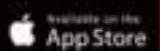


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2016:
WHAT'S ON
THE CARDS?



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COVER STORY
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10

16
TECH HEAD
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17
TRAVEL
Ski free (or at least on a budget) this winter



18
DISH
It's hotpot season: so get dunkin'



22
UPCLOSE
Nowhere Boys are getting somewhere these days



37
GIVEAWAYS
Win a suite stay at the Mandarin and other fab prizes



38
FIRST PERSON
Talking ABCs with Hollywood actor Byron Mann



News Quiz

It's been a week of pretty crappy news, and that means it's time for another of HK Magazine's patented News Quizzes. Can you identify the correct answer from this digest of the week's top stories?

1) An HKU poll has revealed that Chief Executive CY Leung's popularity ratings have hit an all-time low. This is likely due to...

- a) CY's lackluster handling of the missing bookseller saga.
- b) HKU finally getting their numbers right.
- c) Arthur Li being correct: HKU is a hotbed of anti-government radicalism and thus should be quashed at the first opportunity.
- d) The unknowable, serendipitous beauty of numbers.

2) Lecgo president Jasper Tsang has urged Beijing to assure the city that "One Country, Two Systems" still stands. This is because...

- a) So far China has done little to set minds at rest about the apparent abduction of Hong Kong citizens from inside the city.
- b) He's worried that we're just an Administrative Region suffering under the jackboot, not a Special Administrative Region suffering under the jackboot as we are entitled to be.
- c) Jasper's suddenly realized that if "One Country, Two Systems" collapses, then he's out of a job.
- d) He had a whole bunch of Xi Jinping erotic fiction on order and can't pick up his shipment until Lee gets back.

3) Online streaming service Netflix has launched in Hong Kong. Critics contend that...

- a) There's not enough content compared to the U.S. version.
- b) "Netflix and Chill" is a euphemism for sex, but it's also a waste of \$63 per month that should be spent actually watching quality television.
- c) The euphemism "Netflix and Chill" is too hard for Cantonese audiences to understand, and so should be changed to "come to my house and engage in sexual intercourse."
- d) Anything's better than yet another 1990s China travel show on ATV.

4) Jessie, Ocean Park's oldest dolphin, has died due to...

- a) Natural causes. Jessie lived well past the maximum life expectancy of dolphins in the wild.
- b) Living a life of regular meals and minimal exercise. Like in prison.
- c) Watching "Blackfish" and spiraling into lethargy, self-hate and ultimately losing the will to go on living.
- d) An attempt to paint Jessie pink to increase her perceived market value.

5) A domestic helper was taken to China and "leased" to another employer for 10 days. At the border checkpoint the helper handed a note pleading for assistance to the official, who...

- a) Ignored the note and returned her passport.
- b) Was daydreaming about his top 10 sexy border encounters.
- c) Was illiterate, explaining why border guards squint at your passport for so damn long.
- d) Refused to help because it was actually his house she'd been cleaning.

6) Chinese president Xi Jinping has promised to revamp the country's anti-corruption campaign, which has claimed the heads of several high-ranking party officials. Xi intends to...

- a) Make it easier to hunt down suspects who have fled overseas.
- b) Make it easier to hunt down booksellers who live in Hong Kong.
- c) Make it easier to squirrel cash away in Cayman Islands bank accounts, as long as you're the RIGHT kind of corrupt official.
- d) Just slip 500 RMB into everyone's pocket and hope that all this inconvenient "corruption" will go away.

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HOME



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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

The recent death of David Bowie has me wondering about rock legends who visited Hong Kong. Who else came? – Star Man

David Bowie was here a couple of times, and his sadly premature death has me thinking of his time in the city with another artist who left the world too young: John Lennon.

Bowie and Lennon hung out in Hong Kong in June 1977. The former Beatle was in town with his son Sean, showing him the sights on the way to Japan. Lennon was staying at the Mandarin: Bowie was in town with Iggy Pop and they bumped into each other.

But put three of history's greatest rockers together and they're not staying gently decorous for long. Soon they went drinking, successfully. There were even kicked out of a topless bar, with Lennon shouting "I'm a BEATLE!". Lennon drank snake blood and forced Bowie to eat a thousand-year-old egg, which he later claimed was the worst thing he'd ever put in his mouth. If you've David Bowie, that's quite the pronouncement.

There's a story Bowie once told about that time in Hong Kong with Lennon. The two are out on the street and a child comes running up to them, asking, "Are you John Lennon?"

Lennon quips, "No, but I wish I had his money."

The child slinks away, disappointed. Bowie thinks it's brilliant, tells Lennon he's going to steal the line.

A few months later he's in New York and he hears a voice: "Are you David Bowie?" Here's his chance—

"No," says Bowie, "but I wish I had his money."

"You lying bastard," says Lennon. "You wish you had my money."

Bowie was back in Hong Kong in 1983, to play the last two nights of his 96-show, 16-country "Serious Moonlight" tour. The final performance fell on December 8, three years to the day after John Lennon was shot and killed outside his apartment in New York. At the end of his set the lights came down, and with a single spotlight on him Bowie talked about his friend the Beatle. He explained how he'd once asked Lennon what he thought of Bowie's kind of music.

"It's great," said Lennon, "But it's just rock and roll with lipstick on."

Bowie told the audience that the last time he was with Lennon was at a street market in Hong Kong. They'd bought a too-small Beatles jacket and taken a photo with John wearing it. Then Bowie launched into a simple, husky cover of "Imagine." It was a little rough—it hadn't been rehearsed more than a couple of times—but he sang it like he meant it. Hong Kong saw the last encounter between Lennon and Bowie. He made it worth the remembrance.



My Perfect
HK

This week in My Perfect HK:
On Monday the Queen Elizabeth Stadium hosted the "1st-Guy-Ten-Big-Ging-Cook-Gum-Cook-Awards-Distribution." It was the first awards ceremony ever held by satirical website TV Most, and as you'd expect the performances were extremely silly.

Across Hong Kong, young people gathered to watch the show. And not just at home, either: On Sai Ying Pun's pedestrianized Centre Street, a group of 40 gathered with a projector and speakers to watch together, laughing into the night. Who says community's dead in Hong Kong?

Letters

"This article is such a waste of time, I feel like I'm reading a teenager's diary."

Forced Awakening

We met "Star Wars" superfan Traymond Lui, who built his own lightsaber but still finds time for his girlfriend ("Street Talk," January 8, issue 1128). Readers turned to the Dark Side...

This article is such a waste of time, I feel like I'm reading a teenager's diary. Guy makes his own lightsabers, big fucking deal... Where's the insight to this article?

Jordan Chen

Loving lightsabers does not mean he is the biggest Star Wars fan. This is utterly DIFFERENT.

Al Tseng

This guy has a girlfriend?

Mischa Moselle

Speaking in Tongues

Comments from our interview with TVB actor Brian Thomas Burrell ("First Person," January 8, issue 1128), who is fluent in Cantonese and was a Mormon missionary before turning to acting.

I envy him how he kept up with Chinese linguistics. Time for me to go back to polish my Chinese reading and writing.

Jacks Hugs

Puts my Chinese to shame...

Vicky Lam

Got to hand it to the Mormons when it comes to learning languages. They're up there with the Jesuits.

Robert S C Kemp

And they have 5 wives. His first wife probably didn't like that, LOL.

Agni Kirkwood

I think you will find that is a fundamentalist group claiming to be Mormons my friend.. don't believe all those reality shows, the same group which actually got sued by the LDS church.. #education

Stacey Michelle Smiler

Polygamy was taught by leaders of the LDS Church through the 19th century. The church defended the practice as a matter of religious freedom, while the federal government aggressively sought to eradicate it. In 1890 Mormons officially terminated the practice after much pressure from the government (and supposedly some divine message no doubt). Today many fundamentalist Mormons still practice polygamy outside of the US. #factsnotfiction #boom

James Collins

I love this guy.

Dave Tsui

#PrivateEyeHK

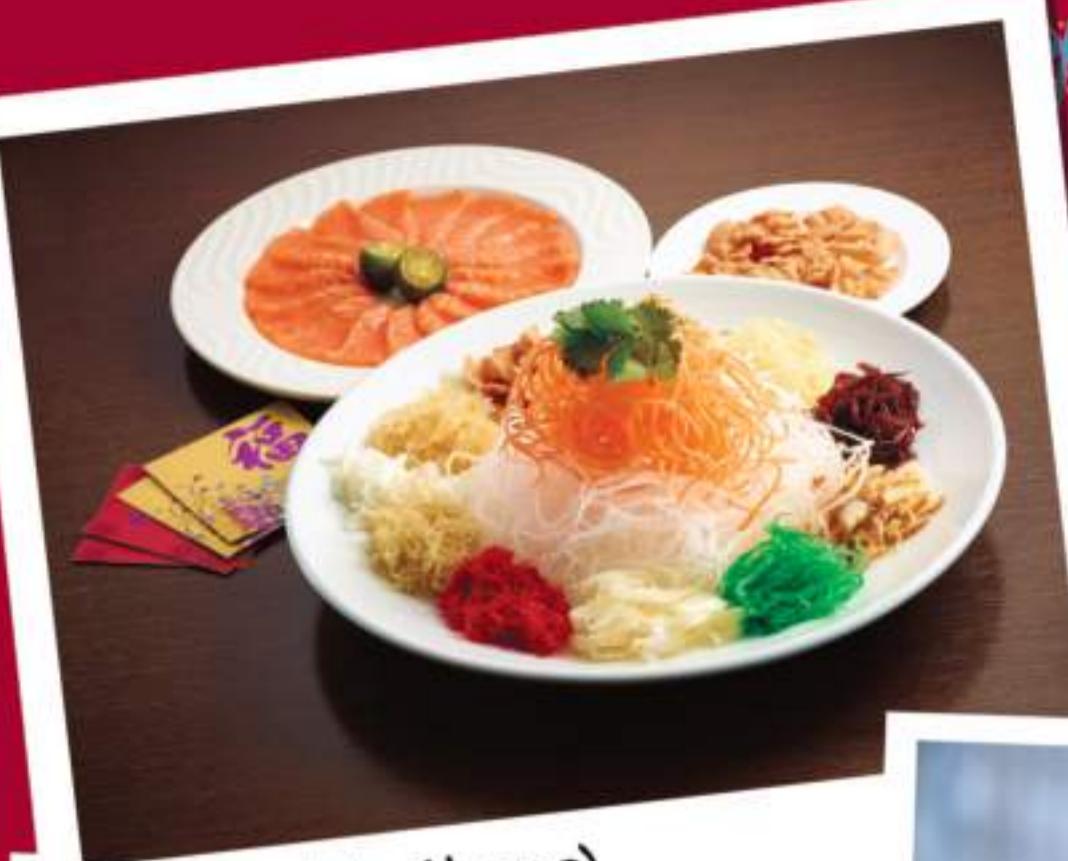


Trouble with the Dark Side

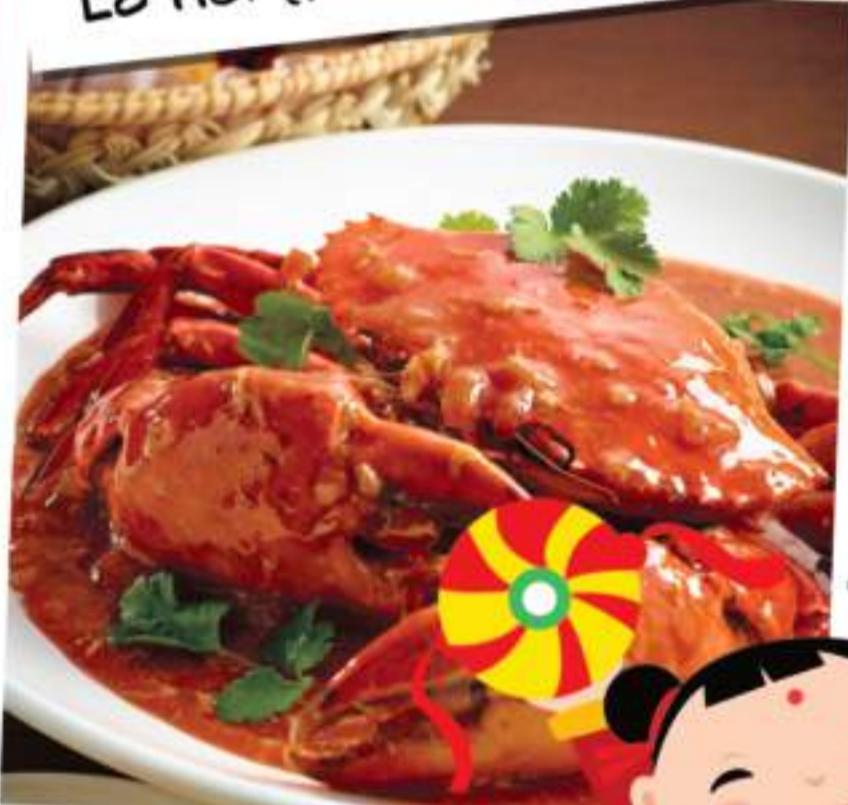
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JEN HOTEL



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THE WEEK



Friday 1/15

Pop Up Collective

Get your shop on at **Fashion Collective**, where independent Hong Kong designer brands including Karma Links, Worthrobe and Cafuné gather at The Space for one weekend. Don't miss the opening cocktail party tonight to meet and greet the designers (and maybe talk them into throwing you a discount).

Jan 15-17, 11am-8pm. **The Space**, 210 Hollywood Rd., Sheung Wan, 9180-7716.

Saturday 1/16

Head Over Wheels

The Hong Kong Museum of Art is currently closed for maintenance, so they're bringing the museum to you. Check out **Museum of Art on Wheels'** interactive art laboratory and learn how to transform everyday objects into works of art.

Jan 16, 10am-5pm. **Near Hong Kong City Hall**, Edinburgh Square, Central, 2721-0116.

Sunday 1/17

Ghost Cities

Take a closer look at the city at **M+ Screenings: Visible Places**, where 13 local and international artists and filmmakers will show off their take on the environment we live in. Don't miss "Ghost in the Shell" (Jan 17, 5:30pm), the Japanese anime classic inspired by the infamous Kowloon Walled City.

Jan 15-17. **Broadway Cinematheque**, 3 Public Square St., Yau Ma Tei, 2388-3188. \$80 from westkowloon.hk.

Monday 1/18

The Sound of Fashion

Fashionistas, time to see what's in for F/W16. **Hong Kong Fashion Week** opens today, with "Fashion of Music" as this year's theme.

With around 30 events including fashion shows and parades, different musical genres will intersect with cutting-edge cuts. Even Taylor Swift's own brand will be on show. Exciting!

