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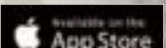


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NOVEMBER 6 2015



TRANSLATION: Let's go hard at Dragon-i tonight!



TRANSLATION: Definitely not, let's go drinking at Club 7-Eleven



TRANSLATION: You suck.

The Hong Kong
Emoji Dictionary |



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The Bible According to Carrie

Chief Secretary Carrie Lam claimed last week that "there is a place reserved for me in heaven." Poorly judged comment or evidence of total conviction in her actions? Either way, we got our hands on some of the scripture she's been reading.

Yea, in the land of Hong Kong in the country of China dwelt Carrie Lam. And Carrie Lam held a powerful position in the land, and it was good.

And lo, the LORD appeared unto Carrie Lam in the Pacific Coffee on Hennessy Road, and said unto Carrie:

"I am the LORD your God, and I have chosen you to be my voice. Go now into the world, and with the trust you have built encourage the people of the city to have faith."

And Carrie was full of doubt, and said unto the LORD:

"I doubt the path I tread. Is this current form of governance truly the right way to help my people?"

But the LORD spoke with love in His voice, and He said unto Carrie:

"I am the LORD your God, and I have infinite patience for all My people, even those who disobey the natural order. They must be made to see the path of righteousness and you, Carrie, shall be My prophet."

But Carrie was still assailed by doubt, for her conscience was not clear. Said she unto the LORD:

"I am troubled by what I am commanded to do. I feel as if I must defend the actions of a regime I am

not comfortable with. How can this be the correct way? Also, no one likes my boss."

But Carrie invoked the wrath of the LORD, and He spake with the thunder of ten thousand typhoons:

"Jesus Christ, how many times do I have to tell you to do what I tell you to do, Carrie? Honestly, would a little bit of loyalty go amiss? Also, loads of people like your boss!"

Then a barista did appear to deliver a cappuccino unto Carrie Lam, but did trip over a little bit of carpet and tear down a curtain from the wall, revealing a man hunched over a microphone.

And the voice of the LORD echoed from the wall:

"Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!"

But it was not the LORD behind the curtain, but CY Leung, bearing false witness agaisnt Carrie. And so Carrie knew this man for a false prophet, and rejected him, saying,

"Get thee behind me, CY! For thou art but a puppet of Xi, and thou lovest not the people of Hong Kong."

And CY was banished, and at last a great peace swept over the land.

Here endeth the lesson.

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HOME



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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

Why are so many of Hong Kong's buildings covered in tiles, not paint?

—Tiler Perry

Tile cladding didn't become popular until the 1970s: Before then it was paint all the way.

All that paint may have given rise to some pretty buildings (remember, pink was the cheapest color, so most buildings ended up a rosy hue). But paint is extremely porous, which means that it's not ideal for our humid climates. With its absorbency and coarse surface, it does a really great job of allowing mold to cling on, spreading across the exteriors and interiors of buildings. The paint soon starts to bubble and peel, and suddenly you have a very ugly building that might even end up being structurally unsound.

So to keep a building looking (and feeling) good, you're going to have to paint it every three to five years. That makes it vastly uneconomic when you're talking about a standard high-rise: Throwing up scaffolding every five years just so that you can then get the rollers out is very expensive, not to mention incredibly annoying to everyone living there.

Tiles, on the other hand, are much better suited to our subtropical selves. Just like in bathrooms, tiles are a good choice if you're trying to keep moisture out. They're relatively impervious to the stuff, stopping it from seeping inside buildings where it could do damage. And they're glazed, so they (more or less) clean themselves. The lifespan of tiling can be reckoned in decades, not short years.

Of course, it's not all perfect. In the mid-2000s a falling tile scandal hit Hong Kong, as they began falling off several public housing estates. The government tried very hard not to blame itself. That wasn't an isolated case: Jardine House,

the city's first skyscraper, had to be totally retiled within 10 years of being completed because bits kept falling off.

Since then paint has made something of a resurgence. But adhesives and glues are stronger than they used to be, which makes tiles a sensible choice for most housing in Hong Kong. And no, they're not put on tile by painstaking tile. Instead they're applied in big sheets, which make it easy to put together—even if it drastically lowers the possibilities for construction workers to incorporate amusing mosaics into their designs.

There's one problem, as anyone who's ever lived through a building renovation will tell you. When it does come time to replace those tiles, there's only one way they're coming off: They'll have to be drilled off the side of the building, which is an unbearably noisy process if you happen to live there at the time. Having lived through it, Mr. Know-It-All is all for bringing back the paintbrush. At least, by some measure, that's art.



Martin Chan/SCMP

Tile we meet again

My Perfect
HK

This week in My Perfect HK:

Movember's underway and we're doing our bit for charity. Our digital editor Justin Heifetz is growing out his mustache for the cause, which is very difficult if you have to sit opposite him for a month. So count your blessings but pay it forward too with a donation or two to a cause you believe in. Our cause: Trying to get Justin to shave off that mustache BEFORE the end of November.

Letters

"You don't need to go to LKF for a hangover headache... standing here is good enough."

Reject Rejection

Last week's Blowing Water [Oct 30, issue 1120] was sik ling mung, "Eat Lemon"—to get rejected or shot down romantically. A Facebook reader seemed pretty confident...

Have not been rejected but like the expression.

Rugayah Dilworth

Spy Game

Our review of the movie "Bridge of Spies" [Oct 30, issue 1120] questioned the relevance of a Cold War movie in a time of modern terrorism. A Facebook reader didn't agree.

The movie is actually very relevant for contemporary HK—looking at east vs west Berlin, authoritarianism vs freedom, it reminds very much of the challenges confronting HKers today.

Belle Rae

Colognial Oppression

Our HongKabulary "Abervombie"—throwing up a bit from the smell when you walk past Abercrombie & Fitch [Oct 30, issue 1120]—hit a nerve online.

Aha I feel sick everytime I pass by. And that shop is just like spooky haunted house lol, I'm glad I'm not the only one who gets freak of the smell.

Pretty Overkill

Never thought I'd say it but I miss the Shanghai Tang aroma.

Kristee Quinn

It's definitely a form of air pollution.

Noreen Mir

It's a deliberate marketing ploy by A & F to get parents to throw their credit card at their kids so they can avoid stepping foot in that store. All senses are assaulted. You can't see in there, you can't hear in there and the smell is gross.

Dede Watt Marconato

You don't need to go to LKF for a hangover headache....just standing here is good enough.

Zurath Kamdin

American "fashion" :D If people had more taste and don't buy it, the shop would have been close since a long time... So just blame on the people wearing it ^^.

Vincent Br

I'm more offended by half naked bodies. Passing by that place with children and grandma and grandpa. I could explain to them how it's a dress shop and they got no clothes on when it also so cold.

Ammi Khan

#PrivateEyeHK



Waterfront Storm

Photo by David Watson (Twitter: @PoodleRocker)

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



Saturday 11/14

Oms and Noms

Center your chakra all day at **Your Escape: Yoga & Wellness Festival**, where yogis of all levels will gather to learn and practise their tree poses while munching on healthy snacks. It's healthtastic! 10am-11pm. New Central Harbourfront. Free; register at classcruiser.com/yourescape.

Friday 11/6

Deep Sea Fishing

In the wake of last month's release of their debut album, "Northern Tower," folk-rock band **Stranded Whale** is performing with special guest Subyub Lee. Their band name couldn't get more hipster: They say that while stranded whales are alone, helpless and doomed to die, they are also on the edge of freedom. That's deep.

See **Nightlife**, p.28.

Saturday 11/7

Pride, Not Prejudice

This year's **Hong Kong Pride Parade** is themed "Yell Out for Equality" and has a giraffe mascot—something to do with the Chinese idiom of waiting so long that one's neck grows long, as a representation of the long and bitter battle against LGBT discrimination in Hong Kong. There's also an after-party at Propaganda: Go for the drinks, stay for the drag. Dress code: "Funny Yellow".
Parade: 2pm from Victoria Park to Tamar Park; hkpride.net.
Afterparty: 10pm, LG/F, 1 Hollywood Rd., Central; \$120 from info@hkpride.net, \$140 at the door; includes two drinks and a gift.

Sunday 11/8

Ibiza Shore

Think beaches, bikinis and Balearic beats: The Spanish Chamber of Commerce is hosting **Ibiza Party**, a two-day fiesta with DJs, live art, lots of food and booze, and a paella cook-off. If you wear white, you'll be entered into a prize draw. White T-shirt party!

Nov 7-8. Mavericks, Pui O Beach, Lantau. \$180 from eventbrite.hk, includes two drinks and tapas.

Monday 11/9

Bob's Your Uncle

Carnaby Street is in town this week for **A Slice of London**, filling Chater Garden with British festivities, food and fun: Quizzes, pub games, selfies with a London bus replica, and lots of British shopping. There'll also be a pop-up pub for all your warm beer needs. But where are all the benefit scroungers and racists?

Nov 9-14, 11am-10pm. Chater Garden, Central. Free.

Tuesday 11/10

Slaughter the Set

Aussie metalcore band **I Killed the Prom Queen** headlines at Hidden Agenda as part of their Beloved Asia Tour. Hong Kong bands Acting We Acting and Shepherds the Weak will also be shredding their instruments (and voices). Prepare your hair... 8pm. **Hidden Agenda**, 2A, Winful Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Kwun Tong, 9088-8950. \$280 from ticketflap.com/ikpqlive; \$320 at the door.

Wednesday 11/11

Bonding Time

The new Bond movie "Spectre" is out this week: now head over to Happy Valley for Bond-related festivities. **Bond at the Valley** brings to the racecourse classic British food, special cocktails, "Spectre" tickets and (of course) go-go dancers dressed as Bond girls. **Doors open 5:15pm; races begin 7:15pm.** Happy Valley Racecourse. \$10 at the door.

Thursday 11/12

Shabbat ShaBAM!

This month PMQ is hosting an **Israeli Design pop-up shop**. Products range from traditional hand-crafted accessories to cutting-edge jewelry and design—go check it out! Through Nov 19; closed Mon and Tue. Shop 504, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central.

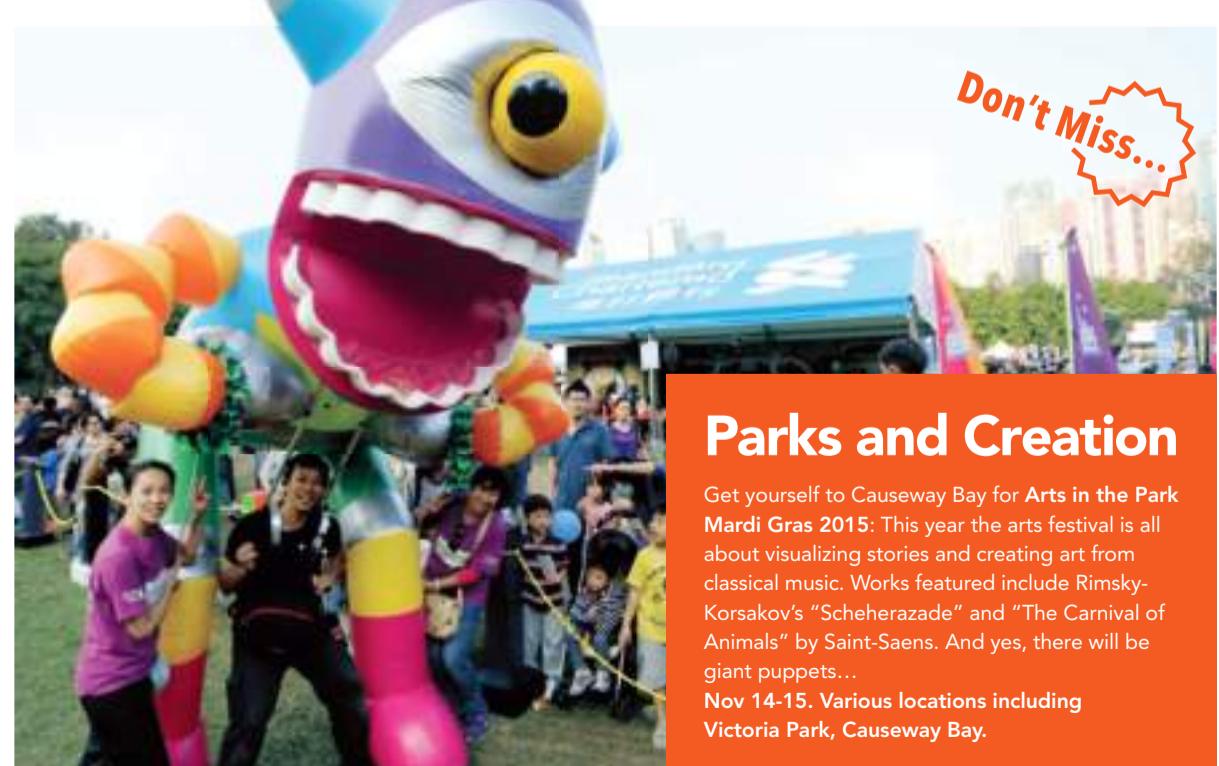


Friday 11/13

How Bazaar

Yep, it's already that time of the year: Christmas shopping season. Head over to the 29th edition of the legendary annual **AWA Charity Bazaar**, where with any luck you'll find an antique necklace that some stallholder didn't manage to sell the first 28 times around.

