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HK MAGAZINE FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016 HK-MAGAZINE.COM

# SHHHHHHHH!



Stop whining, crybaby: We soothe your every Hong Kong complaint



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Cherry blossoms start blooming everywhere in Japan in the early spring, and mark the beginning of the year's most joyful season. city'super will be bringing some of that joy to Hong Kong, transporting its customers straight to the cherry tree-lined ornamental gardens of Japan, by sharing the unique flavours of spring from Japan's Shikoku and Kyushu islands.



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|   |  |   |
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## The Special Case Handbook

CY Leung found himself in hot water last week for allegedly pulling a few strings to get some baggage delivered to his daughter. Representatives of the airport defended it as a "special case," which is a *really* good pun. But what exactly does that "special case" entail? Here are some examples for institutions to take inspiration from in the future.

### Case Study I.

You represent an airport authority and a traveler has left their baggage behind after going through the security checkpoint. Their father—a man of considerable influence—calls to request that you make an exception and pass the baggage to the passenger.

### What do you do?

**This is a special case.** Grovel and accede to his demands, because you're after a third runway.

### Case Study II.

You run a popular public transportation service in the city. A man of substantial importance accosts you to say that he wants to bring his giant instrument onto the train and he also wants free rides for life.

### What do you do?

**This is a special case.** Kowtow to this man's right to affordable public transport while hiking the rest of the fares to help pay for it.

### Case Study III.

You run an international bank with significant holdings in Hong Kong. A man with powerful friends wants you to move some of his funds to an offshore account, in a move that is totally legal if morally dubious.

**What do you do?**  
**This is a special case.** Go ahead, everyone else is doing it.

### Case Study IV.

You are a property developer running a lucrative business. A man with influence over development rights asks you to build a luxury villa for him on a plot of empty land, instead of using it to build much-needed public housing.

### What do you do?

**This is a special case.** Build it, illegal basements and all.

### Case Study V.

You are a broadcaster with a free-to-air TV license making shows of questionable quality. A man who controls the future of your broadcasting license calls and asks to appear in the starring role of a new soap opera, "Executive Orders XVIII."

### What do you do?

**This is a special case.** As a politician, he is a skilled dissembler. He'll be superb at acting.

### Who's in charge?

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Can't get enough of HK Magazine? Head straight to our website for even more jokes, news, events and everything you need to know to get ahead in the Big Lychee. [hk-magazine.com](http://hk-magazine.com)

### Look us up!



**The List**

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MEMBER OF:



# HOME



Mr. Know-It-All's

— Guide to Life —

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

## Why are Cantonese sauces so gloopy?

— Starched Shirt

They're not: You've just had bad luck in lackluster cha chaan tengs. It's a common mistake to think of these overly thickened sauces as an American corruption of Cantonese classics. But sauce thickened with cornstarch is—in moderation—an age-old element of Chinese cooking, an essential ingredient to almost every dish.

All cuisines have their thickening agents. French food has the roux—butter cooked with flour that melts into a sauce, evenly distributing the flour. But a roux needs time to cook into a sauce, a while to thicken up—elements that are antithetical to the lightning-fast cooking times of Cantonese cuisine.

And so the cornstarch slurry was born: a heap of cornstarch mixed with a dose of cold water, and poured into a hot liquid to thicken up a sauce. Unlike a roux, cornstarch doesn't turn the sauce opaque, and so a Cantonese sauce retains its color and translucency through the thickening process, while also delivering the glossy sheen that's so important to good fresh Cantonese cooking.

The cornstarch does another great thing: When you toss a cornstarched sauce in a stir-fry it sticks to the meat, coating everything evenly and delivering the same punch of flavor with every bite. Used judiciously, cornstarch doesn't ruin a dish: it makes it.

The problem is, of course, that not all sauces need to be thickened—and a heavy hand with the cornstarch can easily replace more time-consuming methods of cooking, such as reducing over a low heat. Imagine you're a harried cook in a low-budget cha chaan teng: When you're spooning out sauces, it's in your interest to have an extra ladleful to go around, even if it's a little sticky and a little low in flavor.

So sure, you throw an extra scoop of cornstarch into the curry sauce. Who's gonna notice, anyhow?

It wasn't always cornstarch, though. Corn's not native to China; the powder wasn't even invented until 1840, in New Jersey. But there have almost always been thickeners in Chinese cooking, from blood on down. Arrowroot flour, for one, is a popular alternative to cornstarch—and in fact, it's a more effective thickener, especially in acidic sauces. That classic Americanized Chinese dish, lemon chicken, is likely to be extra-gloopy because you've got to dump in extra cornstarch to get it to thicken up. Try arrowroot instead.

And so the gooey Cantonese sauce was born, the curse of cha chaan tengs from Toronto to Tsuen Wan. Of course, some people can't get enough of the stuff. There's a condition known as Pica, which you're driven to eat things of no nutritional value. Specifically, "amylophagia" is the compulsive consumption of purified starch, and it's most often seen in pregnant women. So if you find yourself addicted to the gloopy, shiny mess at your nearest crappy cha chaan teng, take heart: It might not be that you have no taste. You might just be pregnant.



Shine on you crazy cornstarch

Photo: Beautifulcataya via Flickr

My Perfect  
HK

This week in My Perfect HK:  
Ocean Park has temporarily closed its Giant Panda Adventure exhibit for a week, as the city's pandas enter mating season. Park officials are hoping that Ying Ying and Le Le will successfully produce the first ever made-in-Hong Kong giant panda cub. Getting pandas pregnant is a notoriously difficult process, but we think they're in with a chance. Good luck, Ying Ying and Le Le!

Do it for Hong Kong!

## Letters

### "Polygamy: problems solved."

#### Hello, Ladies

Responses on Facebook to our online story on the city's gender imbalance, of 856 women to every 1,000 men. ("This Is Why Hong Kong's Women Are Fighting for Men," April 6):

This includes domestic helpers, otherwise (as your own article mentions) the ratio is 92 men per 100 women. You also didn't adjust for age (women live longer than men).

**Guy Freeman**

@Guy Anyone can date domestic helpers and they can also date anyone else so why count them out?

**Michael Kim**

@Michael Domestic helpers just out on sundays, don't u think is hard to keep a relationship in that terms?

**Roman Lopez**

@Roman Well... a lot of bankers function that way too. In fact they can't even go out on weekends. So we count out bankers too?

**Michael Kim**

Less feistiness from HK women would help improve the ratio in the long run. Hehe

**Lawrence See**

this is why I need the surplus men in China. geography has made me crazy 🍷

**Alma Chan**

The solution is on the other side of the border where the sex-ratio actually favours women. Just a few miles away

**Wick Ed Iris**

Young Hong Kong girls are serious gold diggers and complain about everything. They are total princesses, in their 40s Hong Kong woman a lot more down to earth

**Mike Quirke**

lol but HK women date western men way more often than HK men dating western girls, which makes the market actually pretty competitive for an average local guy

**Howie Kung**

And I stole one of those women. Whoops! (Sorry not sorry.)

**Betti Furian**

Hello women of Hong Kong!!

**Tony Svanström**

but I am [single] LOL. fight for me (yes this is an advert)

**Rocky Wong**

Polygamy: problems solved, even increases household income and reduce pressure on rent, may even increase birth rate... Or not

**Ethan Leung**

## #PrivateEyeHK



**How Rude**

Photo by Dhiraj Gurung (Instagram @ghotane\_d)



**Friday 4/15**

## Be There Or Be an Equilateral Quadrangle

After more than half a decade of being Hong Kong's go-to destination for Scandinavian chic, **15squarestreet** is undergoing a major transformation as it revamps its shop and celebrates its sixth anniversary—and they've invited the community to come celebrate with them. Join them to celebrate this new era with complimentary craft beer and espresso.

7-11pm. **15squarestreet**, 15 Square St., Sheung Wan, [15squarestreet.com](http://15squarestreet.com)

**Saturday 4/16**

## Popcorn Art

Popsy Modern Kitchen is really doubling down on the transient nature of art with their **Eat More Art** series of workshops. In each session, you get to learn about a specific art movement, and then apply your newfound understanding... to the creation of a cookie. This Saturday, eat a can of soup à la Andy Warhol as you learn all about Pop Art.

3-5pm. **Popsy Modern Kitchen**, 5/F, The Wellington, 198 Wellington St., Sheung Wan, 2907-8188, \$350 from [ticketflap.com/eatmoreart](http://ticketflap.com/eatmoreart)

**Sunday 4/17**

## Sand Warrior

Take your vinyasa outside and enjoy the breeze and the sound of the tide coming into Repulse Bay. **Yoga on the Beach** is hosted by the Yoga Room and is suitable for all ages and levels. Namaste!

5-6pm, **Repulse Bay Beach**. \$111 from [eventbrite.hk](http://eventbrite.hk)

**Tuesday 4/19**

## Sex on the Beach and the City

Need a night off to gal around with your pals? Head to Mahalo Tiki Lounge, where **BloomMe Girls Night Out** is serving cocktails with a side of complimentary manicures, blow-drys, temporary lash extension and hand massages. **Mahalo Tiki Lounge**, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queens Rd. East, Wan Chai, \$200 from [girlsnightout.pelago.events](http://girlsnightout.pelago.events); \$280 at the door.

**Wednesday 4/20**

## Bacon Up Your Burger

There's an art to creating the perfect burger, and at The Butchers Club Burger, the artist is in. Chef Billy Otis of Lily & Bloom is behind a **Burger Takeover** at the meaty hotspot with his Bloom smoky BBQ bacon cheeseburger (\$160)—smoky jalapeno cheese sauce and applewood bacon on a wagyu beef patty. Try it in all three Butchers Club Burger locations through April 26.

Various locations including G/F, Rialto Building, 2 Landale St., Wan Chai, 2552-8281, [tiny.cc/hk-burgertakeover](http://tiny.cc/hk-burgertakeover)



**Thursday 4/21**

## Going Dutch

Get the best of Holland in Hong Kong at the **Taste of Holland** festival. Make a meal out of bitterballen and smoked fish, sweeten up with a stroopwafel, and wash it down with a frosty lager. A bit too much limburger on your breath? Don't forget to pack a pepermunt.

7-10pm. 37/F, One Island East, 18 Westlands Rd., Quarry Bay, \$380 from [dutchchamber.hk](http://dutchchamber.hk)

**Friday 4/22**

## HK Hour

It's **HK Magazine's 25th anniversary**, and we're showing our appreciation to our readers the only way we know how: with cheap drinks in Hong Kong's rowdiest area code. Make your happy hour a little bit happier with \$25 drinks at 19 of LKF's best bars. Head to our website, register for the promotion, and present the SMS confirmation at some of the city's booziest spots. Now go make us proud.

Apr 13-May 31. Various locations in Lan Kwai Fong, register at [promotions.hk-magazine.com/25years/LKFHH](http://promotions.hk-magazine.com/25years/LKFHH)



**Saturday 4/23**

## Design Till You Drop

Shop and eat the coolest new brands at PMQ's **Dine + Design**, a retail festival with over 25 vendors selling everything from eco-friendly baby clothes to locally made designer handbags. There's a product for every occasion—even the ones you think up on the spot as an excuse to shop.

11am-8pm. **PMQ**, 35 Aberdeen St., Central.

**Coming Up**

## May, Oui

It's time to dust off your beret and grow out that moustache.

**Le French May**, Hong Kong's two-month-long celebration of French culture is upon us. Get a culinary and cultural tour of all things French as you sit in on concerts of Ravel and Debussy played by leading virtuosos, hit the ballet, admire original pieces from France's most celebrated artists like Monet and Degas, and fill your heart (and your stomach) with as much wine and cheese as you can. As the French say: *pourquoi pas?*

May 1-June 30. Various times and locations, [frenchmay.com](http://frenchmay.com)



## Last Week In Reality

Illustrations: Joyce Kwok

SAT 2

**Pay It Forward** A photo of a man dressed in a hospital gown begging for money in Yuen Long goes viral. He has a sign which says he is terminally ill, and needs \$270 for medicine. He occasionally covers the sum with a yellow sticky note so it reads "\$170" instead, before removing it again. Netizens liken his behavior to the arbitrary price fluctuations in MTR fares and public housing costs.

SUN 3

**Keeping Watch** The same man in the hospital gown who was spotted asking for money in Yuen Long puts up a new sign, this time warning passersby not to steal from him, or they will go to jail. The sign also warns that he has installed a hidden camera. Another sign indicates that he needs \$100 to go to the doctor, and that he is hungry. Netizens suggest that he pawns the hidden camera for medical fees and food.



MON 4

**Table for One** A woman gets on the MTR on the Island Line at Chai Wan. She sits down in a seat and unfolds a table, resting her hands on it. The table takes up half the width of the carriage, but she is unfazed by other passengers.

TUE 5

**Patience, Please** A 39-year-old woman brandishes a fruit knife at a Social Welfare Department office in Yau Ma Tei. A witness says she suspects the woman was unhappy with the slow application process for social security assistance. A staff member notifies the police, who arrive at the scene and bring the situation under control. No one is injured.

WED 6

**Things You Do For Love** A 19-year-old man is sentenced to six years and four months in jail for stealing more than \$8,000 for a woman he had only ever met online. She had told him that her ex-boyfriend had lied to her and she didn't have enough money to pay rent. The man then robbed three 7-Eleven stores in Fanling, stealing cash, beer and cigarettes: Although on one occasion, he only managed to steal a box of lozenges. After transferring the money to the woman, he never heard from her again.



THU 7

**Got Paddled** A WhatsApp conversation between an employee and his supervisor goes viral: The employee asks for a day off because rain has caused flooding in his home. The supervisor says the company is short on manpower and will require his presence. She then writes, "Your CV says swimming is one of your hobbies. Have fun swimming to work."

FRI 8

**Rich Bitch** A viral Facebook post documents a woman who accuses a cleaning lady of stealing her phone from the private shuttle bus running to her apartment complex. Sobbing, the cleaning lady denies the accusation. The woman tells the cleaning lady, "This is an expensive property. A toilet here costs as much as you earn in several years." She snatches the cleaning lady's purse to see if her phone is inside. The building's management calls the police, who discover that the woman left her phone on the shuttle bus.



## Quote of the Week

"All I did was tell airline staff, 'I'm passenger Leung Chung-yan's dad.'"

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying responds to allegations that he exerted his influence on airline staff, when his daughter Leung Chung-yan left behind a piece of baggage after going through security at Hong Kong International Airport.

## Talking Points

We read the news, so you don't have to.

### China Pirating Wrong Movie

The popularity of 2011 US movie "10 Years" surged on a mainland movie downloading site after **netizens mistook it for Hong Kong movie "Ten Years."** "10 Years," starring Channing Tatum, Chris Pratt and Rosario Dawson, is an ensemble rom-com about a high school reunion. **"Ten Years" depicts a dystopian SAR in 2025**, in which mainland influence stamps out Hong Kong culture. The film is censored on the mainland: **Chinese authorities prohibited major broadcasters from airing a segment** of the Hong Kong Film Awards in which the film won Best Picture this year. Some media outlets have even omitted it from the list of award winners.

**Our take:** We'd never miss the chance to see Channing Tatum in action, so maybe it's all for the best?

### Customer Service Bottoms Out

The latest "smiling index" survey by the Mystery Shopper Service Association, which ranks the **quality of customer service from retail outlets across 37 countries, has placed Hong Kong dead last**. The association says the city's low score—48 out of 100, compared with the average score of 83—is likely due to the **sluggish stock market, falling property prices and diminishing commission** due to the poor retail landscape. In January and February, **retail sales saw their sharpest slump since 1999**. Hong Kong was ranked third from last in 2014.

**Our take:** At least it can't get any worse—right?



Illustration: Elaine Tang

**SAMSUNG****Galaxy S7 edge | S7**

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# SAMSUNG GALAXY S7/S7edge E-COUPON @LANKWAIFONG

As one of the most popular scenic spot in Hong Kong, Lan Kwai Fong has earned a well-deserved reputation among the local chics. The great news for Samsung Galaxy S7 and S7 edge users is that they can enjoy delightful gourmet privileges at 20 selected restaurants and bars, including buy-1-get-1 on standard drinks or buy-3-get-1 on main course. Imagine how wonderful it is enjoying the moment with your loved ones, with a hand of S7/ S7 edge equipped with f1.7 super large aperture lens, users can capture clear images even in low light or dark environment. Let's enjoy the delightful dining privilege at Lan Kwai Fong with SAMSUNG Galaxy Apps NOW!

The back camera of Galaxy S7/S7 edge equips pro camera level dual pixel auto focus system with super fast f1.7 aperture and optical image stabilizer, so that you're able to capture bright and sharp images at romantic restaurants.



**20 Lan Kwai Fong outlets have participated in this promotion providing buy-1-get-1 on standard drinks or buy-3-get-1 on main course offers. Here're the steps to redeem the great privilege.**

1. Click "Samsung" on the app's menu  
 2. Select "Galaxy Apps"  
 3. Show your e-coupon to the store assistant  
 Offers are valid until 30 April, 2016, except 8-10 April, 2016. Offers duration are varied among restaurants.



The most eye catching function with Galaxy S7/ S7 edge must be the IP68 utility, the internal components with USB port and headphone jack are completely sealed, which can support the water and dust resistant.

