Puppet parade brings power from the people



Puppeteers from Bread and Puppet Theater held workshops and shows last year in Taipei, Yilan, Taichung and

n Tuesday afternoon at Sijhou Aboriginal Community (溪洲部落), an Amis community on the banks of the Sindian River (新店溪), four members of Bread and Puppet Theater were busy examining items they had collected from a dump that morning. There were milk cans, some cardboard, a headless manikin, broken mops and umbrellas. This junk was to be shaped into puppets of all shapes and sizes during a five-day workshop held this week at the community involving artists, teachers, students and community residents.

This Sunday, a giant puppet pageant will take to the street for a 40-minute march from Sijhou to the Bitan Bridge (碧潭大橋) in Sindian (新店), Taipei County. There will be singing, dancing, music and cantastoria, a form of storytelling that dates back to ancient times when performers traveled through the countryside with pictures painted on fabric to describe what was happening in faraway places.

"Some [Bread and Puppet] shows can be performed by six people or by 40. They can be taught to people in a short amount of time," said Teresa Camou, who has worked with Bread and Puppet for the past 14 years, "We use things and material that can be found everywhere [in the community]. The locals get the idea, and hopefully they are encouraged and will do it again when we leave.'

Camou has a theatrical company in Northern Mexico where she and other puppeteers teach indigenous youth how to tell their own stories through performances and bring shows to villages that never see theater.

Bread and Puppet was founded in 1963 by German-born Peter Schumann on New York's Lower East Side. During the Vietnam War, the company became a fixture of anti-war protests with street parades involving enormous puppets and hundreds of participants and has been recognized as a central part of American political theater ever since. Its 1982 "nuclear freeze" parade is often cited as an exemplary piece of public theater that deployed thousands of volunteers and hundred of massive marionettes on the streets of New York.

The company's home since the mid-1970s has been a farm in Glover, Vermont, where sloping, wide-open fields provide fitting backdrops for circuses and pageants featuring larger-than-lifesize puppets made of papier-mache and cardboard, anti-establishment music and dancing.

Based on the notion that art is as essential for life as bread, Bread and Puppet is a collaborative group open to anyone. It creates shows using what is cheap and readily available, stages street performances and makes theater available to people have neither the time nor the money to attend events that charge admission.

Bread and Puppet supports itself by touring productions in the US and overseas and from the sales of its posters and publications. The company relies heavily on volunteers when it holds workshops and shows in places ranging from South America to the Middle East.

"There is a huge community of puppeteers working with the company. We can meet really quickly all over the place," said member Gabriel Harrell.

Bread and Puppet's touring shows are often aimed at raising awareness of social, political or environmental issues. So it's no surprise that the theme for Sunday's pageant is the oppression of Aborigines living on the margins of urban areas in Taiwan who have been uprooted from their

■ Entrance fee (includes two drinks)

ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850,

Tonight at **Roxy Roots** it's expat

country and western band 2 Acres

Plowed. Tomorrow night is reggae and

dub outfit **Down in Air** (盪在空中). On

Wednesday the venue celebrates Mid-

Autumn Festival with hip-hop and funk

■ 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松

仁路90號). Tel: (02) 2725-3932. On the

■ Entrance fee for music shows is

NT\$300 (NT\$200 credited toward food

Taipei Swing holds dance socials on

Friday nights at Capone's, with live

music from blues band BoPoMoFo

welcome, and beginner's lessons are

offered while the band takes a break

On Saturday drummer Abe Nbugu

Kenyatta leads a band playing music

■ 312, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City

■ Live music from 9pm to 11:30pm on

Fridays, 8pm to 11:30pm on Saturdays

drink on Fridays, dancers receive a free

The Wall (這牆) programs regular live

rock shows at Kaohsiung's Pier 2 Arts

rapper **Soft Lipa** (蛋堡). Malaysian

■ 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,

■ Entrance is NT\$400 tonight and

tomorrow, with a group special of

NT\$1,600 for five tickets for each night

The Mercury (水星酒館), an indie-

group Sorrow of Youth and Taichung

rock club in Kaohsiung, hosts local

post-rock band Double Cheese.

Kaohsiung City (高雄市左營區立文路

46號). Tel: (07) 550-8617. On the Net:

■ Entrance is NT\$200, includes one

■ 46 Liwen Rd, Zuoying Dist,

mercurybar.blogspot.com

■ Show starts at 9pm

Center (高雄駁二藝術特區). Tonight, it's

Mando-pop singer Rynn Lim (林宇中)

■ There's a minimum charge of one

drink coupon. On Saturdays the

minimum charge is NT\$300

appears tomorrow.

www.thewall.com.tw

■ Shows start at 7:30pm

from his hometown of New Orleans.

