

SE Sun
HD ÔSydney' may not stay dark; Cheaza to rock **China**; fetching notes at NSPCA charity event
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A version of this column was posted on lasvegassun.com today.

The Kats Report Bureau at this writing is Starbucks at Planet Hollywood, where upstairs the adult revue "Sydney After Dark" is performing its final show later at the old "Peepshow" showroom. But this is not to be the final show in Las Vegas for this troupe from Australia, produced by Adam Steck's SPI Entertainment and directed by onetime Aussie pop star Belinda Chapple. Word is out, courtesy of my colleague Ubiquitous Robin Leach, that the show is hopefully headed a kangaroo hop across the **hotel's** mezzanine to Sin City Theater. That move poses a list of questions and concerns as tall as the show's 6-foot cast members.

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Chiefly, how is a larger-than-expected production conceived Down Under for a 1,500-seat showroom going to play in a room that seats 300 and was built primarily for stand-up comics? This won't be boring, watching the show shrink to fit that cozy venue, and a tip of the Akubra to Steck for keeping production onstage.

¥ On the topic of "Peepshow" and those it has touched, one of that show's former stars is headed to **China**. We speak of onetime Peep Diva Cheaza, who has been a singer in "Jubilee" of late but is headed for Shenzhen, just north of **Hong Kong**, to perform a nightclub gig at one of the region's chic restaurants and lounges. Cheaza's band is named for her and is to play a mix of covers and her originals.

Cheaza has spent a dozen years in Las Vegas, performing in a wide range of shows, including Wayne Brady's headlining production at the Venetian and her run in "Jubilee." She caught the latter show during its ongoing overhaul, performing select numbers for a little less than six months. Of that she says, "It was a challenging experience in a lot of ways, but every person in that cast is awesome." And of her upcoming experience, I say, inside of a month Cheaza will be the most famous entertainer in all of Shenzhen.

¥ On the topic, still, of those who have "Peepshow" ties, our friend Tara Palsha (that show's Little Red Riding Hood before she moved on to "Vegas! The Show") is auditioning for roles in New York. One of her first calls was for the upcoming production "Honeymoon In Vegas." Indeed, the former showgirl — Palsha was also in "Jubilee" — took a look at that show, which had already filled its **lead** roles and was looking only for "swings." False alarm. Just as well.

Otherwise, Palsha and her fianc≈ Scott Moats are digging it pretty well back in Manhattan. We'll keep tabs on these kids, promise.

¥ Following up on my column from The Sunday, where I had noted Steve Wynn's comments about the 2007 **sale** of the New Frontier parcel to El-Ad **Group**: The **purchase** price at the time was \$1.3 **billion**, and Wynn has said the **group** far overpaid for the parcel, which last week was bought by Crown Resorts head James Packer in a partnership with former Wynn exec Andrew Pascal and the Oaktree Capital Management investment **firm**. Though Wynn criticized El-Ad's lavish expenditure, talking of the **group** spending as if it were on a "drunken spree," his comments were not directed at the man who helped make that deal happen, the late-great David Atwell. That deal was among many high-end **commercial** real **estate** sales in Atwell's career, which included the **sale** of the land that became home to the Forum Shops at Caesars.

¥ Sunday afternoon I hit the Nevada Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' "Out of the Gutters" adoption event at Sam's Town bowling lanes. This was the second event for the no-kill canine sanctuary. Here is what we plucked from the gutters:

Mo5aic has left Shimmer Cabaret at Westgate Resorts. Final night was July 26; the vocal **group** reasoned, logically, that the planned deconstruction of that room to create a lobby bar and lounge meant they had no home under the new ownership ... Fright Dome founder Jason Egan has a big announcement coming soon about themes and development for his new **Hong Kong** and Chicago attractions. Fright Dome in Las Vegas has announced it is filling 400 positions in Las Vegas beginning Saturday at 3 p.m. at Circus Circus ... Las Vegas tattoo artist and musician Dirk Vermin's "Bad Ink" show on A&E has been canceled after two seasons. Up next for D.V. is his autobiography, titled "The Devil and Dirk Vermin," due by spring ... The daughter of "Raiding the Rock Vault" bassist Hugh McDonald, Morgan Blackhurst, is Miss Rodeo Tennessee and is competing in Miss Rodeo America at the next Wrangler National Finals Rodeo event in December ... More "Rock Vault": Gina McAuley, the wife of singer Robin McAuley, makes sequined T-shirts of pets, working from photos and taking up to five hours to finish just one shirt. Sporting one of those shirts was Carmen Shortino, wife of "Vaultier" Paul Shortino, with the couple's Podenco Canario named Dio depicted ... Terry Fator bowled a 112 and beat his wife, Taylor, by "a few pins," according to reports. Oddly, Winston the Impersonating Turtle bowled a 221

¥ BBR is back, at Sunset Station's Club Madrid. The oft-noted (at least in this column) steam-punk adaptation of "Alice in Wonderland" is being showcased for one night at that venue Aug. 26. Show is at 11 p.m.; cover is \$5. Also that night, in an unfortunate and unplanned coincidence, is the debut of Lon Bronson's All-Star Band at Mizuya Lounge at Mandalay Bay. It also abuts Kenny Davidsen's open-mic cabaret at Tuscany's T-Spot Lounge. VegasVille scenesters have real conundrum that night.

¥ The bubble act has returned! We are speaking of the inflatable piece of performance art in "Absinthe," which left the show when former bubble inhabitant Angel Porrino was let go back in 2004 or whenever it was. The new cast member performing the routine is Charlie Starling of Newcastle, England. Her performance reflects the original bubble routine, which was a stylish and refined act before it shifted to a comedic tap-dance number later in the show's run.john.kats@lasvegassun.com / 702-990-7720

ART John Katsilometes Carmen Shortino wears a T-shirt designed by Gina McAuley depicting Shortino's Podenco Canario dog named Dio at the Nevada SPCA's "Out of the Gutters" charity event on Sunday at Sam's Town. The women's spouses sing together in "Raiding the Rock Vault."

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