **True Spin** (火舞團). For more on the event, including interviews with participating artists, check out next Friday's **Vinyl Word**.

- DancePort 2010 (電音港), May 22 from 9pm to 6am at **Ocean Theater** (海上劇場), **Lover's Wharf** (情人碼頭), **Singda Port** (興達港), **Cieding**



Trance diva Emma Hewitt appears at DancePort next Saturday in Kaohsiung.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE PAKCO

Township, Kaohsiung County (高雄縣茄寮鄉)

- Admission is NT\$1,000 at the door. Presale tickets are NT\$800 from 7-Eleven ibon kiosks or online through [www.spunite.com/danceport/english.php](http://www.spunite.com/danceport/english.php)
- On the Net: [www.spunite.com/danceport/english](http://www.spunite.com/danceport/english)

2號B1), next to **Taipower Building** (台電大樓). Tel: (02) 2368-7310. On the Net: [www.riverside.com.tw](http://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 for tonight's show, NT\$350 for Sunday's performance and NT\$150 on Monday

**Live & Talk** (創作之路) performs tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館). **Olivia** and **Invisible Garden** (隱身與桃花源樂團), **Queen** (魏如昀) and **Smack** perform tomorrow night.

- 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](http://www.riverside.com.tw)
- Shows start at 8pm tonight, 8:30pm tomorrow and Thursday
- Entrance fee is NT\$400. Tickets can be purchased online through [www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse](http://www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse) or [tickets.books.com.tw](http://tickets.books.com.tw)

Punk groups **Zag Lope** and **Eyeball Killer** (眼殺手) perform tonight at **Underworld** (地下社會). **Manstone** (硬漢) and **We Are So Sad** (傷心歌謠) appear tomorrow. On Sunday it's **Welcome to the Underworld Part 2** (歡迎來到地下社會第二場), a music party thrown by promotion group and music label **Back 2 The Future** (B2F, 回到未來) featuring eight bands, including **Lily et Coco** (唯知), **88 Balaz** (88顆芭樂籽), **Go Chic** and **She Bang-a** (死蚊子), that will be professionally recorded. [See story on Page 14.]

- 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](http://www.upsaid.com/underworld)
- Music shows run from 9:30pm to 11:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays. Sunday's recording session runs from 3pm to 9pm. **Underworld** is open daily from 9pm, closed on Mondays. **Happy Hour** on Tuesdays and Thursdays before midnight
- Entrance fee for music shows on Fridays and Saturdays is NT\$300, which includes one drink. NT\$100 on Wednesdays. Admission for Sunday's show is NT\$400 and includes a drink

**Sappho de Base**, a late-night lounge and jazz venue, hosts **Earl Hines II** tonight and **The Blues Vibrations** tomorrow night.

- 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](http://www.sappho102.biz)
- Music shows begin at 10:30pm
- Entrance is NT\$350 tonight and tomorrow

Rockers **Silent Toad** (嗽吉咕) and **Black Summer Days** (暗黑夏日雙搖滾樂團) perform tonight at **Roxy Roots**. Tomorrow is **Fiesta Latino Ladies** night,

with free entrance for women.

- 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路90號). Tel: (02) 2725-3932. On the Net: [www.roxy.com.tw](http://www.roxy.com.tw)
- Shows start at 10pm
- Entrance is NT\$300 on Fridays and Saturdays (NT\$200 credited toward food and drinks)

**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](http://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** (ㄅㄆㄇㄏ). Dancers of all levels are welcome, and beginner's lessons are offered while the band takes a break. Tomorrow it's **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. On Saturdays the minimum charge is NT\$300

**Kaohsiung punk rockers The Rednoz** (紅鼻子) appear tomorrow night at **The Mercury** (水星酒館).

- 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](http://mercurybar.blogspot.com)
- Show starts at 9:30pm
- Entrance is NT\$200

**VU Live House** (地下絲絨) features performers from **St John's University** (聖約翰科技大學), **Ming Chuan University** (銘傳大學), **Tamkang University** (淡江大學) and **Mackay Medical College** (馬偕醫學院) tonight. Metal bands **Sear of Fire**, **Live Machine** (機動現場) and **Epitaph** (落毒表迷) play tomorrow night. Later tomorrow night, **Tranquility Bass Productions** presents drum 'n' bass party **Syncoation 2** (切分音2).

- B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Tel: (02) 2314-1868. On the Net: [www.velvet-underground.com.tw](http://www.velvet-underground.com.tw)
- Music shows start at 5:30pm this evening and 7pm tomorrow. Tomorrow's drum 'n' bass party runs from 11pm to 5am
- Entrance fee is NT\$450 for the music shows. Tomorrow's drum 'n' bass party is NT\$600 for men, NT\$400 for women, all-you-can-drink