



This week's tabloids were dominated by rumors of romantic reunions and new *affaires d'amour*. On home turf, **Jay Chou** (周杰倫) and **Jolin Tsai** (蔡依林) continue to make headlines after their sultry duet at the end of the Mando-pop king's Taipei concert on June 13. Local tabloids have since generated plenty of titillating content for gossip hounds to chew on. One story that seems to have gained the most traction involves a diamond ring from a well-known luxury brand and an alleged marital proposal from Chou to Tsai after the concert.

Fans have greeted the Double-Js' (雙J) rumored reunion with great enthusiasm. A composite photo showing the pair cuddling together circulated on the Internet and was quickly picked up by the *Liberty Times* (the *Taipei Times*' sister newspaper) and the *Apple Daily*.

Both Tsai and Chou say the reports are rubbish. According to the *Liberty Times*, Chou responded to the question of why he chose to perform with Tsai by saying, "I just wanted to freak everyone out." Meanwhile, Tsai was quoted as saying, "Getting back together? Thanks, but I'm not crazy."

One man who is surely freaked out by the possibility of the two getting back together is Tsai's agent **Chen Tse-shan** (陳澤杉). The Warner Music (華納音樂) impresario has not been on good terms with the Chairman after the two bickered over a chart-rigging controversy last year. Chen risks losing his cash cow to

Angelababy: the next Cecilia Cheung?



Chou's record company, JVR Music (杰威爾音樂), if the Double-Js get really friendly with each other.

Having recovered from two year's of depression and found Jesus, erstwhile Hong Kong pop diva **Sammi Cheng** (鄭秀文) is making a comeback with a Mandarin-language gospel album, *Faith* (信). Chinese-language media outlets also report that Cheng's old flame **Andy Hui** (許志安) is back in the 38-year-old star's life.

A series of snapshots and a chart published by the *Liberty Times* last Friday detailed Hui and Cheng's itineraries in Taipei last week, which involved them staying at the same hotel, shooting music videos at the same studio and flying back to Hong Kong on the same plane. But according to their agents, the two are just good friends.

In other celebrity romance news, Chinese heartthrob **Huang Xiaoming** (黃曉明) and 21-year-old model **Angelababy** have become the hottest new item on the tabloids' front pages after Huang publicly acknowledged their relationship

in front of the media in Shanghai last week.

Hailed as Hong Kong's new "sex goddess" (性感女神), Angelababy, whose real name is Yang Ying (楊穎), has quickly risen to stardom in the last couple of years based on nothing more than her looks.

A widely circulated batch of photos seems to indicate that Yang Ying had to go through plenty of revamping before she became the Angelababy we know now. But this has done nothing to dim Huang's ardor. His public confession of love included an admission that he pampers his woman "as if she were a princess." China's most bankable actor is also reported to have introduced his sweetheart to Hong Kong entertainment mogul **Peter Lam** (林建岳), who, according to rumors, is planning to make Angelababy the next **Cecilia Cheung** (張柏芝).

After being arrested on drug-related charges for the third time, Taiwanese entertainer **Da Bing** (大炳), real name Yu Bing-hsian (余炳賢), was baptized at the Home of Christ church in Taipei last Saturday. The disgraced entertainer said he wants to find inner strength through God's love.

But will his sexual orientation get between him and God? Da Bing was quoted by the *Apple Daily* as saying, "That's between God and me."

In Pop Stop's opinion, the quickest way for Da Bing to resolve this issue is to join the Tong-Kwang Light House Presbyterian Church (同光同志長老教會), Taiwan's first church for gays and lesbians.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

Moon River is a collaboration between Taiwan's Dance Forum (舞蹈空間) and all-male dance company The Condors from Tokyo. Choreographed by Ryohei Kondo and performed by artists from the two troupes, the piece is an eloquent demonstration of the Japanese company's hilarious physical comedy and bold body movements.

- National Theater, Taipei City
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Saturday Night With Rifat features expat stand-up comedian Rifat along performing with magician Terry and impersonator duo Hsiao-hsia (小蝦) and Hsiao-pai (小白).

