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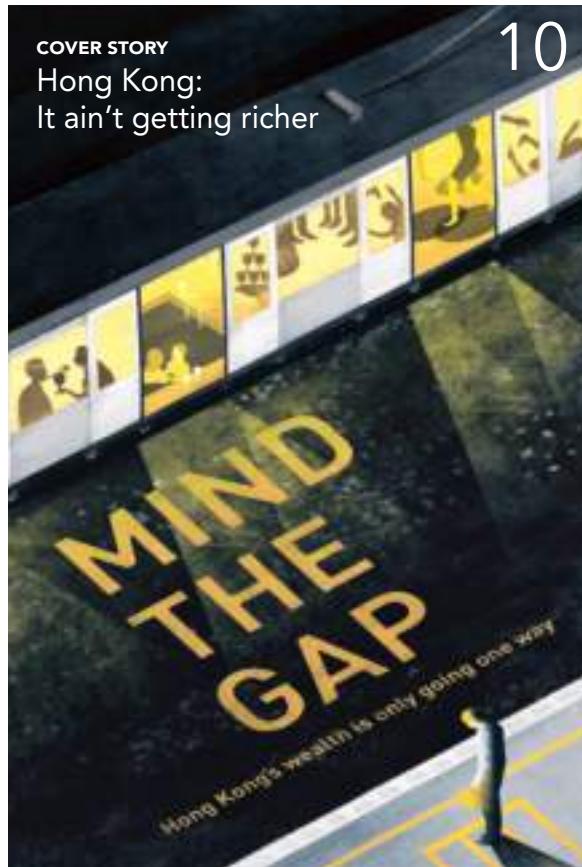
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**COVER STORY**  
Hong Kong:  
It ain't getting richer



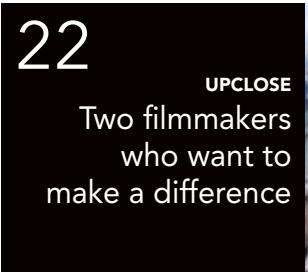
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Leave here,  
go there



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Ditch Korean  
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Korean fusion



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Win a staycation  
at the Ritz-Carlton!



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**FIRST PERSON**  
Comedian, DJ,  
writer and director  
Vincci Cheuk



## Take That, Britain

Britain's biggest stately home has been bought by the Hong Kong-based Lake House investment group. The 365-room Georgian mansion Wentworth Woodhouse was bought for a reported sum of more than £8 million (\$94 million). We've heard some rumors about what the Hong Kong consortium is going to do with its new acquisition...

### Sell it Again.

We hear there's already a buyer lined up. Last week billionaire fugitive Joseph Lau dropped \$375 million and \$222 million on consecutive days on two of the world's most expensive gems, which he renamed "the Blue Moon of Josephine" and "Sweet Josephine" after his daughter. The word is that he's gearing up to rename it "Please, Please Love Me Josephine?"

### Rename it.

The consortium will change the name from "Wentworth Woodhouse" to "The Wentworth." Once it sounds like a fancy Kennedy Town tower block you can rent out rooms for \$40-60k a month, no sweat. Other potential names: "Le Belle Went" (for the Gold Coast vibe) or "The Wood House" (serviced apartments/co-working space).

### Downtonland.

No one has taken to TV series "Downton Abbey" like the Chinese. The group plans to convert the entire estate into a giant Downton theme park, bussing in tour groups by the thousands. Be thrilled by the clash of social progress and agrarian idyll! Scream as class boundaries are ruthlessly enforced! Quail at clunky wooden dialogue! Buy ice cream from overpriced concession stands!

### Invite CY Leung to Stay on a Stormy, Moonless Night

The Chief Executive will be greeted at the train station by an ugly man in a horse cart, who will wordlessly convey him to this gothic pile. As tall doors slam shut behind him, CY stands with only a small suitcase for company, shivering in a drafty hall. Lightning flashes through the window, illuminating his cowering form. A shadow glides down the stairs, but a quivering CY cannot make out who it is. The shadow approaches—another flash lights the figure. It is Carrie Lam, in her seat of power at last! CY turns and tries to flee, but the doors are locked. He pounds down infinite hallways, trying door after door as Carrie follows with a measured tread... Dawn comes and a jovial milkman finds CY curled into a corner, raving and promising to do whatever Carrie says from now on. The milkman soothes CY and loads him into the cart... before turning to wink at us. It's Carrie!