Jan 18-21. **Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre**, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai.



Tuesday 1/19

Musical Munchies

Craving some fine tunes this afternoon? Bring your own lunch to the Hong Kong Sinfonietta's **Good Music This Lunch** concert for a well-deserved break. This popular lunch-time chamber concert takes about an hour, so if you work in Central or Admiralty you'll be back at your desk and blissed-out on music before your boss gets too grumpy. On the bill this month: Mendelssohn and Taiwanese composer Tyzen Hsiao.

Jan 19, 12:45pm. **Hong Kong City Hall Foyer**, Edinburgh Square, Central, 2836-3336. Free.

Thursday 1/21

Bhoy Oh Bhoy

Scottish/Indian comedian **Danny Bhoy** brings his wry observational humor to Hong Kong at the Udderbelly Festival. Go see him, laugh, repeat.

See Culture (p.22) for more.

Wednesday 1/20

Nippon to the Racetrack

Can't afford a flight to Japan on hump day? Do the next best thing. The Happy Valley Racecourse is turning its regular **Happy Wednesdays Japanese**. Expect cultural performances such as Japanese drum dancing—plus loads of Japanese food, sake and whisky. Make sure to scream "GANBATTE!!" at the horses and you'll fit right in.

Jan 20. **Happy Valley Racecourse**, Happy Valley, 2895-1523. \$10 at the door.

Friday 1/22

Rise of the Yogis

Still haven't given up on your New Year's resolution to get in shape? Bring out your inner yogi at the first ever **Urban Yoga Retreat HK** this weekend. Combining yoga and healthy living, the event features yoga masterclasses and detoxing food across the whole weekend.

Jan 22-24. **Yoga BamBam**, 28 Pound Lane, Sheung Wan, 5500-3117. \$2,250 all-inclusive from yogibangora.com.

Saturday 1/23

Go Green

Get some fresh air in you at the **Sustainable Fest**, a festival with music, art and workshops all about how to live your life more sustainably. There's also the Hong Kong Really Free Market, where people give and take whatever they need. An impossible utopia? Sounds worth a go to us.

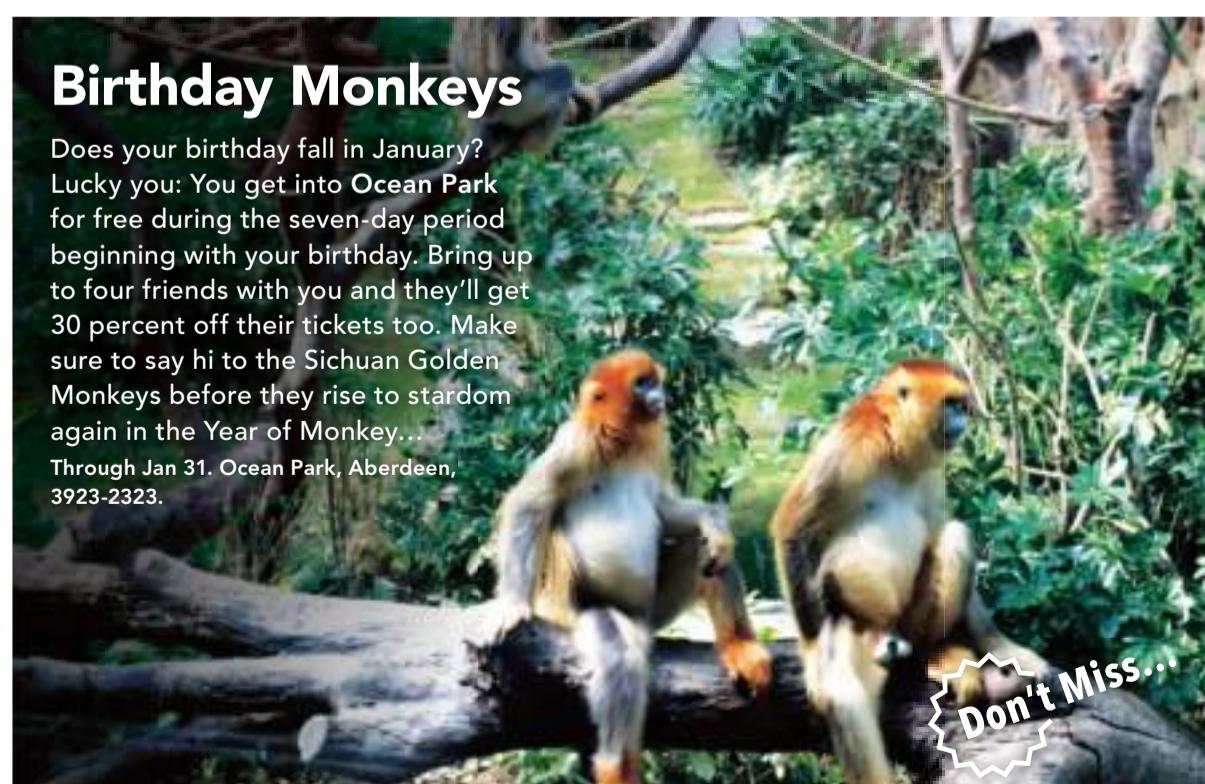
Jan 23, 2pm-7pm; Jan 24, 1pm-7pm. **Kai Tak Runway Park**, 33 Shing Fung Rd., Kowloon Bay, sustainablefest.org. Free.

Birthday Monkeys

Does your birthday fall in January?

Lucky you: You get into **Ocean Park** for free during the seven-day period beginning with your birthday. Bring up to four friends with you and they'll get 30 percent off their tickets too. Make sure to say hi to the Sichuan Golden Monkeys before they rise to stardom again in the Year of Monkey...

Through Jan 31. **Ocean Park**, Aberdeen, 3923-2323.



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Theatre, Hong Kong City Hall



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NEWS

Compiled by Kate Lok
kate.lok@hkmagmedia.com

Last Week In Reality



SAT 2

Meter Runner A 62-year-old father of five takes a taxi to pick up his 34-year-old wife from hospital in the morning.

When he arrives he pays for the ride and leaves his one-and-a-half-year-old son with the taxi driver, saying he has to go and deal with his wife's discharge procedures and will be back in five minutes. After more than 20 minutes the man has not emerged. Worrying that the child has been abandoned, the driver takes him to a nearby police station. The father comes out of the hospital to find both the taxi and his son missing, and calls the police. Father and son are reunited after a brief investigation.

SUN 3

Spiritual Empty-handedness

At 8am, a woman arrives at her job at a century-old temple in Tuen Mun to find that the temple's closed-circuit television camera has been covered with a white towel, and a window near the back door has been broken. Police investigation does not rule out the possibility of burglary, but concludes that the thief fled empty-handed. No arrests have yet been made.

MON 4

Sliding Doors Two Nepalese brothers, aged 14 and 11, who came to Hong Kong with their relatives to visit their parents, are separated from their father when he accidentally boards an MTR train in Yau Ma Tei without them.

Having previously been to Central with him, the brothers get on a train back there in the hope of finding him, but get lost. They spend almost 20 hours wandering the streets, with only enough money for a bottle of water. Police find the pair in Wan Chai in the early hours; both brothers are uninjured and the police buy them a meal before reuniting them with their parents.



TUE 5

Book Jerk A woman is shopping in

the children's section of a bookshop in Whampoa Garden when a man next to her smiles, then takes off his trousers and begins to masturbate in front of her. The woman screams "pervert!" and the man runs off. A staff member of the bookshop and three other passers-by chase and catch him. The man says to the woman "I'm sorry and I have something to tell you." The woman replies, "don't look at me, you are disgusting." Police arrest him.

WED 6

Hobo Cop A primary school in

Sham Shui Po puts up a notice reminding students to beware of people pretending to be police. On the previous Saturday, a 10-year-old student was heading home after school when he was stopped outside Nam Cheong MTR station by a man claiming to be a police officer. The man asked to "search" his school bag, taking a mobile phone before leaving. The real police have been made aware of the incident.

THU 7

Wedding Crashed A Facebook post

from a newlywed man goes viral. The photo shows a lai see packet the poster had been given at his wedding banquet, which instead of containing money contained \$800 worth of supermarket coupons. The poster explains that while the wedding banquet was held on December 30, the coupons expired on December 31, one day later.



FRI 8

No More Monkey

Business The media

reports on the death of celebrity monkey "Golden Eagle," who used to sell herbal medicines alongside street hawker Chan Yat-biu. 16 years ago the female macaque was at the center of a legal battle after Chan was found not to have a license for the pet. After a swell of public opinion, the monkey was returned to her owner. Chan's son looked after the monkey after the hawker died in 2004, but the monkey grew sick and had to be put down in mid-November, three months short of the Year of the Monkey.

Quote of the Week

"Lantau is 147 square kilometers and some 100,000-plus people live there. So there's actually quite a bit of space."

Kaizer Lau Ping-cheung of the Lantau Development Advisory Committee defends the committee's plan to turn Lantau into a tourism and recreation hub. Community groups have strongly objected to the plans, which include a spa resort on Cheung Sha Beach and a water park in Mui Wo, saying that they do not cater to residents' needs.

Talking Points

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

An Affair to Remember?

An alleged affair between a **married secondary school vice-principal in his mid-40s and one of his Form Six students**, rumored to be around 22 years old, has grabbed the city's attention this week. Intimate photos and conversations allegedly between the two on WeChat have gone viral, featuring racy quotes such as "**you're so pretty. It'll make me so happy to have sex with you.**" The leaked conversations also appear to reveal that, as a member of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, **the principal had given the student an estimate of her score** in her Diploma of Secondary Education Examination maths exam, using confidential information provided by the HKEAA. The teacher has resigned his position at the authority over the issue. The Council on Professional Conduct in Education is investigating the incident and the vice-principal has been transferred to another school.

Our take: We can't wait for the sexy TVB dramatization...

British Passports All the Rage

Missing bookseller Lee Bo's UK citizenship has sparked renewed discussion over the benefits of having a British National (Overseas) passport instead of a Hong Kong one. Simon Shen, an international relations scholar at CUHK, suggested in a Facebook post that **the BN(O) passport can act as an "escape door" if "One Country, Two Systems" fails**. BN(O) passport holders have the right to obtain a residence permit in most countries in the European Union and the right to vote when residing in the UK. However, it **does not guarantee the right of abode in the UK**. Approximately 3.4 million Hong Kong people hold a BN(O) passport. The number of renewals dropped from 88,000 in 2004 to less than 8,000 in 2011, but with **rising Hong Kong-Mainland tensions it rose to more than 22,000 cases in 2014**. The only downside to holding a BN(O) passport, says Shen? You are ineligible to run for Chief Executive.

Our take: So Hongkongers can elect leaders! They just have to hold foreign passports...



Illustration: Elaine Tang

Street Talk

Meet Richard Magarey, better known as **Ladybeard**. The 6-foot-tall Australian wrestler is the death metal vocalist of kawaiicore band Ladybaby, performing alongside diminutive idols Kaneko Rie and Kuromiya Rei. Ladybeard lived in Hong Kong for six years and recorded metal covers of Cantopop before moving on to Japan and stardom in 2013. He tells Adrienne Chum about being a wrestler and a cutesy celebrity at the same time.

HK Magazine: When did you start cross-dressing?

Ladybeard: I've been cross-dressing since I was 14 years old. One day a friend of mine had a school uniform party, and I thought it would be hilarious to put on my big sister's school dress. I went to the party like that, it was a hilarious night and everyone had a lot of fun. I started going to parties and rock and roll shows in Australia wearing a school dress. When I showed up in a dress, the party would start instantly. People would want to talk to me or want to dance straight away.

HK: How do people in Hong Kong react to a huge guy in a dress?

LB: When I cross-dress in Australia it's funny but it's not this huge thing—but when I started cross-dressing in Hong Kong, the reaction was just incredible. Conservative Hong Kong society said, "What the hell are you doing? You're out of your mind!" I got really great reactions. I would turn up to parties and shows in a dress and people would just go nuts! I found that I would have a lot more fun when I did it, and everyone else around me would have a lot more fun, too. So only good could come of it.

HK: Do you have any trouble when you cross-dress?

LB: I found out when I was younger that at every party there were dudes who wanted to fight me because I was talking a lot and was outgoing. Inevitably some dude would turn up and want to fight me—when I had a dress on and entered the room, that dude would make himself obvious straight away. I would deal with him, defuse him, and go back to enjoying the party. It's fun being the guy in the dress

because you make yourself a huge target for the guys who just want to fight: But if you get knocked out by the guy in the dress, you'll never hear the end of it. In a strange way it became a form of self-defense where I made myself so obvious, so much of a target, that I neutralized the attacks.

HK: What's your favorite dress?

LB: I like different ones for different times. There were all these styles that I wanted to try in Hong Kong, but I couldn't find a size that fit. When I met Naoko, my manager, she opened up a lot of options for me to try new dresses, because she's very well connected.

HK: Do you still wrestle in Japan?

LB: Yep, my first two years were with Union Pro Wrestling. Union unfortunately shut its doors just a few months ago, but I now wrestle for DDT (Dramatic Dream Team) Wrestling. I really enjoy wrestling for them, and the standard is very high. And it's good training for throwing [Lady]babies. When I first saw the 'babies, the first thing I thought was, "They're small—I wonder how far I could throw them. They're very throwable."

HK: Your fans want you to get bigger and bulk up—how's that coming along?

LB: I'm doing my best—it's hard to eat enough! When you talk to bodybuilders, they say the most important thing is to keep eating all the time: As you do your weight training you need to eat every two hours. The problem with that is that I'm always wrestling or dancing or rehearsing. If I eat and go straight into a rehearsal, I throw up everything I just ate.

The training's okay, but getting enough food is very difficult. But I'm working on it. I hope I can get bigger and make everyone happy.

HK: How do you think your show will be received in Hong Kong?

LB: I've always felt that audiences liked what I was doing, and I've always felt like my problem was my styling and the way I packaged the show. I came to Japan and met my manager, and we've come a long way since then. And the thing about Hong Kong is that you're never sure who's going to be in your audience, so it's not like any other place. I don't know what exactly is going to happen. But I really hope they'll like it.

See Ladybeard performing at Focal Fair on Jan 16, 3pm and 9pm. Focal Fair, 28/F, Park Avenue Tower, 5 Moreton Avenue, Causeway Bay.

\$250 (general) or
\$450 (VIP) from
undergroundhk.com.



Blowing Water

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

tyut³ duk⁶
脫毒

"REMOVE POISON"

"Become socially active." Extension of *duk nam* (毒男), "poison boy," meaning a socially awkward geek. Removing the "poison" means that someone stops being a shut-in and discovers girls, drinking etc.