11:30am-8:30pm. PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central.



Parks and Creation

Get yourself to Causeway Bay for **Arts in the Park**

Mardi Gras 2015: This year the arts festival is all about visualizing stories and creating art from classical music. Works featured include Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade" and "The Carnival of Animals" by Saint-Saens. And yes, there will be giant puppets...

Nov 14-15. Various locations including Victoria Park, Causeway Bay.

NEWS

Last Week In Reality

Illustrations: Ryan Chan

SAT 24

Border Patrol
A 42-year-old man

suspects his wife of having an affair with her 33-year-old male friend. The wife and her friend had gone to the mainland together, and so the husband awaits them at Huanggang Port in Shenzhen. At around 10pm, he sees his wife with the man, behaving in an intimate fashion. He pulls the woman's hair and attacks the man, shouting: "You are having an affair with my wife!" He chases them from Huanggang Port through to Lok Ma Chau in Hong Kong. Immigration officers try to restrain him, but the husband keeps trying to kick the man and bite the immigration officer who is holding him back. Police arrest both the man and his wife; her friend is sent to hospital with an injured hand.



SUN 25

Hit-n-Run A BMW driver with a learner's permit swerves northbound through Nathan Road at 1:45pm. He drives through a red light at a busy pedestrian crossing, running over and injuring the foot of a 21-year-old pedestrian. He briefly turns and stops with his emergency lights on, before driving off. Witnesses call the police with the license plate number, and the police locate the 47-year-old driver, who says the car had a mechanical issue and was unable to stop. Police are investigating the incident.

Quote of the Week

"Utmost stupidity."

Professor Chan Yuen-ying, director of HKU's Journalism and Media Studies Centre, described a request by HKU for the identity of the person who leaked confidential recordings to Commercial Radio. The station had aired recordings of HKU council meetings over the failed appointment of professor Johannes Chan before HKU obtained an injunction against it.

Talking Points

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

Carrie Lam Could Be a Calvinist

Chief Secretary Carrie Lam gave a speech at the opening ceremony of the Caritas Bazaar, a Catholic charity event, in Victoria Park. Quoting from the bible she declared: "Some have said that the eighth beatitude is great for me: 'Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,' because **heaven has already reserved a place for me.**" Lam did not specify the manner of her persecution, or the identity of her persecutors. The **comment has received mixed responses** from religious leaders: Cardinal-Bishop John Tong-hon said that Lam was a great role model, while Reverend Thomas Law Kwok-fai told AM730 newspaper that "**Nobody would say that about themselves**" and that he personally "would not dare."

Our take: May we join you in heaven, O Righteous Lam?

Illustration: Elaine Tang



MON 26

Cane Unable At around 1am, a 20-something man carrying a cane goes to a Yau Ma Tei congee shop. He puts down his cane, uses the toilet, and then heads to the kitchen where he picks up a 30cm-long cleaver. He slips it under his waistband and leaves. The staff, afraid to give chase, call the police. A policeman finds him one block over, but man drops the knife and tries to flee. He is caught and arrested for possession of an offensive weapon and failing to produce a document of identification.

TUE 27

Monkey Business At around 11am, about 50 monkeys enter the Tsz Wan Shan Estate Service Reservoir Playground. They rip down banners, climb over the buildings and excrete on the basketball courts. Nearby students are ushered away and school gates are closed. Police arrive, equipped with riot shields. AFCD staff entice the monkeys with apples, luring them out of the playground.

WED 28

Son Connery A man appears in court charged with money laundering and extortion. In July a 20-year-old man picked up a call on his home line and heard a voice crying for help, while another voice demanded a ransom of \$230,000. Knowing it was a scam the man played along, responding with his best granny voice while contacting the police on another line. He told the scammers that the grandson of the fictional granny would drop off the money in Tai Po. When the scammer came to pick up the money, he was arrested. In court the accused, a mainland, says he was helping his boss pick up the money and knew he might be breaking the law, but was looking for a quick buck.



THU 29

Cash Con A man orders a \$33 lunch in a Wan Chai cha chaan teng and pays with a \$1,000 note. The cashier, who says that she normally does not accept \$1000 notes, assumes he is a mainland without smaller denominations and accepts the payment. She returns \$900 with a \$500 note at the bottom of the bill stack. While she counts the remaining \$67 in change, the man replaces the \$500 note with \$50, and then complains that he did not receive the correct amount. The cashier recounts the change and puts in another \$500. After the incident, the cashier sees on a security camera that the man was preparing the con at his seat before paying for the meal.

FRI 30

More Monkeys At 1pm, a monkey snatches a pre-packaged \$10 bun from a Circle K shelf in Tsz Wan Shan Tsz Ching Estate and sits on a nearby ledge to open and eat it. A crowd of residents stops and watches the monkey, taking pictures with their phones. It leaves before the police arrive. Monkeys have been heading to the estate every day between 11am and 1pm due to residents feeding them, and they have developed the habit of stealing food from the area.



Parental Love is Infinite

CY Leung's daughter, Leung Chai-yan, screamed at and **slapped her mother Regina Tong twice** at around 3am on Halloween night as she was ushered into a taxi in Lan Kwai Fong. Chai-yan yelled to the crowd, "You know this mom is **not my actual biological mother.**" Tong asked the media to give Chai-yan space, saying that **she was probably "tipsy"** and only wanted to protect her friends.

Our Take: With friends like these...



Street Talk

Ahead of the opening of "The Force Awakens" in December, Times Square is hosting an exhibition of all things Star Wars—including the models of Star Wars superfan **Ray Wong**. He tells Kate Lok about his love for scout troopers... and his hate for Jar Jar Binks.



HK Magazine: How did you get into Star Wars?

RW: I have always been fascinated by the characters of Star Wars. When I was 13, I watched the 1997 special edition of the remastered Star Wars films and fell in love. I started reading about them and did tons of research—that's when I thought of making Star Wars characters into models.

HK: Who's your biggest Star Wars influence?

RW: My brother was a big influence on my Star Wars obsession. He is a die-hard Star Wars fan, too. It inspired him to be a director, while I was inspired to make models.

HK: If you could be in Star Wars, who would you be?

RW: I would like to be a scout trooper: They are my favorite characters in Star Wars. I dressed up as one in a recent Disneyland Parade in July. Even though they are not featured much in the films, scout troopers are an important part of the Star Wars story.

HK: Have you ever made a scout trooper model?

RW: Yes. I made my first scout trooper model when I entered the Hong Kong Model Competition in 1999.

HK: Which of your creations are you most proud of?

RW: It has to be Clone Commander Bacara. It is special to me because it was the first Star Wars model I ever made. I was inspired to make my first set of clone troopers after

watching the first Star Wars trilogy in 1997, and it took me a year and a half to make all 16 of them. Just like all my other models, I handmade every single one of the clone troopers.

HK: Have you made models of any other characters?

RW: I make toy samples for 7-Eleven. In the past, I made Hello Kitty and Sailor Moon characters for them. A couple of years ago, I created a board game inspired by the famous Chinese legend, Journey to the West. The game, "Journey: Wrath of Demons" broke Hong Kong's Kickstarter record when I developed it. I am also inspired to make models of people I admire. I made a model of Mother Teresa—I have great respect for the woman. It's one of my best works.

HK: How do people react to what you do?

RW: It's really hard to explain what I do to people, especially to people of the older generations, because they don't believe you can make money out of making models.

HK: Do girls dig it? Or do they think you're a total nerd?

RW: I made a piano model once for my ex-girlfriend. I'm not sure what she thought about it.

HK: Where do you get your inspiration from?

RW: I really look up to [special effects master] Stan Winston—he's one of my biggest inspirations when it comes to model-making. I have great respect for the Star Wars

props team. I understand how hard they work so I always stay until the end of the credits when I go to cinemas.

HK: Which Star Wars character isn't worth the effort?

RW: Jar Jar Binks. I'm sure a lot of Star Wars fans will agree.

HK: How would you re-write Star Wars, if you could?

RW: I would make the prequel trilogy less computer graphic-heavy and incorporate more realism.

HK: What's your favorite Star Wars line?

RW: I love the quote by Yoda, "Do, or do not. There is no try." It has become my life motto because it encourages me to take on chances that I am unsure of. There's no "take two" in life, and nobody can ever guarantee you a second chance, so go for your opportunities and hold on to them.

HK: What's up next for you?

RW: I want to further promote my board game in Hong Kong. It's a lot more popular overseas—it is quite difficult to grab Hong Kong people's attention, and trends fade quickly here as there are way too many new things coming out each day. I also want to add other famous characters and stories into the game. I create these games to promote Chinese history and culture, but I'm still waiting for investors.

See some of Ray Wong's work on display at

Times Square's Star Wars exhibition, through Nov 15.

Blowing Water

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

sau1 pei4

收皮

"WITHDRAW SKIN"

"Shut up/get lost." A group of four gamblers playing Fan Tan is a "skin." When police broke up illegal gambling dens, this cry would go out as a warning. Has since become an insult. An alternative origin derives from "withdraw foreskin," i.e. "stop having sex and leave."

HongKabulary



Extra-Trailrestrial (ɛkstrə trɪlrestriːl), n.

Alien-looking middle-aged people on hiking trails, clad from head to tail in long-sleeved clothing, face masks, broad hats and neck protectors.

"Want to hit up the Wilson Trail this weekend?"

"No. Last time I had an encounter with an extra-trailrestrial. They probed me... about my love life."

The HK Magazine Emoji Dictionary

Facebook's been trying to introduce a new "dislike" button. Of course, in Hong Kong we know emotions run deeper than that. But Whatsapp emojis are a little... limiting, aren't they? So we decided to make some more and share them with you...



OKla



Starting easy

Let's begin with some easy conversation with our favorite emoji chums. Can you get it right? We'll help with the first one. Answers for the rest on p.13.

TST 4 🍜🧅🧈, @ 🚤 or 🚂 ? 21:52



21:52 ✓

Example

"Let's go to Tsim Sha Tsui for some cha chaan teng food. Meet at the Star Ferry or the MTR station?"



"There are too many people in TST, let's just go for dim sum instead."

😷 😷 😷 9:53



9:54 ✓

1 What does this say?



暂停载客 OUT OF SERVICE, 暂停载客 OUT OF SERVICE, 🚂, 😠 20:59

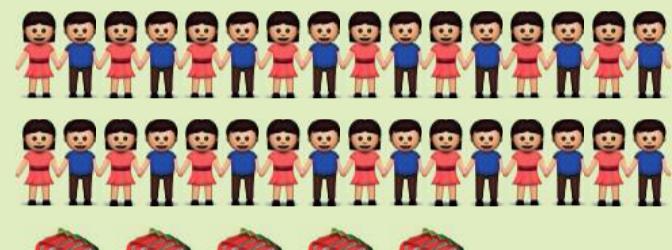


21:01 ✓

2 What does this say?



🧅 ? 18:22



18:30 ✓

3 What does this say?



????? 21:55



HK ?

18:35 ✓

OKla 18:40

4 What does this say?



Getting Trickier...

Identify the following scenario.



1

What does this say?





Sweary Emoji Time

Ever wanted to swear at someone in Cantonese, via tiny symbols? Now you can! What is each of these obscenities?



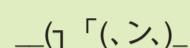
1 What does this say?



2 What does this say?



3 What does this say?



4 What does this say?



5 What does this say?



6 What does this say?

- _(ツ)_/ - Pretty Tricky

Can you guess the Hong Kong movie from the emoji summary?



1 What does this say?



2 What does this say?

(╯°□°╰)╯┻━┻ Really difficult

So you're pretty good at emojis. But can you follow this story?



Now you try! 💪

Want to use these special HK Magazine emojis? You can! Download the complete set from tiny.cc/hk-emojis.

Alternatively, we've uploaded all of our emojis to the **Imoji app** (free on Android and iOS), tagged "hkmagazine."

Download the app and search for the tag, and you'll be able to use them as stickers in all your conversations. You're welcome!

The Answers:

So, how good at emojis are you?