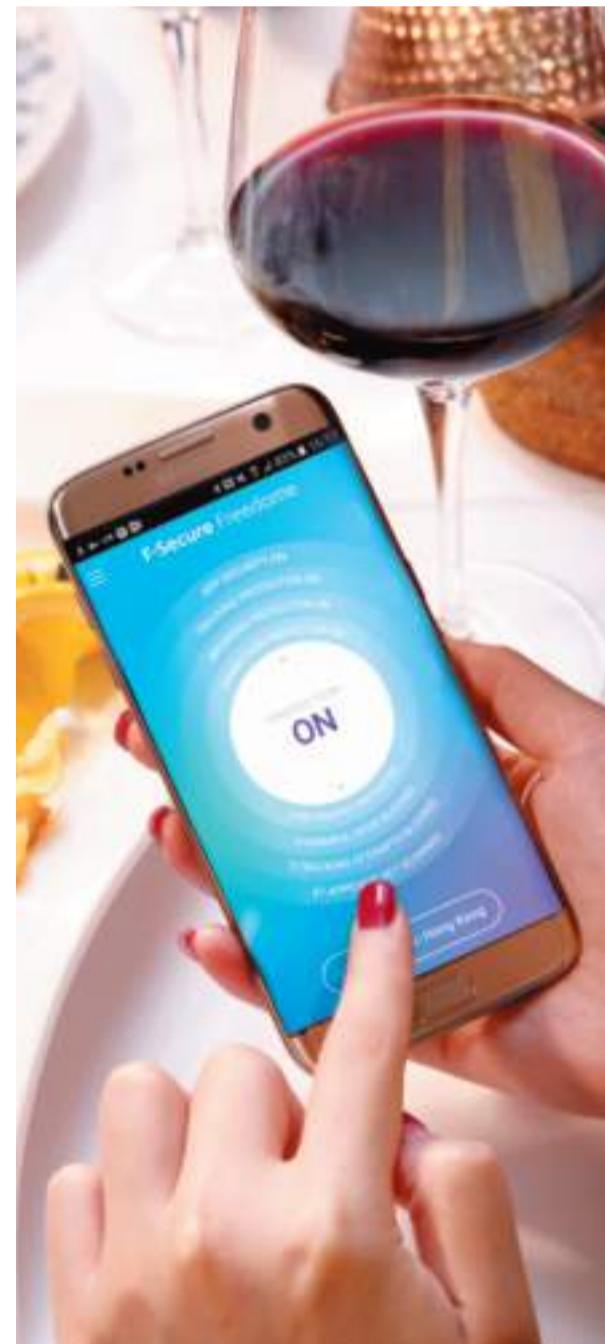




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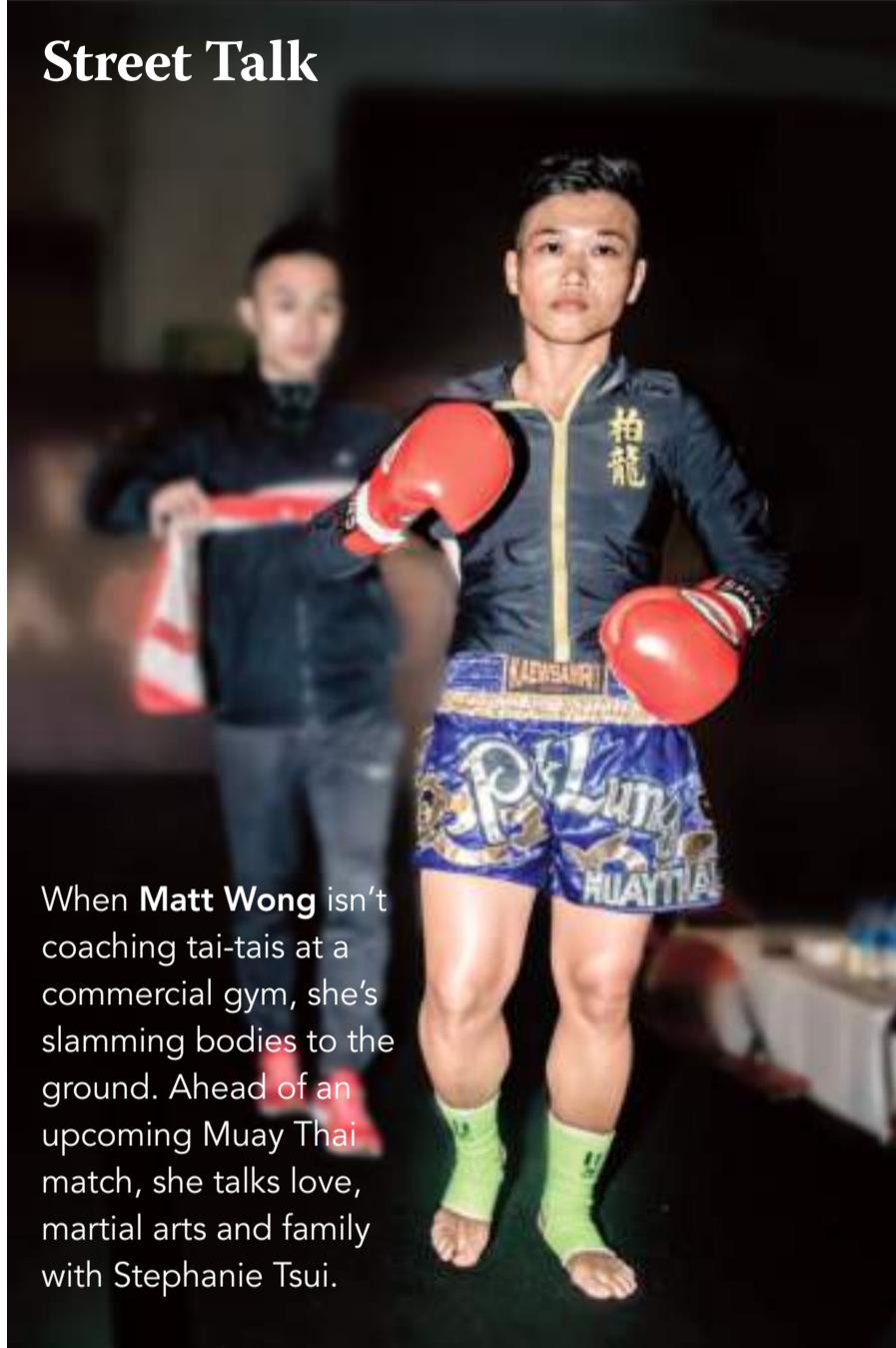
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## Street Talk



When **Matt Wong** isn't coaching tai-tais at a commercial gym, she's slamming bodies to the ground. Ahead of an upcoming Muay Thai match, she talks love, martial arts and family with Stephanie Tsui.

**HK Magazine:** How did you get into martial arts?

**Matt Wong:** When I was 12, my parents were worried about me being exposed to bad influences—so they asked my sifu to take me in as his disciple. I began practising kung fu and lion dancing. I respect him so much that three years ago, I asked for his permission to learn Muay Thai before even I told my parents. He's like a second dad. We organize a banquet and put on a lion dance show for him every year on his birthday.

**HK:** What about your actual parents?

**MW:** We've been through rough patches. One year, I switched jobs three times. That got my parents really worried about my future. I'd dropped out of school when I was 15 and enrolled in evening classes, but got kicked out because I hung out in video arcades instead of going to class. After that, I handed out pamphlets, developed photos, sold burgers at McDonald's, washed hair, sold sports apparel, waited tables and worked as a security guard. Then I became a barista. I spent six years at the job and eventually got to the rank of supervisor. I had to nag at my subordinates, so I guess that helped me understand and communicate with my parents better. Nowadays, I even take them to yum cha.

**HK:** How do you deal with defeat?

**MW:** During one lion dance performance, I fell 16 feet from a pole. My teammates broke my fall, but still I busted my groin area so badly that it hurt to pee. After that, I didn't even want to pick up the lion's head. Taking my first hit in Muay Thai also sucked. But by failing, you learn how to strategize and climb back up.

**HK:** Does being small put you at a disadvantage?

**MW:** Kids I teach at the kung fu center don't take me seriously because they think I'm just another kid. A client at the gym didn't

take me seriously either at first, probably also because of my height. But when I put on the body protector before each coaching session, I'm a completely different person. I'm small, but I'm also nimble. When you fight, you're really fighting against yourself. You have to learn how to control your temper and patience. Being anxious drains you. People are screaming all around you when you're out in the ring, but you have to stay focused because you never know who you're up against.

**HK:** So how do you stay focused?

**MW:** Last month, I went to a Muay Thai training center in Thailand for 10 days to get into the groove for an upcoming match. There are too many distractions here in Hong Kong, with my job and lion dance commitments. I also recently broke up with my partner. Muay Thai fighters from all over the world go to the center for intensive training: We got up at 5am every day, then went on a 10km run at 6am. Then we began training. The gym is in an area with lots of garages and warehouses, and the people who live there are simple. After the 10-day "retreat," I just left my relationship troubles behind.

**HK:** What's next for you?

**MW:** I've thought of settling down with someone but experience tells me there are no guarantees. Eventually, I would like to open a tattoo parlor that is also a café. But right now, my goal is to win my match in May so I can fight in the international arena.

**See Matt in action at the Hong Kong Muay Thai Championships 2016 preliminaries at Pei Ho Street Sports Centre, Sham Shui Po at 2pm on May 22. Want to learn a few Muay Thai moves? Matt teaches at California Fitness, G-2/F, Kin Lee Building, 9-13 O'Brien Rd., Wan Chai, 2877-7070.**

## Blowing Water

吹水 (*chui sui*), v. Cantonese slang. To chat, bullshit.

daai6

ning4

lok6

# 大檸樂

"LARGE LEMON COKE"

"Big trouble." Cha chaan teng abbreviation that has become a euphemism for 大撲鑊 (*dai lun wok*), "big f\*\*king problem," because the two sound similar.

## HongKabulary



## Hong Kong Time (hōng kóng tāim), n.

At least 20-60 minutes later than the rest of the world.

"Just got in a cab! Will be there at 8pm HKT!"

"OK, see you at 10:30!"



# The Asylum Game

The city's asylum seekers are falling through the gaps of a system that's all about waiting. By **Stephanie Tsui**

**D**avid" is a 35-year-old asylum seeker from East Africa. He fled to Hong Kong two years ago and since then he's been sharing a subdivided flat in Jordan with a roommate. Rent costs \$4,800 a month. "I have to beg to pay rent," the former operations manager says.

David is one of Hong Kong's some 11,000 non-refoulement claimants—meaning he has a legitimate fear of being tortured or killed if he returns home. For the last two years, he's been waiting to be put through the government's unified screening mechanism (USM) for asylum seekers. The USM says there's a six-month wait from the time a claim is lodged to an arrival at an initial decision, but Labour Party vice-chairman Fernando Cheung Chiu-hung, an advocate for asylum seekers, says the wait is often much longer. "Some wait more than five years. I know of a man who waited 12 years," he says.

Last Monday representatives from a group of more than 170 individuals and organizations supporting the city's refugees met the press. They say for people like David, it's only going to get more challenging. Recently there's been a wave of media reports and calls for stricter controls to tackle the rising number of claimants and alleged abuses of the USM. In the past month alone, there have been more than 400 reports in Hong Kong media on "fake asylum seekers" and illegal immigrants, blaming them for everything from petty crime to drug smuggling.

But official figures show that only 12 percent of torture claimants were arrested or detained in 2015 for working illegally and other criminal offenses.

"Suddenly, [asylum seekers] started to be referred to as 'illegal immigrants,'" says Victoria Wisniewski Otero, a representative of the Refugee Concern Network and advocacy and campaigns manager at the Justice Centre Hong Kong. "This is an inaccurate term and there are differences between migrants and refugees."

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying said earlier this year Hong Kong would withdraw from the UN Convention Against Torture "if needed," as a response to the city's growing number of torture claimants. In Monday's joint statement, lawmakers and advocates criticized this "embarrassing step backwards," saying it would "roll back

the rights and protections of every resident of Hong Kong against being tortured, or exposed to other abuse."

Last month, Hong Kong and mainland authorities launched a large-scale crackdown, arresting some 3,000 South and Southeast Asians—most of them from Vietnam and Pakistan—who were being smuggled into Hong Kong. It all hints at a tougher road ahead for asylum seekers—according to immigration records, nearly half

*“Media outlets have been highlighting crimes committed by ethnic minorities. This divisiveness and fear won't go away for years.”*

—Lawmaker Fernando Cheung Chiu-hung

of all asylum claimants enter the city illegally. Lax visa restrictions in China mean it's relatively easy for asylum seekers to enter Hong Kong via the mainland.

Lawmaker Cheung says that ethnic minorities are the subject of what he calls a "hate campaign." "Media outlets have also been highlighting crimes committed by ethnic minorities," he says. "This promotes divisiveness and fear that won't go away for years."

Asylum seeker advocates suggest that authorities should be focusing on reducing delays and addressing inefficiencies in the USM, not jumping on political bandwagons. A Legco publication shows that the USM, which was implemented two years ago, grants protection to less than one percent of asylum seekers. The Refugee Concern Network says for the rest of the developed world, that number is dramatically higher, at 30-40 percent. Law Yuk-kai, director of the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, suggests that the government should provide better training for immigration officers, create databases containing information on the claimants' countries and cases, and hire more interpreters.

Lawmaker Cheung says that it wouldn't hurt to provide "restricted employment" to asylum seekers, either—allowing them to work in jobs where the city is short on manpower. "They just want their lives back," he says.

For David, that would be a relief. He says that asylum seekers often have to scavenge for clothing, or rely on donations. Some do resort to crime to make ends meet, but "I wouldn't call it a crime to find money for food, clothes and rent." Until the USM slowly grinds towards a decision, he's left in limbo: "Waiting itself is a kind of torture," he says.

## Boating Days

This isn't the first time Hong Kong's had a refugee problem. Over 25 years between 1975 and 2000, more than 200,000 Vietnamese "boat people" refugees came to the city while fleeing the Vietnam War. At the peak of the crisis in 1991, the government was housing more than 64,000 refugees in 14 centers around the city; taxpayers spent more than \$8.71 billion on the refugees. Repatriation began in the 1990s and the final 1,400 remaining refugees were allowed to settle in Hong Kong in 2000.



# CRYBABY, CRY



OK, that's it. We're fed up of people complaining about all of Hong Kong's shortcomings. You're wrong, wrong wrong! And we're going to prove it to you. By **Adam White**

*"I want to have sex but my flat's too small!"*

Calm your quivering loins, friend. The city has a wide selection of love hotels for all budgets and inclinations. One of the classiest is the **Mingle at the Eden** (148 Wellington St., Central, 2850-6289), which has rooms of varying sizes—including one with ceiling mirrors, and round beds—that are available in two- and three-hour blocks (\$360 for two, \$450 for three). You even get a free condom. Another location in the vicinity of Lan Kwai Fong is the **Linn Hotel** (3/F, Block B, Winner Building, Wing Wah Lane, Central, 2810-8166) which gets the job done at \$450/two hours.

*"The price of transport keeps going up!"*

You can probably still afford it; Hong Kong has some of the cheapest public transport in the world. But if you're a cross-harbor commuter then get an **MTR City Saver** card: it's \$415 per month, covering an area of pretty much everything south of Kowloon Tong. If you live in Kowloon and commute to Central, it pays for itself.

*"I can't get my favorite American food here!"*

Yes you can. **Gateway** (2/F, Unicorn Trade Centre, 131 Des Voeux Rd. Central, 2545-0338) and **A&M** (three locations including 12/F, Manning House, 38-48 Queen's Rd. Central, 2548-8280) supermarkets stock all the Twinkies, Kraft Mac'n'Cheese and Fruit Roll-Ups that your heart could ever (inexplicably) desire.

*"There's no good beer in Hong Kong!"*

Not so, beer snob. The last few years have seen a flowering of the city's craft breweries. Check out the brand new **65 Peel** (65 Peel St., Central, 2342-2224), which specializes in Hong Kong craft beers, from breweries including Black Kite, Moonzen and the Hong Kong Beer Co.





## "Gym memberships are ludicrously expensive!"

Not all memberships. **UTime Fitness** (locations in Happy Valley, Sai Ying Pun and Kennedy Town, [utimefitness.hk](http://utimefitness.hk)) and **Anytime Fitness** (locations in Sai Ying Pun, Kwai Chung and Kowloon City, [anytimefitness.com](http://anytimefitness.com)) both run 24-hour gyms with no contract necessary: you just pay around \$500 a month. Alternatively government-run gyms cost just \$14/hour or \$180/month, after a free three-hour induction session.

## "Ugh, I can't get Amazon delivery."

Who needs Amazon when you have all these alternatives?

**Clothes:** Sites such as [Zalora.com](http://Zalora.com), [Grana.com](http://Grana.com) have your back.

**Books:** Home-grown booksellers [Shopinhk.com](http://Shopinhk.com) (free delivery over \$388) and [Paddyfield.com](http://Paddyfield.com) (free delivery over \$280).

**Groceries:** [Jousun.com](http://Jousun.com) does same-day delivery, sourced from wet market vendors, speciality stores and more: You can get everything from fresh fruit and meat to handmade shrimp noodles, kale chips or kombucha. Free delivery over \$250.

**Everything Else:** [HKTVMall.com](http://HKTVMall.com) has deals on groceries, fashion and more (free delivery over \$400). China's online shopping mecca [Taobao.com](http://Taobao.com) stocks pretty much everything known to man, from fashion to furniture to funny hats, but you'd better be a whiz with simplified Chinese (or extremely talented at Google Translate).