HongKabulary



Expat Amnesty (ekspæt æmnæsti), n.

Getting away with a minor crime in Hong Kong just because you're obviously well paid and don't speak Cantonese.

"Did you just... steal that bottle of whisky?"

"It's OK. No one's gonna stop me. I've got expat amnesty."

2016: WHAT'S ON THE CARDS?

Welcome, seeker of truth. Step into this sub-divided tent and cross our palms with silver (or at least plastic polymer notes). Are you ready to gaze into the future of Hong Kong? By HK Staff

• **The Magician** represents power, skill and action. What could be more appropriate than the city's culinary wizards cooking up brand new dishes and concepts in 2016?



The Booze-Food Takeover

Gone are the days of pairing your steak with a nice glass of Côtes du Rhône. This year is all about mixing booze into food and food into booze in weird and wacky combinations. We've seen it done in classy ways such as the unique food-and-cocktail pairing menu at **Vea** (29-30/F, The Wellington, 198 Wellington St., Central, 2711-8639) which infuses drinks with ingredients such as black vinegar and Roquefort cheese, and the sake-tastic broth at **The Drunken Pot** (see p.18 for more). Then there's the rather more challenging horse meat carpaccio cocktail at **Cima** (3/F, 239 Hennessy Rd., Wan Chai, 2395-2269). The key here is subtlety—and we'll draw the line when our drinks start coming with a spoon and our food with a straw...

Next-Level Indian

Can't bear to brave the TST crowds for good Indian food? You're in luck. The city is seeing a new wave of modern Indian eateries that say so long to kitschy restaurant décor in favor of modern presentations and refined, contemporary cooking. New restaurants including **Juhu Beach Club** (28 Elgin St., Central, 2177-3544) and **Bindaas** (33 Aberdeen St., Central, 2447-9998) are serving up kathi rolls, pav bhaji and samosas with a distinctly modern spin to match their fittingly hip décor. Now if only someone could give Chungking Mansions the same makeover...

Global Tapas

When did "tapas" become the catch-all term for anything snack-like or served on small plates? Tapas-style everything is taking over in Hong Kong: There are surf-and-turf "tapas" appetizers at **Wooloomooloo Prime** (21/F, The One, 100 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2870-0087), **Casa Tapas Bar** (18 Woo Hop St., Shek Tong Tsui, 2776-6599) is using it as an umbrella term for everything from okonomiyaki pancakes to buffalo cauliflower, and Indian tapas are showing up at **Bindaas**. Who knows? 2016 might just be the year dim sum gets rebranded "Chinese-style tapas." Expect more tapas-style everything in 2016. What if it's just Hong Kong's way of hiding ridiculously small portions?

Flash-Cooked Food

Too lazy to cook or grab supermarket sushi on the way home from work? No problem: **Deliveroo.hk** claims to be able to deliver your favorite restaurant dishes to your doorstep in less time than it takes for you to get home—they boast an average of 32 minutes per delivery. **Foodpanda.hk**'s matched the 30 minute claim as well: We're just feeling sorry for the harried kitchen staff. And because drinking in solitude is the new normal for 2016, **Bottlesxo.com** has you covered with less-than-one-hour delivery on wines. Next up: a time machine delivery service which has the guy knocking on your door before you've even ordered it.

TV Binges

Hallelujah! **Netflix** (netflix.com) has finally arrived in Hong Kong, meaning that now we can all binge on our favorite American TV shows. This is going to be the golden year of the couch potato, with subscription plans starting at \$63 per month—although we have to admit that so far, the selection of available shows is a little light. For those who love Chinese programs as much as American ones, **LeTV** (letv.com, \$399/year) has arrived with more than 5,000 movies—as well as Premier League football. Meanwhile **Viu TV** (viu.tv)—Now TV's on-demand service—will debut its internet video platform in March this year. Let's grab brunch in, oh, early 2017?

• **The Hermit** symbolizes introspection and solitary thought. What with faster delivery services and the proliferation of online TV, 2016 is looking like the year of the homebody.





Local Lovin'

If Hong Kong were its own country, you might call them nationalists. But it's not, and so **localism** was born. This grassroots movement isn't going anywhere, as increased meddling from China—perceived and real alike—is only going to further entrench the "go screw yourselves, China" ideology. With Legco elections coming up in the second half of the year, their voices are only going to get louder still. There's a good chance that they'll split the pan-dem vote, much to the satisfaction of the pro-government parties.

Censor This

The missing bookseller saga is straight-up bizarre, but it's had a very real effect on our city. When the first of the booksellers went missing in November, Page One bookstore—which has six outlets in China—quietly began withdrawing its controversial China-critical books from its shelves. Sure, most of these books are profit-grabbing collections of scurrilous rumors: But that's no reason to obliterate them (and their publishers) from the face of the earth. These days "**publish and be damned**" is getting scarily literal and we're not hopeful for 2016.



• The Fool represents newness, purity and open-heartedness: the perfect attributes for a new year and a new look. (Also, you've got to be a bit of a fool to follow everything in fashion.)

Tumblr or Life?

This year fashion sees even more patterns and jokes that would be as at home on a Tumblr page as on a piece of clothing.

- Ever felt the urge to spritz your face with some blue Swipe detergent? Moschino's king of cheek Jeremy Scott has you covered with his latest **Fresh perfume** (\$680 for 100ml) which is in the shape of a bottle of cleaning spray. Also available as a totally ridiculous phone case.
- Hong Kong brand **Holisocks'** donut socks (\$120, holisocks.com) perk up any boring office dress code with a little bit of 8-bit fun.
- It's not the first time **Vans** have released fast food-related kicks, but their 2016 "Late Night" season (from \$426) has a whole buffet of greasy late-night eats decorating their kicks: burgers, pizza, tacos, donuts and more.



Coloring's In

According to Pantone, 2016 is the year of **Rose Quartz** and **Serenity**: a calming shade of pastel pink and an airy periwinkle, respectively. You could go bang on-trend with an official Pantone iPhone 6/6s case from **Case Scenario** (€19,99 /\$169) from case-scenario.com, which even has the official color names on it, in case passers-by can't deduce how cool you are. Subtler than that? Here are some clothes and accessories to get you the look:

- Numlock Pastel+ Watch** \$598 from zalora.com.hk
- Preen & Proper asymmetrical dress** \$359 from zalora.com.hk
- Grana silk raglan tee** in light pink (\$303); **silk tank** in light blue (\$226) from grana.com
- Lapis of Luxury Essie nail polish** \$66 from Cher2, Room 404, Lanshing House, 41-44 Queen's Rd. Central, 2810-0171.

Hot Hair or Not Hair

Every day is a bad hair day for us, so we enlisted the help of Darrin Usher of **Daz Hair** (2/F Tung Chai Building, 86-90 Wellington St., Central, 2956-3668) to name the top styles of 2016. According to Darrin, for longer hair we're looking at **braids** and **soft buns** for 2016. Center braids, side braids or braids with buns—just keep it simple and elegant (and away from your face). For short-haired vixens, the look of 2016 is the **bob**, textured or natural. **Bangs** (or fringes) are also back in full force, and going even heavier and longer. And forget going natural this year—**bold colors** are back in, so if you've always wanted to sport a bright red 'do or streaks of midnight blue, now's your chance to go for it.

Oh God, Meggings Are Back

They've been spotted on runways since as early as 2011, and have been desperately clawing (or mooseknuckling) their way into mainstream fashion ever since. Not just your average compression tights (that dudes actually wear to go running under a pair of loose shorts), 2016's **man-legging** redux seems to have adopted the trend the way the ladies wear it: dark, cottony shin-huggers paired with cutoff shorts. We've seen them all over Mong Kok, so sadly it's looking like A Real Thing...

Where to buy 'em: The ladies' markets, which surely tells you all you need to know.



The Lovers represent love and union, two things we highly doubt we'll be seeing this year in Hong Kong. But here's our list of highly implausible pipe dream predictions for 2016.

- Taxi drivers clean up their act in the face of Uber threats, delivering an efficient and professional service that doesn't involve them ignoring you in the small hours or refusing to cross the harbor because "they don't know the roads."
- Beer prices suddenly fall back to the \$60-80 range.
- No more tragedies involving domestic helpers, human rights abuses and unfair wages.
- The property bubble bursts and regular people are able to afford flats/rent again.
- China decides to chill out, take a step back and leave us alone to make money and do our own thing.
- CY Leung becomes embroiled in an amusingly complex sex scandal.
- We get genuine universal suffrage.



The Star represents hope, renewal and inspiration. We're not sure all these people fill us with hope as such, but here are the rising stars who'll be a big deal in 2016.



Arthur Li Kwok-cheung, the new chairman of the HKU's governing council. With the appointment of "King" Arthur to the post, the university's management woes will only get worse. The Beijing loyalist is known for his high-handed, confrontational style and he lacks the confidence of HKU staff and alumni alike. Sounds promising!

Agnes Chow Ting, former Scholarism spokesperson. Chow stepped out of the spotlight halfway through Occupy, but she's been back in the news: Most recently in a video seeking to raise awareness of missing bookseller Lee Bo. As the political game ramps up again, 2016 could be her time to shine.



James Ng Yip-kwan, better known as "Kwan Gor," is the name on everyone's lips in Cantopop. The nerdy looking 25-year-old singer was named "best newcomer" in all four Hong Kong Cantopop chart awards; he was so overcome with emotion that his glasses fogged up during an acceptance speech, taking him from successful singer to instant meme. You'll be hearing his name again.

Emily Lau, outgoing Democratic Party chair. The legendary lawmaker may not be running for re-election this year, but we doubt she's going anywhere. What if she starts a new party with Ronny Tong?



Christopher Chung Shu-kun, universally known as "Tree Gun." Upcoming Legco elections means that this pro-Beijing veteran will be on the front lines with still more insane pronouncements. We'll get the popcorn.



Cuba

One of the world's most colorful destinations, the country has seen an exponential rise in tourism since thawing relations with the U.S. made traveling there easier and cheaper. Cigars, Hemingway, rum, salsa, Che and 60-year-old antique American cars—now those are bragging rights. Be seduced by Cuba before it inevitably loses its 1950s time capsule cool.

responsibletravel.com/holidays/cuba.

Iran

Yes, really. While the news gives us nothing but its nuclear ambitions, the country has an astonishingly rich history and culture. As unlikely as it sounds, tourism to Iran grew last year and looks set to explode in 2016. UNESCO world heritage sites, beguiling medieval towns, mysterious teahouses, bazaars, oases, mountain ranges and the eternal desert—you'll feel like an extra in an Indiana Jones movie.

Various organizations offer packages, including kuonitravel.com.hk.

Da Nang, Vietnam

We know, you went to Vietnam when it was still like, fresh and unexplored. But probably not to Da Nang. With stunning beaches, amazing architecture and a nighttime neon buzz, Da Nang is a former French colonial port which offers a host of great experiences: Son Trà Mountain, China Beach and the five Marble Mountains, caves, shrines, museums and amazing bridges. And oh man, the food...

Dragonair and HK Express fly to Da Nang daily, with prices from around \$1,100.

The World

represents completion, accomplishment and travel. Live up to it with these four must-see-in-2016 getaways.



Kalibo, Philippines

If you've been to Boracay, you may well have traveled unknowingly through Kalibo. But it's more than an alternative gateway to that (admittedly) tropical paradise: Kalibo is a great destination in its own right, with charm and panache. In January it hosts Ati-Atihan, a religious and cultural festival in which visitors are actively encouraged to participate.

Flights start at around \$1,800 from various agents including kayak.com.hk.



No, the **Death** card doesn't mean death. Mostly. Instead it represents endings, beginnings, change or transformation. So what's ending and beginning this year?



The South Will Rise Again

With last year's opening of the West Island Line, Western district became THE place to hang out. But one year on, Sai Wan's old news. Where next for the self-respecting hipster? **The Southside**, of course. The South Island Line is (finally) slated to open in 2016 and the former industrial district of Wong Chuk Hang is quietly transforming into something way cooler. Here are six things to do in a day, before everyone moves in and ruins it all.

- 1) Start with brunch at **3/3rds** (22D Yally Industrial Building, 6 Yip Fat St., Wong Chuk Hang, 3462-2951), a cool and charming cafeteria serving healthy salads, pizzas and pancakes with a side of abundant natural light.
- 2) Then head to one of the many galleries in the district, including **Blindspot Gallery** (15/F, Po Chai

Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Wong Chuk Hang, 2517-6238), for an artsy hour or two.

- 3) Go furniture shopping at the spacious and exceedingly well-stocked **Lane Crawford Home Store and Showroom** (G/F, One Island South, 2 Heung Yip Rd., Wong Chuk Hang, 2118-2288).
- 4) Caffeine junkies, take a pit stop at **Sensory Zero** (G01, One Island South, 2 Heung Yip Rd., Wong Chuk Hang, 2511-6011), a small artisan coffee joint.
- 5) Grab a dry-aged beef wellington for dinner at **The Butchers Club Deli** (16/F, Shui Ki Industrial Building, 18 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Wong Chuk Hang, 2884-0768).
- 6) End your day with a nightcap at Ovolo Southside's rooftop bar **Above** (23/F, Ovolo Southside, 64 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Wong Chuk Hang, 3460-8100), which has fantastic views out towards Repulse Bay.



HK Magazine Turns 25

The **Wheel of Fortune** represents good luck, good karma and reaching a turning point. What better card to symbolize **HK Magazine**, which turns 25 this year? Stay tuned over the next 12 months for special features, parties and fun all through 2016!



