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# SUPERSIZE! HONG KONG!

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## Taking Stock

The Hang Seng Index has slumped, experiencing its most extreme one-day decline in 3.5 years. The reason? Fears about the fate of Greece, and of course the Chinese stock market, which lost US\$2.8 trillion in market capitalization in a week. Spooked by the market? We've consulted HK Magazine's totally unqualified financial advisors to come up with this advice:

**Buy: Drachmas.** If the Greek government is forced to pull out of the Euro and reintroduce the drachma, economists fear widespread monetary devaluation and maybe even a limited lifespan for the new-old currency. However, they haven't taken into account the Hong Kong appetite for meaningless collectibles. Hongkongers will queue to buy limited-edition drachma notes, pumping millions of dollars of foreign investment into Greece's ailing economy. It'll be back on its feet in no time, until investors realize that the currency won't be limited edition if the country succeeds, so there's no reason to buy them all up.

**Sell: Your Old LaserDisc Collection.** It's time to admit it: LaserDiscs are never going to be big again. Dump those stacks of ancient Roman Tam Live in Concert discs (or better yet, send them to disgraced ex-Chief Secretary and classical music aficionado Rafael Hui, C/O The Warden, Stanley Prison). Then buy something that will actually stand the test of time, like an iPhone 5c.

**Buy: Gatsby Hair Jam.** If the insanely advertised hair product is halfway near as effective as it claims, it'll prop up your portfolio no problem.

**Sell: Lock of Hair Clipped from the Whiskers of John Tsang.** Have you been painstakingly hoarding those strands captured from the mighty mustache of Financial Secretary John Tsang? With Xi Jinping singling out the man for a handshake last month, rumors are rife that he's destined for further promotion. Now's the time to sell your memento for a considerable profit: The relic is rumored to instill ludicrous amounts of fiscal conservatism in all those who caress it.

**Buy: WhatsApp Shares.** The instant messaging application is already an integral part of life for all Hongkongers, but in recent weeks we've discovered that even our city's politicians do stupid things on WhatsApp. At this point, it's just too big to fail.

**Sell: Bitcoin.** If you remember the virtual currency Bitcoin, you've already made a loss on it.

**Buy: Chinese Stocks.** As we've seen, it doesn't matter what actually happens in the domestic China market. The CCP is terrified of a slump and will therefore back the hell out of its stocks. You literally can't lose. YOU CAN'T LOSE!

**Sell: Your Firstborn Child.** How else are you going to afford a two-bed place in Kennedy Town?

## Who's in charge?

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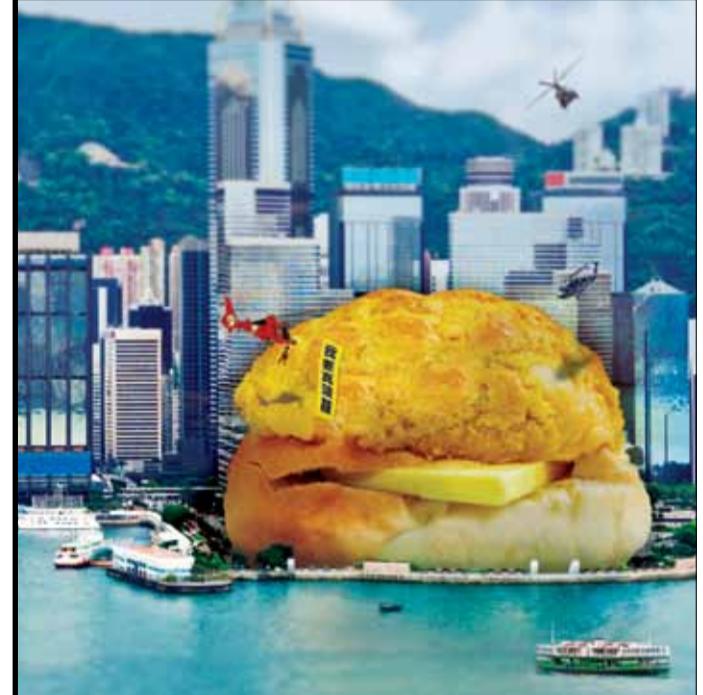


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# MAILBAG

## Mr. Know-It-All's Guide to Life

**Everyone seems to have one of those hand-held electric fans. They've popped up overnight! What's the deal? – Big Fan**

The fans are surprisingly powerful—a far cry from those weak portables of the past, whose unprotected plastic blades were more likely to impale you than keep you cool. They're also cheap, starting at just \$40. And as they're rechargeable from a USB port they're a lot more suited to our modern lifestyle, where batteries are an inconceivable inconvenience.

The original fan—inasmuch as this could ever be established—seems to be the Gongtian brand, model F95B. It's known as the *bah jiu seen* (芭蕉扇)—the palm-leaf or plantain fan—and it's takes its name from one of the greatest episodes in Chinese folklore: Sun Wukong and the plantain fan.

Sun Wukong, the Monkey King, is one of the central characters of the "Journey to the West," Wu Cheng'en's classic 16th century tale about the monk Tang Sanzang's pilgrimage from China to India in search of Buddhist scripture. He is accompanied by his reformed demon disciples, including the trickster Monkey King himself.

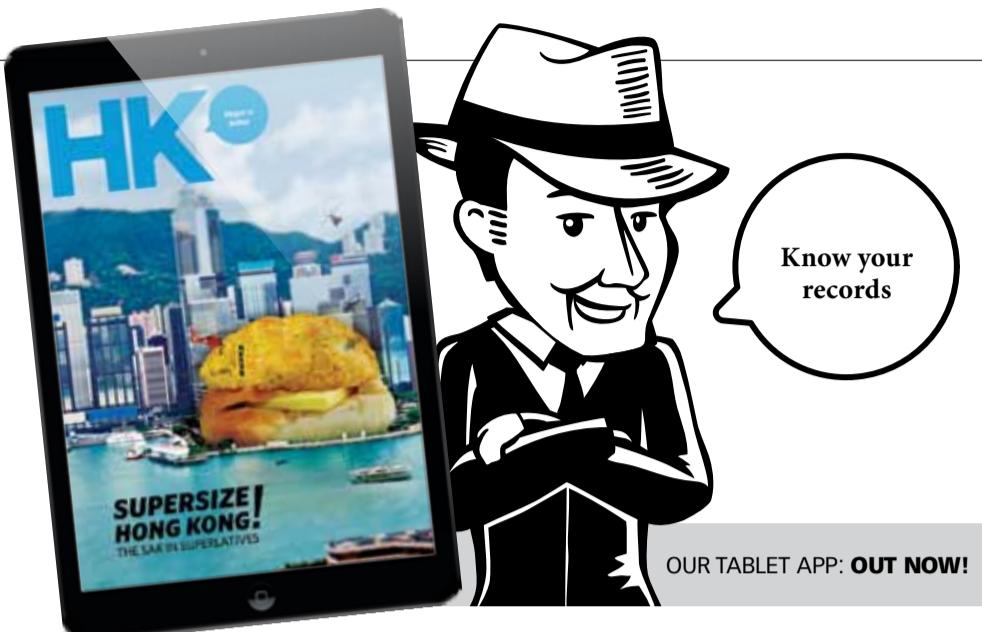
In the tale, Sanzang and his disciples come across the Mountain of Flames, an impossible range of raging fire which burns man and demon alike. The only way to quell the flames is to borrow a plantain-leaf fan which belongs to Princess Iron Fan. But the Princess and the travelers are old enemies, and she refuses to lend the fan to Sun Wukong. The two fight and the Princess raises her mighty fan, blowing the Monkey King halfway around the world.

But Sun Wukong isn't the type of trickster-sage to accept defeat easily. He makes his way back to the princess, who tries to fan him away once more: But this

time he has swallowed a Wind-Arresting Elixir, and can't be moved. The Princess flees but Sun Wukong transforms himself into a tiny cricket and leaps inside her stomach, kicking and punching from the inside out. Defeated, the princess gives up her prized fan. But it turns out to be a fake and instead of calming the flames, it builds them to a raging heat, raising them 10,000 feet into the sky.

So Sun Wukong returns once more to the Princess, disguised as her husband, the Bull King. He tricks the real fan from her and goes on his merry way. But the Bull King arrives and, in disguise as well, is able to steal the fan back once more. The Bull and the Monkey King fight a hundred rounds and a hundred more with no victor, until at last the Jade Emperor and Buddha themselves send guardian spirits to capture the renegade Bull King. Sun Wukong finally wins his prize: He fans the Mountain of Flames three times with all his might, and the fires wick out. At last, the travellers can continue their pilgrimage to the west.

A fan which can calm the fire at the heart of a mountain: And for just \$40 it can cool you on a summer day. What a bargain.



## Your... patriotism...???

"HK students should be the first priority!"

### School's Out

*In our news pages ("Talking Points," July 3, issue 1103) we reported on the number of mainland students applying to SAR universities dropping 40 percent this year due to the schools being "politicized." Our Facebook readers have strong opinions on the issue.*

That's great news. HK students should be the first priority!

### Wingy Sandy Hui

The number of places for local students is fixed... It just means the average caliber of mainland students will decrease due to the decrease in competition. Hong Kong universities depend heavily on Chinese talent.

### Prashanth Ravi Chandra

To be honest, if universities in Hong Kong offer political-related degrees, of course the students in the universities will have politicised views. Do you think Sun Yat-sen would be the father of Modern China, if Hong Kong universities weren't that open?

### Keith T Jones

Good to leave some place for HK domestic students!

### Alan Koon

### Sing Your Leung Out

*A recent Page 3 article paid tribute to CY Leung's third year in office with a biographical ballad [July 3, issue 1103]. Sounds like it struck a chord with at least one Facebook reader.*

I can't wait for the musical.

### David Edwards

### Love for Lin

*We talked to Hong Kong TV legend Diana Lin about her student days as a Maoist firebrand and her experience covering politics ("First Person," June 26, issue 1102). Talk about a fan club...*

Wow! Pleasant personality.

### Rohit H. Rai

Good luck, good health

### Wing Chan

Yep—she had a colourful life indeed!

### Shamima Chiba



**#PrivateEyeHK**  
**Urban Utopia**  
Photo by Luc Di Gregorio

### Write in and Win!

Got something to say? Write us! Our letter of the week gets an HK Magazine notebook, umbrella (pictured) and copy of "Historical Hong Kong Hikes," total value \$470.



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# HONG KONG INSIDER'S GUIDE

A series of stories, recommendations and tips on Hong Kong from people in the know. Explore our city based on the travel experiences that interest you and get itineraries for off-the-beaten-path neighborhoods.



## Tranquil Escapes

For a region famed for its high-rises, Hong Kong surprises visitors with its untold natural beauty. If you venture beyond the entertainment hub of downtown, you'll discover that almost three quarters of Hong Kong is made up of countryside—rugged mountains, bijou islands and kilometer upon kilometer of indented coastline.

### Beachin' Around

You don't need to leave Hong Kong Island to find idyllic beach retreats and **Shek O Beach** is one of the best picks for a fun day trip. Meaning “rocky bay”, Shek O peninsula juts out into the South China Sea, providing a perfectly sheltered enclave and ample scenery for shutterbugs. Rent yourself a barbecue on the beach, head to one of the shack restaurants for a skewer or two, or even grab a quick Thai bite on the storefront.

### Coast Along

Venture further off the beaten track to the northerly **Golden Beach** on the Gold Coast. As one of the longest beaches in Hong Kong, the golden stretch of sand glistens as far as the eye can see. A boardwalk lined with tropical trees runs the length of the shore and volleyball players are frequently leaping around, California-style. It's also right by the seafront arcade, the Gold Coast Piazza.

### Rock the Boat

For a whole-day adventure, travel further into the northeasterly New Territories to Sai Kung, a volcanic region of Hong Kong. Here you'll find the gorgeous **Hap Mun Wan (Half Moon Bay)**, a real Hong Kong treasure on Sharp Island. This long, narrow isle is 2 kilometers off the coast and accessible only by sampan. The waters are warm and crystal clear, resembling a tropical Asian destination.

For more insider info on Hong Kong, head to [www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide](http://www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide)

## Spotlight on: Islands District

When you imagine Hong Kong, chances are you're conjuring up visions of gleaming skyscrapers, bustling walkways, modern malls or boats bobbing on the harbor. But did you know the region is actually made up of more than 260 islands dotted around the South China Sea? The Islands District is made up of more than 20 of these maritime parcels: outlying islands which provide much of the city's countryside, and which are mostly quiet, underpopulated enclaves.



### Earning a Living

Many of these islands developed from tranquil fishing and farming communities into fishing ports and market towns to support Hong Kong's swelling maritime industry. **Cheung Chau** and **Peng Chau** islands are two such examples. Where fishing villages once dominated the coastlines, market towns, seafood restaurants and other such amenities soon popped up to feed the burgeoning economy.

### Feeling Crafty

**Lamma Island** is one of the most popular outlying islands, with two main villages at either end—Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan. It has a rural vibe and life moves at a slower pace: here generations of families run shops and cafes, and traditional arts and crafts are still being practiced in little corners. Try some traditional craftsmanship at **Selling Point Glass Workshop**, which offers half-day courses in glass blowing, stained glass and lamp work.

### Lofty Heights

Lantau Island boasts lofty peaks that rumble on into the distance and kilometers of untouched terrain. Closer to the coast, you can still find ancient fishing communities, plus long sandy beaches, monasteries and temples. Head off the beaten track to the hidden **Kwun Yam Temple**: you'll find the Kwun Yam Po Sha Buddha in the main temple, 18 Arhats in the main hall and five Buddhas around a circular altar upstairs.

Head online to [www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide](http://www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide) to create your personalized itinerary for Island District.





Sam Tung Uk Museum



Yuen Tsuen Ancient Trail

## Old Meets New

While Hong Kong has no shortage of big, glitzy high-rises, remnants of the old city remain apparent in its many historical buildings—in its old-meets-new character. You can discover streets where new businesses exist alongside old and where run-down tenements have been revitalized into modern urban projects. While some have been repurposed as museums, others are now restaurants, theaters and shops.

### Take a Walk

Thanks to efforts to preserve these beautiful older buildings via adaptive reuse, you can easily explore these fascinating sites. Take Wan Chai's **Blue House**: this rare example of a wooden tenement building, known in Cantonese as a tong lau, dates back to the 1920s and is classed as a Grade 1 Historical Building. Or nearby **Tai Lung Fung**, a stylish bar decorated in a classic "nostalgic Hong Kong style"—a perfect place for happy hour after a day of shopping.