## "There's no decent cocktails in this town for less than \$100."

Yes, the average cocktail does seem to be ticking towards \$150 per drink. But there are still places serving quality cocktails for less. In addition to looking like a Wong Kar-wai fever dream, **Tai Lung Fung** (5-9 Hing Wan St., Wan Chai, 2572-0055) serves mostly quality drinks in an unpretentious setting, for sub-\$100 prices.

## "There are no good museums!"

We're not full of Picassos, but the city has some great museums:

**Police Museum:** Contains the stuffed head of a tiger which killed two policeman in 1915 before finally being taken down.  
27 Coombe Rd., The Peak, 2849-7019.

**Museum of Medical Sciences:** Satisfyingly macabre displays of medical instruments and LOADS of information about the plague.  
2 Caine Lane, Mid-Levels, 2549-5123.

**Tao Heung Foods of Mankind Museum:** Exhibits the food, kitchens and implements of cuisines from all around the world. Weird, right?  
1/F, 13 Au Pui Wan St., Sha Tin, 3960-6213.

## "Movie tickets are so pricy!"

They don't have to be. On **Tuesdays** the city's cinemas do discount tickets which will save you at least \$20 off the usual price. The tickets at the art-house-style **Broadway Cinematheque** (Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square St., Yau Ma Tei) are a little cheaper, and the films are better, too. Then there's the **Hong Kong Film Archive** (50 Lei King Rd., Sai Wan Ho, 2739-2139), where you can catch screenings of Hong Kong classics for about \$50. This weekend catch two Chow Yun-fat flicks, "City on Fire" (Apr 16, 2:30pm) and "A Better Tomorrow" (Apr 17, 7:30pm).

## "I can't cycle anywhere!"

The city has some beautiful routes if you seek them out. One of the most popular is the **Plover Cove Reservoir** trail: Hire bikes at Tai Mei Tuk for a leisurely ride along the huge dam which separates the reservoir from Plover Cove and Tolo Harbour—or if you're looking for a bit more exercise there's the 20km path from Tai Wai up to the reservoir. Hire bikes from the shops near the MTR station including **Cyclesport** (Unit 3-4, 6/F, Kinglet Industrial Building, 21 Shing Wan Rd., Tai Wai, 9012-2301): some will allow you to drop off your bikes in Tai Mei Tuk instead of cycling all the way back.

## LEGITIMATE COMPLAINTS

- 1) Fundamental lack of charismatic, plausible politicians.
- 2) There's no affordable cheese in this entire curdforsaken city.
- 3) Restaurants and bars that are only open for a hot second.
- 4) The camera eats first, no matter what.
- 5) Rent. Always rent.



## "There are no good live music venues in Hong Kong!"

Admittedly, the city has always had a venue problem. But that doesn't mean there aren't any. Here are some places for all kinds of tunes:

**Jazz:** **Peel Fresco** (49 Peel St., Central, 2540-2046, peel-fresco.com) hosts jazz nightly; check website for specifics.

**Indie/metal:** **Hidden Agenda** (2A, Winful Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Kwun Tong, 9088-8950) is the city's go-to hipster gig venue.

**Classical:** The Cultural Centre can sound muddy, but the Hong Kong Chamber Music Society has recently discovered a new high-ceilinged performance space at the **Ladies Recreation Club**, 10 Old Peak Rd. Chambermusic.homestead.com



## "The water's super polluted!"

We're not saying you should go swimming in the harbor (although you can: the **Sai Wan Swimming Shed** at the far end of Kennedy Town, offers easy access to the harbor) but the city's water quality is of a high standard: Last year 61 percent of the city's 41 gazetted beaches got the top "good" ranking while the rest get the second "fair" categorization. Looks like it's time to strip and dip.

## "There's just no cultural scene in the city!"

You are definitely not looking hard enough. The city's cultural scene is thriving, with more galleries, exhibitions, art and culture than ever before. A good starting point is **Cattle Depot Artist Village** (63 Ma Tau Kok Rd, Ma Tau Wai), a former slaughterhouse that's been transformed into a space for artists and art organizations. It's been around for long enough that it's almost mainstream these days—the younger artists tend to cluster around Fo Tan instead: **Fotanian** (fotanian.org) is a collective of some of the best.

## "There's no easy recycling!"

While Hong Kong's recycling system is baroque and ineffective, there are ways around it. **HK Recycles** (hkrecycles.com) collects your recyclables on a subscription basis, from \$590 per month.

## "It's so hard to find tampons!"

Hong Kong is pretty limited when it comes to feminine hygiene products: lots of pads and about two tampon brands in every other shop. In 1998, Tampax even announced that it had decided to stop stocking the city, saying that it wasn't a "key market." They soon had to relent, but for a brief moment it gave rise to a parallel trading industry of tampon-runners bringing them in from overseas. One option is to buy a Mooncup (\$298) from **Just Green** (various locations including 52 Graham St., Central, 2801-5611). These menstrual cups are reusable, good for the environment and they'll save you money too.



## "Cabs never go where I want them to go."

There's a way around the city's increasingly intransigent cab drivers. If Uber's stretching your budget, taxi hailing apps such as **快的Taxi** ("fai dik taxi") are easy to use, though knowing Cantonese helps. Alternatively brand new taxi-sharing app **Hopsee** (hopsee.me) allows you to share rides with other people going your way, cutting costs and getting you a queue jump or two as well.

## "There's no cheap coffee!"

**McCafé** coffee won't win any awards—but for \$11, who's complaining? He's a little secret: Order anything from the McCafé menu and you can ALSO order from the regular McDonald's menu. Double cheeseburger and a long black? Coming right up.

## "There's nowhere to buy clothes unless you're tiny!"

It might be harder to find clothes in the city if you're not the size of a toothpick, but it's possible. The **Fa Yuen Street Market** can be rewarding if you have the patience, while the vintage threads at **Mee & Gee** (181 Fa Yuen St., Mong Kok, 2394-8057) can deliver some great looks. **LoveIt** (1/F, Shama Place, 30 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2545-2162, loveit.com.hk) also specializes in both plus-size and petite clothing. Big guy? Check out **XSXXL** (Three locations including Room 304, 3/F, Winning House, 10-16 Cochrane St., Central, 2910-1808, xsxxl.com)—or take advantage of Hong Kong's tailors, where no size is too large.

# WHICH CRYBABY ARE YOU?

What kind of crybaby are you? Take this quiz to find out!

## 1 What Hong Kong smell do you find most offensive?

- A. The reek of stinky tofu rising from the street stalls.
- B. BO from people who haven't learned to use deodorant at rush hour.
- C. All the poor people.
- D. A poorly prepared beef brisket stock. What's the point?

## 2 What Hong Kong habit irritates you the most?

- A. People clipping their nails on public transport.
- B. How everyone just assumes you should have perfect Cantonese.
- C. Everyone protesting all the time, which really gets in the way of cocktail hour.
- D. Why get annoyed? Let's just take it easy.

## 3 What do you find most annoying about the Hong Kong summer?

- A. The sweltering, cloying, unbearable humidity.
- B. So many junk trips, so little time.
- C. Volar, D-i and Taz get uncomfortably full of models.
- D. Tourists from the mainland.

## 4 When you go to karaoke, you...

- A. Line up that one Beyond song you memorized.
- B. Line up hip-hop with disgusting lyrics.
- C. Wonder where the line of KTV girls is.
- D. Reach for the dice and the VSOP.

THE RESULTS ARE IN...



MOSTLY A

You are a **Fresh off the Boat Crybaby**! Everything you're complaining about will be stuff you learn to love over the next year.



MOSTLY B

You are an **ABC/International Schoolkid Crybaby**! Sure, you've got Hong Kong roots... but you're super westernized.



MOSTLY C

You are an **Expat Crybaby** here on a short-term contract. You get paid a bomb and other people's problems just don't apply to you.



MOSTLY D

You are a **Hongkonger Crybaby**. Nothing could possibly faze you.

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**Spread Your Wyngs And Fly**

Since 2012, the Wyng Foundation has held their annual **Wyng Masters Award Exhibition** for up and coming photographers. This year, contestants have submitted pieces on the theme of "Identity," and the resulting exhibition has a huge range of diverse interpretations of the theme, from sexual representation to family history, social activism, politics and more.

This image comes from Leung Chi-wo and Sarah Wong's "Self-Portrait" series, which recreates the figures in the background of newspaper photographs, lost to history but brought to life once again.

**Through Apr 19. Hong Kong Central Library,  
66 Causeway Rd., Causeway Bay,  
[wyngmastersaward.hk](http://wyngmastersaward.hk)**



# Happy 25<sup>th</sup> HK Magazine!

On Tuesday we celebrated our 25th anniversary with a big birthday bash. Thanks to everyone who came!



## ESCAPE ROUTES

Compiled by Sophia Lam  
sophia.lam@hkmagmedia.com

## Instatripping



Had enough of filling your Instagram feed with yet more predictable food pics? Perk it up with some #architectureporn instead. It's time to get those phone cams ready as you jet off to the best architectural feats on the globe, as discovered by these jet-setting travelgrammers.



#stairsworkout #repost



Photo by @objectiviste

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**Temple Run Siem Reap, Cambodia**

Cambodia has long held an allure of ancient charm, and the Angkor Wat temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that's a must-see for architecture nerds. But once you've got your fill of the majestic main complex, explore a little further and you'll stumble on one of the lesser known temples—**Baksei Chamkrong** (above), which means "the bird who shelters under its wings"—it's named after the legend of a huge bird that swooped down from the skies and protected an Angkorian king from the enemy. The structure, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is a perfect example of 10th-century Khmer architecture. If you look closely at the main lintel, you'll see carvings of the Hindu weather god Indra riding a three-headed elephant.

**While you're there...** Visit the enormous, serenely smiling stone faces of Bayon temple.



#meandmybae #thousandgates



Photo by @bobbykiranyeo

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**Heaven's Gates Kyoto, Japan**

Head to Kyoto's Fushimi Inari-taisha shrine at the feet of the Inari Mountains for a taste of traditional Japanese architecture. Thousands of torii gates, coated in shades of red, line a reverent path leading you up to the inner shrine. Each torii represents a symbolic doorway onto sacred land, etched with the name of its donor. And of course—it's the perfect subject to get all those Instalikes rolling in.

**While you're there...** Shop and eat to your heart's content in Nishiki Market—think fried fish cakes and fresh red king crabs.



#allthatglittersisgold #myanmarvellous



Photo by @kanzenlazer

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**Good as Gold Yangon, Burma**

Travel to Burma for an up-close art history lesson in the form of its golden stupa pagodas, which dot the entire country. Located on Singuttara Hill silhouetted against the Yangon skyline, the enormous **Shwedagon Pagoda** is steeped in 14 centuries of history. Put on some shades and get that camera ready for the sight of the setting sun sparkling on the gilded sides of the enormous stupa, which is plated with tons upon tons of solid gold.

**While you're there...** Grab a bowl of *mohinga*, the delicious spicy fish soup that's a national dish.



#everydayblues #toobluetobetrue

**Into the Blue  
Chefchaouen, Morocco**

Venture to Morocco's Rif Mountains to find Chefchaouen, "**The Blue Pearl**." Forget about filters here—the whole medina city center is splashed with an electric blue. Moroccan architecture is famous for its vivid colors, as each hue carries a certain connotation in their culture. Blue, for instance, is believed to have the ability to protect people from the evil eye. With a cup of mint tea in hand, take a stroll through the beautiful streets and by the end of the day you'll find your Instagram feed drowning in a sea of sapphire buildings sprinkled with bits of bright pink and orange. If that doesn't get you a few thousand extra followers, nothing will.

**While you're there...** Kick back in one of the cafes that line the heart of the medina.

Photo by @kanzenlazer

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#BAYutiful #supertrees #groot



Photo by @nastasiapassport

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**Garden in the City****Marina Gardens, Singapore**

The City of Lions is the perfect spot to continue your journey into modern architecture. Winner of 2012's World Building of the Year, **Gardens by the Bay** is much more than just a nature park. Wander in the "Cloud Forest" conservatory, where you can experience the cool moist climate of tropical mountain regions: Head to the top and get a bird's-eye shot of the whole area—including the world's tallest indoor waterfall. Don't miss the Supertree Grove (left), a vertical garden that consists of 12 "Supertrees" stretching up to 50m tall, which collect rainwater for irrigation and take in air for the conservatory's cooling systems. At 7:45pm nightly, the Garden Rhapsody light show delivers plenty of Insta-friendly entertainment.

**While you're there...** Chow down a kaya toast or hit up a hawker market for chili crab.

# High Time for Tea

Shimmy into a sundress, grab your gal pal and spring for one of Hong Kong's best new afternoon teas, says **Leslie Yeh**



## Fashion-Savvy Tea

Get a taste of legendary fashion designer **Diane von Furstenberg's** signature prints, colors and florals in bite-sized culinary creations presented by **Café Gray Deluxe** at The Upper House. Kicking off the DVF Spring 2016 collection, the "Fortuna" afternoon tea is inspired by the first painting Diane bought for herself, which depicts Fortuna, the Roman goddess of fortune. Like the collection, expect to be inundated with bright colors and pretty pink prints, from the sea buckthorn berry macarons to strawberry-jasmine shortcake and mousse of crème de cassis imbued with DVF's spring colors. Savory items sing of spring, from the asparagus-ricotta tartlet to the foie gras torchon and rhubarb brioche. Cap off the girly afternoon with a stop at DVF's Pacific Place store to redeem an exclusive DVF gift.

**\$310 per person, \$560 for two, through May 15. Daily 3:30-5:30pm. Café Gray Deluxe, 49/F, The Upper House, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 3968-1106.**

## Century-Old Chocolate

In celebration of **Godiva's** 90th birthday this year, **The Ritz-Carlton** is calling all chocoholics to its stunning lounge on the 102nd floor of ICC for a magical afternoon tea that journeys through Godiva's nine decades of chocolate-making. The Collection Anniversaire high tea features eight creations inspired by history, from the "Signature Lait" coffee ganache created for "Gone With the Wind" in 1939, to the milk chocolate caramel "Ecusson" with a lion to mark Godiva's appointment to the Royal Court of Belgium in 1968. The final piece is a brand new flavor for the 2016 anniversary: the "Egérie Noir" with smooth raspberry ganache, rose petals, and Belgian dark chocolate.

**\$428. Apr 18-Jun 19. Mon-Thu 3-6pm; Fri 2:15-6:30pm; Sat-Sun noon-6:30pm. The Lounge & Bar, 102/F, The Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong, ICC, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 2263-2270.**



## K-Pops and Tea

We didn't know Korean afternoon tea could be a thing until modern Korean resto **Jinjuu** launched its concept earlier this year. Featuring mini versions of menu hits such as "Sae-woo" prawn cake pops and Yuja cured salmon on gem lettuce, Jinjuu's afternoon tea puts a new spin on the English tradition. Guests can warm themselves over mandoo dumplings with a soy dipping sauce or feast on Korean fried chicken sliders, with crispy chicken thighs served with house mayo in a brioche bun. For a sweet ending, go for a chocolate hazelnut brownie spiced with gochugaru chili powder or a mango and passion fruit panna cotta, alongside a range of fine Korean teas.

**\$300 for two. Mon-Sun 2:30-5:30pm. UG/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3755-4868.**

## Mango Tango

Park Café at the Park Hotel Hong Kong celebrates all things mango with a new afternoon tea buffet and tea set, featuring countless applications of the tropical fruit of the season in both sweet and savory dishes. Dig into the succulent, sweet fruit in dishes such as Japanese seaweed salad with mango and smoked salmon, stir-fried garoupa filet with mango and garlic, or pita bread stuffed with shredded chicken and mango in the "Mango Fever" buffet. For a more refined experience, opt for the "Mango Fiesta" afternoon tea set featuring handcrafted mango pastries and finger foods such as smoked salmon, cucumber and mango sandwiches, mango chocolate mousse cake, mango macarons and mango mille-feuille.

Afternoon tea buffet \$168 Fri, \$188 Sat-Sun; afternoon tea set \$208 for two Mon-Thu, \$268 Fri-Sun through July. Park Hotel Hong Kong, 61-65 Chatham Rd. South, Tsim Sha Tsui, 2731-2168.

## Swim in Sha Tin

Tired of waiting in the queue to snag a seat at The Peninsula's lobby lounge? Head to the Hyatt Regency, Sha Tin for a hotel high tea away from the crowds. Surrounded by the mountainous green terrain and serene backdrop of New Territories, guests can nosh on a selection of pastry chef Kelvin Lai's inventive Chinese desserts. Not your average afternoon tea, the Asian-inspired sweets here include osmanthus flower jelly with wolfberries, chilled almond jelly with silver ear fungus, Jasmine milk tea ice cream, and Chinese wine chocolate ice cream. If you can still manage to move afterwards, take a plunge in the pool and work off the calories with the Hyatt's Swim and Dine package (\$390 with \$300 dining credit at the Pool Bar).

\$318, Sat-Sun 3:15-5pm. Café, Lobby, Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, 18 Chak Cheung St., Sha Tin, 3723-1234.



### #HKMagDish

Follow us on Instagram @hk\_magazine and tag your best foodie shot with #HKMagDish for a chance to win a \$300 dining voucher from The First Floor by Lifestyle Federation! Winner to be announced next Friday via Instagram.