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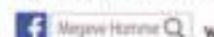
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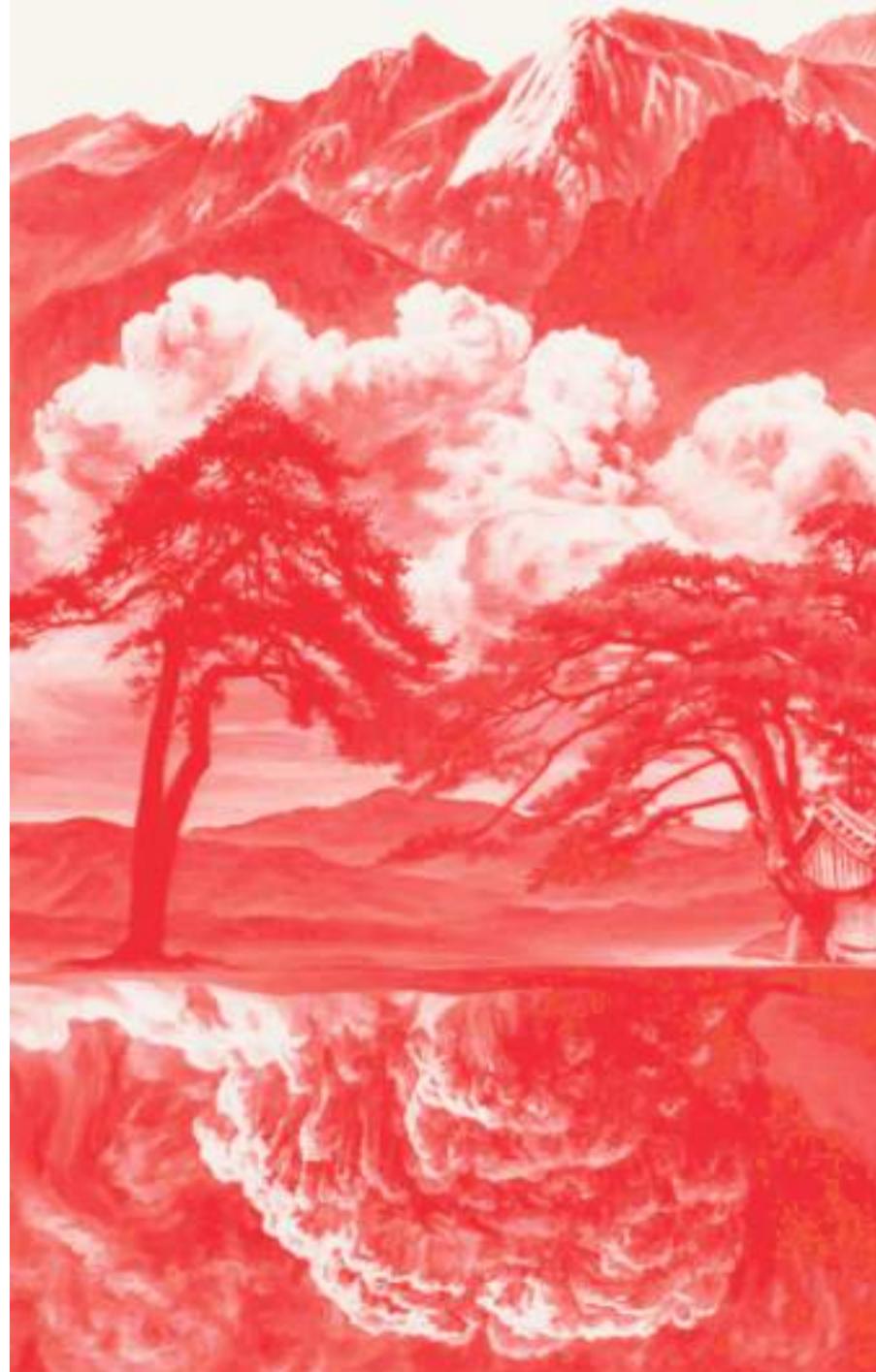
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Black and White and Red All Over

No, ink landscapes aren't exclusive to Chinese artists.

Pearl Lam Galleries is showcasing a range of Korean

landscape paintings, known as "**Contemporary**

Sansuhwa," by three prominent Korean artists:

Lee Sea Hyun (work pictured), Moon Beom and

the very appropriately named Whang Inkie.

Through Mar 1. Pearl Lam Galleries, 601-605,

6/F, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder St., Central. Free.



"Between Red" by Lee Sea Hyun

GADGETS

TECH HEAD



Edited by Adam White

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I'm one of life's more sedentary souls, but that doesn't mean everyone else shouldn't be more active. And as we're still in January, there's still time to pretend to be living a fitter life. Here are three relatively new apps that should help out with a fitness commitment or two.

Yoga Cam

Yoogaia bills itself as the world's first live online yoga studio. What does that mean? Well, it's a bit like a Skype conference call with a personal yoga instructor. You can hook into live classes and the instructors will see you over your webcam, allowing them to correct your poses and offer personalized feedback. On top of live classes, there are also loads of recorded sessions so you can practise what you need to perfect. Instructors teach from all over the world, including right here in Hong Kong—so there's a good chance you'll find a time slot that works for you. Classes start at \$110/month for a six-month commitment, or \$170 if you want to take it month by month. Interested?

There's a 7-day free trial so you can get the hang of all those long-distance sun salutations.

Apps available, yoogaia.com.



Trail Blazers

Like hiking? Hate rubbish, construction and the encroaching influence of construction on our country parks? Sounds like the **TrailWatch** app is the one for you. It allows you to search for trails, plan the perfect walk, track your hikes in real-time and see routes generated by the app's users. But there's even more than that: TrailWatch aims to be a conservation app as well. Users are encouraged to look after the environment as they hike, by recording and reporting any incidents of eco-vandalism they encounter from inside the app.

Free on iOS and Android, trailwatch.hk.



We Like to Mooofit Mooofit

Hong Kong-developed app **Mooofit** aims to get you healthy and help the world at the same time. The app is a database of fitness events around town: The idea is that the app becomes a social platform for people interested in the same kinds of sports, and also a charitable one. Sign up for and complete an activity, and the app records it. You're able to convert calories burned into shopping vouchers for yourself and donations to Hong Kong charities. What better incentive to lace up those running shoes?

Free on iOS and Android, mooofit.com.



Flix Picks

Online media streaming service **Netflix** launched in Hong Kong last week, as you'll read in at least one other place in this magazine. The selection is pretty limited compared to the U.S. (no "House of Cards"?!?) but here are five things to watch. **Protip:** If you're feeling particularly cheap, binge 'em all in the month-long free trial and then cancel your membership.

- **Master of None** Aziz Ansari's phenomenally funny series about knocking around New York trying to work out life and its problems. The two episodes about Asian parents and Asians on TV are a must-watch.
- **Making a Murder** This show was shot over 10 years and investigates a man

convicted of murder, exonerated—and then convicted of another murder. Did he do it?

- **Jessica Jones** Gritty, noirish Netflix/Marvel show about a former superhero suffering from PTSD who starts a detective agency.
- **Black Mirror** Wonderfully twisted UK series holding up a bleakly comic reflection of our technology-obsessed lives. Plus pig sex.
- **Fireplace for your Home, Birchwood Edition** Just an hour-long über-high-resolution clip of a fire burning merrily. All the coziness of a real fire, none of the inconvenient soot stains.

Netflix.com, from \$63 per month.

Drone Hard

Forget the health kick, here's something way more nerdy interesting: The Consumer Electronics Show in Vegas is the year's biggest gadget trade show, and this year my personal highlight was Guangzhou-based drone maker Ehang, which introduced the **Ehang 184 AAV**. "AAV" stands for "Autonomous Aerial Vehicle"—or in other words, PERSONAL DRONE HELICOPTER. Ehang says this one-man drone will hit 100kph and there's no piloting experience necessary. You just get in, tell the touchscreen where you want to go, and you're up and away. This is so much cooler than jetpacks.

That said, it's early days yet: the Ehang 184's battery life is just 23 minutes, which gives it an effective round-trip range of about 19km. That's not much, but it's enough for a quick beer run to 7-Eleven, at least.

The other problem, aside from questionable legality: price. This one-man octo-copter will set you back between \$1.5 and \$2.3 million (!!!) when production starts in a couple of months. I'm looking forward to Li Ka-shing's maiden flight.
ehang.com.



No freaking WAY



ESCAPE ROUTES

Edited by Daniel Creffield
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Winter Wonderlands

Hoping to hit the slopes this season but your budget doesn't extend to Whistler or Courchevel? Never fear—the increasing numbers and quality of affordable Asian resorts mean that trendy Korean desserts needn't be your only taste of snow this winter.

Nanshan Ski Village, China

Don't be deceived by the name: Just outside Beijing, Nanshan Ski Village is a huge resort, offering something for skiers and snowboarders at any level. With 21 trails, loads of ski lifts and a snowboarding park, this picturesque resort also uses snowmaking machines—meaning that whatever the weather, it's always ski time.

Direct flights to Beijing start from \$817, then take a 30-minute cab ride. A standard twin room within the resort starts at \$680 per night. nanshanski.com.

Gulmarg, Kashmir, India

India has been a secret ski destination for some time, with many regarding it as one of the best in the world, and the Kashmiri village of Gulmarg high in the Himalayas is particularly rated—especially for the more adventurous. And if the amazing slopes aren't hot enough for you, there's always Kashmiri curries...

Flights to Delhi and then on to Srinagar start at around \$2,500, while accommodation is about \$600 per night. skyscanner.com.hk.

Appi Kogen, Japan

Another well-kept ski secret, Appi Kogen is an authentically traditional resort in the Tohoku region of northeast Honshu which offers great bang for the buck: a snow park, excellent children's area, plus heated swimming pool and hot baths—and great skiing, of course. It caters mainly to families, so don't expect a big nightlife scene.

Appi Kogen is a two-hour trip from Tokyo by bullet train; direct flights from Hong Kong to Tokyo start at \$600 and accommodation can be found for as little as \$300 per night. appi.co.jp.

Gassan, Japan

Located in Yamagata on Japan's main island of Honshu, Gassan gets so much snow—up to eight meters—that it can't open until relatively late in the season because the resort is inaccessible unless you're crazy gutsy enough to consider getting dropped in by helicopter. For mortals, lifts run until late July, offering skiers and snowboarders a pristine 1,000 meters of vertical terrain.

Flights to Nagoya start from \$700; from there take the bullet train north. Accommodation in traditional Japanese style ryokan inns—some up to 300 years old—starts at just over \$400.

Yongpyong Resort, South Korea

Visit this resort and come the 2018 Winter Olympics, when it hosts the slalom and giant slalom, you'll be able to airily announce how you were on the slopes long before the medalists. Yongpyong was South Korea's first ski resort (it opened 1975) and it even has an indoor mountain bike course if you get sick of the snow. As if.

Open January to April, Yongpyong is a two-hour drive from Seoul. Flights start at around \$600 up, and B&B twin accommodation starts at \$300 per night.

Two winter packages off the beaten piste from Flight Centre:

Niseko, Japan

Relatively unknown until recent years, Niseko is both a natural hot spa and increasingly popular ski resort, famous for its exceptional powder. Now exuding a distinctly international vibe, the season runs through to late April, offering up to 15 meters of snowfall and 47 kilometers of groomed slopes across four linked resorts. **Packages from \$14,099 per person, including return airfare to Sapporo, airport transfers, seven nights' accommodation and five-day mountain pass.**

Yabuli, China

With winter temperatures routinely hitting -15 to -35 degrees Celsius, you're going to want to dig out your thermal undergarments if planning to hit the slopes of Heilongjiang in northeast China. It does mean the region gets awesome snow dumps, and Club Med Yabuli, around a four-hour drive from the capital Harbin by car, is building a reputation as a great resort for beginners, thanks to its long, flat runs. The resort is also suitable for intermediate beginners and offers family-friendly facilities, outdoor hot tub, a spa and karaoke and mahjong when it gets simply too cold.

Packages from \$8,659 per person, including return airfare, airport transfers, four nights at Club Med Yabuli, all meals, open bar, ski pass, lesson and children's facilities. Deals through March 24, flightcentre.com.hk.



And you thought Korea was all about the kimchi



Our Top Pot Dealers

'Tis the season for hotpot. Give your food a slam dunk into the hottest bubbling broths in town, say **Xavier Ng** and **Leslie Yeh**

C&C Hot Pot Factory

C & C Hot Pot (雞蟹煲) in Shek Tong Tsui got its name from two of its most famous items—chicken and crab. At this small establishment you can choose one, or both, of their specialties, and top off your pot with premium ingredients such as hand-sliced beef, diamond and razor clams and homemade dumplings. The unremarkable setting might not be the most eye-catching joint in the increasingly food saturated Western district, but it's worth a try for its fair prices and quality ingredients.

G/F, 384 Queen's Rd. West, Shek Tong Tsui, 2548-9881.

Go Big or Go Home

Lik Kei Hot Pot (力奇火鍋) is well-known for its fresh ingredients—and its massive portions. The minute you sit down at this Tai Kok Tsui eatery, you'll notice that every table has a big pot piled high with tomatoes, corn and plenty of pork bones for a rich, umami-heavy broth. Fresh and affordable seafood ranges from abalone to still-live shrimps and there's a good selection of meat such as tender wagyu beef to appease dedicated carnivores.

G/F, 53 Kok Cheung St., Tai Kok Tsui, 2789-3932.

Spice is Nice

Spice lovers rejoice: If you can handle the heat, **San Xi Lou** serves up a mouth-numbing *mala* hotpot that you'll be feeling the effects of for hours after. Ingredients are high quality but it's the ass-kicking broth that has us coming back time and time again. Can't stand the heat? Go for a split pot and get one-half "miraculous chicken" instead.

For everyone else, we say: Bring on the fire...

7/F, Coda Plaza, 51 Garden Rd., Central, 2838-8811.

Fusion Flavors

If you're looking for a fancier hotpot, following the Michelin man is a good place to start. **Megan's Kitchen** is one of the few that's made it into the Bib Gourmand section for five consecutive years in the influential guide. Offering a more fine dining setting, the restaurant serves an innovative range of soup bases, including out-of-the-box creations such as tom yum goong cappuccino, or tomato and crab soup with a soufflé finish. They've just recently rolled

out an Italian-inspired menu, with creative items including a Parma ham consommé soup base and cuttlefish balls with minced Parma ham in XO sauce. Italian-hotpot fusion? Sure, why not...
5/F, Lucky Centre, 165-171 Wan Chai Rd., Wan Chai, 2866-8305.

Drunken Dunkin'

The selling point at brand new TST joint **The Drunken Pot** is that you dunk a "sake bomb" into the broth—hence the moniker—to give your hotpot an extra boozy kick. From the brains behind Central's Lai Bun Fu, The Drunken Pot oozes cool with modern, brazen art adorning the walls and a bangin' soundtrack in the background. Go for the signature 5-in-1 pot, which lets you cook a variety of premium meats, jet-fresh sushi and imported seafood in your choice of satay, sesame, crab, Sichuan or the aforementioned sake-infused broth. Venture off the traditional path for some of the best items on the menu, from plump tri-colored xiaolongbao prepared five ways to the deep-fried and downright addictive homemade tofu.

2/F, 8 Observatory Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2321-9038.

Posh Pot

For hotel quality hotpot, **Canton Pot** at Lodgewood by L'hotel puts a contemporary spin on this classic winter warmer. With VIP rooms and outstanding service, who says going for hotpot can't be a classy occasion (although maybe ask for a bib)? Go for the special lobster surf and turf hot pot set (\$988 for two), which is luxurious east meets west affair: think lobster, abalone, US oysters, Australian organic beef ribeye and American marbled beef cubes.