### Hong Kong's Hollywood

Another "old-meets-new" hub is the well-trodden **Hollywood Road**. Home to antique shops and art galleries, the area is becoming increasingly gentrified. Start in Sheung Wan and walk to Central along this road and you'll find kitschy souvenirs on sale alongside designer clothes, and traditional tea parlors standing beside European-style cafes and restaurants.

### Preserving and Protecting

Within such a compact and varied city, there are myriad examples of how Hong Kong's historic tapestry is etched onto its architectural façade. Dig a little deeper—take a tour, push open those ancient doors—and you'll uncover how this cultural heritage is being preserved, but also how it's being renovated and adapted for the city's future generations.

**For more insider info on Hong Kong, head to [www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide](http://www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide)**



Choi Lung Restaurant

## Spotlight on: Tsuen Wan

At the end of its eponymous MTR line, you would be mistaken for thinking Tsuen Wan is simply a remote rural backwater. For here exist many of Hong Kong's greatest ancient monuments—old Hong Kong at its most fascinating. You don't have to travel far from the modern city to discover ancient trails, delve into historic temples and sup on traditional tea.



Western Monastery

### Mountains High, Rivers Low

An influx of Hakka people in the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) shaped Tsuen Wan, with Agrarian villages sprouting up around the then-named "Chi'ien Wan" which means "shallow bay" in Cantonese. One of the oldest villages is **Chuen Lung Tsuen** ("Dragon Stream Village") in the foothills of Tai Mo Shan mountain. This sleepy enclave sees a high turnover of visitors at its renowned tea houses. The most famous of these is **Choi Lung Restaurant**, which uses mountain spring water for its brews.

### Tales and Trails

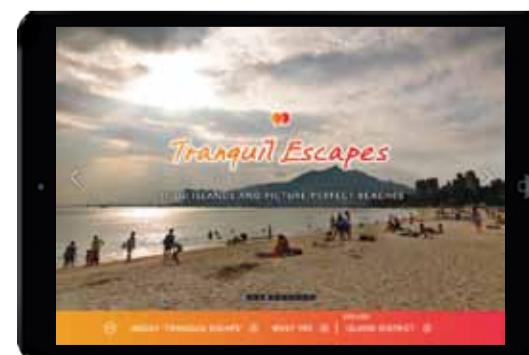
You can learn more about the history of ancient settlements at the **Sam Tung Uk Museum**, a 200-year-old Hakka walled village that was declared a historical monument in 1981. Another remnant of the district's agricultural past is the **Yuen Tsuen**

**Ancient Trail**, an old trading route through the mountains that's now a 12.5km-long path through Tai Lam Country Park. The trail offers great views over Tsing Ma Bridge—the world's longest road-and-rail suspension bridge.

### Palatial Offerings

For a more recent reflection of the district's culture, head to the **Western Monastery**, a relatively new Buddhist temple at the foot of Tai Mo Shan. Established by the Hong Kong Buddhi Siksa Society in 1970, the temple was expanded in the late 1990s and now covers an area of 200,000 square meters and is home to nine pseudo-Chinese palatial architectures, plus an exhibition area about Kwan Yin, the Goddess of Mercy, and more.

**Head online to [www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide](http://www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide) to create your personalized itinerary for Tsuen Wan.**



Get insights and tips on your tablet from Hong Kong Insider's Guide



# THE WEEK

SAT 7/18



MON 7/13



THU 7/16



**Friday 7/10**

## Rock the Goodwill

**Listen Up! Japanese Band Night for Nepal** is a charity gig at the Fringe Club featuring four Hong Kong-based Japanese bands—Nana, Jitterbug, Mahotriho and Blue Beat. All proceeds go to the Red Cross.  
9:30pm. 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251.  
\$140 at the door, including a drink.

**Saturday 7/11**

## Drink and Dive

Can't take the heat? Head to the **Endless Summer at The Pulse** water carnival—there'll be water gun fights, water soccer and even water bowling. Prefer to stay dry? Look out for outdoor screenings and DJ shows alongside food and booze.  
**Jul 11, 18 & 25, noon-8pm. Rooftop, The Pulse, 28 Beach Rd., Repulse Bay.**

**Sunday 7/12**

## All That Junk

Did no one invite you to any junks this year? Lucky for you, the **Sol Passion Music 2 Year Anniversary Junk Boat Party** is open to all. DJ and music production school Sol Passion is celebrating its second birthday with a junk offering free-flow drinks, food and the opportunity to make tunetastic friends.  
**10am. Pier 9, Central. \$600 from [www.eventbrite.hk](#).**

**Monday 7/13**

## Comedy Gold

Sit back, relax and laugh your beer bellies off watching the stars of Australia's **Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow** at the Fringe Club.  
**Jul 13-17, 8pm. 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$250-350 from [www.hkfringeclub.com](#).**

**Tuesday 7/14**

## Just Let it Go

Head to **The Woods** for its Tropical Tuesdays summer promo. What's on the cards? All summer long there'll be frozen cocktails like pineapple margaritas, boozy ice cones and more, created by a different guest bartender every week.  
**Through Aug 25. 17 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2522-0281.**

**Wednesday 7/15**

## When in Rome

It'll be a visual and tasteful feast at **Chinese Contemporary Art Meets Italian Wine**, the closing event of the Made in Italy festival. Celebrate the cultural exchange between China and Italy by checking out contemporary Chinese artwork... while sipping on Italian booze. It's a great combo, if you ask us.  
**7-9pm. Art Futures Group, 5/F, 8 Wyndham St., Central. \$200; email [icc@icc.org.hk](#).**

**Thursday 7/16**

## Throwing Shade

Woobar has launched **Show Off Your Shades**, a sunglasses-themed afternoon tea. Yes, you read that right—inspired by four designer brand sunnies, the event will feature sunglasses (natch) as well as nibbles like an apple cider sphere cake and Japanese-inspired cocktails.  
**Through July, Mon-Fri, 2:30-6pm. W Hotel, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2889. \$418 per person.**

**Friday 7/17**

## Read a Book, Already

Not only does the annual **Hong Kong Book Fair** offer countless books for your perusal, but you can also check out writer forums. Today, catch the panel discussion "How and What and Why do Writers Write?" (5-7pm). No, seriously, whyyy?  
**Jul 15-21. Theatre 1, HKCEC, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai. \$25 at the door.**

**Saturday 7/18**

## So One-Dimensional

Nightlife promoters BMC and Push are bringing their EDM antics to town at the **Dimensions Festival 2015 Hong Kong Launch Party** at Social Room. Don't like EDM? Stay away.  
**10:30pm. 3/F, Won Hing Building, 74-78 Stanley St., Central. \$150 at the door, including a drink.**



**DO THIS**

## Game On

Time to don your +1 Armor of Nerdery. Now in its 17th year, the **Ani-Com and Games** returns in all its intricate cosplay glory. It's an entertainment-packed weekend with dancing, singing, figure-designing, cosplaying and way more for the geek in all of us.  
**July 24-28, 10am-9pm. Hall 1, HKCEC, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai. \$35 at the door.**



# Slew of Celebrated Authors Set for Book Fair

## Okri, de Botton, Montefiore, Thatcher & Others to Share Insights

The 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the HKTDC Hong Kong Book Fair on 15-21 July features a star-studded slate of English language authors at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC). From fiction and history to biography and philosophy, this event promises to be a real page turner.

Winner of the Booker Prize for Fiction, Ben Okri is among the headlining authors at the Book Fair. The Nigerian-born poet and novelist who lives in the United Kingdom, was awarded for his 1991 novel *The Famished Road*. Mr Okri is appearing at the Book Fair through collaboration between the British Council and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC).

The HKTDC has also teamed up with renowned entrepreneur and arts enthusiast Sir David Tang to stage the **Open Public Forum** featuring Swiss writer Alain de Botton, British historian and novelist Simon Sebag Montefiore and biographer Carol Thatcher, the daughter of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

### Wise Words

Mr de Botton is a television presenter, philosopher and author of 14 bestselling books including *Essays in Love*, which was adapted into the film *My Last Five Girlfriends*. He is known for his philosophical take on everyday situations, and is dedicated to presenting complex issues in a way that appeals to a wide cross-section of readers.



Mr Montefiore is known for his historical masterpieces including *Young Stalin* and *Jerusalem*. The award-winning author enjoys widespread popularity through his fascinating portrayal of famous and infamous personalities including Joseph Stalin and Catherine the Great.



Fascinating characters are also the focus of journalist and biographer Ms Thatcher, whose subject for her breakthrough book, *Below The Parapet: Biography of Denis Thatcher*, was her father. Her other biographical subjects include her mother, Margaret Thatcher and the tennis player Chris Evert.

### World Stage

The week-long Book Fair features more than 580 exhibitors from 33 countries and regions. The Book Fair's **English Avenue** features more than 30 exhibitors including Commercial Press, Metrobooks, Swindon and PageOne, bringing a range of English titles to the event. **International Cultural Village** showcases publications from over 20 countries and regions. This year's Book Fair will be held under the theme of "**Reading the World • Love at First Book**". Over 360 events will take place during the fair period, including seven seminar series featuring participation from several high-profile authors and speakers.

As well as Mr Okri, the British Council and HKTDC are arranging a Book Fair appearance by Keith Gray. Meanwhile, the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau and the HKTDC are arranging for Christian Heinrich, Timothée de Fombelle and Christophe Ono-dit-Biot to share insights with readers at the fair. Local authors Maria Chaudhuri, Jason Ng and Mark O'Neill will also speak at fair seminars.



### English Reading and Creative Writing Series

Date	Time	Event	Venue*
15 July	6:30pm-8pm	At the Heart of Memoir: The Interior Journey; the Power of Imagery & Memory Vs Absolute Truth by Maria Chaudhuri	Meeting Rooms S222-223
15 July	6:30pm-8pm	Latin American Writers Reading the World: Alejo Carpentier and Octavio Paz by Mercedes Vázquez	Meeting Rooms S226-227
16 July	3pm-4:30pm	Reading the World - Writing Love as a Transmission of Words, Images, Sensations by Christophe Ono-dit-Biot	Meeting Rooms S222-223
16 July	6pm-7:30pm	Love at 8th Book: Confessions of a Reluctant Reader – A Dialogue with Keith Gray	Meeting Rooms S222-223
17 July	5pm-7pm	Open Public Forum– "How and What and Why do Writers Write?"	Theatre 1 & 2
18 July	11:30am-1pm	Walking Ten Thousand Miles: How an Author's Globetrotting Exploits Influence the Way He Reads and Writes by Jason Y. Ng	Meeting Rooms S222-223
18 July	6pm-7:30pm	Encounter with Children's Favourite French Illustrator by Christian Heinrich	Meeting Rooms S222-223
19 July	11:30am-1pm	The Second Tang Dynasty – the 12 sons of Fragrant Mountain(香山) who Changed China by Mark O'Neill	Meeting Rooms S222-223
19 July	2:30pm-4pm	Journey into the Imagination : A Dialogue with Ben Okri	Theatre 2
19 July	6pm-7:30pm	Imagination and Reality in My Books for Young People by Timothée de Fombelle	Meeting Rooms S222-223

For registration, please go to [www.hkbookfair.com/en/reg/eng](http://www.hkbookfair.com/en/reg/eng)

\* The above events will be held at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre



### Hong Kong Book Fair

**15-21 July 2015**  
**Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre**

[www.hkbookfair.com](http://www.hkbookfair.com)



# NEWS

## Last Week In Reality

Sat 27

**Knees Up** At 4pm, an estate agent handling shop spaces in a newly opened Tai Po mall is photographed kneeling on the ground, begging a woman to make a purchase. Witnesses tell Apple Daily that the man was kneeling for two minutes, causing a crowd to gather around the scene. The woman eventually hurries off. An estate agent also working at the mall tells reporters that the behavior is damaging to their professional image.

Sun 28

**Smoke Hold** At around 10am, a 65-year-old man sits on a Quarry Bay roadside bench with his newspaper and a pack of cigarettes. A younger South Asian man carrying a bag of beer walks up to him and takes the cigarette packet. He lights one cigarette and tries to burn the older man with the lit end. The older man dodges the cigarette and pushes the man to the ground, wrestling him into a headlock and holding him down while the police are called. The younger man is arrested while the older man is sent to the hospital for an elbow injury.



Mon 29

**Leap of Faith** A man on a bike snatches a woman's purse in Yuen Long at around midnight and cycles away. The woman calls the police, who find and confront the man, but he abandons his bike and runs off with the bag. The police chase the man, and he jumps 5 meters down into a dry channel, injuring himself. Police find a knife, screwdriver, and pliers in his backpack, as well as the woman's purse. He is arrested on suspicion of robbery, possession of burglary tools, and assaulting a police officer. Unable to walk, a stretcher is sent down to carry him out of the channel.

Tue 30

**Laundryland** A woman from the mainland visiting Hong Kong Disneyland removes five pieces of clothing from her bag, including a white bra and a red-and-white striped pair of panties, and hangs them to dry on a railing on Main Street USA during the parade. When a security guard asks her to remove the clothes, she moves them to a different railing. Shortly afterwards, she is expelled from the park. Hong Kong Disneyland has said that staff are trained to discourage inappropriate behavior.



Wed 01

**You Talkin' To Me?** In Tsim Sha Tsui after 2am, a drunk man wearing a shirt picturing Spanish footballer Xavi tries to get into an out-of-service taxi. The driver is resting, and refuses the customer. The two men argue, and the drunk passenger punches the driver in the face. He then climbs onto the hood of the taxi and jumps on it repeatedly, denting the hood and kicking the windshield until the glass breaks. Police arrest the passenger and both men are sent to the hospital.



Thu 02

**Fishy Fingers** On Tuesday, a woman is caught on CCTV shoplifting a packet of fish floss worth \$7.90 from a Tsim Sha Tsui 7-Eleven. Today she enters the shop again, but the cashier recognizes her from the camera footage and calls the police. She protests her arrest loudly and is taken away in a van.

Fri 03

**Big Day Out** While walking to kindergarten a 6-year-old Kwun Tong child slips out of his grandmother's grasp and runs away. The grandmother is unable to chase him and notifies his school and the police. Six hours later the police find him sitting on a nearby park bench. His grandmother tells reporters that the child thinks his mother neglects him. Locals say that is the fourth time the child has run off.

