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#SatNightPremieres

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***Saturday Night***  
**P R E M I E R E**

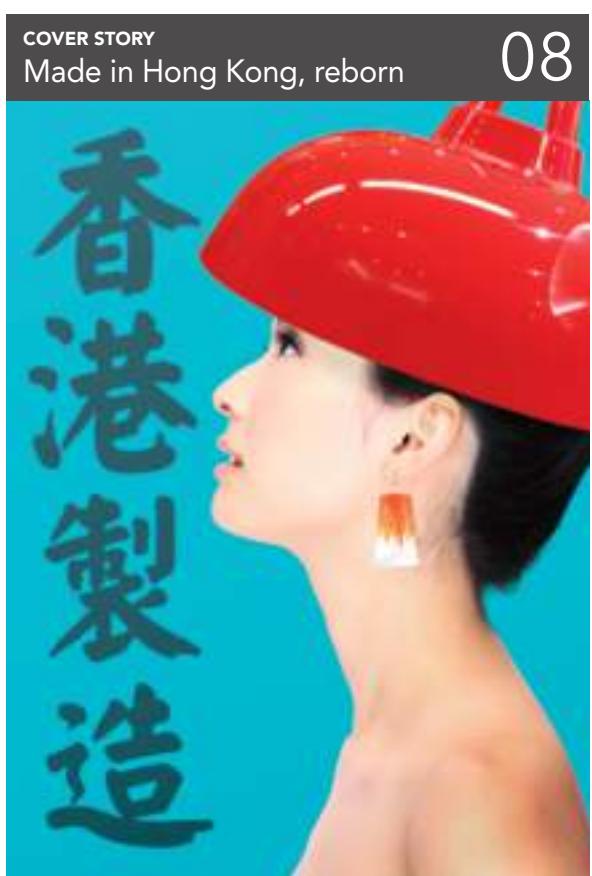
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Hong Kong's  
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## Win a Free Holiday to China!

Good news! With the return of previously missing bookseller Lam Wing-kee to his native Hong Kong, we've just heard of an exciting new travel opportunity. There's a free holiday offer that's been extended to all permanent residents: an all-expenses-paid trip to China. Here's a sneak preview of the internal memo we found:

Your eight-month trip begins before you even cross the border. You'll be greeted at any time of day or night by our team of skilled hospitality professionals. Our arrangements with the border officials mean that you'll be whisked straight through immigration, fuss free.

You'll be chauffeured directly to one of our luxurious residences. In these elegantly minimalist surrounds, we make every effort to ensure that you won't be disturbed by any other guests. This is time for you, and you alone.

Your residence will be luxuriously appointed with bathroom facilities, Egyptian cotton bed linen and exclusive daily room service, so you won't ever have to leave. We'll keep everything tied down so you don't have to worry about losing your way. Best of all, our exclusive personal butler service will ensure you have 24-hour attention from our ever vigilant staff.

But you don't just get to live in comfortable surrounds. This is also a cultural trip, and you'll be able to engage in lengthy conversations with the local residents, who will be extremely interested in you and your life. We guarantee that the questions will just keep coming!

Marvel as you are taken all over the country, visiting lesser-known cities for months at a time. Of course, you'll be able to explore on your own—as long as you let us know where you are at all times. Your short-term safety is our primary concern.

And naturally, our all-inclusive service wouldn't be complete if you didn't let us take care of the annoying things like travel documents or identity cards. That allows you to concentrate on the important things in life, like staying alive.

And when you get back to Hong Kong at the end of your eight month trip?

Well, you're going to want to tell everyone about it.



**WHAT'S  
AROUND Y  
U?**

What, a magazine full of recommendations isn't enough for you? Load up [hk-magazine.com](http://hk-magazine.com) and tap "What's Around Me" to discover the best of the best, wherever you are.

Look us up!



The List

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# HOME



## Mr. Know-It-All's

— Guide to Life —

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

### Why are there no debit cards in Hong Kong? — Debtor Debbie

It's not that there aren't debit cards in Hong Kong. They're just not the debit cards you might expect.

Overseas, debit cards are commonplace—linked by Visa or Mastercard to your checking account, and deducting the cash directly. You can use them in shops, online and internationally. Good luck doing all that with just your HSBC ATM card. In fact, few banks in the city offer the simple, universal debit systems ubiquitous in the west. Why?

There's no single explanation, but a set of factors unique to the city that have converged to produce this somewhat less convenient way of life.

There is a debit system in Hong Kong, of course: EPS, founded in 1984 by a consortium of 21 Hong Kong banks to provide a convenient, cash-free way to pay in shops and supermarkets. Couple that with easily available cashback and the fact that we can pay our bills and even our taxes via EPS in a 7-Eleven, and our debit spending is in fact pretty high: Last year we made 126 million transactions on debit cards in Hong Kong, spending \$273 billion on retail and bill payments.

Problem is, EPS is exclusive to Hong Kong, so you can't use it overseas—and it's not like you can use it universally in Hong Kong either. Try paying for a meal at Otto e Mezzo by EPS and you'll be washing dishes in the kitchen until the end of time.

Meanwhile in China, the China Union Pay system rules supreme and is much more widely accepted than Visa or Mastercard. As banks in Hong Kong increasingly head in the direction of that mainland cash, there's less reason for them to want to adopt more western systems.

Then there's Octopus: launched in 1997, this pioneering stored-value card is easier to use than any debit card or indeed cash. And when it's safe to say that pretty much every single person in Hong Kong has at least one, and cards can be linked to accounts to auto-top-up, the need for an individual debit card seems less pressing.

And, of course, there's this: the banks love credit cards, because you're paying them huge amounts of interest for the privilege of not stumping up all the cash up front. When you could charge 35 percent APR on someone's new Xbox One, would you be inclined to offer them a cheaper, more prudent way to spend their cash? Not likely. In this city of finance, everyone's got an angle—your bank most of all.

So it's actually Hong Kong's pioneering use of Octopus and EPS, the rise of the Chinese economy and our own banks which all go towards the fact that the western conception of debit cards has never really taken off. And that's not to mention that for many purchases, the city loves its cold, hard cash—and, as the ads tell us, for everything else, there's Mastercard.



Photo: SCMP

My Perfect  
HK

#### This week in My Perfect HK:

A Hongkonger has been given new hope after being found a heart donor. 20-year-old Chinese University student

Ma Cheung-long underwent heart transplant surgery at Queen Mary Hospital last week, and the prognosis is good. Every day, 3,000 patients in the city have a need for organ or tissue transplants and you can help them. Sign up as an organ donor at [organdonation.gov.hk](http://organdonation.gov.hk) to save a life.

## Letters

### "That's why everything is expensive in HK!"

#### More Monopolies

Responses to last week's cover story, which only grazed the surface of Hong Kong's monopolies ("Monopoly City," June 17, issue 1150).

The world's most competitive economy unfortunately does not believe in domestic competition.

Thomas Isaac

Actually, think you missed the most important point. Almost all of these oligopolistic conglomerates that you mention are also incidentally all property developers.

Haywo-d Hoh

And that's why everything is expensive in HK!  
Isaac Lee

How could you forget the private company named Octopus. There is no competitor. Also, for all intents and purposes Union Pay and EPS are pure monopolistic organizations. It is almost impossible to get a Visa or MasterCard debit card in Hong Kong. For those on the lower income levels or uneven income have no choice but to use EPS and commit to physical store shopping only. They cannot go online to shop if they chose because they cannot get a credit card since only EPS is usable in Hong Kong. As such they end up paying more for almost everywhere.

Reuben L Sushman

#### High Times

Last week Mr Know-It-All explained the history of our long-running opium monopoly ("What Hong Kong Monopoly should I know about?" June 17, issue 1150). Facebook readers reflected:

Paregoric (Camphorated tincture of opium) was not made a Schedule III drug until 1970. During the whole period of this 'monopoly' large swathes of the global population was addicted to opium and its derivatives, in Western countries mostly through pharmaceutical preparations.

David Francis Urrows

The Sassoon family were involved... the Opium wars were fought over it and China lost Hong Kong. Awful event in China's history :-(

Xiao Niu

You can thank United Kingdom for that...largest drug dealing empire 🤦

Ken Iwaki

#### Gift of the Gab

Limericks in response to ours last week ("Hong Kong Limericks," June 17, Issue 1150):

HK IS A GREAT BIG SNORE  
MORE LIFE IN SINGAPORE  
THE LANDLORDS HERE ARE GREEDY  
THERE ARE TOO MANY NEEDY  
THE PEARL OF THE EFFLUENT IS A BORE

Mike Brooks

## #PrivateEyeHK



Tree

Photo by Kinga Owczennikow

Need to get something off your chest? Got an amazing photo? Write us! [letters@hkmagmedia.com](mailto:letters@hkmagmedia.com). Letters are printed as-is (unless they need fixing).

# THE WEEK



**Saturday 25/6**

## Plan Your Escape

Whatever it is that makes you feel good, you'll find it at **Iris: Your Escape**—the city's biggest yoga and wellness festival is back. Soak in a whole weekend of almost every kind of yoga imaginable, led by some of Hong Kong's leading instructors. Whether it's a meditation class for inner balance, a touch of Ashtanga or some circuit training, it's all happening under the city's brilliant skyline.

June 25-26, 9am-9pm. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. Free admission, register at [irishkg.com](http://irishkg.com)

**Friday 24/6**

## Set to Stun

London-born, Belgium-based **Ø [Phase]** is in town to drop his beats at Volar. His sound balances minimal techno with industrial Detroit house, so get those Red Bulls ready.  
**10pm. Volar, B/F, 28-44 D'Aguilar St., Central. \$250** includes two drinks before 12:30, or one drink thereafter from [ticketflap.com/buzzconcepts](http://ticketflap.com/buzzconcepts); \$300 at the door before 12:30, \$350 thereafter, including two drinks.

**Sunday 26/6**

## Beer Gaarden

It's the best time of year for a frosty and light wheat beer, and Hoegaarden is at your service with "**The Gaarden is Open.**" Visitors can hang out in the central piazza, where there'll be live music and the air is scented with citrus and bergamot, or head to the pop-up tasting area to try uniquely designed Hoegaarden cocktails paired with Hoegaarden flavored delights, including white ale flavored ice cream.



Jun 24-26, Jul 1-3, noon-10pm. Lee Tung Avenue, 200 Queens Rd., East, Wan Chai.

**Monday 27/6**

## The Read Around

Filling the space between literature and the screen, the **CURVED Project** at the City University of Hong Kong is redefining the traditional reading experience with their immersive 360-degree cinema. It's a cylindrical screen twice the height of a human and 10m in diameter, playing host to visual/aural poetry and prose performances by poets based in Hong Kong and abroad, in both English and Cantonese.  
**5:30-8:30pm. Run Run Shaw Creative Media Centre, 18 Tat Hong Ave., Kowloon Tong.** [curved.glia.ca/about](http://curved.glia.ca/about)

**Tuesday 28/6**

## Tallied Up

Looking for a new Tuesday happy hour spot? Bindaas has rolled out their new summer menu and it's full of classic Indian dishes, freshened up with summery flavors of yogurt and mango. Get 30 percent off all drinks during their daily happy hour (from 5-8pm), and on **Talli Toosday** chill out to a weekly live acoustic set.

**7pm acoustic set. Bindaas Bar + Kitchen, G/F, 33 Aberdeen St., Central, 2447-9998.**

**Wednesday 29/6**

## Radio Waves

Sofia Coppola-approved Swedish dream-pop band **The Radio Dept** are playing new songs from their unreleased new album. With a sound like the auditory equivalent of dropping a quaalude and incongruously confrontational lyrics like, "Establish equality / Instead of this repeated sodomy," it's pretty much the most Millennial night ever.

**8pm. Hang Out, 2 Holy Cross Path, Sai Wan Ho.** \$510 from [eventbrite.hk](http://eventbrite.hk)

**Thursday 30/6**

## Fruit Fetish

PMQ is holding a celebration of all things fruity with their **Summer Fruit Jamming Market**. They're filling their courtyard with all-local vendors, offering workshops ranging from jam-making to fruit-wine making and even DIY skincare and tie-dye workshops.

**Jun 30-Jul 3, 1-8pm. Courtyard, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central.** Free admission; register for paid workshops at [pmq.org.hk](http://pmq.org.hk)

**Friday 1/7**

## Masters and Makers

**Old Kisses New** brings together more than 50 handicrafts vendors and 30 makers and startups, plus performers, food stalls, and games and fun for kids. There's a 3D blown sugar machine, a giant Mahjong board, and performances by the Hong Kong Community Philharmonic Orchestra.

**Jul 1-3. Eltanin Square Mile, 11 Li Tak St., Tai Kok Tsui.**

**Saturday 2/7**

## Pool Off

Studio City Macau's Summer Love pool party series continues, and it's



**DJ R3hab's** turn to hit the decks while the hotel's pool fills with sun-soaked partiers. R3hab's collaborated with John Legend, Calvin Harris and Beyoncé.

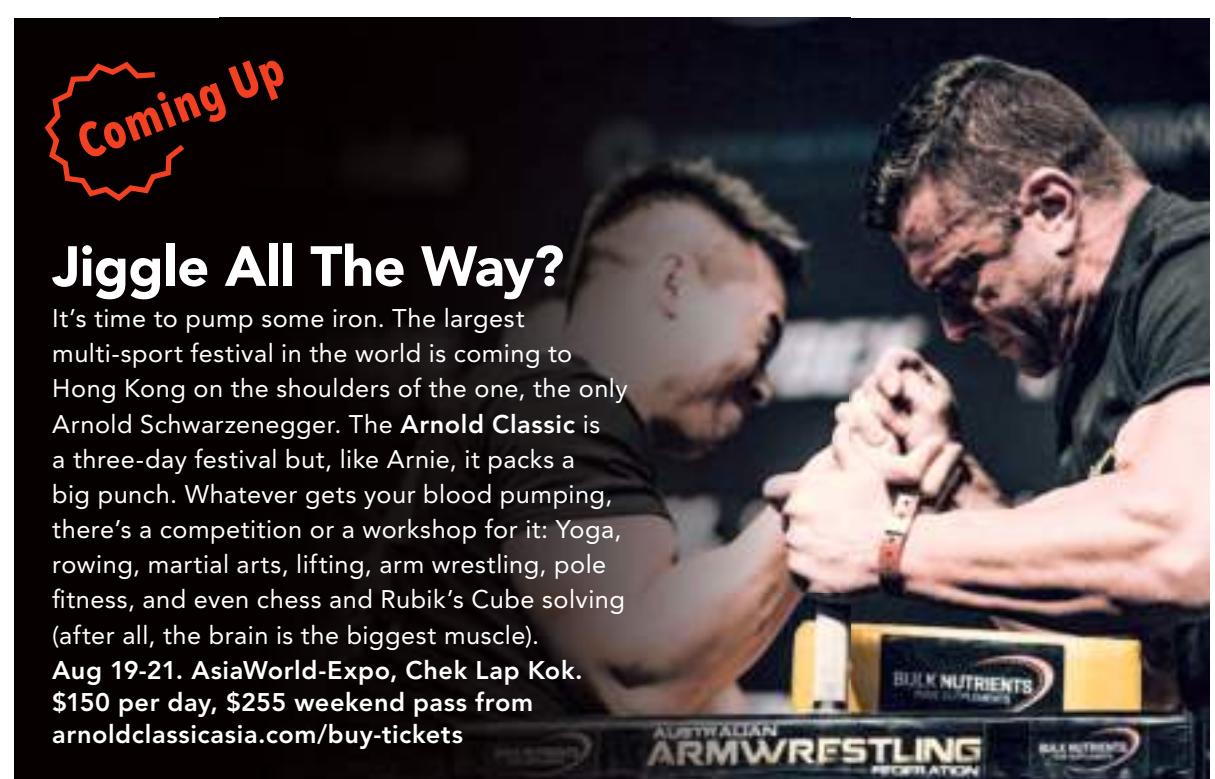
**From 2:30pm; After-party 10pm. Outdoor Pool, Studio City Macau, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau.** \$450 from [tiny.cc/hk-r3hab-studio-city](http://tiny.cc/hk-r3hab-studio-city)

**Coming Up**

## Jiggle All The Way?

It's time to pump some iron. The largest multi-sport festival in the world is coming to Hong Kong on the shoulders of the one, the only Arnold Schwarzenegger. The **Arnold Classic** is a three-day festival but, like Arnie, it packs a big punch. Whatever gets your blood pumping, there's a competition or a workshop for it: Yoga, rowing, martial arts, lifting, arm wrestling, pole fitness, and even chess and Rubik's Cube solving (after all, the brain is the biggest muscle).

