

BY HO YI

Puppet parade brings power from the people



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

On 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...

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...

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...

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...

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-life puppets made of papier-mache and cardboard...

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

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...

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...

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.spsps.com.tw.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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...

Sayonara My Love (大國民進行曲) is 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...

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.

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.

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.

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-wei (周雯蔚) and the Clown Mime Group (小丑默劇團).

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 Aranjuez.

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.

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/metal bands OverDose and Respect (尊啟) appear tonight at The Wall (迷牆), 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).

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.

Tonight Riverside Cafe (河岸露臺) hosts female Mando-pop songstress A-Lin (黃麗玲). Garage rockers Picks (痞克四) and pop singer Hsiao Hung-jen (蕭闌仁) perform tomorrow. On Sunday it's pop rockers Zhongliguo (中離狗) and Tomodachi (偷換大雞).

Tonight Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演廳) 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 pop-rap group Cool Silly (酷蠢樂團).

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

Pito Wilson and Lamb of Allah play tonight at Underworld (地下紅巷). 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).

Fleur 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.

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 (辛龍), who performs every Saturday.

Hoping for Hoping Peace Festival (和平音樂祭) organizers have had luck with weather. This year's Peace Fest, which was to be held this weekend at the Cincuan Hot Springs in Hsinchu County, has been postponed because Typhoon Fanapi looks likely to make a direct hit on the island on Sunday.

Entrance fee (includes two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer

Tonight at Roxy Roots it's expat country and western band 2 Acres Plowed. Tomorrow night is reggae and dub outfit Down in Air (灑在空中).

Taipei Swing holds dance socials on Friday nights at Capone's, with live music from blues band BoPoMoFo (ㄅㄛㄇㄛ). Dancers of all levels are welcome, and beginner's lessons are offered while the band takes a break.

The Wall (迷牆) programs regular live rock shows at Kaohsiung's Pier 2 Arts Center (高雄駁二藝術特區). Tonight, it's rapper Soft Lipa (雷堡), Malaysian Mando-pop singer Rynn Lim (林宇中) appears tomorrow.

The Mercury (水星酒館), an indie-rock club in Kaohsiung, hosts local group Sorrow of Youth and Taichung post-rock band Double Cheese.

The Mercury (水星酒館), an indie-rock club in Kaohsiung, hosts local group Sorrow of Youth and Taichung post-rock band Double Cheese. Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am

THE VINYL WORD

BY MARCUS AURELIUS AND QUEEN BEE

Turntablism lovers will have beat juggles and scratching sounds dancing through their heads this weekend as Shortcut (Jonathon Cruz) returns to Taiwan for gigs tonight at Dreams in Kaohsiung and tomorrow at Search in Jhongli.

Shortcut 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, Shortcut 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, Shortcut 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, Shortcut knows how to read the crowd. "There is most definitely a compromise between you and the crowd, depending on where you play," he said.

Shortcut 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.

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.

"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 at Volar.

In Cool is located at B1, 115, Emei St, Taipei City (台北市峨嵋街115號B1). 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.



DJ Shortcut returns to Taiwan with a record bag full of tricks.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VINCENT LO

HIGHLIGHT

BY THOMAS WALK

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Hoping for fine weather.

PHOTO: ALOE PIOT

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

So far there's no change in venue, which is the Cincuan Hot Springs, Taoshan Village, Wufong Township, Hsinchu County (新竹縣五峰鄉桃山村清泉), on County Highway No. 122 (縣道122)

For directions and updates, click on www.hopingforhoping.com