### Knock the Whole Thing Down and Turn it into a Bunch of Flats.

This is the only joke you've been making all week, isn't it?

### Who's in charge?

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# HOME



## Mr. Know-It-All's

— Guide to Life —

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

### How did people cross the harbor before the MTR, the Cross-Harbour Tunnel and the Star Ferry? — Boat Person

After the cession of the Kowloon peninsula to the British in 1860, it became increasingly important for people to move from the two halves of the colony. And so they took the walla-walla.

Walla-wallas were motorized boats, anything from sampans to larger vessels, which acted as combination ferries and water-taxis for people to cross the two halves of Her Majesty's latest acquisition. The name is said to come from the sputtering noise of the engine exhaust as it gurgled in and out of the water, which is as good an origin story as anyone might hope for.

The Star Ferry company was founded as the Kowloon Ferry Company in 1888, before changing its name to the Star Ferry in 1898. When it got going, it soon snapped up much of the cross-harbor traffic. But the walla-walla remained and flourished, fulfilling a vital function in the growing city's ecosystem.

Why? Well, back then the Star Ferry ran between 6:30am-1:30am. Without a tunnel or the MTR, the only other way to get across the harbor was by walla-walla, which was happy to ferry you over—for a price.

Walla-wallas became very popular with a few groups of people. First were the late-night partiers, who had missed the last ferry back to Kowloon side. Readers who live in Lamma or Mui Wo will know that pain well enough. Then there were those who lived on the island but were heading into China: The first train to the mainland left at 6:30 in the morning—so if you wanted to be on the train, you had to be on the walla-walla.

Then there were the newspaper delivery workers, back when the papers were all printed on the Island. The day's papers would be delivered to Blake Pier in Central and loaded onto walla-wallas, who would spread the word across the territory.

The 50s and the 60s were the heyday of the walla-walla, when the population of the territory exploded, but before there were enough transport links to support the volume of people moving around the city's unique landscape. But after the completion of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel in 1972, the integration of Hong Kong and Kowloon taxis in 1974, and the completion of the MTR's cross-harbor section in 1980, the walla-wallas fell out of favor. There just wasn't a market for them anymore.

So spare a thought the next time you're riding the Star Ferry: A thought for the walla-wallas of yesteryear, gurgling away as they trudged across the harbor, the only threads that joined together what would soon be the greatest city in the world.



You're my wonder walla



#### This week in My Perfect HK:

Earlier this week in Wong Tai Sin, a mongrel dog was found lying in a pool of blood on a hillside near Tsz Ching Estate. It appeared to have been shot by some kind of object, and the dog had a 5cm-deep wound in its side. Nearby residents called the Hong Kong

Non-Profit making Veterinary Clinic, who arrived on the scene and were able to save the dog, now named "Big Ear," and the pup is in stable condition.

What's the lesson here? It's not that people do evil things: But that others will always be there to help.

## Letters

### "The majority of expats hold chopsticks like losers."

#### Thanks for Nothing

Last week we rounded up some of the city's best Thanksgiving offerings ["Winner Winner, Turkey Dinner," Nov 13, issue 1122]. Some readers weren't so impressed.

So sad. After the demise of Fat Angelo's and their perfectly traditional and perfectly affordable turkey dinner, there seems to be nowhere at all that's reasonably priced. Dan Ryan's is on the margin of affordability.

Last year HK Brewhouse had a turkey dinner that was cheap and pretty decent, but they're not offering it this year.

#### Ben Olmsted

For Canadians, thanksgiving was a month ago

#### Jeremy Porter

#### Chopstuck On You

Some readers liked last week's Hongkabulary [Nov 13, issue 1122], "Arithmesticks"—the textbook manner in which some expats hold their chopsticks. Other readers weren't so sure.

Honestly, majority of expats holds chopsticks like losers, nearly close to where the food is, like it's two pens to write with... And I constantly see them scooping up the food. Pffff... A real master holds them at the very end, sits straight, and uses them to merely toss the food in the mouth,

quick and elegant. (Many young locals suck at chopsticks art as well...)