**Aug 19-21. AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok.** \$150 per day, \$255 weekend pass from [arnoldclassicasia.com/buy-tickets](http://arnoldclassicasia.com/buy-tickets)



Edited by Stephanie Tsui  
stephanie.tsui@hkmagmedia.com



Illustrations: Joyce Kwok

## Last Week In Reality



SAT 11 **#abandoned**

A photo uploaded to Instagram goes viral: A Hong Kong woman goes to Taiwan and buys a cat. She later realizes that she cannot bring the cat with her back to Hong Kong, and so snaps and uploads a photo of the animal, along with the caption, "It's on the streets now. Hopefully someone nice will adopt it."

SUN 12

### Masturbation Marathon

At around 2am, a naked man is spotted standing at the window of his apartment in Shek Pai Wan. He is looking through a pair of binoculars at the opposite block while smiling and masturbating. Several times, he clammers onto the window for a better view. This behavior continues for three hours.

MON 13

### Long Fingers of the Law

A lawyer appears in court charged with attacking her legal partner. The accused had resigned from her job but refused to hand over key documents. When her partner tried to grab them, the accused allegedly stuck her fingers into her mouth to fight her off, causing an injury. The hearing continues.

TUE 14

### Forgetful "Parent"

A middle-aged man stands alone among parents waiting outside a Yuen Long kindergarten as though he were waiting for his child. When approached by a teacher, he claims to have forgotten his child's name and he'll have to ask the child's aunt what it is. The school's principal escorts him away from campus to "look for her." The school calls the police.



WED 15

### Driver-Off

A minute-long video uploaded to Facebook goes viral: A KMB bus driver gets into a fight with another man who appears to be a minibus driver. The KMB driver smacks the minibus driver in the face with a collapsible umbrella. After a skirmish, the KMB driver pauses to place his two bags on the ground, adjust his uniform, and then redoubles his attack. Netizens are concerned that the bus driver will lose his job, while others criticize the duo's ineffectual fighting techniques.

THU 16

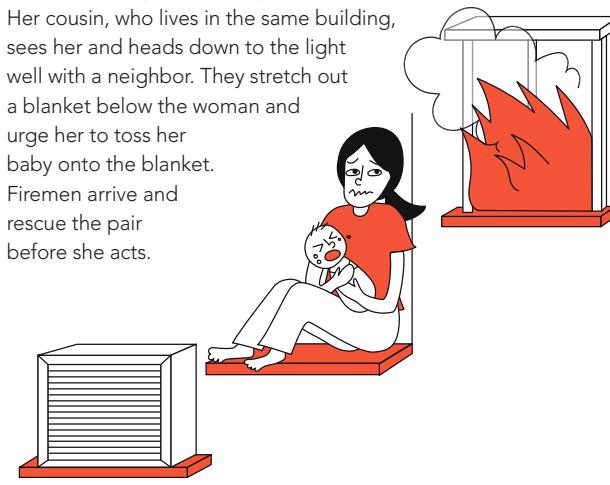
### Pretty Obvious

A photo of a license plate goes viral: The caption reads, "I know what you like, I know what your hobby is. I know that your license plate number is... BJ69."

FRI 17

### Just in Time

A fourth floor subdivided flat in Aberdeen catches fire. A mother climbs out of the window of the burning flat, cradling her two-month-old baby. She sits on a ledge near an air-conditioning unit, waiting to be rescued. Her cousin, who lives in the same building, sees her and heads down to the light well with a neighbor. They stretch out a blanket below the woman and urge her to toss her baby onto the blanket. Firemen arrive and rescue the pair before she acts.



## Quote of the Week

**"Independence. My personal opinion, and I am not afraid to say [it], is that it's doable."**

Formerly missing bookseller Lam Wing-kee, who revealed that he had been interrogated on the mainland, tells Channel NewsAsia that should "One Country, Two Systems" fail, the best way forward for Hong Kong is independence.

## Talking Points

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

### You Can't Eat Outside in Sai Kung

A Sai Kung resident has launched an online petition calling on the government to clarify the rules on dining alfresco in the city. She was prompted to set up the petition after seeing **Food and Environmental Hygiene Department staff issue a Sai Kung restaurant a fine of \$500 per head** for every person seated outdoors—even those who were just waiting to be seated inside. Catering sector lawmaker Tommy Cheung says **the government's licensing requirements are too strict**, but an FEHD spokesperson insists that the government is balancing the interests of everyone involved. As of press time, the petition has received more than 1,100 signatures.

**Our take:** If waiting outdoors gets you fined, may the government have mercy on the lunch hour crowd.

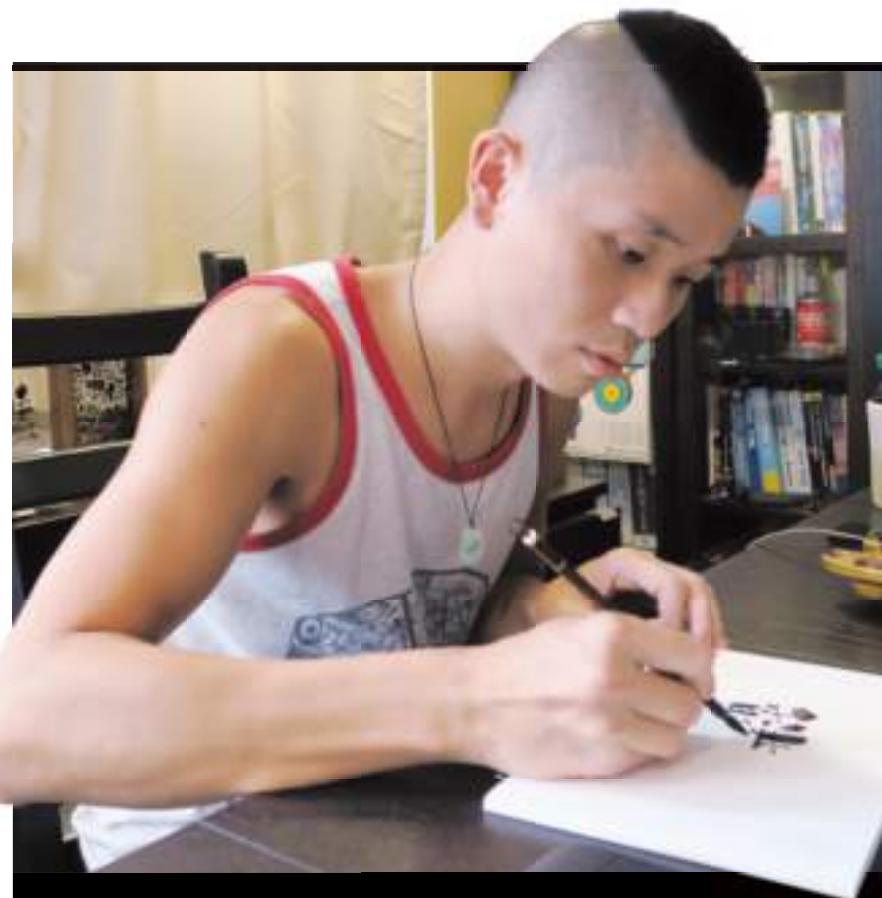
### Hong Kong—"Pollution Haven"?

US-based environmental group Basel Action Network has found that **Hong Kong is a major dumping ground for toxic electronic materials from the United States**. During a two-year investigation, the group attached 200 GPS trackers to broken electronic items in the US. It found that of the 65 trackers that left the country, 37 were exported to Hong Kong—and just eight to the mainland. **Many of the items contain toxic materials such as lead and mercury**. The group suggests that Hong Kong "has not enforced the Chinese import ban as diligently as mainland China has done," describing the city as "**a new pollution haven**." Legislators had earlier called on the government to investigate some 100 dumping grounds in the New Territories, accusing the government of failing to enforce its ban on importing hazardous waste.

**Our take:** You know you have a problem when mainland China is doing better than you.



Illustration: Elaine Tang



## Street Talk

Designer **Kit Man** is on a mission to preserve what's uniquely Hong Kong: By creating Kick Ass Type, a font set of 6,000 Traditional Chinese characters incorporating Cantonese words. He's trying to crowdfund \$650,000 for the project, which he describes as a creative response to social issues. He tells Stephanie Tsui why there won't be a Simplified Chinese version, and how to strike a balance between raising awareness and making a living.

**HK Magazine:** How did you get into calligraphy?

**Kit Man:** During Occupy Central in 2014, my friend needed help with making a banner for the movement, so I wrote "I want genuine universal suffrage" in an irregular Chinese calligraphy style. I hated doing Chinese calligraphy at school because I had really bad handwriting, but I enjoyed reading comic books and was inspired by a comic book artist who drew using a calligraphy brush. I was also inspired by the writing on Japanese liquor bottles. Since Occupy, I've been writing for advertisements and exhibitions. The next step is to create a font that is made in Hong Kong, for Hong Kong.

**HK:** How are you going to do it?

**KM:** The plan is to spend around 15 hours on writing and scanning 10 characters every day and complete the whole set in two years. I won't be making a Simplified Chinese version of the font because it does not have the same depth as Traditional Chinese: Many simplified characters carry multiple definitions and uses, which could be disastrous for Chinese language learners. Kick Ass Type is partly a response to the possible introduction of Simplified Chinese in the primary school curriculum. It will include a lot of Cantonese-exclusive characters that you may not find in other fonts. My goal is to generate \$650,000 for the project, which means I'll get less than \$100 per hour, but it'll be worth it because the project will be good for the continuity of my craft, Cantonese, and Traditional Chinese.

**HK:** Have you always been an artist?

**KM:** I actually graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a degree in biotechnology. I wanted to become a comic book artist but my family insisted that I did something "proper" at uni so I could earn a living. I came across the opportunity to enrol in a multimedia diploma course in Canada after HKU. I decided to give it a shot and later worked as a programmer before

making interactive art at an advertising company until the financial crisis in 2008. For two months, the company had no clients so I just sat there doing nothing. I was bored, so I resigned and began my freelance career.

**HK:** What's it like being a creator here?

**KM:** Working full-time was very comfortable, but I didn't progress. I'd rather work on my own, even if it means spending a lot of time on trial and error. I've got many skills but I lack the wisdom to turn creativity into money. I used to think that being focused would help me find a way out, but it didn't. Perhaps the better tool now would be compromise: As a creative person, I shouldn't have to compromise at all, but if it puts food on the table and supports my mom, so be it. Sometimes, I just want to give up and go back to working full-time because either way, I'm never going to earn enough to buy a flat.

**HK:** How does Kick Ass Type address social issues in Hong Kong?

**KM:** Hongkongers are losing their virtues. They don't realize that when they buy something from supermarkets run by large corporations, they're voting against owners of smaller stalls. They've forgotten about what it means to be kind to their neighbors. I used to spend so much time illustrating social issues that I neglect my livelihood. I'm still trying to find a way to highlight social issues while being able to take care of myself, so creating Kick Ass Type will be my way of giving back. It's the least I could do, when young people who haven't even graduated have made it their mission to fix problems which could have been fixed by generations before.

**Help Kit make his Kick Ass dream come true: Fund his project at [bit.ly/kickAssType](http://bit.ly/kickAssType)**



## Blowing Water

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

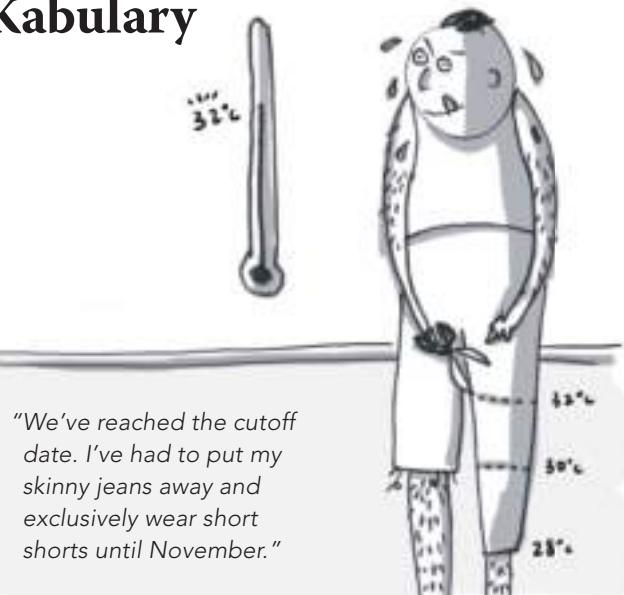
caau1 paai4  
**抄牌**

"COPY PLATE"

"Issue a traffic ticket" / Get a girl's number."

Originally meant when a policeman fined you by writing down your license plate; has also come to mean a guy asking a girl for her number.

## HongKabulary



"We've reached the cutoff date. I've had to put my skinny jeans away and exclusively wear short shorts until November."

### Cutoff Date (kʌtɒf dεɪt), n.

The point at which you can no longer keep wearing jeans in summer and must switch to shorts.

# Made in Hong Kong

The city's manufacturing heyday is past, and the "Made in Hong Kong" label has become a rarity. But there are still businesses that insist on crafting their wares right here at home. They talk to **Stephanie Tsui**

## STEAMING INTO HISTORY

Fifth-generation bamboo product maker Raymond Lam Ying-hung hates to be interrupted when working—even when it's for press interviews. "I'm always busy. There are more restaurants, more people and more families cooking at home, so there's a greater demand for our products," he says.

The owner of **Tuck Chong Sum Kee Bamboo Steamer Co.** in Sai Ying Pun, Lam started making bamboo steamers with the family when he was still a child. Because of the varying rigidity and thickness of strips of bamboo, bamboo steamers are best when handmade, as the construction of each steamer can be adjusted to suit each piece of bamboo.

The company, originally based in Guangzhou, has been around for more than a century. In addition to selling bamboo steamers of various sizes, the shop carries cooking utensils and fans. Only the steamers are locally made—part of the company's production line has been moved to mainland China to save costs.

Still, Lam believes that as long as Hongkongers' tastes stay the same, he will remain in business. The biggest challenge, he admits, is finding someone to take over from him. "It's very difficult to earn a living making things. If nobody takes over the business, it'd be a pity, but I'm not going to cry over it."

*"If nobody takes over the business, it'd be a pity, but I'm not going to cry over it."*

Steamers from \$15.  
12 Western St., Sai Ying Pun, 2548-8201.



**“I carve mahjong tiles as a hobby now, and also to keep my memories alive.”**

## TILE TALES

Mahjong carver Ho Sau-mai, who owns **Kam Fat Mahjong**, entered the family business when she was just 13 years old. “My siblings had greater ambitions. They needed to provide for their families, so naturally I was the one who was set to take over the business.”

The second-generation owner uses a chisel to carve blank tiles before coloring them in. After the paint dries, she dusts the tiles with talc to make it easier to scrape off excess color after the paint dries. She carves around three dozen tiles every day.

Ho’s son has chosen a different career, which means the family carving business will likely end with her. A few outsiders have expressed interest in learning the craft from Ho, but none have followed through. “I don’t think it’s a shame because they wouldn’t be able to earn a living anyway,” she says.

In recent years, her Hong Kong shop has been getting a lot more attention from the media and the public alike: “For decades, nobody said anything about us. I guess you’re here today because there aren’t many craftsmen like us in Hong Kong anymore,” she says.

Ho’s shop also sells factory-made mahjong tiles, as very few clients request the far more expensive handmade ones. Nowadays she works only half-days, so she can spend time taking care of her family. “I carve mahjong tiles as a hobby now,” Ho says, “and also to keep my memories alive.”

\$1,780 per hand-carved mahjong set of 144.  
2 Bulkeley St., Hung Hom, 2362-8421.



## IF THE SHOE FITS...

Around four years ago, **Shoe Artistry** co-founders Jeff Wan (pictured) and Kit Lee saved a piece of Hong Kong history when they took over a decades-old shoemaking business, Ming Kee Shoes, that was being forced to close up shop due to exorbitant rents. Alongside Ming Kee’s veteran shoemaker Uncle Kong, they started running a store in Mong Kok that doesn’t just handmake shoes: It also holds workshops and trains apprentices. Wan, a product designer, says that over the past decade he’s developed an interest in traditional craftsmanship and what remains of local industry. “I want to bridge the divide between light industries and design,” says Wan.