Illustrations: Ryan Chan

## Talking Points

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



Photo: Sam Tsang/SCMP

### July 1 March Has "No Clear Theme"

This year's July 1 protest attracted **a mere 48,000 participants** according to organizers, down from 510,000 last year. Occupy Central co-founder Benny Tai remarked that **the march did not have a "clear theme"** as the march was only a few weeks after the rejection of the electoral reform package. Besides pro-democracy marchers, **locals joined the rally and brandished the colonial flag**, New Territories villagers protested the government's new town development plans, ethnic minorities sought equality and Chinese language education, while social activists marched for human rights. Critics dismissed the relatively small rally as "pointless" and "radical."

**Our take:** What is this, a protest for ants?

### Government Office Turned Into Man Cave

Oriental Daily reporters have busted workers at the Electrical & Mechanical Services Department of the Cheung Sha Wan Government Office for creating a **private recreation area**. An anonymous source sent the paper a photo of a member of staff asleep in a room in the building. An investigation revealed that staff, who were meant to be on standby on floor B1, were **spending an unusual amount of time on the fourth floor in the ventilation services room**. The room was found to contain **sofas, an aquarium, airsoft guns and a chin-up bar with photos of women taped to the wall**. The unit has since been cleared out and the items have been thrown away. The EMSD has acknowledged the gravity of the problem and is considering installing security cameras in the room.

**Our take:** Tax dollars well spent...

### Joshua Wong Attacked

Scholarism co-founder and political activist Joshua Wong and his girlfriend Tiffany Chin were **attacked in Tai Kok Tsui** after leaving a movie theater. The unknown aggressor grabbed Wong's neck and punched him, **drawing blood and knocking off his glasses**. When Chin tried to intervene, the **man attacked her too, grabbing her by the hair**. The attacker and an accompanying woman fled the scene, and no arrests have been made. A joint statement by 15 professional groups said that the act "was not only inflicted on them, but was inflicted on all Hongkongers" and that it was "an affront to Hong Kong's core value of being an open society in which a diverse range of political opinions can be peacefully expressed without the fear of reprisals."

**Our take:** Beating up the kid with specs: that's one classy move.

### Quote of the Week

"In a football match, if the referee is also a coach and a player ... how could you call it fair?"

Labour Party chairman Lee Cheuk-yan criticizes Legco president Jasper Tsang Yok-sing for his part in the WhatsApp scandal, in which Tsang discussed strategy with pro-government lawmakers before the electoral reform vote. Tsang escaped a no-confidence vote last week when a motion was blocked by the same lawmakers.

# UPFRONT

## HongKabulary



### Drench Dye (*drentʃ dāi*), n.

Sweating so much that your shirt turns two shades darker.

*"I really love your red tee."*

*"It's actually pink. This is just a drench dye."*

## Caption This

HONG KONG—A boy poses at Ocean Park. (Nora Tam/SCMP)



## Fast Facts

### The Selfiest Place on Earth

Hong Kong Disneyland has banned selfie sticks due to safety concerns. How are we dealing with the change?

- Using much safer selfie riot batons.
- Forcing Mickey to operate iPhone with his big plush fingers.
- Disney Drones.
- Discovering the merits of quality time with loved ones when freed from the petty tyranny of self-documentation.
- Sellotaping a GoPro to your child's forehead instead.

## Street Talk



**Doris Leung** is the founder and CEO of Diamond Cab, a social venture dedicated to helping wheelchair-bound people get around the city. She tells Adrienne Chum about the inspiration behind the company, tricking out her taxis and singing karaoke with customers.

**HK Magazine:** What inspired you to start Diamond Cab?

**Doris Leung:** My mom. She couldn't move on her own, so had to be carried into a car. I discovered that lots of people used regular taxis, NGO buses and illegal vans meant for supply transport but modified to carry a wheelchair, which often operate without a license.

it bothersome, so getting a regular driver is extremely hard. We've been lucky, though, to work with Integrated Vocational Training Center, which has a taxi driving course. Even though 30 applied for the job, I chose the ones who were in it for the cause. They know that this is slow work and that they provide a special service. Our driver turnover rate is pretty much zero.

**HK:** How can you tell if the driver is cut out for the job?

**DL:** See if they have patience. If they don't even have patience for me, how can they have the patience to secure the wheelchairs of the elderly? There is so much more work to this operation: They have to get out, help the passenger, and fasten safety straps and seatbelts. The financial risk is high, as my drivers have to cover their own expenses if they are at fault in an accident—which means they have to enjoy the work to be able to accept the risks.

**HK:** What's the best thing you've learned while doing this?

**DL:** I discovered that the elderly love karaoke: Some love to sing, others to move to the music. We put on something called Diamond Leisure, which provides a different activity every month. Once we went to a selfie studio, another time we did shabu shabu. It helps the elderly homes because transportation is taken care of, and the elderly think of these evening parties as adventures.

[Learn more or book a ride at  
www.diamondcab.com.hk.](http://www.diamondcab.com.hk)



# SUPERSIZE! HONG KONG!

Hong Kong—city of superlatives. From local bragging rights to world records, everything's bigger and better in the SAR. By **Adam White**

## ! INSANE EATS

Biggest, booziest, or just straight up craziest: Hong Kong has extraordinary food to spare.

### BIGGEST STEAK

Average sized steak not cutting it for you? Head to Shore and order the **80oz double-bone Tomahawk steak**. The grain-fed beef is wet-aged for 120 days and not so much carved as hacked into an enormous hunk for you. It's \$2,376 and serves at least four: order ahead of time to give them time to bring in an extra-large cow.

**3/F, The L Place, 139 Queen's Rd. Central, 2915-1638.**

### MOST LUDICROUS COCKTAIL

This isn't an easy one to judge in a town of ridiculous cocktails, but the prize just—and only just—goes to the frankly insane "**Bloody Masterpiece**" (\$1,250, only available Sat-Sun noon-5pm) at Boomshack. This Bloody Mary comes in a massive jug topped with:

- 1 whole fried chicken
- 2 cheeseburgers
- 2 sausages
- 3 rashers of bacon
- 2 stuffed chilis
- 3 kinds of cheese cubes
- 1 forest of carrot, onion, olive, celery and tomato
- 1 pretzel

It's meant to be for a party of six to eight—but we dare you to go solo.

**Shop B, 8-12 Wo On Lane, Central, 2660-5977.**



### BIGGEST FISH CAUGHT

In July 2013 six hedge fund traders reeled in a **3.6-metre-long, 226kg Pacific blue marlin** while fishing near the Dongsha Islands to the south of Hong Kong. It took 3.5 hours to catch, and was worth around \$77,500. Because what hedge fund traders really need is more cash.



### MOST INSANE DESSERT

Sweet Tooth's **Waffle Super Big Mac** (left) takes 45 minutes to put together and if you can down it in another 45 minutes, the \$170 dish is yours for free. Nine layers of waffle crammed full of cream and stuffed with sauces and fruit... good luck, young overeater.

**46 Carnarvon Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2721-1121.**

### MOST EXPENSIVE WINE

Last year Sotheby's Hong Kong sold a lot of **114 bottles of Romanée-Conti** Burgundy, which went for \$12,556,250. That's \$110,142 per bottle for what in 1789 the Archbishop of Paris called "velvet and satin in bottles." The buyer chose to remain anonymous. Anyone heard from Henry Tang in a while?

Meanwhile, the most expensive wine available in a restaurant in Hong Kong is stocked at the Island Shang's Petrus. It's a namesake bottle of **Pétrus 1961** (left), which critic Jay McInerney described as tasting of "balsam, leather-bound books, black tea, chocolate-covered raisins, dried cherries." All that and more, yours for a mere \$296,000.

**56/F, Island Shangri-La, Supreme Court Rd., Admiralty, 2820-8590.**





## ! GOD & GAMBLING

The two most important things to any self-respecting Hongkonger.

### FASTEAST HORSE

This title goes to the mighty **Silent Witness**, who dominated the 2003-2005 seasons. He won his first 17 starts consecutively and was ranked the world's fastest sprinter for three years in a row, making \$62,496,396 in prize money. Silent Witness became a Hong Kong hero for his unrivalled stretch of victories, right in the middle of SARS—when the city needed something special to hold on to. The thoroughbred was retired in 2007 and was sent to a glue factory home for retired horses in Australia. You can visit him at **Living Legends** (207 Oaklands Rd., Greenvale, Victoria, Australia). It's right next to Melbourne airport.



### HIGHEST CHURCH

How does that hymn go—"Nearer, My God, To Thee"? Churches traditionally built spires to reach up to God, but in a city of skyscrapers that's not so impressive. Instead the SAR is home to the world's highest church inside a building, at just under 300m high on the 75th floor of Wan Chai's Central Plaza. The **Sky City Church** was the brainchild of Sun Hung Kai mogul Thomas Kwok, a devout Christian. Want to get high on the Lord? The church meets for services every Sunday at 11am in English and 6pm in English and Cantonese.

**75/F, Apex, Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, 2521-3900.**

## ! TURBO TYCOONS

There's just one thing that runs Hong Kong. No, it's not CY Leung—it's money. And boy, does money talk in the SAR...

### MOST MULTIMILLIONAIRES

A study in August last year found that Hong Kong is home to **more multimillionaires** than any other city in the world, with 15,400. New York languishes behind with only 14,300 millionaires, and London has only 9,700. Explains a lot, doesn't it?

#### • MOST ROLLS-ROYCES ORDERED

For years this was a standing record of The Peninsula Hotel: The grande dame set the record for the largest single-order from the company in December 2006, when it requested **14 fully bespoke extended wheelbase Rolls-Royce Phantoms**. The record stood until September 2014, when flamboyant tycoon Stephen Hung spent \$155 million on an even more flamboyant **30 of the selfsame Phantoms** for his new hyper-lux Louis XIII hotel in Macau. Two of the cars will be the most expensive Phantoms ever commissioned, and the cars are due for delivery in early 2016. Famously, Hong Kong has the most Rolls-Royces per capita in the world. That might be about to change...



### MOST INSANELY CRAZILY PRICED CHICKEN CUP.

In April last year the "**Meiyintang Chicken Cup**" sold at auction in Hong Kong for a world record of \$281,240,000. Regarded as an exceptionally fine example of Chinese porcelain, the 15th-century cup went to Shanghai collector Liu Yiqian. Liu paid by swiping his American Express card 24 times. What did he do once he had his hands on his prize? He brewed a cup of tea in it, of course.



### MOST EXCLUSIVE CLUB •

If you want to join the **Hong Kong Golf Club**, you'd better put your name down now: There's an official waiting list of 20 years. Full membership is about \$500,000 but in truth the club is essentially closed to new members. You'll have to chance your arm on the second-hand market, where memberships are going in the region of \$12 million. Worth it for the chance to brush shoulders with Li Ka-shing on his daily early-morning holes at Deep Water Bay, perhaps. A few million bucks short? The club allows visitors to play on its Fanling course on weekdays for a comparatively paltry \$1,200 per 18 holes. At Deep Water Bay you can play Mon-Fri from 9am-2pm, for just \$550. Tycoons not guaranteed.

**Lot 1, Fan Kam Rd., Sheung Shui, 2670-1211 or 19 Island Rd., Deep Water Bay, 2812-7070.**



### • MOST EXPENSIVE PROPERTY

Hong Kong—and Asia's—most expensive flat sold last month for a cool **\$497.9 million**, bought by a Dutch businessman who apparently got bored of just throwing 500 Euro notes into wheelbarrows and setting them on fire. Inside the Frank Gehry-designed Opus Hong Kong at 53 Stubbs Road, the 5,188-square-foot duplex cost its buyer a mere \$95,971 per square foot.

Hong Kong's most expensive house, meanwhile, is House 10 at Skyhigh on Pollock's Path on the Peak—the 5,989-square-foot house sold for **\$800 million** in June 2011, or \$133,578 per square foot. Bargain.

Meanwhile House 1 of Sun Hung Kai's Twelve Peaks development at 12 Mount Kellet Road was put on the market last year for **\$819.1 million**, a world record of \$175,735 per square foot. There have been no takers... yet.



## ! MEDIA MARVELS

There's always room for a media special, dahling.

### BEST-SELLING HONG KONG MOVIE

Sorry, Wong Kar-wai fans. The highest-grossing Hong Kong movie of all time is "Kung Fu Hustle," which earned \$61,278,697 at the box office.



### LONGEST CONCERT SERIES

After Hong Kong Coliseum was completed in 1983 the venue became phenomenally successful, hosting night after night of concerts for the city's Cantopop-starved public. Stars included Leslie Cheung, Anita Mui and Alan Tam—all playing runs of 25 nights or more. Tam played 38 nights in a row, but the record goes to superstar **Paula Tsui**, who in 1992 played 43 shows over 37 days. At a capacity of 12,500, that's a potential audience of 537,500 who saw her perform. How many Twitter followers do you have?



### CRAZY ESCALATOR RECORD SPECIAL

For some weird reason, Hong Kong is home to a superfluity of escalator-based records. The SAR has the:

#### World's Longest Outdoor Covered Escalator System:

Central-Mid-Levels Escalator (800m, vertical climb of 135m)

#### World's Third Longest Outdoor Covered Escalator System:

Ocean Park escalator from Marine World to Adventure Land (225m)

#### Longest Indoor Shopping Mall Escalators:

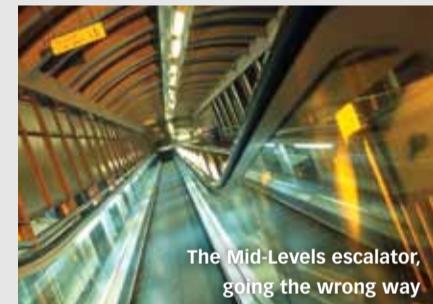
"Xpressescalators," Langham Place, Mong Kok (vertical climb of 76m in two escalators)



Ocean Park, record-setter



Gettin' high in Langham Place



The Mid-Levels escalator, going the wrong way

## ! UNRIValed OUTDOORS

Warm weather, bad weather and worst weather: Hong Kong has it all.

### HOTTEST SUMMER EVER

If you can't remember a summer ever being as sweltering as this year—congratulations, you were right. **June of 2015** saw monthly mean temperatures of 29.7°C, making it the hottest month since records began in 1884. Add that to relative humidity in the high 80s, and you've got a recipe for dissolving into a pool of your own sweat and self-loathing.