#### Gamberio Bazzinoff

My grandmother used to say that if you hold the chopsticks too close to the top end you look like a peasant. Hold them too close to the food, then you are a coolie. We never dared hold them anywhere but the correct way.

#### Jane Wong

There are kids chopsticks that look like tiny tongs with animal heads attached to them. Someone should make a stylistic update of those and make an adult version of them.

#### Stephanie Ng

#### Everyone's a Critic

Our interview with film director Lee Lik-chi ["First Person," Nov 6, issue 1121], who critiqued the Occupy movement, got a mixed reception.

Good of him to openly criticize 'occupy movement and their tactics', it takes guts to speak up against the masses. It would be good to see them making film, possibly mocking CY and others....

#### Ken Iwaki

Fuck this guy

#### Ben YB Wong

## #PrivateEyeHK



#### Rainy Tram

Photo by Stacey Salomon (Instagram @stacey.salomom)

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).

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"She is a star." Sting

Mar 19 (Sat)



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Feb 20 (Sat)



© Arne Reinhart



## WORLD MUSIC WEEKEND Jugalbandhi (Veena & Sitar)

The South Indian *veena* meets the Hindustani  
*sitar* in an eternal quest for the spiritual.

Mar 5 (Sat)



The Hong Kong Arts Festival is made possible with the funding support of



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

# THE WEEK

Sunday 11/22

## Seeking Refuge

Photographer Xyza Cruz Bacani will be displaying her work for a one-day charity exhibit, "Behind Concrete Walls," at KUC Space. Her photos examine the conditions of unemployed foreign domestic workers in the Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge, focusing on anxiety, hope and empowerment. 6-8pm. KUC Space, 2 Jordan Rd., Jordan, 6428-1461. Free entry.



Photo: Xyza Cruz Bacani

Friday 11/20

## Wherefore Art Thou

The Hong Kong Ballet performs Prokofiev's "**Romeo and Juliet**" this weekend. Soft! What plié through yonder en pointe breaks?

Nov 20-22. Grand Theatre, HK Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui. \$140-1,000 from urbtix.hk.

Saturday 11/21

## I Like to Move It, Move It

Movember isn't just about moustaches and men, it's also about fitness: **CrossFit Movember Charity** is going to be a team effort. Groups of two men and two women will work (out) together for prizes and more, and there will be BBQ and booze at the end. All proceeds go to the HK Cancer Fund and Movember Foundation.

10am. Epic Tung Chung & CF 9 Dragons, Seaview Plaza, G/F, Shop F, 8 Tung Chung Waterfront Rd., Tung Chung. \$500 per team from movember.com; notify nicholasworley@hotmail.com with team name and members.

Monday 11/23

## Stamp it Out

The Hong Kong Philatelic Society has brought back the **Asian International Stamp Exhibition** for the 31st time, and this year's theme is "Shopping and Dining." Love food and stamps? This is your chance to get your very own mushroom stamp. A mushroom stamp!

Nov 20-23. Hall 5G, HKCEC, Wan Chai. Free.

Tuesday 11/24

## Turkey Time

Thanksgiving is in two days: prep your **turkey marinade!** Ingredients: 1 gallon vegetable stock; 1 cup kosher salt; half cup brown sugar; 1 tbsp black peppercorn; 1.5 tsp each allspice berries and candied ginger. Whisk everything together in a pot over medium-high heat; stir and bring to a boil. Then cool it off and refrigerate it overnight, while also thawing your bird. The next day, drop the turkey in a bag, then pour your sauce on top, press and seal the air out. Rotate the bag and put it back in the fridge, turning it every six to eight hours. On Thursday, take your bird out of the bag, dry it off, and roast it on a rack at 260°C on Thursday. Happy eating!

Wednesday 11/25

## Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner

Hong Kong Stories is back just before Thanksgiving, with another live performance of true stories told in the first person and themed around "**Winners**." Yes, participation trophies probably count too.

8pm. Fringe Upstairs, Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central. \$120 from hkticketing.com.

Thursday 11/26

## Team America

Stone Nullah Tavern has a special **Thanksgiving** dinner menu, so if you forgot to prepare that marinade two days ago, go here instead. It includes a choice of garlic butter roasted or southern fried turkey (with stuffing, of course), biscuits'n'gravy and more. Finish it off with an all-American pie of your choice. Our mouths are watering already.