But passion is only a part of the equation. “Rent is our greatest challenge,” says Wan. “There’s also the mindset of Hongkongers: They’re accustomed to being fast-paced, and bespoke services take time.” But he notes that independent labels and individual designers have become more mainstream, making his business more viable.

“Shoemaking is a craft. It takes time to learn. No one would want to join the profession if our culture continues to be so focused on earning fast money,” says Wan. “Many light industries have moved to the mainland for mass production, but you can’t adopt the belief that we won’t survive without the mainland. That sort of thinking has to go.”



Shoes from \$3,800; workshops from \$200 per hour. Office 4, 2/F Prosperity Building, 61 Tung Choi St., Mong Kok, 2796-6018, [shoeartistry.info](http://shoeartistry.info)



**“No one would want to join the profession if our culture continues to be so focused on earning fast money.”**

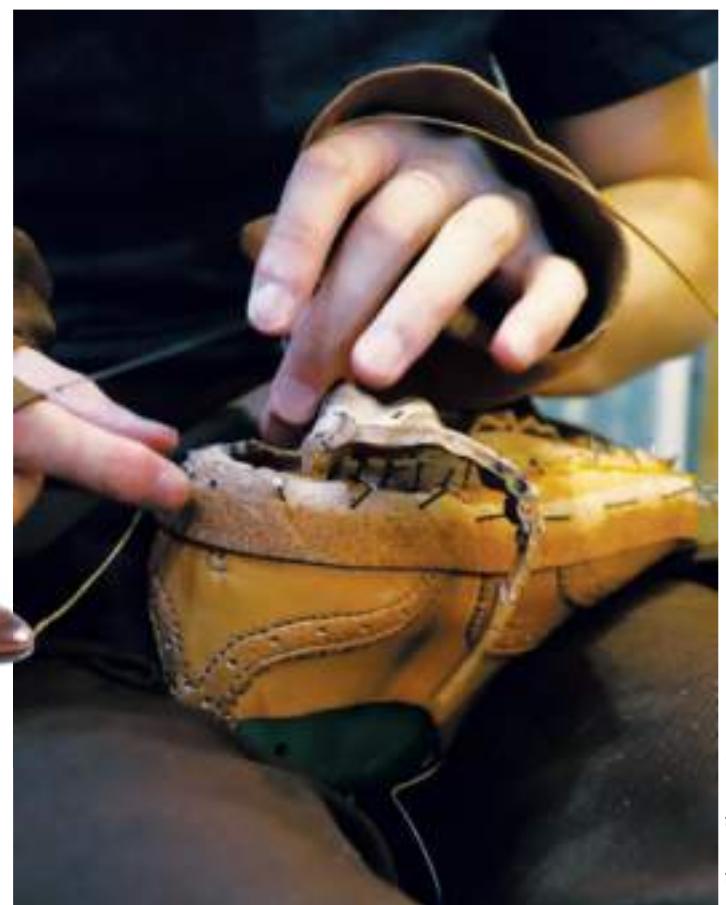




Photo: Memorigin

## JUST IN TIME

William Shum graduated with his Masters degree just as the 2008 financial crisis hit. So instead of a career in finance, he set his mind to entrepreneurship instead.

Shum did some research and established **Memorigin**, to produce the first tourbillon watches ever made in Hong Kong. Developed in around 1800 to counter the effects of gravity on the accuracy of watches, these complex mechanisms have since become more of a showpiece than a timepiece.

Memorigin's watches are all assembled in-house at their workshop in Chai Wan. The designs are the result of collaborations with Hong Kong designers, collectors—and even international movie companies, with special edition Transformers and Star Wars watches currently available.

Shum says that skilled workers are difficult to come by nowadays. But he's not worried about a possible lack of manpower. "We're not about quantity. We make a fixed number of pieces every month." And keeping it in the city is important. "As a Hong Kong brand, making our timepieces in Hong Kong means greater authenticity and a stronger sense of local culture," he says.



Watches from \$20,000. Shop No. 3, G/F, Peninsula Apartments, 16 Mody Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2976-0108, [memorigin.com](http://memorigin.com)



## SUIT ABILITY

Bespoke menswear maker **Bonham Strand** came to life just four years ago, when its founder and chairman Jong Lee saw an opportunity in a longstanding Hong Kong tradition as the traditional tailoring industry declined. Bonham Strand is a social enterprise that doesn't just cut suits: It aims to train disenfranchised people such as rehabilitated drug addicts, giving them careers of their own.

It's hard to find the right people, says Lee. "It's not easy to find good tailors and seamstresses, but you learn to accept the industry you've chosen—it's not mass production. I've learnt to respect the process, my employees' views, and what they can do."

At Bonham Strand, every tailor oversees several parts of the production process, unlike factory line workers who specialize in individual tasks. With everything made at their Lai Chi Kok workshop and Central store, it's easier to follow up on orders. "It's the same reason why you wouldn't want to see your doctor through a middleman," says Lee. "Your tailor knows your suit best."

Lee is now looking to expand Bonham Strand's business by hiring former garment industry seamstresses and at-risk youth, and organizing apprenticeship programs. Lee's also encouraging their best tailors to eventually become full-time mentors. "These are challenges, but good problems to have," he says.

Suits from \$4,500. Suite B, 2/F, On Lok Mansion, 39-43 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2811-4768, [bonhamstrand.hk](http://bonhamstrand.hk)



Photo: SCMP

## RED ALL OVER

Established in 1949, Star Industrial Co., better known as the maker of "**Red A**" plasticware, has become an indispensable part of Hong Kong culture. Red A is everywhere—from the lampshades you see at wet markets and the medicine bottles at government hospitals, to condiment dispensers at your favorite cha chaan teng. "We pretty much make all the plastic products for the local food and beverage industry. We also get a lot of orders from the government," says third-generation factory operator Jessica Leung, who serves as the company's business development director. The company even makes specially designed cups for the city's prisons.

The manufacturing industry moved to China in the 1980s, but Leung says that there are no plans to move Red A. "In Hong Kong, we have the skills, the knowledge and the chemistry to sustain our team. My father and grandfather insisted on keeping our products locally made, because quality control and safety are our priorities."

Around two years ago, Leung began revolutionizing the way Red A products are made by automating more of their production. "This is how we can attract younger skilled workers. We need programmers, for example, for our robotic equipment."

The brand has also come up with a newer, more contemporary line of products to attract younger consumers. "My generation is more focused on branding rather than innovating," Leung says. "The way we market our brand is essential to encouraging our future generations to continue the family business."



Buy Red A products from \$1 online or in supermarkets. 2320-6261, [reda.com.hk](http://reda.com.hk)

Photo: Star Industrial

*“It’s not mass production. I’ve learnt to respect the process.”*

## Straight Outta Hong Kong

That's not all that Hong Kong makes. Did you know that these products, animals and ideas all originated in the city?



Gluing Down Bricks

Hongkongers recently found that the government has spent around \$13 million over the last three years on putting glue in the gaps between pavement stones, ostensibly to stop sand between the bricks from being washed away—and also conveniently preventing protesters from prying up loose bricks. Despots of the world, take note!



Minibars

In 1974, the F&B beverage director of the Hong Kong Hilton decided to stock the hotel's mini fridges with alcohol and snacks to make up for the cost of free water. Profits soared by five percent and the system spread to the hotel industry worldwide.



Romer's Tree Frog

This frog species is endemic to Hong Kong and was first discovered in a cave on Lamma Island in 1952. The tiny amphibian can only be found on Lantau, Lamma, Po Toi and Chek Lap Kok.



Holga Cameras

Before there was Lomo, there was Holga. Designed in 1981 as an affordable mass-market camera for the working-class, Holga cameras have since garnered a cult following thanks to their ability to capture surreal, impressionistic scenes on film.



Yuen yeung (鸳鸯)

The cha chaan teng favorite is a blend of seven parts milk tea to three parts coffee, said to have been invented by Hong Kong dockworkers in need of a quick energy boost.



Disease Research

In Hong Kong in 1891, the bacterium that causes bubonic plague was isolated, leading to the discovery of how it was transmitted. Similarly, in 2003 researchers from HKU sequenced SARS to find it had come from animals, making it easier to diagnose.



Fiber Optics

Invented by the "Father of Fiber Optics" Charles K. Kao in the 1960s, fiber optics laid the foundations of the Information Age. Kao won the Nobel Prize in 2009 for his work.

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Centre image: Still from Cerith Wyn Evans & John Maybury, *Psychic TV: Unclean*, 1984. Courtesy the artists and LUX.

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### I Think We're Alone Now

It may not seem so, but a lot happens on the MTR. A passing glance, a stand-up nap, possibly the only moment in your entire day where you can do nothing but sit, stare at the world whizzing by, and think. Or just stare at your phone. Artist

Sarah Choo Jing has taken a voyeuristic view of these small moments, documenting Hong Kong's public transport system in "**Flights of the Mind**," with a fixed gaze on the isolation of each individual as they pack themselves into crowded subway cars and find their way home, alone. She writes of this project:

"Loneliness, I began to realize, was a populated place: A city in itself."

**Jun 25-Jul 24. Open Daily, 1-8pm. Art Projects Gallery, Unit S510, 5/F, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central, artprojectsasia.com**

# HEALTH & BEAUTY

## FIT AND FLY



Edited by Evelyn Lok  
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com

## Detox to Retox

Whatever your views on detoxing, sometimes it feels good to clean out our systems so we can have fun all over again. Here's how.

### Fortified Leggings

If you live a mostly sedentary lifestyle, sitting long hours at work each day, Hong Kong brand **Zarie** may just have the answer for your water-retaining leg woes. The brand's leggings use a super-smooth Italian fabric infused with caffeine, vitamin E, retinol, fatty acids and aloe vera, which aim to help improve circulation and even make your legs look longer and your skin feel smoother. We got a thumbs up from HK Mag's Sophia Lam, who recently tried a pair of long leggings. They've got flattering detailing on the sides and a small pocket on the inner waistband big enough to hold a few cards. She says that they were not at all restrictive, clothing she'd comfortably wear to sleep or to work out in—although she didn't notice any cosmetic enhancements after just wearing it for a full work day. Ladies with big booties may want to order a size up, though: the waistband is less stretchy than the rest of them.

Full length leggings \$650 from [zarie.co](http://zarie.co)

### Drop And Gimme 45

Two new-ish gyms, **F45** and **Hit45**, currently reign supreme on the high intensity interval training fitness wave. Both focus on circuits, with movements done for 45 seconds each. Don't know how to choose? I went and did the legwork for you.

#### F45

**The workout:** It's all about working through stations with a variety of equipment. The moves are versatile enough that you'll be challenged with your heart rate all the way up at each session, no matter what level you're at. Are you a beginner who never thought you'd be uttering the words "pull-up" or "deadlift"? You'll be doing them, alright.

**The studio:** A 5-minute walk from the Sheung Wan MTR. One bare-bones medium-sized room with three unisex shower cubicles that double as changing rooms. Toilets outside.

**The music:** On Saturdays, they have DJ mixes complete with a turntable, but we're not sure who mans it. To be honest, you've worked so hard you barely even notice the music.

**Worth it?** \$300 per single class, \$800 per week for unlimited classes, so it's worth it if you know you can make it to classes often. Free one-week trial pass (three classes max) available.

**Unit 101-102, 1/F, 135 Bonham Strand, Sheung Wan,  
6990-2403, f45training.hk/sheungwan**

#### Hit45

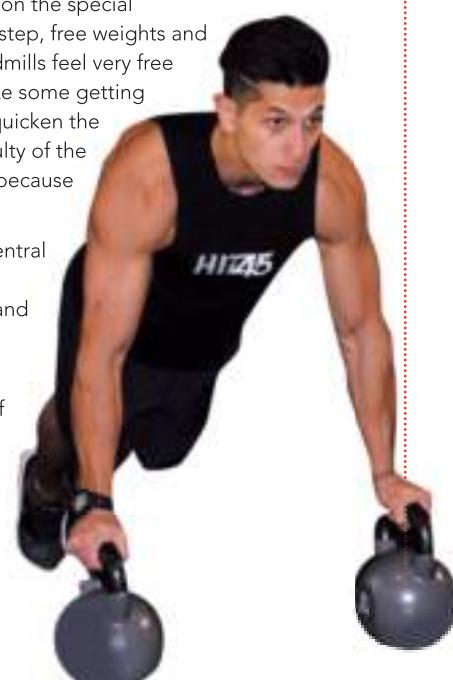
**The workout:** Workouts alternate between cardio on the special eco-friendly treadmills and moves with an aerobic step, free weights and kettlebells. The eco-friendly human-powered treadmills feel very free and natural due to the curved surface, but they take some getting used to as they stop abruptly when you stop and quicken the pace if you lean forward ever so slightly. The difficulty of the workout depends on how hard you work yourself, because moves are relatively beginner-friendly.

**The studio:** Right up on Stanley Street near the Central MTR. Relatively small, in a dark, L-shaped room. Gendered changing rooms with lockers are clean and new, but small—only two shower stalls available.

**The music:** Playlist depends on the trainer—last time, we ran and lifted to the dulcet rapping of Drake and a Baby Bash remix.

**Worth it?** \$270 per single class, \$1,250 for five. Free first trial available.

**1/F, Abdoollally House, 20 Stanley St., Central,  
2724-4226, hit45hk.com**



### Breathe Deep

Finding vegan, cruelty-free skincare that uses natural ingredients suited for sensitive skin in Hong Kong can be hard, especially if you don't want to walk around in a potent Lush cloud every day. Stepping in to help is indie Korean skincare brand **Roselina**, which offers a lightly scented alternative, and has recently launched in Hong Kong. Starting with step one in its signature range, the O2 oxygen bubble mask (\$480/50ml) is one helluva party trick: you apply a thick layer of the gel to clean skin, and after a few minutes it begins to foam up—no lathering required—to rid your skin of impurities. After washing it off, my skin was supple but not taut, and my pores were clearer and smaller. You follow up with a sheet mask (\$330 for five): the moisturizing Waterful Hydro Mask, which feels much lighter than the pore-detoxifying Luminous Purifying Mask. The masks themselves are thicker than most, and are shaped for smaller but wider faces.

[roselina-skincare.com](http://roselina-skincare.com)



### Yeast Meets West

To start the day off healthy, get your hands on some Hong Kong-made fresh yoghurt and cheese spreads from **Sour Times**, a dairy company owned by yoghurt-lovers Winy and Eileen. If you live in Wong Chuk Hang you're in luck: Sour Times does breakfast delivery featuring their signature yoghurt along with granola, or a bircher muesli cup (\$40 each). The rest of us will have to order online. They've got a few whimsical Hong Kong flavors, from tofu fa pudding-style red ginger to our favorite: cocktail bun, which is slightly sweet thanks to the added coconut.

**Two large 500g pots for \$116. Subscription plans available from [sourtimes.hk](http://sourtimes.hk)**



### Arches of Triumph

We've been seeing semi-permanent brow embroidery and microblading brow services pop up in salons all over town. Lasting about two or three years, brow embroidery applies hair-thin strokes of dye under the skin to attain a natural look. It's one step up from the traditional brow tattoos which often fade to blue over time. At a recent media preview at brow experts Browhaus, we got to see a demo of its signature **Brow Resurrection 2.4** service, using a vegetable dye that can be custom blended for your particular color. Your brows are drawn on until you're happy with them, before a numbing cream is applied and the design is finally etched on—apparently it's no more painful than tweezing. There's no down time needed for recovery, and you just need to avoid the gym or sweating too much for a week or so on top of using their aftercare products—for perfect brows every morning, why not?

**\$6,600 from Browhaus, 10/F, 8 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central,  
2845-0886, [browhaus.com.hk](http://browhaus.com.hk)**



## ESCAPE ROUTES

Compiled by Leslie Yeh  
leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com



# Ubud Adventures

While buzzing beach vibes and warm blue waters draw crowds to Bali, some of the most beautiful parts of this island are found inland in Ubud, where rice fields grow uninhabited across the landscape, temples hide in the undergrowth and the Balinese move to a much slower tune. Follow our two-day itinerary to experience the best of this artistic and cultural heartland, says **Leslie Yeh**



## Check-In

If you think you'll be parking it at some five-star chain or trendy lifestyle resort, pack away your Prada heels, because this trip is all about getting back to nature. Not ready to part with your Wi-Fi and hot baths yet? Check into **Sandat Glamping Tents** (glamping = glamorous + camping)—the first of its kind in Bali, featuring luxurious safari-style tents, thatched roofs and canopied bedrooms, all elegantly crafted with bamboo and mahogany.