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# DINING

Edited by Leslie Yeh

leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com



A taste of Thai at Yamm

### Tongue Thaied

Hotel dinner buffets generally conjure up images of questionable seafood platters, limp noodles and unappetizing sushi. Not so at **Yamm** (The Mira Hong Kong, 118 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2315-5120), which prides itself on its jet-fresh seafood and signature dishes prepped with exquisite care. This month, those with a hankering for Thai food should make a beeline for the “**Discover Thai Taste Buffet**” (\$688 weekday, \$718 weekend through Apr 30), which returns to Yamm for the second time featuring classic recipes from the famed Blue Elephant Restaurant & Cooking School in Bangkok. The menu includes stir-fried pork belly with red curry and long beans, crispy fish with raw green mango, coconut rice berry topped with caramelized beef, and Thai rice berry coconut pancakes. The vibrant parade of fresh herbs, condiments and spices is complemented by a theatrical dining room complete with live cooking stations and traditional Thai dances for a full-on dinner and show spectacle.

## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

### Royal Grill Ginji ★★★★☆

Japanese. Shop 367, 3/F, Moko, 193 Prince Edward Rd. West, Mong Kok, 2392-0028.



the best-value soft shell crabs we've found in Hong Kong. The kurobuta pork neck meat with miso (\$88) was a standout from the grilled items, sweet and pink with a darkly caramelized edge. The grilled skewers were served hot and prepared with care. Go for the minced chicken skewer dripping with juices (\$22), grilled pork skewer (\$25) or the crunchy chicken cartilage (\$22) and you won't be disappointed.

**MISS** The sea urchin, salmon roe and scallop on sushi (\$220) was the only real let-down of the night: while the scallops and salmon roe were fresh, the uni wasn't of the best quality and the big blob of rice underneath was clumpy and impossible to pick apart.

**HIT** Royal Grill is outfitted like your typical izakaya (but perhaps more cheerful and well-lit), with giant sake barrels, wood furnishings and paper lanterns along with a pleasant and attentive staff. We started with the soft shell crab tempura (\$118)—two large, lightly floured and shallow-fried soft crabs, with a sweet, juicy interior. At \$118 for two generous pieces, it was one of

**BOTTOM LINE** A (relatively) cheap and cheerful Japanese eatery that makes for the perfect dinner-date: Grab a few yakitori skewers, maki rolls and fresh sashimi before heading upstairs to catch a flick at UA Cine Moko.

**Open** Mon-Sun noon-10pm. **\$\$**

#### Ratings

★ Don't go ★★ Disappointing ★★★ We'll be back ★★★★ We'll be back—with friends ★★★★★ You MUST go

#### Price Guide

|                    |                  |                    |                      |                         |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| \$ Less than \$200 | \$\$ \$200-\$399 | \$\$\$ \$400-\$599 | \$\$\$\$ \$600-\$799 | \$\$\$\$\$ \$800 and up |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|

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## NEW AND NOTED



Morton's super-sized desserts

### When the Clock Strikes Five

Need a good reason to duck out of the office early? Those battling work fatigue can get a lift from the tasty bar bites and heavy duty cocktails at **Morton's of Chicago**'s new "Power Hour" promotion (Mon-Fri, 5-7pm, 4/F, The Sheraton Hotel & Towers, 20 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2732-2343). The steakhouse has crafted a premium bar bites menu with dishes such as chicken goujonettes (think fancy chicken nuggets) and iceberg wedge bites for \$50; parmesan truffle fries and short rib steak tacos going for \$65; and more sophisticated starters such as a filet mignon trio, crab and artichoke dip and beef cheeseburgers priced at \$80. With a typical dinner at Morton's running upwards of \$800 we're betting this happy hour is going to get packed off the bat, so get there early to snag a seat, or be ready to down your \$60 cocktails and martinis while standing at the bar.

### Eight of the Best

Could the "Dark Side" finally be getting a bit of swagger?! Set to open later this month in East TST, **Maison Eight** (8 Observatory Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui) bills itself as the city's latest lifestyle destination. The ambitious French-inspired concept will harbor four venues in one: fine-dine French restaurant **Esmé**, cocktail bar **Salvatore at Maison Eight**, a classic ballroom with a private terrace and high-tea salon, and the world's first "Bollinger champagne room," **Le Club 1829**. With the promise of an international DJ lineup, some 2,300 wines, sky-high views of the city and a cocktail bar helmed by world-renowned bartender Salvatore Calabrese, this brand new playhouse sounds like just the thing to draw the well-to-do away from their LKF hidey-holes. For everyone else, you can always catch a glimpse through the windows as you plod down to the Science Museum...

*For more in-depth reviews,  
visit [hk-magazine.com!](http://hk-magazine.com/)*

### Siam 28 ★★★★☆

Thai. 28/F, Macau Yat Yuen Centre, 525 Hennessy Rd., Causeway Bay, 3421-0472.



Hong Kong has no shortage of Thai restaurants, but that doesn't mean we can't make room for one more, especially when it's as charming and delightful as newcomer to the CWB block Siam 28.

■ HIT Service was a standout from the second we walked in, with the hostess greeting us warmly and making sure we were seated comfortably. From the "Thaipas" side of the menu—all smaller plates designed for sharing—we'd recommend the seared salmon salad (\$88) and stir-fried clams (\$108). The salmon fillet was tender and flaky, with a tangy lemongrass relish to show off the battling sweet, sour and spicy

components that make Thai cuisine so addictive. The stir-fried clams were juicy, coated in a smooth chili paste stir fry sauce that we were spooning into our mouths long after the clams were gone. For the mains, the Thai-style grilled chicken (\$258 whole, \$138 half) had been marinated with lemongrass and ginger, before being licked on an open flame. It was tender and mouthwatering, and a sizeable portion for \$138. Our waiter's recommendation of the seasonal Asian cabbage sprouts (\$78) was spot-on: the bright green veggies were perfectly crisp and tender, needing nothing but a bit of chopped garlic to lift the flavor.

■ MISS The seafood pad Thai (\$98) was nothing special: the noodles didn't quite have that essential fiery wok hei and the egg net on top was a bit rubbery.

■ BOTTOM LINE It's not the cheapest Thai in town, but worth it for the pleasant service and well executed dishes.

Open Mon-Sun noon-2:30pm,  
6-10:30pm. \$\$

### Our Policy

Reviews are based on actual visits to the establishments listed by our super-sneaky team of hungry reviewers, without the knowledge of the restaurants. Reviews are included at the discretion of the editors and are not paid for by the restaurants. Menus, opening hours and prices change and should be checked. New restaurants are not reviewed within one month of their opening. Reviews are written from a typical diner's perspective. Ratings are awarded in accordance with the type of restaurant reviewed, so the city's best wonton noodle stall could earn five stars while a fancy French restaurant could be a one-star disaster.

## 19-20 MAY

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### 19 May (Thu)

Brahms  
Symphony No. 2

Rimsky-Korsakov  
*Scheherazade*

### 20 May (Fri)

Beethoven (arr. Mahler)  
String Quartet, 'Serioso'

Bruckner  
Symphony No. 4, 'Romantic'

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# CITY STROLL

## Tin Hau

Tin Hau is the goddess of the sea, worshipped by fishermen for safety at sea and a bountiful catch. Neighboring the shopaholic Causeway Bay, in the last few years Tin Hau has gradually transformed into a foodie wonderland. But the district is still full of living history, if you're willing to look—and eat—a little further.



### 13 Texas Burger

Juicy, greasy inch-thick beef patties make this burger joint worth the trip. Make sure to order an extra-thick dark chocolate milkshake for the kind of diner bites that are hard to find in Hong Kong.

G/F, 109 Electric Rd., Tin Hau, 2805-7811.



### 14 Shun Fung Pork Rib Noodles (順豐排骨麵)

This Shanghainese resto is best known for its deep-fried pork ribs with dandan noodles. Dip the juicy ribs into a rich, spicy peanut-flavored broth with a spoonful of noodles. Wash it all down with some house-made soy milk.

Shop L, 81 Fat Cheong Bdg., 63-81 Electric Rd., Tin Hau, 2566-6375.



### 15 Two O'Clock

This petite store sells everything from socks, jewelry, and clothes to stationery—all hand-picked from Japan. With colorful postcards, vintage finds and DIY chandeliers, this quirky store is bound to amuse.

Shop A1, G/F, Wilson Court, 41 King's Rd., Tin Hau, 2845-0980.



### 16 Mini Melts

If you live your ice cream in the form of tiny frozen balls, Mini Melts should be your go-to. Head over for all the classic flavors, as well as a newly introduced cheese flavor. Cheese? Sure, why not.

Shop 2, G/F, Lee King Mansion, 83 Electric Rd., Tin Hau. 2360-0895.



## Welcome to Electric Avenue

These days **Electric Road** is one of Hong Kong's most popular foodie streets, but it originally marked the coastline of North Point, before being reclaimed in the early 1900s, when it became the route the trams followed along the island. In 1913, Hongkong Electric built a new power station on the reclamation site, to meet a growing demand for electricity on the island. Construction was delayed until the summer of 1919 due to World War I; but the new power plant led to the thriving of the whole of North Point.

In 1929 road improvement works were carried out and the thoroughfare was named Electric Road, after the power station. Before the completion of King's Road, it was the most prosperous area in the district. The North Point Power Station was officially decommissioned in 1978 and the site is now part of the City Garden private housing development.



Check back next week for more awesome things to do in Tin Hau!

# **HK Magazine in the South Stand 2016**

The weird, the wonderful and the worse for the wear... Did we snap you at the Sevens?



## UPCLOSE: FAIYAZ JAFRI



**HK Magazine: What do you think of when you use the phrase "third culture?"**

**Faiyaz Jafri:** The way I see it, "third culture" is what is happening around the world when people are not bound by borders or their cultural heritage any more.

**HK: Would you say that this describes you?**

**FJ:** I'm definitely a third culture kid. I'm half-Dutch and half Pakistani. I grew up in the countryside of the Netherlands in the 60s and 70s. I lived in Amsterdam for a while, then moved to New York for a couple of years and now I live in Hong Kong.

**HK: Why create this festival?**

**FJ:** I've been coming to Hong Kong for over 15 years: My wife is from here. There's things I definitely love about Hong Kong. The sheer massiveness of it, the compactness and the density and the architecture—visually, it's always crazy to walk through Hong Kong. But what I do miss in Hong Kong is an independent arts and film culture, a prolific one, one that is heard and seen. The scene here is very low-key and hiding in the fringes of the city. That's the reason why we thought that Hong Kong really needed something like this.

**HK: What was your process of curating the films?**

**FJ:** I watched all the submissions over six, seven, eight months. We wanted to put a bunch of films together that were interesting for the Hong Kong audience, something that they had never seen yet. You go through a process: you watch all the films first and you decide: yes, no, yes, no. You look at the quality of the film, the story, originality, for

something that sticks with you. You find films that you really need to include, and they become anchor points: then you have to think of which films go with which films. It's basically like a DJ putting together a setlist. In the end we have six blocks of two hours, over three days, divided by genre.

**HK: Where are the films from?**

**FJ:** They're from pretty much everywhere: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, quite a few from Canada, two from China, four from Hong Kong... one matinee screening is a showcase of all the films from Hong Kong.

**HK: Did you always intend on screening only short films?**

**FJ:** We wanted to do feature films as well, but as this was our first year, we had no idea what to expect and what we wanted. Most of these films are unknown, in that they're not overly televised or advertised or promoted by big studios. They're high quality, well produced, well acted films, but they're independent so they're not connected to a distribution system. We thought if we did short films, we could offer a lot of them—we have 70—and people can watch a few and get an idea of these different stories. Peoples' attention spans are decreasing a lot, and short films seem to be more attractive. People would rather come to a block of 10 films than watch one film.

**Check out the screenings on Apr 15-17; the Hong Kong Selection screens on Apr 17, noon-2pm. California Tower, 30-32 D'Aguilar St., Central. \$180-888 for tickets or festival passes from [thirculture.cc/tcff](http://thirculture.cc/tcff).**

## Classical

### Violin Recital by Joshua Bell

World-renowned violinist Joshua Bell will be in town to collaborate with pianist Alessio Bax. The program features classics including Vitali's Chaconne in G Minor, as well as Beethoven's notoriously difficult Violin Sonata No. 9 in A. Apr 17, 8pm. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$250-650 from urbtix.hk.

### Romantic Piano Trios

#### by Sophia Yang, Chang Pei-chieh and Gilbert Sak

The City Hall Virtuosi Series continues with this threesome of Hong Kong musicians Sophia Yang and Gilbert Sak, as well as Taiwanese cellist Chang Pei-chieh. They'll be playing swoon-worthy classics including Dvořák's Piano Trio No. 4. Apr 22, 8pm. Theatre, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, \$150-200 from urbtix.hk.



### Recital Series 2016 : Louis Schwizgebel

Just shy of 30 years old, the Swiss-Chinese piano virtuoso Louis Schwizgebel makes his first appearance in Hong Kong on April 25, to help raise funds for the Society of the Promotion of Hospice Care. He'll be playing selected pieces by Haydn and Liszt, as well as Schubert's Piano Sonata in A minor. Since winning second prize at the Leeds International Piano Competition in 2012, Schwizgebel has been playing across the world. Talented AND Eurasian? Some people have all the luck. Apr 25, 8am. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$80-480 from [pphk.org/concerts/recitals/louis-schwizgebel](http://pphk.org/concerts/recitals/louis-schwizgebel).

### Michel Dalberto Piano Recital

With over 40 recorded albums to his name and an official claim to being the only living pianist to have recorded the complete piano works of Schubert, French pianist Michel Dalberto is the real deal. He brings his expertise to the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall stage, where he'll be playing selections from Franck, Debussy, Fauré and Ravel. May 6-7, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, [frenchmay.com](http://frenchmay.com). \$140-340 from urbtix.com.



## Dance

### Little Pieces

City Contemporary Dance Company opens the 2016 season with Dominic Wong's "Little Pieces," which explores our relationship with choreography, and how it touches people's emotions. Twerking certainly touches ours. Apr 15-16, 8pm; Apr 16-17, 3pm. Studio Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$160-220 from urbtix.hk.

### Peer to Pier

In this multidisciplinary installation and choreographed performance by Hong Kong and Dutch artists, women come together to discuss the cultural roles of women in their respective societies, and how it shapes their creative lives. Apr 16-17, 4:30pm. Mur Nomade, 1606, 16/F, Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Rd., Aberdeen. \$120 from [dutchdaysinhongkong.com](http://dutchdaysinhongkong.com), \$220 at the door.



### Never-Never Land by Unlock Dancing Plaza

The newest dance work by Unlock Dancing Plaza explores themes of usefulness and uselessness in our rapidly developing society. The performance is a duet, choreographed and performed by Artistic Director Ong Yong Lock and Taiwanese dancer Chou Shu-yi. Apr 8, May 7, 3pm; May 6, 8, 8pm. Kwai Tsing Theatre, 12 Hing Ning Rd., Kwai Fong, [lcsd.gov.hk](http://lcsd.gov.hk). \$220 from urbtix.hk.

## Theater

### The Illusionists

Magic, illusion and mind-reading come together straight from Broadway to Hong Kong. An ensemble of top-flight magicians brings their individual specialities to this group show. Did you ever see the movie "Now You See Me?" It'll be like that, only not awful. Apr 14-24, 7:45pm. various times. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$445-995 from urbtix.hk.



### 4.48 Psychosis

The play "4.48 Psychosis" was completed just months before its British playwright Sarah Kane's suicide, and performed for the first time shortly thereafter. Her suffering resulted in a true-to-life interpretation of clinical depression that's now performed globally. Don't miss Bonnie Chan's self-directed performance at Theatre du Pif. May 12-15, 8:30pm. Studio Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2111-5999, [thtdupif.com](http://thtdupif.com). \$160-240 from urbtix.hk.

### John & Jen

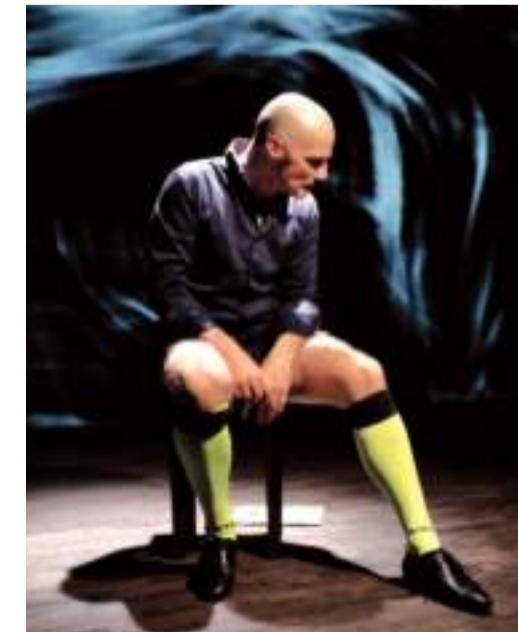
This two-person chamber musical produced by Western District at the Fringe Underground gives audiences an intimate look into the relationship of siblings, from childhood to adulthood and the joys and tragedies in between. Features live accompaniment by piano, cello and percussion. Apr 21-23, 7:30pm. Fringe Underground, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2868-4415. \$250-280 from [hkticketing.com](http://hkticketing.com).

### Auditions

Showbiz is a hard nut to crack. In this musical written and directed by Hong Kong playwright Michael Sharmon, "Auditions" brings together four wannabe stars who take you through the harrowing realities of making it big onstage. Apr 29, 8pm; Apr 30, 3:30pm, 8pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 3128-8288. \$210-260 from [hkticketing.com](http://hkticketing.com).