(台北市忠孝東路四段312號)

(クタロロ). Dancers of all levels are

depending on the performer

DJ Mr Blends.

and drinks).

Net: www.roxy.com.tw

■ Shows start at 10pm

traditional way of life only to repeatedly face the demolition and relocation of their communities.

More than 200 members of the Sijhou community have resided at their current location at the left bank of the Sindian River for three decades, but now face relocation since their houses are built on a flood area.

"When we come to a community, we talk to locals about issues concerning them and try to come up with the important points we want to show. Especially with giant puppet pageants, you can't necessarily go into the complexity of political issues. Yes, it is complicated, but then most conflicts can always come down to who has the money and power and who doesn't," said puppeteer Jason Hicks.

For the puppeteers, it is also important to work with the community and incorporate what people can give. "We work in the same way as Peter works. He sees what he has to work with, [that] being who the people are and what their skills and strengths are ... Every show is different depending on who is part of it," Hicks said.

Bread and Puppet's puppeteers are calling for musicians to join the pageant. Those interested should bring their instruments to the Sijhou community one hour before the parade starts at 3:30pm. But "everyone who wants to be part of it is welcome to be part of it. We will give you a banner, something simple," Camou said, "We always make stuff more than we can possibly use."

An easy way to get to the Sijhou Aboriginal Community at 201-3, Sijhou Road Sindian City, Taipei County (台北縣新店市溪洲路201-3號) is to take a cab from Xindian (Sindian) MRT Station (新店捷運站). The taxi fare costs around NT\$100. For more information, call (02) 2389-0255 or click on www.ssps.com.tw.

Theater

Cats, Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway musical based on TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats will be staged at Taipei Arena (台北小巨蛋) tonight, tomorrow and Sunday and before moving to Tainan and Kaohsiung for additional shows from Sept. 24 to Oct. 3. For complete showing schedule, go to www.kham.com.tw.

- Taipei Arena (台北小巨蛋), 2, Nanjing E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市南京東路
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$800 to NT\$5,800, available through 7-Eleven ibon, FamilyMart (全家) FamiPort and Hi-Life (萊爾富) Life-ET kiosks

Sayonara My Love (大國民進行曲) is Orchestra (國家交響樂團).

a black comedy by Golden Bough Theater (金枝演社) that tells the story of a group of Japanese army officers who refuse to accept the surrender of Japan at the end of World War II and retreat to the mountains with a detachment of Taiwanese soldiers in the belief they are still fighting for the Japanese emperor. The music is produced by folk legend Chen Ming-chang (陳明章).

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

■ National Theater, Taipei City

- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$2,500,
- available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Formosa Zephyr Opera Troupe (台灣春 風歌劇團) presents Murder in the Blizzard Night Inn (雪屋客棧殺人事 件), a Taiwanese operatic thriller based

on Murder on the Oriental Express by British crime writer Agatha Christie. ■ 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)
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,200, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Assignment Theater's (差事劇團) Where is Jiang Hu (江湖在哪裡)

tackles the antagonistic contradictions between the city and the countryside through a story that begins as a virus that causes amnesia sweeps through a farming village.

- Taipei Cinema Park (台北市電影主題 公園), 19 Kangding Rd, Taipei City (台北 市康定路19號)
- Tonight, tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Lee Qingzhao the Private's (李清照私人 劇團) Sia Lyu Di (夏緑地) is a theatrical

exploration on American feminist writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 1892 short story The Yellow Wallpaper. The original story was written as a collection of journal entries by a woman who is confined by her husband to a room and starts to believe she is one of the women she imagines in her head.

- Arki Galeria (築空間), B1, 2, Chongqing S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市重慶南路
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow and
- Sunday at 3pm and 7:30pm ■ Tickets are NT\$500, available through

NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Classical music

Season Opening Concert — Mahler No. 5 (NSO馬勒系列開季音

樂會 — 馬勒第五) opens a new season for the National Symphony Orchestra (國家交響樂團) with a program that mixes Chinese orchestral music into its normal repertoire of the Western classics. The program will include Mendelssohn's The Hebrides, Op. 26, and Mahler's Symphony No. 5 in Csharp Minor, and will feature I-Uen Wang Huang's (王怡雯) Diptych of Taiwan, with Huang Hao-yin (黃好吟) on guzheng and Wang Ming-yu (王銘 裕) on erhu. Lu Shao-chia (呂紹嘉) will conduct the National Symphony