Situated in utter seclusion in the corner of a quiet rice paddy, you'll feel as if you've pitched your tent on the open fields of Ubud, with the stars visible by day as well as by night, and the only signs of life coming from a stray farmer weaving his way through the neighboring rice paddies. After enjoying a swim in your infinity-edged private plunge pool, reach for the wind chimes on the bedside table (there are no phones here) to ring a member of staff for a welcome drink—the perfect start to your weekend in Ubud.

**\$2,087** from [secret-retreats.com](http://secret-retreats.com); includes breakfast. Jalan Subak Sala Banjar Sala, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia, (+62) 82-440-81998, [glampingsandat.com](http://glampingsandat.com)

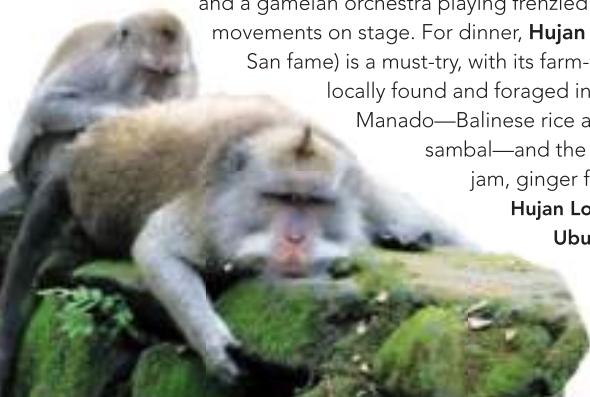


## Monkey-ing Around

Seemingly a calm paradise from the outside, deep in Ubud you'll find a curious bunch of fury long-tailed primates in the 27-acre **Sacred Monkey Forest**, perhaps one of the best places in the world to get up close and personal with the species. Here you'll encounter more than 350 monkeys in their natural habitat, undeterred by the tourists that crowd their home each day.

The Indiana Jones-like setting is worth seeing in itself, with temple ruins that have been reclaimed by the forest. And the monkeys—well, they're everywhere: jumping through the branches, screeching loudly at their neighbors, rolling in the fallen leaves and clamoring to grab any shiny object from unsuspecting tourists. These little critters are sneaky and agile, so make sure you hold on tight to your phone.

Padangtegal, Ubud, Gianyar, Bali, (+62) 361-971304, [monkeyforestubud.com](http://monkeyforestubud.com)



## Dinner and a Show

When you exit the forest, turn left and make your way down Monkey Forest Road to the main city center of Ubud. Along this path, you'll find a range of home décor and clothing boutiques for souvenir shopping. Once you reach the city center, head to the 16th century Puri Saren palace to catch a traditional **Legong dance** (\$46, [tiny.cc/hk-bali-dance](http://tiny.cc/hk-bali-dance)), a spectacle of brilliant gold costumes, masked dancers

and a gamelan orchestra playing frenzied music to spur on the hypnotic movements on stage. For dinner, **Hujan Locale** (by Will Meyrick of Mama San fame) is a must-try, with its farm-to-table style cooking using locally found and foraged ingredients. Don't miss the Bubur Manado—Balinese rice and lobster with raw tomato sambal—and the crispy squid with potent chili jam, ginger flower and lemongrass.

**Hujan Locale**, Jalan Sri Wedari 5, Ubud, Bali, (+62) 813-3972-0306.



## Rafting Adventure

Many tourists who stay in Seminyak block out a morning to travel inland for white water rafting on the Ayung River—but luckily, you're already here. Book ahead with Bali Adventure Tours for the **White Water Rafting +**

**Elephant Safari** excursion. The morning rafting adventure (9:30-11:30am) will take you on a 9.6km scenic tour of the Ayung River, navigating 33 class II and class III rapids with high-speed rapid drops and dives. In-between, sit back and soak in the majestic scenery of unspoiled rainforest, steep gorges and waterfalls.

After lunch, it's off to the Elephant Safari Park & Lodge, where you can meet the beloved elephants that have been rescued from Sumatra. Take a ride around the park, watch the elephant talent show, and take the classic couple's shot with an elephant trunk draped around your shoulders. These gentle creatures are sweet-tempered and affectionate, just like most other residents of this island.

**\$1,117 per person for Rafting + Elephant excursion.** [baliadventuretours.com](http://baliadventuretours.com)



## Eat Local

After washing up back at the hotel, book Sandat's private shuttle bus to take you to **Locavore**, an exceptional restaurant on Asia's 50 Best Restaurants list leading the eco-conscious food movement in Bali. Like its name suggests, Locavore sources 95 percent of its ingredients locally and prepares everything à la minute so diners can savor the fresh produce as if it was just plucked from the fields.

The five-course "Locavore" (\$380) or seven-course "Herbivore" (\$440) set tasting menu will lead you on a transformative journey, with course after course compounding natural fresh produce with confident, clean flavors. Local ingredients shine in the beef striploin dotted with mustard leaves and Piccalilli Indian pickles, and the green asparagus served with a 64-degree kampong egg and leaves from Locavore's vegetable garden. The precision and clarity of concept is commendable, and an experience that will be a highlight of your trip to Bali.

**Jalan Dewi Sita, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia, (+62) 361-977733, [restaurantlocavore.com](http://restaurantlocavore.com)**



# Plate of the Union



America may be going up in flames, but there's at least one good thing emerging from the smoke: delicious, tangy, mouthwatering BBQ. If you can't be bothered to flip your own meat this Fourth of July, here are five mouthwatering places to get your grill on. By **Leslie Yeh**



## ► Star-Spangled Tavern

The cozy **Stone Nullah Tavern** puts on a family-friendly pool party this Fourth of July with kiddie pools, a face painting station, magic show and water balloons to get the festivities going. While kids splash around, adults can sip on free-flow PBRs, boozy Lynchburg Lemonades and Twisted Teas. Once you've got a good buzz going, head to the grill and pile up your plate with smoky grilled hot dogs and chicken wings. This BBQ party is sure to be one of the most popular July 4th parties in town, so book ahead and come ready with as much patriotic pride as you can muster.

### TRUMP RATING



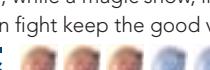
July 3, noon-5pm. \$359 per adult, \$150 per kid; \$199 for free-flow drinks. 69 Stone Nullah Lane, Wan Chai, 3182-0128, stonnullahtavern.com



## Everyone to the Yard ▶

**Linguini Fini** may be best known for its generous pasta plates, but chef Vinny Lauria knows a thing or two about cooking American comfort food. On July 4th weekend, the Italian kitchen gets a red, white and blue makeover for a "Brooklyn Backyard BBQ" hosted alongside Mexican fast-food favorite Little Burro. Chow down on "Dirty Water Dogs", pizza, burgers, BBQ chicken wings, and Little Burro's moreish tacos, complemented by sides of pasta salad, potato salad and corn on the cob. Get sloshed on free-flow PBRs, margaritas and hard lemonade, while a magic show, live band and a water gun fight keep the good vibes going.

### TRUMP RATING



July 3, noon-late. \$500 per person. 49 Elgin St., Central, 2387-6338, linguinifini.com



## ▼ Meat Masters

The barbecue enthusiasts at **Crft Pit** arouse deep, insatiable cravings for good ol'-fashioned Texas barbecue with their intense dedication to their craft and low-and-slow-cooked meats: think juicy baby back ribs, pulled pork and lamb brisket, BBQ chicken, lamb ribs and smoked pastrami. The fire extends to alternative items as well, from hot smoked salmon to smoky maple bacon and BBQ lentils. While they mostly operate as a wholesale shop, you can book out the tasting room menu (\$777/person) with a large group to sample their signatures, or stop by for their Saturday brunches for a hit of smoked pastrami, sausages, spare ribs, Texas brisket and hot turkey sandwiches.

### TRUMP RATING



Saturday brunch, 1-4pm in the tasting room. 3/F, Unit 2 Harbor Industrial Centre, 10 Lee Hing St., Ap Lei Chau, 2476-2800, crft-pit.com



## SOMETHING SWEET

Round off the BBQ feast with these classic, all-American desserts:



### Tai Tai Pie Pies' Pecan Pie

These pastry experts have steadily built up a cult of pie-loving Hongkongers, and their sweet options are as enticing as their savory ones. The all-American apple pie is a sweet slice of heaven, packed with eight cups of apples in a golden crust.

\$235; delivery available from [taitaipiepies.oddle.me](http://taitaipiepies.oddle.me)

### S'mores at Café Bauhinia

For that real US campfire feel, the s'mores dessert at Café Bauhinia is all you need to feel like a kid again. The golden puffy marshmallows come toasted in a cast iron skillet; layer with chocolate squares and graham crackers for the gooey, delicious stuff that dreams are made of. \$128. 23 New Market St., Sheung Wan, 2368-9339.



### Cheesecake at The Mandarin

Like everything at this high-end hotel, the Mandarin Cake Shop's American cheesecake is a luscious slice of luxury, boasting a crumbly golden brown crust and smooth and creamy filling that will have you going back for forkful after forkful.

\$228 (300g) or \$348 (500g).  
5 Connaught Rd., Central, 2825-4008.



### #HKMagDish

Follow us @hk\_magazine and tag your best foodie shot with #HKMagDish for a chance to win a \$300 voucher from Morton's! Winner announced every Friday via Instagram.

#### ▲ Blooming BBQ

**Lily & Bloom** can do little wrong when it comes to American comfort food, and we're leaving our hungry appetites in their capable hands for an Independence Day feast: from July 2-3, chow down on a hearty menu of American-style barbecue dishes, including sticky American ribs with adobo sauce, baked American eggs, buttermilk waffles, Chicago-style hot dogs and more. With chef Billy Otis at the helm, you can bet this menu will punch you in the face (in a good way) with its big, bold flavors. And if the heat gets too much to handle, chill out with one of their fantastic handcrafted cocktails. On July 4th, head back to the 6th floor "food truck" to nibble on bone marrow and bourbon wagyu sliders and truffle mac 'n' cheese.

#### TRUMP RATING



Jul 2-3, \$395 per person brunch, \$480 per person dinner. 5-6/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 2810-6166.



#### ▼ Preach On, Parish

The crowds are already congregating at southern soul food haven **The Parish**, newly opened by chef Jack Carson, formerly of Restoration. A Cajun and Creole cuisine expert, chef Jack is pulling out his bag of tricks at this casual New Orleans-style eatery, with a menu dotted with southern food staples, from crawfish pie to a homemade Louisiana charcuterie board and BBQ Ribs slathered in a rich tangy sauce. On July 4th, enjoy an American-themed seafood boil party with all-you-can-eat crab, shrimp, lobster, mussels, jambalaya, pecan pie and more for \$388 per person.

#### TRUMP RATING



44 Staunton St., Central, 2803-0050.



**Hong Kong Sinfonietta**  
香港小交響樂團  
喜慶 Yip Wing-sie

"Great naturalness... infectious energy."  
Gramophone

"Playing with absorbing concentration and nuance."  
The Times

Piano  
**Sunwook Kim**  
Winner,  
Leeds International Piano Competition 2006

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**GREAT PIANO CONCERTOS**

# Sunwook Kim Plays Brahms

Programme

<b>Brahms</b>	<b>Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor, Op 15</b>
Schumann	Symphony No 3 in E-flat, Op 97, "Rhenish"

**9.7.2016**  
(Sat) 8pm

HK City Hall Concert Hall  
\$340 \$220 \$140

Conductor  
**Alexander Liebreich**  
Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra  
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For ages 6+  
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# DINING



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"What's Around Me" for dinner ideas!

# NEW AND NOTED



**Bayta's asparagus cannelloni  
is summer on a plate**

## Mediterranean Breezes

Meaning "house" in ancient Hebrew and Arabic, **Bayta** (252 Hollywood Rd., Sheung Wan, 5597-9939) is a new restaurant in Sheung Wan that offers cuisine inspired by different regions up and down the Mediterranean coast. The second outlet by the owners of La Cabane down the road, Bayta is a cool whiff of the Mediterranean, with simple and stunningly plated dishes by executive chef Pauline Steiner. We ate with our eyes first, especially when it came to the asparagus cannelloni with thinly shaved asparagus stalks rolled around diced veggies (\$160), complemented by a strawberry sauce carrying the floral perfume of geranium water. The menu changes often, but currently you'll find duck with caramelized dry fruits and vegetables tagine (\$290), beef tenderloin with cod-stuffed piquillos (\$310), sea bass a la plancha (\$350) and vegetable couscous (\$250). The latter, though the least savory-sounding of the bunch, was the bite we'd go back for—an inspired vegetarian dish using boiled micro-chopped celery to mimic couscous, with a meaty beetroot "merguez" in a concentrated vegetable broth. The rustic dips are also worth trying, from the peas hummus to Sicilian olive tapanede and brocciu cheese with herbs—a more tangy French cousin of ricotta.

# RESTAURANT REVIEWS

A Side / B Side ★★★★☆

Western. 53 Sai St., Sheung Wan, 2857-5055.



A farm-to-table concept, A Side B Side is inspired by old vinyl records—and similarly the menu flips from day to night, with a handful of items on each.

**HIT** We didn't quite get the vinyl concept (for one, there were no vinyl records in sight), but we liked the clean setting of this 22-seater with menus written on teal-colored walls. We started with the pork rillettes (\$70) which were paired with soft and fluffy bread from Po's Atelier that went great with the rich, albeit slightly too salty pâté. The restaurant only uses organic vegetable produce from local farms and the pan-

fried cauliflower (\$95) gave us a tingling sensation from the successful marriage of curry powder and parmigiano. For mains, the grilled chicken (\$200) was a delight: a charred exterior containing a juicy reared-in-Hong Kong yellow chicken on a bed of cauliflower purée. The hunky New Zealand striploin steak (\$250) garnished with chopped shallots was chargrilled to a perfect medium rare. It was juicy and tender, but a tad too salty. The soy milk coconut panna cotta (\$85) was a light palate-cleanser after all the bold flavors.

■ **MISS** The kitchen seemed to have a little problem handling acidity: The mustard in the cauliflower was too generous, which slightly overpowered the dish, while the pickles that came with the rillettes were again far too tart.

**BOTTOM LINE** A little more attention to seasoning will have us (and every hipster around) lining out the door.  
**Open Tue-Sun noon-midnight. \$\$\$**

## 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

An advertisement for Sally Coco. The top half features a woman in lingerie standing next to a large collection of sex toys (dildos, vibrators, etc.) in a store setting. A pink banner with white text reads "Glamorous, Naughty Shopping with Affordable Prices". The bottom half has a black background. On the left, a yellow circle contains the text "the HIPPIEST SEX SHOP IN TOWN". To the right, the brand name "sallycoco" is written in a large, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by "INTIMATE LIFESTYLE STORE" in a smaller font. Below this, a horizontal bar lists product categories: "PLEASURE TOYS • SEXY LINGERIE • INTIMATE CARE • BOOKS & GAMES".



**Edited by Leslie Yeh**  
leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com



Amalfitana's pizzas claim to be easier on the waistline

### Amalfi Coasting

Just opened by the team behind SoHo hotspots The Pontiac and Rummin' Tings, 60-seater artisan pizza bar **Amalfitana** (Shop 105, G/F, The Pulse, 28 Beach Rd., Repulse Bay, 2388-7787) brings authentic pizzas from the front of Italy's boot to The Pulse. The pizza bases are made with a long rising dough that is lighter and easier to digest, so beach-goers may want to take note. Our favorites? The Amalfitana (\$250) with buffalo mozzarella, porcini mushroom, rocket and parma ham, and the salsiccia e porcini (\$190) with sausage, porcini and mozzarella. Each diner gets a shot of limoncello to round off the meal, but you'll want to stay longer to sip from the bar's list of aperol spritzes and negronis. And if we know anything about the team behind the resto, by "sip" we mean "down." Looks like this spot will become a beachside party magnet in the months to come.

