Fuji Rock artists sound out Taiwan

Rockfestival, also in South Korea.

Fuji Rock, in its 14th year and located in a ski

resort 150km north of Tokyo, however, ranks

as the senior Asian rock fest. The headliners it

announces as early as February each year now

regularly add dates at other concerts in Taiwan

and South Korea, such as the upcoming TWinkle

Nangang Exhibition Hall (台北世界貿易中心南港展覽

館), which has managed to recruit Massive Attack,

Other headliners at this year's Fuji Rock

include the Brit band Muse as well as one of the

first concerts in 20 years by new wave pioneers

Roxy Music. They are joined at the top of the

bill by John Fogerty, who played Woodstock

with Creedence Clearwater Revival over 40

years ago, and a new band called Crooked

Vultures that includes Nirvana drummer Dave

Grohl and Led Zepplin bass player John Paul

Jones. And that's just the festival's main stage.

On Fuji Rock's 14 other stages, leading indies

like electro-pop duo Air and dance rockers MGMT

will cap an utterly eclectic offering of more than

250 acts that spans from big-band mambo groups,

hula dancers and all varieties of rock to all-night

raves and even circus sideshow acts.

Kula Shaker and Ian Brown from Fuji Rock's

Festival at the Taipei World Trade Center

lineup. [See Highlight below.]

long with baking heat, air-conditioner drip and typhoon alerts, late July signals the coming of the summer music festival season. In the next few weeks, several of the world's biggest names in rock

and pop will sweep through East Asia, and though we will get to see many of them in Taipei — Massive Attack, Broken Social Scene, Atari Teenage Riot and Steve Aoki to name a few — the epicenter of this annual rock 'n' roll earthquake continues to be in Japan.

Both the Fuji Rock Festival, from July 30 to Aug. 1 in Naeba, Japan, and Summer Sonic, in Tokyo and Osaka on Aug. 7 and Aug. 8, boast monster lineups that are feeding the region.

Taiwanese bands will play a small part in the action. Go Chic, a Taipei foursome mixing dance rock with riot grrrl energy, will become the third Taiwanese band to play Fuji Rock when it performs there next Saturday night. At the same time, they will also become the first non-Japanese band to play the Rookie-a-Go-Go stage there, a free stage outside the festival gates where bands compete for a proper berth in the next year's festival.

> Taiwan's senior rocker Wu Bai (伍佰) is also traveling to South Korea's Pentaport Festival, where he performs today, and next weekend

> > When it comes to choosing artists, says Johnnie Fingers, one of Fuji Rock's promoters, Jay-Z, left, the Pixies and Stevie Wonder are among the acts scheduled for next month's

reggae band, Matzka, will play the Jisan Valley "the live performance is king."

"I personally go to other festivals, like SXSW, the Great Escape and ADA to check for new artists. We're always looking. A good record creates interest, but if the artist's show is no good. Then we have to pass," he says.

But as a camping festival where many of the 40,000 attendees at Fuji Rock each day have been coming for several years, the event has become about more than just music.

"As time goes on, the festival has developed into not being just about rock performances," says Fingers. "Fuji Rock is a social and lifestyle event, a weekend away from the Monday-to-Friday grind in a beautiful setting. The audience has grown to think of it as their festival, and we have that in mind all the time.

Summer Sonic, Japan's urban summer rock festival, poses a sharp contrast. Held just one week after Fuji Rock in a baseball stadium and convention center on the fringes of metro Tokyo, its lineup plays out like the wet dream of some music company executive.

Taylor Swift and Jay-Z will fill the niche for current Top-40 talent, while an all-star lineup of 90s alternative and hip-hop acts will be filled out by the Smashing Pumpkins, the Pixies, Pavement and A Tribe Called Quest. But the top festival slot goes to none other than the 60-year-old R 'n' B legend Stevie Wonder, who's already been generating headlines for performances at major European festivals in the early part of the summer.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

WHAT: Fuji Rock Festival WHERE: Naeba, Japan WHEN: July 30 to Aug. 1

ADMISSION: Three-day passes are 9,800 yen (NT\$14,800) ON THE NET: www.smash-uk.com/frf10

WHAT: Summer Sonic, with Stevie Wonder, Jay Z, Smashing Pumpkins and **Taylor Swift**

WHERE: Chiba Marine Stadium (near Tokyo) and Miashima (near Osaka) WHEN: Aug. 7 to Aug. 8 from 11am in both cities (the lineups switch cities from day one to day two) **ADMISSION:** Two-day passes are 29,000

yen (NT\$10,700) for Tokyo and 26,500 (NT\$9,800) yen for Osaka **ON THE NET:** www.summersonic.com

For Taiwan's music fans, the magnetic draw of such big names and mega-festivals is increasingly enough to overcome the steep ticket prices. (Festival passes alone can cost NT\$10,000 to NT\$15,000).