Tai Mo Shan, I like your misty peaks

### HIGHEST MOUNTAIN

The highest peak in Hong Kong is **Tai Mo Shan**, sitting at 957m above sea level at what's more or less the geographical center of the New Territories. The wettest and coldest part of Hong Kong, it's even been known to attract frost in the colder months.

It's easy to hike up, as Tai Mo Shan Road inclines at a fairly gentle gradient all the way to the top. You can't get right to the summit, though: the top is a fenced-off section containing a radar station for the Hong Kong Observatory and the Civil Aviation Department—and, possibly, a secret PLA base. It's also covered by Stage 8 of the Maclehose Trail, from Lead Mine Pass to Route Twisk.

### LONGEST ROAD

Hong Kong's longest road is **Castle Peak Road**, which runs from Sham Shui Po all the way up to the border and then to Sheung Shui, looping around the south, west and north New Territories. The shortest road in Hong Kong is **Joint Street** in Lai King, which is about 23m long. It connects Lai King Hill Road and Lai Cho Road near the Lai King Estate. We don't particularly recommend visiting. Tragically, it's a touch shorter than the fantastically named Short Street in Mong Kok.

### MOST DENSELY POPULATED ISLAND

**Ap Lei Chau.** Wait, Ap Lei Chau? That hilly one next to Aberdeen where you go to buy furniture? Yes, Ap Lei Chau isn't just the most densely populated island in Hong Kong. It's actually the second-most densely populated island in the WORLD.

As of the 2011 census the island squeezed 86,089 people into just 1.3 square kilometers, meaning that there are 66,222 people per square kilometer on the island. Given that there's a big mountain on the south side, where do all these people live? The enormous South Horizons housing estate, for one. It houses over 31,000 people, about the population of the city-state of Monaco.

### WORST TYPHOON TO HIT HONG KONG •

You hear a lot about 1972's devastating Typhoon Wanda but it's got nothing on the **Great Hong Kong Typhoon** of 1937, which struck the city on September 2, 1937. The storm hit in the dead of night, surprising all with its force. Instruments were able to register speeds of 125mph before they broke down. The waves were worse: a tidal wave estimated at 5.49 meters high overwhelmed the defenseless fishing village of Tai Po. Fires destroyed what the waves didn't, and the territory's death toll was estimated at 11,000.

Destruction from Typhoon Wanda, 1972



Photo: Minghong via Flickr



Ap Lei Chau: full of dense humans



The Largest One-stop  
Shopping Mall for Home  
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天

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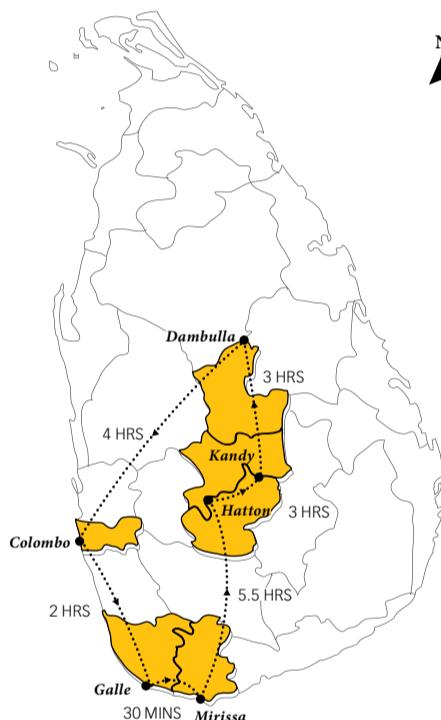
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# A week in Ceylon

Don't have three weeks to spend traipsing across Sri Lanka? It's possible to pack most of Ceylon's heritage sites into a one-week itinerary—and there's even time to squeeze in some relaxation. By Kate Springer



## Getting Around

Due to a limited train network, it's near impossible to tour Sri Lanka without hiring a car. Sure, you can drive yourself, but ballsy motorists and a lack of consistent signage may have you running for a professional. Luckily, Sri Lanka has a developed system of hired drivers, with several websites to choose from. A good bet is travel service **Khiri Travel** ([khiri.com](http://khiri.com)), which charges around US\$400 (\$3,100) per week and can also help with your itinerary.

**Top tip:** You can get a free SIM card at the immigration counter. Even the most grumpy looking officer will pass you the tourist pack.

## Days 1-2: Galle

**Must see:** A 1.5-hour drive south from Colombo is the city of Galle, home to **Galle Fort**. A UNESCO heritage site that dates back 400 years, the fortress has a convoluted history—this strategic trading port switched hands between the Portuguese, Dutch and British, and that mixed architectural influence is still very much apparent in the pillared verandahs, cobblestone streets and Baroque-style churches. The best way to explore Galle is via the narrow alleys on foot, stumbling upon the Dutch Church, spice warehouses and a lighthouse by the sea.

**Where to Stay:** With sky-high ceilings, four-poster beds, sunset G&Ts and the best Sri Lankan breakfast in all of Galle, **Amangalla** (from \$5,813. 10 Church St., Galle Fort, (+94) 91-223-3388, [www.amanresorts.com](http://www.amanresorts.com)) is a don't-miss experience. Sitting on prime real estate within the fort itself, this lovingly restored colonial property has been meticulously maintained and you can expect excellent service, a secret-garden style pool and peaceful spa.

## Days 3-4: The Southern Coast

**Must see:** Home to crystal clear water and countless stretches of sand, Sri Lanka is an overlooked beach destination. Pull off anywhere along the coast for a quiet dip, or find some of the best surf and dining options along **Mirissa Beach**. Get your paws on a coconut, bliss out in a hammock and wake up with the rising tide.

If you can time your trip for January or February, you have a good chance of seeing the **blue whales of Sri Lanka** breach or lay about in the sun. Ask your hotel to set it up for you upon arrival. Tickets usually cost about US\$90 (\$698) per person for a five-hour, rough-and-tumble journey out to sea.

**Where to Stay:** A new resort from the prestigious Ceylon Tea Trails group, all-inclusive **Cape Weligama** resort (from \$4,418, 46/38 Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2, (+94) 11-774-5700, [www.capeweligama.com](http://www.capeweligama.com)) is manicured to the max, with golf cart transfers and spacious garden villas that share semi-private pools. The whole place is perched atop a cliff, so sunset drinks by the crescent-shaped pool is a must.

## Days 4-5: Tea Country

**Must see:** Part of the beauty of traveling through lush, green tea country is that it's totally okay to do absolutely nothing. Of course, you can take a guided walking tour through the tea plantation, go mountain biking, or walk down through the local villages... or you could kick back on the terrace, enjoy freshly brewed tea from the local estate and breathe in the fresh air.

But if you must get out and about? Established back in 1841, Mackwoods Tea is one of the biggest names in Sri Lanka. The company has 17 plantations across a total of 27,000 acres, including the **Mackwoods Labookellie Tea Centre and Factory** in Nuwara Eliya (A5, Nuwara Eliya, (+94) 52-223-6306, [www.mackwoods.com](http://www.mackwoods.com)). After taking a free tour of the factory, pull up a seat in the cafe and enjoy a slice of chocolate cake alongside a pot of black tea.

**Where to Stay:** The newly renovated **Mandira Bungalows** (from \$2,325, various locations. (+94) 11-473-7460, [mandirabungalows.com](http://mandirabungalows.com)) has three locations across tea country, all with refurbished 19th century colonial interiors, open-air terraces, English gardens and old-school charm. Service is warm and welcoming, and there's an in-house chef who prepares killer curries. Do note that it's BYOB, so stock up before you hit the hillsides.





### Days 5-6: Kandy

**Must see:** The city of Kandy in the center of the country was once the capital of the Sinhalese Kingdom, and is now a UNESCO world heritage site. The **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic** (entry Rs1,000 (\$58), Sri Dalada Veediya, Kandy, (+94) 81-223-4226, [www.sridaladamatigawa.lk](http://www.sridaladamatigawa.lk)) is an imposing temple that's home to one of Sri Lanka's most important shrines: a tooth of the Buddha kept in a gold casket.

About a 10-minute drive from the city center, the 147-acre **Royal Botanical Gardens** (Peradeniya Rd., Kandy, (+94) 81-238-8088) have been Sri Lanka's pride and joy for centuries. The peaceful grounds cultivate over 4,000 species of flora, including a whole house of orchids and 200 species of coconuts.

**Where to Stay:** Tucked away on a hillside about 2km outside of Kandy, the glass-facades and open-air terraces of **Theva Residency** (from \$1,225, 11/B5/10-1, Lane 6, off Upper Tank Rd., Kandy, (+94) 81-738-8296-99, [www.theva.lk](http://www.theva.lk)) afford fantastic views over the countryside. There are just 15 rooms—all with unique decorations and contemporary artwork.

### Days 6-7: Dambulla

**Must see:** Looking up at the astounding **Sirigiyā**, aka "Lion Rock" (entry US\$30 (\$233)), gives you one of the most memorable views in all of Sri Lanka. From below, the flat-topped rock juts out against an otherwise flat plain, reaching 500 meters into the sky. Dating back to the 5th century, this UNESCO world heritage site was once a royal fortress—complete with hand-written poems on the stone walls, gardens, moats and more.

Another UNESCO site in the area, the **Dambulla cave temples** (Dambulla, (+94) 66-228-3605) require a bit of a hike—but they're worth it. This mountainside temple complex is the best preserved in Sri Lanka, with more than 80 caves, together containing over 1,500 paintings and statues.

**Where to Stay:** To enter **Kalundewa Retreat** (from US\$284 (\$2,202). Kalundewa Rd., Dambulla, (+94) 775-205-475, [kalundewaretreat.com](http://kalundewaretreat.com)), you'll drive down a dirt path flanked by mango trees and rice paddies. There are just six bedrooms—three of which are large private chalets—dotted across the landscape, so you wake up to nothing but green fields and mountains for 100 acres.

**Getting there:** Cathay Pacific flies direct to Colombo, but flights arrive and depart after midnight.




**Hong Kong Sinfonietta**  
 香港小交響樂團

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*Abendzeitung München*

Recorder  
**Stefan Temmingh**

# Good Music This Morning



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Music Director/Conductor  
**Yip Wing-sie \***



Harpsichord  
**Anna Paradiso**



Violin  
**James Cuddeford**

Programme

Vivaldi	Recorder Concerto, RV443
Sammartini	Recorder Concerto in F
Bach	Brandenburg Concerto No 5 in D, BWV1050
Hendrik Hofmeyr	Concerto for Recorder, Harpsichord & Strings (2012) (Asian première)*

**31.7.2015**  
(Fri) 11am

Hong Kong City Hall Theatre  
 \$220 \$160

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For ages 6+  
Hong Kong Sinfonietta reserves the right to change the programme and artists

Hong Kong Sinfonietta is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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# PERKS

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## Fun for all the Family – The World Premiere of Pinocchio

This charming, family-friendly production is set to delight and inspire audience members of all ages. With brand-new choreography by renowned choreographer, Pär Isberg, The Hong Kong Ballet dancers will captivate you as they depict Pinocchio's many amazing adventures. Set to Conductor Benjamin Pope's specially arranged score, by Italian composer Ottorino Respighi, don't miss out this performance, get your tickets now!

28th August – 6th September 2015. Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Tickets: [www.urbitix.hk](http://www.urbitix.hk) Enquiries: [marketing@hkballer.com](mailto:marketing@hkballer.com)



## OMD Hong Kong crowned Gold Media AOTY

OMD Hong Kong took home the GOLD trophy of "Media Agency of the Year" at Marketing Magazine's Agency of the Year Awards 2015, held at the JW Marriot Hotel last Friday June 5th. This was the 3rd consecutive year for OMD Hong Kong to be crowned GOLD in the highly competitive media agency award category. Omnicom Media Group's special business units also received strong recognition. Resolution Hong Kong bagged another GOLD for "Search Agency of the Year" while the Strategy & Insights team was awarded a SILVER for "Best New Business Team".

<http://www.omd.com/hong-kong/global-media-agency>

## A Taste of the Good Life

Effortless meets delicious with Invisible Kitchen's exciting new canapé menus. Starting from just \$165pp, their innovatively easy options are fit for any party - simplifying the normal ordering process and bursting with tasty treats including the Strawberry & Clotted Cream with Champagne Jelly and Smoked Salmon & Caviar with Cucumber (pictured). Get the menus online.

[www.invisiblекitchen.com](http://www.invisiblекitchen.com)  
[office@invisiblекitchen.com](mailto:office@invisiblекitchen.com)  
2711 5788



## Extant Season 2 Premieres 14 July

In the second season of Extant, Molly discovers she has unwittingly put the human race on a path to destruction, and that she and mysterious stranger JD Richter may be the only hope for survival. Executive produced by Steven Spielberg and stars Oscar-winner Halle Berry and Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Extant season 2 premieres 14 July, Tuesday at 9:55pm.

RTL CBS Entertainment HD is on nowTV Ch 517

## Coast Seafood & Grill Now Open

Located in Causeway Bay's urban chic shopping district Fashion Walk, the newly opened Coast Seafood & Grill serves up authentic Mediterranean dishes, specializing in cuisine from Southern Italy, France and Spain. The 100-seat Coast includes an in-door and out-door seating. The oyster bar and seafood corner are situated in the main dining area, allowing customer to choose from an array of jet-fresh oysters and the daily fresh seafood. The alfresco dining area is perfect for the summer with the opened whiskey bar around the corner, serving over 30 different whiskeys around the world!

Shop C, G/F, 9-11 Cleveland Street, Fashion Walk, Causeway Bay, Tel: 2576 8650



## Cocktails From Around The World

During Hard Rock Cafe's World Burger Tour, not only can you taste all the featured Local Legendary burgers from around the globe, but also the brand's world-famous cocktails, including **Mai Tai One On** – a South Pacific-inspired cocktail; **Pomegranate Mule** – The summertime favorite from Russia; **Mezcarita** – A refreshing and smoky margarita from Mexico; **Pineapple Ginger Caipirinha** – The most popular Brazilian cocktail and **Maple Old Fashioned** – A twist on a classic American cocktail.

LG/F, LKF Tower, 55 D'Aguilar Street, Lan Kwai Fong, Central, Hong Kong  
Tel: +852-2111-3777

## Lovers & Friends Summer Concept Store

A select concept store, Lovers & Friends offers an extensive range of international footwear, accessories, lifestyle brands and Lovers & Friends own line collection, offering a collection of quirky and fun casual separates for both men and women. Our collections sourced internationally, are complementary to our core footwear brands Havaianas & Superga. Our aim is to offer classic, sophisticated and everyday products for Fashion Lovers & Friends everywhere.