### Harlan is Back

With an on-again, off-again culinary affair with the city for as long as we can remember, Harlan Goldstein has plans to put his stamp firmly back on the 852, opening four new venues this fall at No. 8 Lyndhurst Terrace in Central. **Eat Me Drink Me** on the ground and first floors will be a casual restaurant and lounge taking inspiration from his world travels, while **My Tai Tai** on the 2/F brings an exotic flair, with a concept built around a mysterious Thai woman (in true Hong Kong fashion). Head up one more level to **Ee Da Le**, a southern Italy-inspired eatery with your typical handcrafted pastas, cold cuts and Italian seafood dishes. Finally, 5/F and 6/F will bring Harlan's version of authentic Mexican to Hong Kong at **Mamasita's Cantina**, with a Cuban bar replicating Havana in the 60s, and Mexican street food—think tamales, tacos, sopas—executed by head chef Edgar Navarro.

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

### Scarlett Cafe and Wine Bar ★★★★☆

French/Mediterranean. 2 Austin Avenue, Tsim Sha Tsui, 3565-6513.



International restaurant group R&B Lab is the owner of the widely successful Scarlett Wine Bar & Restaurant in Bangkok, and it's brought the same name to a more casual café and bar iteration in Hong Kong.

**HIT** We were impressed by the surroundings, a classy two-story outlet spanning a wine cellar and bar downstairs and regular restaurant seating upstairs. We spotted azulejo tiling and all-modern touches for a decidedly cool, albeit slightly cramped, space. And as a wine bar should, they do have a massive and varied list of wines, including affordable and decent ones by

the glass (\$55-60). The G-board, a platter of three cheeses and cold cuts (\$328) gave generous helpings of each ham—varieties of parma ham, chorizo and salami—and the cheeses were all very strong-tasting selections and not for the cheese novice.

**MISS** The bread was cold and stale, which never bodes well for a quality meal. The niçoise salad (\$108) was nothing special if not slightly limp, drizzled with pesto, the same sauce that ended up on our sad, bruise-colored tuna tartare (\$138) which was overwhelmed by the wasabi seasoning. From Scarlett's signatures, the beef cheek stew (\$188) had stringy meat and a watery sauce, while the scampi fettuccine (\$128) was another disappointment with clumped-together noodles.

**BOTTOM LINE** Come for the wine, cheese and charcuterie... but be wary of the actual dishes they have to cook.

**Open 7am-late (last orders 10:30pm).**  
**\$-\$-\$**

#### Our Policy

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

The List Magazine covers more than 120 feminine lifestyle topics every year, bringing essential information and inspiration to the savvy Hong Kong woman. We're available at over 200 venues citywide, from cafés and restaurants to members' clubs to retail stores.

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# CITY STROLL



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## Tai Kok Tsui

Crammed into the side of Mong Kok and Sham Shui Po, the former docklands of Tai Kok Tsui have long been overlooked. But since the opening of the ICC and Olympic MTR station, this old area is slowly changing, transitioning from a cluster of industrial buildings and dockyards into an up-and-coming neighborhood. Compiled by **Kate Lok**



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### Golden Captain Restaurant

Owner and chef Mr. Cheung worked at the Regal Hotel and the Four Seasons, before opening this reputable Italian restaurant in the humble neighborhood, adding his own innovative touches to classic dishes. Try their signature dish black truffle oil and mascarpone cheese pizza, served in slices that resemble triangular sandwiches, or the highly praised panna cotta.

**Unit 3A, 55 Tai Tsun St., Tai Kok Tsui,  
2381-7369.**



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### Happyfisherman Restaurant

One of the neighborhood's most popular hotpot joints, with frequent queues to back up the claim. It is best known for its homemade fish broth, made only from the freshest catch to prevent any unpleasant fishy taste. If you're not in the mood for hotpot, which we doubt anyone would be in this blazing summer heat, go for a bowl of their rice vermicelli in fish soup instead.

**G/F, 35 Chung Wui St., Tai Kok Tsui,  
3486-4642.**



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### Pantone C Workshop

Get your graffiti on without breaking the law at this rooftop studio in Tai Kok Tsui. Set up by street artist Pantone C in 2012, you'll learn stencil cutting and character drawing techniques. Choose to bring your masterpiece home on a canvas, or leave your own mark on the rooftop itself.

**Unit 712, 11/F Wan Yuen Industrial Building, 15 Beech St., Tai Kok Tsui,  
pantonegraffiti.com**



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### XXX Gallery

The underground bar moved from Shek Tong Tsui earlier this year: Now in its third location, XXX still has the mission of bringing together art, music and fun under one creative roof. XXX has a BYOB policy, so grab a few cans from the nearby convenience stores before swinging by. Check the website for updates on regular gigs, exhibitions and film screenings.

**Kin Luen Factory Building,  
89-91 Larch St., Tai Kok Tsui, [xxxgallery.hk](http://xxxgallery.hk)**



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### The Brew Job Coffee

This little café has "hipster" written all over it. From its industrial style décor to the vintage urban bike parked outside, this is the place to get your caffeine hit. They also serve up some of the best bagels in town (try the "New Yorker") as well as an array of cakes, muffins and cookies to satisfy the sweet-toothed.

**G/F, 46 Hoi King St., Tai Kok Tsui,  
6097-9030.**



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### Hoi Fai Road Garden

(Former Tai Kok Tsui Pier) Here's a decent sunset-viewing spot that doesn't necessitate scaling a mountain. A 10-minute walk from Olympic MTR station is what used to be the bustling Tai Kok Tsui Ferry Pier, which was built in 1972 but closed in 1992 when Tsim Sha Tsui Pier opened. Offers great views of Stonecutters Island and the city.

**Hoi Fai Road Garden, Tai Kok Tsui.**



Check back next month for more awesome things to do around town!

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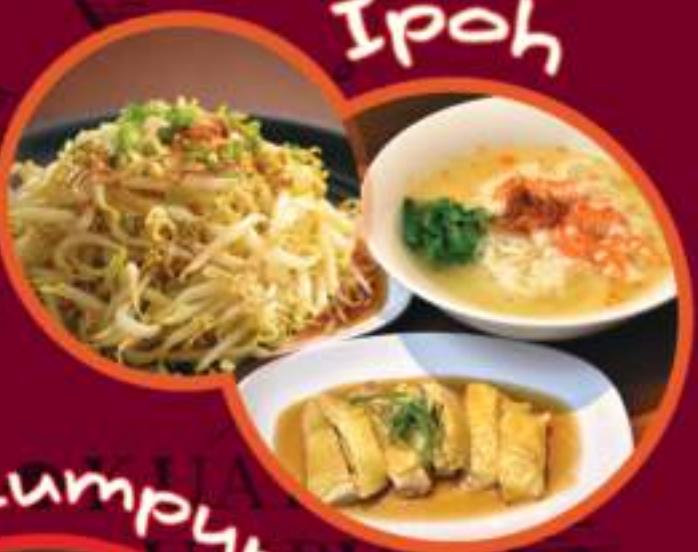
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Go to [hk-magazine.com](http://hk-magazine.com) and tap  
"What's Around Me" for show ideas!

Compiled by Jessica Wei

jessica.wei@hkmagmedia.com



## UPCLOSE: LEO LI CHEN AND WU MO



**"That Has Been and May Be Again"** is a new exhibit at Para Site, displaying art created by mostly mainland Chinese artists reflecting on the controversial 1989 China Avant-Garde Exhibition and the Tiananmen Square Massacre. Jessica Wei spoke with the Para Site curators **Leo Li Chen** and **Wu Mo** (L-R) about the exhibition and contemporary Chinese art.

**HK Magazine:** Why call your exhibit "That Has Been and May Be Again"?

**Leo Li Chen:** This title comes from a novel called "Sinking" by Yu Dafu. This novel was written in the 1920s and presents a Chinese student living in Japan. He feels depressed and anxious about his country because there's a war between Japan and China. There's a similarity between that time, and the 1990s. The Chinese name is 世變, which translates to "social change."

**HK:** What's the premise behind the exhibit?

**LLC:** We have 15 artists: 14 come from Mainland China, and one from Hong Kong. Half of the artists' works were created in the 90s, and the other half are by young artists in China now. We wanted to combine the two different decades, and the old works and the new works, to rethink the 90s.

**HK:** Why is the study of contemporary art important to talk about events in the past?

**LLC:** In our exhibition, the historical view is quite important, [but] we didn't want to just talk about what the most important thing was in 1990. We wanted to keep a distance of 20 or 30 years [between] the old work and new work. I think this is a good distance for us, and our generation, to rethink how social change impacted contemporary China.

**HK:** What do you think Hongkongers can take away from the show?

**Wu Mo:** We hope that the audience will feel the atmosphere of 1990s China. I think it is quite similar to the current situation of Hong Kong society, and its discussions about politics and culture. I think maybe we make some kind of comparison between the two situations.

**LLC:** Leung Chi-wo [who exhibits in the show] is a Hong Kong artist. He works with historical material to think about contemporary Hong Kong. His work doesn't mention the 90s, but [it] combines different times, different propaganda, and the anxiety and uneasiness after a social movement. In his work, you can feel the emotions of contemporary Hong Kong, and it's similar to the 90s [in China].

**HK:** How do you think the artists of this generation have changed since the last?

**WM:** The generation is quite different. The artists of our generation have different educational backgrounds compared to the previous generations of artists. A lot of young Chinese artists got their education from Europe or America. That gives them a similar vision to their colleagues in the west. The other thing is, when you create your artwork, it all depends on what kind of information you want to use—it's all about choosing what you want to show. Information is quite easy to access nowadays. That makes contemporary Chinese art very diverse.

**"That Has Been and May Be Again"** continues through Aug 21.  
Para Site,  
22/F, Wing Wah Industrial Building,  
677 King's Rd., Quarry Bay.



"Dialogue with Gilbert and George" by Ma Linling

## Classical

**Paris-Vienna-Budapest: David Greilsammer Plays with the Sinfonietta**

Israeli conductor and pianist David Greilsammer returns to Hong Kong to perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No 17 and conduct the Hong Kong Sinfonietta through Haydn's Symphony No. 3, "Drum Roll," as well as Rameau's Orchestral Suite and Ligeti's "Melodien." Greilsammer is a virtuoso who's collaborated with musicians and visual artists from a variety of different musical spectrums, as well as undertaken ambitious classical projects: In 2008, he performed all of Mozart's piano sonatas in a one-day marathon, and over the 2012/2013 season he played all 27 of Mozart's piano concertos. Jun 26, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. hksl.org. \$150-360 from urbtix.hk.



**Upbeat: Igudesman & Joo with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta**

Two classically trained musicians, violinist Aleksey Igudesman and pianist Hyung-ki Joo, have come together with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta to prove to audiences young and old that classical music can be accessible, rollicking, and even—gasp!—fun. With a repertoire that blends music, comedy, theater and pop culture, they play their way through pop covers on classical instruments and even perform a twist on an old Wagner chestnut: only theirs is called "Ride of the Oy Veykyries." Jul 4-5, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. igudesmanandjoo.com. \$160-420 from urbtix.hk.

**Lost and Found: The Harvest of Sorrow**

Hong Kong soprano Amanda Li sings a program of American and European art songs which fall under the theme "Lost and Found: The Harvest of Sorrow." Accompanied by pianist Timothy Kwok, the program includes pieces by Quilter, Korngold and Rachmaninov, and other folk songs, and Kwok will be playing solo piano pieces by Liszt and Rachmaninov. Jul 3, 8pm. Theatre, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$120-160 from urbtix.hk.



**Masterworks:**

**Ashkenazy and Behzod Play Prokofiev**

Two generations of virtuosic piano playing come together for Prokofiev's dynamic and much beloved Piano Concerto No. 3. The legendary pianist and conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy takes the baton and leads, while Behzod Abduraimov, one of the brightest young pianists of his generation, makes his return to Hong Kong to join him on the keys. In the second half, Ashkenazy will lead the orchestra for Elgar's Symphony No. 1. Don't miss this meeting of two brilliant musical minds. Jul 1-2, 8pm. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$280-680 from urbtix.hk.



**Sunwook Kim Plays Brahms**

Since winning the Leeds International Piano Competition in 2006 at the age of 18, becoming the competition's first Asian winner—and its youngest in 40 years—Korean pianist Sunwook Kim has played with the world's leading orchestras and graced internationally renowned stages such as the Wigmore Hall, Salle Pleyel and Beethoven-Haus in Bonn. He comes to Hong Kong to lead the Sinfonietta with German conductor Alexander Liebreich in Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 and Schumann's Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish." Jul 9, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. hksl.org. \$140-340 from urbtix.hk.



## Dance

**Carlos Acosta: A Classical Farewell**

After a 26-year career, legendary Cuban ballet dancer Carlos Acosta is embarking on his final tour, "A Classical Farewell." He'll perform excerpts from his favorite ballets, including "Swan Lake," "La Sylphide," "Winter Dreams" and "Je ne regrette rien." Jun 30-Jul 2, 7:45pm. Hong Kong Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$160-520 from urbtix.hk.

**What's Next in Multimedia Dance Performance**

Japanese choreographer and multimedia Hiroaki Umeda will be in town discussing the future of multimedia dance performance with a handful of prominent artists, dancers and instructors including Chris Cheung, Dick Wong and Koala Yip. Umeda balances his background in ballet and street dance, for which he was honored at the International Choreographic Encounters Paris Seine-Saint Denis, with a passion for composition, visual, sound and lighting design. "What's Next in Multimedia Dance Performance" discusses the possibilities of cross-disciplinary arts: It's sure to give the audience an eye-opening view of the craft of dance. Jun 25, 3pm. Multimedia Theatre, School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong, G/F, Run Run Shaw Creative Media Centre, 18 Tat Hong Avenue, Kowloon Tong. westkowloon.hk/en/newworksforum. Free.

## Theater



**Chinese Opera Festival Presents Monkey King Plays**

In this auspicious Year of the Monkey, two different groups of performers representing the unique southern and northern styles of Chinese opera are coming to Hong Kong to perform the stories of the legendary Monkey King. From late June to late July, Chinese opera aficionados and those who are just curious can come check out the finest martial artists and virtuosic performers from the Shao Opera Art Research institute of Zhejiang and Youth Troupe of the Peking Opera Theatre of Beijing, as they bring some of the most beloved tales of the Monkey King to the big stage. Through Jul 31. Various times. Ko Shan Theatre New Wing, Ko Shan Theatre, 77 Ko Shan Rd., Hung Hom; Sha Tin Town Hall, 1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin; Tuen Mun Town Hall Auditorium, 3 Tuen Hi Rd., Tuen Mun. \$120-380 from urbtix.hk.

**Buddhist Chants in Scent and Light**

The Zuni Icosahedron season opener is an experimental performance based on a text that dates back 1,200 years to the Tang Dynasty, arranged by Master Kuan Pen in the 20th century in his book "Chamber of Scent and Light." Through a mix of contemporary theatre and traditional Buddhist rituals, Zuni's performance explores the purification and calming aspects of chanting, as well as the heritage of the art of Buddhist vocal practices with the help of artistic directors the Venerable Sik Hin-hung of HKU's Center for Buddhism Studies and the Venerable Sik Tsang-chit, abbot of the Tung Lin Kok Yuen Buddhist nunnery. This performance is in Cantonese and Putonghua. Sep 22, 8:15pm; Sep 25, 3pm. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. zuniseason.org.hk. \$100-1,000 from urbtix.hk.

Follow artist AMA's journey  
through the Inferno  
[tiny.cc/hk-ama-the-inferno](http://tiny.cc/hk-ama-the-inferno)

## Exhibitions



### Botero In Hong Kong

Widely recognized as one of the greatest living artists, Colombian artist and sculptor Fernando Botero makes his Hong Kong debut with nine larger-than-life-size bronze sculptures of the human form, cast in his signature voluptuous fashion. These pieces will be available for viewing at the Central Harbourfront as part of the SummerFest@Central. Through Aug 14. Central Harbourfront, Central.



### Floating Perspective

Inspired by satellite images of the earth as well as the artist Jessica Fu's experience during the 2009 tsunami in Japan, "Floating Perspectives" combines elements of photography, drawing and light art to create a series of surreal and intergalactic pieces of work at the new Marble Print & Clay printmaking studio. Through Jul 3. Tue-Sun 10am-7pm. Marble Print & Clay, Flat 05, 7/F, Sing Sin Factory Building, 15-17 Shing Yip St., Kwun Tong. 9080-0321.



### Shadows of Reality: Yigal Ozeri

If a photo is worth a thousand words, then how can we quantify the worth of New York-based Israeli artist Yigal Ozeri's paintings, painstakingly rendered with millions of tiny brushstrokes? See his minute, millimeter-close views of reality at Opera Gallery. Through Jun 30. Opera Gallery Hong Kong, G/F-3/F, W Place, 52 Wyndham St., Central. [operagallery.com](http://operagallery.com).