### Jouer Juste (The Right Play)

In Fabrice Michel's stage adaptation of François Bégaudeau's "Jouer Juste," a man who has just experienced a painful separation confronts images and the memory of the one he loved and lost. French actor Erick Deshors leads this one-man play. May 3-7, 8:30pm. Charbon, 8/F, Sing Tek Factory, 44 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Aberdeen, \$200-300 from [eventbrite.hk](http://eventbrite.hk).



## Exhibitions



### Shifting Surfaces at Karin Weber Gallery

At Karin Weber Gallery's new group show "Shifting Surfaces," four German artists—Willi Siber, Angela Glajcar, Udo Nöger and Tina Buchholz—come together to celebrate the diverse uses of textures in art. These pieces encompass steel sculptures, handworked paper, mixed media canvas and light and glass. May 6-Jun 11. Karin Weber Gallery, G/F, 20 Aberdeen St., Central, 2544-5004. [karinwebergallery.com](http://karinwebergallery.com).



### Romain Jacquet-Lagréze: The Blue Moment

See how French photographer Romain Jacquet-Lagréze captures Hong Kong in blue in his latest exhibition, The Blue Moment, at the very appropriately named Blue Lotus Gallery. Capturing the fleeting moment when the city is lit by street lights beneath a daytime sky, his monochromatic images are mesmerizing, melancholy and beautiful all at once. May 7-Jun 25. Blue Lotus Gallery, 1606 Chai Wan Industrial City, Phase I, 60 Wing Tai St., Chai Wan. [bluelotus-gallery.com](http://bluelotus-gallery.com).

**Les Cages: The Echo of the Crash, Bam, Pow!**  
Superhero comicbook panels get a new treatment in Montreal artist Sandra Chevrier's new solo show. With this new exhibit she superimposes superheroes onto images of female identity, almost like a mask, demonstrating the repressive effects of social and pop cultural conventions. Mar 22-May 7. Above Second, 9 First St., Sai Ying Pun.



Tina Buchholz, "Ancient Garden"  
Sandra Chevrier, "La Cage Entre Rêve et Réalité"



### "Dust" by Zhang Zhenyu

In his exhibit "Dust" at the Yallay Gallery, Zhang Zhenyu takes inspiration from the heavily polluted air of China to create mysterious and murky paintings. You can also catch video and pieces from another series, "Newspaper," which recreates and subverts some of China's leading front pages. Apr 9-May 14. Yallay Gallery, Unit 3C, Yallay Building, 6 Yip Fat St., Wong Chuk Hang, 3575-9417. [yallaygallery.net](http://yallaygallery.net).

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# NIGHTLIFE

## OPEN BAR KASA

**The buzz:** Tucked away in Shui On Centre opposite the Grand Hyatt, Kasa isn't exactly taking up the most noticeable spot in the neighborhood. But this modern Cantonese resto-bar stands out in this quieter side of Wan Chai thanks to its innovative, Chinese-inspired cocktails and reinvented classic Hong Kong bites.

**The decor:** Giving a nod to dai pai dongs and the décor of yesteryear, Kasa has a nostalgic feel in a chic and stylish setting, with old Hong Kong murals and rustic doorframes mimicking the windowpanes of traditional tong lau buildings.

**The drinks:** The drinks menu is a blend of traditional Chinese culture and modern cocktail recipes. Named after the mythical tale of "the eight immortals," all of the eight cocktails available are infused with Chinese liquors. The Immortal Woman (\$98) is made with Huadiao rice wine as well as Chinese hawthorn syrup and lemon juice, topped with ginger ale. It's a fizzy, sweet and sour mix that kicks

your appetite into gear. The Elder Zhang Guo (\$108) intrigued us with its unique aroma of maotai, matched with dark rum and coconut water for a smooth finish. The Philosopher Han Xiang (\$98) seems like a regular gin martini at first sight, but hidden inside is the grassy, bamboo flavor of Trimeresurus wine, balanced out by vermouth to keep it from being too herbal and medicinal.

**Why you'll come back:** After whetting your appetite with these cocktails, sate your hunger with Kasa's creative food menu, which includes "deconstructed" satay beef noodles, or a burger made with a pineapple bun and Japanese char siu. Besides—sub-\$100 legit mixology in Wan Chai? We're in. **Xavier Ng**  
Suite 103, 1/F,  
Shui On Centre,  
6-8 Harbour Rd.,  
Wan Chai,  
2659-9189, [facebook.com/kasahongkong](#)



## Clubs

### DJ Revolution:

#### Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike

Electro nuts all better sit down, because DJ legends Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike are hitting up AsiaWorld-Expo this Spring. They're number 1 on DJ Magazine's list of top 100 DJs—but you already knew that, didn't you? May 20, 8pm, \$580-900 from [hkticketing.com](#). Student and VIP packages available.



#### Play Presents: Slow Magic

Play-goers will get an early evening dose of some wild, ethereal chillwave thanks to colorful-wolf-mask-wearing Slow Magic, who pairs electronic music with live instrument playing. Like, actual music! Apr 15, 8pm. Play, 1/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central.

#### Afrojack at Pacha Macau

Afrojack's second celebrity DJ gig to play at Pacha this April. Electro house nuts, remember to stretch before raging. Apr 16, 9pm. Pacha Macau, Studio City, Estr do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, \$300-450 from [pachamacau.com/en/events](#).



#### Lil Jon at Pacha Macau

As the saying goes: Turn down for what? May 13, 9pm. Pacha Macau, Studio City, Estr do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, \$350 from [pachamacau.com/en/events](#).

#### Fly Presents DJ Krush

Tokyo DJ and producer Krush has been spinning hip hop for 30 years, and those in the know may recognize him from Krush Posse, Japan's top '80s hip hop act. Krush heads to Fly this April to bring us his signature jazz and soul-influenced beats.

Apr 30, 10pm. Fly, G/F, 24-30 Ice House St., Central, \$250 from [ticketflap.com/francoisx](#), includes two drinks before 12:30am and one drink thereafter; \$300 at the door before 12:30, \$350 thereafter, both include two shots.



#### Push x Volar Present: François X

A resident at Parisian label Concrete (label buddies with the likes of Shlomo and Ben Vedren) and a big player in the Paris techno scene, François X makes his way to Volar this April.

Apr 15, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-1510. \$250 from [ticketflap.com/francoisx](#), includes two drinks before 12:30am and one drink thereafter; \$300 at the door before 12:30, \$350 thereafter, both include two shots.

## Nightlife Events

### Mermaid Night

Feeling like a quiet night of drinking? Wan Chai seafood hotspot Fishsteria teams up with Cliché Records for a mellow drinks night aimed at the ladies. First cocktails are \$18 and you'll be serenaded by live violin and chill beats by DJ Miya. \$278 gets you 3 signature cocktails, \$588 gets you a dozen oysters and a bottle of Chablis wine, while \$1,288 gets you a bottle of Louis Roederer bubbly and a dozen oysters. May 11, 8pm. Fishsteria, G/F & 1/F, 109-111 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, \$278-1288.



### Cliché Records 4th Anniversary

Celebrating its fourth birthday this spring, Hong Kong label and party brand Cliché Records is throwing a weekend bash, starting off with a Friday party at Kee Club. Headliners include the legendary Chicago House DJ Rahaan and German DJ ND\_baumecker of famed Berghain Club's Panorama Bar, bringing a touch of Berlin techno to town. All this is followed by an after-party at Bassment with German DJs Dustin and Konstantin, founders of house and dub techno label Giegling. Apr 22, 10pm, Kee Club, 6/F, 32 Wellington St., Central, \$150 from [ticketflap.com/clicheanniversary](#), \$250 at the door; both include one tequila drink; Apr 23, 11pm, Bassment, LG/F, 13 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, \$150 at the door.

### Rosé Revolution

Rosé lovers can get their fix of pink bubbly on Mother's Day weekend at the return of the Rosé Revolution, a rosé wine festival making its first stop in Hong Kong before moving on to Singapore, Shanghai and Macau. Sip from 25 different types of rosé from international winemakers, wash it down with a sausage sizzle barbecue on the lawn, and do it all over again. Groups of four can get in on a yum cha group ticket offer, and VIP ticketholders get a premium rosé cocktail as well as VIP lounge access. May 7, 1-7pm. The Garden, Whisky@Stables, 1/F, Hullett House, 1881 Heritage, 2A Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$200-450 from [ticketflap.com/rosevolution2016hk](#); \$1,800 for four for dimsum and rosé at Loong Toh Heen with access to Rosé Revolution.

### BloomMe Girl's Night Out at Mahalo Tiki Lounge

Hong Kong spa booking app BloomMe is hosting a girls' night at Mahalo, where ladies can sip a BloomMe cocktail while getting complimentary onsite manis, blow-drys, temporary lash extensions and hand massages. Tickets also include a \$150 BloomMe cash voucher and a goodie bag, plus you get the chance to win prizes such as a spa retreat, jewelry or a cocktail class for five. Apr 19, 7pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, \$200 from [GirlsNightOut.pelago.events](#); \$280 at the door.



### Gin and Jazz Tuesdays at Sugar

East Hotel's rooftop lounge has a special gin and jazz night every Tuesday through to May 3. Guests will get to mix-and-match top shelf gins and tonic waters, with a selection of liquor including Tanqueray 10, No. 3 London Dry and Edinburgh Gin. There are also jazz-influenced gin cocktails, and tasting sets of flavored gin such as the SpicyGin and CitrusGin. Tuesdays through May 3. 5pm-late. Sugar, 32/F, 29 Tai Koo Shing Rd., Quarry Bay, 3968-3738.



Edited by Evelyn Lok  
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com

### Heineken Presents: Starclub

Heineken's hosting an EDM party at Ozone with five hours of non-stop untz featuring Korean DJ Soda, Beijing's DJ Ginjo and the gyrating of the Mojo Dancers from Japan. Apr 23, 10pm. Ozone, 118/F, International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 2263-2010. \$300 from hkclubbing.com/ticketing, \$350 at the door. VIP table bookings available.



### Hong Kong Swings 10th Anniversary Party

Celebrate 10 years of swing dancing in Hong Kong with yet more lindy hopping and Charleston-ing at Grappa's Cellar, to live music from jazz stalwarts the Happy-Go-Lucky Big Band. Apr 23, 7pm. Grappa's Cellar, B/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, \$200 from Grappas Cellar, includes one drink.

### Happy Wednesday HKJC Digital Nights

The Happy Valley Racecourse is going digital, with a series of tech-inspired and somehow also Korean fun this April. Because maybe Koreans are the future? Either way, while placing your bets you'll be able to gorge on Korean snacks and admire performances from b-boys the Jinjo Crew. The tech part of the evening includes a host of high end tech games for you to take part in, from virtual reality stable visits and horse-riding challenges, to breeding your own hologram horse. Competitions offer prizes including a pair of round-trip tickets to Seoul. Apr 20, 27, 7pm. Happy Valley Racecourse, Wong Nai Chung Gap Rd., Happy Valley, hkjc.com. \$10 for public enclosure.

## Gigs

### Ladybeard Returns to Hong Kong

Bored of the Hong Kong music scene? Here's something completely different. Dressing up as a pigtailed 5-year-old, six-foot-tall Aussie wrestler and "kawaii-core" pioneer Ladybeard returns to Hong Kong for this gig. Known for his metal covers of Cantopop and his Japanese pop-metal band Ladybaby (formed together with two cute Japanese teens), Ladybeard's return is unmissable if you're after something a little more... alternative. Apr 16, 9-11pm; Apr 17, 3-5pm. Focal Fair, 28/F, Park Avenue Tower, 5 Moreton Avenue, Causeway Bay, \$250 from undergroundhk.com, \$300 at the door, VIP tickets \$450 with access to post-show meet and greet.

### Brewdog Rocks Again!

Shazza Music and new-to-town craft brewery and bar BrewDog play host to five Hong Kong rock bands: pop-punk kids Joke Ian 捉伊人 (that's Cantonese for "hide-and-seek"), ska stalwarts The Red Stripes, instrumental post rockers Life Was All Silence, hard rockers Tri-Accident and JUNK! aka rapper/sound experimentalist Glen Lloyd. Apr 23, 8:30pm. Orange Peel, 2/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 9486-4648. \$120 from shazzamusic.com, \$150 at the door; both include a bottle of BrewDog Punk IPA.

## Dining Festivals

### LKF Street Food Festival

You won't have to wait until 4am for your fix of LKF munchies when the first ever LKF street food festival hits town: 50 food vendors are setting up shop along the hill for you to gorge on treats including Stacks ice cream sandwiches, Roundhouse beer and snacks and, if you're feeling a little healthy, even noms by food delivery service Nosh by Secret Ingredient. The event is free, but you can get in on a voucher passport for a book of awesome deals at all the vendors and surrounding F&B outlets. Apr 23-24. Lan Kwai Fong, Lan Kwai Fong, Central, Free entry. Voucher passport \$188 from ticketflap.com/lkfstreetfoodvoucherpassport, \$220 at the door. Opening party Apr 21, 5pm; RSVP at lkfstreetfoodfest.com.

**HK PICKS**

### Charlie Lim & the Mothership

Don't let this unassuming Singaporean dude fool you. Indie singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Charlie Lim has been building up a name for himself ever since last year's double EP release, "Time/Space." He was even seen jamming with Hong Kong star Khalil Fong back in January. Don't miss his eclectic blend of indie pop, folk, R'n'B, electronic and acoustic tunes when he plays Hong Kong in May. May 22, 7pm. Hang Out, 1/F, Youth Outreach Jockey Club, 2 Holy Cross Path, Sai Wan Ho, \$280 from charlielim.pelago.events; \$300 at the door.



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# Radovan Vlatković Plays Richard Strauss

|   |   |
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HK MAGAZINE FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016 29

## Life ★★★★

(USA/Canada). Drama. Directed by Anton Corbijn. Starring Robert Pattinson and Dane DeHaan. Category II. 111 minutes. Opened Apr 14.

On September 30, 1955, James Byron Dean drove a Porsche 550 into the side of a Ford along US Route 466, bounced onto the side of the highway, and died instantly. He was 24 years old and had starred in just three Hollywood movies. Knowing about this promising young star's fate casts a certain kind of light onto the movie "Life," which follows Dean (Dane DeHaan) just after his first film, "East of Eden," which lifted him into the public eye, and before "Rebel Without a Cause," the meteor that shot him straight into legend.

In "Life" Robert Pattinson plays Dennis Stock, a young but jaded photographer whose ambition often gets mistaken for naiveté. His ex-wife wants him to be a good, or at least present, father to their young boy. His boss wants him to climb the professional ladder, one rung at a time, by building a portfolio out of high-paying but uninspired red carpet gigs. Even James Dean, Stock's latest inspiration, can't figure out if Stock is a genuine artist, as he claims, or just one of the many hangers-on Dean finds himself surrounded by.

But as Stock assigns himself to shoot Dean for a Life magazine photo spread, their relationship deepens. The project begins to resemble less of a celebrity photoshoot, and more the story of a kid from the sticks who's unable to come to terms with the scope of his future. Both Dean and Stock want to make art and chase inspiration, but life's expectations have them jumping through hoops to get there. "Life" takes a man so mythologized that we can't talk about him without making



a parable of his untimely death, and turns him into just one of a post-war generation of entitled youth, trying to forge his own creative path under the eye of a crumbling older establishment.

Dutch director Anton Corbijn and cinematographer Charlotte Bruus Christensen take full advantage of a luxurious period film aesthetic. The film is gorgeous to look at, bathed in rich cellulose tinges of orange and reds, with compositions inspired by the photos from Dennis Stock's original Life magazine spread. Through Corbijn's lens, New York is poetically wintry; Indiana is woodsy, and LA is pulsating with enterprise.

The performances are good rather than great, but the film's treatment of women is less than ideal. If a director

can make a detail-rich film about the interior life of a mega-celebrity, it's not a huge leap to expect him to show a world in which women can be anything other than nags or gorgeous and vapid starlets. Instead we get yet another film about Complicated White Males.

How young is 24? Young. Young enough to deliver an iconic performance which summed up a generation of disenfranchised youth. But young enough to make mistakes, too. In "Life," life is short, but you'd hardly know it by the way it brims with possibility and anxieties about the future. At an age when most of us are still getting it wrong, James Dean shone bright and burned out. He left the anxieties behind for the rest of us to worry about. **Jessica Wei**

## Coming Soon

### Hardcore Henry ▾

(Russia/USA) Video gamers won't know what to do with their hands when they sit down to watch "Hardcore Henry," a first-person-shooter movie filmed almost entirely on a GoPro worn like a mask on Henry—a newly resurrected cyber-soldier with no memory of his past life. Through his eyes, audience members are taken on an adventure to save his wife (Haley Bennett) from a warlord (Sharlto Copley, "Chappie"). Talk about being in on the action. Opens Apr 21.

### The Boy

(USA/China/Canada) Old tropes die hard for a reason, and that reason is that people will never not be freaked out by three things: dolls that come to life, mysterious messages on the wall written in blood, and deadpan British children. Horror veteran William Brent Bell ("Stay Alive," "The Devil Inside") directs this thriller starring Lauren Cohan ("The Walking Dead") as a nanny to an English family's porcelain doll, which goes, inevitably, from weird to murderous. Opens Apr 21.

### My Wife is a Superstar

(Hong Kong) Fame is a fickle mistress: One minute it's all red carpets and fancy gowns, the next you're hiding your reporter husband from the press because you've promised your studio boss you won't date anyone. This film reunites Annie Liu and Pak-Ho Chau, who were last seen together in last year's "S For Sex, S For Secret." Opens Apr 21.