G/F, 24 Gough Street, Central, HK 2501 5955  
Shop 106, Level 1, The Pulse, 2501 5355  
28 Beach Road, Central, HK 2619 9515  
Shop 2008, LCX, Level 3, Ocean Terminal, Harbour City, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon



## 2015 A Star Is Born

Let's unveil the Hunghom Bay urban-harbourside living at Kowloon Harbourfront Hotel! You can enjoy 270° panoramic view of the world famous Victoria Harbour from the comfort of your own suite. Completed by the amazing fun and entertainment provided by the all-round clubhouse facilities, it would be your best vacation ever. For reservations, please call (852) 2186 9080.

8 Hung Luen Road, Hunghom Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
[www.harbour-plaza.com/khfh](http://www.harbour-plaza.com/khfh)



## Oh, Snap!

Where can you find cool T-shirts, new summer styles, and street art all rolled into one event? Check out the "Made in Hong Kong" **Lab Concept x Snaptee** pop-up. The two brands are teaming up for this event, running 'til July 17, where custom T-shirt startup Snaptee will be showing shoppers how to design their own Hong Kong-inspired clothes using Instagram photos—with a freshly painted mural by street artist Sinic as a backdrop.

T-shirts, from \$159. Through July 17. **Lab Concept**,  
93 Queensway, Admiralty, 2118-3599.

# Turning Japanese

From silky uni to crispy teppanyaki, we've got your Japanese food cravings sorted at these super sugoi establishments. By **Charley Mulliner** and **Evelyn Lok**



## Feeling Kozy?

Hidden away in a Causeway Bay commercial center, **Kozy Okonomiyaki**

**Teppan-yaki** has been quietly making a name for its okonomiyaki—savory omelets cooked on a grill. Make sure you sit up by the open griddle so you can watch the chefs at work and see the attention to detail that goes into every tasty morsel. The spring onion version (\$78) was fragrant, light and deliciously cheesy. But the star of the night had to be the fillet steak (\$290): the chef cooked off some garlic and dribbled the juices over the meat as it grilled. It was served on toast which, once we'd finished the tender-as-you-like beef, was re-grilled with slathers of cheese and then drizzled in a sweet tomato sauce.

**9/F, 499 Hennessy Rd., Causeway Bay, 2591-1281.**

## Tama Gotcha

Fond of chicken and all its parts? **Toritama** is your go-to yakitori spot for everything poultry. Tucked up quiet Glenealy, the only overseas branch of this Tokyo mainstay famously serves up 22 parts of chicken on sticks, ranging from addictive chicken meatballs to quirker options such as chicken aorta and chicken knees. Over lunch hour, they serve one option: a Nikomi Tori Pai Tan soba (\$148), which is a bowl of hearty soba noodles soaking up a thick, flavorful chicken broth made fresh each morning.

**2 Glenealy, Central, 2388-7717.**

## Youka and Me

Headed by former Hotel Nikko head chef Ito Katsuhiro, **Youka** touts itself as a purveyor of classic *washoku*, aka traditional Japanese fare. This modern Wan Chai eatery is all about using the best seasonal ingredients, and immaculate presentation topped with great hospitality. The sashimi here is worth singing praises about: flown in daily from Japan, it's always glistening, juicy and fresh. Sample some of the fish with lunch sets from \$180, or splash out on the Youka Special Dinner set (\$1,280), which includes at least 10 courses specially thought up each day.

**Shop 1D, 35-45 Johnston Rd., Wan Chai, 2833-5188.**

## Beco and Call

This all-wooden gem of a skewer resto in Sheung Wan has been hailed as the Yardbird of beef—but that doesn't do **Kushiyaki Beco** justice. Flip straight to the diagram of a cow and choose your cuts to be grilled up at the chef's station. We tried a selection but fell in love with the oyster blade (\$60) and "hanging tender" skewers (\$65), which we juiced with a little lemon and dipped in yuzu paste. Don't miss the specials on the board: The grilled tuna jaw (\$360) came out whole, with a crisped, charred skin.

**2 Shin Hing St., Sheung Wan, 2581-1282.**

## It's Nobu Deal

The Hong Kong branch of global superstar **Nobu** is famed for its harbor views and dishes such as its classic miso cod. At lunch, the bento box deal (left) is pricy but worth every penny: for \$398 you choose three cold and three hot dishes, which come with steamed rice and soup—the choices include many of the signatures and you get decent-sized portions too. Make sure to include the poached-egg-topped vegetable noodles in your selection, and splash out on a sharing plate of the signature salmon sashimi drizzled in a tangy jalapeño dressing (\$228).

**2/F, InterContinental Hong Kong, 18 Salisbury Rd., East Tsim Sha Tsui, 2313-2323, [www.hongkong-ic.intercontinental.com](http://www.hongkong-ic.intercontinental.com).**

## Great Expectations

The first outpost of the popular yakiniku chain from Japan has had beef lovers heading over to Sheung Wan in droves since it opened in January this year. **Yakiniku Great** touts hard-to-find, delicately lean cuts of meat, priding itself on its signature "Misui" cut (\$298; \$138 half portion) that's sliced thin and only requires three seconds of grilling on each side. The same cut is sliced thick in the Great Misui rice dish (\$198): two healthy slabs of Misui dunked in a slightly sweet sauce, topping rice and gooey grated mountain yam. You'll be in beef heaven indulging on exquisite and exclusive cuts here, but be prepared to pay a pretty price for small portions.

**Unit 1, G/F,  
Manhattan Avenue,  
255 Queen's Rd.  
Central, Sheung  
Wan, 3565-6129.**



## NEW AND NOTED

with Adele Wong



Mille crepe cake at Lady M



Royal Grill Ginji



Kettle Black



Royal Grill Ginji

### Ebony Eats

**Kettle Black** (G/F, 198 Wellington St., Central, 3628-2238) literally serves black food: things dipped in squid ink, drenched in charcoal powder, or topped with black truffle shavings. It might be a cheesy attempt to catch your attention, but the chef behind this Wellington Street establishment, Jovi Lee, has previously worked for Joel Robuchon—so that's the caliber of cooking you should be expecting. Enjoy the dishes in a classy black (and white) setting, obviously.

### King of the Grill

Japanese chain **Mekiki no Ginji** (whose Hong Kong establishments are managed by JC group) expands its empire with Royal Grill Ginji (Shop 367, 3/F, Moko, 193 Prince Edward Rd. West, Mong Kok, 2392-0028). RGG will be an izakaya that specializes in teppanyaki offerings—think wagyu, kurobuta, tons of seafood—including okonomiyaki finished on a teppan grill. Loyal patrons can still take comfort in regular Mekiki no Ginji dishes at RGG, but the menu will consist mainly of new, exclusive specialties.

Email me at [adele.wong@hkmagmedia.com](mailto:adele.wong@hkmagmedia.com) or follow me on Twitter: @adelewong\_hk.

## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

### Dalin Pocha ★★★★☆

Korean. 78-81 Kimberly Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2658-9382.



all kinds of goodness like prawns, sausages, chicken, bacon, pork belly, cherry tomatoes and more—all lined up and ready to be eaten. We had fun with the cool tear-and-cook experience, but it's not just a gimmick: The meat was juicy, the veggies were fresh and it was a healthier version of your typical Korean barbecue. Seasoned grilled spicy chicken (\$180) was also a favorite, with a good balance of sweet, spicy and sour flavors.

■ **MISS** You can't have Korean food without beer or soju, but the drinks here are expensive for this area of TST. A pint of Hite beer, for example, costs \$75.

■ **BOTTOM LINE** Despite some pricey pints, Dalin Pocha has everything we are looking for in a Korean hangout: flavorful Korean fare and family-style sharing portions.

**Open Mon-Sun 5pm-4am. \$\$**

Korean foodies will want to check out Dalin Pocha, a trendy eatery that serves up cool Korean-style dishes and all the skewers you can stomach until 4am.

■ **HIT** We enjoyed the King BBQ set (\$298), which comes with an 88cm-long string of food that's dangling from the ceiling. It includes

All of our reviews are independent and anonymous!

### Inagiku Japanese Restaurant ★★★★☆

Japanese. 4/F, Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong, 8 Finance St., Central, 2805-0600.



Sporting a minimalistic décor and sweeping views of the harbor, this resto sitting in between the Four Seasons and IFC Mall aims to please splurge-ready diners with a lengthy menu of tempura, teppanyaki, sashimi and dainty kaiseki sets.

■ **HIT** Executive Chef Imai Masakazu (of the original restaurant in Tokyo) has earned a reputation for his elegant kaiseki sets and light and crispy tempura. We didn't try the

kaiseki (out of our budget), but the assorted tempura (\$420) met talked-up expectations. The lightly battered, crunchy pieces of shrimp, white fish and assorted vegetables was a nice portion and easy to share. The sashimi was a highlight, with pretty pink salmon (\$50 per piece), homemade egg rolls (\$45 per piece) and tuna rolls (\$150 for six pieces) going down extra easily.

■ **MISS** Despite the refined environment, the experience felt quite rushed, with the food arriving all at once. And while there wasn't anything specifically bad on the menu, the food here was just downright expensive.

■ **BOTTOM LINE** There's something to see from every seat—from masters at work at the sushi counter to the Star Ferry plying the harbor from the main dining room. Inagiku may be a romantic spot for a splurge every once in a while, but it's far from great value.

**Open daily, 11:30am-3pm, 6-11pm. \$\$\$**

#### 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

#### 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.

# WHAT'S ON

CULTURE + NIGHTLIFE + FILM

## White-Out

Shu Ikeda's new show "**Void**" features the Japanese artist's signature style, which combines photography with a little touch of arts and crafts. He intricately cuts out elements from his photos, bringing out the essence of rapidly changing urban landscapes by highlighting nothingness itself. Now that's Zen.

**Jul 4-Aug 29, Blindspot Gallery, 15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Wong Chuk Hang, 2517-6238.**



Image courtesy of artist and Blindspot Gallery



## HK PICKS



Photo: Cheung Chi-wai

### Pinocchio

The Hong Kong Ballet kicks off its 2015-2016 season with none other than the ultimate coming of age fairytale, "Pinocchio." Reimagined into ballet form, the production is put together by choreographer Pär Isberg and portrays the adventures of the young puppet from his creation by Geppetto to the chaos that ensues as a result of his lies. Will the Blue Fairy come along to save the day and reconcile the boy with his father? Or is that just a Disney thing? Aug 28-29, Sep 4-5, 7:30pm; Aug 29, Sep 5, 2:30pm; Aug 30, Sep 6, 1:30pm; Aug 30, Sep 6, 6:30pm. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$140-1,000 from [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk).

## Arts Festivals



### Chinese Opera Festival

The annual Chinese Opera Festival hits Hong Kong once again this June. Celebrating the traditional craft of Peking and Kunqu opera forms, the festival opens with a staging of three Shanghai-style plays to introduce the lesser-known art form of Shanghai-style Peking Opera, which has a much more demanding style of acting and rhythm. Other shows to look forward to include an introduction to Hunan-style Qi Opera, known for its acrobatic feats, and Dacheng opera stories, with bouts of fire-eating and -spitting! Through Aug 2. [www.cof.gov.hk/2015/en](http://www.cof.gov.hk/2015/en).



### International Arts Carnival

The annual International Arts Carnival descends once again on the SAR this summer, bringing a host of family-friendly fun, plus a dose of culture too. Get your tickets for highlight events such as "Shaolin," a musical theater collaboration between the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and the Chung Ying Theatre that'll feature the music of Emmy Award-winning composer Nathan Wong. Jul 10-Aug 16. [www.hkiac.gov.hk](http://www.hkiac.gov.hk).

## Classical

### The Oxford Gargoyles: Blame It On My Youth

The Oxford Gargoyles are returning for their second a cappella tour in Hong Kong. The dapper ladies and gents will be putting on a selection of concerts taking place across town, with appearances at the Fringe Club (Jul 2), Hong Kong Arts Centre (Jul 16) and Sha Tin Town Hall (Jul 15), as well as a charity performance at HKU's Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre Grand Hall (Jul 17). Jul 15, 16, 8pm; Jul 17, 7pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$190-240 from [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk) and [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com), reserve tickets at [imaffairs@ymca.org.hk](mailto:imaffairs@ymca.org.hk) for charity concert.

### 2Cellos

Not one cello, but two! Young Croatian cellists Luka Šulic and Stjepan Hauser are the titular rock stars bridging the gap between classical and pop music—their repertoire spans everything from Bach and Vivaldi to AC/DC and Iron Maiden. The duo have seen rapid success since their 2011 YouTube cover of "Smooth Criminal" went viral and was later featured on "Glee," and they went on to open for Elton John. The \$680 tickets come with a copy of their latest CD, "Celloverse." The question is, will they play 2Chainz too? Jul 14, 8pm. Star Hall, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$480-680 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com).



### Island Express Jazz Orchestra Live at Fringe Dairy

The Island Express Jazz Orchestra is Hong Kong's very own big band—headed by music director Shoichi Chinda, the musicians and solo vocalist Ela Allegre come from a variety of international backgrounds. They'll be playing a tasty selection of big band jazz standards and songs by contemporary jazz composers Bob Mintzer, Frank Mantooth and Matt Catingub. Jul 25, 10pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$120-150 includes one drink.

## Comedy

### TakeOut Comedy Presents: Nick Griffin

With 25 years of stand-up experience up his sleeve, Nick Griffin is one of the most highly respected comics in America. The Kansas City native carved out a career after moving to New York in 1990, and was a regular on the Late Show with David Letterman (11 times!) as well as Conan and the Late Late Show. Watch him bring his silver tongue (and matching hair) to TakeOut this July. Note that the opening night is at Champs Bar in Wan Chai (209-219 Wan Chai Rd.). Jul 10-11, 9pm. TakeOut Comedy, B/F, 34 Elgin St., Central, 6220-4436. 250 from [www.takeoutcomedy.com](http://www.takeoutcomedy.com) or at the door.



### Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

Need a good laugh? The annual Melbourne International Comedy Festival is back in town for its 15th run. For one week only, five of the festival's top Australian talents will do their best to crack up Hongkongers: Dave Callan, Urzila Carlson, ElbowSkin (yes, really), Andy Saunders and Nick Cody. The funny guys will be joined by a host of local and international guests for a raucous show each evening. Jul 13-18, 8pm; Jul 15-18, 7:30pm; Jul 19, 7pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$250-390 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com), from Fringe Club.