2/F, Lodgewood by L'Hotel Mongkok Hong Kong, 1131 Canton Rd., Mong Kok, 3968-7888.

There's broth for all kinds at The Drunken Pot

Hotpots and Hotnobs

Follow these rules to avoid being the only hotpot noob at the dinner table:

- Add your food only when the broth is boiling. We know you're hungry and everything looks delicious, but you have to exercise a little patience if you don't want to spend the next day hugging the toilet. This particularly applies when you top up the broth in the middle of the meal.
- Use two sets of chopsticks—one for handling all the raw food and the other for eating. This avoids cross-contamination.
- If you're trying to cook a smaller item, put it into one of the small soup strainers before dunking it to avoid 10 minutes of fruitless fishing for that single shrimp or delicious hunk of meat.
- Never, ever, slide a whole plate of beef into the pot at once. This overcooks the whole thing and is the worst hotpot crime imaginable.



NEW AND NOTED

Edited by Leslie Yeh
leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com

Shanghai Lo knows its crab

Killer Crustasians

Get your crab fix all year round at **Shanghai Lo's** (1/F, The Tonno, 5 Tonnochy Rd., Wan Chai, 3125-3232) new "Crab Kitchen," where the crustaceans are flown in from around the globe depending on wherever they're in season. Chef Cheung Kam-wah's new menu shows off different crab varieties from Japanese sawaganis to Alaskan king crab and Australian crystal crabs, in recipes that span east to west. Dine on fresh hairy crab roe with braised homemade bean curd, or go European-style with French brown crab and lobster bisque. There's even an all-out 11-course crab tasting menu—if your cholesterol levels can take the hit, that is.



Sample modern Japanese at Raki

Mott an option

Need a kick of Sichuan chili to banish the winter blues? Before t-shirt weather rolls around again, head to perennial favorite

Mott 32 (Standard Chartered Bank

Building, 4-4a Des Voeux Rd., Central, 2885-8688) to sample chef Lee Mansing's new winter à la carte menu, including a fiery poached fish in Sichuan pepper broth that will set your mouth on fire. Boasting the same irresistible sheen as Mott's famous char siu, the tender, triple-cooked Australian Black Angus beef short rib is another one to look out for, along with the Inaniwa udon with garoupa filet (pictured left). We're expecting a full-on food attack that will leave our taste buds tingling for days.

New Age Sushi

The Japanese are big on tradition, with age-old preparations and cooking techniques passed down from generation to generation. But new fine dining Japanese restaurant **Raki** (15/F, Cubus, 1 Hoi Ping Rd., Causeway Bay, 2782-0010), led by chef Jack Yan, seems determined to break the mold: From sashimi hit with smoking guns to scallops steamed in paraffin paper, nothing is off limits. Thought slow cooking was just for beef cheeks and pulled pork? Think again. Chef Yan takes fresh Hokkaido oysters and prepares them in a low-temperature water bath to bring out the subtle sweetness of the bivalve. With sleek marble tabletops and limited seating, this is looking like the next generation of Japanese fine dining...

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Maizuru (舞鶴) ★★★★☆

Sushi. 26/F, Jardine's Center, 50 Jardine's Bazaar, Causeway Bay, 2586-3038.



After gaining a loyal following at a tiny restaurant in Tin Hau, chef Andy Lee has brought his expert sushi skills to this brand new spot in Causeway Bay, serving affordable lunch sets and omakase-style dinners.

HIT Seating around 40 people in total with 10 at the sushi counter, head to Maizuru early if you want the traditional omakase-style experience of watching the chef prep each piece one by one. The lunch set is a steal at \$220 for 8 pieces and \$286 for 12, and we liked being able to choose our fish off the rotating daily menu instead of leaving

it to the chef in typical omakase fashion. Dinnier is pricier, however. Like any good sushi restaurant in Hong Kong, the fish is imported direct from Japan daily, and we found the quality to be excellent. Standouts included the fresh scallop—supple and sweet—and the seared tuna belly, luxuriously coating our mouths in fatty, melting oils. The salmon roe was also incredibly fresh, the jeweled orbs popping with little bursts of briny oceanic flavor.

MISS With so many options on the menu, we'd recommend skipping the uni sea urchin here, as it pales (literally) in comparison to the bright yellow-orange lobes you'd find at more costly establishments.

BOTTOM LINE Quality omakase-style sushi for the masses—especially at lunchtime.

Open daily noon-3pm, 6-11pm.
\$-\$-\$-\$

Verde Mar ★★★★☆

Mexican. 24 Tai Wong St. East, Wan Chai, 2810-0888.



Following the success of Mr. Taco Truck, Vivian Wong brings her passion for Mexican cuisine (and highly lauded homemade tortilla chips) to Wan Chai's bustling food scene, delivering a hit of south-of-the-border flavors.

HIT Apparently decorated like a "Mexican village courtyard," Verde Mar's bright, splashy colors and fairy lights drew us in immediately—as did the addictive basket of hot and crunchy fresh tortilla chips (\$58 per order, but expect to refill several times). The Oaxaca cheese fundido (\$148) was the perfect melty, gooey mess, still bubbling away

in its cast-iron skillet, while the whole chargrilled chicken (\$298) was one of the best we've had in Hong Kong, supremely juicy with a spicy, smoky rub. For adventurous eaters, we'd recommend the chargrilled cactus as a must-order (\$98): It's one of the only places in Hong Kong to enjoy this pleasantly tangy desert delicacy.

MISS Sampling a bit of everything might have been our downfall: While some items were a solid hit, others faltered on execution, from overcooked pork in the tacos (\$95 for 3 pieces) to a pricy Molcajete mixed grill (\$388) that underwhelmed with mediocre strips of fried fish and steak.

BOTTOM LINE An ambitious menu delivers both hits and misses, although a few tweaks in the kitchen (and more of those delicious tortilla chips) could make this a go-to for our Mexican fix.

Open Mon-Fri 11:30am-3pm, 5-11pm; Sat-Sun 11:30am-11pm. \$

Ratings

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

Price Guide

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

Our Policy

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

CITY STROLL

Tseung Kwan O

Literally meaning the "General's Bay," Tseung Kwan O got its name all the way back in the Ming Dynasty, when the government sent a famous general to the bay to fight the pirates of the South China Sea.

The neighborhood has been mocked with the nickname "streetless town" because of its interconnected malls and residential complexes, allowing you to walk from one end to another without setting foot at ground level. But there's more to this neighborhood and it's not just about the malls—despite the area's prominent landfill, Tseung Kwan O has its beauty.



Tseung Kwan O Velodrome Skatepark

The velodrome is more than just for cyclists: It's also home to the city's biggest skating facility. Skateboarding, freestyle BMX and inline skating are all catered to, with rails, half-pipes and bowls for all skills: from skateboard noobs to bona fide Tony Hawks.

105-107 Po Hong Rd., Tseung Kwan O, 2878-8621.



Kitty's Kitchen

Nestled in the secluded Tin Ha Wan Village, Kitty's Kitchen acts like a canteen for actors and celebrities due to its proximity to TVB City—don't get too starstruck if you bump into one of them, and order the signature crispy abalone: Fresh abalone which is lightly fried to keep it juicy and tender.

G/F, 34 Tin Ha Wan Village, Tseung Kwan O, 2701-3136.



Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool

Sure, the weather's still cold (kinda) but once it gets warmer, don't miss this huge public pool and water park. The main pool is heated and in the summer season (April-October) there's also a leisure pool with multiple waterslides that are perfect for your (inner) child.

9 Wan Lung Rd., Tseung Kwan O, 2706-7646.



Jin Cuisine

Jin Cuisine rolls out modern Cantonese fare including vegetarian poon choi and double-boiled soup with assorted dried seafood—known in Chinese as "Buddha Jumps over the Wall" because it's so tasty, even Buddha would leap over a wall to taste it.

2/F, Holiday Inn Express Hong Kong Kowloon East, 3 Tong Tak St., Tseung Kwan O, 2623-2300.



The Excellence (日年華美食廣場)

Grab a quick and satisfying bite at The Excellence, which serves up basic but tasty Hong Kong flavors including siu mai, fried noodles and Chiu Chow dumplings. Feeling creative? Mix and match the ingredients to create your own cart noodles. The Excellence is known for its signature curry sauce and super hot sauce—add at your own risk...

1/F, Well On Shopping Arcade, 9 Yuk Nga Lane, Tseung Kwan O, 2623-2182.



Choi Ming Market

This wet market in Choi Ming Court has just had a facelift to make it a more pleasant shopping experience (think shopping mall instead of wet and smelly market). Not only can you get all your daily necessities, you'll also find upmarket jet-fresh Japanese and Korean produce.

1/F, Phase 1, Choi Ming Shopping Centre, Tseung Kwan O.



Check back next week for more awesome things to do in Tseung Kwan O!

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CULTURE

UPCLOSE: NOWHERE BOYS

Cinematic rock band **Nowhere Boys** (from left: Fisher Kan, Nate Wong, Van Chan, Kenneth Angus, Hansun Chan) released an eponymous album last month. They talk to Adrienne Chum about their music and the inspiration behind their new album.



HK Magazine: How did you come up with your name?

Van Chan: It was from a movie called "Nowhere Boy," about John Lennon's youth. There was one scene that left a big impression on me: John Lennon was reading a porn magazine in class, and he got caught and sent to the principal's office. The principal said to him, "John Lennon, you're going nowhere." But he turned out to be a genius. That kind of matched our characters as well—we're sort of nobodies. No one really knows us, but we come together to make some good music.

HK: Besides movies, where else do you get your inspiration?

Nate Wong: Comics, cartoons, other music, books, basically everything that we come across. Things that are more dramatic.

HK: You've got five people in the band. Does the creative process get complicated?

VC: Fisher and I start a new tune, a basic form like chords and melody, kind of like a demo. Then we just add on top of each other's recordings. We like to work out the details before coming together. When we get together for rehearsal, everyone pretty much knows their parts, so we're pretty efficient.

HK: Do you ever fight when you put the songs together?

NW: It's honestly never happened. We all respect each other's take on the song. There might be things I would change, but I wouldn't think that I could come up with a better guitar part than Ken, you know? We all feel the same way about each other's parts.

HK: What was the hardest song on the new album to make?

NW: "Rhapsody." It's very complex. It wasn't hard because it was long, it just had a lot of parts in it. But we have a new one, "New Beethoven" that's been harder. It's a song about Beethoven, and we're trying to figure out how it's supposed to make people feel. The first version felt like a lecture about Beethoven—but we wanted it to be fun, too, so in the arrangement and the lyrics we've gone back and forth on that.

HK: What would Beethoven think about it?

NW: That's what we're trying to figure out! Well, he's supposed to like it—it's not supposed to piss him off. But we'll see.

HK: How has your music changed in the latest album?

NW: It's more focused. We decided that it would be about hyperreality. The first album didn't really have a theme, besides that they're all crazy songs. Now there's a theme that directs our songwriting and it's more developed. And it's objectively, clearly better. For our next project, we're trying to get more funding to put together an even better album.

HK: How would you describe your music to people who haven't listened to you?

VC: We play cinematic rock, so we're definitely dramatic, like a soundtrack. It gives you pictures. Everybody likes movies, right? You go to movies to get a different vibe, to enjoy yourselves, and to have fun. That's what we're about.

NW: But it's not supposed to be soundtrack music—the song is the movie.

Support Nowhere Boys on their next project at musicbee.cc/project/norwhereboys.

Arts Festival

2015 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture (Hong Kong)

Wonder how Hong Kong and other cities will develop in the future? Check out the 2015 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture (Hong Kong), showcasing interactive installations and innovative ideas by 60 international exhibitors all about the future of our urban conurbations. Through Feb 28. Kowloon Park, Haiphong Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. Free.

Classical

Flute Recital by Kenneth Weiner

Have a flute-ful night with Kenneth Weiner, accompanied by pianist Lai Bo-ling. The duo will present classic flute sonatas by Bach, Reinecke, Hüe and Demersseman. Jan 17, 7:30pm. City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, 2921-2838. \$80 from urbtix.hk.



Guzheng Recital by Qu Yun and Sun Zhuo

Inaugurating the Nan Lian Garden Music Series, guzheng virtuosi Qu Yun and Sun Zhuo are staging a duo recital inside the serene Nan Lian Garden in Diamond Hill. It's an out-of-Hong Kong experience, where you'll listen to classic guzheng music while gazing at a picturesque Chinese garden. All it needs is a bunch of guys doing kung fu in the background. Jan 23, 2:30pm. Xiang Hai Xuan Multi-purpose Hall, Nan Lian Garden, 60 Fung Tak Rd., Diamond Hill, 2329-8811. \$240 from urbtix.hk.

A Concert of Chaozhou Music

Wondering what Chiu Chow (aka Chaozhou in Putonghua) music sounds like? The Hong Kong Chiuchow Music Ensemble is here to fill you in. This part of southeast China has a distinctive musical style, with unique instruments including Chaozhou gongs and drums. It's cultural and then some! Jan 30, 8pm. Yau Ma Tei Theatre, 6 Waterloo Rd., Yau Ma Tei, 2264-8108. \$120-180 from urbtix.hk.

Bach—The Six Brandenburg Concertos

Harpsichordist Benjamin Bayl plays and directs this performance of all six of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos in one go, alongside the Hong Kong Philharmonic. It's Brandenburgtastic! Feb 5-6, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$180-480 from urbtix.hk.

Comedy

Danny Bhoy

Get your yuks ins with Indian/Scots comedian Danny Bhoy at the Udderbelly Festival. Originally from Edinburgh, the comedian brings his warm, observational humor to the city. Bhoy oh Bhoy... Jan 20-21. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$435-523 from hkticketing.com.

Russell Howard

One of the UK's hottest comics, Russell Howard brings the funny to the Udderbelly Festival. In 2011, he became the youngest comic ever to sell out London's largest arena. Expect the same here, only the venue's quite a lot smaller. He's famous, but he's not Eason Chan. Jan 21-23. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$595-683 from hkticketing.com.

Musicals



Jersey Boys

Currently playing in London's West End and on Broadway, this smash hit musical tells the remarkable story of 1960s group Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons—four boys from the wrong side of the tracks who became one of the most successful, most falsettotastic groups in music history. Apr 13-May 1. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$395-1,095 from lunchboxticketing.com.

Opera

The Ring Cycle Part 2 – Die Walküre

Richard Wagner's epic Ring Cycle saga continues with "Die Walküre." In the second part of the opera, our hero Siegmund is being pursued by his enemies when he comes across the beautiful Sieglinde... Performed by the HK Phil, directed by Jaap van Zweden. Jan 21-23. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$280-880 from urbtix.hk.