Starting Easy

1) "I'm feeling very ill."
"You have my deepest sympathies."

2) I have no money on my Octopus card, and so I cannot get the MTR.
"Take the tram and I'll see you at Dusk Til Dawn."

3) "Let's go eat."
"I can't, I have a family dinner."

4) "Where are you?"
"I'm in a taxi crossing the harbor, be there in 6 minutes. Grab an HK Magazine!"
"Ugh, fine."

Getting Trickier

1) The MTR, as musicians queue to have their instruments allowed on.

Sweary Emoji Time

1) *Ding lei gor fai* (I poke your lung)

2) *Zau gau* (Running dog)

3) *Sang gau char siu ho gor sang lei* (it would have been better to give birth to a piece of char siu than to have given birth to you)

4) *Pok gai* (Fall down in the street)

5) *Ham sup* (salty-wet, lecherous)

6) This is the universal emoji representation of a penis.

Pretty Tricky

1) This is Wong Kar-wai's "In the Mood for Love."
Two couples move into the same apartment building.
The man (Tony Leung) and the woman (Maggie Cheung) find themselves living lonely lives, eating noodles alone.
They spend more time together, sharing meals.
They fall in love, but they do not consummate their relationship.,
The man leaves for Singapore, broken-hearted.
Time passes and the pair do not meet again.
In the final scene, the man visits Cambodia and whispers his secret love into an ancient temple.

2) This is "Enter the Dragon." Bruce Lee is a martial artist who joins a white man and a black man as they travel by boat to a castle.
There they engage in a fighting tournament, until Lee emerges victorious.

Really Difficult

CY Leung greets Longhair. Longhair insults CY, brandishing a yellow umbrella.
CY gets mad. Longhair demands universal suffrage. CY blames foreign forces.



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Be My Bae

Opera Gallery hosts a solo exhibition by Korean artist **Bae Joon Sung**. His works combine modern photography techniques with themes from classical paintings, fusing east with west into a multicultural multimedia whole.

Through Nov 26. **Opera Gallery Hong Kong**,
G/F-3/F, W Place, 52 Wyndham St., Central, 2810-1208.

FASHION

LOOKBOOK

Edited by Zoe Chan

Blogger & Stylist at normalchic.com | Instagram @zoe_normalchic



Photo: Kirk Kenny / studiozag.com

Boots Made For Walkin'

With the fall breeze in the air, we can finally take our long boots out from the depths of our dusty closets. They're sexy and they nicely accentuate your legs, too. Here I'm wearing boots from Ugg: Their latest fall/winter collection has more to it than just fuzzy sheepskin boots. I've paired it with a Sandro knit dress: I love the military button details for a touch of sophistication.

Knit dress, \$2,990 from Sandro.



Stretch suede boots,
\$2,890 from Ugg



Silver and cubic zirconia bracelet,
\$499 from Pandora



Shoulder bag,
\$3,490 from Claudio Pierlot



Leather boots,
\$1,195 from Start Rite @ Melijoe

Sandro

Shop 3082A, 3/F, IFC Mall,
8 Finance St., Central, 2295-3308.

Ugg

2 Yiu Wa St., Causeway Bay, 2893-1338.

Claudie Pierlot

Shop 3085B, 3/F, IFC Mall,
8 Finance St., Central, 2295-3308.

Pandora

57 Queen's Rd. Central, 2117-4650.

Melijoe

melijoe.com.

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Programme details and artists are subject to change. Please refer to HKAF website for details and conditions of sales.

TRAVEL

Edited by Daniel Creffield

daniel.creffield@hkmagmedia.com



Design Hotels' Phum Baitang near Siem Reap in rural Cambodia

Little Time, Much Money?

Missing the summer already? If you are, or you're simply looking to escape for a few days (and I mean really escape)—and money isn't much of a consideration—this might be the deal for you.

Until November 30, private island resort **Velaa**, in Noonu Atoll, north of Malé in the Maldives, is offering weekend escape packages for those looking to flee the hustle and bustle of the city.

The offer, for a minimum of three nights at selected villas/residences and valid through November 30, is aimed at people who don't have a lot of time but want all the "signature experiences" the island paradise offers.

These are pretty tempting: All the water sports you can imagine including a two-passenger private submarine and variety of other high tech toys, a Clarins spa, the world's first "short game" Golf Academy, personal butler service and Michelin-star dining. The deal also includes seaplane transfers from Malé, spa treatments and extra beds for children.

Here's the tricky part: prices start at US\$1,900 (\$14,725) per night for a Beach Pool Villa, through to US\$19,000 (\$147,250) per night for the four-bed, 14,500 square foot Velaa Private Residence.

Noonu Atoll, Maldives, (+960) 6565-000, velaaprivateisland.com.

Escape the world at
private island resort Velaa



The Montage Beverly Hills in California—check for mirrors on the ceiling first

Designs on a Longer Vacation

Want a longer holiday, free of charge? Sounds like a no-brainer to us. **Design Hotels** is offering various winter specials at 70 of its properties worldwide. Extend your stay from now until March 13 with the 3-for-2 nights or 7-for-5 nights deals; get a free upgrade to the next available room category (minimum two nights), or save 10 percent off the best available rate (minimum two nights).

Some of the trips look pretty tempting: skiing in Switzerland, arty excursions in Sydney or a stay in a traditional Khmer village close to Angkor Wat.

designhotels.com/deals

Bidding for a Guilt-Free Getaway

Preferred Hotels & Resorts, which represents a global collection of independent luxury hotels, will host a charity auction from November 2 through November 13, inviting travelers to bid on one of 10 two-night stays at five hotels around the world.

With opening bids starting at a 50 percent discounted rate, the hotels involved are the Montage Beverly Hills (California), Montage Kapalua Bay (Hawaii), Montage Laguna Beach (California), The Siam (Bangkok) and the Hotel Majestic & Spa (Paris). All of the proceeds will go to Love146, an international human rights organization whose mission is to end child trafficking and exploitation.

charitybuzz.com/preferredhotels

Senior Movement

In celebration of Senior Citizens' Day on November 15, **Dragonair** is offering those aged 65 or above in Hong Kong and Macau a 25 percent discount on tickets in all classes, to a wide range of destinations.

This is the ninth consecutive year the airline has made the gesture "as a way of expressing heartfelt thanks for the contribution senior citizens have made to the growth and development of Hong Kong." Thanks, guys!

The promotion includes many of Dragonair's popular regional destinations including Bali, Fukuoka, Penang and Taipei. Tickets must be issued by November 23, 2015 for travel between now and March 20, 2016. Blackout periods apply over Christmas and Chinese New Year periods.

2747-3333, dragonair.com.hk.





ESCAPE ROUTES



Get Arctic with Silversea



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All Aboard

Think cruise line holidays are just for rich old folk? Wrong—they're for rich folk of all ages! Or at least they might be now. ultra-luxury **Silversea Cruises** has launched a range of bespoke voyages aimed at families and friends which incorporate a wide variety of options for the "young and the young at heart."

Itineraries encompass all seven continents and feature luxury cruises to the Mediterranean, Caribbean, South Pacific, Australia, both polar regions and more than 800 destinations in between. In a bid to appeal to younger family members, there are dozens of activities that can be mixed and matched, from vineyard tours to fishing expeditions, golf, snorkeling and more.

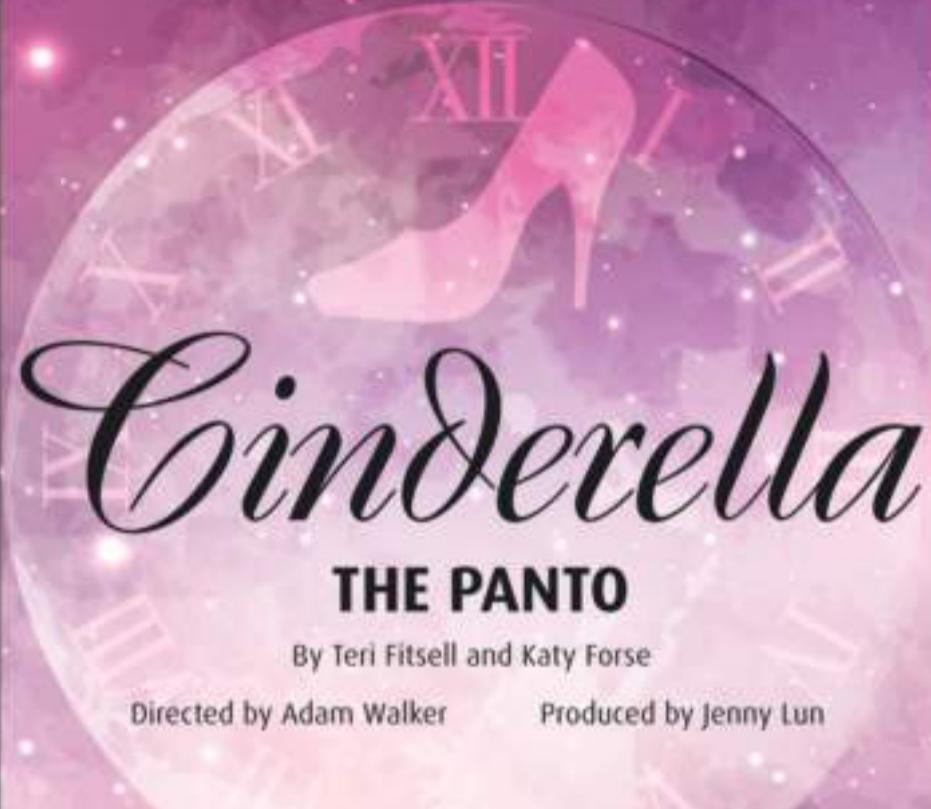
Example destinations for the all-inclusive cruises include the nine-day "Vietnam In-Depth" Singapore to Hong Kong voyage (from US\$4,250 (\$33,900) per person); the 16-day "Discover New Zealand" cruise from Dunedin to Honiara/Guadalcanal (from \$94,000); the 18-day Valparaiso, Chile to Fort Lauderdale voyage at \$67,800 per person; and Valparaiso to Ushuaia, Argentina 18-day cruise (\$140,700).

800-908-793, silversea.com.



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Every Day We're Trufflin'

The season is well and truly upon us. And no, we're not talking turkey or tinsel—for discerning diners with deep pockets, the arrival of fall means it's time to indulge in one of the most ambrosial ingredients in the world: the glorious white truffle. By **Leslie Yeh**

◀ Chef's Whites

Chef Paolo Morresi of **Aqua** is no stranger to truffles, given that he hails from the Italian town of Abruzzo, which is well known for the delicacy. This season, the chef is bringing over the best of the winter white truffle crop to the city. The menu sounds like a spectacular autumn feast, with dishes such as marinated egg yolk with butter, demi-sel truffle caviar and white truffle (\$268), wild herb white truffle risotto with pecorino (\$688) and grilled porcini mushrooms with ravioli and truffle (\$698) offering a rich and buttery sampling of the famous fungus. Save room for dessert: Mulled wine-poached pear (\$248) accompanied with cream of hazelnuts, white chocolate wasabi and—you guessed it—more shaved truffle.

29-30/F, One Peking, 1 Peking Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 3427-2288, aqua.com.hk.

Pierre is Here

Hong Kong diners: Mark November 18-25 in your calendars for an exclusive white truffle tasting with legendary chef **Pierre Gagnaire**, who's in town to showcase a four-course menu at his eponymous restaurant at the Mandarin Oriental. Gagnaire will be incorporating the exquisite ingredient in dishes such as corolla of scallops with a veil of lardo di Colonnata and artichokes (\$900) and breast of farm hen roasted with onion fondue and Paris mushrooms (\$1,300). The tasting menu is available for \$2,888 or you can order dishes a la carte. Sure, you'll probably be stuck eating wonton noodles until Christmas to balance out your budget, but that lingering aroma of truffle should be enough to see you through.

Pierre, Mandarin Oriental, 5 Connaught Rd., Central, 2522-0111, mandarinoriental.com.

Empire State of Eating

When white truffles get the **Carbone** treatment you know it's going to be memorable. The irresistible treat gets served up with all the pomp and circumstance you would expect from the fine-dining New York-Italian establishment, with truffles from Piedmont presented tableside in fancy cigar boxes by the restaurant's signature tuxedo-clad captains. Truffle shavings melt deliciously into a warm and creamy fettuccine (\$398) and float atop a classic starter of carpaccio Piemontese (\$228). Enjoy the native Piedmont treasures alongside wines from the same region, including the Luciano Sandrone 'Valmaggio', Nebbiolo d'Alba 2012 (\$898).