- Ionight 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

Tubby the Tuba (台灣管樂團年度親子 音樂會) is a concert for children designed to introduce one of the oft-overlooked instruments of the symphony orchestra — the humble tuba. The performance will feature the Taiwan Wind Ensemble

(台灣管樂團) conducted by Chou Wen-

wen (周雯雯) and the Clown Mime Group

- (小丑默劇團) ■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm (Hsinchu),
- Sunday at 4pm (Taipei) ■ Performing Arts Center of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Hsinchu County (新竹 縣文化中心演藝廳), 146 Sianjheng 9th Rd, Jhubei City, Hsinchu County (新竹縣 竹北市縣政九路146號); Zhongshan Hall (台北市中山堂中正廳), 98 Yenping S Rd,
- Taipei City (台北市延平南路98號) ■ Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$500 for the Hsinchu concert, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www. artsticket.com.tw. Tickets for the Taipei concert are sold out

Spanish Seduction (西班牙的誘惑) presents guitar virtuoso Pepe Romero performing with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra (台北市立交響樂團) under guest conductor Darrell Ang. The program will include Falla's Interlude and Dance from La Vida Breve and El Sombrero de Tre Picos, Vivaldi's Guitar Concerto in D Major, RV 93 and Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjeuz.

- Wednesday at 7:30pm ■ National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,200, 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. No concerts are scheduled until Wednesday of this coming week, which features **Soulwax**, the live band of renowned Belgium DJs 2manydjs and French DJ **Brodinski**

- 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
- Show starts at 8pm on Wednesday
- Entrance is NT\$2,500 (NT\$2,200 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

Hard rock/nu-metal bands **OverDose** and **Respect** (尊敬) appear tonight at The Wall (這牆), Taipei's premier venue for indie-rock artists. Tomorrow night features post-rock band Aphasia (阿飛西雅) and indie-pop group Goosander (川秋沙). On Wednesday it's Yoz Tiger (包子虎), a solo project of the former member of post-rock band Sugar Plum Ferry (甜梅號). Also on the bill are indie rockers **The Hoyo** and electro-band Noble Gas (惰性氣體). ■ B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei

City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Tel:

www.thewall.com.tw ■ Shows start at 8pm tonight and tomorrow and 7:30pm Sunday

(02) 2930-0162. On the Net:

■ Entrance is NT\$500 tonight and tomorrow (NT\$400 in advance for each show), and NT\$400 Wednesday (NT\$300 in advance). Tickets can be purchased online through www. thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Tonight Witch House (女巫店) hosts performances from both indie-rock bands and folk artists in a coffeehouse setting. Tonight, Shine Lin (林倩), lead singer of The Peppermints (薄荷葉樂團), performs a solo set. Acoustic rock performer Mos takes the stage tomorrow. One-man electro-rock band Sonic Deadhorse appears 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 gueer/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 Riverside Cafe (河岸留言) hosts female Mando-pop songstress A-Lin (黃麗玲). Garage rockers Picks (痞克 and pop singer Hsiao Hung-jen (蕭閎仁) perform tomorrow. On Sunday it's pop rockers **Zhongligou** (中離狗) and Tomodachi (偷摸大雞). The venue hosts its weekly open jam on Monday.

- 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 ■ Entrance is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 on Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Tonight Riverside Live House (西門 紅樓展演館) hosts male-female pop duo

JS. Tomorrow Skyline Jazz Band, whose repertoire includes bossa nova, soul and funk, shares the bill with jazz group Mont Fusion Project and poprap group Cool Silly (傻酷樂團). On Thursday it's jazz-rock group **Seven** Shekels (七舍客勒) and songstress Jasmine Ting Chu (庭竹).

- 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, 8pm tomorrow, 8:30pm on Thursday
- Entrance is NT\$400 tonight,

tomorrow and Thursday. Tickets can purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

Pito Wilson and Lamb of Allah play tonight at **Underworld** (地下社會). Tomorrow it's psychedelic alt-rock band Flat Club (假文藝青年俱樂部) and noise band Sunset Rollercoaster (落日飛 車). On Tuesday the venue hosts a Mid-Autumn Festival full moon party with DJ Dizzy. On Wednesday it's T.O.B. and Sideffect.

