

BY DAVID CHEN

## Taichung: rock center



Clockwise from top: Country Boys, Ciacia, Panai, Good 4 Nothing, Mojo, and Girl and the Robots perform at this weekend's Rock in Taichung Festival.

Lower left: A scene from last year's Rock in Taichung Festival.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROCK IN TAICHUNG AND WINDOW.CO

## FESTIVAL NOTES

**WHAT:** Rock in Taichung

**WHERE:** Taichung City Fulfillment Amphitheatre (台中市文心圓滿戶外劇場), 289, Wunsin Rd Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市南屯區文心路一段289號)

**WHEN:** Tomorrow and Sunday from 2:30pm to 10pm,

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ON THE NET:** www.rockintaichung.com

Taichung is putting on a free outdoor rock festival this weekend, with around 90 bands slated to perform on four stages at Wensin Park (文心森林公園) tomorrow and Sunday.

Prominent indie performers from Taiwan, Japan and South Korea are featured at the third annual Rock in Taichung (搖滾台中樂團節), which is sponsored by Taichung's Bureau of Cultural Affairs.

Highlights for tomorrow include Japanese pop-punk group Mix Market, and Start of the Day, a band that mixes emo, techno and post-rock. They appear on the park's main stage, the 6,000-seat Fulfillment Amphitheatre (文心圓滿戶外劇場).

Featured acts on Sunday include indie-pop artist Ciacia (何欣穗) with electro-pop band The Girl and the Robots (女孩與機器), rock trio Green!Eyes and Japanese emo outfit Good 4 Nothing.

The smaller stages promise to be just as lively, said musician Nuno Chen (陳信宏), who helped organized the festival program.

One successful aspect of last year's festival was that each of the four stages attracted "a lot of people," he said. Chen said more than 60,000 people in total attended last year's two-day festival.

As with last year's event, each stage presents a specific theme. The Attack Stage (衝擊舞台) generally caters to bands from Taichung's indie scene, which favors punk and heavy metal. Alien Avenge (異族亡魂) is among the list of metal bands performing tomorrow. Sunday is for the punks, with an all-day lineup that includes hometown favorites Damnkidz, as well as

popular Taipei groups Children Sucker (表兒) and 88 Balaz (88顆芭樂籽).

Social activism is the theme tomorrow at the Garage Liberation Stage (車庫解放舞台), with a series of locally produced documentaries screening throughout the day. There will also be performances by Aboriginal singer-songwriter Panai, who is known for her anti-nuclear activism in Taitung, and folk rock group Country Boys (農村武裝青年), who sing about environmental issues.

Chen touts this stage as one of the unique features of Rock in Taichung, noting that

many music festivals are wary of bands mentioning political issues.

"But this thinking isn't right," he said. "A lot of rock 'n' roll looks at things in society, environmental problems, societal problems. So if you restrict rock bands and tell them 'You can't do this or that,' that would be a strange thing."

In addition to live music, there will be food courts and an arts and crafts market, which will be set up in the grounds of Wensin Park.

As of press time, organizers say the event will proceed even if it rains, but it's best to check the festival Web site for the latest updates.

## SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

## TOMORROW

Panai (巴奈) 4:10pm, Garage Liberation Stage (車庫解放舞台)

Aurora 6:20pm, Energy Stage (能量舞台)

Story Seller 7pm, Energy Stage (能量舞台)

Alien Avenge (異族亡魂) 7:30pm, Attack Stage (衝擊舞台)

Coach (教練) 8pm, Jump Stage (跳躍舞台)

Country Boys (農村武裝青年) 8:05pm, Garage Liberation Stage (車庫解放舞台)

La Petit Nurse (小護士) 9pm, Jump Stage (跳躍舞台)

Start of the Day 8:50pm, Energy Stage (能量舞台)

Mix Market 9:30pm, Energy Stage (能量舞台)

## SUNDAY

Green!Eyes 5:40pm, Energy Stage (能量舞台)

Ciacia (何欣穗) and The Girl and the Robots (女孩與機器) 8pm, Energy Stage (能量舞台)