- Comedy Club, 20, Ln 553, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段553巷20號). Tel: (02) 2369-3730
- Tomorrow at 8pm
- Tickets are NT\$300, or NT\$270 in advance (includes one drink), available at the door or online through tickets.books.com.tw

Paper Windmill Theater Troupe (紙風車劇團) presents **The Tale of the White Snake (白蛇傳)**, a family entertainment that uses 250cm-tall lantern puppets to recount the ancient Chinese story that's traditionally told to children during Dragon Boat Festival.

- 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)
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 10:30am and 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

In Firefly Theatre's (螢火蟲劇團) **The Judgment (2012末曰大審判)**, a civil servant is taken to court after being accused of being mad. In the courtroom, he meets a hotdog-licking woman, a neurotic homosexual and a sex addicted old woman. The only thing missing is the judge. The play is not suitable for children under the age of 12.

- 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)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$200, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Green Ray Theater Troupe's (綠光劇團) popular musical **Wedding (結婚! 結婚! 結婚! 辦桌)**, which tells the comic story about a wedding, two families and a

runaway bride, returns to the stage.

- Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中中山堂), 98 Syueshih Rd, Taichung City (台中市學士路98號)
- Tonight at 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Classical music

TSMC "Xin Zhu" Art Festival — Wang Yujia Piano Recital (台積「心築」藝術季 — 王羽佳鋼琴獨奏會) presents the young Chinese pianist Wang Yuja (王羽佳), who is now gaining an international reputation, in a performance of four keyboard sonatas by Scarlatti, Scriabin's *Preludes Op.11 No.11, No.12* and *Etude Op.8 No.9*, Chopin's *Piano Sonata No.2 in B Flat Minor, Op.35* and *Waltz in C Sharp Minor, Op.64, No.2*, and Stravinsky's *Three Movements From Petruska*. A second concert with the same program will be performed at the National Concert Hall as part of the International Chopin Festival (20X10蕭邦CHOPIN國際音樂節).

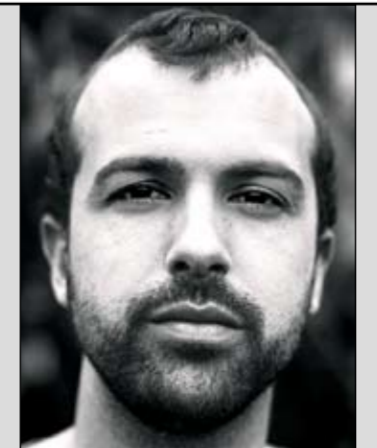
- Monday (Hsinchu) and Wednesday (Taipei) at 7:30pm
- Hsinchu Municipal Auditorium (新竹市立演藝廳), 17 Dongda Rd Sec 2, Hsinchu City (新竹市東大路二段17號) and the National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,800 (Hsinchu) and NT\$400 to NT\$2,800 (Taipei), available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Also available before the day of the performance at 7-Eleven ibon, Family Mart (全家) FamiPort and High-Life Life-ET kiosks around the country

Renaissance vs Poetry of Tang and Song Dynasties (文藝復興vs唐宋詩詞新唱) is a concert that presents music from the European Renaissance and reconstructions of music to accompany the recital of Tang and Song Dynasty poetry. The project has been initiated by The Cardinal Singers (野聲合唱團). The Renaissance section of the program includes sacred music, chanson and folk music.

- Today at 7:30pm
- Novel Hall (新興臺), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
- Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Art Song vs Broadway (藝術歌曲 vs 百老匯) sees soprano Laraine Yaros Sullivan and tenor Stephen Lancaster present a range of songs in a number of styles, ranging from Debussy's *Trois Ballades de Francois Villon* and Schubert's *Nacht und Traume* to songs from Broadway favorites such as *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Sweeney Todd*. They will be accompanied on piano by Lo Wan-yi (羅婉儀).



Chris Cobillis proposes a starchy and dreamy night at Red House.

piano, saxophone and violin. For a taste of Cobillis' style, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNAcZd9mDpk.

- Red House Theater (西門紅樓), 10 Chengdu Rd, Taipei City (台北市成都路10號)
- Tonight at 7pm
- Tickets are NT\$400, available through www.artstickets.com. On the Net: www.musforum.com.tw

UPCOMING BY IAN BARTHOLOMEW



Sauntering in the garden.