## Musicals



### Singin' in the Rain

Hot off the trail of "The Sound of Music," and "Phantom of the Opera" and "Mamma Mia" last year, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions presents the SAR with another catchy song-and-dance spectacle straight from the West End. Never seen it? The beloved umbrella-touting, rainboot-splashing Hollywood musical—arguably the best of them all—follows three performers in the thick of the transition between the silent film and talkie era. The current production will be recycling 12,000 liters of water per performance: so prepare to get splashed. Sep 25-Oct 11. Lyric Theatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, 2584-8500. \$445-1,125 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com).

## Need to Know

### Theater & Arts

Urbitix (credit cards)	2111-5999	HK City Hall	2921-2840
Urbitix (enquiries)	2734-9009	HK Academy for Performing Arts	2584-8500
HK Ticketing	3128-8288	Kwai Tsing Theatre	2408-0128
HK Arts Centre	2582-0200	LCSD Music Programme Office	2268-7321
Fringe Club	2521-7251	LCSD Dance/Multi-Arts Office	2268-7323
HK Cultural Centre	2734-2009	LCSD Theatre Office	2268-7323

## Theater



### The Abandoned Harbour

Playwright Lung Man-hong turns Victoria Harbour into a metaphor for a society—and values—in flux. The play centers on Lee, a retired seaman, as he reflects on his life achievements: raising his children and owning a harbor-facing apartment. All obviously fictional, for who in Hong Kong could manage both of these things? In Cantonese with Chinese and English surtitles. Jul 11, 14-18, 21-25, 7:45pm; Jul 12, 18-19, 25-26, 2:45pm. Theatre, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$160-280 from [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk).

### Breakfast at Tiffany's

Rising actor Gabriella So dons her best little black dress and tackles the iconic Audrey Hepburn affair in a bilingual presentation. Performed, directed and produced by So herself, the script delves deeper into the original story by Truman Capote and explores the darker side of human desire. Catch the Cantonese performance on Jul 10 and 12, 8pm; Jul 11, 3pm; and English performances on Jul 11, 8pm and Jul 12, 3pm. The McAulay Studio, Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai. \$100-150 from [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk).

### The Emperor, His Mom, a Eunuch and a Man

Returning for the third time by very popular demand is the Hong Kong Repertory's production of "The Emperor, His Mom, a Eunuch and a Man." Written by local veterans Paul Poon and Roy Szeto, this story of a royal disaster involving the emperor's robes has swept home six Hong Kong Drama Awards since its 2013 debut. After this second repeat run, the production will make its debut in Beijing and Shanghai later in the summer. In Cantonese with Chinese and English surtitles. Jul 24-25, 8pm; Jul 25-26, 3pm. Ko Shan Theatre New Wing, Ko Shan Theatre, 77 Ko Shan Rd., Hung Hom, 2740-9222. \$180-280 from [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk).



### Hamlet

The Shakespeare's Globe company has embarked on an ambitious two-year world tour to visit every single country in the world with its brand new production of "Hamlet," the bard's definitive work. The travelling version of the play features a stripped-down stage for ease of setup, and uses just 12 actors for more than two dozen parts. To go, or not to go? That's barely a question. Sep 4-5, 7:30pm; Sep 5-6, 2:30pm; Sep 6, 7pm. Lyric Theatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, 2584-8500. \$595-795 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com).

Photo: Liz Lauren

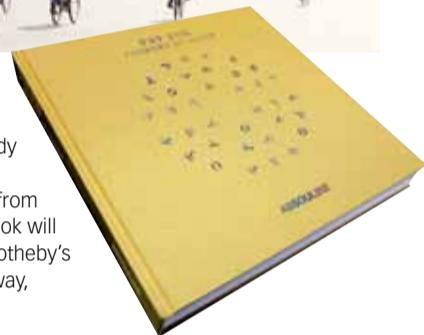
# ARTS

## Exhibitions



### Pat Fok: Journey of Light

In celebration of her new photo book Pat Fok—daughter of the late Henry Fok—is presenting a speedy two-day exhibition of her works from the past four decades, traveling and shooting remarkable scenery from around the world. Proceeds from sales of her new book will go to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Jul 15-16. Sotheby's Hong Kong Gallery, 5/F, One Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 2524-8121.



### People's Chefs

Hong Kong photo-artist Pazu Chan took 18 famous chefs from Hong Kong and London out of the kitchen and photographed them in various locales around the city. Shot candidly, Chan's series was done to remove the stereotypes from chefs and reveal their individuality—a huge part of the way their food tastes. Hmm, delicious self-absorption with just a touch of insecurity... Through Jul 29. Art Beatus Gallery, G/F, 129-133 Wellington St., Central, 2526-0818.

### Li Fung-chun: After Turner

Li Fung-chun presents a solo exhibition at Boom Gallery all through July. Heavily inspired by the undisputed master of blurry 18th century—J.M.W. Turner—Li combines Chinese ink art with references to Turneresque subjects, from ships caught in storms to calming French glaciers. Through Jul 31. Boom Gallery & Cafe, G/F, 48 Sai St., Sheung Wan, 9302-6220.



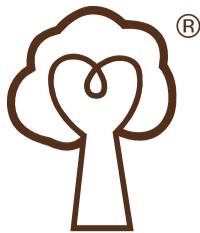
\*Learn about this and other fascinating facts in

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# NIGHTLIFE

Edited by **Andrea Lo**

andrea.lo@hkmagmedia.com

Twitter: @andreas\_lo



## Open Bar Mizunara: The Library



**The buzz:** Not every Lockhart Road joint is seedy. Take hidden gem Mizunara: The Library, for example—tucked away in a nondescript building in the quieter end of Wan Chai, the Japanese-style speakeasy takes its cocktails seriously. Helmed by bartender-in-chief Masahiko Endo, who recently relocated from Japan, Mizunara offers more than 600 bottles of different liquors, with 150 varieties from his home country.

**The décor:** The elegant, discreet spot is so quiet that you'll inevitably start whispering when you step in. There's an old-timey, gentleman's club feel to the place—Mizunara is decked out like a library, with classic jazz tunes playing in the background. The drinking glasses were made in Japan, while the bar itself is created with imported Japanese wood. Although it's a relatively small space inside, Mizunara comes with a spacious outdoor terrace.

**The drinks:** If you're looking for a cheap and cheerful Wan Chai night out, Mizunara isn't the place for you. There's a minimum spend of \$400 per person, and you'll probably reach that quickly—most drinks hover around the \$200-250 mark. The drinks list is extensive, with more than a dozen signature cocktails, specialty creations, as well as the classics. Try the Cool Eyes (\$230), inspired by James Bond's pair of baby blues. It's made with vodka, Earl Grey liqueur, Specht Pampelmuse—a German grapefruit-flavored liqueur, lemon juice and blue jasmine—which is responsible for that turquoise hue. Prefer the classics? The Old Fashioned (\$160) comes with a sugar cube at the bottom of the glass. The sugar slowly melts, while the orange garnish adds a subtle sweetness and fresh flavor.

**Why you'll be back:** If you're after a quiet evening savoring an expertly made cocktail (or two, to hit the minimum spend)—or if your cocktail snob friend is in town—Mizunara should be at the top of your list. **Andrea Lo**

4/F, Kiu Yin Building,  
361-363 Lockhart Rd.,  
Wan Chai, 3571-9797.



### Blur

Attention Britpop fans: Blur is coming back to Hong Kong. Last time Albarn, Coxon et al. were here, they were inspired by the city to make their latest album, "The Magic Whip," released on April 27. Start listening to it on loop now, so you can sing along to all the lyrics. Jul 22, 8pm. Grand Hall, HKCEC, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai. \$480-880 from [www.hkticketing.com](#).

### OK Go

LA-based, YouTube-originated pop band OK Go is back on the scene with this concert at Musiczone. Go see them for the nostalgia, if nothing else. Remember when YouTube was a new thing? Nor do we. Jul 24, 8pm. Musiczone, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$450 from [www.ticketflap.com](#).



### Muse

Brit-rockers Muse have been around since 1994, making them one of the most successful, most consistent rock bands in the world. Bellamy and co. always rock their live shows, so this gig will be one to watch. Sep 29, 8pm. AsiaWorld-Arena, Sky Plaza Rd., Chek Lap Kok. \$780 from [www.hkticketing.com](#).

## Gigs

### Frontyr and Deer

Local indie electronic band Frontyr is joining forces with Hong Kong-based Mexican band Deer to perform at music and arts venue Artouch. The former is a three-piece exploring electronic sounds while the latter recently released its first EP, boasting trip-hop, slow electronic and rock music influences. Jul 10, 9:30pm. Artouch HK, Shop C2, LG/F, 91-93 Hollywood Rd., Central. \$150 at the door.



### Dimensions Festival 2015

#### Hong Kong Launch Party

Can't make it out to Croatia's electronic music festival Dimensions? It's coming to Hong Kong with a launch party at Social Room. The lineup includes Jay Pelmet, aka Clockenflapper Jay Forster; old-school Hong Kong DJ Frankie Lam and local mainstay Ocean Lam. Jul 18, 10:30pm. Social Room, 3/F, Won Hing Building, 74-78 Stanley St., Central. \$150 at the door, including a drink.

#### Chris Brown

Love him or loathe him, rapper/R&B singer Chris Brown is still touring. Earlier on in his career, his portfolio was filled with upbeat, benign hits like "Forever" and "Beautiful People"—but later he moved on to less, um, savory tunes like "Loyal" and "Bitches N Marijuana." Jul 22, 10:30pm. Dragon-i, U/G, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, 3110-1222. Price TBA.

### Braids

Calgary-based art rock band Braids comes to town, bringing with them a soft, sensual sound juxtaposed with light, euphoric techno beats. Trippy... Jul 11, 8:30pm. Backstage Live, 1/F, Somptueux Central, 52-54 Wellington St., Central, 2167-8985. \$230 from White Noise Records, 1/F, 720 Shanghai St., Prince Edward, \$280 at the door.

### At the Fringe and Retro Groovin'

The Fringe Club plays host to Retro Groovers, a 12-piece band playing everything from jazz fusion, R&B, funk and rock to 80s disco and dance beats. Bring your best groovin' gear... Jul 11, 9:30pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$130 at the door, including a drink.

### Emptybottles

Local indie rockers Emptybottles celebrate the launch of their EP "Un/titled" at this gig, supported by Taiwanese indie singer Hom. Jul 12, 8:30pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$150 at the door.

## HK PICKS



### O.T. Genasis

His song "Coco" has been blasting in nightclubs for the past few months—now's your chance to see American-Belizean rapper O.T. Genasis live at Dragon-i. The lyrics? "Baking soda, I got baking soda." Hint: it's not actually baking soda. Aug 5, 10:30pm. Dragon-i, U/G, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, 3110-1222. Price TBA.

## Clubs

### David Hohme

Brooklyn-based DJ David Hohme pumps out house beats on the decks at Volar. Jul 10, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-1510. \$300 at the door before 12:30am; \$350 thereafter, both include two drinks.



### Zeng ft. DJ Becareful in Macau

Club Cubic Macau's Zeng DJ nights continue, this time featuring DJ Becareful—aka Hong Kong actor Sam Lee—on the decks. A former member of Canto rap group LMF, the actor learned how to spin from legendary local DJ Frankie Lam and started his career behind decks in 2007. Jul 16, 11:30pm. Club Cubic, 2/F, Hard Rock Hotel, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, (+853) 6638-4999. Free for ladies; \$250 for gents at the door.



Photo: Kirk Kenny

## Concerts



### Linkin Park in Shenzhen

Seminal rock band Linkin Park is playing for one night only... in Shenzhen! If you missed the band in Hong Kong back in 2011 and 2013—not long after they ceased to be relevant—this right here is your chance. Jul 19, 7:30pm. Shenzhen Bay Sports Center Stadium, 3001 Binhai Avenue, Nanshan, Shenzhen, China, (+86) 755-8630-8840. \$500-2,250 from [www.cityline.com](#).

## HK PICKS



### Seasons For Change

Local alt-rock/pop band Seasons For Change has established a steady presence in the indie music scene thanks to their upbeat, well-crafted tunes. See the band play a Sunday show at hipster enclave Full Cup. Jul 12, 3pm. Full Cup Café, 3-7/F, Hanway Commercial Centre, 36 Dundas St., Mong Kok, 2771-7775. \$120 at the door.



### Happy Mondays

UK alt-rock band Happy Mondays defined the "Madchester" scene of the 80s in the UK. Despite disbanding multiple times over the years, they've been able to pull through and come together once again. Catch them at KITEC. Jul 28, 8pm. Rotunda 3, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$545-650 from [www.wegottickets.com](http://www.wegottickets.com).

## Nightlife Events



### Bump On the Ocean

If you missed Bump's pool party last month, here's something even better—the nightlife promoter is putting on a junk party. Taking place on the Tarzan and Jungle Jane—two supersized party-friendly junks—the party boasts a 3-meter-long inflatable water slide, plus free-flow drinks. BYO food. Jul 18, 10am. Central Pier 9. \$650 for the first 50 tickets; \$700 thereafter, from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).



### Splash

The infamous pool party at Macau's Hard Rock Hotel is now in its 12th edition. This year Redfoo—one-half of electro/hip-hop duo LMFAO—is headlining. You can also expect live DJ beats, vodka shots and lots of drunk people in various states of undress. Don't want to catch the ferry home like some kind of zombie gambler? Book a hotel room quick. Jul 11, 3:30pm. Hard Rock Hotel Macau, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, (+853) 8868-3338. \$480 from [www.cityofdreamsmacau.com](http://www.cityofdreamsmacau.com).



### W Hotel Shock Wave:

#### #PoseWheneve Pool Party

The notorious W Hotel summer pool parties are back. This time, they come with the cumbersome title Shock Wave: #PoseWheneve Pool Party. Splash around on the 76th floor pool and gawk at the half-naked beautiful people all around you. Jul 18; Aug 1; Aug 22, 8pm. W Hotel, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2222. \$400 in advance or \$500 at the door, including one drink at the pool and one at the after-party. \$950 for "WIP" tickets in advance or \$1,100 at the door, including free-flow drinks and champagne until 1am. Tickets from [www.w-hongkong.com/en/shockwave](http://www.w-hongkong.com/en/shockwave).