### In the Room

(Hong Kong/Singapore) Billed as Singapore's first erotic movie, "In the Room" spans six decades and centers around a single room in a Singaporean hotel and its various inhabitants: Six couples of all orientations and backgrounds. Stars Josie Ho as brothel madam who's all about the female empowerment. Opens Apr 21.

### Neko Samurai: A Tropical Adventure

(Japan) The first "Neko Samurai," about the wandering samurai who protects an adorable white cat, was such a hit that they've brought the furball back. This time, stone-faced ronin Kyutaro Madarame and his feline friend get shipwrecked and end up on an island whose tribe is convinced that the cat is actually a god. Opens Apr 21.

### Opening

#### 10 Cloverfield Lane

(USA) This loose sequel to 2008's "Cloverfield," herds Mary Elizabeth Winstead, John Goodman and John Gallagher Jr. into a post-apocalyptic bunker and dares them to consider an outside world where everyone is dead. Opens Apr 14.

### 45 Years

(UK) After 45 years of marriage, Kate and Geoff Mercer (Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay) get a letter in the mail reminding them of a long-ignored fact from the past, and their relationship begins to take on a different tone. Opens Apr 14.

### Demolition

(USA) Director Jean-Marc Vallée (last year's runaway success "Wild"), tells the story of an investment banker (Jake Gyllenhaal) who is grappling with the death of his wife. In unlikely circumstances, he befriends a customer service rep (Naomi Watts) and her son. Opens Apr 14.

### Louder Than Bombs

(USA) In Norwegian director Joachim Trier's English-language feature debut, Gabriel Byrne ("The Usual Suspects"), Jesse Eisenberg and Devin Druid play a family trying to piece together what they know of their war photographer mother in the light of her growing, posthumous fame. Opens Apr 14.



### Robbery

(Hong Kong) What can go wrong in one evening at a convenience store? Depending on who walks in, a lot. This gory comedy is the debut film of Hong Kong director Fire Lee, and centers around a useless clerk who finds himself caught in the middle of a hold-up, at the mercy of a few customers with a penchant for blood. Opens Apr 14.

## Continuing

### Anomalisa

(UK) This painstakingly shot Oscar-nominated stop-motion flick by Charlie Kaufman ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind") and Duke Johnson follows an inspirational speaker (David Thewlis) who is bored with his cookie-cutter life—until he meets a woman (Jennifer Jason Leigh) at a conference who shakes things up. A complex meditation on humanity using stop motion puppets, but you can't help feeling tired watching every tiny mundane detail of human life. ★★★

### The Bodyguard

(Hong Kong) A rare directorial effort from Sammo Hung, but the action film vet proves he's still got it in this latest flick, which is actually titled 特工爺爺—"Special Agent Grandpa" in Cantonese. Andy Lau also makes an appearance as a thief. OF OUR HEARTS.

### Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice

(USA) Following up on 2013's "Man of Steel," director Zack Snyder returns with the ultimate showdown between Batman (Ben Affleck) and Superman (Henry Cavill), who duke it out in Metropolis. Also featuring the first appearances of Wonder Woman, Aquaman, The Flash and Cyborg. Squeee!



### Eddie the Eagle

(USA/UK) Taron Egerton ("Kingsman: The Secret Service") is Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, a real-life British ski jumper who represented the UK in the 1988 winter Olympics—and came dead last. Growing up with Olympic dreams, he receives coaching from a reluctant ex-Olympian Bronson Peary (Hugh Jackman), who in turn learned his stuff from Warren Sharp (Christopher Walken).

### Hail Caesar!

(USA) This new Coen Brothers ensemble epic is an ode to the golden age of Hollywood. Real-life fixer Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin) is tasked with his biggest challenge yet when the star of an upcoming period flick (George Clooney) is kidnapped. Starring Channing Tatum, Scarlett Johansson, Ralph Fiennes and Tilda Swinton, this one's a fun romp despite its light and jumbled plot. ★★★★





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## Need to Know

AMC Cinema, 2265-8933  
amccinemas.com.hk

Golden Harvest Cinema,  
2622-6688  
goldenharvest.com

UA Cinema,  
3516-8811  
uacinemas.com.hk

The Grand Cinema,  
2196-8170  
thegrandcinema.com.hk

Broadway Circuit,  
2388-3188  
cinema.com.hk

MCL Cinema, 3413-6688  
mclcinema.com

The Metroplex, 2620-2200  
metroplex.com.hk

### Heaven in the Dark

(Hong Kong) Jacky Cheung's getting seduced by Karen Lam all over again after Ann Hui's 2001 "July Rhapsody." Adapted from Hong Kong theater stalwart Candace Chong's play "French Kiss," "Heaven in the Dark" portrays a scandal between Pastor To (Cheung) and Michelle (Lam) after they share a kiss and she files for sexual harassment.

### The Huntsman: Winter's War

(UK/USA) Disney gets dark (and cold) in this prequel/sequel to 2012's "Snow White and the Huntsman." Evil queen Ravenna (Charlize Theron) and her spurned sister (Emily Blunt) are after the Magic Mirror, and they're armed with highly trained warriors and the power to freeze any enemy. The dark fairytale stylings are visually fantastic, balanced out by the average plotline—basically a live-action version of "Frozen." ★★★



### Kung Fu Panda 3

(USA) The dumpling-loving panda savior returns in a thoroughly entertaining threequel. Reuniting with his long lost father and finding his true hometown, Po is tasked to train a band of clumsy pandas in the art of martial arts to ward off the evil supernatural warrior who's been sweeping across the country defeating kung fu masters. ★★★★

### Macbeth

(UK/France/USA) One of Shakespeare's darkest plays gets a star-studded retelling. Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard star as the eponymous couple, who would kill for power—and do, at the urging of three witches.

### The Mobfathers

(Hong Kong) Director Herman Yau's back with more disjointed storytelling: Chapman To is the boss of a triad faction. Every three years, the five leading gangs elect their big boss, but only nine of the top-ranked are allowed to vote. An on-the-nose metaphor for Hong Kong politics, paired with plenty of sex, violence and gore. ★★★

### Trivisa

(Hong Kong) Filmed by three young directors under the wing of Johnnie To, "Trivisa" follows three criminal masterminds (Jordan Chen, Lam Ka-tung, Richie Ren) who are each planning their biggest crimes yet, set against uncertain times leading up to the 1997 Handover. An exciting introduction to the future of Hong Kong cinema. ★★★★

### Zootopia

(USA) In "Zootopia," anthropomorphic mammals reign. Judy Hopps is the first rabbit to join the Zootopia police department, and attempts to crack a difficult case—but she needs the help of a sneaky fox (Jason Bateman) to do it. Through snappy humor and rich landscapes, Zootopia teaches us that perceptions can be deceiving, but hearts are genuine. ★★★★



"Son of Mine", Dutch Film Festival

## Film Festival

### Third Culture Film Festival

The kids at Third Culture are bringing a unique new independent and international film festival to the city. Their inaugural festival whittled down over 1,800 entries to include an ambitious 68 short films spanning 12 hours, over six themes including Animation, the Realm of Senses, Love & Confusion and more. Apr 15-17. California Tower, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, [thirdculture.cc/tcff](http://thirdculture.cc/tcff). \$180-888 for festival pass at [ticketflap.com/tcff2016](http://ticketflap.com/tcff2016).

### Dutch Film Festival

As part of the Dutch Days in Hong Kong fest, the second Dutch Film Festival is screening five unique films from the Netherlands, including two comedies (one romantic, the other thrilling), two biopics, and a drama about a family plunged into poverty after the local coal mine closes ("Son of Mine", April 21, 7:30pm and April 24, 5:40pm). Apr 21-24. The Grand Cinema, 2/F, Elements, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, [thegrandcinema.com.hk](http://thegrandcinema.com.hk). \$90 from [thegrandcinema.com.hk](http://thegrandcinema.com.hk).

### Salento International Film Festival

The Salento International Film Festival once again finds its way to Hong Kong, and brings with it six features and three shorts from filmmakers across the world. Don't miss the opening screening of "We Go to That Country" (May 11, 7:50pm), about two enterprising young men in a small town filled with pensioners. May 11-15. The Grand Cinema, 2/F, Elements, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, [salentofilmfestival.com](http://salentofilmfestival.com). \$55-90 from [thegrandcinema.com.hk](http://thegrandcinema.com.hk).

Listings compiled by Jessica Wei



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# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19):** "When I discover who I am, I'll be free," said novelist Ralph Ellison. Would you consider making that a paramount theme in the coming weeks? Will you keep it in the forefront of your mind, and be vigilant for juicy clues that might show up in the experiences headed your way? In suggesting that you do, I'm not guaranteeing that you will gather numerous extravagant insights about your true identity and thereby achieve a blissful eruption of total liberation. But I suspect that at the very least you will understand previously hidden mysteries about your primal nature. And as they come into focus, you will indeed be led in the direction of cathartic emancipation.

**TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20):** "We never know the wine we are becoming while we are being crushed like grapes," said author Henri Nouwen. I don't think that's true in your case, Taurus. Any minute now, you could get a clear intuition about what wine you will ultimately turn into once the grape-crushing stage ends. So my advice is to expect that clear intuition. Once you're in possession of it, I bet the crushing will begin to feel more like a massage—maybe even a series of strong but tender caresses.

**GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20):** Your sustaining mantra for the coming weeks comes from Swedish poet Tomas Tranströmer: "I am not empty; I am open." Say that aloud whenever you're inclined to feel lonely or lost. "I am not empty; I am open." Whisper it to yourself as you wonder about the things that used to be important but no longer are. "I am not empty; I am open." Allow it to loop through your imagination like a catchy song lyric whenever you're tempted to feel melancholy about vanished certainties or unavailable stabilizers or missing fillers. "I am not empty; I am open."

**CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22):** According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you are close to tapping into hidden powers, dormant talents, and future knowledge. Truths that have been off-limits are on the verge of catching your attention and revealing themselves. Secrets you have been concealing from yourself are ready to be plucked and transformed. And now I will tell you a trick you can use that will enable you to fully cash in on these pregnant possibilities: Don't adopt a passive wait-and-see attitude. Don't expect everything to happen on its own. Instead, be a willful magician who aggressively collects and activates the potential gifts.

**LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22):** This would be a perfect moment to give yourself a new nickname like "Sugar Pepper" or "Honey Chili" or "Itchy Sweet." It's also a favorable time to explore the joys of running in slow motion or getting a tattoo of a fierce howling bunny or having gentle sex standing up. This phase of your cycle is most likely to unfold with maximum effectiveness if you play along with its complicated, sometimes paradoxical twists and turns. The more willing you are to celebrate life's riddles as blessings in disguise, the more likely you'll be to use the riddles to your advantage.

**VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22):** Right about now you might be feeling a bit extreme, maybe even zealous or melodramatic. I wouldn't be surprised if you were tempted to make outlandish expostulations similar to those that the poet Arthur Rimbaud articulated in one of his histrionic poems: "What beast must I worship? What sacred images should I destroy? What hearts shall I break? What lies am I supposed to believe?" I encourage you to articulate salty sentiments like these in the coming days—with the understanding that by venting your intensity you won't need to actually act it all out in real life. In other words, allow your fantasy life and creative artistry to be boisterous outlets for emotions that shouldn't necessarily get translated into literal behavior.

**LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22):** Adyashanti is my favorite mind-scrambling philosopher. One of his doses of crazy wisdom is just what you need to hear right now. "Whatever you resist you become," he says. "If you resist anger, you are always angry. If you resist sadness, you are always sad. If you resist suffering, you are always suffering. If you resist confusion, you are always confused. We think that we resist certain states because they are there, but actually they are there because we resist them." Can you wrap your imagination around Adyashanti's counsel, Libra? I hope so, because the key to dissipating at least some of the dicey stuff that has been tweaking you lately is to STOP RESISTING IT!

**SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21):** During every election season, media pundits exult in criticizing candidates who have altered their opinions about important issues. This puzzles me. In my understanding, an intelligent human is always learning new information about how the world works, and is therefore constantly evolving his or her beliefs and ideas. I don't trust people who stubbornly cling to all of their musty dogmas. I bring this to your attention, Scorpio, because the coming weeks will be an especially ripe time for you to change your mind about a few things, some of them rather important. Be alert for the cues and clues that will activate dormant aspects of your wisdom. Be eager to see further and deeper.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21):** Friedrich Nietzsche published his first book, "The Birth of Tragedy," in 1872, when he was 28 years old. In 1886, he put out a revised edition that included a preface entitled "An Attempt



at Self-Criticism." In this unpreceded essay, he said that he now found his text "clumsy and embarrassing, its images frenzied and confused, sentimental, uneven in pace, so sure of its convictions that it is above any need for proof." And yet he also glorified "The Birth of Tragedy," praising it for its powerful impact on the world, for its "strange knack of seeking out its fellow-revelers and enticing them on to new secret paths and dancing-places." In accordance with the astrological omens, Sagittarius, I invite you to engage in an equally brave and celebratory re-evaluation of some of your earlier life and work.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19):** "Go back to where you started and learn to love it more." So advised Thaddeus Golas in his book "The Lazy Man's Guide to Enlightenment." I think that's exactly what you should do right now, Capricorn. To undertake such a quest would reap long-lasting benefits. Here's what I propose: First, identify three dreams that are important for your future. Next, brainstorm about how you could return to the roots of your relationships with them. Finally, reinvigorate your love for those dreams. Supercharge your excitement about them.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 19):** "What am I doing here in mid-air?" asks Ted Hughes in his poem "Wodwo." Right about now you might have an urge to wonder that yourself. The challenging part of your situation is that you're unanchored, unable to find a firm footing. The fun part is that you have an unusual amount of leeway to improvise and experiment. Here's a suggestion: Why not focus on the fun part for now? You just may find that doing so will minimize the unsettled feelings. I suspect that as a result you will also be able to accomplish some interesting and unexpected work.

**PISCES (Feb 18-Mar 20):** How many fireflies would you have to gather together in order to create a light as bright as the sun? Entomologist Cole Gilbert estimates the number to be 14,286,000,000. That's probably beyond your ability to accomplish, Pisces, so I don't recommend you attempt it. But I bet you could pull off a more modest feat with a similar theme: accumulating a lot of small influences that add up to a big effect. Now is an excellent time to capitalize on the power of gradual, incremental progress.

**HOMEWORK:** Let's meet in dreams sometime soon. Describe to me the adventures you'd like us to have together. [FreeWillAstrology.com](http://FreeWillAstrology.com)

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## SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I'm a 49-year-old gay man. I've become friends with a 21-year-old straight guy. He's really hot. He's had to drop out of college and return home. I know he needs money, as he hasn't found a job yet and has resorted to selling off old music equipment. I would love to have some sweaty clothes of his, namely his underwear, but I'd settle for a sweaty tank top. Is it legal to buy someone's underwear? He's a sweet guy, and I don't want to freak him out by asking something so personal. How do I broach the subject?

- Lustfully Obsessed Stink Seeker

It's perfectly legal to buy and sell used underwear, LOSS, so there's no legal risk. But you risk losing this guy as a friend if you broach the subject. You can approach it indirectly by saying something like "So sorry to hear you're selling off your music equipment. You're young and hot—you could probably make more money selling used underwear or sweaty tanks." Then follow his lead: If he's disgusted by the suggestion, drop it. If he's into the idea, offer to be his first customer.

I'm a 52-year-old straight guy from Australia, 29 years married. About eight years ago, I met a lady through work and we became friends, with our friendship continuing after she moved on to a different job. We meet up for coffee occasionally, and we share a love of cycling and kayaking, which we also do together on occasion. Both of us are in long-term, committed monogamous relationships. Our friendship is strictly platonic, sharing our love of riding and paddling. Neither of our partners shares our interest in these outdoor pursuits. My friend does not feel safe doing these activities alone, so often depends on my company for safety as well. The problem is that my wife gets jealous of the time we spend together and wants me to cut off contact with my friend. My wife does not trust my friend not to "take advantage" of our friendship. My relationship with my wife is the most important one in my life, so I am prepared to say good-bye to my friend. How do I say good-bye in a respectful, caring, and loving way? If she asks why we cannot be friends, I don't want to tell her, "Because my wife doesn't trust you not to try to get inside my pants (or cycling shorts)," as that would be hurtful. I don't want to lie, but telling the truth would be damaging to my friend.

- Paddling And Riding Terminates

Your friend is going to waste a lot of time wondering what she did wrong, PART, if you don't tell her the real reason you can't hang out with her anymore. And guess what? This not knowing will cause her more hurt than the truth could. So tell your friend the real reason she's out of your life: You're terminating your friendship because your wife is an insecure bag of slop who regards her as a threat. Your friend has a right to know she's as blameless as you are spineless. Forgive me for being harsh, PART, but I think standing up to your wife, not dropping your friend, is the best approach to this situation.

Before I got married, I asked husband repeatedly about fantasies and kinks, so that we had full disclosure going in. It led to some fun stuff in the bedroom, but we're both pretty low-grade kinksters. Now I realize that I do something that I have never told him about: It's the way that I masturbate. I started when I was 5 or 6, because it felt good. Got chided by parents and teachers for doing it in public and learned to keep it hidden. And so ever since, it's been my secret thing. I think it has helped me orgasm in that I knew how early

on, but it has also made it more difficult to come in positions that don't mimic the masturbating position. Husband likes the idea of me coming in different positions, and I've managed now and again, but he doesn't know why I'm set in my ways. We've been together for 10 years, but I have never shared this. Should I tell him? Part of me is afraid that he will think I'm weird. But more than likely, he'll just want to watch me do it. Still, it's kind of nice having this one thing that belongs only to me.