A Facebook group called "I Want to Go to Fuji Rock" (我要去 Fuji Rock) has so far garnered more than 350 fans, of whom around 30 will make the pilgrimage to Fuji Rock this year. In the festival campground, they plan to fly a flag with the Taiwan Tourism Bureau's "Taiwan" logo and the words "I am Taiwanese" (哇系台灣郎).

Theater

Xinbei City International Arts Festival (2010新北市藝術節) is an

international art carnival that began early this month and runs through Oct. 24. Forty-three groups from six countries including Malaysia, Australia, Italy and the US are scheduled to bring a myriad of theatrical, music, acrobatic and multimedia shows to more than 20 towns and villages in Taipei County. Performing groups slated for this week include Ming Hwa Yuan Arts and Cultural Group (明華園戲劇總團) and If Kids Theater Company (如果兒童劇團). For more information, go to

■ Major venues include Taipei County Arts Center (台北縣藝文中心演藝廳), 62 Jhuangjing Rd, Banciao City, Taipei County (台北縣板橋市莊敬路62號) and the East Plaza (東岸廣場) in Bitan (碧潭)

www.xinbei-arts.com.

■ Admission to most shows is free. Tickets for the indoor performances at the Taipei County Arts Center are available through NTCH and ERA ticketing or online at www.kham.com.

For Kungfu Poetry Nine Volumes (切天詩 九卷), Beijing's Poly Kungtu

Performing Group (保利功夫明星表演 團) updates and hybridizes shaolin (少 林) martial arts with elements of Broadway musicals, ballet and modern dance, as well as yoga and Western classical music

- 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, tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

For Entrance II (飛行樂園), Diabolo Dance Theatre (舞鈴劇場) injects a dose of visual opulence and high energy into diabolo, a traditional children's game and Chinese acrobatic

- Nangang 101 (南港101), 71 Xingnan
- St, Taipei City (台北市興南街71號) ■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 10:30am and 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,500, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Legend Lin Dance Theatre's (無垢舞蹈 劇場) highly acclaimed **Song of** Pensive Beholding (Chants de la **Destinee,** 觀) is the final part of the trilogy set in a mythological world inhabited by men and spirits by renowned choreographer Lin Li-chen (林麗珍). [See story on Page 13.]

- Kaohsiung Cultural Center's Chih-teh Hall (高雄市立文化中心至德堂), 67 Wufu 1st Rd, Kaohsiung City, (高雄市五福一路
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm ■ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing or

online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Based on Nobel Prize-winning Italian playwright Dario Fo's **The Tale of a** Tiger, Tiger and Soldier (老虎與士 **兵)** is a one-man show by Indian stage director and actor Chongtham Jayanta Meetei from EX-Theatre Asia (EX-亞洲 劇團), who uses traditional Indian forms of story-telling and dance to tell

- the Italian story. ■ Kaohsiung's Pier 2 Arts Center (高雄 駁二藝術特區), 1 Dayong Rd, Yancheng Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市鹽埕區大勇 路1號)
- Tomorrow at 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Classical music

As part of the International Chopin Festival 2010 (20X10蕭邦CHOPIN國際 音樂節), pianist Gwhyenth Chen (陳毓襄), who first performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra when she was iust 13, will perform a program of Chopin nocturnes and ballads in two concerts over the weekend.

