

Andrea Huang, lead singer of My Skin Against Your Skin.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE RUSSO

More than skin deep

he youthful, fresh-faced girl sitting at the cafe table, wearing a simple white cotton shirt and no makeup is friendly, open and disarmingly nice. It's like expecting to meet Wednesday Addams and getting a young Christina Ricci instead. Her companion — tall, dark and as lanky as Nick Cave — embodies an infinitely cool bass player persona.

They are the voice and backbone of My Skin Against Your Skin: Andrea Huang (黃盈誼) and Yu Si-lu (尤世儒), both formerly of popular band Rabbit Is Rich (兔子很有錢).

Stripped of her heavy, almost Gothic makeup and glittering gowns, Huang seems more vulnerable. On stage she's gained notoriety for whipping her hair maniacally and growling out terse, emotively dark lyrics to the raging punk-indie sound of her band. In person, her speech is often punctuated by pauses that belie a more thoughtful disposition.

Rabbit Is Rich disbanded last year when an artistic riff divided the group. "After we played together for two years, we tried to write new songs, but we found a creative difference between our guitar player and

us, so we decided to leave the band," said Huang.

Rabbit Is Rich was "just for fun" said Yu. After several years together "we wanted to focus on the music."

Their current band name was inspired by a short film/ advertisement for YSL called YourSkin Against My Skin, said Huang, who "found the mood so sexy and mysterious." The songs of My Skin Against Your Skin share these traits and are a natural progression of both Huang and Yu's artistic maturation. They've gone past punk riffs and screaming vocals to multi-textured, more soulful music.

With a shared creative vision, they searched for a guitar player, auditioning seven over two months. They tried all kinds, said Huang: "We didn't want to limit who auditioned, [thev] didn't need to fit in any kind of music style — that's too confining." They were more concerned with finding someone that would want to try new things.

After choosing guitarist Michii Hayashi (林盈一), and a new drummer, Da Ye Lang (程湛文) in January, the band came up with new material very quickly. "We

make [the music] together, we jam in the practice room — it's very spontaneous," said Huang.

Her focus is on the story behind the songs. "We want our music to be like the raw footage of a movie or like a sound track," she said, referencing Little Miss Sunshine, a darkly moving comedy about American beauty pageants for children. Their intention is to write 10 songs that "feel like a fast car," said Huang.

Future plans include recording an album and doing more overseas shows. My Skin Against Your Skin will play in Hong Kong in December. "If anyone would like to help us do overseas gigs, please contact us," said Huang. For now they are touring Taiwan, with a show tomorrow in Kaohsiung at Brickyard, Sept. 4 in Taichung at 89K, and at the Rock In Taichung Festival on Sept 5.

The new material resonates more intrinsically than the group's previous songs.

"It is a deep trip to understand yourself — love, dreams, courage, the conflict between dreams and society — this point between the two ... You should listen to this voice in

your mind," said Huang. "We are confused and face problems, the conflict between dreams and real life — you don't encourage yourself so you don't feel confident in yourself," she says, leaning her petite frame over the table for emphasis, her eyes taking on the same strange luminescence that they do when she is performing. "Everyone should listen to themselves."

PERFORMANCE NOTES

WHAT: My Skin Against Your Skin with 2 Acres Plowed WHERE: Brickyard, B1, 507, Jhongshan 2nd Rd, Cianjin Dist, Kaohsiung City (高雄市前金區中 山二路507號B1)

WHEN: Tomorrow from 9:30pm

ADMISSION: NT\$350 for men, NT\$150 for women, with an open (free) bar from 9pm to 11pm. After 11pm the price of admission includes one drink

Theater

Founded in 2008 to nurture young artists, the **Taipei Fringe Festival** (台北藝穗節) celebrates its third edition with a lineup of more than 250 performances by 70 theatrical companies at venues across the city. The festival starts tomorrow and runs through Sept. 12. For more information. go to www.taipeifringe.org.

- Venues include Ecole Cafe (學校咖啡 館) at 6, Ln 1, Chingtien St, Taipei City (台北市青田街1巷6號); Wolong 29 (臥龍 貳玖) at 29, Ln 136, Heping E Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市和平東路二段136巷 29號); Somebody Cafe (貳拾陸巷) at 2F-3F, 131 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市 西寧南路131號2-3樓); Taipei Stock (倉庫 藝文空間) at 3F, 34, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段34號3F)
- Visit the festival Web site for performance times

As part of the 12th Taipei Arts Festival (第十二屆台北藝術節), Mint, Rosemary and the Flower With No Name (薄荷、迷迭香和不知名的花) by Slow Island Theatre Group (慢島劇團) tells of modern love affairs between one man and two women.

- Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂). 98 Yanping S Rd, Taipei City (台北市延平南 路98號)
- Tonight at 7:45pm, tomorrow at 2:45pm and 7:45pm and Sunday at 2:45pm
- Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Now in its fifth year, Taipei Tap Festival (台北踢踏節) is hosting tap artists from home and abroad in Taipei and Kaohsiung tomorrow and on Sunday respectively. Performers include the internationally renowned Derick K. Grant, Jason Samuels Smith from the US and Japan's Yukiko Misumi. For more information, go to www.taipeitap.com.tw.

- Red House Theater (西門紅樓), 10 Chengdu Rd, Taipei City (台北市成都路 10號) and 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67號)
- Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

The **International Ballet Star Gala** returns to the capital for the fourth time with a lineup of 14 ballet stars from eight of the world's most prestigious ballet companies, including Denis Matvienko from the Mariinsky Theater, lana Salenko from Staatsballett Berlin and Rupert Pennefather from the Royal

- Ballet of London. ■ National Theater, Taipei City
- Tomorrow at 7pm and Sunday
- Tickets are NT\$1,600 to NT\$3,000 for tomorrow, NT\$1,200 to NT\$6,000 for Sunday, available through the NTCH box office or online at www.artsticket.com

Female poet, musician and academic Yen Ai-lin (顏艾琳) teams up Theatre Company of Leeqingzhao the Private (李清照私人劇團) for The Uncolour (無 色三色), a solo performance starring Yen exploring herself as a woman, daughter, wife, mother and an artist.

- 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
- Tomorrow at 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300, available online at tickets.books.com.tw

Classical music

Sword in the Water (出水靈劍), a performance by Ten Drum Percussion Art Group (十鼓擊樂團), combines percussion, martial arts and theater in a multifaceted performance. The production tells a story of self-discovery through the practice of art. The troupe will present 12 performances of this production, opening at the Tainan City Municipal Cultural Center Performance Hall (台南市立文化中心演藝廳), but with the majority at their Ten Drum Culture Village (十鼓文化村) home base.

- Today and tomorrow 7:30pm (Performance Hall); Sunday at 1:30pm (Cultural Village)
- Tainan City Municipal Cultural Center Performance Hall (台南市立文化 中心演藝廳), 332, Jhonghua E Rd Sec 3, Tainan City (台南市中華東路三段332號) and the Ten Drum Culture Village (+ 鼓文化村) located at 399 Hushan Rd, Rende Township, Tainan (台南縣仁德鄉
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$800 (Performance Hall) and NT\$300 (Cultural **Hood** is the feature act later in the Village), available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw; also available before the day of the performance through 7-Eleven ibon, FamilyMart (全家) FamiPort and Hi-Life (萊爾富) Life-ET kiosks

Olga Kern 2010 Piano Recital (范 克萊本金牌女王 — 歐嘉・肯恩2010鋼 琴獨奏會) presents the young Russian concert pianist Olga Kern, who will be returns to Taiwan for two concerts. Kern, who won over Taiwan audiences in 2006, already has six albums released under the Harmonia Mundi label and has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras. She will perform a program that includes Chopin's Ballade in G Minor, Op. 23, Polonaise No. 6 in A-flat Major, Op. 53 "Heroic," and Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor, Op. 35, Rachmaninoff's Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor, Op.36, and Prelude in C-sharp Minor,

- Op. 3, No. 2 and Balakirev's Islamey. ■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm (Taichung) and Monday at 7:30pm (Taipei)
- Taichung Tun District Art Center (台中 縣屯區藝文中心), 201 Dasing Rd, Taiping City, Taichung County (台中縣太平市大 興路201號) and National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,400 (Taichung) and NT\$500 to NT\$3,000 (Taipei), available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Fantastic! Buddha! (瘋了!阿彌陀 佛!), a concert by the Chai Found Music Workshop (采風樂坊), features innovative arrangements of Buddhist music by one of the most exciting traditional Chinese musical groups currently working in Taiwan. The program includes musical arrangements based on Buddhist themes using a mixture of traditional music and ideas drawn from pop and electronic music. The music will be performed by a sextet

- of traditional Chinese instruments. ■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm ■ National Experimental Theater,
- Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$500, available from 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 features **Luantan Ascent**

(亂彈阿翔), a group led by singersongwriter A-hsiang (阿翔) of the beloved but defunct underground rock band Luantan (亂彈). Tomorrow's show with Malaysian Mando-pop star Michael Wong (王光良) is sold out. On Wednesday, the venue presents a group of Mando-pop singers: Li Tu (李 度), Wang Bo-sen (王柏森), Lin Shih-