9/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 2593-2593, carbone.com.hk

On the Hunt

How dedicated does a chef need to be to travel to Italy's Piedmont region each year and personally source the "white gold" of the season? Two Michelin-starred chef Philippe Léveillé of **L'altro** has sniffed out (OK, he's accompanied the dogs that sniffed out) the elusive gems in the annual hunt around the forests of Alba and brought the best of the bunch back to his restaurant at L Place. Chef Léveillé is pairing truffle with slow-cooked egg and crispy parmesano reggiano fondue (\$298) and beef tartare "all'Albese," with raw egg yolk and fresh herbs.

10/F, L Place, 139 Queen's Rd. Central, 2555-9100, laltro.hk.

◀ Tosca Treats

Question: How do you make afternoon tea even fancier? Answer: Shower it in white truffles. **Tosca** at The Ritz-Carlton has crafted an exquisite menu highlighting the gastronomic gem in their white truffle afternoon tea (\$580 for one, \$1,088 for two), available through December. It's not just bite-sized nibbles and macarons here—expect savory midday snacks including white truffle burrata cheese risotto and Jerusalem artichoke with truffle shavings. Prefer your truffle hit in the morning? Stop by Sunday brunch (\$838 with free-flow champagne) for the ultimate luxury—a whole white truffle to yourself which you can shave over your favorite brunch dishes.

102/F, The Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong, International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 2263-2270.

NOMing on Truffle

NOM really is "not only meatballs": This fall, the Italian-American diner is serving up some mouthwatering truffled up dishes such as spiced cured beef carpaccio with fennel and celery (\$228) and maltagliati pasta with celery root, parmesan and fresh Alba truffle (\$368). There's no word on truffle meatballs yet, but you'd be remiss not to order a few batches of their signature dish to pair alongside the truffle feast. We're partial to the lamb meatballs with tomato olive sauce and goat cheese (\$98 for three).

1-5 Elgin St., Central, 2540-7988, nom.com.hk.





Fun Truffle Fact:

The largest truffle in the world on record, weighing in at 1.89kg (slightly smaller than an American football), sold for a whopping \$474,694 in December 2014.



White truffle risotto at L'altro



Served up in style at Carbone

Get Me Some Truffle

If you have loads of cash lying around (because who doesn't?), here's where you can blow it all on your own private stock of white truffles.

- From buffalo burrata to tagliolini egg pasta, specialty food shop **Buonissimo** (buonissimo.hk) stocks everything you need for a true Italian feast—including an impressive bounty of white truffle. A 50g piece—that's a small nugget that will fit easily within the palm of your hand—will run you \$3,105 and delivery takes 7-10 days.
- If you're not all truffled out from dinner at **L'altro**, take one home as a souvenir (minimum 50g, \$110 per gram). You can also purchase them in special gift boxes along with chef Philippe Léveillé's new recipe book "La Mia Vita al Burro" for a swanky early stocking stuffer.
- If you don't want to part with your savings just yet, there are plenty of everyday products you can stock in your pantry all year round for a quick aromatic boost. Find truffle oil, truffle butter, truffle sauce and truffle honey (you name it, it's probably a truffle thing) at international supermarkets and online grocers. Pick up a 70g jar of truffle butter at **il Bel Paese** (ilbelpaese.com.hk) for \$98 or snag a small bottle of white truffle EVOO (that's extra virgin olive oil for newbs) at **City'super** for \$80.

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DINING

Edited by Leslie Yeh

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All's well that tastes well

Steak Two

You'd think a simple steak-frites concept wouldn't allow much room for a menu revamp, but Hong Kong's masters of meat seem intent on throwing all rules out the window.

Steak Frites by the Butchers Club (52-56 Staunton St., Central, 2858-9800) has recently expanded their dinner menu to encompass seafood platters, add-ons such as roasted bone marrow and foie gras, and (beef) Wellington

Wednesdays—a popular concept brought over from their Wong Chuk Hang deli. The star remains their signature dry-aged beef, but instead of simply stating your cooking preferences, you get to choose your cut by way of USA or Australia depending on your preferred flavor profile. While the simplicity may be lost (sometimes fewer options are better) there's a good chance this beefed-up menu will draw in a more diverse crowd.

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Tang2 ★★★★☆

Cantonese/Western. G/F, Shop G09C, Cheung Sha Wan Plaza, 833 Cheung Sha Wan Rd., Lai Chi Kok, 2341-5788.



With bright yellow leather banquets and a spacious, well-lit dining room, the newest branch of David Tang's expanding restaurant empire is a colorful addition to a trendy arts and food scene emerging north of Mong Kok.

■ HIT Dishes are a mix of east and west, from beef noodle soup to chorizo penne and items such as baked pork chop rice straddling the divide. Our selection of dim sum was satisfying and worth the few extra dollars (\$18 for two pieces). We loved the spicy kick kimchi imparted in a non-traditional siu mai, but thought a sickly-sweet lobster

broth did little to enhance xiaolongbao (a quick dip in the black vinegar remedied this). Tang2's "signature" chicken rice turned out to be Hainan chicken (\$84), which was appropriately aromatic although on the stingy side. While garlic was cooked down in a subdued sauce in the crispy stir-fried vegetables (\$78), it came out pungent and raw—and banging with flavor—in our favorite dish of the night, deep-fried Sichuan wontons in a fiery soy chili sauce (\$34).

■ MISS We were served plain rice with our Hainan chicken in lieu of the usual fragrant oily rice. When we complained our waiter admitted they'd run out, but he graciously offered to comp dessert.

■ BOTTOM LINE A casual alternative to David Tang's other outlets while retaining some signature flair, including delicately crafted dim sum and succulent char siu.

Open daily 11am-11:30pm. \$\$

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

NEW AND NOTED



Bar Stars

Golden Age of Drinking

A smattering of decent bar openings in the past year has us holding our breath that Hong Kong's cocktail craft is finally getting the TLC it deserves, and new app **Bar Stars** aims to be one of the most informative ways to explore the city's burgeoning scene. The ultimate virtual pub crawl, Bar Stars gives the city's best mixologists their well-deserved spot in the limelight. Browse the app and watch a bevy of expert bartenders whip up your favorite concoctions, plus get the recipe so you can (almost) make like the pros at home. The official app launches on Nov 16, but for now you can catch Hong Kong's cool cats shaking it up at bar-stars.com.

Black Sheep's Back (Alright)

With an impressive roster ranging from US fast-food to Chinese cuisine, the Black Sheep group is hitting double digits this month with the opening of its 10th venture, a Saigonese brasserie championing the fresh flavors of Vietnam. With a Parisian-chic setting, **Le Garçon Saigon** (12-14 Wing Fung St., Wan Chai) boasts a meat-centric menu designed for family-style sharing. The kitchen is helmed by chef Bao La (you might know him from Ho Lee Fook) and the menu has us drooling already—think premium meats like wagyu beef tri-tip and kurobuta pork accompanied by fresh salads and punchy Saigonese condiments.

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Chico Chica ★★★★☆

Tapas. Shop J, G/F, 70 Third St., Sai Ying Pun, 2517-9777.



Chico Chica serves up slightly Asian-influenced tapas in a chilled-out space on Third Street.

HIT Very affordable house wines at \$48 per glass (\$48!) started us off nicely. Our tortilla (\$68) was beautifully eggy and oozy, with the unusual but excellent addition of patatas bravas sauce. Ham croquetas (\$75) were packed full of meat, although left to fry for a tad too long. A phenomenally moist, succulent cut of meat, Iberico secreto pork (\$128) was served Thai pork neck-style, perfectly chargrilled then topped with a spicy pomelo salad. We could go on eating

it forever. Churros (\$68) were freshly cooked, golden crisp on the outside and soft inside, while a half-portion of "Rice and Milk (Tea)" (\$40) was a light rice pudding, gently flavored with Earl Grey and full of berries and sorbet.

MISS Sometimes the Asian influences worked; other times, they fell short. Our "pluma hamburgers" (\$78) were a cross between a bao and a burger, with a beautifully textured bun. But the pork inside was overpowered by all the hoisin sauce. Cherry tomato tempura (\$58) with mozzarella balls and a hint of wasabi was interesting, but we're not convinced the whole thing held together.

BOTTOM LINE Charming service, good prices and some pretty tasty Spanish bites: Chico Chica will have the muchachos and muchachas running back.

Open daily noon-2.30pm, 6-10:30pm. \$\$

Our Policy

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

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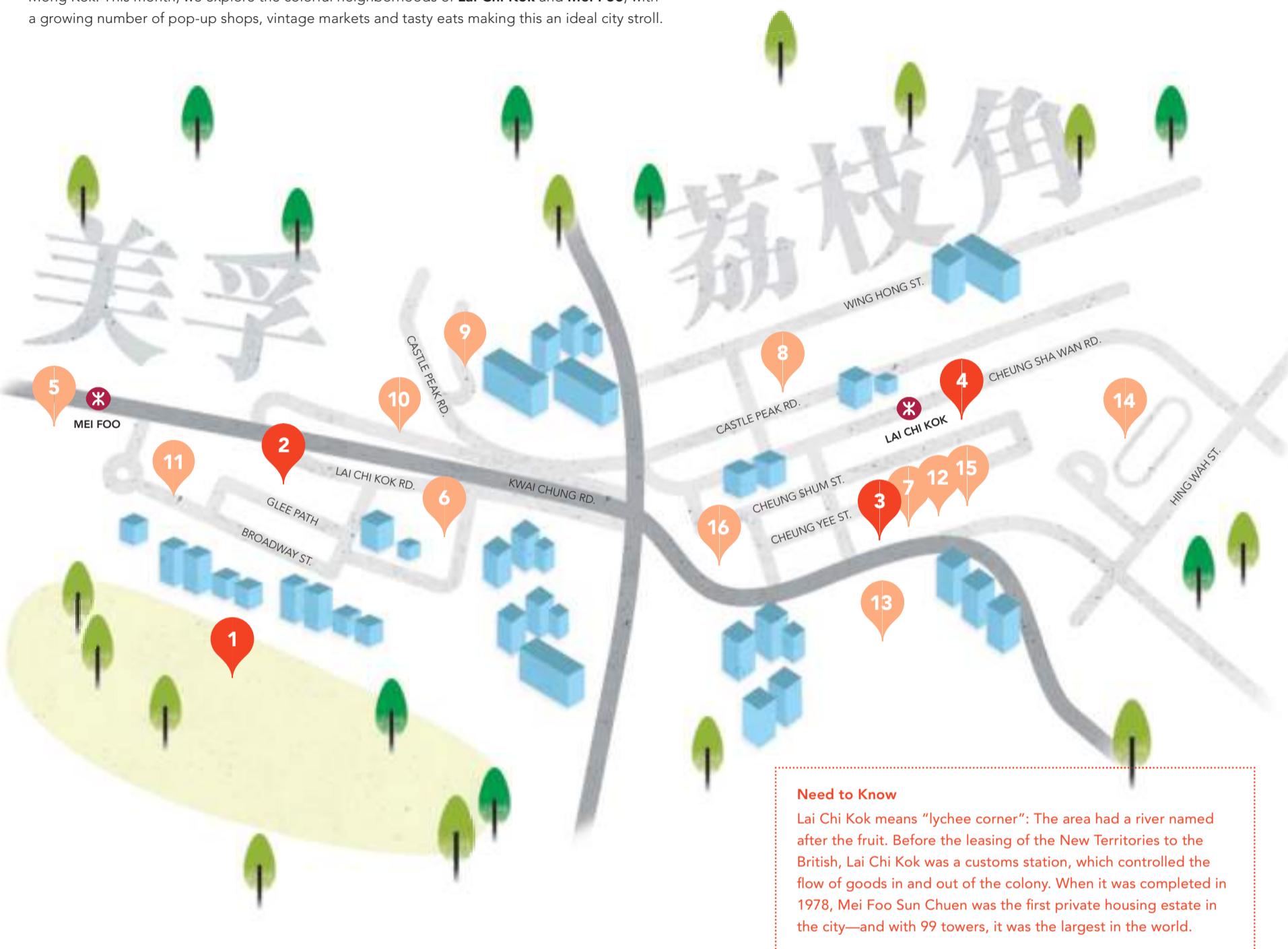
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CITY STROLL

Lai Chi Kok & Mei Foo

No longer the “dark side” of the city, Kowloon is seeing a handful of up-and-coming dining and cultural destinations that are free (so far) of the tourist traps of Tsim Sha Tsui and the crowds of Mong Kok. This month, we explore the colorful neighborhoods of **Lai Chi Kok** and **Mei Foo**, with a growing number of pop-up shops, vintage markets and tasty eats making this an ideal city stroll.