- Today at 7:30pm (Taipei) and tomorrow at 7:30pm (Taichung)
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City, and Chunghsing Concert Hall, Taichung (台中 中興堂), 291-3 Cingwu Rd, Taichung City (台中市精武路291之3號)
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,800 (Taipei) and NT\$350 to NT\$1,000 (Taipei), available through ERA ticketing or online at www ticket.com.tw. Also available before the day of the performance through 7-Eleven ibon, Family Mart (全家) FamiPort and Hi-Life (萊爾富) Life-ET kiosks

ATS 20th Anniversary Concert Series (台灣絃樂團歡慶20週年系列 音樂 npresents the Academy of Taiwan Strings (台灣絃樂團) quartet performing a program that includes Haydn's String Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 20, No. 1, Mendelssohn's String Quartet in A Minor, Op.13 and Schumann's String Quartet in A

- Major, Op. 41, No. 3. ■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm ■ Performing Arts Hall of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Taoyuan County
- Government (桃園縣政府文化局演藝廳), 21 Sianfu Rd, Taoyuan County (桃園市縣 ■ Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$500, available

through ERA ticketing or online at www ticket.com.tw. Also available before the day of the performance through 7-Eleven ibon, Family Mart (全家) FamiPort and Hi-Life (萊爾富) Life-ET kiosks

2010 Taipei International Choral Festival (台北國際合唱音樂節) opens Sunday with a concert featuring the Gustaf Sjokvists Chamber Choir from Sweden and the Bratislava Boys' Choir from Slovakia performing Haydn's Nelson Mass together with the Taipei Philharmonic Chorus (台北愛樂合唱團) and the Taipei Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (台北愛樂青年管弦樂團). The performance will also feature Chen Meiling (陳美玲), soprano, Chen Pei-chi (陳珮 琪), alto, Vincente Fortunato Moran, tenor and Liau Chong-boon (廖聰文), bass. This opening concert will be followed by a recital by Gustaf Sjokvists Chamber Choir on Monday, the Bratislava Boys' Choir on Tuesday and Rajaton from Finland on Wednesday. The festival runs until Aug. 1. Free choral concerts will be held at 3pm tomorrow at the No. 7 Underground Plaza of the Zhongxiao Fuxing MRT Station (忠孝復興捷運站), and at noon on Sunday at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum (台北市立美術館), located at 181 Zhongshan N Rd, Taipei City (台北市中山 北路三段181號), and at noon on Monday at the NTUH Children's Wing (台大醫院兒 童醫療大樓), located at 8 Zhongshan S Rd, Taipei City (台北市中山南路8號). More information on the festival can be found at www.tpf.org.tw.

- Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and
- Wednesday at 7:30pm ■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,000, 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. Mando-pop singer **Harlem Yu** (庾澄慶) holds concerts tonight and tomorrow, which are billed as the "2010 Harlem

Night Club." On Sunday Canadian indierock collective **Broken Social Scene** takes the stage [see article on Page 13]. On Tuesday, the TWinkle Rock Festival kicks off with UK psychedelic Brit-pop

Taiwan's

- band Kula Shaker. ■ 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
- Shows start at 8pm tonight and tomorrow, Sunday at 7:30pm and Tuesday at 8:30pm
- Admission is NT\$1,400, NT\$1,600 or NT\$2,000 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$2,200 on Sunday (NT\$1,800 in advance) and NT\$1,800 on Tuesday (NT\$1,650 in advance). Tickets can be purchased at ERA ticketing outlets, online through www.ticket.com.tw or www. legacy.com.tw or at 7-Eleven ibon kiosks

Indie rockers **Touming Magazine** (透 明雜誌), electro-rock band **Sunset** Rollercoaster (落日飛車) and garage rockers The White Eyes (白目樂隊) perform tonight at **The Wall**. Tomorrow night it's **Orangegrass** (橙草), a postrock band with an emo-punk singer. Later on DJs **Dim Mak**, **Mykal** and **Dino** keep the venue moving with an all-night dance party billed "Mustard Pimp." Japanese pop singer **Megumi**

- Nakajima appears on Sunday. ■ 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 ■ Shows start at 8pm. Tomorrow's DJ
- show starts at 11:30pm ■ Admission is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow for the bands, NT\$900 (NT\$600 in advance) for tomorrow's dance party and NT\$1,500 on Sunday. Tickets can be purchased online through www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.