Lanting Kun Opera Troupe's (蘭庭崑劇團) post-modern reworking of **Quest for the Garden Saunter and the Interpreted Dream (尋找遊園驚夢)**, based on a highly regarded experimental 90-minute performance installation designed for Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914) in 2007, will premiere at Taipei's Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台) tonight. The opera is inspired by Ming Dynasty author Tang Xianzu's (湯顯祖) *Peony Pavilion* (牡丹亭), one of Chinese culture's preeminent romantic works.

- Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Monday at 7:30pm (Kaohsiung) and July 3 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) and National Recital Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$250 for the Kaohsiung concert and NT\$800 for the Taipei concert, available through NTCH ticketing outlets or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Legacy Taipei hosts Taiwan's long-standing pop rocker **Bobby Chen** (陳昇) as part of the venue's Golden Melody Awards artists series. Also on the bill is popular rock group **The Chairman** (董事長). Tomorrow is the Back to Spin 2010 Summer Party, a dance party dedicated to the former Spin nightclub [see story on Page 13]. Taiting reggae rocker **Matzka** performs with fellow Puyuma Aboriginal and songstress **Jiajia** (家家) on Wednesday.

- Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), Center Five Hall (中五廳), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, 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
- 8pm tonight and tomorrow and 7pm on Sunday. After Sunday's show, the venue's World Cup party's starts at 10pm
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$500 tomorrow (NT\$400 in advance), NT\$300 on Sunday, and NT\$200 for the World Cup, and includes one drink. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Tonight **The Wall** (這牆) hosts an evening of live electro-rock and dance music to go **Go Chic** and **Sunset Rollercoaster** and post-rock sounds from **Lily et Coco** (哩咕). Tomorrow is metal night with a hard-hitting lineup that includes **Beyond Cure**, **Emerging From the Cocoon** and **Dying Chelsea**. On Sunday popular indie bands **Windmill** (風籟坊) and **Flat Club** (假文藝青年俱樂部) take to the stage. Also on the bill are newcomers **Goosander** (川秋沙). Afterwards, the venue breaks out the big screen TV for the World Cup.

- 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
- 8pm tonight and tomorrow and 7pm on Sunday. After Sunday's show, the venue's World Cup party's starts at 10pm
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$500 tomorrow (NT\$400 in advance), NT\$300 on Sunday, and NT\$200 for the World Cup, and includes one drink. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Jazzy/bluesy act **Kukao** (鼓號大樂隊) takes the stage tonight at **Witch House** (女巫店), opening for Mando-pop singer-songwriter **Debbie Hsiao** (蕭薔碩). Tomorrow **Chiang Ming-hsueh** (江明學) sings Mando-pop and Taiwanese classics, with jazz fusion

NT\$100 on Wednesdays

The **Earl Hines II Jazztet** appears tonight at **Sappho de Base**. Taipei-based jazz drummer **Ed Schaefer** and friends take the stage tomorrow night. **Emo Jazz Trio** plays on Tuesday, **Ash and Friends** are on Wednesday, and **The Sound of Jazz Quartet** takes the stage 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
- Entrance is NT\$100 tonight and tomorrow, free on other nights

Tomorrow **VU Live House** hosts Sub Bound 4, a trip-hop and underground hip-hop party featuring DJs **Point, Saucy, LazyDaze, jez.f** and **Ill K**.

- 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
- Entrance fee tonight is all-you-can-drink, NT\$600 for men and NT\$400 for women

The Wall (這牆) started programming regular live rock shows at Kaohsiung's Pier 2 Arts Center (高雄駁二藝術特區) last month. Appearing tonight are metal band **Overdose** and emo band **Mister Mouth** (曠哥樂團). Tomorrow Aboriginal folk singer **Panai** (巴奈) takes the stage.

- 1 Dayong Rd, Yancheng Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市鹽埕區大勇路1號). On the Net: pier-2.khcc.gov.tw, or visit www.thewall.com.tw for full schedule
- Shows start at 7:30pm
- Entrance fee is NT\$300 tonight and NT\$400 tomorrow

The Mercury (水星酒館) celebrates its one-year anniversary tomorrow night with rockabilly bands **Full House** and **Double Strike**.