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## OPEN BAR JERRY MAGUIRE

**The buzz:** Remember when Tom Cruise melted our hearts as a jaded yet romantic sports agent in 1996 film "Jerry Maguire"? Named after the character, this newly Causeway Bay bar aims to bring warmth, love and honesty back to a disconnected, tech-obsessed city by introducing innovative dessert cocktails, and by encouraging people to actually talk to each other. So much so that no-phone nights with big discounts are currently on the cards.

**The décor:** Sweet and inviting with clean lines and light wood tables that you might expect in a dessert joint, matched with high bar seats and dimmed lighting, makes Jerry Maguire an even cross between a bar and café. It doesn't feel out of character to sip on a cocktail here, but it doesn't feel like a place for you to get sloshed, either. A courtyard outside is lined with long tables, which makes this joint smoker-friendly.

**The drinks:** Co-owner and keen molecular mixologist Paul Kwok (previously the bar manager at Gradini) has conceived of a selection of dessert cocktails, sweet concoctions built to be both eaten and drunk. The bar signature is the whimsical Alice

The Wonderland (\$198), of which only six are available per day. It blends rum, midori, elderflower syrup, mint and pineapple juice together for what tastes like a lighter version of a mojito, without the overwhelming grassiness of mint leaves. It's covered in a web of spun sugar and gold leaf, and topped with a meringue mushroom. The Before Sunset (\$128) was our favorite: very drinkable and balanced, and not too sweet, made with Earl Grey-infused gin, Earl Grey tea, apple juice and scented with homemade osmanthus syrup, then topped with rose petals. If dessert cocktails aren't up your alley, don't fret: classic cocktails and a range of martinis round out the drinks list, and there's also a great selection of wines as well.

**Why you'll be back:** Given the sizes of Hongkongers' dessert stomachs, Jerry Maguire is bound to be popular. But those without a sweet tooth will also be entertained, devouring sharing plates of snacks like the apricot-glazed, gyoza-stuffed chicken wings (\$98) or the Sour Apple (\$88), a puckery-sour summer dish of ginger and apple granita with strawberry foam. Jerry Maguire? You had us at hello. **Evelyn Lok**

23 Lan Fong Rd., Causeway Bay,  
2881-5008, [jerrymaguire.hk](http://jerrymaguire.hk)



## Clubs

### Edamame Presents: Souk of Sound

The Shanghai-based Moroccan DJ Edamame's partied through his signature Casablanca Soul nights in Shanghai for the past six years, and he's bringing his tunes—everything from garage to funk to Chicago house—to Hong Kong at the Backroom at Zafran this month. Jun 25, 11pm. Zafran, B/F, 43-55 Wyndham St., Central, \$260 at the door, includes one drink.



### YourMum Presents: Birdy

Ever since making her name with a cover of Bon Iver's "Skinny Love," young English singer-songwriter Birdy's been putting out number one albums and songs on YA films such as "The Hunger Games" series and "The Fault in Our Stars." Don't miss her sultry pipes during her Asian tour this summer. Jul 26, 8pm. Musiczone, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay, \$420 from [ticketflap.com/birdy](http://ticketflap.com/birdy).



### Against the Current: In Our Bones World Tour

Against the Current plays what's billed as "intelligent pop songs." The pop rock trio from Poughkeepsie, New York, made it big on YouTube before breaking into the gig scene. They're back in Hong Kong to tour their latest album, "In Our Bones." Sep 16, 8pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St., Mong Kok, \$450-750 (VIP with meet and greet) from [cityline.com](http://cityline.com).

## Concerts

### Tegan and Sara

Indie rock fans are in luck, because the Grammy-nominated twin sisters are back in town! After a fantastic set at Clockenflap in 2013 and hot on the heels of their eighth album release in June, Canadian indie queens Tegan and Sara return to the city for a one-night-only concert at KITEC. Jul 28, 8pm. Rotunda 3, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay, \$588 from [hkticketing.com](http://hkticketing.com).

## Gigs

### Songs For Children Presents: The Bilinda Butchers

San Fran dreampop group The Bilinda Butchers comes to town with their mesmerizing, genre-bending tunes, supported by Hong Kong shoegaze/dreampop outfit Thud. Jun 26, 8pm. Attic, 1/F, Grand Business Plaza, 153 Wai Yip St., Kowloon Tong, \$220 in advance from [bilindabutchers.pelago.events](http://bilindabutchers.pelago.events).



### Bobby Taylor Returns

Motown legend and Jackson 5 producer Bobby Taylor hits up Grappa's Cellar en route to the Kota Kinabalu Jazz Festival, performing classics as well as paying tribute to Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and The Temptations. Jul 16, 8pm. Grappa's Cellar, B/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, \$288 from Grappa's Cellar, includes one drink. A la carte dinner available from 6:30pm.

## Happy Hours

### Summer of Spritz at Stazione Novella

Celebrating the summer (and helping us survive the heat), Italian wine bar Stazione Novella is offering the classic Aperol Spritz for \$48, all day, every Monday. Quenching! Dangerous! Through Sep 26, Mondays. Stazione Novella Bar, 52 - 56 Staunton St., Sheung Wan.



### The Optimistic Hour

Get your fix of Spanish-style G&Ts at The Optimist, which boasts 24 different varieties of gin for your juniper pleasure. Even better, get your tipple starting from \$48 during The Optimistic Hour, from 3-7pm every day. Daily, 3-7pm. The Optimist Bar, G-2/F, 239 Hennessy Rd., Wan Chai.



### Fireball and Ski Shots at Zerve & Zerve Plus

Every Wednesday and Thursday at beer pong hall Zerve, for \$256 you and three buddies can share a round of Fireball ski shots (four shot glasses tacked on a single ski). Throw in \$20 extra and you get a whole pizza as well. Wednesdays and Thursdays. Zerve & Zerve Plus, 8-9/F, Zing!, 38 Yiu Wa St., Causeway Bay.

### Viet Kitchen Live DJ Happy Hour

Cliché Records takes over Viet Kitchen on every last Friday of the month for happy hour drinks all night long: \$28 first drink, \$48 thereafter. TGIF indeed! Jun 24, 4pm. Viet Kitchen, Shop G04 & G06, Nexus Building, 41 Connaught Rd. Central.

## Music Festivals

### WTFest

As if you don't already spend enough time watching YouTube, now you can catch all your favorite online singers live in Hong Kong, at brand new two-day music festival What's The Fest. It'll be more than six hours of non-stop music each day, featuring the likes of Andie Case, Kurt Hugo Schneider and Max Schneider, Sam Tsui and more. Jul 9-10, 3-9pm. Hall 3, AsiaWorld-Expo, Airport Expo Boulevard, Chek Lap Kok, [wtfest.com](http://wtfest.com). \$780-980 from [cityline.com](http://cityline.com), \$880-1,180 at the door.

## Nightlife Events

### DJ Revolution Presents: Don't Let Daddy Know 2016

The legendary Don't Let Daddy Know DJ festival, which came to Hong Kong shores last year, hits our sister SAR this summer and leaves yet more fathers in the dark. This season's lineup includes Dutch brothers Showtek, Steve Angello, who was previously of Swedish House Mafia, American DJ Borgeous and more. Jul 1, 8pm. Studio City Event Center, Studio City Macau, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau. \$850 from [hkticketing.com](http://hkticketing.com).



### Pacha Macau Presents: Summer Love Pool Party

Superclub Pacha Macau continues to host its series of tropical themed pool parties at Studio City's massive outdoor pool this summer, and the second headliner this summer is Dutch DJ R3hab, known for his original bangers, remixes and collabs with the likes of Beyoncé, John Legend and Calvin Harris. There'll be an after-party at Pacha, after 10pm. Jul 2, 2:30pm. Level 3 Outdoor Pool, Studio City Macau, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, \$450 from [studiocity-macau.com](http://studiocity-macau.com). Admission and after-party, cabana and hotel stay packages available.

Party like it's a long weekend  
this Sunday at Solas:  
[tiny.cc/hk-solas-summer](http://tiny.cc/hk-solas-summer)

Edited by Evelyn Lok  
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com

#### Biggie Smalls and Meatballs:

##### Freedom Party

Celebrating the eve of America's national day, Posto Pubblico brings its free flow meatball and beer party back, bigger than before: Expect free flow Peronis, bellinis and homemade wine coolers, as well as a build-your-own-sub sandwich station... and of course, a tribute to Biggie Smalls spinning all night. If that isn't enough food for you, you truly belong in America. Or in Linguini Fini, which is hosting a party next door with free flow PBR and margaritas, as well as popsicles and water gun fights to cool down. Jul 3, noon. Posto Pubblico, 28 Elgin St., Central; Linguini Fini, 49 Elgin St., Central, \$500/head or \$900/head to attend both Posto Pubblico and Linguini Fini parties.



#### Outlook Festival 2016 Hong Kong Launch Party

Ahead of the eighth iteration of the largest bass music culture festival in Europe, Hong Kong celebrates with a launch party by the official promoters: The party tours 90 clubs in five continents before the big event, bringing with them some of the best underground dancefloor beats on the planet. The initial line-up includes British drum and bass producer Dom & Roland and Bass Music China founder Saiyan. Jul 16, 4pm. Whitehead Barbecue, 1950 Whitehead, Ma On Shan, \$200-380 from ticketflap.com/outlookfestivalhklaunch.

#### Fresh Off the Boat Presents:

##### Fear and Loathing at Koko

"We were somewhere around Koko, on the edge of Central, when the booze began to take hold..." Things are about to get loopy and weird and wonderful at Koko. It'll be transformed into a Beverly Hills-style polo lounge, paying tribute to Hunter S. Thompson's masterpiece "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," about a drug-fueled road trip through the Mojave desert in pursuit of the American Dream in the 70s. Music, drinks and canapés will be inspired by the hazy mood of the period. Jun 25, noon-5pm. \$200 from FearAndLoathing.pelago.events, \$250 at the door; ticket includes one welcome sake shot and free flow nibbles. Dressing up in Hunter-esque style is encouraged.



#### Hoegaarden: The Gaarden is Open

If your go-to draught is the citrusy Belgian brew that is Hoegaarden, then Lee Tung Avenue's Hoegaarden summer pop-up is all for you. It's serving up the classic wheat beer as well as icy Hoegaarden cocktails, which are paired with beery canapés from Invisible Kitchen. Live music performances and citrusy scent sprays will complement the whole shebang and cover all the senses. Jun 24, 5pm; Jun 25-26, Jul 1-3, noon-10pm. Lee Tung Avenue, 200 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai.



#### BloomMe Presents: Girl's Night Out at Bungalow

BloomMe's beauty and booze-filled girl's night is back, this time at Bungalow. A \$200 ticket gets you access to on-site manis and other spa treatments, plus a complimentary cocktail, \$150 cash voucher on the BloomMe spa booking app, and a goodie bag with heaps of beauty swag, plus a chance to win some fab prizes. Jun 28, 7pm. Bungalow, Shop 2, G/F, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, \$200 from SummerNights.pelago.events, \$280 at the door.

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# FILM

## A Bigger Splash ★★★

(Italy/France) Thriller. Directed by Luca Guadagnino.

Starring Tilda Swinton, Matthias Schoenaerts, Ralph

Fiennes, Dakota Johnson. Category IIB. 125 minutes.

Opened June 16.

Artist David Hockney's best-known work is "A Bigger Splash"—an outwardly simple painting of a splash rising from a blue swimming pool. The spray of water explodes outwards, a thrill of energetic white that jars against the calm, hard surroundings. Luca Guadagnino's English-language debut "A Bigger Splash" captures that selfsame contrast: It's a layered, suspenseful drama in which the cast bursts against harsh waters; a splash of sun, sex and self-obsession.

Marianne Lane (Tilda Swinton) is a world-famous star—a Bowie-esque glam rocker who's recuperating at a remote Italian island villa after vocal chord surgery. She can't talk in anything more than a croak, and her days are occupied in a distinctly un-rockstar fashion: silent sunbathing or trips to the beach with her boyfriend Paul (Matthias Schoenaerts), a reserved documentary-maker. It's all very calm and lovely until they get a call out of the blue: Landing at the airport in just five minutes is Harry (Ralph Fiennes), an old, dissolute flame of Marianne's. He's a fantastically irritating hedonist, forever throwing himself at the next pretty woman or throwing off his clothes to skinny dip. He's also brought a hanger-on—his newly discovered daughter Penelope (Dakota Johnson), a Lolita-esque figure who's not quite the sultry temptress she'd like to think she is.

Paul is intensely annoyed by the interruption to Marianne's recuperation, but the fading singer herself can't help but feel nostalgic for her wilder past, as incarnated in Harry. And, needled by Harry's obvious interest in Marianne, Paul finds



himself drawn to Penelope.

"A Bigger Splash" is a loose remake of Jacques Deray's 1969 French film "La Piscine," and this film shares the original's simmering sensuality, submerged just under the surface. It's gorgeously shot, and amid the hard colors of this quiet Italian island, the harsh midday sun and intense close-ups give our actors nowhere to hide.

And it's the actors who really carry this piece. Swinton, who barely speaks at all, gives a wonderful performance as the rock star who, whilst tired of performing, can't help loving Harry's performative vulgarity. Ralph Fiennes lends this washed-up old roué an obscene charm, while Matthias Schoenaerts' Paul nails the boyfriend trying to handle his own jealousy, giving his role a powerful depth. Dakota Johnson doesn't shine quite as

brightly: At first she seems to be bringing an irritatingly try-hard sexuality to the role, and her star turn in "Fifty Shades of Grey" may push you toward that assumption. But actually, it's less a case of iffy acting than a deliberate choice in the writing.

Things really do get iffy when we look past the four principal characters: bumbling provincial policemen and half-hearted references to Europe's migrant crisis feel pat and narratively convenient, at best. In a film about rich people's problems, attempts to draw us back into reality just don't sit right.

Like the Hockney painting of the same name, "A Bigger Splash" is all about what happens when the waters are disturbed: a rush of violence, impermanence and beauty. **Adam White**

## Coming Soon

### The Secret Life of Pets

(USA) What happens to our favorite furballs when we leave the house every day? From hidden rivalries to conspiracies by stray animals to overtake humans and their beloved pets, the life of a domestic animal might be more dramatic than you think. Louis C.K., Ellie Kemper (SNL), and "Modern Family" actor Eric Stonestreet star in this new release from the company who brought us "Despicable Me." Opens Jun 30.

### The Legend of Tarzan ▾

(USA) In this live-action, non-Disney version of Tarzan, played by Alexander Skarsgård (TV's "True Blood"), returns back to the Congolese jungle with his wife Jane Porter (Margot Robbie, "The Wolf of Wall Street") after a life of aristocracy in London—but what lies there may be more sinister than he's expecting. Also starring Christoph Waltz, everyone's favorite villain. Opens Jun 30.

### The Handmaiden

(Korea) From director Park Chan-wook ("Oldboy," "Lady Vengeance") comes a sensual and lavishly composed tale of a con man in 1930s Korea hoping to seduce a reclusive heiress and steal her money and the pickpocket he hires to be her handmaiden who ends up falling in love with her. Opens Jun 30.

## Opening

### The Man Who Knew Infinity

(UK) Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons star in this biopic of Srinivasa Ramanujan, a mathematician who quickly rises from his poor Tamil Brahmin family in Madras to become one of the most brilliant innovators of formulas and theorems in pre-war Cambridge, with the help of an English professor (Iron). Stand-out performances and strong source material take this cookie-cutter biopic to the next level. ★★★



### Independence Day: Resurgence

(USA) The sequel to 1996's "Independence Day" brings former President Whitmore (Bill Pullman) and scientist David Levinson (Jeff Goldblum) back together, along with a new generation of unusually beautiful scientists and pilots to defeat an even greater threat of alien invasion. Hey, where's Will Smith, you ask? Well, he was too expensive, so they killed off his character. That's showbiz loyalty for you. Thanks for nothing, Will Smith. Opened Jun 23.