- Secret Masturbator Obligated Over Spanking Hotness?

You could hold this back, SMOOSH, and keep it all for yourself. But I don't see why you would want to. As sexy secrets go, "There's one particular position I like to masturbate in" is pretty boring. Unless you need to be positioned on top of a cadaver or under your dad or beside a life-size Ted Cruz sex doll to get off when you masturbate, there's really no reason to keep this secret.

I am totally with your German friend, who wouldn't do Nazi role-play "in six million years." I've been in a similar position—not quite Holocaust level, but not far off. I'm a white British guy. A while back, while living in the UK, I was dating a woman from Bangalore. She revealed—after her face lit up when I dressed in a way that made me "look like a colonialist" (her words)—that her deepest fantasy was to be an Indian slave girl raped by an English imperialist. And then, living in the US a few years later, I was dating a black woman. We got to talking about the kinks of exes. I told her about this one, and she revealed that her own fantasy was to be the slave on a 19th-century plantation, raped by her white owner. How about some advice for the human fetish objects in these scenarios, Dan? I didn't want to stigmatize these women for their sexual desires, and I wanted to be GGG, but it was, frankly, hard (or not, as it were). Being asked to act out roles I feel guilty about, and to use the kind of racial epithets I make every effort to avoid... the guilt is a boner-killer. Any tips on how a GGG partner can get past this kind of mental block and at least act the role enthusiastically enough to fulfill the fantasy? Or was a subsequent girlfriend's outrage about my willingness to indulge such socially regressive fantasies justified?

- I Might Play Every Role I'm Asked Less Ideologically-Scrupulous Motives

Actors play Nazis in hit movies, British colonialists for prestigious BBC miniseries, and serial killers on long-running television shows. I don't see why playing monsters in entertainments devised for millions wins Oscars (Christoph Waltz for playing a Nazi in "Inglourious Basterds"), BAFTAs (Tim Pigott-Smith for playing a brutal colonialist in "The Jewel in the Crown"), and Golden Globes (Michael C. Hall for playing a sociopathic serial killer in "Dexter"), but playing a monster for an audience of one should outrage "subsequent girlfriends" or anyone else.

My advice for people asked to play monsters in the bedroom mirrors my advice to a gay guy attracted to degrading "antigay" gay porn: "A person can safely explore degrading fantasies—even fantasies rooted in 'hate ideologies'—so long as he/she is capable of compartmentalizing this stuff. Basically, you have to build a firewall between your fantasies and your self-esteem. (And between your fantasies and your politics.)"

If you can build a firewall between their fantasies and your politics and beliefs, IMPERIALISM, go for it. If you can't, don't

On the Lovecast, Dan chats with writer Peggy Orenstein: [savagecast.com](http://savagecast.com).

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at [thestranger.com/savage.mail@savagelove.net](http://thestranger.com/savage.mail@savagelove.net)

# SMART JOBS



A new exciting and vibrant bar, lounge & restaurant is set to open in Hong Kong soon. In order to set the tone right from the beginning, we are seeking an experienced **General Manager**, an **Assistant General Manager**, a **Restaurant Manager** and a **Head Chef** to join the team.

## General Manager

Reporting to the group F&B General Manager, you will be responsible for the entire operation.

### The Role:

- Financially astute- fully P&L accountable (Labor cost control, stock control, facility management...etc)
- Adherence and reporting on compliance and legislative matters.
- Recruit, build and train a high achieving team.
- Identify and create new business opportunities.
- Continuous improvement in operations and service.
- Drive promotion and branding of the restaurant.
- Focus on creating personalized service to the guests.
- Implement incentive programs for servers to increase sales.

### Required Skills and Qualities:

- University Graduate or above with 8 years of relevant experience.
- Sound leadership skills and ability to think outside of the box to drive business.
- Strong business sense: solid understanding of numbers across all aspects of the venue including being able to identify issues and work through staff to implement cost control measures and achieve real results.
- Track record in managing, motivating and driving premium full service restaurants.
- Effective time management and organizational skills along with excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Current knowledge of liquor legislations.

## Assistant General Manager

Assisting the General Manager, your main focus would be running the operation in the evening.

### The Role:

- Ensure smooth operation of the venue.
- Manage staff work schedules and shift changes.
- Train and manage servers to maximize sales and revenue through customer satisfaction and employee engagement, communicating with all levels of management.
- Recruit and train servers to build customer relationships to attract and keep a loyal base of customers.
- Promote marketing of events and up-selling.
- Create ideas for campaigns and events for customers.

### Required Skills and Qualities:

- University Graduate or above with 5 years of relevant experience
- Proven working experience in guest relations and familiar with promotional activities.
- Good communication & interpersonal skills.
- Mature, well organized, self-discipline and independent.
- Able to work under pressure.
- Current knowledge of liquor legislations.
- Previous night club experiences will be preferred.

## Restaurant Manager

Reporting to the General Manager, your focus would be running the operation during the day.

### The Role:

- Promote marketing of events and up-selling.
- Manage staff work schedules and shift changes.
- Ensure service standard and provide best dining experience for customers.
- Staff training.
- Work closely with the kitchen to ensure smooth operation of the restaurant.
- You will increase revenue by encouraging repeat business and driving new foot traffic through the store.

### Required Skills and Qualities:

- University Graduate or above with 5 years of relevant experience.
- Business acumen and a proven track record of driving sales in a previous role.
- You will have lead and built a high achieving team.
- Solid experience in a venue Manager position.
- Highly motivated, driven and supportive.
- Good communication & interpersonal skills.

## Head Chef

Working alongside the executive chef, you will lead a team of loyal skilled individuals in the kitchen.

### The Role:

- Ordering stock, maintaining par levels, monitoring stock rotation, quality and cost control.
- Manage staff work schedules and shift changes.
- Waste control and maintaining a high level of food safety and hygiene.

### Required Skills and Qualities:

- Demonstrable experience of high turnover and busy kitchens.
- High organizational skills and the ability to manage a team.
- Knowledge of budget management.
- Ability to maintain consistency in a high pressured, fast paced environment.
- Knowledge of international/European cuisines are preferred.

We offer attractive remuneration package to the right candidates. Interested parties, please apply & email full CV with current & expected salary to [recruit@dragon-i.com.hk](mailto:recruit@dragon-i.com.hk)



## Workflow Coordinator

Hong Kong's leading academic editing company, Armstrong-Hilton assists researchers in universities in Hong Kong, China and across Asia to publish their ideas.

We urgently need a native English speaker to join us to:

- Field enquiries and provide information (mostly online).
- Review complex academic journal papers and quote.
- Distribute work to the editing team and return to authors.
- Help with Customer Relationship Management.
- Assist with large tenders.

If you are a quick-minded, methodical individual with strong English language skills and can work under pressure, please send your CV to [jobs@ahediting.com](mailto:jobs@ahediting.com). Starting salary of HK\$22,000 – HK\$28,000 depending on experience.



Aesop's core focus is to create superlative products through a process of rigorous scientific research, and to offer them - with exceptional customer service skills - to discerning men and women.



## Retail Consultant

- Have the ability to learn about and sell all of our products, communicate with warmth, energy and sincerity to customers
- Be interested in people and attuned to their needs
- Possess the capacity to learn about the finest details of our range and communicate our philosophy to customers
- Have 1-2 years of customer service experience in the skin-care industry
- To be an ambassador of the brand
- Fluent in spoken English is a must!

In return, Aesop offers the successful candidate extensive training, discounts and complimentary Aesop products.

To apply, please email your resume to [asiaemployment@aesop.com](mailto:asiaemployment@aesop.com)

Personal data collected will be used in recruitment purpose only.



Marine Tai Model Agency Ltd  
Web: [www.marinetai-modelling.com.hk](http://www.marinetai-modelling.com.hk)  
E-mail: [marinetaiagent@gmail.com](mailto:marinetaiagent@gmail.com)

Our company was established since 1994.

1) Part-Time Models  
For Photo Shooting/Fitting Job/  
Fashion Shows/TV Commercials/  
Products Image Representatives/  
Event Promotions

- Requirements: Stylish/Cool/Smart/  
Elegant/Sweet/Camera Face

2) Baby & Kids Models (Age: over  
3 months to 15 years old)  
Baby & Kid Products Image

Representatives/Press Conferences/  
Photo shooting for Newspapers and  
Magazine/TV Commercials

- Requirements: Cute/Smart/Active/  
Camera Face/Twins

3) Singer  
Love singing. Clear Pronunciation.  
For Hotel and Entertainment  
Purposes.

If you are interested, please contact  
Ms. Leung at [2740 9059](tel:27409059) or email us  
for casting.

**Looking for  
Sharp  
F & B Staff?**

Please contact  
Celia Wong  
on 2565-2310.



## Celebrate Mother's Day at Spasso

Outdoor terrace views of Victoria Harbour, all-you-can-eat food, fine Italian cuisine and signature cocktails made with unique, house-infused vodkas—what more could you ask for in a meal?

This Mother's Day, give mom the best day possible at Spasso at Empire Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui. With over 6,000 square feet of space, 200 seats and al fresco seating options, you won't have to fight for the best seats in the house to drink in the atmosphere and views of the city's world-famous, breathtaking skyline and Tsim Sha Tsui's popular promenade.

Take the family to Spasso's bountiful buffet, made for veggies, pescetarians and die-hard carnivores alike. With five fully packed food stations, there's something for everyone and plenty more.

Start off with a hot soup and then dip into a cold buffet selection of fresh cut vegetables, salads, sushi, sashimi, cold cuts, Boston lobster, mussels, shrimp and freshly shucked oysters.

Spasso's chefs are specialists in Italian food, and they'll prepare a fine selection of antipasti, featuring caprese salad, artichokes, grilled vegetables, regional cheeses, charcuterie and carpaccio. More hot Mediterranean favorites include heart-warming hand-thrown and stone-baked Italian pizzas and more. Of course, no meal would be complete without dessert, and Spasso has just the ticket for the sweet-toothed.

To make the day extra special, all mothers in attendance will be greeted with a signature Spasso "Mom-scato," a deliciously sweet, wine-based cocktail and a Paul Lafayet

macaron gift box. Additionally, they will receive a complimentary batch of Belif skincare products valued at \$320, while gift vouchers and other brilliant prizes are up for grabs at the lucky draw that day.

Mothers' Day buffet prices start from \$388 for adults, \$228 for children aged 6-12. Free-flow drinks start at \$148 for red and white wines, \$158 for Prosecco or \$288 for Moët & Chandon champagne.  
[divinogroup.com](http://divinogroup.com)



## La Dolce Vita—Life is Sweeter with a Venchi-Inspired Afternoon Tea

Inspired by fine Italian flavors created by Italian gourmet chocolatier Venchi, chef David Parkin is offering "Buono Buonissimo," a limited-time tea set at Feast at the East Hotel from now until May 29.

For those with a more savory palate, Parkin and his team of chefs have created signature bite-sized nibbles such as seared tuna loin, parmesan hazelnut sable baked with pesto and Venchi's own granella di nocciole, as well as lobster Caesar salad, tea smoked salmon toasted brioche with pickled cucumber and avocado butter, and finally, a Parma ham, Emmenthal and truffle panini.

Of course, as the menu is inspired by one of the best chocolatiers in the world, the sweeter bites will feature Venchi's own renowned creations, such as their 75% extra dark chocolate, primfrutti soft fruit sweets, Cuba rhum and granella nougatine. Diners can enjoy a Venchi-made dark chocolate mousse, layered citrus gelée, Cuba rhum brûlée and a Piedmont hazelnut cupcake. To finish in true Italian style, diners can also enjoy a cup of coffee or tea to round off their meal.

Want to bring back a little taste of Italy with you? Swing by the Venchi pop-up store at Feast, open from now until May 18 and choose from the "pick and mix" selection of Venchi's favorite treats.

The "Buono Buonissimo" afternoon tea is \$288 for two from Mon-Fri, \$388 on Sat-Sun and public holidays (plus 10% service charge).

Guests may also receive a special gift as well as a VIP membership for purchasing goods from Venchi's stores, on a first-come, first-served basis. Additionally, guests can treat themselves to a signature mini gelato with a voucher presented during afternoon tea served on the weekends.

[east-hongkong.com](http://east-hongkong.com)



## Enjoy a Delightful Staycation at JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong

Planning a spring or summer getaway but don't want to fly out? Go for the next best thing and have a whole weekend planned out at one of the city's best hotels in the heart of the city.

JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong is bringing back its "5 Delights of Hong Kong" due to popular demand, indulging both locals and travelers with additional complimentary privileges on top of the luxurious stay.

Stay at the hotel from May 1 through August 31, 2016 for a minimum of two nights and enjoy five delightful offers, including 10 percent off on the best available room rate. Couldn't get a sitter and need to bring along your kids? No worries: They're also offering a free rollaway bed for a family vacation.

While you are at the hotel, don't miss their signature restaurants, Flint Grill & Bar and Man Ho Chinese Restaurant, where you'll get 20 percent off during the promo period, for some hearty steak and succulent seafood, as well as delectable Cantonese cuisine.

Get around town with the hotel's complimentary Octopus card, and enjoy late check-out at 3pm plus free in-room internet connectivity during your stay. Does it get any more delightful than that?

[jw.marriott.com](http://jw.marriott.com)

# CAN'T FIND HK MAGAZINE?

## CENTRAL

Ages b Café  
Al Diner  
Aluminium  
American Club  
Angel's Share  
Anglo Chinese Florist Ltd. - Landmark Atrium  
Appellation Wine Cellar  
Baby Buddha  
Beautique Int'l Ltd  
Beruit  
Beyrouth Bistro  
Bit Point  
Bridges Executive Centre Ltd  
Brunch Club  
Bumps to Babes  
Bungalow  
Byrne Hickman and Partners  
Café O  
Café Queen  
California Beach Club  
C'est La Vie  
Chachawan  
CitySuper Ltd  
Classified - Exchange Square Podium  
Classified - New World Tower  
Club 71  
Cochrane's  
Coco Espresso  
Daz  
DiVino Italian Wine Bar & Restaurant  
Dot Cod  
DROP  
Escapade Sports  
El Grande - Hong Kong Brew House  
Epic MMA  
ESSENSUALS (CENTRAL) LIMITED  
Feel Good Factor  
Flawless  
Flow Bookshop - 29 Lyndhurst Terrace  
FoFo by el willy  
Foreign Correspondents Club  
Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong  
Frey & Ford  
Fringe Club  
G7 Private Dining  
Garage Society  
Gateway  
Geronomo  
Grappa's Cellar  
Grey Hound  
Hazel & Hershey  
Helena May Library  
Holly Brown  
Holy Crab Bar & Restaurant  
Hong Kong Book Centre  
Hotel LKF  
HYPOXII Bel Paese  
Impakt Academy  
Infusion  
Indulgence  
Isola  
Ivan the Kozak  
Jeeves of Belgravia  
Knight on Wyndham  
La Belle Salon  
La Piola  
Le Gouter Bernaduad  
LKF Group - Tokio Joe  
Liberty Exchange Kitchen & Bar  
Little Burro  
Lumiere/Cuisine Cuisine  
Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong  
Maya Café  
Mini Hotel Central  
Natural Path  
Nature's Village  
O2 Hair Salon  
Oolaa  
Orange Peel  
Orange Tree Restaurant  
Ovo  
Paisano's Central  
Parentheses Continental Books Ltd.  
Paul Gerrard Hair & Beauty  
Peel Fresco Music Lounge/ Caravan Serai  
Pier 7  
Pizza Express  
Propaganda  
Red  
Red Rock/Annexx  
Rockabilly  
Roundhouse Taproom

Sidewalk - LKF  
Starbucks - 254 Des Voeux Rd  
Starbucks - Alexandra House  
Starbucks - Century Square  
Starbucks - Duddell Street  
Starbucks - Exchange Square 2  
Starbucks - IFC Mall  
Starbucks - Jardine House  
Starbucks - Mainland Centre  
Starbucks - Man Yee Arcade  
Starbucks - MTR Station  
Stormy Weather  
Tandoor Indian Restaurant  
Ten Feet Tall  
The Globe  
The Landmark Mandarin Oriental  
The Putman  
Tivo  
Toni & Guy - 15 Wyndham St  
Tranquil Touches  
Uncle Russ Coffee  
UP Health  
Veggie SF  
Wagyu  
Yo mama  
Yu Yuet Lai  
Zentro - 66 Stanley Street  
Zentro - IFC

## SOHO

Bizou  
Café d'I  
Club 1911  
Culture ClubDaddyo's  
Enoteca Soho  
Flaming Frango  
Flutes  
Flying Pan  
Gourmet Burger Union  
Gweilo Bar and Grill  
Hair Craft  
Jaspas  
Libertine  
Life Café  
Mimi2Go  
Mostaccioli Brothers  
PMQ  
Portobello's  
Taco Loco  
The Herbivores  
The Pierre  
The Tavern  
Toni & Guy  
Wagyu Lounge  
Watson's Wine  
Yorkshire Pudding Soho 8