- 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: www.mercurybar.blogspot.com
- Show starts at 9pm
- Entrance is NT\$200, includes one drink

In Taichung, expat hip-hop crew **Dr Renculous Lipz** and the **Skalluynz** celebrate the release of their new CD with a show at **Light Lounge**. Also appearing are expat funk rock band **Point 22** (22) and DJ **Richie Partridge**.

- Show starts at 10pm
- 85 Huamei W St, Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市華美西街一段85號). Tel: (04) 2328-0118
- Entrance is NT\$300, includes one drink

Events

The **FuBar** and **Grill** in Taichung marks its second anniversary tomorrow with a World Cup competition comprising various activities to test contestants' skills. For more information, call the venue.

- 25-9 Daye Rd, Taichung City (台中市西區大業路25之9號). Tel: (04) 2310-9401 or 0920-504-724
- Tomorrow from 2pm
- NT\$200 entry fee for competitors

The Canadian Society in Taiwan holds its annual **Canada D'eh** celebrations at Baishawan (白沙灣) tomorrow. The outdoor party includes beach volleyball, soccer, hamburgers and hotdogs, swimming and fresh ocean air. There will be plenty of games such as horseshoe pitching and tug-o-war, and raffle prizes. The lineup of live music includes DJs **Dominik T** and **Rick Kraft** and **BoPoMoFo** (ウタロロ) blues band.

- Baishawan (白沙灣)
- Tomorrow from 2pm to midnight
- Tickets are NT\$450 for adults and NT\$50 for children. Children under 6 years old or 90cm tall get in free. Prices increase at the door to NT\$600 per adult, NT\$700 for adult plus child and NT\$200 per child. Complete details on where to buy tickets and other information can be found at www.canadiansociety.org. Read tomorrow's Travel section for a full preview

THE VINYL WORD

BY QUEEN BEE



Underneath **Diplo's** suited and booted exterior lurks a quirky soul. The DJ, aka Wesley Pentz, who plays at **Luxy** on Wednesday, has been causing some serious mayhem with collaborator **Switch** as **Major Lazer**.

Though **Switch** won't be coming, **MC Skerrit Bwoy** will. He's known for his wild stage performances and the Jamaican dancing style called "daggering," which could be described as *Kama Sutra* on the dance floor, only with clothes on.

The rider for Wednesday's gig includes "optional" items such as "inflatable animals," "an arranged marriage," "a Malawian orphan" and "a dartboard with M.I.A.'s face on it."

In addition to producing tracks for M.I.A. and Snoop Dogg, remixing for Daft Punk, Lil' Wayne, Radiohead, Missy Elliot, Tiesto and a bunch of other big names, **Diplo** has been touring nonstop, headlining festivals like Coachella and Fuji Rock.

Vinyl Word: What did you grow up listening to?
Diplo: Growing up was just simple, from gospel to Top 40 to hip-hop to metal to hard core to dancehall to house and then on to weird music from all over the world. And then I mixed it all up, and that's what I play now.

VW: How did you and Switch come up with the Major Lazer concept?
D: We had been friends for many years. But we just decided to do this in our own way. Major Lazer is a sort of group of 15 people from dancers to producers to MCs. I'm just the ringleader, and Major Lazer is our flag.

VW: Why are you touring with Skerrit Bwoy instead of Switch?
D: He's just part of the team, that's all. When you get the show, you get the show. Don't worry, people will get pregnant and maybe someone will be sacrificed.

VW: Skerrit Bwoy seems to get quite out of control on stage. Is he the same when off stage?
D: Yes. Touring with him is interesting and I learn a lot about the human species.

VW: This isn't your first time playing in Taiwan. Is there anything you want to see or do this time?
D: No more monsoon rain, or Swedish girls, or mushroom wine!

Major Lazer, Wednesday from 10pm to 4am at **Luxy**, 5F, 201, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段201號5樓). Admission is NT\$500 (women) and NT\$900 (men) at the door. Advance tickets are NT\$300 (women) and NT\$600 (men), available from both Toasteria (吐司利亞) locations, 2, Ln 248, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段248巷2號), tel: (02) 2731-8004, and 1, Ln 72, Yunhe St, Taipei City (台北市雲和街72巷1號), tel: (02) 2365-3051, and KGB, 5, Ln 114, Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路114巷5號).



Inflatable animals optional.