Tonight Witch House (女巫店) hosts indie-pop group Miss Silk Stocking (絲襪小姐). Tomorrow it's indie singersongwriters **Huang Pei-yu** (黃培育) and Liu A-chang (劉阿昌). Acoustic solo performer **Marine** and Taichung group **FiFi Two** (緋緋兔) split the bill on

- 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 ■ Admission for music shows is NT\$300

No shows are scheduled for tonight at Riverside Cafe (河岸留言) as of press time. Check the Web site for updates. Tomorrow jazz pianist **Hsu Yu-ying** (許 郁瑛) performs to promote her latest release. On Sunday it's jazz-rock group Seven Shekels (七舍客勒) and the Baba Band (爸爸辦桌). 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 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 tomorrow.
- NT\$350 on Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Tonight Riverside Live House (西門 紅樓展演館) hosts Mando-pop singers Jason Chang (張正宗) and Tong-en (同恩). Tomorrow the venue hosts poprock band Crystal Dancer (舞璃), poppunk group The Fen-Fens (紛紛樂團) and Indie Famous. On Sunday

renowned metal musicians Michael **Angelo** and **Neil Zaza** perform in a tribute to the late Ronnie James Dio. Also appearing is local hard-rock guitar hero Marty Young (楊沛霖)

- 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 and tomorrow and 7pm on Sunday
- Admission is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow and NT\$600 or NT\$900 on Sunday afternoon. Tickets can purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/ livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Tonight **Underworld (地下社會)** hosts expat rockers Half Mile Radius and Mr Dirty. Electro-rock band Sunset Rollercoaster and Nintendo Generation Blues (任天堂世代憂鬱) take the stage tomorrow. Roxymoron appears on Wednesday.

- 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 N1S300 on Fridays and Saturdays, which includes one drink, and NT\$100 on Wednesdays

The **Earl Hines II Jazztet** appears

HIGHLIGHTS



Snap to it.



Photowalk tomorrow tours the lanes and alleyways of Taichung and Taipei's Shilin District, giving professional and amateur shutterbugs the opportunity to mingle and take

photographs. The two-hour walks, part of an annual event started by photographer Scott Kelby, are open to anyone interested in photography. "The event is a great chance for expat

and local photographers to go out and shoot together, sharing photographic knowledge, technique and culture," says Mark Foreman, who will lead the walk in Taichung. The Taipei walk begins at the Shilin MRT Station (士林捷運站) and takes in Shilin night market, while the Taichung walk begins at the Sogo Department Store (百貨) on Taichung Gang Road (台中港路). Proceeds from the sale of official Photowalk T-shirts will be donated to the Springs of Hope orphanage in

Participants are eligible to take part in a global competition for a US\$1,000 gift certificate and other prizes.

- ▶ Shilin MRT Station (士林捷運站), 1 Fude Rd, Taipei City (台北市福德路1號), and Sogo Department Store, 299, Taichung Gang Rd Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市台中港路一段299號). Admission is free, but those attending must pre-register online at www.worldwidephotowalk.com
- ▶ Tomorrow from 2pm to 4pm On the Net:
- www.worldwidephotowalk.com

tonight at Sappho de Base, the latenight lounge bar and hangout for musicians from Taipei's jazz and blues scene. Tomorrow the venue hosts Jo Jo Ma Quintet, a group led by saxophonist Joseph Marchione. The Emo Jazz Trio appears on Tuesday, saxophonist Klaus Bru's plays on Wednesday, and TNT Jazz hosts an open jam 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 Wednesday and NT\$150 tomorrow, free on other nights

The Wall (這牆) programs regular live rock shows at Kaohsiung's Pier 2 Arts Center (高雄駁二藝術特區)

Tonight features punk group Autumn Tiger, The Last Chance and Drum N' Keyboard. Tomorrow veteran punks Fire Ex (滅火器) celebrate their 10th anniversary. On Sunday the venue hosts Yan Yung-neng (嚴詠能), a folk singer who won the Best Taiwaneselanguage Album prize at this year's

- Golden Melody Awards. ■ 1 Dayong Rd, Yancheng Dist, Kaohsiung City (局雄市鹽埕區大勇路1號). On the Net: pier-2.khcc.gov.tw,
- www.thewall.com.tw ■ Shows start at 7:30pm tonight and
- tomorrow and Sunday at 7pm ■ Admission is NT\$300 tonight and
- Sunday, NT\$400 tomorrow



The TWinkle Rock Festival, a four-day event featuring major alternative rock and electronica acts from the UK, kicks off this coming Tuesday with

> at **Legacy Taipei.** On Wednesday, the festival moves to the **Taipei World Trade Center**

psychedelic rock band Kula Shaker

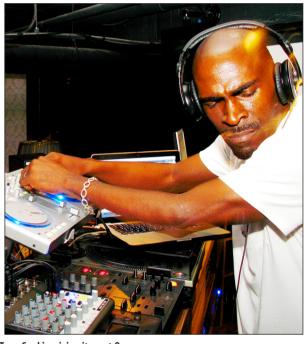
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLD TYPHOON

Nangang Exhibition Hall to host trip-hop pioneers Massive Attack. The **Pet Shop Boys** take the stage on Thursday at the same venue. The London duo of vocalist Neil Tennant and keyboardist Chris Lowe has left an indelible mark on electronic dance music with classic hits like West End Girls and It's a Sin.