## SHEUNG WAN/ KENNEDY TOWN

208 Duccento Otto  
99 Bonham  
A&M U.S. Groceries  
Above Second  
American Women's Association Office  
Barista Jam  
Boulangerie Bistronomique  
Café Deco Pizzeria  
Café O  
Classified (Sheung Wan)  
Corner Kitchen  
Crispy Bistro  
Fish N Chick  
Forbes 36  
Ho Mei  
Holiday Inn Express Soho  
Hotel Jen  
Ibis HK - Central  
Jaspas' - Kennedy Town  
Kinsale  
La Cantoche  
La Viola  
Little Burro  
Living Art Café  
Metropolitain  
Monsieur Chatte  
Ola  
Park N Shop - Kennedy Town  
Pizzeria Jacomax  
Quintessentially  
Shelter Lounge  
Starbucks - 50 Connaught Road  
Starbucks - Golden Phoenix Court  
Starbucks - Hotel Ibis  
Starbucks - Kwong Fat Hong Building  
Starbucks - Shun Tak Centre  
Tacobocha

Teakha  
The Press Room  
The Beautywave Skin Care  
The Lot  
Three Monkeys  
Waffling Beans

## MID-LEVELS

Blessing Garden Phase I  
Chicken on the Run  
Coffee Book  
Dymocks - Bonham Rd.  
Il Bel Paese  
Ladies' Recreation Club  
Lime @ Soho 38  
Loft10  
Mier Serviced Apartments  
Peak Café Bar  
Seymour  
The Phoenix  
YWCA English Speaking Members Department

## PEAK

Bubba Gump  
Cafe Deco  
Starbucks  
The Peak Lookout Restaurant

## ADMIRALTY

Brick Lane  
Dan Ryan's  
Gourmet Coffee  
Grappa's Ristorante  
Great  
Island Shangri-La  
Lab Concept  
Metropolitan Café  
Ruth Chris  
Starbucks - Pacific Place  
The British Council Library  
UFC Group

## WANCHAI

151 Gloucester Road Property Management Company Ltd  
Academy for the Performing Arts  
Agave  
Amour Salon  
Alliance Francaise  
Arts Centre  
Asian Tiger Mobility  
Assaggio Trattoria Italiana  
Bar 109  
Berliner  
Big Apple  
Castello del Vino  
Classified (Wan Chai)  
Cosmos Book Ltd.  
Coyote Bar & Grill  
Divino Patio  
DRAGONFLY @ Novotel  
Ebeneezer's  
Grand Hyatt Hotel  
Harbour road café  
Hotel Indigo  
IAFT  
Island Property  
Joe's Billiards & Bar  
Loplus @ Hennessy Serviced Apartment  
Marriott Properties (International) Ltd.  
Maya  
Moon Izakaya  
Mr. Taco Truck  
Oliver's Super Sandwiches  
Outback Grill  
OVO  
OVO Limited  
Paisano's Wan Chai  
Pizza Express - Wing Fung St.  
Pizza Express - Ship St.  
Pomme  
Quemo  
SIP Sun Hung Kai Centre  
Slim's  
Spring Learning  
StarCrest  
Starbucks - 4346 Queen's Road East  
Starbucks - Gloucester Rd  
Starbucks - Great Eagle Centre  
Starbucks - Hopewell Centre  
Starbucks - Sun Hung Kai Centre  
Starbucks - WanChai Tower  
Starbucks - Wsqaure

Thai Delight Restaurant & Bar  
Tamarind  
The Charterhouse Causeway Bay  
The Doghouse  
The Flying Pan  
The Hive  
The Queen Victoria  
The Tonno  
The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club  
The Wanch  
The White Stag  
VIM Pilates Studio  
Xperience  
Yo mama

## CAUSEWAY BAY

18 Grams  
A La Maison  
Aluminium  
Brechts Circle  
Brookfield Global Relocation Services HK Ltd.  
Brunch Club & Supper  
Buddy Bar & Café  
Café Corridor  
Café Rivoli  
CitySuper  
Classified (Tai Hang)  
Crowne Plaza Hong Kong Causeway Bay – Connections  
Dickens Bar  
Englishtown  
Fleur de Sel  
Hotel Pennington  
Inn Side Out  
Isabella Bistro & Bar  
Island Seafood & Oyster  
Jrink  
Lanson Place  
Little Burro  
Mackie Kitchen  
Madame Foster Deli  
Mau I Business Centre Ltd - Eton Tower  
Mau I Business Centre Ltd - Radio City  
Mini Hotel Causeway Bay  
Mr. Steak  
Otto Restaurant & Bar  
Outback Steakhouse  
Page One  
Roof Bar  
Rouge  
Starbucks - 50 Leighton Rd.  
Starbucks - Causeway Bay Plaza 2  
Starbucks - Hysan Place  
Starbucks - Lee Garden 1  
Starbucks - Tin Hau  
Starbucks - Tiung Lo Wan Rd.  
Starbucks - Windsor House  
The Herbivores  
The Sky Bar  
The Warren  
Watson Wine Cellar  
Wired Café  
W's Entrecôte  
Yo mama

## HAPPY VALLEY

Classified  
El Grande - Happy Valley Bar & Grill  
Hong Kong Cricket Club  
Hong Kong Football Club  
il Bel Paese  
Jaspas  
Movieland (3) - Happy Valley  
Park N Shop - Happy Valley  
Saint Germain  
Starbucks - Le Cacet  
The Jockey

## QUARRY BAY/ TAIKOOSHING

East Hotel  
Park N Shop - Kornhill Plaza  
Pizza Express  
Ruby Tuesday  
Starbucks - Cityplaza  
Starbucks - Hoi Kwong St.  
Starbucks - Kornhill Plaza  
Starbucks - Taikoo Shing  
The News Room  
Yo bago  
Yo mama

## NORTH POINT/ FORTRESS HILL

Cheung Chuk Shan College  
Harbour Plaza North Point - Lobby  
Fitness First - Fortress Hill  
Para Site  
Starbucks - AIA Tower  
Starbucks - Fortress Hill  
Starbucks - Kerry Centre

## SAI WAN HO

Berliner Soho East  
Chaiwanese  
Jack's Terrazza Ristorante  
Madera Café  
Starbucks - Eastern Hospital

## POK FU LAM

Delaney's Pub  
HKUSU Student Union  
Lee Hysan Hall Students' Association, HKUSU  
Patisserie Les Amis  
Prompt  
Starbucks - Cyberport  
Starbucks - Cyberport 3  
Starbucks - HKU Library  
Starbucks - HKUSU T Hotel

## AP LEI CHAU/ ABERDEEN

Aberdeen Marina Club  
Alisan Fine Arts Limited  
Bowls Café Limited  
Flex HK  
GCX  
K Academy (English Language Learning Centre)  
Movie Express  
Tequila Kola  
TREE  
Shambala/ Café Piatti  
Sift  
Spring Workshop  
Starbucks - Marina Square  
Starbucks - One Island South  
Y. Art Education

## REPULSE BAY/ TAI TAM/ STANLEY

Beachside Bookstore  
Classified (Stanley)  
Chez Patrick Deli - Stanley  
El Cid Caramar  
Hong Kong International School  
King Ludwig Beer Hall  
Lucy's  
Mini Hotel Stanley  
Ocean Bay  
Park N Shop - Parkview  
Pickled Pelican Stanley  
Pizza Express  
Seafront  
Smuggler's Inn, Stanley  
Spices  
Starbucks - Stanley Plaza  
Taste  
The American Club  
The Boat House  
Victoria Recreation Club

## TSIM SHA TSUI

Agnes b Café Harbour City  
Agnes' B Café SG  
Assembly  
Barista Caffe  
Bistro on the Mile  
Bombay Dreams  
Bricklane - 2 Blenheim Avenue  
Brotzeit  
Burger Republic  
Carpaccio Pasta Pizza Vino  
Castros Bar  
CitySuper  
Crema  
Cucina - The Marco Polo HK Hotel  
Delaney's  
Eastside Tavern  
Eaton Hotel  
El Cid  
Fatt's Place  
Finds  
Grand Central Bar and Grill

## JORDAN/YAU MA TEI/MONG KOK

18 Grams  
Berliner Olympian City 3  
Broadway Cinematheque  
Colour Brown Coffee  
Englishtown  
Hotel Stage  
Kadoorie Hill  
Langham Hotel  
Langham Place Hotel Coffee Shop  
Madera Hotel  
Park N Shop - Olympian City  
Pink Coffee  
Royal Plaza Hotel  
Starbucks - 3 Jordan Rd.  
Starbucks - Bank Centre Mall  
Starbucks - Liberte Place  
Starbucks - Nathan Hotel  
Starbucks - New Kowloon Plaza  
Starbucks - Olympian City 2  
Take Two Brunch Coffee  
The Olympian Hong Kong  
White Noise  
Zoo Records

## SHATIN

Baptist University  
Citysuper  
Courtyard by Marriott Sha Tin  
Crown Relocations  
Starbucks - Fortune City One  
Starbucks - New Town Plaza L1

## SAI KUNG

Bacco  
CC Café  
Chez les Copains  
Classified  
Duke of York Pub  
Firenze  
HEBE ONE o ONE  
Italiano's  
Park N Shop - Clear Water Bay  
Pepperoni's  
Piccolos  
Pizzeria La Gondola  
Starbucks - Sai Kung Chan Man St.  
Starbucks - The HKUST  
The Bottle Shop

## OTHER NEW TERRITORIES

Discovery Park  
Englishtown  
King's Belly  
Mr Steak  
Park N Shop - Hong Lok Yuen  
Red Alert Airsoft Sports  
Starbucks - Citywalk  
Starbucks - Luk Yeung Galleria  
Starbucks - Metroplaza  
Starbucks - Tai Po Market MTR Station  
Starbucks - Trend Plaza

## LANTAU

Berliner German Bar & Restaurant  
Café Duvet  
Dymocks  
Marriott Skycity  
Park N Shop - Discovery Bay  
Regal Airport Hotel Zentro Garden  
Starbucks - Airport T2  
Starbucks - Citygate  
Zentro Garden

## KOWLOON TONG

Amaroni's  
Baptist University  
Baptist University Student Union  
City University Student Union  
Dan Ryan's  
Page One  
Park N Shop  
Pizza Express  
Starbucks - Festival Walk  
Starbucks - HKBU

## HUNG HOM

Open University Student Union  
Sav Hotel  
Starbucks - MTR Hung Hom  
Starbucks - The Laguna Mall  
Starbucks - Whampoa Site 5  
Waterfront Bar & Terrace

## KOWLOON BAY/ KWUN TONG/ KOWLOON CITY

Bespoke  
Englishtown  
Forfar  
Happy Corner Cakes Cookies Gallery  
Headstart Group Limited  
Kubrick  
Oliver's Super Sandwiches  
Pentahotel Kowloon  
Starbucks - EMax  
Starbucks - Megabox L6  
Starbucks - Millennium City 1  
Starbucks - One Kowloon  
Starbucks - Telford Plaza 1

# HK GIVEAWAYS

It's week three of our April giveaways and we have some winners! But if you weren't lucky this week, you're still in with a chance to win a fabulous three-night staycation at Ovolo Southside. What are you waiting for? Get enterin'!

WIN 3 NIGHTS  
AT OVOLI  
SOUTHSIDE,  
WORTH \$10,500!



## Win a three-night staycation at Ovolo Southside!

Wanna get away from all the craziness of the city, but you're too lazy to book a ticket to somewhere else? The artistic and edgy **Ovolo Southside** in the up-and-coming South Island Cultural District is here for you.

Thanks to their hospitality, we've got a **stay for two in a Long Loft Suite** for not one, not two, but **three nights** up for grabs! The staycation also comes with a \$1,000 food & beverage allowance that can be used at the hotel's restaurant Circle or rooftop bar Above, as well as two tickets to Ocean Park and pick-up & drop-off service to and from the hotel within Hong Kong. The entire prize is valued at a whopping \$10,500. How great is that?

Want to explore the Southside for an awesome long weekend? Here's how.

If you're reading the last two weeks, you should've already found an *italicized* word in the main Spotlight page article of those two issues. Now you have to do the same with this one! Once you've got all three, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about what you'd do with a staycation at Ovolo Southside. Go to [hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways](http://hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways) to submit your entry **before 10am on April 18, 2016**.

Good luck! The winner will be announced on April 22.

## Congratulations to the lucky winners of hampers from A La Bakery!

Congratulations to Jenny Wise, Nancy Lai and David Leung, who have each won a hamper from A La Bakery (valued at \$1,639)!

Jenny wants to share with her French hubby for some "bonne épouse" ("good wife") points, while Nancy will be sharing with her students in the Small Group Homes run by Po Leung Kuk. David, meanwhile, is being a good grandson and wants to surprise his granny who's always dreamed about going to Europe.

Congrats again and go enjoy the hampers with your loved ones!

WE HAVE WINNERS!



## Congratulations to the lucky winners of Oracle Skinland's vouchers and cosmetic sets!

Bonnie Cheng, Anastasia Moskvina, Julia Mins, Kirsty Kong and Rose Chiu, you guys are the winners of Oracle Skinland's treatment vouchers and cosmetic gift sets (each valued at \$2,700)!

Bonnie's been having acne troubles since she's a teenager, Anastasia had a pretty scary facial experience in Cebu, and Julia once came out "looking like a butcher had done the job" after a numbing facial treatment. Yikes!

Congratulations to you all! Here's to looking good!

# FIRST PERSON

**Gregory Charles Rivers**, aka Ho Kwok-wing, was TVB's staple "gweilo" actor for 20 years before he left the station in 2008. This year he sang two Cantonese parody songs at the satirical TVMost awards, becoming a viral sensation. He tells Xavier Ng why he left Australia, discusses showbiz stereotyping and explains why he's a Hongkonger.

I grew up in a hobby farm in a very small town [in Queensland]. There were only 20,000 people.

It was like the size of a housing estate in Hong Kong.

In 1982, I graduated from high school and I had extremely high marks, so I could choose to study anything I wanted at university.

I chose to study medicine because I thought: "be a doctor and help people."

University was really important to me. Not because of medicine, but because that's where I met all these people from Hong Kong.

Up to university, I didn't know anything about Chinese culture, except that there was a Chinese restaurant near my home.

I'm not even sure if I'd ever met any Chinese people. I didn't even know what Hong Kong was.

University was a huge stepping stone. I was exposed to Hong Kong students, Hong Kong pop music, Hong Kong movies, and that changed my whole life.

One day in the [dormitory] corridor, I heard this music and it was really amazing.

It was Cantopop. I couldn't understand a single word, but I loved the music.

So I just kept listening to it and reading the lyrics at the same time, non-stop. It wasn't about studying, it was about passion.

In three years, my interest in medicine was dropping off while my interest in Hong Kong was increasing.

I failed my final exams for my third year of medicine. About three months into repeating the year, I decided I didn't want to be a doctor: I wanted to be a pop singer in Hong Kong.

I spent the next year working three different jobs: dish-washing, kitchen work and construction.

After a year, I had \$1,000 Australian dollars and I bought a one-way ticket to Hong Kong.

People ask me if, over the 29 years I've been here, there has ever been a moment when I wish I hadn't come. There hasn't. Not a single second.

As soon as I stepped off the airplane, Hong Kong was my home. I was on a tourist visa—but I was a resident. I came here to live, I came here to stay.

Life is a chain of events. [A colleague] told me that she had seen a poster: TVB was looking for a Caucasian actor who could speak Cantonese.

I wasn't confident, but it was an opportunity. I sat down with the producer: She pulled out a script and asked me to act it for her on the spot.

I sat there for about five minutes without saying a word, because I was too nervous.

I said to myself, "If you don't take this chance, you're going to regret it for the rest of your life."

The script was about a police supervisor yelling at his subordinates—so I just said as loudly as I could, and I scared the hell out of her!

Sometimes, you've got to take a chance. If you allow it, life can give you a lot of surprises.

I learned an incredible amount of Cantonese when I was acting at TVB. All of my scripts were in Chinese. They were never translated or transliterated.

If you love a language, you don't stop learning it.

The typecasting [at TVB] was a peculiar thing.

A gweilo in Hong Kong can do anything, be any character. There's even a gweilo in the New Territories driving a minibus.

But what it comes down to is whether or not the scriptwriters want to put a gweilo in those roles.

In the beginning, it was about necessity: the situations where you have to use [a Caucasian actor], when he's a supervisor, a police inspector, a missionary—those typecast roles.

But that's all changed now. There were a couple of roles that were more "average" than the others that I really, really enjoyed.

It's funny, right? I prefer the average roles to "the superhero" or "the boss." I don't want to be the boss. Let me be the underling.

I was at TVB for 20 years, and I knew they weren't going to give me many significantly different roles.

I knew I had two choices: One choice was to stay there and become an old, permanent extra. The other was to leave and see what would happen.

I have a saying: "Failure is guaranteed if you don't try." If you try, you might fail; but if you don't try, you absolutely will fail.

I've had some really serious tough times over the years.

But if you keep going, keep believing, be a little bit naive, a little bit silly, and try to be optimistic as much as you can—at some point, things turn around.

I try not to plan things. I'm not smart enough to plan a future that's going to work.

The TVMost award ceremony, nobody knew about it a year ago. You couldn't plan for it, it just happened and you made the most out of it.

TVMost showed people that I knew how to have fun. People were like, "Wow! Ho Kwok-wing does that?"

That was eight years after I left TVB, so it was eight years of waiting for people to realize that you can do more than what you've done on TV.

In the entertainment business, a lot of the time it's a waiting game.

Some people said I was an overnight success—but my overnight took almost 30 years.

"As soon as I stepped off the airplane, Hong Kong was my home."



## NEED TO KNOW...

Gregory Rivers has just wrapped up a three-day Cantonese opera performance with Sunbeam Theatre, and will perform again later in October. He's also appearing in City Contemporary Dance Company's new production of "Journey to the West" in August.

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