1 Lingnan Garden

With impressive water features, sculptures and landscaping, Lingnan Garden occupies 134,550 square feet inside Lai Chi Kok Park, and is an idyllic spot for a picnic or people-watching on the weekends. Enjoy your lunch under a canopy of leaves and then spend the afternoon exploring the winding corridors and courtyards.

Turn right to Broadway St. from Exit A of Mei Foo Station and walk five minutes.



2 Door Door Bakery

This bakery is a famed breakfast stop for Mei Foo locals. Get here early in the morning for freshly baked bread, butter cookies and the bakery's chewy handmade nougat, including ginger-almond and blueberry-hazelnut flavors.

G/F, 65 Broadway St., Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Mei Foo, 2148-3117.



3 D2 Weekend Markets

The opening of arts and culture hub D2 Place put Lai Chi Kok on our radar, and they've recently started hosting weekend markets for crafts makers, designers, food artisans and bands to showcase their talents. Look out for the popular Island East markets, which will take over on Nov 14-22 (Sat-Sun, 11am-5:30pm).

D2 Place, 9 Cheung Yee St., Lai Chi Kok.



4 Tang2

Cha chaan tengs are due for an upgrade: David Tang's latest concept to open in Cheung Sha Wan Plaza is a casual eatery that presents Cantonese comfort dishes with a bit of sophistication and a touch of artful presentation. Check out p.23 for our full review.

Unit G09C, G/F, Cheung Sha Wan Plaza, 833 Cheung Sha Wan Rd., Lai Chi Kok, 2341-5788.



Check back next week for more awesome things to do in Lai Chi Kok!

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CLOCKENFLAP PREVIEW: RACHAEL YAMAGATA



Photo: Shervin Lainez

With her angst-filled love songs and intimate self reflections, singer-songwriter **Rachael Yamagata's** music toes the line between uplifting pop and her signature brand of stark, lyrical tunes. She's worked with the likes of Jason Mraz, Ryan Adams and Ray Lamontagne. Ahead of her set at Clockenflap this month, she tells Evelyn Lok about her growth between her first ever single and her upcoming fourth album.

HK Magazine: Describe your music to a new listener.

Rachael Yamagata: Rufus Wainwright and Roberta Flack meet Tom Waits and Danny Elfman. Dark yet hopeful, vulnerable and stark storytelling.

HK: What's your songwriting process?

RY: I typically need some time away in nature to really settle in and work new songs. Sometimes I free-write prose and catch little nuggets of song lines within that to start me off. Other times I sit at the piano or with a guitar and just riff melodies on top of that. The words seem to form subconsciously—a lot of what it sounds like I'm trying to say in those initial stages become the lyrics later on.

HK: Were you in particular relationships when you were putting together your previous albums, or are they grouped based on specific themes?

RY: I haven't intentionally done any concept albums yet. Rather, I write my experience—anything that is inspiring to me during that period of time. Many romantic relationships have made their way into my writing, but many of my songs that register as romantic weren't written from that standpoint. For example, "The Reason Why" is not about a past relationship, but it's often received as a love song. I think many emotional parallels exist within all relationships and the listener has the freedom to interpret in whatever way that resonates with them.

HK: How does your upcoming album, "Tightrope Walker," differ from your last, "Chesapeake"?

RY: This one is less about love and heartbreak and more about overcoming one's own internal struggles. It addresses following your dreams and the drive needed to do so. There are songs

of self-acceptance, and of relishing one's choices even if they are unconventional—taking ownership of your uniqueness. Some are almost hymnal in their direct messages of comfort to the listener, that's quite new for me. Sonically, the record is fierce and abstract and much of it is new territory compared to previous records. I've played with things like electronic loops, banjo, mandolin and saxophone as well as piano and strings...

HK: You've come a long way since your debut hit "Worn Me Down." What have you learned since then?

RY: We are all such beautiful authentic beings who are more connected than we often express. I feel the passage of time more quickly now and appreciate the hilarity of life in a different way. What once had me so angst-ridden now doesn't compare to the real tragedies we go through. I have more trust in myself—I know myself better and I keep learning as I go. I think all of these things are starting to come out through my music.

HK: Do you have particular ways you prep for the stage?

RY: I give myself a quiet pep talk a few minutes before I go on. It's my way of basically inviting the universe: my guides, a creative source to be with me during the show and to breathe through me as I go. I try to release my own ego and insecurities and embrace the spontaneity of the live show.

HK: What can we expect from your set at Clockenflap?

RY: I'll be bringing a trio and we're all multi-instrumentalists and vocalists. We create a dynamic set that is intimate and lush. There will be dark ballads—and cool indie rock numbers as well.

Catch Rachael Yamagata on Saturday at Clockenflap.

Nov 27-29, West Kowloon Cultural District, clockenflap.com.

Classical

Perfect Fifth

Hong Kong choir The Greeners' Sound sings pretty much anything choral, from Gregorian chants and isorhythmic motets to contemporary madrigals. Highlights for this concert include modern works like "O Sacrum Convivium" by Gabriel Jackson and renaissance-style modern health advisory madrigal "Smoking Can Kill" by Finnish composer Jaakko Mäntyjärvi. Nov 7, 7:30pm. Cultural Activities Hall, Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre, 11 Clear Water Bay Rd., Choi Hung. \$80-120 from urbitx.hk.

Yuanyang

Marsha Yuan brings a fusion of three musical genres—musical theater, acoustic pop, and jazz—to the stage. Named after the yuenyeung cha chaan teng drink that mixes coffee and HK milk tea, expect multicultural mixing of the best kind. Nov 7, 9pm. \$260 from ticketflap.com, \$300 at the door; includes one drink (not yuenyeung).



The Chieftains

Listen to some Irish folk play Irish folk: The Chieftains is a group headed by a renowned uilleann piper with the most Irish name you'll ever see: Paddy Moloney. There'll be fiddles, drums and redheads too. Nov 13, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$150-450 from urbitx.hk.



Music Delight Series: Piano Battle

An interactive classical piano recital, Piano Battle pits the fleet-fingered duo of Andreas Kern and Paul Cibis against each other to win over the audience: They'll even improvise on audience-requested melodies. For each of the six differently styled rounds, the audience will vote on their preferred performance from their seats. Basically it's like a freestyle rap battle, but with more ivory. Nov 13, 8pm. Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall, 1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin. \$120-200 from urbitx.hk.

Men of Harlech

The Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir performs with a selection of HKAPA students. Though they have roots in Welsh culture, the choir includes locals and non-Welsh expats, and sings songs in both English and Welsh. Now if only we could figure out how to sing all those consonants... Nov 14, 7:30pm; Nov 15, 4pm. Concert Hall, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. \$200-300 from hkticketing.com.

Liszt, Hip-Hop, Soccer: The Classy Classic Show

Andreas Kern, the South African half of musical avatars Piano Battle, performs a solo show at the Fringe Dairy. He'll be bringing us on an interactive journey from the likes of Liszt to hip-hop and jazz, while dabbling in a bit of soccer and giving in to some propaganda. His tongue-in-cheek performance will make you forget you're actually at a classical concert—and isn't that the point? Nov 17, 10pm; Nov 18, 8pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$150 in advance, \$180 at the door; includes one standard drink.



Charlie Siem

The City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong opens their season with Charlie Siem, a British-Norwegian violinist and fashion model who's worked for Dior and Vogue, as well as with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and The Who. He'll be playing some Ravel and Vaughan-Williams with the CCOHK. Go for the music, stay for the jawline... Nov 21, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$200-400 from urbitx.hk.

Comedy

Paul Ogata

The tiny Hawaiian won the 2007 San Francisco International Comedy Competition and has headlined around the world. He's back in town for a whole week, so you've got no excuse not to see him. Nov 19-21, 26-28. TakeOut Comedy, B/F, 34 Elgin St., Central, 6220-4436. \$250-300 from takeoutcomedy.com.

Dance

Ablaze!

Hailing from Seoul, Jinjo Crew is the first b-boy team to win five major international competitions. Ablaze! brings the street to the stage, and Jinjo is six-stepping over to Hong Kong for the World Cultures Festival to show off their moves. Nov 6-7, 8pm. Ko Shan Theatre New Wing, Ko Shan Theatre, 77 Ko Shan Rd., Hung Hom, 2740-9222. \$130-280 from urbitx.hk.



Illuminated

A collaboration between the Sydney Dance Company and Australian Chamber Orchestra, this show combines dance with live music and a solo soprano, merging Baroque music and contemporary moves. Nov 13-14, 8pm. Kwai Tsing Theatre, 12 Hing Ning Rd., Kwai Fong. \$200-480 from urbitx.hk.

Theater

Circle Mirror Transformation

The HK Repertory Theatre premieres this award-winning American comedy in Hong Kong as part of the World Cultures Festival. It's all about a drama teacher running a course for a handful of students. As the course continues, the lines between stage and reality begin to blur. It's like they're living a TVB drama... In Cantonese with Chinese and English surtitles. Nov 14-15, 17-22. Theatre, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$160-300 from urbitx.hk.

Edited by Adrienne Chum

adrienne.chum@hkmagmedia.com



Exhibitions

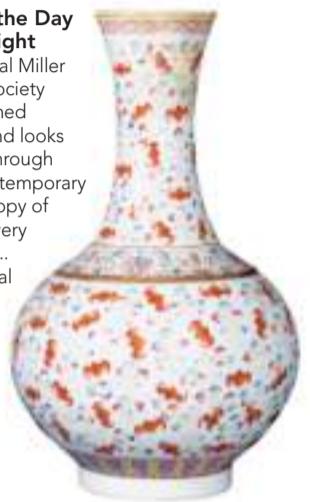


Dawn of a New Age: Ink Redefined

Art Futures Gallery debuts with a solo exhibition by renowned Chinese artist Shen Jing Dong. These ten cartoon-style portraits are all paintings of jolly, patriotic Chinese people with blank eyes and identical smiles, which have been developed from his "Hero" series of porcelain statues. Interpret that how you will. Through Jan 21, 2016. Art Futures Gallery, 85 Hollywood Rd., Sheung Wan, 3758-7888.

Bat Cave: Treasures of the Day and Creatures of the Night

This exhibition at the Chantal Miller Gallery (formerly the Asia Society Gallery), is the first bat-themed exhibition in Hong Kong, and looks at the nocturnal creatures through traditional Chinese and contemporary styles. We're hoping for a copy of Detective Comics #27, the very first appearance of Batman... Through Jan 3, 2016. Chantal Miller Gallery, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, 2103-9511. \$30; free on Oct 29 and Nov 26.



Jian Xian

Wang Tingxin's first solo exhibition takes place at Kee Club this month. She has a fascination with the relationship between light and dark, painting gold pigments onto black paper. Wang mixes traditional Chinese brush techniques with abstract impressionism to create a whole new look. Through Nov 30. Workshop A3, 28/F, TML Tower, 3 Hoi Shing Rd., Tsuen Wan. Visits by appointment at 2606-0916.

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NIGHTLIFE

OPEN BAR VCNYC

The buzz: We thought Hong Kong had already overdosed on the Korean food trend, but nope: we're still being reminded every two months or so of its apparently limitless appeal. So where does VCNYC lie in the SAR's maze of hip Korean joints? At VCNYC it's all carefully selected fusion flavors paying homage to Korean and American comfort foods alike, housed in an iconic and impossibly cool space that's well on its way to hipster mecca status.

The décor: The bar has the facade of a shipping container, which opens up into a mini courtyard where people can grab drinks while waiting for seats. Inside, the dining space is all copper fixings and oxidized metal against warm woods. It may be an overused style, but it is well executed here, accented with a large mural by iconic LA artist duo Cycyle that extends all the way into the private room upstairs.

The drinks: Come to VCNYC for one of their signature cocktails (\$85). The Kimchi Bloody Mary is made in-house with garlic

and celery-infused soju, and has a healthy helping of gochujang spice, which gives it a deliciously spicy and memorable tang—and of course, it's garnished with plenty of fermented cabbage. The Makgeolli Sour is a mix of rice wine, sour apple liqueur and rose syrup. It may taste sweet and mellow but it packs a punch. Like surprises? Try the Sweet Hazel: on first sip it's a tropical, passion fruit-based drink, but it's in fact mixed with Frangelico, leaving a pleasantly nutty aftertaste.

Why you'll be back: Ready to graduate from messy soju nights to more distinguished drinking? Make a vacancy in your calendar for VCNYC. And whatever you do, get the Korean Fried Chicken (\$95), which is both marinated in buttermilk, Southern-style, AND slathered in Korean sweet and spicy sauce. Evelyn Lok

B/F, 41 Staunton St., Central,
2608-1788, vcnyc.hk.