Nov 25-27. G/F, 69 Stone Nullah Lane, Wan Chai, 3182-0128.

\$548 per head, extra \$198 for free-flow drinks.



Friday 11/27

## Flappy Clock

It's **Clockenflap** time. Go forth and listen to Hong Kong's biggest music fest with bellies full of stuffing and mashed potatoes.

Nov 27-29. West Kowloon. See p.24 for more.

Saturday 11/28

## Franks for Coming

Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday is coming up: To celebrate, Pete Moore and Martini Nation Big Band Deluxe are crooning all night with **Franksgiving** at Grappa's Cellar. 7:30pm. B/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, 2521-2322. \$288 from ticketflap.com and at the door; get a 10% discount for advance online bookings with promo code "FRANK".

Coming Up

## Ho-Ho-Holiday Spirit

It's almost December, and that means SantaCon is back! Dress up as Santa (or another holiday-themed character) and go on a bar crawl with a multitude of other Santas. Just don't get too drunk, because Father Christmas won't be gifting you bail. As per past events, the full schedule will be kept secret until the day of the event. Oh, and good luck with finding a cab while dressed in a santa suit...

Dec 12. More info from [tiny.cc/hk-santacon2015](http://tiny.cc/hk-santacon2015).

Photo: istolethetv/Flickr





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## WE WILL PREPARE A TRUE EUROPEAN FEAST FOR YOU

If you're a lover of good food, open to experiencing new flavours and tastes, if you're willing to see that it is indeed possible to couple meat, fruit and vegetables in exceptional and surprising ways, you have no choice but to visit us during the AgriPro Asia fair in Hong Kong!

During the fair, from the 3rd to 5th of December 2015, we will give you a chance to experience a Europe you have never seen before. This will be a 3-day culinary journey, during which some of the best Polish chefs will prove that European cuisine is second to none. If you ask them why they are so certain, they will tell you with pride that in every country of the European Union, culinary heritage is one of the most important assets that benefits generations of gourmands in every country. They will also emphasise that many of those who value the basics of traditional cuisine and the opportunity to use it with imagination will draw from it, whilst at the same time adding the newest developments in culinary art. This mixture of tradition and modernity is surprisingly tasty – we can assure you.

Experts in the field of food production, who will be present at our "Flavors of Europe – quality and tradition" exhibition stand, will draw attention to the qualities of meat, vegetables and fruit that result from stringent rules of cultivation and respect for the animal at farms. They will answer all questions concerning European food, pointing out its two most important characteristics – being closely tied to tradition and rigorous adherence to the standards of applicable quality systems.

You will also be able to meet our experts and chefs, who will be awaiting you every day at our exhibition stand "Flavors of Europe – quality and tradition". Our chefs have planned a culinary show, which will be an event unlike anything Hong Kong has ever seen before. The scent of Europe will lure you to them – a perfect mixture of the aromas of meat, vegetables, fruit and natural spices. This olfactory experience, however, is not enough. It is necessary to sample the results of this marriage of ingredients, and we can assure you that these taste sensations will never be forgotten.

During the shows, the chefs will create dishes out of fresh and chilled beef, pork and high quality poultry, combined with wholesome fruit and vegetables. During the presentations and tastings, preserves will also appear on the tables. The fruit and vegetables – both raw and processed – will provide an exceptional taste and aroma to all of the dishes. This exceptional quality results from the fact that they are produced according to the HACCP system (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point), GMP guidelines (Good Manufacturing Practice) and GHP (Good Hygienic Practice); moreover, the poultry is also produced in accordance with the principles of QAFP (Quality Assurance for Food Products). The beef and pork from pigs raised according to tradition, but utilising the latest developments in the fields of both breeding and meat production, are of the same high quality. At the exhibition "Flavors of Europe – quality and tradition", our chefs will prepare dishes from chuck and tenderloin, loin, sirloin, shoulder, pork neck, ham and pork knuckle, as well

as from various elements of poultry. Their taste will be enriched by fresh and processed vegetables along with a variety of fruit and vegetable preserves produced in accordance with the GAP (Good Agricultural Product) quality system, adhering to GMP and GHP standards.