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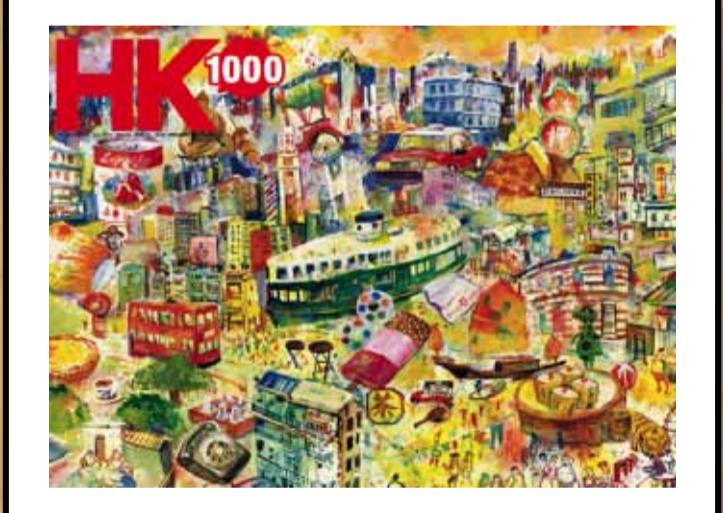
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## Terminator: Genisys ★★★★

(USA) Action. Directed by Alan Taylor. Starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Emilia Clarke, Jason Clarke, Jai Courtney. Category IIB. 125 minutes. Opened July 2.

Did we really need a "Terminator" reboot? After two fantastic movies and two awful ones, it doesn't seem like the franchise was really in need of resurrecting. But director Alan Taylor's ("Thor: The Dark World") quasi-reboot of the series is surprisingly entertaining. There might be life in the unstoppable metal behemoth yet: As the Terminator himself says, he's "old... but not obsolete."

The setup should be familiar: In the year 2029 the self-aware computer system Skynet has exterminated almost all humans on the planet. But under the command of John Connor (Jason Clarke, "Zero Dark Thirty") the human resistance fights back and is on the cusp of victory. Using a secret time machine, Skynet sends back a Terminator unit—an almost indestructible killing machine designed to look human—to murder John's mother, Sarah Connor (Emilia Clarke, "Game of Thrones"). John sends his loyal lieutenant Kyle Reese (Jai Courtney, "Jack Reacher") back in time to protect Sarah.

So far, so "Terminator." But when Kyle arrives in 1984, everything's off: There's a Terminator waiting for him, and it's Sarah Connor who saves him, not the other way around. It turns out in this timeline, a Terminator unit (Arnold Schwarzenegger) had already been sent back to protect Connor back in 1973—training her into a full-on cyborg-beatdown badass. She doesn't need protecting any more: but she does need help shutting down Skynet.

"Terminator Genisys" does the sensible thing with a Terminator reboot: it pretends the third and fourth films didn't happen. Instead this fifth film takes James Cameron's two fantastic movies as gospel, and the parts of the movie set in 1984 weave themselves into the original "Terminator" movie with a nostalgic glee. The color palette is bang-on and you'll recognize scenes and locations from the original flick, all twisted thanks to the vagaries of time travel. Similarly the special effects evoke the original, with the liquid-metal transformations of "Terminator 2" looking just as awesome—a testament to the CGI of 1991, perhaps. Arguably most impressive is the fully CGI'd 1984 Arnie, looking just as young and implausibly muscled as ever.

The group eventually ends up in 2017, where the Apple-esque Genisys operating system is about to link all our devices to each other, and so end the world. A heavy-handed comment on our hyper-connected modern age? You bet. But the movie's main weakness is that it tries to cover too much. The opening sequence set in the future is far too long; the 1984 section is fun but you have to be a fan of the original flick to really get a kick out of it; and by the time we get to the modern day there's still plenty more plot to dig through before we can tie everything up.

That said, Emilia Clarke really makes the movie. Linda Hamilton's transformation from damsel-in-distress to warrior hardass between the first two "Terminator" movies is combined here into a single performance. Clarke's "Game of Thrones"-Khaleesi steeliness sits on top of a vulnerability and a sense of a childhood lost. As in the first two movies, Sarah is raging against a path that she can't escape, with even more foreknowledge than ever. It's a strong, entertaining performance. Meanwhile Aussie heartthrob Jai Courtney is OK as the bewildered Kyle Reese, who certainly did not sign up for this shit.

Meanwhile Arnie is Arnie. Older, grayer, maybe even wiser—but unavoidably magnetic on film. When "Terminator Genisys" works, it works very well. It might be overlong and convoluted, with more time-traveling than the "Back to the Future" series, but this film has its moments. Just like The Terminator himself, this film is worth your time. It's old, but not obsolete. **Adam White**

## Coming Soon



**Ant-Man**  
(USA) Inverting the "bigger is better" mantra this summer is perhaps Marvel's weirdest superhero yet. Paul Rudd is Ant-Man, an ex-con who dons a suit that shrinks him down to the size of an ant, but increases his strength in equal measure. Working with his mentor, he's tasked with pulling off a teeny-tiny heist that might just save the world... Opens Jul 16.

**Monster Hunt**  
(Hong Kong/China) Affectionately dubbed the "father of 'Shrek,'" animator Raman Hui has a new project out. "Monster Hunt" combines the star-studded likes of Jing Boran, Tang Wei and Sandra Ng with an array of animated monsters. Based on traditional supernatural tales from "Strange Tales from Liaozi," the film is Hui's first live action feature. Opens Jul 16.

## Opening



### Minions

(USA) The pesky yellow creatures from 2010's "Despicable Me" finally get their spin-off movie. This time, the plot takes us way back before the minions were serving supervillain Gru. Having worked from the beginning of time for unsuccessful baddies such as T. Rex and Napoleon, they now seek out the latest evil boss to worship lest they fall into deep depression. The search leads them to Scarlet Overkill, the world's first ever super-villainess. Opened Jul 9.

### Over Your Dead Body

(Japan) Prolific Japanese director Takashi Miike lends his hand to this horror thriller. A theater troupe is about to put on the classic horror play "Yotsuya Kaidan," a story of deadly revenge, ghosts, and murder. But the story begins to take its toll on the cast, who also struggle with grudges and lust off-stage. Juicy. Opened Jul 9.



### Poltergeist

(USA) A retelling of the 1982 classic, this time round the spooky tale appears (of course) in brand spankin' new 3D. Eric Bowen (Sam Rockwell), his wife Amy (Rosemarie DeWitt) and their three kids move into a new suburban home in Illinois. But when youngest daughter Maddy begins talking to an imaginary friend—and one day goes missing—the parents consult a team of parapsychologists to save her before it's too late. Kids with imaginary friends: usually a bad sign. Opened Jul 9.



### While We're Young

(USA) After "Francis Ha," Noah Baumbach brings us yet another sobering slice-of-life tale, this time focusing on the woes of the middle-aged. Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts are Josh and Cornelia, a married couple in their 40s who are stuck in a rut. Meeting the young hipster couple Jamie (Adam Driver) and Darby (Amanda Seyfried), they soon find themselves craving a free-spirited youth they never had. But will the friendship last? Opened Jul 9.

### The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet

(USA) This good ol' fashioned adventure story is based on Reif Larsen's 2009 novel. A 10-year-old science prodigy and budding cartographer wins an award for inventing a perpetual motion machine. Without informing his family, he secretly embarks on a cross country trek from his family's ranch in Montana to Washington D.C. to receive the prestigious prize—with a dark secret in tow. Opened Jul 9.

## Continuing



### Court

(India) An aging folk singer is arrested for allegedly singing words so inflammatory that that they induce a sewage treatment worker to commit suicide. The trial unfolds and the story soon turns into a ruthless examination of the Indian judicial system.

### Danny Collins

(USA) Sorta based on true events. Al Pacino is the aging Danny Collins, a world-weary rock star who is inspired to change his life for the better after he receives a lost letter penned to him by the late John Lennon. A simple—even borderline cliché—tale, lifted by charismatic performances all around. ★★★



### Entourage

(USA) Picking up where the show left off in 2011, Hollywood's favorite bad boy Vincent Chase is back with manager/best friend E, former gofer-turned-tequila-entrepreneur Turtle, half-brother and failed actor Johnny Drama, and of course agent-from-hell Ari Gold. Making a comeback as the head of a studio, Ari calls Vinnie and the crew to star in their first feature film. Expect lots of name-dropping, celebrity cameos... and boobs.

★★★

### Far From the Madding Crowd

(UK/USA) One of Thomas Hardy's classics comes to life on screen once again, this time with Carey Mulligan ("An Education") as the independent Bathsheba Everdene. In the timeless tale, Bathsheba attracts three suitors and must choose between them—while also inheriting her uncle's farm and showing the male workers who's boss. An admirable performance from Mulligan seals the deal for a solid movie. ★★★

## HK PICKS



### Infinitely Polar Bear

(USA) Screened at the Sundance Film Festival in Hong Kong last year, this is a whimsical drama that sees Mark Ruffalo as a father coping with manic depression and recovering from a recent breakdown. Hoping to make a better life for their two precocious daughters, his wife (Zoe Saldana) takes on an MBA at Columbia, leaving Ruffalo to take care of the kids—and himself. Equal parts whimsy and heart-tugging drama, anchored by the wonderful Ruffalo. ★★★★

## Need to Know

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**The Grand Cinema,**  
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### It Follows

**(USA)** The sophomore work of David Robert Mitchell ("The Myth of the American Sleepover") was called the best original horror film of 2014. After a young woman sleeps with her boyfriend for the first time, she finds herself up against an evil spirit. A horror film disguised as a pro-abstinence scare tactic? Or the best horror flick of the year? Watch it and see.

### Jurassic World

**(USA)** It's been 22 years since the infamous dino-park opened and it's back again in a long-awaited fourth installment. Chris Pratt steals the show as velociraptor trainer Owen Grady, with Bryce Dallas Howard as park operations manager. Pushed to boost visitor attendance, the park concocts a hybrid creature, the Indominus Rex—a blend of all your worst reptilian nightmares. A fun, flashy revamp, but it can't possibly match up to the original. ★★★



### The Last Five Years

**(USA)** Hot off the release of "Pitch Perfect 2," Anna Kendrick stars in this big screen adaptation of the 2001 Broadway musical of the same name. It's about the marriage between Cathy, a struggling actress, and Jamie, an up-and-coming writer. Their individual perspectives are told through song in opposite chronological order, only intersecting at the wedding. It's gotta be good if Kendrick is singing.

### Pitch Perfect 2

**(USA)** Get ready pitches, the Barden Bellas are back. After winning three championships since the last time we saw them, the all-girl a cappella group is en route to their next victory, but not before a major embarrassment leaves the future of the team in question. In a quest for glory, the Bellas take on the worldwide a cappella championships. Funny, tuneful and self-aware, it's a pitch perfect sequel indeed. ★★★

### San Andreas

**(USA)** Dwayne Johnson plays a search-and-rescue helicopter pilot who must save his daughter in the midst of a devastating earthquake along the San Andreas Fault. Expect all the disaster flick clichés, cheesy acting and awesome CGI tearing the West Coast apart. ★★



### Ted 2

**(USA)** Seth MacFarlane's trash-talking, bong-smoking, F-bomb-dropping cuddly stuffed toy returns in this sequel, this time faced with very human and serious dilemmas. With his best friend John (Mark Wahlberg) by his side, Ted is looking to prove his "personhood" in court so that he and his girlfriend can adopt a baby. Couldn't they just go buy a tiny teddy bear or something?

### Terminator: Genisys

**(USA)** See review, opposite.

## Special Screenings



### CineFan: Orson Welles, The Magnificent Magician

Check out a retrospective program devoted to legendary film, theater and radio wizard Orson Welles, with all his greatest classics on show. Missed "Citizen Kane"—Welles' cinematic debut and the movie perennially considered to be one of the best films of all time—earlier this month? You can still catch "The Lady from Shanghai" (Jul 12, 6:45pm), his iconic noir murder mystery; and "The Trial" (Jul 19, 5pm), Welles' take on the Kafka novel that divided critics. Through Jul 19. Agnès b. Cinema, Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, 2582-0200. www.cinefan.com.hk. \$65.

### BC Sundays:

#### Steven Soderbergh Special

Catch awesome flicks by the prolific and versatile filmmaker Steven Soderbergh ("Ocean's Eleven") every Sunday this month. This week it's the ultimate campfest "Behind the Candelabra" starring Michael Douglas as Liberace. On July 19 you get the steamy "Magic Mike"—a great way to gear up for the sequel, which opens in theaters that week. July wraps up with "Haywire," an action flick starring Gina Carano about a female black-ops soldier who's betrayed and left for dead during a mission. Jul 12, 19, 26, showings are around noon. Broadway Cinematheque, Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square St., Yau Ma Tei, www.cinema.com.hk. \$65.

## Film Festival

### CineFan SIFF 2015

Cinephiles, get your cash ready: the annual Summer International Film Festival returns this August. Featured films include Hou Hsiao-hsien's latest offering, "The Assassin," which won him the best director at Cannes this year. Starring Shu Qi, it's an arty first foray into the martial arts genre for the director. Stay tuned as well for a filmmaking masterclass from Malaysian director Tsai Ming-liang (1992's "Rebels of the Neon God") on Aug 8-9. Tickets available from Jul 21 onwards. Aug 11-25. Various screening locations. www.cinefan.com.hk.



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# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

## ROB BREZSNY



**CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22):** When novelist John Irving begins a new book, his first task is to write the last line of the last page. Then he writes the second-to-last line. He continues to work backwards for a while until he has a clear understanding of the way his story will end. Right now, Cancerian, as you hatch your next big phase of development, I invite you to borrow Irving's approach. Visualize in detail the blossoms that will eventually come from the seeds you're planting. Create a vivid picture of the life you will be living when your plans have fully ripened.

**LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22):** You have cosmic permission to lose your train of thought, forget about what was so seriously important, and be weirdly amused by interesting nonsense. If stress-addicts nag you to be more responsible, tell them that your astrologer has authorized you to ignore the pressing issues and wander off in the direction of nowhere in particular. Does that sound like a good plan? It does to me. For now, it's your sovereign right to be a wise and innocent explorer with nothing much to do but wonder and daydream and play around.

**VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22):** Even the most provocative meme cannot literally cause the Internet to collapse from overuse. It's true that photos of Kim Kardashian's oiled-up butt spawned a biblical flood of agitated responses on social media. So did the cover shot of Caitlyn Jenner in Vanity Fair and the YouTube video of a tiny hamster noshing tiny burritos and the season-five finale of the TV show Game of Thrones. But none of these starbursts unleashed so much traffic that the Web was in danger of crashing. It's too vast and robust for that to ever happen. Or is it? I'm wondering if Virgos' current propensities for high adventure and rollicking melodrama could generate phenomena that would actually, not just metaphorically, break the Internet. To be safe, I suggest you enjoy yourself to the utmost, but not more than the utmost.

**LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22):** The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to acquire a new title. It's quite possible that a person in authority will confer it upon you, and that it will signify a raise in status, an increase in responsibility, or an expansion of your clout. If for some reason this upgrade doesn't occur naturally, take matters into your own hands. Tell people to refer to you as "Your Excellency" or "Your Majesty." Wear a name tag that says "Deputy Director of Puzzle-Solving" or "Executive Vice-President of Fanatical Balance and Insane Poise." For once in your life, it's OK to risk becoming a legend in your own mind. P.S. It wouldn't be a bad time to demand a promotion—diplomatically, of course, in the Libran spirit.

**SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21):** Between now and July 22, your password and mantra and battle cry is "serendipity." To make sure you are clear about its meaning, meditate on these definitions: a knack for uncovering surprising benefits by accident; a talent for stumbling upon timely help or useful resources without searching for them.

Got that? Now I'll provide clues that should help you get the most out of your lucky breaks and blessed twists: 1. Be curious and receptive, not lackadaisical and entitled. 2. Expect the unexpected. Vow to thrive on surprises. 3. Your desires are more likely to come true if you are unattached to them coming true. But you should formulate those desires clearly and precisely.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21):** On behalf of the Strange Angels in Charge of Uproarious Beauty and Tricky Truths, I am pleased to present you with the award for Most Catalytic Fun-Seeker and Intriguing Game-Changer of the Zodiac. What are your specific superpowers? You're capable of transforming rot into splendor. You have a knack for discovering secrets that have been hidden. I also suspect that your presence can generate magic laughter and activate higher expectations and wake everyone up to the interesting truths they've been ignoring.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19):** "Who is that can tell me who I am?" asks King Lear in the Shakespeare play named after him. It's a painful moment. The old boy is confused and alarmed when he speaks those words. But I'd like to borrow his question and transplant it into a very different context: your life right now. I think that you can engender inspirational results by making it an ongoing meditation. There are people in a good position to provide you with useful insights into who you are.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18):** What's hard but important for you to do? What are the challenging tasks you know you should undertake because they would improve your life? The coming days will be a favorable time to make headway on these labors. You will have more power than usual to move what has been nearly impossible to move. You may be surprised by your ability to change situations that have resisted and outfoxed you in the past. I'm not saying that any of this will be smooth and easy. But I bet you will be able to summon unprecedented amounts of willpower and perseverance.

**PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20):** Franz Kafka produced three novels, a play, four short fiction collections, and many other stories. And yet some of his fellow writers thought he was uncomfortable in expressing himself. Bertolt Brecht said Kafka seemed perpetually afraid, as if he were being monitored by the cops for illicit thoughts.

Milena Jesenská observed that Kafka often wrote like he was sitting naked in the midst of fully-clothed people. Your assignment in the coming weeks is to shed such limitations and inhibitions from your own creative expression. What would you need to do to free your imagination? To get started, visualize five pleasurable scenarios in which you feel joyful, autonomous, generous, and expansive.

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19):** How can you fulfill your potential as an Aries? What strategies will help you become the best Aries you can possibly be? Now is an excellent time to meditate on these riddles. One of my Aries readers, Mickki Langston, has some stellar tips to inspire you: 1. One of your greatest assets is your relentless sense of purpose. Treasure it. Stay connected to it. Draw on it daily. 2. Love what you love with pure conviction, because there is no escaping it. 3. Other people may believe in you, but only sometimes. That's why you should unfailingly believe in yourself. 4. It's your duty and your destiny to continually learn more about how to be a leader. 5. Don't be confused by other people's confusion. 6. Your best friend is the Fool, who will guide you to laughter and humility when you need it most, which is pretty much all of the time.

**TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20):** While making a long trek through the desert on a camel, British author Somerset Maugham passed the time by reading Marcel Proust's novel "In Search of Lost Time." After finishing each page, Maugham ripped it out and cast it away. The book weighed less and less as his journey progressed. I suggest that you consider a similar approach in the coming weeks, Taurus. As you weave your way toward your next destination, shed the accessories and attachments you don't absolutely need. Keep lightening your load.

**GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20):** "I have gathered about me people who understand how to translate fear into possibility," writes John Keene in his story "Acrobatique." I'd love to see you do the same, Gemini. From an astrological perspective, now is a favorable time to put your worries and trepidations to work for you. You have an extraordinary capacity to use your doubt and dread to generate opportunities. Even if you go it alone, you can accomplish minor miracles, but why not dare to think even bigger? Team up with brave and resourceful allies who want to translate fear into possibility, too.

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## SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I entered into a civil union with another woman in Vermont in 2000. We were together until 2003, when we decided to go our separate ways. My new partner (who happens to be male) and I are expecting a baby and talking about getting married. We live in Texas. I know that there are ways to dissolve my civil union in Vermont, but I can't get hold of my ex (ex-wife? Ex-CUer?) to sign any of the forms. Neither do I want to, because frankly it was an abusive relationship and I still bear emotional scars. She threatened my life, encouraged my suicidal thoughts, and told me I was a loser who didn't deserve to live. I feel I have finally found peace, but now that it has become an issue again, I don't know. I have intense thoughts of wanting to kill her if I should ever see her. Thank goodness she lives in another state! She used to stalk me until she finally moved back to the Pacific Northwest. Is there a way to dissolve my civil union without having to directly contact my ex?

– Undoing Niggling Compact In Vermont Isn't Legally Uncomplicated

Vermont played a groundbreaking role in the fight for marriage equality in the United States. (Spoiler alert: We won the fight on June 26, 2015.) A little history...

Way, way back in 1999, before same-sex marriage was legal anywhere in the United States, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples were entitled to the same "benefits and protections" as opposite-sex couples. Vermont's highest court ordered the state legislature to come up with a solution. Instead of allowing same-sex couples to marry—a simpler fix legislatively but a more explosive one politically—in 2000, Vermont's lawmakers created a separate-but-equal compromise, aka "civil unions." (One of the chief ironies of the fight for marriage equality: Listening to the same people who violently opposed civil unions in 2000 bitterly complain that "unreasonable" marriage-equality supporters wouldn't settle for civil unions—a "compromise" opponents of equality got behind only after it became clear that we were going to win marriage.) Full marriage equality came to Vermont in 2009, making it the fourth US state to allow same-sex couples to wed.

So what became of your civil union after 2009, UNCIVILU? Did it become a marriage after same-sex marriage became legal in Vermont, like domestic partnerships did in Washington State?

"Our marriage law didn't automatically convert CUs to marriages," said Elizabeth Kruska, an attorney in Vermont who handles family law. "And although civil unions were (and are) legal in Vermont, other states did not have to recognize them as legal unions. That's where UNCIVILU has a problem. Her civil union is still legal and on the books here in Vermont. Now, I'm pretty sure Texas didn't recognize civil unions—I'm not a lawyer in Texas, so I don't know for sure, but I am a human being with functional brain cells who lives in the United States, so I think it's probably fair to say."

So if Texas doesn't recognize your Vermont civil union, does that mean you're in the clear? Sadly, no.

"There is an interesting case from Massachusetts that hit this same issue square on the head," said Kruska. "A couple got a civil union in Vermont, the parties then separated, and one of the people got married to a different person in Massachusetts. The court in Massachusetts said that the civil union invalidated the subsequent Massachusetts marriage."

Even if Texas doesn't recognize your Vermont civil union—and it probably wouldn't—Vermont would recognize your Texas marriage.

"That would create a situation where the letter writer, at least in one state, would have two legal spouses," said Kruska. "And that's not legal. So the smartest thing for UNCIVILU to do is to dissolve her Vermont civil union. The last thing she wants is to try to get married to the new person and for the marriage later to be found void because she had this other union out there."

Kruska suggested that you contact legal service organizations in Vermont to find a lawyer

who can help you. And if you don't want to contact your ex, or if your ex won't respond to you, she recommended that you file for a dissolution and let the court serve your former partner.

"UNCIVILU and her ex may both be able to participate in the hearings by telephone, since they live in other states and it would be burdensome for them to travel back to Vermont," said Kruska, "and as an added bonus, UNCIVILU wouldn't have to see her ex in person." *Elizabeth Kruska works at rivercitylawyers.com in White River Junction, Vermont, and blogs about legal issues at scovlegal.blogspot.com.*

**In a former life, I was a staunch Republican and voted for antigay ballot initiatives. Then, after a bad divorce 18 years ago, I moved to another state and fell in with an artistic crowd. Over the years, I became close friends with people with vastly different life experiences, and I've developed an entirely new attitude toward gay rights. My dilemma: When SCOTUS handed down their ruling making marriage a right for all, I congratulated all my non-straight friends on Facebook. One of those friends posted a note thanking me for "always being in [their] corner." My asshole brother then commented that not only had I not "always" been supportive, in my previous life I campaigned against gay rights. Several non-straight friends jumped to my defense, stating that it couldn't be true. I am ashamed of the person I was and have worked hard to be a better person. Is there any point in apologizing?**

– Don't Have A Clever Acronym

Anthony Kennedy, the Supreme Court justice who wrote the majority decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 states, also wrote the majority opinions in *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), which declared laws against sodomy to be unconstitutional, and *Windsor v. United States* (2013), which overturned the Defense of Marriage Act. Kennedy will obviously go down in history as a hero to the gay rights movement—but his record isn't perfect.

Anthony Corbett Sullivan, a US citizen, legally married Richard Frank Adams, an Australian citizen, in 1975 in Boulder, Colorado. The men had been issued a marriage license by a county clerk who couldn't find anything in state law that prevented two men from marrying. Sullivan and Adams applied for a spousal visa for Adams. Here's the response the couple got—the entire response—on official US Citizenship and Immigration Services letterhead: "You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots."

The couple sued, and Kennedy, then a circuit court judge, heard their case—and he ruled against the "two faggots." Sullivan and Adams had to leave the country to be together.

Exactly 18 years passed between 1985, when Kennedy signed off on the deportation of Adams, and 2003, when Kennedy wrote his first major gay-rights decision.

In *Obergefell*, Kennedy wrote that "new insights and societal understandings" changed the way many Americans—including a majority of Americans on the Supreme Court—see gay people. The same goes for you: New insights and understandings have changed how you think, feel, and vote about gay people. And that's exactly what the queer-rights movement has been asking of straight people all along: to think, feel, and vote differently—and you have done all three. You can and perhaps should apologize to your gay friends for the antigay attitudes you once held—and for antigay votes you once cast—but they should immediately thank you for being the person you are now.

You can be ashamed of the person you once were but proud of the person you are now—unlike Roberts, Alito, Thomas, and Scalia, four men who are as shameful now as they ever were.

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# FIRST PERSON

**Zoe Ng On-yee** is the first woman not from the UK to win the World Ladies' Snooker Championship, beating her nemesis Reanne Evans to the title. She tells Adrienne Chum about her most devastating defeat, subsequent triumph and the lessons she's learned along the way.

**I grew up** in Tai Po. I went to secondary school in Tai Wo, and then Buddhist Chi Hong Chi Lam Memorial College.

**The school has** two snooker tables and a snooker team. They didn't have them when I was there!

**Our family moved** to Hong Kong Island—dad and mom managed World Snooker Club 147 in Sheung Wan, and wanted to live closer to work.

**My dad plays** a lot of snooker. Normally he is very quiet, but if you talk to him about the game he gets very excited and has a lot to say.

**At school** I used to play Carom—it's like snooker, but much smaller and with wooden pucks instead of balls.

**Although I only** got to play snooker on Saturdays and Sundays I became so good that when I finished Form 5, I decided to quit school and play professionally.

**The challenging thing** about snooker is that every frame is different—the temperature, the humidity, the cloth—so a lot of the game is about adapting to the conditions.

**It's a psychological** competition; everyone has the skills. It tests your emotional mettle.

**I played really** poorly at the 2014 World Ladies' Championship final. After I lost, I sat by the table and cried so hard I couldn't stop.

**I doubted myself** so much that I thought maybe I just wasn't fit to play snooker.

**I started beating** myself up over missed shots. Was it my posture, technique, or general form?

**I changed my** style of play so much that I couldn't get my original form back, and lost more games. I couldn't win even though I practiced every day.

**Finally at the** start of this year, I discussed the situation with my coach. He reminded me that I had chosen this path because I loved the game. He told me "If you want to do something well, you must enjoy it."

## NEED TO KNOW...

After losing to 10-time consecutive champion Reanne Evans at the World Ladies' Snooker Championship 0-6 last year, Zoe Ng defeated Evans in April this year. She plays at the Hong Kong Sports Institute and World Snooker Club 147. **1/F, Midland Centre, 328 Queen's Rd. Central, Sheung Wan, 2851-3363.**

**We found ways** to quantify my progression. When I saw proof I was improving, I began to regain some confidence.

**Every time** I had lost previously—including last year to women's No.1 Reanne Evans—I consoled myself that I would play better next year. But this time, I said to myself, "I don't want to say 'next year' again."

**For this year's** championship I didn't just play singles; I played some mixed doubles. But on both teams I still lost to Reanne.

**I thought I had** made a comeback only to fall again.

**I felt** I wasn't playing well. I was stressed and, to make it worse, I had to play Reanne again in the singles semi-finals.

**Winning that game** was very emotional. I was almost exploding with happiness—but I had to suppress it because I had the finals coming up two hours later! You can't get too excited when you play.

**I thought if** I won the finals, I would probably cry—and I'd cry if I lost, too! I'd be holding in my emotions throughout the entire game.

**But when I won** the final, I didn't cry. If anything I was too calm. I was still in the zone. I couldn't get my head out of the game just yet.

**Not until I was** on my flight back to Hong Kong 48 hours later did I suddenly start crying.

**Nothing triggered it**, but I was finally able to release my feelings.

**I try not** to set a specific target when I compete: If I think about winning, I put a lot of pressure on myself to perform.

**The expectation** will make me nervous. I just think about enjoying the game.

"If I think about winning, I put a lot of pressure on myself to perform."





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