禎) and Elaine Wang (王譯翎). ■ 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)

chien (林世干), Yao Kuo-chen (姚國

- Shows start at 8pm tonight, tomorrow and Sunday, 8:30pm on Wednesday
- Entrance is NT\$600 tonight (NT\$400 in advance), tomorrow's show is sold out, NT\$500 on Wednesday (NT\$400 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

Mando-pop singer **Stanley Hsu** (許仁 杰) performs tonight at The Wall (這 牆). American techno artist **Robert** evening, and appears with DJs JJ, Black Bells and Databass [see the Vinyl Word]. Tomorrow and Sunday, Taiwan's top metal bands take to the stage for a mini-festival dubbed "Metal High School." The roster includes **Bury** in Sorrow, Dying Chelsea and Emerging From the Cocoon, Hekate, Infernal Chaos, Beyond Cure and Chthonic (閃靈).

HIGHLIGHT

BY **DIANE BAKER**



The first graduates of U-Theatre's youth program are performing their farewell show this weekend before heading off to university.

Zen drumming troupe U-Theatre (優劇場) is saying a "goodbye for now" to the first graduates from its youth performing group, who will be going off to university next month. The teenagers have produced their own graduation performance, entitled **Field Hands** (手中田), which opens tonight at the company's Laoquanshan (老泉山) base in Muzha.

The theme of the show comes from the upland rice they planted on the mountain in May. Now the rice is ready to harvest.

- U-Theatre founder-director Liu Ruo-yu (劉若瑀) and her husband, drumming director Huang Chih-chun (黃誌群), will be among the proud parents watching the show — their daughter is one of the graduates. As usual, U-Theatre is encouraging audience members not to drive up the mountain, but to take one of the U-Theatre shuttle buses from the Taipei Zoo MRT Station, exit No. 2.
- ▶ Tonight, tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm at the U-Theatre Mountain Theater (優人劇場山上劇場), 30, Ln 26, Laoquan St, Muzha, Taipei City (台北市 木柵老泉街26巷30號)
- ▶ Tickets are NT\$900; only seats for Sunday night are left, available online at www.artsticket.com.tw or by calling (02) 2938-8138

■ 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 and 11:30pm tonight, 6pm tomorrow and Sunday ■ Entrance is NT\$500 tonight, NT\$1,000 for the dance party, NT\$500 each for Saturday and Sunday's shows (NT\$600 in advance for the two shows combined). Tickets can be purchased online through www.thewall.com.tw or

tickets.books.com.tw

Tonight Witch House (女巫店) hosts rock band 300,000 Old Pliers (三十萬 年老虎鉗). Also tonight is a student rock group, **Dr James and His Medical** Treatment Band (Dr. 詹姆士 & 醫療團 隊). Tomorrow Amis singer **Long-ge** (龍哥) performs a set of soulful and

- rousing drinking songs. ■ 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 for music shows is NT\$300

Tonight the **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留言) hosts Timeless Fusion Project (無限融合黨), a fusion group led by pianist Fred Lu (呂聖斐). Solo pop artist **No Name** takes to the stage tomorrow, and pop pianist and vocalist **Csha** (思涵) performs Sunday. The venue hosts its 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

on Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday Tonight Riverside Live House (西門 紅樓展演館) hosts rock group DCW (東 城衛). Tomorrow's show with **Tizzy Bac**

■ Entrance is NT\$400 tomorrow, NT\$350

- is sold out. ■ 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 8pm tonight and tomorrow
- Entrance is NT\$550 tonight, tomorrow's show is sold out. Tickets can purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Tonight **Underworld** (地下社會) hosts Long Hair Monster and Black **Summer Days**, whose music is based on rock 'n' roll mixed with blues and punk. Tomorrow, it's indie electronica band Telephone Booth (電話亭) and Big Mama. Wednesday's show has not been listed 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 and 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays. Underworld is open daily from 9pm, closed on Mondays. Happy
- before midnight ■ Entrance for music shows is NT\$300 on Fridays and Saturdays, which includes one drink, and NT\$100 on Wednesdays

hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Earl Hines II Jazztet performs tonight at Sappho de Base, the late night lounge bar and hangout for musicians

from Taipei's jazz and blues scene. Tomorrow, it's **Melody Slaves** Revisited, featuring German expat saxophonist Klaus Bru. On Tuesday, **Hsu** Yu-ying (許郁瑛) and friends take to the stage. Hope Yeh and friends are on Wednesday and New York pianist Alex Pryrodny performs with his trio 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 10:30pm tonight and tomorrow and 10pm on all other nights
- Entrance is NT\$100 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$150 on Thursday, free on other nights

EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights for the week ahead include Mando-pop songstress Julia Peng (彭佳慧) 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. depending on the performer

Tonight at **Roxy Roots**, it's surf-rock and blues from the Blues Vibrations. Tomorrow night **Taipei Latin Soul Band** performs live music for the venue's Fiesta Latino night.