Clubs

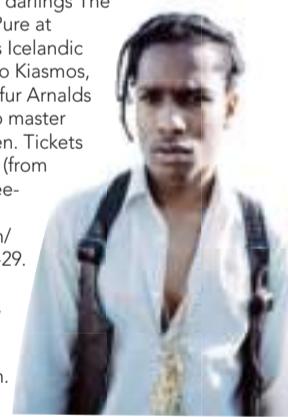


Keith Ape

Got a taste for Korean hip hop? Headlining at Fly is 21-year-old rapper Keith Ape, the hot up-and-coming trap act who made Asian-American rap history with his latest anthem "It G Ma..." which quickly drew comparisons with U.S. rapper OG Maco's "U Guessed It." Genius or appropriation? Decide while you twerk it up. Don't forget to load up on makgeolli while you're at it. Nov 7, 10pm. Fly, G/F, 24-30 Ice House St., Central, 2810-9902. \$200 from ticketflap.com, with one drink and one shot; \$300 at the door with two drinks and two shots.

Kaskade

Keep your pants on: American progressive house legend Kaskade is spinning at Bungalow. Did you know he's Mormon? Us neither. Nov 19, 11pm. Bungalow, Shop 2, G/F, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, 2623-7868. \$500 from eventbrite.com, \$650 at the door.



Concerts

Madonna: Rebel Heart Tour at Studio City

Couldn't score tickets to Madonna's stint in Hong Kong? The queen of pop makes her way to our sister SAR for two nights at the brand new Studio City, but you'll have to shell out way more to see her. Expect tons of theatrics, from pole-dancing nuns to Mike Tyson (maybe?). Feb 20-21, 2016. Call (+853) 8885-3333 for more info. \$2,588-8,888 from studiocity-macau.com; \$10,888 for VIP club seats, includes access to Club Lounge.



Music Festivals

Dirty Boogie Rockabilly Festival ▶

Slick your hair back and get your 50s on: The Dirty Boogie Rockabilly Festival is in town. Four bands including Los Rizlaz from Japan, The Bempol Rockers from the Philippines, and Hong Kong's own Boogie Playboys and Miss Cathy will be gracing the stage. There'll be a live tattoo station from the guys at Star Crossed Tattoo and live hairstyling workshop as well. Be sure to dress the part... Nov 14, 8pm. Grappa's Cellar, UG/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, 2521-2322. \$260-280 from ticketflap.com.



5 Seconds of Summer: Sounds Live Feels Live

Feel like hanging out with ALL of the city's teenagers in one room together? Aussie pop punk kids 5 Seconds of Summer are performing in Hong Kong for the first time ever, touring their latest album "Sounds Good Feels Good." Considered by many to be One Direction's protégés (1D's members actually have a financial stake in 5SOS), the foursome is known for boppy hits including "She's Kinda Hot" and "Hey Everybody!" Mar 10 2016, 8pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$488-1,588 from hkticketing.com.

True To This Part 2

It's the second instalment of The Underground's "True To This" concerts, which celebrate local talent and encourage Hong Kong young'ins to stay true to themselves. Indie bands ChoChukMo and ToNick will be joined by two new Hong Kong bands. Nov 7, 7pm. Hang Out, 1/F, Youth Outreach Jockey Club, 2 Holy Cross Path, Sai Wan Ho, 2622-2890. \$100 from undergroundhk.com/events/tickets; \$150 at the door.



Postiljonen

Like the sounds of The XX, Sigur Rós, Washed Out or Cocteau Twins? Then Scandinavian dream pop trio Postiljonen will float your boat. Touring their debut album "Skyer," their music is pretty much inspired by a hipster fever dream: black and white movies, the 80s, summer nighttime adventures and southern Spanish scenery. They're supported by Hong Kong's own shoegaze/dream pop band Thud, and DJs Jane Blondel and Mike Mystery. Nov 8, 8:30pm. Graffiti, Shop C & D, UG/F, Ho Lee Commercial Building, 17-22 D'Aguilar St., Central. \$195 from White Noise Records, Zoo Records, The Globe or from the pelago.events app; \$235 at the door.

Gigs



Stranded Whale: Northern Tower Launch

Indie folk rock band Stranded Whale launches their debut album "Northern Tower," in a gig supported by singer-songwriter Subyub Lee. The group takes its name from a song written by frontman Jabin Law, "Killer Whale," about a doomed stranded whale who sees freedom in his inevitable demise. This is going to be a really cheery gig, you guys. Nov 6, 8pm. VS Media, Unit A & C, 7/F, First Group Centre, 14 Wang Tai Rd., Kowloon Bay. \$130-200 in advance from lumdums.com; \$160-230 at the door. Expensive tickets come with CD. All include food and drink.

Balmorhea

The Texan minimalist instrumental six-piece makes its way to Hong Kong (scaled down to its core duo) in November. The gig will be opened by South Korean math rockers Colin Phils. Nov 17, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$180-220 from ticketflap.com; \$260 at the door.



Edited by Evelyn Lok
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com

Envy Asia Tour

Japanese indie hardcore band Envy is hitting up Hidden Agenda this December. Since forming in 1992, the group has toured all over Japan with acts such as Mogwai and post-metal group Isis. They're supported by local bands Life Was All Silence and Dandelion Mound. Dec 15, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$350 from ticketflap.com, \$400 at the door.

Nightlife Events



Tiki Tuesdays

Snazzy eastside rooftop bar Sugar has recently launched Tiki Tuesdays, with plenty of original tiki-themed creations on offer. Hope you like rum. And hangovers. Tue, 5-10pm. Sugar, 32/F, East Hotel, 29 Tai Koo Shing Rd., Quarry Bay, 3968-3738.

HK PICKS

Death Cab For Cutie

Indie heroes Ben Gibbard et al. are playing in Hong Kong. Are you going to be the type of smug fan who says you knew them before "Transatlanticism," and you're still following them up to their latest album "Kintsugi"? Or maybe you're just an MK jai who's stumbled on the show at MacPherson Stadium... Mar 1, 2016, 8pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St., Mong Kok. \$490 from ticketflap.com.



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Black Mass ★★★★★

(USA) Crime/Thriller/Biopic. Directed by Scott Cooper.
Starring Johnny Depp, Joel Edgerton, Benedict Cumberbatch, Rory Cochrane, Jesse Plemons, Kevin Bacon. Category IIB. 122 minutes. Opened Oct 29.

In one of the year's most highly anticipated films, all eyes are on Johnny Depp as he sheds his creepy Tim Burton movie image of the past few years for a creepier one yet: James "Whitey" Bulger, the most notorious crime boss Boston has ever seen. But this biopic of the Irish-American mob leader delays in its introduction to this man, teasing us in the opening sequence with a police interrogation of his captured lackey...

We're forced, then, to soak up the character of Whitey Bulger from an outsider's point of view. Beginning through the eyes of Kevin Weeks (Jesse Plemons), bottom-rung newcomer to South Boston's Winter Hill gang, we see its leader rise in power against the growing threat of the rival Italian mob up north. It's all thanks to the help of a FBI agent who's back in town: John Connolly (Joel Edgerton), the childhood friend of Bulger and his senator brother, Billy Bulger (Benedict Cumberbatch—equipped with an amusing Bostonian accent). Connolly persuades Whitey to turn informant to take down the Angiulo crime family. But as the successful and mutually beneficial collaboration continues, it sets us asking: What is it that causes Whitey Bulger's inevitable downfall?

Genius storytelling aside, equally at the core is the portrayal of gang and familial loyalty, the code of honor that exists between a couple of Irish-American Boston street kids. It's a spectrum of solid acting all round, from Plemons's unassuming, loyal henchman, to Bulger's cocky right-hand man turned washed-up gangster, played by Rory Cochrane.



Then of course, there's Bulger himself, a balding, sallow-faced Johnny Depp with piercing blue eyes. He's charming in a twisted way and terrifying all at once. If there's one thing Depp excels at, it's playing all sorts of weirdos. He slides easily into the role of a man who doesn't blink while strangling a kid to death, but is equally a respected father figure to his gang as well as his own son. That said, while Depp nails that delicious psychotic angle, there are moments where his natural swagger leaks out... although we might have been looking too hard for it.

"Black Mass" is not a movie you can just cruise through halfheartedly; it demands your full attention, because the tension is built up through a series of dangerous conversations. The film borrows heavily from the mobster movie genre,

especially in portraying the dangerous camaraderie of a gang—but in saluting the genre a little too vigorously, it perhaps falls into predictability. Still, some of the movie's best scenes, those that instantly spike into moments of in-your-face violence, still have the power to shock—even if you are expecting it.

Ultimately, you can't help feeling a little for Whitey Bulger when he meets his end: He may be a rotten, misogynistic murderer, but you also get to see a softer, more vulnerable side: a side that values family, yet mistrusts even those closest to him because of how he's been wronged in the past. One of the scariest successes of "Black Mass" is how much it makes you empathize with a psychopath. Tim Burton must be green with envy right now. **Evelyn Lok**

Coming Soon

Go Away Mr. Tumor

(Hong Kong) Despite sounding like a terrible children's book, "Go Away Mr. Tumor" sees Daniel Wu and Bai Baihe in a light-hearted romantic comedy based on the popular comic by Xiong Dun, all about how the the illustrator fought her malignant tumor.



The Green Inferno

(USA) Horror genius Eli Roth ("Hostel") is behind yet another cult horror flick, this time commenting on the phenomenon of slacktivism in the internet world. "The Green Inferno" follows a group of college students who venture deep into the Amazon in a mission to stop a company from deforesting thousands of acres. But when their plane crashes, they are taken captive by a cannibalistic tribe. Sounds like bloody fun... Opens Nov 12.

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl

(USA) This year's Sundance fave finally makes it to mainstream Hong Kong theaters. Awkward high school senior Greg shuns people to navigate the complex social maze of high school life, with only his classmate Earl, with whom he makes short film parodies, for company. But when he's forced to spend time with a girl in his class who's just been diagnosed with leukaemia, he learns the true worth of friendship. Opens Nov 12.

Knock Knock

(USA) Keanu Reeves stars in this remake of 1977's erotic horror flick "Death Game." He plays a married architect alone on Father's Day weekend. Two young women appear at his doorstep and seduce him, but end up unleashing a more horrific agenda. Isn't this basically sexy "Beauty and the Beast?" Opens Nov 12.

Learning to Drive

(USA) A recent divorcee (the always delightful Patricia Clarkson) finally decides to learn how to drive. She hires a driving instructor, a traditional Sikh man who happens to be embarking on an arranged marriage. Inevitably: poignant lessons about life, love and marriage... and ample road rage. Opens Nov 12.

Return of the Cuckoo

(Hong Kong) Oh man, get ready for the nostalgia trip: The beloved 2000 TVB series of the same name (十一月初五的月光, literally "The Moonlight of October 5th") finally comes to the big screen. Picking up where the series left off, we're back on the streets of Macau, where the (once) mute Man-cho (Julian Cheung) grapples with his love for Charmaine (Charmaine Sheh), who is actually his adopted sister. Will they finally get together, 15 years on? Opens Nov 12.



Suffragette

(UK) "Suffragette" dramatizes the women's suffrage movement in England at the turn of the 20th century. It stars Helena Bonham Carter and Carey Mulligan as fictional key players in the fight and Meryl Streep as the activist and movement leader Emmeline Pankhurst. Opens Nov 12.

Opening



Mountains May Depart

(China) Director Jia Zhangke, who's known for his long, minimalist takes, is behind this film, which competed for the Cannes Palme d'Or and has just opened at the Hong Kong Asian Film Festival. "Mountains May Depart" is an ambitious drama that tells the story of a family in a small coal mining town in Shanxi, told in three parts over three different years: 1999, 2014 and 2025. Opened Nov 5.

She Remembers, He Forgets

(Hong Kong) One of the opening films of this year's Hong Kong Asian Film Festival, award-winning director Adam Wong Sau-ping's latest release is a nostalgic romance starring Miriam Yeung and Jan Lamb. Caught in a mid-life crisis, a woman looks back at the choices she made in her youth after attending a high school reunion. Opened Nov 5.

Spectre

(UK) Bond is back. Daniel Craig returns as the legendary British agent, who goes rogue (again) after receiving a coded message that takes him through Mexico City and Rome to investigate a shadowy organization known as Spectre. The Bond baddie du jour? Christoph Waltz. Can't wait. Opened Nov 5.

Continuing

Are You Here

(Hong Kong) Hong Kong horror vets Nina Paw, Helena Law, and Susan Shaw (wouldn't they be great as witch sisters?) ouja it up when a group of college students attempts to launch an online game all about the occult.

Black Mass

(USA) See review, above.