The Met: Live in HD: Verdi's Il Trovatore

Opera buffs, assemble. The New York Metropolitan Opera brings the 10th season of the Met: Live in HD to the SAR. The season commences with David McVicar's new production of Verdi's "Il Trovatore," with star soprano Anna Netrebko as the heroine Leonora, a Spanish noblewoman who sacrifices her life to save the gypsy troubadour she loves. Try not to cry your eyes out... Jan 16, 4:30pm. UA Cityplaza, 5/F, Cityplaza, 18 Taikoo Shing Rd., Quarry Bay, 2584-8500. \$180-210 from hkticketing.com.

Theater



Close Up

An intimate show with four acrobats that brings the act real close. Physical, beautiful and intense: And that's just us in the audience. Jan 19-31. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$385-523 from hkticketing.com.



Briefs

The larger-than-life Briefs boys are in town for a show that's ballsy enough to make your eyes pop and jaws drop. The extravagant and acrobatic boylesque combines comedy with nudity—the two best things in life, right? Jan 26-30. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$355-443 from hkticketing.com.

Exhibitions



The World is Our Home.

A Poem on Abstraction

This exhibition at Para Site takes viewers into a world of abstraction, showcasing the work of three abstract painters: Robert Motherwell, Tomie Otake and Tang Chang, who worked in different parts of the world but all commented on similar experiences and events. Also featured is video work by artist Bruce Nauman. Through Mar 6. Para Site Art Space, 22/F, Wing Wah Industrial Building, 677 King's Rd., Quarry Bay, 2517-4620.

One On One

Think art with ink is old? Think again. Two artists from Toronto and China present works inspired by ink art at Galerie du Monde. The dual exhibition showcases Crystal Liu's deliberate and delicate paintings which combine watercolors, inks, gouache and gold leaf, as well as Qi Yu's contemporary ceramic paintings, which are influenced by the history and heritage of porcelain and ink painting. Through Mar 3. Galerie du Monde, Room 108, 1/F, Ruttonjee Centre, 11 Duddell St., Central, 2525-0529.

Wandering

Monochrome is in this year: Artist Joey Leung uses his signature black and white ceramic fish sculptures to discuss contrasting ideologies in Hong Kong society and the fact that, like his fish, we can wander between the two sides. Through Feb 26. Giant Year Gallery, Unit 902, Sam Cheong Building, 216-220 Des Voeux Rd. Central, Sheung Wan.



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NIGHTLIFE

OPEN BAR KOWLOON TAPROOM

The buzz: Kowloon kids have just gotten another craft beer bar to call their own, this time focusing on providing the freshest, best local brews.

The décor: Ashley Road may already be full of watering holes on the ground floor and up, but it still manages to retain a quiet and laidback vibe. While Kowloon Taproom may appear to be just another of the unassuming dive bars nearby with its wooden interiors, smattering of tables and small bar, it's offering a welcome change of pace with an open façade, allowing patrons to spill out onto the street over the course of the night.

The drinks: What matters here most, obviously, is the craft beer. Expect local brews all the way, served via 11 taps that rotate about every two weeks—efficiently linked straight to massive, state-of-the-art cooled kegs in the kitchen behind the bar. We ordered a beer flight (\$140) of four brews, starting with a refreshing pale Weizen wheat beer from the relatively new Kowloon Bay Brewery, which had a slight aftertaste of banana. Next, straight on to the malty stuff with Black Kite Brewery's Amber Ale, followed by Grand Maestro IPA from Lion Rock Brewery (Kowloon Taproom's the first to serve their stuff). It was hoppy on the nose but not as strong on the taste buds, making

it a good gateway beer for those new to IPAs. The flight ended with a Young Masters Hong Kong Black, a dark beer which tasted strongly of chocolate and roasted coffee beans. Locally brewed bottles are on offer as well (from \$62). The Nut Brown Ale from Kowloon Bay Brewery was highly quaffable, tasting of hazelnut and toffee along with a sweet malty aftertaste. For something with a bit of a kick, try the Hong Kong Beer Company's Rickshaw Ride, a hoppy red ale. A handful of imports such as the American Dogfish Head IPA are also on the menu.

Why you'll be back: Whether you're a craft beer snob, localist or just down for some casual drinks and snacks (the chicken tenders and buffalo wings are particularly good and come in large portions for around \$80), pull up a stool by the front: Kowloon Taproom offers great people watching, made even better by a fantastic selection of Hong Kong brews. Evelyn Lok

G/F, Astoria Building,
24-38 Ashley Rd.,
Tsim Sha Tsui, 2861-0355,
kowloon-taproom.com.



Clubs

Future Disco & Downtown Party Network

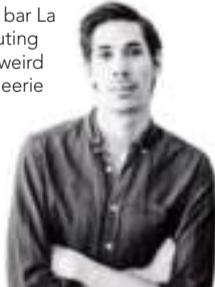
Time for some serious dancing: Woobar's first party of the year is a binary big deal featuring international house compilation masters Dom Chung and Sean Brosnan of Future Disco, and soul/disco Lithuanian producer duo Downtown Party Network. Jan 16, 10pm. Woobar, 6/F, W Hotel, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2222. \$150 from ticketflap.com, \$250 at the door.

House of Play: DJ Sander Kleinenberg

Possibly best known for his dance remix of JT's "Rock Your Body," Dutch DJ Sander Kleinenberg will be spinning a mix of house, electro and more at Play's Thursday house night. Reserve tables at reservations@playclub.asia. Jan 21, 10pm. Play, 1/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, 2525-1318. \$200 for ladies, \$300 for gents at the door.

La Dame Noir

Marseille-based, DJ-owned bar La Dame Noir makes its first outing to Hong Kong, bringing its weird groovy mix of nu-disco and eerie ("haunted") house to the dance floor. Things are getting spooky... Jan 23, 11pm. Bassment, LG/F, 13 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, 2815-0868. \$100 from eventbrite.com, \$150 at the door.



FuFu: Soichi Terada

A longtime cornerstone of the Japanese house scene and also the man behind soundtracks for games such as the "Ape Escape" series, Soichi

Terada will cook up some glitzy 8-bit-tastic tunes with a side of soul at Mahalo. Jan 29, 8pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2488-8750. \$150 from ticketflap.com, includes one drink; \$300 at the door with two drinks.

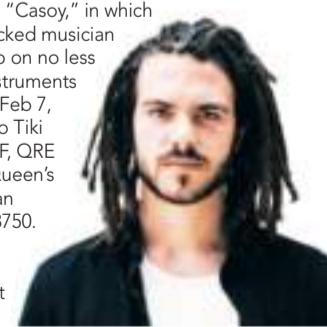


General Ludd

Hong Kong's own Fragrant Harbour label has invited Glaswegian tribal house duo General Ludd to play at Bassment—expect a mix of everything from Brazilian to hip hop to Ethiopian beats. Jan 29, 11pm. Bassment, LG/F, 13 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, 2815-0868. \$100 from eventbrite.com, \$150 at the door; both include one drink.

FKJ

Cliché Records brings French record producer and multi-instrumentalist FKJ back to Hong Kong for the second time. Want a preview? Check out his latest video, "Casoy," in which the dreadlocked musician grooves solo on no less than four instruments plus vocals. Feb 7, 8pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2488-8750. \$150 from eventbrite.com, \$200 at the door.



Concerts

Diana Krall

The "Look of Love" jazz crooner is performing a one-night-only gig in Hong Kong as she tours her latest studio album, "Wallflower." Get ready for classics from the 60s onwards, and an all-new number composed by Paul McCartney, "If I Take You Home Tonight." Jan 24, 8pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$480-880 from hkticketing.com.

The Vamps

Not to be confused with the 60s Aussie all-girl rock band of the same name, boyband The Vamps first started off as a YouTube sensation further exploded on the UK pop scene when they supported a McFly show in 2013. The foursome is accompanied by The Tide, an American teen group that they've just signed to their own record label. Teen-tastic! Jan 28, 8pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$488-888 from hkticketing.com.

Gigs

Ladybeard Returns to Hong Kong

Bored of the Hong Kong music scene? Here's something completely different. Dressing up as a pigtailed 5-year-old, six-foot-tall Aussie wrestler and "kawaii-core" pioneer Ladybeard returns to Hong Kong for this gig. Known for his metal covers of Cantopop and his Japanese pop-metal band Ladybaby (formed together with two cute Japanese teens), Ladybeard's return is unmissable if you're after something a little more... alternative. Doors open 3pm. Jan 16, 3:30pm. Focal Fair, 28/F, Park Avenue Tower, 5 Moreton Avenue, Causeway Bay. \$250 from undergroundhk.com; VIP tickets \$450 with access to meet and greet.



You & Me & Sweaty & Cramped

Feel the moist goodness of Hong Kong's indie rock scene at this Hidden Agenda gig. Three local groups are in the spotlight: Take This! (said to be "almost as handsome and at least three times more brutal" than UK pop group Take That), indie four-piece Oh! Nullah, and "meth rock" band Emptybottles. Joining all the way from Taipei and freshly revived from a two-year hiatus are punk rockers Tourning Magazine. Jan 16, 7:30pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$250 from ticketflap.com, \$280 at the door.



Cicada

Ready for some calming post-holiday tunes? Taiwanese instrumental band Cicada (so named because people tend to know cicadas by their sound, and not their appearance) headlines at Hangout, supported by acoustic guitar duo WoodyWoody, Hong Kong hard rock foursome Andy is Typing, and indie singing sister duo Tse Chin-tung and Tse Chin-lui. Jan 23, 7:30pm. Hang Out, 1/F, Youth Outreach Jockey Club, 2 Holy Cross Path, Sai Wan Ho, 2622-2890. \$180 from tiny.cc/hk-cicada; \$200 at the door.



Bon Iver

Strap on your hipster beanies, because indie folk act Bon Iver is touring Asia. Haven't heard mountain man Justin Vernon's stuff beyond his bit in Kanye's "Lost in the World"? Start listening to first album "For Emma, Forever Ago" on loop now, written while hibernating for three months in a cabin in Wisconsin—it's the perfect winter playlist. Mar 8, 8pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St., Mong Kok. \$590 from ticketflap.com, \$690 at the door.



Nightlife Events

Shelter Skelter 2016

Good deeds and good music come together at Shelter Skelter. The two-day show features 11 Hong Kong bands including After-After-Party, Logo and Milk Shake 7, and everyone's playing for international disaster relief charity ShelterBox, who provide emergency shelter and vital supplies to those overwhelmed by disasters around the world. Jan 16-17. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$90-125 from tgec-en.ticketarena.asia.

PDT Pop-up Bar

The Shell at MO Bar has been given a makeover to recreate legendary New York speakeasy, PDT (Please Don't Tell). You'll enter the bar through a secret entrance via phone booth from MO Bar, where you'll find three of PDT's top bartenders whipping up a list of 12 classic PDT and new Hong Kong-inspired cocktails. Through Jan 30. MO, The Landmark Mandarin Oriental, 15 Queen's Rd. Central, 2132-0077.

Bev Drinks Now In Town

If you're a stickler for boutique booze brands, liquor distributor Bev is bringing a slew of special cocktails and drinks to six locations throughout Hong Kong and Macau, including Mercedes Me, Salon de Ning, Ping Pong 129 and more. Some of the liquors on offer include the smooth, five-times filtered lordanov Vodka (\$399 per bottle); a range of sparkling wines by Castle of Dracula (\$138)—including of course a blood red one—and the Gin Sul from Hamburg, which is brimming with flavors of rosemary, rose blossoms and lemon peel. facebook.com/BEVHK.



FuFu: Brunch Electronico
FuFu's resident DJs are taking over Ping Pong 129 for a Sunday afternoon of soulful and jazzy house. Chill vibes, Spanish brunch, G&T's and cervezas at one of Hong Kong's hipster joints? Sign us up. Jan 17, 11am. Ping Pong 129, LG/F, Nam Cheong House, 129 Second St., Sai Ying Pun. Call 9835-5061 for more info. Menu and prices TBC.



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The Revenant ★★★☆

(USA) Drama. Directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hardy, Forrest Goodluck. Category IIB. 156 minutes. Opened Jan 8.

With "The Revenant" having just won three Golden Globes including best drama, best director and best actor for Leonardo DiCaprio, all eyes will be on Leo in the next few months. Will he finally snag his long-awaited best Oscar gong, for this role as the most badass 18th century frontiersman who ever lived to tell his tale?

DiCaprio plays seasoned fur trapper and scout Hugh Glass, who's on a fateful expedition in Missouri that goes horribly, horribly wrong. While making his way back to base Glass narrowly escapes death after being mauled by a bear, but he's gravely injured. Seen as a burden to his crew, he's left with two men and his half-Indian son, who promise to give him a Christian burial when he dies. But the men flee after dumping him in a shallow grave, only... he still doesn't die. Grappling with the elements while vowing vengeance on the men who deserted him, thus begins the odyssey of Hugh Glass as he crawls towards survival across the naked American frontier. And thus, too, begins the desperate quest of Leonardo DiCaprio as he clammers towards his Oscar.

The desperation of Glass (and DiCaprio) exudes throughout this almost-three-hour-long film—half of which is almost totally silent as DiCaprio basically Bear Gryllses his way through blindingly white snow-capped mountains, eats rotting flesh, makes fires and heaves his broken body through hell and back—to the point that it's almost comical. It's almost a contest between how much Hugh Glass wants to survive to kill his enemies—and what DiCaprio will put his body



through in the name of Art. For the internet-savvy, particularly memorable highlights that you'll soon see as gif memes include: Leo wistfully hugging a tree, Leo being reverse-birthed into a still hot and steaming horse carcass for shelter, and Leo cruising down an icy river in a bear cape, like a large fluffy brown marshmallow.

Joking aside, DiCaprio's complete physical control over his largely wordless character, and his ability to convey the emotional journey with such a limited scope of movement and dialogue is entirely commendable. But is it Oscar-worthy? If anything, Tom Hardy's Fitzgerald—a racist, cynical survivalist—is a much more interesting, fleshed-out character. We hate him and love him at the same time for his selfish resolve, enhanced by well-written, cutting and thought-provoking dialogue plus the opportunity to show off that pure Hardy swagger.

Leo may have been given free rein to demonstrate his every single physical and actorly muscle in this movie:

But alongside Hardy's Fitzgerald, DiCaprio's Hugh Glass feels like an actor's exercise, an extension of Leo's fantastic Quaalude overdose scene in 2014's "Wolf of Wall Street."