- 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松 仁路90號). Tel: (02) 2725-3932. On the
- Net: www.roxv.com.tw ■ Shows start at 10pm ■ Entrance fee for music shows is

NT\$300 (NT\$200 credited toward food and drinks). Entrance is free for women tomorrow night. Taipei Swing holds dance socials on

Friday nights at Capone's, with live music from blues band **BoPoMoFo** (クタロロ). Dancers of all levels are welcome, and beginner's lessons are offered while the band takes a break. Tomorrow, it's light rock music from Supernova.

- 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 On Fridays, minimum charge of one drink, dancers receive a free drink coupon. On Saturdays, minimum charge is NT\$300

The Wall (這牆) programs regular live rock shows at Kaohsiung's Pier 2 Arts Center (高雄駁二藝術特區). Tomorrow, it's post-rock group **Bugs of Phonon** (聲子蟲) and Hoklo-singing indie rockers Windmill (風籟坊).

[Note: These shows were incorrectly listed in last Friday's edition. The Taipei *Times* regrets the error.]

- 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, www.thewall.com.tw
- Shows start at 7:30pm tomorrow ■ Entrance is NT\$400 tomorrow

Shine Lin (林倩), lead singer of The Peppermints (薄荷葉樂團), performs a solo set tomorrow at The Mercury (水星酒館), an indie rock club in Kaohsiung. Also on the bill is indie-folk singer Marine (馬林).

- 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, includes one drink



BY MARCUS AURELIUS



Robert Hood brings his sound track to urban decay to The Wall tonight.

hen you are a legendary DJ and producer, you don't need to do promo because your body of work speaks for itself. **Robert Hood**, on the first stop of the Asian leg of his Omega World Tour, headlines The Wall

(這牆) tonight. DJ BB (Benoit Bouquin), an integral part of the Earworm (耳朵蟲) minimal techno parties in Taipei for the past two years, jumped at the chance to book Hood. In an e-mail interview Bouquin said: "I thought time had come to go back to our roots and do a proper techno party. Something dark, powerful and intense. Hood just fit perfectly into that frame. His music is, in my opinion, pretty much the definition of what techno is — a strong, stripped down and repetitive music that uses non-musical elements like blips, industrial sounds, and unidentifiable samples to create a powerful groove and

deep emotions." In the last nine months, **Diplo** and **Steve Aoki** have been here twice, while other electro-ravers like Jack Beats and **Atomic Hooligan** have made the sojourn as well.

"This might be something of an unconscious reaction to the current electronic scene in Taiwan, which is dominated by a very banging and aggressive electro-rock sound. With all due respect to the artists playing this kind of music, I think there is now an escalation in this style of music leading to always more distortion, always more beat-mashing, always more intensity, which in my opinion comes at the expense of the music itself," said Bouquin.

Hood and his machine gun music will be accompanied by a visual installation that includes lights and a transparent screen the size of the stage so the audience

will feel visually and sonically immersed. Robert Hood Omega World Tour with JJ, Blackbells and DataBass tonight from 11:30pm until 5am at The Wall (這 牆), 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.the-

wall.com.tw. Admission is NT\$1,000 at the door. On the other end of the rainbow, the Oasis and Havana pool parties at the Taipei Country Club (台北鄉村俱樂部) have been making bikinis wiggle with their well-attended parties on alternating weekends. Tomorrow, Speedos, banana hammocks and sausage smugglers will be out in full force and grooving around in the water at the Wonderland Foam Party (泳池泡沫) to the sounds of Jimmy Chen, T.T, Tiger, and **Stone**. Chen says it's the annual gay party weekend in Taiwan so expect the pool to be crammed with visitors

from Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. Wonderland Foam Party tomorrow from 2pm until 10pm at the TK Farm Natural Springs Pool (淡江休閒農場礦 泉游泳池), 96 Beitouzih Rd, Tamsui, Taipei County (台北縣 淡水鎭北投子路96號), tel: (02) 2621-2450. Presale tickets are NT\$600 and are available at Outlet, 181, Ln 20, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段20巷181號) or Cafe Dalida, 151 Chengdu Rd, Taipei City (台北市成都路 151號). Admission is NT\$800 at the door. A bus will be running every half hour to the venue from the Hongshulin MRT Station (紅樹林捷運站) on the Red Line.