Boulevard

(USA) In Robin Williams' final film appearance, he plays a married man who discovers his suppressed sexual identity when he meets a young male prostitute. Instead of paying him for sex, he only looks for gentle companionship. But what are the consequences?

Bridge of Spies

(USA) Lawyer James B. Donovan (Tom Hanks) finds himself at the center of Cold War negotiations, when he's enlisted to help secure the release of a U-2 spy plane pilot who was shot down and captured in the Soviet Union. With the big names of Spielberg and the Coen Brothers behind it, this historical thriller could never really go wrong. ★★★★★

Edited by Evelyn Lok
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The End of the Tour

(USA) Starring Jason Segel as the reclusive genius novelist David Foster Wallace, writer of "Infinite Jest," and Jesse Eisenberg as Rolling Stone reporter David Lipsky, "The End of the Tour" spans a five-day road trip and interview, revealing the humor and insecurities shared between the two men. The film is based on Lipsky's memoir, published after Foster Wallace's suicide in 2008.

The Martian

(USA) During a mission on Mars, a team of astronauts leaves Mark Watney (Damon) behind after presuming him dead. Mark must find his own way to survive on scarce supplies, while the team brews up their own mission to bring him back. It's the third stranded astronaut story to come in recent years, but this one is a lighthearted take on an otherwise harrowing genre. ★★★★

Mr. Holmes

(UK) Ian McKellen flexes his acting chops as yet another fictional legend: This time around he's a retired, 97-year-old Sherlock Holmes residing in Sussex, attempting to set right his last case, which concerns a woman and a glass harmonica. A slow-paced mystery and faceted retelling of the legendary figure. ★★★★

Sicario

(USA) In the boys' world of the FBI, agent Kate Macer (Emily Blunt) is plucked from bleak kidnapping cases to join a special task force fighting the war against drugs on the US-Mexican border—on a manhunt for the cartel's top dog. A female-led, slow burning thriller that will please both action and intrigue lovers alike. ★★★★

Tangerine

(USA) Sean Baker returns with another quirky, beautifully shot story set in L.A., this time centering on two transsexual sex workers who teach a cheating boyfriend a lesson on Christmas Eve. Like ratchet reality TV drama? There's plenty of it here. ★★★★

The Walk

(USA) Robert Zemeckis ("Back to the Future") brings Philippe Petit's 1974 daring tightrope dance across the Twin Towers to the screen, in full IMAX glory. Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Petit, who turns out to be a bit of a dick. But the drama, artistic tension and genuine life lessons are definitely worth your time. ★★★★

Film Festivals



16th Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival

25 Jewish films will be screened through November, all themed around "Resilience." There's a real range on show, from comedy to hard-hitting drama to documentary. Highlights include award-winning theater adaptation "Apples From the Desert"; "Brave Miss World," a documentary about Linor Abargil, who was abducted and raped just two months before being crowned Miss World 1998 and later became an activist and attorney against sexual violence; and the quirky yet deeply informative "Sacred Sperm" all about director Ori Gruber's attempt to understand the uber-orthodox Hasidic commandment that men are not allowed to spill their sperm... and teach his son the same. Nov 14-22. Asia Society, 9 Justice Dr., Admiralty, 2103-9511. \$80-200 from hkjff.org; tickets on opening night are \$350-380, which includes a dessert.

Hong Kong Asian Film Festival

The 12th Hong Kong Asian Film Festival this year opens with two films: Drama "Mountains May Depart" by top Chinese director Jia Zhangke, set in Australia in the 90s, the present day and in 2025; and nostalgic Hong Kong romance "She Remembers, He Forgets" by Adam Wong Sau-ping, starring Miriam Yeung and Jan Lamb. The full festival program is pretty Japan-centric this year: Alongside arty films in competition at Cannes, there's a category even on the therapeutic qualities of Japanese food—don't miss "The Birth of Sake," a boozy documentary by Anthony Bourdain's cinematographer Erik Shirai. Screenings are at Broadway Cinematheque, The One, IFC and Pacific Place. Through Nov 22. \$60-95 from cinema.com.hk.

44th Hong Kong French Film Festival

The 44th edition of the French Film Festival is here once again. On the roster? Plenty of odd romances and arty pieces. Check out "When I Don't Sleep," a young Parisian man's journey through the night as he collects enough Euros for a train ticket to the seaside in the morning; "One Wild Moment," in which a 40-something divorced dad finds himself getting involved with his best friend's daughter—who is now convinced she is in love; and "Stubborn," about a jilted lover who follows his ex to New York to try and win her back. Various screening locations. Nov 18-Dec 10. \$60-95 from hkfrenchfilmfestival.com.

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SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Is it possible to express a benevolent form of vanity? I say yes. In the coming weeks, your boasts may be quite lyrical and therapeutic. They may even uplift and motivate those who hear them. Acts of self-aggrandizement that would normally cast long shadows might instead produce generous results. That's why I'm giving you a go-ahead to embody the following attitude from Nikki Giovanni's poem "Ego Tripping (there may be a reason why)": "I am so perfect so divine so ethereal so surreal / I cannot be comprehended except by my permission."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): Regard the current tensions and detours as camouflaged gifts from the gods of growth. You're being offered a potent opportunity to counteract the effects of a self-sabotage you committed once upon a time. You're getting an excellent chance to develop the strength of character that can blossom from dealing with soul-bending riddles. In fact, I think you'd be wise to feel a surge of gratitude right now. To do so will empower you to take maximum advantage of the disguised blessings.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): You are slipping into a phase when new teachers are likely to appear. That's excellent news, because the coming weeks will also be a time when you especially need new teachings. Your good fortune doesn't end there. I suspect that you will have an enhanced capacity to learn quickly and deeply. With all these factors conspiring in your favor, Capricorn, I predict that by January 1, you will be smarter, humbler, more flexible, and better prepared to get what you want in 2016.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): American author Mark Twain seemed to enjoy his disgust with the novels of Jane Austen, who died 18 years before he was born. "Her books madden me so that I can't conceal my frenzy," he said, even as he confessed that he had perused some of her work multiple times. "Every time I read 'Pride and Prejudice,'" he wrote to a friend about Austen's most famous story, "I want to dig her up and beat her over the skull with her own shin-bone." We might ask why he repetitively sought an experience that bothered him. I am posing a similar question to you, Aquarius. According to my analysis, the coming weeks will be an excellent time to renounce, once and for all, your association with anything or anyone you are addicted to disliking.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): The Sahara in Northern Africa is the largest hot desert on the planet. It's almost the size of the United States. Cloud cover is rare, the humidity is low, and the temperature of the sand can easily exceed 170° F. (80° C.). That's why it was so surprising when snow fell there in February of 1979 for the first time in memory. This once-in-a-lifetime visitation happened again 33 years later. I'm expecting a similar anomaly in your world, Pisces. Like the desert snow, your version should be mostly interesting and only slightly inconvenient. It may even have an upside. Saharan locals testified that the storm helped the palm trees because it killed off the parasites feeding on them.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): In 1978, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield began selling their new ice cream out of a refurbished gas station in Burlington, Vermont. Thirty-seven years later, Ben & Jerry's is among the world's best-selling ice cream brands. Its success stems in part from its willingness to keep transforming the way it does business. "My mantra is 'Change is a wonderful thing,'" says the current CEO. As evidence of the company's intention to keep re-evaluating its approach, there's a "Flavor Graveyard" on its website, where it lists flavors it has tried to sell but ultimately abandoned. "Wavy Gravy," "Tennessee Mud," and "Turtle Soup" are among the departed. Now is a favorable time for you to engage in a purge of your own, Aries. What parts of your life don't work any more? What personal changes would be wonderful things?

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): Before he helped launch Apple Computer in the 1970s, tech pioneer Steve Wozniak ran a dial-a-joke service. Most of the time, people who called got an automated recording, but now and then Wozniak answered

himself. That's how he met Alice Robertson, the woman who later became his wife. I'm guessing you will have comparable experiences in the coming weeks, Taurus. Future allies may come into your life in unexpected ways. It's as if mysterious forces will be conspiring to connect you with people you need to know.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): Small, nondestructive earthquakes are common. Our planet has an average of 1,400 of them every day. This subtle underground mayhem has been going on steadily for millions of years. According to recent research, it has been responsible for creating 80 percent of the world's gold. I suspect that the next six or seven months will feature a metaphorically analogous process in your life. You will experience deep-seated quivering and grinding that won't bring major disruptions even as it generates the equivalent of gold deposits. Make it your goal to welcome and even thrive on the subterranean friction!

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): Here's the process I went through to create your horoscope. First I drew up a chart of your astrological aspects. Using my analytical skills, I pondered their meaning. Next, I called on my intuitive powers, asking my unconscious mind to provide symbols that would be useful to you. The response I got from my deeper mind was surprising: It informed me that I should go to a new cafe that had just opened downtown. Ten minutes later, I was there, gazing at a menu packed with exotic treats: Banana Flirty Milk... Champagne Coconut Mango Slushy... Honey Dew Jelly Juice... Creamy Wild Berry Blitz... Sweet Dreamy Ginger Snow. I suspect these are metaphors for experiences that are coming your way.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): The Beatles' song "You Never Give Me Your Money" has this poignant lyric: "Oh, that magic feeling, nowhere to go." I suggest you make it your motto for now. And if you have not yet begun to feel the allure of that sentiment, initiate the necessary shifts to get yourself in the mood. Why? Because it's time to recharge your spiritual battery, and the best way to do that is to immerse yourself in the mystery of having nothing to do and nowhere to go. Put your faith in the pregnant silence, Leo. Let emptiness teach you what you need to know next.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): Should a professional singer be criticized for her lack of skill in laying bricks? Is it reasonable to chide a kindergarten teacher for his ineptitude as an airplane pilot? Does it make sense to complain about a cat's inability to bark? Of course not. There are many other unwarranted comparisons that are almost as irrational but not as obviously unfair. Is it right for you to wish your current lover or best friend could have the same *je ne sais quoi* as a previous lover or best friend? Should you try to manipulate the future so that it's more like the past? Are you justified in demanding that your head and your heart come to identical conclusions? No, no, and no. Allow the differences to be differences. And more than that: Celebrate them!

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 21): In the mid-19th century, an American named Cyrus McCormick patented a breakthrough that had the potential to revolutionize agriculture. It was a mechanical reaper that harvested crops with far more ease and efficiency than hand-held sickles and scythes. But his innovation didn't enter into mainstream use for 20 years. In part that was because many farmers were skeptical of trying a new technology, and feared it would eliminate jobs. I don't foresee you having to wait nearly as long for acceptance of your new wrinkles, Libra. But you may have to be patient.

HOMEWORK: Brag about a talent or ability that few people know you have. Tout one of your underappreciated charms. Report to FreeWillAstrology.com.

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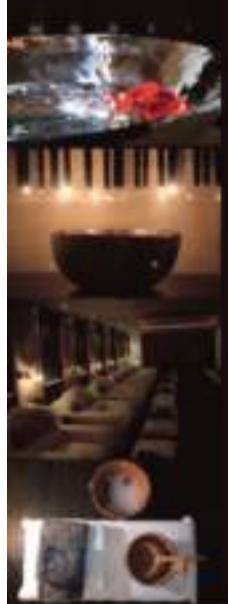
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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

DEAR READERS: Two weeks ago, I announced I would be taking a nice long break from questions about miserable sexless marriages. (I don't get questions about happily sexless marriages.) I tossed out my standard line of advice to those who've exhausted medical, psychological, and situational fixes ("Do what you need to do to stay married and stay sane"), and I moved on to other relationship problems. Readers impacted by sexless marriages—men and women on "both sides of the bed"—wrote in to share their experiences and insights. I've decided to let them have the last word on the subject.

Since you don't want to give any more advice to readers stuck in sexually unfulfilling marriages they can't or don't want to end, will you allow me to give a little advice from the perspective of the other woman, i.e., the person who makes it possible for them to "stay married and stay sane"? I contacted an old flame when my marriage ended. He was married. His wife refused to have sex with him but also expected him to stay faithful to her. Their kids were still in school. He honestly believed that staying together was the best thing for the kids. I went into it thinking it was going to be a fling, a temporary thing to get me over my husband and back in the game. But the sex was mind-blowingly good. And here's the thing about amazing sex: It bonds people. We fell in love all over again. He told me our affair made his sexless marriage bearable. He was happier and a more patient father, he bickered less with his wife. He made me feel beautiful, desirable, known, and accepted—all feelings that had been lacking in my marriage. But I was in the shadows. Every assignation was a risk. I couldn't introduce him to my friends, my son, or my family. After four years, I couldn't take it anymore. My ego was shredded. So I ended it. I was tired of the fear, lying and hiding, and being secondary. My advice to readers stuck in sexless marriages who cheat to "stay sane": Beware of unintended consequences. You can have an affair with the most discreet, careful partner who accepts your circumstances, who makes no demands, who provides you with both a warm body to fuck and the passion that has drained out of your marriage. You can be careful not to get caught. It might be incredible for a while. But the chances of nothing going wrong and of everyone remaining happy over the long term are vanishingly small. It's a matter of time before someone gets hurt.