The festival concludes on July 30 with former Stone Roses frontman lan Brown, who performs at Legacy Taipei.

- ► Massive Attack (Wednesday) and Pet Shop Boys (Thursday) at 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). Both shows start at 7:30pm
- ► Kula Shaker (Tuesday) and Ian Brown (July 30) at Legacy Taipei, located at 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). Both shows start at 8:30pm
- ► Tickets are NT\$2,000 to NT\$4,000 for Massive Attack, NT\$2,999 to NT\$6,999 for the Pet Shop Boys, NT\$1,800 for Kula Shaker and NT\$1,800 for Ian Brown. Tickets are available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

BY QUEEN BEE



Tony Soul is mixing it up at Opus.

ormer House of Blues DJ **Tony Soul** (previously known as **Sandman**) recently moved to Taipei. His mission is to promote local talent through his Web radio station

The son of WWRL radio station legend Hank Spann. Tony Soul is also a veteran radio host as well as a veteran hip-hop DJ. But after more than two decades playing hiphop, he switched allegiance and now plays deep house.

His radio shows have attracted an international following over the past six months and he plans to broadcast house music sets by local DJs spinning at Opus Bar every Friday starting next month. **Vinyl Word:** How did you start out spinning?

Tony Soul: My father gave me this lifestyle early in my life by bringing me everywhere with him. Eventually I was able to get on the one turntable and play to a crowd at a gathering for radio cats when I was 9. **vw:** Why did you switch from hip-hop to deep house? **TS:** After taking a five-year break to start a family, I

wanted back in. But hip-hop wasn't really growing. It was actually getting worse, with the horrible lyrics that disrespect women, and really give a false face to the music that I once loved. Using Traktor [DJ software] while on my hiatus, I developed a unique sound of always mixing four records at once. Things seemed fun again, so I changed my name and got back in the game. **vw:** Who or what are your greatest influences?

TS: Besides my father, I am currently influenced by **The** Martinez Brothers. They bring the same intensity to mixing that I do, and do it with reckless abandon. Mark Farina influenced me greatly, too. Being from NYC/New Orleans, and having half of my family from Chicago gave me a combination of gritty soul with all of the Chicago house influences I could handle. **vw**: What's your deejaying philosophy?

but also to give them something new, something fresh. DJs playing the same old music are doing their listeners a disservice by not giving them new music. If you treat your listeners like they are dumb, musically, they become just that, dumb musically. **vw:** What's the idea behind Radio4by4?

TS: It's your responsibility as a DJ to make them dance,

TS: I am here to show the world that Asia has many

house music DJs that are doing great things. Our station usually has about 400 viewers at any given time, featuring DJs from around the world playing all sub-genres. Hopefully this will help to expose DJs here to the world. Opus Bar is located at 104, Civil Boulevard Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市市民大道四段104號).

Taipei for a set at tonight's Earworm party at VU Live House. Jung will be spinning four decks using Traktor and an Ableton sequencer to add live elements to his set. Earworm (耳朵蟲), tonight from 10:30pm to 4:30am at VU Live House (地下絲絨), B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei

Minimal techno producer/DJ **Thomas Jung** returns to

City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Admission is NT\$400. On the Net: earworm.tw. In other clubbing news: Break out the cigars as Taipei has a new addition to the fold. Space opened as an electronic dance music club on Friday last week, boasting some of the country's top veteran DJs (Jimmy Chen, Tiger and Stone)

changed to hip-hop, and the DJs were given the heave-ho. "They told all the DJs not to come in because some friends of the boss said they want hip-hop," says Jimmy Chen. "It was totally nasty. The club is owned by some outsider who cares about nothing but money."

as residents. But the following day that club's music policy

Space is located at B1, 171 Songde Road, Taipei City (台北市松德路171號B1).