- 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. Tuesday's party starts at 10pm. Underworld is open daily from 9pm, closed on Mondays. Happy hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays before
- midniahi ■ Entrance for music shows is NT\$300 on Fridays and Saturdays, which includes one drink, and NT\$100 on Wednesdays. Tuesday's party is NT\$100

Flaneur Daguerre, a jazz quartet that plays everything from free jazz and Balkan folk to classical and rock and roll, performs tonight at Sappho de Base, a late-night lounge bar that hosts live jazz and blues performances. Tomorrow it's saxophonist Terry Hsieh (謝明諺) and his quartet. Pianist Hsu Yu-ying (許郁瑛) and friends are on Tuesday. Fusion Planet takes the stage on Wednesday. Rocky and the Barfly host a late 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\$200 tonight, NT\$150 tomorrow, NT\$100 on Tuesday, 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

- 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

Hoping for Hoping Peace

in Hsinchu County, has been

won't be canceled.

Festival (和平音樂祭) organizers

postponed because Typhoon Fanapi

looks likely to make a direct hit on the

fest for two weeks, but reiterates that it

Of course, there will be changes in the

band lineup — which was to include

Africana and ska band Skaraoke —

as some groups that were scheduled

engagements two weeks from now.

Kimbo (胡德夫), drum group Pan

to play this weekend have other

island on Sunday. Organizer Sean

HIGHLIGHT

BY THOMAS WALK have bad luck with weather. This year's Peace Fest, which was to be held this weekend at the Cincyuan Hot Springs

Hoping for fine weather.

Peace Fest organizers will fill the gaps with other bands or DJs, but have said Wratt says they will likely postpone the to stay tuned as everything is in flux at the moment.

- ▶ So far there's no change in venue, which is the Cincyuan Hot Springs, Taoshan Village, Wufong Township, Hsinchu County (新竹縣五峰鄉桃山村 清泉), on County Highway No. 122 (縣
- For directions and updates, click on www.hopingforhoping.com

BY MARCUS AURELIUS AND QUEEN BEE

urntabilism lovers will have beat juggles and scratching sounds dancing through their heads this weekend as **Shortkut** (Jonathon Cruz) returns to Taiwan for gigs tonight at Dreams in Kaohsiung and

tomorrow at Search in Jhongli. Shortkut started out as a mobile DJ for weddings and bar mitzvahs. He went on to win turntablist battles all over the west coast of the US and has been a member of three influential crews: Invisibl Skratch Piklz, Beat Junkies and Triple Threat DJs.

When reminiscing about the hours and hours of practice he spent preparing his intricate DJ battle routines, Shortkut said: "That time in my life was very exciting because it taught me to shoot for everything. As the years went by, I absorbed not just hip-hop, but all

forms of music." Instead of battling it out for world supremacy, Shortkut now gets called on to judge scratching competitions. He said the new guys on the scene are technically proficient but, "Call me old school, I miss it when people used to flip the original record and make it a song of their own."

Since he's been playing music for more than 20 years, Shortkut knows how to read the crowd.

"There is



most definitely

a compromise between you and the crowd, depending on where you play," he said. "I come from the school of hardcore hip-hop, but I know the current hits. There's a lot of

catchy shit, but some of the songs get way too cheesy." Shortkut is at Dreams, 125 Nantian St, Kaohsiung City (高雄市南天街125號), tonight from 10pm to 4:30pm. Admission is NT\$600 for men and NT\$200 for women for all you can drink. Students with a valid student ID get NT\$100 off. Shortkut then plays at Search Nightclub, 7F, 182 Sinsheng Rd, Chungli City (中壢市新生路182號 7樓) tomorrow. The party is from 10:30pm to 4am and admission is NT\$700 for men and NT\$200 for women for all you can drink.

While many people assume that hip-hop is the hottest club sound in Taiwan right now, Chicano (簡光廷 Chien Kuang Ting), is not so sure. He says the genre has ceased to exist.

He admits, though, that to make a living he has to sell out and only occasionally gets to play the hip-hop he identifies with.

How does he feel about his sobriquet of "Taiwan's godfather of hip-hop"?

"I'm flattered. But seriously I think there's no such thing as hip-hop in Taiwan anymore. The reason why they call me that is because my friends and I used to throw hip-hop parties back when electronic dance music was really popular. That was over 10 years ago when hip-hop was nowhere to be found in clubs because nobody was listening to hip-hop."

In 2001 Chicano entered the Vestax DJ competition and won first place. As a veteran DJ, what does he make of the

younger generation behind the decks? "I think they tend to focus too much on scratching techniques and ignore the importance of cognition of the music and the history of hip-hop," Chicano said. "Being a hip-hop DJ isn't all about scratching and battling. You have

to know your music well enough to create your own style." Besides teaching deejaying, Chicano plays at In Cool in Ximending every Thursday and Saturday. On Oct. 2 he DJs

In Cool is located at B1, 115, Emei St, Taipei City (台北

Volar is located at 12F, 138, Bade Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市八德路四段138號12樓). On the Net: www.volar.tw.