As a follow-up to last year's heavily acclaimed "Birdman," which won four Oscars including Best Picture, Alejandro Iñárritu's latest movie is less talkative, but still packs on his instantly recognizable style: Long shots with barely discernible cuts allow us to follow the action closely. It works particularly well in chaotic fight scenes that allow the in-your-face violence to really seep in.

Painstakingly shot in all-natural light and largely in sequence, Iñárritu's style shines through to tell a story of the resilience of human nature as well as of magic and dreams: If only Glass's tale was told less silently. But to tell an emotional journey without words is perhaps the greatest test of a good actor, and Leo is undoubtedly a great one. It's what got Eddie Redmayne his Oscar gong last year, so maybe Leo will finally get his shiny statue after all. Maybe. **Evelyn Lok**

Coming Soon

The Big Bee

(Japan) Set in 90s Japan, the Big Bee is a state-of-the-art military helicopter that's remotely hijacked on the day of its launch and flown above a nuclear power plant. Full of explosives and with only eight hours before fuel runs out, how will Japan get itself out of this sticky situation? Opens Jan 21.

The Big Short ▾

(USA) Do you know what a subprime loan is? If you're still scratching your head at what really went down during the 2008 financial crisis, "The Big Short"—aka 2016's "The Wolf of Wall Street" sans drugs—is your best bet to catch up. Ryan Gosling, Steve Carell, Christian Bale and Brad Pitt play the banking bros who predicted the whole crisis—and bet against it, earning millions. Opens Jan 21.

Concussion

(USA) Will Smith is Dr. Bennet Omalu, the man who discovered the sports-related brain trauma disease CTE, which leads to brain deterioration similar to Alzheimer's. "Concussion" is the dramatic retelling of his crusade to alert all quarterbacks... Safety first! Opens Jan 21.

Dirty Grandpa

(USA) Zac Efron, an uptight lawyer (in what world would that work?), is about to marry his boss's daughter, but he's taken on a whirlwind road trip through Florida with his sleazy grandfather (Robert De Niro). Probably exactly what you'd expect from a movie titled "Dirty Grandpa." Opens Jan 21.



Our Brand is Crisis

(USA) Sandra Bullock saves the day once again: As "Calamity" Jane, a retired campaign strategist, she's pulled back onto the scene to help bring up the votes for a dark horse presidential candidate in Bolivia. But is it at the cost of her conscience? Opens Jan 21.

House of Wolves

(Hong Kong) The first wave of CNY blockbusters arrives. "House of Wolves" is a comedy written by frequent Stephen Chow collaborator Vincent Kok, so expect heaps of *mo lei tau* nonsense: It stars Francis Ng Chun-yu as a con-man who's pretending to be an ALS patient, and Ronald Cheng as a village leader. Both fall in love with a girl who's new to the village. Opens Jan 21.



Tag

(Japan) Two buses of high school girls are destroyed while en route to a field trip—with the sole survivor Mitsuko running away from the mysterious murderers who are still gunning for her. Is this Japan's twisted one-up on the "Hunger Games" franchise? Nah, it's just some grindhouse gore from genre master Sion Sono—featuring the death of a hundred scantily-clad high school chicks. Niiice? Opens Jan 21.

Opening



The 5th Wave

(USA) There's nothing like a film about the obliteration of planet Earth to start 2016 off right: Chloë Grace Moretz is a high school kid who desperately tries to save her younger brother as multiple (five) waves of alien attacks destroy the human race. Bet she wishes she could "Carrie" herself out of this pickle. Based on the 2013 bestselling young adult sci-fi novel by Rick Yancey. Opens Jan 14.



Steve Jobs

(USA) Apple geeks, hold on to your lightning cables: Danny Boyle's Steve Jobs biopic starring Michael Fassbender finally lands in Hong Kong. It chronicles the story of the father of Apple from his first launch of the Macintosh in 1984, to his personal struggles with his ex-girlfriend and son, to his departure and later return to Apple. Written by "The Newsroom" screenwriter Aaron Sorkin, it's two hours of rapid-fire dialogue and tension. Fantastic and does the Apple legacy justice, but you'll be utterly exhausted by the end. Opened Jan 14. ★★★☆

Salut d'Amour

(South Korea) A light Korean rom-com featuring a courtship between two geriatrics. Meanwhile, a property developer struggles to get the final signature needed to approve a redevelopment project. There's probably some kind of moral here about liking old things. Opened Jan 14.

Mojin: The Lost Legend

(China) A 3D fantasy blockbuster starring Shu Qi, Huang Bo and Angelababy, "Mojin" is the second film adapted from successful web novel series "The Ghost Blows Out the Light," telling of a trio of grave robbers who venture deep underground in search of the ultimate treasure. Opened Jan 14.

Continuing

100 Yen Love

(Japan) Submitted as Japan's entry to the Best Foreign Film category of the 88th Academy Awards, "100 Yen Love" is not your average tender Japanese love story: It's a dirty, stark peek into the life of Ichiko, a 30-something misanthrope still living with her parents who finds solace in... boxing?



The 33

(USA/Chile) The story in 2010 of the 33 Chilean miners trapped underground for 69 days swept headlines everywhere when it happened, and now it gets the Hollywood treatment. Although dodgy accents make this seem like a bit of a cheap shot...

Daddy's Home

(USA) The second comedy collab between Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg since 2010's detective action-comedy "The Other Guys," Hollywood pits mild-mannered stepdad (Ferrell) against bad boy biological father (Wahlberg) in the ultimate fatherhood one-up competition.

Dheepan

(France/Sri Lanka) Inspired by the medieval literary work "Persian Letters," in which two Persian aristocrats write about their journey through France, "Dheepan" is the tale of three Tamil refugees who flee the Sri Lankan civil war to come to France. Apt for our times and deeply moving, the film won the Palme d'Or grand prize at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival.





Edited by Evelyn Lok

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Ip Man 3
(Hong Kong) Donnie Yen returns as Wing Chun legend Ip Man. This time, the grandmaster dukes it out with none other than Mike Tyson himself, who plays a property developer who has his eyes set on land occupied by a local primary school. Obviously, the tightly executed action balances out the dubious plot. ★★★★



Joy
(USA) The annual David O. Russell movie starring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence. We follow J-Law as she plays a fictionalized version of Joy Mangano, divorcée, matriarch and founder of the business dynasty behind the Miracle Mop. J-Law, bangin' tunes and silliness: Can't go wrong. ★★★

The Little Prince
(France) Could there be a more perfect Christmas film than Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's heartrending tale of a mysterious young boy from a tiny asteroid? Although done up in CGI-style, the updated retelling of the story and its ensemble voice cast (Rachel McAdams, Jeff Bridges, Marion Cotillard and more) surely won't disappoint.

The Revenant
(USA) See review, opposite.

Secret in Their Eyes
(USA) Two FBI agents are at a loss after Jess's (Julia Roberts) teenage daughter is found murdered. Thirteen years later, Ray (Chiwetel Ejiofor) finds a lead that might just solve the case. The original 2009 film on which the story is based (it won the Best Foreign Film Oscar) might just be turning in its grave...

Sherlock: The Abominable Bride
(UK) It's TV's "Sherlock" on the big screen! The world's best sleuthing partners get a special episode to kick off the year. Sherlock (Benedict Cumberbatch) and Watson (Martin Freeman) return to the Victorian era to solve the case of a bride seeking revenge.

Star Wars: The Force Awakens
(USA) J.J. Abrams takes the reins for this first part of the sequel trilogy to the legendary space opera. Set 30 years after the fall of the Empire in "Return of the Jedi," a new military dictatorship has assumed rule. Brilliant fun, even if it's basically just a remake of "A New Hope." ★★★★

You Call It Passion
(South Korea) Do Ra-hee is a fresh grad who just can't land a job until she gets an internship at a newspaper's entertainment section, only to discover the dirty underbelly of entertainment journalism—and a passion for the press. We make all our interns go through that. Just kidding. Maybe.



Check out Kieslowski's "Three Colors" trilogy

Film Festival

Hong Kong Independent Film Festival

The HK Indie film fest returns with a selection of distinguished arthouse flicks and thought-provoking screenings. The program is led by a focus on the seminal work of the late Chantal Akerman, Belgian film director and daughter of Holocaust survivors. There'll also be a spotlight on works surrounding the Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong, as well as resistance movements in the region. Cinephiles who like Japanese films (or who really like sitting on their ass) can look forward to screenings by Ryusuke Hamaguchi, particularly his latest release: The 317-minute-long drama "Happy Hour." Hamaguchi will be in Hong Kong for Q&A sessions and a free film masterclass (entry with any Hamaguchi screening ticket stub) held after the screening of "Touching the Skin of Eeriness" (Jan 26).

Jan 24-Feb 5. Various screening locations. For more information check hkindieff.hk.

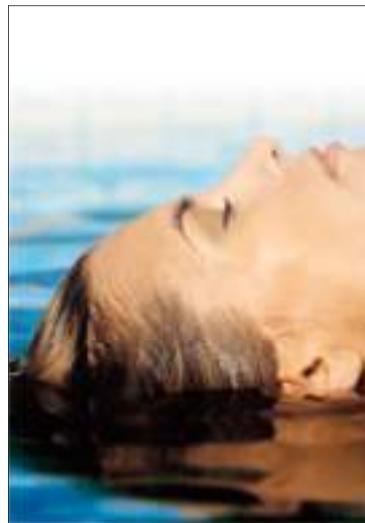
Three Colors Trilogy Marathon

Polish arthouse director Krzysztof Kieslowski's "Three Colors" trilogy is a must-see on any film nerd's bucket list. Set aside the last Sunday in January to marathon "Blue" (12:30pm), "White" (2:45pm) and "Red" (5:15pm)—which was nominated for three Oscars in 1995—in one sitting. Themed after the three national colors and the motto of France ("liberty, equality, fraternity"), the trilogy also explores the idea of anti-tragedy, anti-comedy, and anti-romance. Get chin-scratching.

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "It's a terrible thing to wait until you're ready," proclaims actor Hugh Laurie. He goes even further: "No one is ever ready to do anything. There is almost no such thing as ready." His counsel is too extreme for my tastes. I believe that proper preparation is often essential. We've got to get educated about the challenges we want to take on. We need to develop at least some skills to help us master our beloved goals. On the other hand, it's impossible to ever be perfectly prepared and educated and skilled. If you postpone your quantum leaps of faith until every contingency has been accounted for, you'll never leap. Right now, Capricorn, Laurie's view is good advice.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Fate has transformed a part of your life that you didn't feel ready to have transformed. I won't offer my condolences, though, because I've guessed a secret that you don't know about yet. The mythic fact, as I see it, is that whatever you imagine you have had to let go of will ultimately come back to you in a revised and revivified form—maybe sooner than you think. Endings and beginnings are weaving their mysteries together in unforeseen ways. Be receptive to enigmatic surprises.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Good news: Your eagerness to think big is one of your superpowers. Bad news: It's also one of your liabilities. Although it enables you to see how everything fits together, it may cause you to overlook details about what's undermining you. Good news: Your capacity for intense empathy is a healing balm for both others and yourself. At least potentially, it means you can be a genius of intimacy. Bad news: Your intense empathy can make you fall prey to the emotional manipulation of people with whom you empathize. Good news: Your willingness to explore darkness is what makes your intelligence so profound. Bad news: But that's also why you have to wrestle so fiercely with fear. Good news: In the next four weeks, the positive aspects of all the above qualities will be ascendant.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You love autonomy. You specialize in getting the freedom and sovereignty you require. You are naturally skilled at securing your independence from influences that might constrain your imagination and limit your self-expression. But here's a sticking point: If you want the power to help shape group processes, you must give up some of your autonomy. In order to motivate allies to work toward shared goals, you need to practice the art of interdependence. The next test of your ability to do this is coming right up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Nothing is really work unless you'd rather be doing something else." So said Taurus writer James M. Barrie (1860-1937), who created the Peter Pan stories. Your challenge and invitation in the coming months is to increase the amount of time you spend that does not qualify as work. In fact, why don't you see how much and how often you can indulge in outright play? There'll be no better way to attract grace and generate good fortune.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Here's my proposal: Get in touch with your madness. And don't tell me you have no madness. We all do. But listen: When I use the word "madness," I don't mean howling rage, hurtful lunacy, or out-of-control misbehavior. I'm calling on the experimental part of you that isn't always polite and reasonable; the exuberant rebel who is attracted to wild truths rather than calming lies; the imaginative seeker who pines for adventures on the frontiers of your understanding. Now is an excellent time to tap into your inner maverick.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Here's an excerpt from Dorianne Laux's poem "Antilamentation": "Regret nothing. Not the cruel novels you read to the end just to find out who killed the cook. Not the insipid movies that made you cry in the dark. Not the lover you left quivering in a hotel parking lot. Not the nights you called god names and cursed your mother, sunk like a dog in the living room couch, chewing your nails." I'm giving you a good dose of Laux's purifying rant in the hope that it will incite you to unleash your own. The time is favorable to summon an expanded appreciation for the twists and tweaks of your past, even those that seemed torturous in the moment. Laux doesn't regret the TV set she threw out the upstairs window or the stuck onion rings she had to sweep off the dirty restaurant floor, and I hope you will be that inclusive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Modesty is the art of drawing attention to whatever it is you're being humble about," said Alfred E. Neuman, the fictitious absurdist whose likeness often appears on the cover of Mad magazine. I'm here to tell you, Leo, that now is an excellent time to embody this aphorism. You are in a perfect position to launch a charm offensive by being outrageously unassuming. The less you brag about yourself and the more you praise other people, the better able you will be to get exactly what you want. Being unegotistical and non-narcissistic is an excellent strategy for serving your selfish needs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "To go wrong in one's own way is better than to go right in someone else's," says a character in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel "Crime and Punishment." I don't agree with that idea 100 percent of the time. Sometimes our wrong ideas are so delusional that we're better off getting

interrupted and redirected by the wiser insights of others. But for the near future, Virgo, I recommend Dostoyevsky's prescription for your use. One of your key principles will be to brandish your unique perspectives. Even if they're not entirely right and reasonable, they will lead you to what you need to learn next.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "I love kissing," testifies singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens. "If I could kiss all day, I would. I can't stop thinking about kissing. I like kissing more than sex because there's no end to it. You can kiss forever. You can kiss yourself into oblivion. You can kiss all over the body. You can kiss yourself to sleep." I invite you to temporarily adopt this expansive obsession, Libra. The astrological omens suggest that you need more sweet slippery sensual tender interaction than usual. Why? Because it will unleash sweet slippery sensual tender emotions and sweet slippery sensual tender thoughts, all of which will awaken a surge of dormant creativity. Which you also need very much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Everything has been said before," said French author André Gide, "but since nobody listens we have to keep going back and beginning all over again." I am happy to inform you that you're about to be temporarily exempt from this cynical formulation. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will be able to drive home certain points that you have been trying to make over and over again for quite a while. The people who most need to hear them will finally be able to register your meaning. (P.S. This breakthrough will generate optimal results if you don't gloat. Be grateful and understated.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do you want more money, Sagittarius? Are there treasures you wish you could have, but you can't afford them? Do any exciting experiences and life-enhancing adventures remain off-limits because of limited resources? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, now would be an excellent time to formulate plans and take action to gather increased wealth. I don't guarantee total success if you do, but I promise that your chance to make progress will be higher than usual. Cosmic tendencies are leaning in the direction of you getting richer quicker, and if you collaborate with those tendencies, financial magic could materialize.