### Fifty Shades of Black

(USA) Not an official sequel to "Fifty Shades of Grey"—you'll have to wait until 2017 before Mr. Grey will see you again—but a spoof starring Marlon Wayans ("White Chicks"), Kali Hawk ("Bridesmaids") and Fred Willard ("Anchorman"). Unfunny and offensive is right: Fifty shades of fucked up that we wouldn't recommend to anyone. Opened Jun 23. ★★★★ (No Stars)



## Continuing

### Alice Through the Looking Glass

(USA) In this sequel to Tim Burton's 2010 hit "Alice in Wonderland," Johnny Depp, Mia Wasikowska, Anne Hathaway and Helena Bonham Carter fulfil their contractual agreements and Pink is finally allowed to perform an original song for a film.



### A Perfect Day

(Spain) Spanish director Fernando León de Aranoa's first English film centers on a group of aid workers (Benicio del Toro, Tim Robbins and Mélanie Thierry) who have to retrieve a corpse from a well at the end of the Yugoslav Wars. A darkly whimsical film with strong performances from Del Toro and Robbins, though it's marred by its 2D female characters. ★★★

### The Jungle Book

(USA) The beloved 1967 Disney cartoon gets a CG/live-action makeover and they've packed the screen with star A-listers. Bill Murray voices Baloo, the lovable bear; the Bengal tiger baddie, Shere Khan, is played by Idris Elba. This remake won't replace the original, but with stunning jungle landscapes and heartwarming characters, it comes close. ★★★

### Money Monster

(USA) Economic disparity is the theme of this Jodie Foster-directed suspense film. A financial TV presenter (George Clooney) is taken hostage by a blue-collar viewer (Jack O'Connell, "Unbroken") who lost all his money on a bad tip. Great intensity and acting by Clooney and Julia Roberts despite a somewhat implausible premise. ★★★



### A Bigger Splash

(Italy/France) See review, above.

### The Conjuring 2

(USA) Paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren travel to north London to investigate the 1977 Enfield Poltergeist. Brace yourself for Madison Wolfe's all-too-real performance of a possessed girl, the inevitable jump scares, and a confusing mix of supernatural creatures. ★★★

### New York New York

(China) Set in Shanghai in the early 90s, "New York New York" follows two young lovers, one whose greatest ambition is to go to New York at any cost (Du Juan) and the other who just wants to protect her (Ethan Juan). This debut by director Dong Luo is a richly aestheticized Shanghai love story in the tradition of Wong Kar-wai's ill-fated romances.



**Edited by Evelyn Lok**  
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#### The Nice Guys

(USA) Writer and director Shane Black ("Kiss Kiss Bang Bang") is back with another winding tale of mystery in the neo-noir shadows of gritty porn-addicted, disco-driven 1977 Los Angeles. Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe play a mismatched pair of misfit PIs looking to uncover the truth behind the death of an adult film star and the disappearance of a young girl.



#### Now You See Me 2

(USA) Following up 2013's "Now You See Me," a band of professional magicians/bank robbers is goaded into their biggest heist yet by tech genius Walter Mabry (Daniel Radcliffe). Magic buffs will be dazzled by the tricks, but the rest of us will be more intrigued by the Macanese backdrop, plus a not so small cameo by pop star Jay Chou. ★★★★

#### Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows

(USA) The Ninja Turtles are back, and this time they've got their work cut out for them: First they've got to defeat mutant nemeses Bebop and Rocksteady, and then join April O'Neil (Megan Fox) and Vern Fenwick (Will Arnett) to defeat an alien invasion led by supervillain Krang (Fred Armisen).



#### Triple 9

(USA) In this action-packed thriller, dirty cops work with the Russian mob (headed up by Kate Winslet!) for a heist that involves setting up the death of a rookie cop (Casey Affleck) in order to pull attention away from their dirty dealings. But when the rookie's uncle (Woody Harrelson) gets involved, their plan hits a snag. A riveting summer flick with strong performances by Winslet and Chiwetel Ejiofor. ★★★★



#### Warcraft: The Beginning

(USA) From lowly computer game to one of the biggest franchises on the planet, Warcraft has brought the high-fantasy world of Azeroth to the big screen. And lucky for you, gamers, you'll just need to shell out for the price of the ticket instead digging yourself further into debt with virtual armor, Cenarion hatchlings, Hoods of Hungering Darkness...



See John Scarlett-Davis' "Chat Rap" in "This is Now"

## Film Festival

#### M+ Screenings: This is Now

In collaboration with the British Film Institute National Archive, the M+ museum for visual culture at the West Kowloon Cultural District is screening a rarely seen program of 20 professionally restored Super 8 and 16mm films shot by British artists during the post-punk era, spread over six thematic programs which include "Home Taping," "Performing the Self," "Video Killed the Radio Star" and others. Through this traditionally lo-fi, DIY-inspired medium, art unfolds in vibrant kodachrome, set to the equally inventive sounds of Echo and the Bunnymen, The Human League and Adam Ant. Jul 8-10. Broadway Cinematheque, Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square St., Yau Ma Tei. \$65-85 from cinema.com.hk.

## Special Screening

#### Bizet's "Les Pêcheurs de Perles" with French Buffet at the Béthanie

A night of French opera gets even more exciting with the addition of a French buffet menu: Guests of Le French May's special screening of Bizet's "Les Pêcheurs de Perles" ("The Pearl Fishers") as performed by the Met, will be delighted come intermission, when they get a full French feast of smoked salmon, coq au vin, and brandied cherry clafoutis. The opera, composed when Bizet was only in his early 20s, centers around a forbidden love affair in a village in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), between a virgin priestess and a fisherman. Held at the historic neogothic Béthanie building, dinner and a show doesn't get much more dramatic than this. Jun 25, 6pm. The Béthanie, 139 Pok Fu Lam Rd., Pok Fu Lam, themetinhongkong.info. Ticket only \$210, and buffet \$525, reserve at program@fama.org.hk.

## HOT PICKS

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## Don't Let Daddy Know 2016 Macau

DJ Revolution brings you the craziest party "Don't Let Daddy Know" to Macau, the Las Vegas of Asia, for the first time on July 1st at Studio City. #DLDK is one of the biggest electronic dance music brands in the world. Huge venues, mind-blowing visuals and special effects, also an eye popping line-up. DLDK 2016 Line-up: Steve Angello, Showtek, Moti, Borgeous, Dannic, Sem Vox and Carta  
DLDK Official website: [www.dldk.com](http://www.dldk.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/DJRevolutionHK/>  
July 1st, 8pm Studio City Event Center  
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## New exhibition on Roman Navy and Pompeii

The "Mare Nostrum - Roman Navy and Pompeii" exhibition at the HK Museum of History, the 1st stop of a world tour, showcases around 110 sets of Italian exhibits including jewellery, silverware, statues, marble reliefs, and body casts of Pompeii victims. The multimedia programmes and 3D animation further help outline the Roman maritime navigation and the Mount Vesuvius eruption that destroyed Pompeii.

Hong Kong Museum of History, Tsim Sha Tsui, 2724-9042

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# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY

**CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22):** My meditations have generated six metaphorical scenarios that will symbolize the contours of your life story during the next 15 months: 1. a claustrophobic tunnel that leads to a sparkling spa; 2. a 19th-century Victorian vase filled with 13 fresh wild orchids; 3. an immigrant who, after tenacious effort, receives a green card from her new home country; 4. an eleven-year-old child capably playing a 315-year-old Stradivarius violin; 5. a menopausal empty-nester who falls in love with the work of an ecstatic poet; 6. a humble seeker who works hard to get the help necessary to defeat an old curse.

**LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22):** Joan Wasser is a Leo singer-songwriter who is known by her stage name Joan As Police Woman. In her song "The Magic," she repeats one of the lyric lines fourteen times: "I'm looking for the magic." For two reasons, I propose that we make that your mantra in the coming weeks. First, practical business-as-usual will not provide the uncanny transformative power you need. Nor will rational analysis or habitual formulas. You will have to conjure, dig up, or track down some real magic. My second reason for suggesting "I'm looking for the magic" as your mantra is this: You're not yet ripe enough to secure the magic, but you can become ripe enough by being dogged in your pursuit of it.

**VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22):** Renowned martial artist Bruce Lee described the opponent he was most wary of: "I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once, but I fear the man who has practiced one kick 10,000 times." In my astrological opinion, you should regard that as one of your keystone principles during the next 12 months. Your power and glory will come from honing one specific skill, not experimenting restlessly with many different skills. And the coming weeks will be an excellent time to set your intention.

**LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22):** To celebrate my birthday, I'm taking time off from dreaming up original thoughts and creative spurs. For this horoscope, I'm borrowing some of the BOLD Laws of author Dianna Kokoszka. They are in sweet alignment with your astrological omens for the next 13 months. Take it away, Dianna. 1. Focus on the solution, not the problem. 2. Complaining is a garbage magnet. 3. What you focus on expands. 4. Do what you have always done, and you will get what you have always gotten. 5. Don't compare your insides to other people's outsides. 6. Success is simple, but not easy. 7. Don't listen to your drunk monkey. 8. Clarity is power. 9. Don't mistake movement for achievement. 10. Spontaneity is a conditioned reflex. 11. People will grow into the conversations you create around them. 12. How you participate here is how you participate everywhere. 13. Live your life by design, not by default.

**SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21):** No pressure, no diamond. No grit, no pearl. No cocoon, no butterfly. All these clichés will be featured themes for you during the next 12 months. But I hope you will also come up with fresher

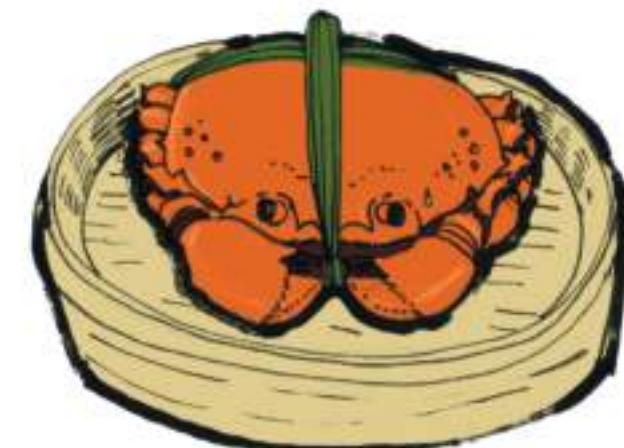
ways to think about the power and value that can be generated by tough assignments. If you face your exotic dilemmas and unprecedented riddles armed with nothing more than your culture's platitudes, you won't be able to tap into the untamed creativity necessary to turn problems into opportunities. Here's an example of the kind of original thinking you'll thrive on: The more the growing chamomile plant is trodden upon, the faster it grows.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21):** The royal courts of Renaissance England often employed professional fools whose job it was to speak raw or controversial truths with comedic effect. According to the Royal Shakespeare Company, Queen Elizabeth once castigated her fool for being "insufficiently severe with her." The modern-day ombudsman has some similarities to the fool's function. He or she is hired by an organization to investigate complaints lodged by the public against the organization. Now would be an excellent time for you to have a fool or ombudsman in your own sphere, Sagittarius. You've got a lot of good inklings, but some of them need to be edited, critiqued, or perhaps even satirized.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19):** Capricorn journalist Katie Couric is a best-selling author who has interviewed five American presidents and had prominent jobs at three major TV networks. What's her secret to success? She has testified that her goal is to be as ingratiating and charming as she can be without causing herself to throw up. I don't often recommend this strategy for you, but I do now. The coming weeks will be prime time for you to expand your web of connections and energize your relationships with existing allies by being almost too nice. To get what you want, use politeness as your secret weapon.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 19):** "The water cannot talk without the rocks," says aphorist James Richardson. Does that sound like a metaphor you'd like to celebrate in the coming weeks? I hope so. From what I can tell, you will be like a clean, clear stream rippling over a rocky patch of river bed. The not-really-all-that-bad news is that your flow may feel erratic and jerky. The really good news is that you will be inspired to speak freely, articulately, and with creative zing.

**PISCES (Feb 18-Mar 20):** Every now and then you may benefit from being a bit juvenile, even



childlike. You can release your dormant creativity by losing your adult composure and indulging in free-form play. In my astrological opinion, this is one of those phases for you. It's high time to lose your cool in the best possible ways. You have a duty to explore the frontiers of spontaneity and indulge in I-don't-give-a-cluck exuberance. For the sake of your peace-of-soul and your physical health, you need to wriggle free of at least some of your grown-up responsibilities so you can romp and cavort and frolic.

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19):** "The past lives on in art and memory," writes author Margaret Drabble, "but it is not static: it shifts and changes as the present throws its shadow backwards." That's a fertile thought for you to meditate on during the coming weeks, Aries. Why? Because your history will be in a state of dramatic fermentation. The old days and the old ways will be mutating every which way. I hope you will be motivated, as a result, to rework the story of your life with flair and verve.

**TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20):** "Critics of text-messaging are wrong to think it's a regressive form of communication," writes poet Lily Akerman. "It demands so much concision, subtlety, psychological art—in fact, it's more like pulling puppet strings than writing." I bring this thought to your attention, Taurus, because in my opinion the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to apply the metaphor of text-messaging to pretty much everything you do. You will create interesting ripples of success as you practice the crafts of concision, subtlety, and psychological art.

**GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20):** During my careers as a writer and musician, many "experts" have advised me not to be so damn faithful to my muse. Having artistic integrity is a foolish indulgence that would ensure my eternal poverty, they have warned. If I want to be successful, I've got to sell out; I must water down my unique message and pay homage to the generic formulas favored by celebrity artists. Luckily for me, I have ignored the experts. As a result, my soul has thrived and I eventually earned enough money from my art to avoid starvation. But does my path apply to you? Maybe; maybe not. What if, in your case, it would be better to sell out a little and be, say, just 75 percent faithful to your muse? The next 12 months will be an excellent time for you to figure this out once and for all.

**HOMEWORK:** What experience do you deny yourself even though it would be good for you and wouldn't hurt anyone? Write a note giving yourself permission. Share at [Truthrooster@gmail.com](mailto:Truthrooster@gmail.com).

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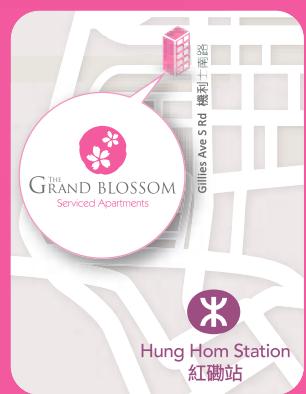


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## SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

There is a guy at my work who is into puppy play. I know this because I have some friends in the gay puppy community. I don't give two shits what anyone I work with does to get off. All well and good, except... he wants us to call him Spike, his puppy name. Isn't this a case of him involving everyone at work in his sex life, whether we want to be involved or not?

- Disturbed Over Gratuitous Gratifications Of Naming Experience

"It's important to note, firstly, that pup play isn't a sexual activity so much as it is a head space," said Amp, a puppy, a gamer, a porn performer, and the cohost of Watts the Safeword, a kink-friendly sex-education YouTube channel. "For DOGGONE's coworker, pup play may be a comfort thing, or a social thing, or even a way for him to redefine who he is as a person so that he can take control."

Amp, who is 26 and lives in Seattle, got into pup play about five years ago.

"A daddy and his pup joined a group of friends on a gay camping trip," said Amp. "Their bond just seemed to glow, and their relationship stuck with me as something I wanted in my life. For me, yes, pup play can get sexual with my Daddy, but Amp is just who I am when I'm out and about."

Like your coworker, DOGGONE, Amp goes by his puppy name socially and professionally. So I put this question to him: Does he get a secret thrill and/or a visible boner when a coworker, barista, casual friend, or rando calls him by his pup name?

"God no!" said Amp. "If someone calls me 'pup' in a really sexual way or an aggressive way, maybe, but not when someone is simply using your name. A pup name is essentially a nickname, and people use nicknames socially and professionally. So long as the kinkier aspects of pup play—tail wagging, barking, ball chasing—are kept out of the workplace, DOGGONE's coworker using his puppy name at work doesn't involve the office in his sex life."

A quick thought experiment, DOGGONE: Let's say a female coworker married a man—a really hot man—and later confided in you that she married him because the sex was great. And let's say she took her new husband's last name. Would using her new last name "involve" you in her sex life? Being married partly defines who she is, it led her to take a new name, and sex is an important part of her marriage. But her new name isn't just about sex—it's about identity, intimacy, connection, and sex.

Pup play isn't as serious a business as marriage, of course, but you should be able to extend the same courtesy to Spike that you wouldn't hesitate to extend to your hypothetical straight female coworker—that is, use the names you've been asked to use without obsessing over their respective sex lives.