—Ruby Tuesday

Your advice to people whose partners have checked out of their sex lives is on target. But would you be willing to share a voice from the other side of the bed? Until a year ago, I was always appalled when I would read letters like these. Who would stop having sex? Who would stay with someone who didn't want to have sex? Then I got sick. My illness came on slowly, but the first noticeable symptom was my sex drive vanishing. My lady parts were drier than a desert. No amount of lube helped. Sex hurt, and I didn't want it. My journey through the medical system was a battle. Trained medical professionals poo-poo'd me. They told me this is what all perimenopausal women experience and I should just deal with it. I was told to "get started" and then maybe I would enjoy it. I was given lists of supplements to try. Finally, in response to other health problems, my doctor diagnosed me with diabetes. Within weeks of taking medication and changing my diet, my engine started running again. It's not what it was, but I don't feel dead below the belly button anymore. During this time, my husband was supportive. I did my best

to make him happy. I'd like to think that if I had continued to suffer a loss of libido for years, I would be brave enough to give him permission to find satisfaction elsewhere, but it would break my heart. My points, briefly: Legitimate things happen to people that make them lose their sex drive. Medical support for people brave enough to say "I've lost my mojo and need help to get it back" is not always there, and the solutions aren't always easy or fast. Too often, people (especially women) are told that losing their sex drive is normal and they should just get used to it. No one should be forced to accept a sexless relationship if that's not what they want. And if you've lost interest in sex and don't really care to get it back, you don't have the right to impose celibacy on another person. But in a long relationship, each partner is going to face challenges—and one of those challenges might be helping your partner fight to regain their libido.

—Bed Death Survivor

I'm the "other man" to a woman whose husband won't fuck her. The guy must be gay or asexual, because his wife is beautiful, smart and great in bed. I've never wanted marriage or kids, so this arrangement works well for me. The only time it got awkward was when my girlfriend—this other guy's wife—broached the subject of monogamy. Asking for a monogamous commitment when you're married to someone else? Seemed nuts. But I hadn't slept with anyone else for three years, or even wanted to, so I was already monogamous in practice.

—Monogamous In Theory Now Too

If my ex-husband wrote to you, he'd say I didn't want to have sex with him anymore and he was going crazy. The truth is, I wanted to have sex—but I didn't want it to be in one of the same three positions we'd been doing it for seven years. I was bored and asked for some variety, and he refused to do it. My boredom turned into frustration, and frustration turned into anger. At a certain point, the idea of having sex with him made me want to beat the living shit out of something. Was I supposed to continue satisfying him when my needs weren't being met? Our mistake was waiting until I hit the angry point to get into therapy. We should have gone when I was bored. He wound up having an affair and blamed me because I didn't want to have sex with him. But there was a good reason why I didn't want to have sex with him. Maybe before you advise people in "sexless" marriages to have affairs, you could tell them to do some self-examination first?

—Husband's Always Right

You wrote that you're sick of telling people trapped in sexless marriages to do what they need to do "to stay married and stay sane." I want to thank you for all that repetition. I needed it. But leaving my sexless marriage was what I needed to do to stay sane. My husband of 10 years berated me publicly, telling anyone who would listen that I was a whore. Had I not had your corpus of work on the matter of marital partners who have zero interest in sex but still demand enthusiastic monogamy, the journey through this would have been longer. Four years later, I still get excited that I actually get to have sex—awesome, giving, experimental, fun sex.

—Gleeful Escapee

On the Lovecast, Dan Savage and guests get baked in our pot-themed Denver live show! Listen at savagecast.com.

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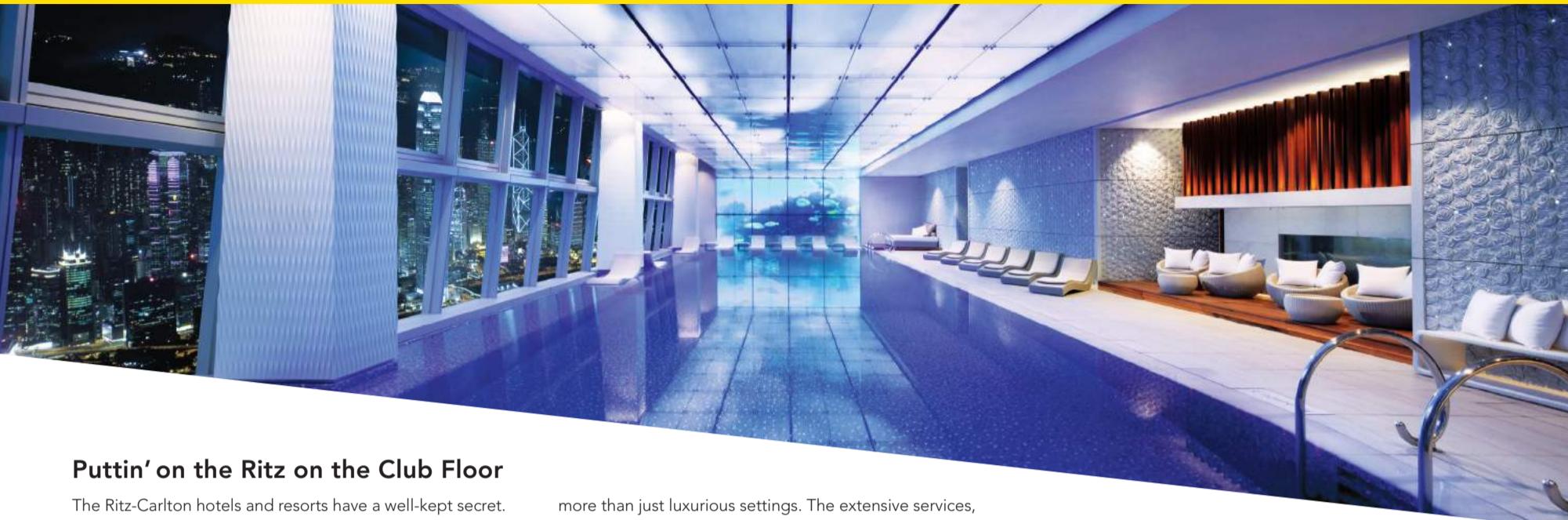
A blue-themed advertisement for CaliBurger featuring their logo (a yellow sun with orange rays and a palm tree) and text about growth in Hong Kong and job openings for managers and crew.

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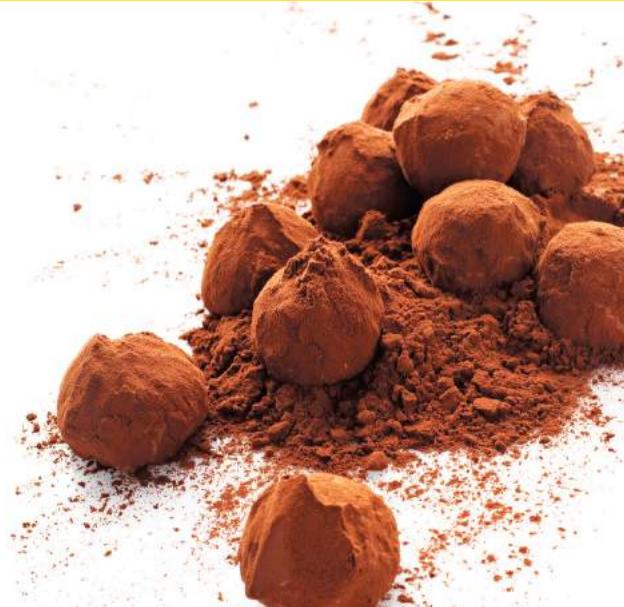
Chocolate lovers all over Hong Kong are looking forward to a very special day. Appetites whetted, they are counting down the days in their diary. An air of eager anticipation fills the air. The wait is almost over.

The day in question is November 10. That's when Master Chef Nicolas Cloiseau of La Maison du Chocolat releases an all-new collection of exquisite truffles.

Chocolatier Cloiseau is a genius. He has boldly redefined truffles with seven new recipes in three gift box sets to brighten up the festive season. La Maison du Chocolat is famed for its chocolate masterpieces and Cloiseau has decided to play with the colors and freshen up this French classic delicacy.

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FIRST PERSON



“Am I a Hongkonger or Chinese? I would say I’m an Earthman.”

Comedian and film director **Lee Lik-chi** made some of the best films of the 1990s. He’s best known for his collaborations with comedian Stephen Chow: together they directed “Shaolin Soccer,” “The God of Cookery” and “King of Comedy.” He tells Isabelle Hon about his tough childhood, how he got into showbiz, and why he’s opposed to yellow ribbons.

I was born in the 60s. My father was a metalworker and my mom worked with textiles.

I have two brothers and a sister. We lived in a government housing estate.

In primary school I helped my mom to transport clothes back and forth. It was so heavy! The only thing I had to look forward to was the chance to take a taxi.

I’m the eldest son: I knew my responsibilities from a really early age.

Whereas children nowadays are only concerned about where to play, we planned how to make money.

I worked as a battery packer in a factory in To Kwa Wan in the summer of my form three year. We got \$18.50 per day.

I was packing batteries, suffering in the hot weather. I looked out a window and saw these educated girls in high heels working inside an air-conditioned office.

At that moment, I realized that I couldn’t do this job my whole life.

After I graduated I got a job in a store.

During class reunions, people would say that they had become a policemen or a civil servant. I just felt shame.

There are only two ways to deal with this: get used to it or escape. I chose to escape.

I was lucky that my chemistry teacher taught me to use a camera. He taught me how to choose the right angle, find the best composition, even how to develop film.

I saved a few months of my salary to buy a camera, and it changed my life.

People in my generation have an automatic updating system built in. We update ourselves to fit in.

I would never ask others to do things for me. I just push myself to improve.

I was a production assistant at ATV.

There was no budget and not enough equipment, so the drama department had to borrow editing equipment from the news department.

We could only use it when they finished reporting news at midnight, and they needed it back at five in the morning.

At one point I worked non-stop and didn’t sleep for seven days.

My generation, such as [actors] Chow Yun-fat, Tony Leung and Adam Cheng, used to work our socks off. I always wonder why we are still alive without liver disease.

Later I got the chance to become a director and made films such as “Flirting Scholar,” “God of Cookery,” “From Beijing with Love”—most of them with Stephen Chow.

I was one of the first to criticize the Chinese Communist Party in a sarcastic way.

In “From Beijing with Love” a blind man is given the death penalty for “peaking” at confidential documents.

But after “Shaolin Soccer,” Stephen Chow wanted to be a solo director and we’ve hardly collaborated since.

The movie “Papillon” inspired me a lot. I thought it was a masterpiece since first watching it in form five.

It’s about freedom. I still remember the last scene where Steve McQueen’s character says, “Hey you bastards, I’m still here.”

I thought: I’ve got so much freedom but I never know how to fully make use of it.

To me, freedom is that I can go anywhere I want and explore the world.

The world is really lovely. Have you seen the ET-like bronze head in Sanxingdui? And the Dujiangyan irrigation system? This is what young people should care about.

Is university governance an important issue to us nowadays? Isn’t it something to be sorted out within the school?

Hong Kong people tend to care about things like this—but never about the world. I’m very worried about this.

Am I a Hongkonger or Chinese? I would just say I’m an Earthman.

We must broaden our horizons. The universe is so much larger than you can imagine.

Our city is too small and crowded—we see people looking at each other like they’re enemies. Why can’t we smile more?

I only want a peaceful life in which no one disturbs me and I don’t disturb others.

In the east we have Tang Sanzang [the monk from “Journey to the West”], in the west we have Jesus. They all convince people through virtue and speech.

If a gang of people holding clubs rushed at you, even Jesus would surrender.

[The Occupy movement] held an unlawful assembly. If one day you found a group of strangers had broken into your house, you would also drive them away.

If we have different views and assumptions, any debate would be meaningless.

I was criticized by those yellow ribbons, but I don’t think I have done anything wrong.

I never say if I’m “blue” or “yellow.” Please don’t label me—I don’t like to be categorized.

I’m going to hold a five-day directing seminar in Beijing. In recent years, my movies have been changing: Before they were only entertainment, but now I hope they can be used for education.

As a director, I really hope I can be like an athlete, and become a trainer after I retire.



NEED TO KNOW...

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