Zenkwan (何欣穗), 5:30pm, Jump Stage (跳躍舞台)

Queen Suitcase (皇后皮箱) 7pm, Jump Stage (跳躍舞台)

Damnkidz 7pm, Attack Stage (衝擊舞台)

Good 4 Nothing 8pm, Energy Stage (能量舞台)

Children Sucker (表兒) 8:30pm, Attack Stage (衝擊舞台)

88 Balaz (88顆芭樂籽) 9:10pm, Attack Stage (衝擊舞台)

For a full schedule and information on the bands, visit the festival Web site www.rockintaichung.com

## EVENTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## Theater

**Decode 2010 (亂碼2010)** by Ku & Dancers (古舞團) probes the subconscious. The score was composed and will be played by Claudia Howard Queen from Chicago.

■ Experimental Theater, Taipei City

■ 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

■ Tickets are NT\$400 for the workshop, free admission for the performances

■ Adapted from the renowned Singaporean playwright Kuo Pao Kuo's (郭寶昆) **The Spirits Play (靈戲)**, *The Mother Hen Next Door (隔壁的大母雞)* by EX-Theatre Asia (EX-亞洲劇團) explores political repression, war and death in the form of a fable about a giant hen that can't stop eating and winds up devouring its own torso, neck and head.

■ 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)

■ Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30pm, Thursday at 7pm and 8:30pm

■ Tickets are NT\$350, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

■ East Riverside Plaza (東岸廣場), Bitan, Sindian, Taipei County (台北縣新店碧潭)

■ Tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm

■ Free admission

The **Xinbei City International Arts Festival (2010新北市藝術節)** ends with two performances by the Melbourne-based Tom Tom Crew that show off the performance art group's signature mix of circus routines, acrobatics, drumming and hip-hop.

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■ Barry Room, Taipei Artist Village (台北國際藝術村百里廳), 7 Beiping E Rd, Taipei City (台北市北平東路7號)

■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm

■ Tickets are NT\$150 at the door

Set up in 2008 by local fire dancers to promote their pastime, the **Taiwan Fire Festival (台灣火舞祭)** comprises a lineup of individual performances and group shows by popular troupes such as the True Spin Fire Group (TS火舞團), Orange Fire (橘火舞團) and Kundalini. An outdoor art fair and fire dancing workshop will be held before tomorrow evening's performances. For more information, log on at [log.roodo.com/taiwan\\_fire\\_festival](http://log.roodo.com/taiwan_fire_festival)

■ Museum of Contemporary Art's plaza (台北當代藝術館廣場), 39 Chang'an W Rd, Taipei City (台北市長安西路39號)

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huan (王兆徽), who will perform a program that includes Beethoven's *Sonata No. 23, Op. 57* and Chopin's *Ballade No. 1, Op. 23* and *Scherzos No. 1 and No. 2*.

■ Sunday at 2:30pm

■ Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Henry Mazer Music and Culture Center (台北愛樂暨梅哲音樂文化館) at B1, 7 Jinan Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市濟南路一段7號B1)

■ Tickets are NT\$250, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

**Kiss of Time — Tracy Janis Tu Violin Recital (時光之物 — 涂鳳球小提琴獨奏會)** presents local violinist Tracy Janis Tu (涂鳳球) in a performance of the "best loved melodies in history" by Ponce, Kreisler, Saint-Saens, Elgar and Wieniawski. She will be accompanied on piano by Yuriko Morota.

■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm

■ National Recital Hall, Taipei City

■ Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

**ATS 2010 SECOM Annual Concert (ATS2010中興安全年度音樂會)** sees the Academy of Taiwan Strings (台灣絃樂團), which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, presenting a program of music that includes Bach's *Air on the G String*, Mozart's *Serenade in G Major, KV525 "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik"*, the first movement of Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings, Op.48 in C Major*, and the second movement of Schubert's *String Quartet in D Minor "Der Tod und das Madchen."*

■ Monday at 7:30pm

■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City

■ Tickets are NT\$400, available through ERA ticketing or online at www.ticket.com.tw