"DOGGONE should always respect how someone identifies and asks to be named," said Amp, "and regard the sexual or kink aspects of someone's name choice as a separate detail."

You can—and should—follow Amp on Twitter @Pup\_Amp.

I recently synced my phone contacts to my Twitter account. When I was scrolling through the list of people who turned up from my contacts, I saw a username that looked out of place. It was the account of a low-key traditional-guy friend of mine. To my surprise, on the account he was dressed as a woman in a few of the pictures and was with another Twitter user who is a popular dominatrix in the area where he lives. I'm sex-positive and support people who are gender nonconforming, of course. I also work for a porn company, so I don't judge anyone who participates in BDSM.

My concern is that I don't know if this person is aware that his account can be found via a regular old social media and phone sync. I don't want him to get outed for being a fetishist or possibly being gender questioning or transgender if he does not want to be out. Should I give him a heads up? Should I keep my mouth shut? I want to be respectful.

- Knowing Isn't Necessarily Knowledge, Yes?

Send that traditional guy a note, KINKY, but "bury the lead," as they say in the news biz. Instead of opening with those particular photos being easily accessible to all, open with the relevant facts about yourself: "You know I work in porn, and I'm not fazed by BDSM or sex work or any sort of gender-related sex play, and I'm a big supporter of gender-nonconforming people as well as the trans community." Then let him know what you found, how you stumbled across it, and how to adjust his privacy settings.

**My name is Peter and I'm a longtime fan. I've also been very involved with the Human Rights Campaign and their work in getting the Equality Act passed. I'm 21 and only recently out of the closet. I opened up about my sexuality after the passage of marriage equality last June and have since been a proud gay man. It seemed that since marriage equality, our community was only going up. Even the passage of HB2 [restricting which bathroom transgender people can use] didn't make me cynical about the future. But this recent shooting has changed my world completely. Fighting for equality in housing, education, and employment seems like a joke after this massive act of violence in Orlando. I'm looking to someone in the community for guidance.**

- Peter

They don't win—the haters don't win—when they chase us, beat us, or kill us. They win when we stop fighting.

Please don't stop fighting.

And please don't despair. Hundreds of thousands of us died in the 1980s and '90s when hate, fear, greed, racism, and negligence intersected with a deadly virus. A lot of us felt then the way you do now—that it was over, that it was hopeless, that the coming out and the organizing and the fighting had been for nothing, and that everything we had won up to that point was meaningless. And then we got up off our butts and we showed them—we showed those motherfuckers—that the fight in us was greater than the hate in them. We showed them that we were stronger and smarter than they were, we showed that fucking virus that we were stronger and smarter than it was, and we made it clear to them that we were not going to shut up and die quietly or go back into the closet and die alone.

And we had only each other for a while there—for a long while. For years we fought alone.

Look at who is on our side today—all good and decent people everywhere. The president of the United States and the next president of the United States. Look at the rallies, look at the vigils, look at the outpouring of love, sympathy, and support. Don't look at the killer. Don't look at the haters. Don't look at the vile comments left by shit people on Twitter and Facebook. Look at the good. Look at the love. Look at the good and loving people inside and outside the LGBT community and take strength from their love and support.

Then get out there and fight.

On the Lovecast, all hail superhero drag queen Panti Bliss: [savagecast.com](http://savagecast.com).

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



# SPOTLIGHT

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## Pacha Macau's Summer Love Pool Party Returns

Pacha Macau's awesome Summer Love Pool Party is back! Missed the last iteration with international party animal Paris Hilton? Fear not: The series continues with more phenomenal acts.

Back on July 2, Pacha Macau and Studio City are turning up the heat with one of the hottest DJs in the world—R3hab from the Netherlands—to deliver a concoction of electrifying beats in the tropical-themed pool paradise.

Beat the heat and get your body movin' with music by R3hab, who has collaborated with artists like Calvin Harris, John Legend and Queen Bey herself. He's built a successful career with original material and remixes including over 100 million Soundcloud streams, 26 million Spotify streams and six No.1 singles in 2014, so rest assured you'll be getting some great beats.

Join the party and celebrate the summer madness with

your fellow beautiful people, and make a splash in the hotel's famous diamond-shaped pool to cool down and show off those underwater dance moves. Just a one-hour ferry ride away, you can party cabana style in the lush tropical shade, without even setting foot on a plane.

Still not enough partying for you? After the pool party there's the after-party: Dry yourself off and head down to the superclub that is Pacha Macau for some more dancing and action after 10pm. Expect fun and beats all night long, as the party vibe continues and only gets crazier as the night goes on.

You don't want to miss the party of the summer: Free standing tickets are priced at \$450, or add an extra \$100 for the pool party plus Pacha after-party package. Table packages and cabana packages are also available.

[studiodcity-macau.com](http://studiodcity-macau.com)



## Spasso's Summer in the City

With the rain and the heat, Hong Kong's summer can be tough to get through. But when the weather is good, an alfresco meal by the iconic Victoria Harbour is an experience to die for. Inspired by the city's spectacular skyline, Spasso in Tsim Sha Tsui East's waterfront is presenting a fresh new Summer Discovery menu for you to rediscover the city's beauty.

Designed by the restaurant's veteran chef Marco Bajma, the new five-course special menu, available through August, features some of his all-time favorite dishes. Priced at \$550 per head for a minimum of two people, the menu includes a variety of seafood including codfish laid on broccoli, cherry tomato, Taggiasca olives, capers and basil sauce, as well as the signature tian of avocado, mango, tomato and crab salad for something light and delightful.

Partnering with premium Champagne brand Chandon, Spasso will be serving Chandon ice lollies to keep diners cool while chillaxing in the summer lovin' vibe soaking up the sun on the outdoor terrace. If you feel like more bubbly, the summer sip of choice is Chandon Brut Summer limited edition (\$88 per glass, \$498 per bottle).

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Paul Gerrard Hair & Beauty  
Peel Fresco Music Lounge/ Caravan Serai  
Pier 7  
Pizza Express  
Propaganda  
Red  
Red Rock/Annexx  
Rockabilly  
Roundhouse Taproom

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

Zentro - 66 Stanley Street  
Zentro - IFC  
  
**SOHO**  
Bizou  
Café' d'I  
Club 1911  
Culture ClubDaddys  
Enoteca Soho  
Flaming Frango  
Flutes  
Flying Pan  
Gourmet Burger Union  
Gweilo Bar and Grill  
Hair Craft  
Jaspas  
Libertine  
Life Café  
Mimi2Go  
Mostaccioli Brothers  
PMQ  
Portobello's  
Taco Loco  
The Herbivores  
The Pierre  
The Tavern  
Toni & Guy  
Wagyu Lounge  
Watson's Wine  
Yorkshire Pudding Soho 8

## SHEUNG WAN/ KENNEDY TOWN

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

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

## MID-LEVELS

Blessing Garden Phase I  
Chicken on the Run  
Coffee Book  
Dymocks - Bonham Rd.  
Il Bel Paese  
Ladies' Recreation Club  
Lime @ Soho 38  
Lof10  
Mier Serviced Apartments  
Peak Café Bar  
Seymour  
The Phoenix  
YWCA English Speaking Members Department

## PEAK

Bubba Gump  
Cafe Deco  
Starbucks  
The Peak Lookout Restaurant

## ADMIRALTY

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

## WANCHAI

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

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

## CAUSEWAY BAY

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

## HAPPY VALLEY

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

## QUARRY BAY/ TAIKOOSHING

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

## NORTH POINT/ FORTRESS HILL

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

## SAI WAN HO

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

## POK FU LAM

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

## AP LEI CHAU/ ABERDEEN

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

## REPULSE BAY/ TAI TAM/ STANLEY

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

## TSIM SHA TSUI

Agnes b Café Harbour City  
Agnes' B Café SG  
Assembly

Barista Caffe  
Bistro on the Mile  
Bombay Dreams  
Bricklane - 2 Blenheim Avenue  
Bricklane - 17-23 Minden Avenue  
Brotzeit  
Burger Republic  
Carpaccio Pasta Pizza Vino  
Castros Bar  
CitySuper  
Crema  
Cucina - The Marco Polo HK Hotel  
Delaney's  
Eastside Tavern  
Eaton Hotel  
El Cid  
Fatt's Place  
Finds  
Grand Central Bar and Grill

## JORDAN/YAU MA TEI/MONG KOK

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

## SHATIN

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

## SAI KUNG

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

## OTHER NEW TERRITORIES

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

## LANTAU

Berliner German Bar & Restaurant  
Café Duvet  
Dymocks  
Marriott Skycity  
Park N Shop - Discovery Bay  
Regal Airport Hotel Zentro Garden  
Starbucks - Airport T2  
Starbucks - Airport T1  
Starbucks - Citygate  
Zentro Garden

## GATEWAY/ HARBOUR CITY

Gateway Apartments  
Gaylord Indian Restaurant  
Greyhound Café  
Harbourside Restaurant  
Hotel Icon  
Jimmy's Kitchen  
Joa Ristorante

K11 Art Mall  
Kowloon Cricket Club  
Kowloon Shangri-la Hotel & Deli Kool

La Villa Restaurant & Bar  
Langham Hotel Main Street Deli  
Lobby Cafe - Sheraton Hotel  
Mega Hospitality Intl  
Morgan Stanley

Narmo  
Ned Kelly's Last Stand  
Nomads

Outback Steakhouse - TST Centre  
Pacific Club  
Page One  
Papi

Pierside Bar, The Royal Pacific Hotel and Towers  
Pizza Express - 35 Ashley Rd.  
RA Restaurant & Lounge  
Regal Kowloon Hotel  
Ritz Carlton - Concierge  
Ruth's Chris

Starbucks - 102 Austin Rd.  
Starbucks - Albion Plaza  
Starbucks - China HK City  
Starbucks - Elements  
Starbucks - Empire Centre  
Starbucks - Gateway Arcade  
Starbucks - Harbour Crystal Ctr.  
Starbucks - I Square  
Starbucks - K11

Starbucks - Knutsford  
Starbucks - Mirror Tower  
Starbucks - Ocean Terminal  
Starbucks - STAR HOUSE B/F  
Starbucks - The Sun Arcade  
Stormies

Swindon Books  
Tequila Jack's  
The Doghouse  
The Grand  
The Swiss Chalet  
Tiffany's New York Bar  
Triple O  
W Hotel  
Weinstube  
Wired Café  
Wooloo Mooloo

## KOWLOON TONG

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

## HUNG HOM

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

## KOWLOON BAY/ KWUN TONG/ KOWLOON CITY

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

# HK GIVEAWAYS

It's almost the end of June and we have a winner for a lovely staycation at the Madera Hollywood! Not a winner this month? Keep reading because we've got a new batch of fabulous prizes coming up next month. Stay tuned!

WE HAVE  
A WINNER!



Congratulations to the winner of a two-night staycation at Madera Hollywood, valued at \$14,080!

Prashant Galani, you're the lucky winner of a two-night stay for two in a Grand Deluxe Suite at the Madera Hollywood!

Prashant picked up the magazine each week to find the words "eclectic," "escape" and "lush," before putting them together into a description of what a stay at the property would mean. Here's the entry:

*Hollywood experience on Hollywood Road,  
Quick escape from my office workload.  
Where lush colors and beauty is bestowed,  
Stay in those eclectic suites and switch to  
luxurious mode.*

Congratulations, Prashant, and enjoy your SoHo holiday!



## Not a winner? Check back for more prizes up for grabs next week!

Sorry you didn't win this lovely SoHo staycation, but we've got a whole lot more prizes coming up soon!

Check back next week for our July giveaways, in which we've got an amazing **two-night staycation** at the gorgeous **JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong** (valued at \$10,390), plus a bunch of other prizes up for grabs!

Pick up a copy of the magazine on **July 1** for another phenomenal instalment of **HK Giveaways**!

COMING UP  
NEXT MONTH...



# FIRST PERSON

**Joanne Leung Wing-yan** became the city's very first transgender politician when she ran in April's Democratic Party primary election for Legco. While she didn't receive the nomination, the founder of the Transgender Resource Center still actively fights for LGBT rights in the city. She tells Xavier Ng about her struggles with gender identity, her political career, and why she doesn't hate homophobes.

Photo by Kirk Kenny

**When I was** 6 years old, I realized that I didn't want to be a boy: I wanted to be a girl.

**People would make fun** of me. At that time, our society told me it was not acceptable, and my family would tell me that I looked too feminine.

**So I'd actively** adjust myself, trying to be "normal." I thought I was abnormal, I was a monster.

**I realized I'm** into women—so I thought "I like women, that means I should be a normal man."

**I had suicidal thoughts** back then. The strategy I used was to suppress [my transgender identity] and not think about the issue. But whenever I was alone, the thoughts would just crawl right back in and the struggle would continue.

**It was only** when I was in my 40s that I finally faced up to this issue. Before that, I had spent so many years blaming myself and forcing myself to change.

**I really couldn't** handle the suppression and I started seeking help: counseling, calling hotlines, speaking to psychologists and psychiatrists. I also started coming out to the friends around me.

**At the time**, surgery was my only option. There wasn't much help for our community.

**I couldn't find** another way out and if I hadn't gone through with the surgery, I'd have probably killed myself.

**I thought**, "I'm going to die anyway, why not give [surgery] a try and see if that can help?"

**I'm a devoted Christian** and I used to think that I shouldn't be [transgender], that it was against His will.

**The Bible** is a narration of the truth, or "the word of God." Christianity is a community that interprets the Bible to develop certain points of view.

**Its language**, through many layers of translation and interpretation, is often different for each of us. I couldn't see that there was anything against homosexuality or transgenderism.

**Everyone** has their own interpretation, so why does one person's interpretation prevail? Only God has the truth.

**Some would say** changing gender is against God's creation. But as humans, we've always altered ourselves. From getting a haircut and wearing glasses, to living in a house and cooking your food, you're already doing something unnatural.

**After the surgery** in 2009, I had to readjust my life, including my voice. After all, we still live in a world where interpersonal communication is necessary.

**Maybe one day**, when there are many trans people living in society, it will all be normal. But that day has yet to come.

**But actually**, I think me being a transexual woman has allowed me to achieve a lot of things.

**There are** a lot of inconveniences, but once I've overcome them, I can inspire others with my story: not just fellow transgenders, but also other people.

**I want to** liberate everyone from "black-or-white" concepts of gender, and discover other possibilities.

**Five or 10 years ago**, people didn't even know what being transgender was, or that there was gender reassignment surgery available in Hong Kong.

**Now, people are** more accepting of trans people and they understand their situation.

**I'm not young**: I'm 53 years old already. I don't know what will happen in four years [the next Legco election], but I still want to continue in politics.

**Sometimes I think**: Why bother? I could just live my life. But the reason I work in activism and politics is to help more people to live happier lives.

**I was invited** to join the Democratic Party by [chairperson] Emily Lau.

**Many asked why** I chose to join the Democratic Party, instead of other parties like the Labour Party or the Civic Party. I did it because the other two parties are far more accepting towards the LGBT community.

**I see things** very differently. The Democratic Party's unclear stance affects the LGBT movement. So why not join the party and change it?

**I joined** the Legco primary on a hunch. I might not have planned things too well, but when opportunities arise, I just go for it. Now when I think back, I'm actually quite relieved I wasn't nominated.

**There are so** many issues in our society. If I were to be elected, LGBT issues would not be the most important issue to me.

**I know** it might tick off some people, but I think for us better-off LGBT members, we need to help minorities in society more, instead of fixating on LGBT issues.

**I am quite** different from most people in the LGBT circle: I don't really hate people who are homophobic. I think it's quite tiring to hate someone. I pity them, though.

**LGBT people exist** in society and they cannot be eliminated. Even if you kill them all, they will still be there.

**It's not like** two gay people give birth to another gay person. There's naturally a spectrum of sexual orientation and gender identity in humans.

**There is so** much hate in society and it will continue to spread. But I don't think hatred is the solution to anything.

**They [anti-LGBT groups]** are afraid, so they want to protect themselves.

**We won't harm anyone**. I want to communicate with them. It takes time.

## NEED TO KNOW...

Joanne is a member of the Democratic Party's Gender Equality Committee. The Transgender Resource Center is the only NGO in Hong Kong dedicated to serving the transgender community. Find out more at [tgr.org.hk](http://tgr.org.hk)

"I want to liberate everyone from 'black-or-white' concepts of gender."



Photo: Kirk Kenny / studiozag.com

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