HOMEWORK: Find, create, or arrange to be in the path of an experience that makes you cry for joy. Report results to FreeWillAstrology.com.

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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

As a queer man of color—I'm Asian—I feel wounded whenever I am exposed to gay men in New York, Toronto, or any city where white gay men dominate. Gay men, mostly whites and Asians, reject me because of my race and no one admits to their sexual racism. I understand that sexual attraction is subconscious for many people. But it is unfair for a gay Asian like myself to be constantly marginalized and rejected. I fight for gay rights and believe in equality, too. I had the same pain of being gay in high school and the same fears when coming out. Why is there no acceptance, no space, no welcome for me in this white-painted gay community? I'm six-foot-one, 160 pounds, fit, and very good-looking. What can I do? I might as well be a sexless monk!

- Enraged Dude Details Infuriating Experience

"I relate to a lot of what EDDIE is feeling here," said Joel Kim Booster, a Brooklyn writer and comedian. "The double-edged sword of living in a city with a large gay community is that the community gets so large we finally have the opportunity to marginalize people within it."

Jeff Chu, a writer who also lives in Brooklyn, can relate. "Racism still thrives in the gay community, just as in broader society. Many of us who are Asian-American come out of the closet and walk into this weird bamboo cage, where we're either fetishized or ignored. Many times I'd go into a gay bar and see guys playing out some gross interracial porno in their heads—with me playing the part of their Chinese pocket gay. Others (the ones I was interested in, to be candid) would act as if I were wearing an invisibility cheongsam."

Chu feels there's plenty of blame to go around for this sad state of affairs. "It's the gay media," said Chu. "It's Hollywood. (Even with all the LGBT characters we have on TV now, what images do we have of Asian-American ones?) It's that LGBT-rights organizations still haven't diversified enough, especially in their leadership. And it's all of us, when we're lazy and don't confront our own prejudices."

Booster and Chu are right: Racism is a problem in the gay community, some people within are unfairly and cruelly marginalized, and we all need to confront our own prejudices.

Even you, EDDIE. You cite your height (tall!), weight (slim!), and looks (VGL) as proof you've faced sexual rejection based solely on your race. But short, heavy, average looking/unconventionally attractive guys face rejection for not being tall, lean, or conventionally hot, just as you've faced rejection for not being white. (The cultural baggage and biases that inform a preference for say tall guys, is a lot less toxic than the cultural baggage and biases that inform a preference for white guys—duh, obviously.)

"As a stereotypically short Chinese guy, my first reaction to reading EDDIE's letter? Damn, he's six-foot-one! I'm jealous," said Chu. "And that's also part of the problem. I, like many others, have internalized an ideal: tall, gym-perfected, blah blah blah—and, above all, white."

Booster was also struck by your stats. "It's hard for me to wrap my head around any six-foot-one, fit, VGL guy having trouble getting laid," said Booster. "On paper, this is the gay ideal! I don't really consider myself any of those things—and I have a perfectly respectable amount of sex."

Booster, who somehow manages to have plenty of sex in New York's "white-painted gay community," had some practical tips for you. "EDDIE should stay away from the apps if the experience becomes too negative," Booster said. "If logging on to a hookup app burns him out, take a break. Being a double minority can be isolating, but living in a big city can be great. There are meet-ups and clubs and activities for all

stripes. Join a gay volleyball league—truly where gay Asian men thrive—or find one of the many gay Asian nights at one of the gay bars around the city. They're out there."

Chu has also managed to find romantic success in New York. "I've been where EDDIE is, except shorter, less fit, and less good-looking, and somehow I found a husband," said Chu. "The monastery wasn't my calling, and I suspect it's not EDDIE's either."

A quick word to gay white men: It's fine to have "preferences." But we need to examine our preferences and give some thought to the cultural forces that may have shaped them. It's a good idea to make sure your preferences are actually yours and not some limited and limiting racist crap pounded into your head by TV, movies, and porn. But while preferences are allowed (and gay men of color have them, too), there's no excuse for littering Grindr or Tinder or Recon—or your conversations in bars—with dehumanizing garbage like "no Asians," "no Blacks," "no femmes," "no fatties," etc.

And while racism is a problem in the gay community (sometimes thoughtless, sometimes malicious, always unacceptable), according to 2010 US Census data, as crunched by the Williams Institute at UCLA, same-sex couples are far likelier to be interracial (20.6 percent) than opposite-sex couples (13.9 percent). So there's hope—and I don't mean "hope that EDDIE will one day land a magic white boyfriend," but hope for less racism in the gay community generally and fewer racist Grindr profiles specifically.

The last word goes to Booster: "A note to the rice queens who will undoubtedly write in about this man: We like that you like us. But liking us solely because of our race can be uncomfortable at best, and creepy as hell at worst. In my experience, it's perfectly okay to keep some of those preferences behind the curtain while you get to know us a bit as humans first."

Jeff Chu is the author of "Does Jesus Really Love Me?: A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America." Follow him on Twitter @jeffchu. Follow Joel Kim Booster on Twitter @ihatejoelkim.

I am a 25-year-old Italian bisexual guy. I'm in love with a great guy, but he lives far away, and we see each other only once a month and sometimes less. A few weeks ago, I had sex with a female university colleague.

It wasn't anything special: She was somewhat drunk and hurt me with her teeth during petting, so I didn't have a good erection and I didn't come. But I liked having sex with a woman. I want to do it again, but I love my boyfriend and I don't want to hurt him. Am I destined to be unfaithful?

- More Or Less

Italians pet with their teeth? Good to know. Also good to know: *yourself*. Now, I would never suggest that bi guys can't honor monogamous commitments—even though I routinely say just that about straight guys, gay guys, straight women, and lesbians—but it would be foolish for you to make a monogamous commitment. Not because you're "destined to be unfaithful," MOL, but because *you've already been unfaithful*.

Here's what you know about yourself: You're bisexual, you want to have sex with women and men, and you don't want to cheat. Which means you'll have to either renegotiate the terms of the relationship you're in now—get your boyfriend's okay to have sex with a woman once in a while—or end the relationship and find a boyfriend (or girlfriend) who will give you their okay.

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In addition the package also includes breakfast, a welcome bottle of champagne and art-inspired treats on arrival. Room rates start at \$4,799 with a 10% service charge.

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The carnival is being held at the Central Harbourfront Event Space on Lung Wo Road in the heart of vibrant Central District, running until February 21. Following hot on the heels of lots of festive fun over the Christmas and New Year holidays, the focus of the carnival has now switched to the ongoing regular shows being staged to entertain revelers.

They include the highly popular "Phantastique Fridays", an interactive experience that sees selected audience members invited on stage to take part in competitions to win great prizes, and the "One Man Band," who loops sound effects and guitar tracks to singlehandedly create rock classics.

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Hotel Pennington
Inn Side Out
Isabella Bistro & Bar
Island Seafood & Oyster
Jink
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

GATEWAY APARTMENTS

Gaylord Indian Restaurant
Greyhound Café
Harbourside Restaurant
Hotel Icon
Jimmy's Kitchen
Joia 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 Int'l
Morgan Stanley
Namo
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
Tiffanys 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
Park N Shop - Parkview
Pickled Pelican Stanley
Pizza Express
Seafront
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

JORDAN/YAU MA TEI/MONG KOK

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

SHATIN

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

SAI KUNG

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

OTHER NEW TERRITORIES

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

LANTAU

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

HK GIVEAWAYS

It's week two of our January giveaways, courtesy of your favorite magazine!

You've got the chance to win an amazing stay at the Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong as well as a phenomenal meal at the swanky Greater China Club. Want to win? Read on for more!

WIN
A NIGHT AT
THE MANDARIN,
WORTH
\$10,150!



Win a suite stay at Mandarin Oriental, valued at \$10,150!

The **Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong** needs little introduction. One of the world's finest hotels, it offers the most elegant and enjoyable hospitality experience imaginable. But for one lucky reader, imagining won't be necessary.

We have a **one-night weekend stay in a Studio Suite** up for grabs. We're talking Chinese elm paneling, silk matting, bathrooms of travertine stone and Chinese marble and a pedestal bath, as well as the latest technology, breakfast and classic afternoon tea for two at the Clipper Lounge. Rose petal jam, anyone?

Fancy a chance to live the high life? Here's how. If you were reading last week, you should have already found an *italicized* word in an article on the Spotlight page of that issue. Now you have to do the same with this and the next issue! Once you've got all three, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about what a stay at this iconic property would mean to you. Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before 10am on January 25, 2016. The best, most romantic entry will win the prize.

Can't wait to win? Chinese New Year packages run from Jan 29-Feb 14. Alternatively, go for a five-course sunset Valentine's Day meal at two-Michelin-starred Pierre (Feb 13-14), or the "Romantic Suite" package (Feb 12-14): a luxurious spa session for two.

Good luck! The winner will be announced on January 29.

Win a dining voucher for the Greater China Club!

From one classic experience to another: A haven of art and fine-dining, the **Greater China Club** is rapidly forging a reputation thanks to its fabulous Thai and Cantonese food. And with not one but two chefs formerly of Michelin three-star restaurants, it all starts to make sense.

The only problem? Whether you go for the Thai chef's fresh crab with yellow curry sauce, raw shrimps with spicy seafood sauce and stir-fried Manila clams with chili paste and basil leaf, or opt for steamed fresh crab claw with egg white in wine and wok-fried Australian lobster balls with black truffle, morel fungus and asparagus from the Cantonese kitchen.

This delicious dilemma notwithstanding, you're guaranteed a great time at Greater China Club, which also boasts a jazz lounge, roof garden and art arcade.

We've got **two dining vouchers worth \$2,500 each** to give away for a meal at the Greater China Club. Want the chance to win? Just describe in one sentence what you love about Cantonese or Thai food. If your prose makes our mouths water, you've got a good chance of being a winner! Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before **10am on January 18, 2016**. Winners will be announced on January 22.

WIN
DINING
VOUCHERS
WORTH
\$5,000!



FIRST PERSON

“People ask me where I learned Cantonese. I say, ‘I learned where you learned.’”



Actor **Byron Mann** has worked in Hollywood for the last 20 years on films and shows such as “Street Fighter” and “Arrow,” but this star is a Hong Kong boy, born and raised. Ahead of the opening of financial crisis meltdown drama “The Big Short,” he tells Isabelle Hon about breaking into showbiz, being mistaken for an American Born Chinese and the differences between Hong Kong and Hollywood.

I was born and raised in Hong Kong.

I went to UCLA to study philosophy. Then I went to USC Law School.

I've loved watching movies ever since I was a kid. My favorite classics were “A Better Tomorrow” and “An Autumn's Tale.”

I couldn't have imagined that I'd be acting in Hollywood.

When I was 18, I studied law for a year. But I wasn't really interested in it.

I happened to get a break in Hong Kong: By chance I shot a music video.

It was a LaserDisc music video by Fitto Record [now Emperor Entertainment Group]. I was part of a couple on the sea shore.

My friends saw me when they went to karaoke.

That's how my acting career started.

When I went back to the U.S. I started to get cast. My first role was in a film called “Last Flight Out.”

In the U.S., you have many opportunities to make movies. In Hollywood everyone is equal. You will be recognized as long as you have talent and respected if you have the ability.

Hong Kong has many idols with pretty faces. But in the U.S., the secret of success is passion and hard work.

I might not be the most talented, but I work hard. Once I get the script I'll go over it from top to bottom. Sometimes I'll find other actors to practise with me.

Not all actors do the same. There are those who read the script for the first time when they're in make-up. But they can still remember everything.

The best actor I ever met is Eric Tsang. He didn't read scripts until the last minute. Once he read a script in the car on the way to the filming location. But he still played the role perfectly.

Once I met [the late legendary Hong Kong actor] Roy Chiao and I asked him how to be a good actor. He told me to try different types of roles, and read more books.

The projects I've worked on last year include “The Big Short” and [TV series] “Hell on Wheels,” filmed at the same time.

But I can cope with that. After all, I've been in Hollywood for 20 years!

I'm a very local Hongkonger. But many think I'm an ABC [American Born Chinese].

Sometimes I meet Hongkongers and they ask me where I learned my Cantonese. I say, “I learned where you learned.”

Hong Kong more or less makes films the same way as Hollywood. But Americans treat actors a lot better.

In the U.S. they have labor unions for all industries. They have unions for actors and cinematographers. There is a system.

Acting in the U.S. is more relaxing than in Hong Kong. I usually have two or three months for research. Hong Kong is quite limited and they seldom do that.

In Hollywood, every actor has their own trailer, with unlimited food. If they make films overseas, they have no choice when it comes to flying—they can only fly business class.

In Hong Kong, your choice is between lunch boxes and lunch boxes. And that's not even talking about the food you get on film sets in the mainland.

It was amazing to work on “The Big Short.” It's a true story.

My brother works in a bank. A year ago, one of his clients told me this story—and it's the character of Brad Pitt. I heard the real story a year before getting the script!

My hobbies are simple—tennis and golf. I only do one or two things in life, but I'm very serious about getting better at them.

I love living in Hong Kong the most. It's an active city. I can meet my friends anytime and anywhere.

I hope to be able to sleep well every day. All of us have done bad things in our lives. A good conscience is a soft pillow.

Life is long. There will be setbacks for sure. But everything will be fine.

There are many ways to live your life. Facing a setback may not be a bad thing. Maybe it's time for you to rest, to get stronger for the upcoming journey.

NEED TO KNOW...

Byron Mann's breakthrough role was as Ryu in 1994's “Street Fighter.” He's starred in movies and TV in Hollywood, Hong Kong and the mainland, such as “The Man With the Iron Fists” and “Rise of the Legend.” His new movie “The Big Short,” starring Brad Pitt and Christian Bale, opens Jan 21.

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