Our menu in the "Flavors of Europe" restaurant will surely be a traditional one, but with a touch of the sophisticated modernity. We would like to cordially invite you to a culinary feast, during which you will be able to try the tastiest dishes from throughout Europe – only on our exhibition stand from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of December, situated: stand No. R31, hall 5BC.

The informational and promotional campaign "Flavors of Europe – quality and tradition" is carried out by a consortium of organisations: Association of Butchers and Producers of Processed Meat of the Republic of Poland (SRW RP), National Union of Groups of Fruit and Vegetable Producers, Polish Fruit Growers Association and Polish Association of Beef Cattle Breeders and Producers.

More details regarding the EU programme "Flavors of Europe – quality and tradition" can be found on the programme's website:  
[www.flavorsofeurope.eu](http://www.flavorsofeurope.eu)



## Last Week In Reality

SAT 7

**Mad Hatter** At 3am, two Brazilian footballers who play in the Hong Kong Premier League get into a fight with a 28-year-old Dominican chef in a Lan Kwai Fong pub, after making fun of his large hat. The chef becomes enraged and chases after the football players with three friends, beating the players with glass wine bottles. Police arrive and arrest the chef, sending the two injured football players to the hospital. The other three men are still at large.



SUN 8

**Three photos of atypical job resignations go viral online.** In one, an employee notifies his boss that he is resigning via Facebook on the same day that he quits and refuses to provide a resignation letter, saying that the HR department can do it for him. In another, an employee simply changes his working status on Facebook, only confirming that he has quit when the company leaves a comment on the post. In the final example, an employee quits by posting a series of emoji icons and a Japanese phrase meaning "goodbye" to the company's Whatsapp group chat. The company later discovers that the employee has bought himself a cheap plane ticket to Japan.

MON 9

**Organic Panic** At around 3pm, two middle aged women sell bags of fresh vegetables at a park in Tuen Mun. They claim that the vegetables, which are very low in price, are all organic and grown without the use of pesticides. Reporters later discover that these vegetables come from a nearby supermarket waste handling station, and that they were thrown out because they were of poor quality.



TUE 10

**Bus Beggar** A picture of a man kneeling next to a bus sparks buzz on the internet. Netizens explain that the man had run to catch bus 48X, but was too late as the bus was pulling away from the stop. The man kneels down in front of the bus door and begs the driver to let him on. It is unknown whether the driver agrees to the plea.

WED 11

**Mama Mamasan** The divorced mother of a 13-year-old girl pleads guilty to a charge of attempting to procure unlawful sex involving a girl under the age of 21. The prosecution alleges that she encouraged her 13-year-old girl to engage in a sexual relationship with her boyfriend's rich tutorial student, saying that she would be able to use his spare credit card. The mother then advised her daughter to "practise" having sex with the mother's boyfriend, since his genitals were "small and clean." The girl told her school's social worker about the incident, who reported the case to the police. The mother claims that the idea came from her boyfriend, who denies two charges of criminal intimidation and indecent assault. The trial continues.



THU 12

**Dreamy Scooter** A driver posts a video online of a half-naked man riding a pallet jack like a scooter along a Mong Kok road. The video shows the man propelling himself forward on the pallet jack, making turns by twisting his buttocks from side to side. A netizen remarks on his skill at handling the vehicle, saying "I think he looks quite cute doing that."

FRI 13

**Fit of Peak** At around 9pm, a taxi driver is waiting outside The Peak tram station with his "for hire" sign down. He offers to take passengers up to the Peak for \$150, instead of the usual \$55. A male and a female police officer, disguised as passengers, board the taxi to find that it lacks a drivers' identity plate, and when the taxi starts the driver does not turn his meter on. When the taxi arrives at The Peak Galleria, the driver demands his fare. The police officers identify themselves and arrest him. The driver claims to be a first-time violator.

## Quote of the Week

"Hongkongers are not thankful... you need to know how to appreciate what you have."

In an interview with the Economic Times, Former Secretary for Commerce and soon-to-be MTR Board Chairman Frederick Ma Si-hang is concerned about Hongkongers' lack of respect. He remarked that Hongkongers have a sense of entitlement and only know how to criticize.

## Talking Points

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

### Charitable CCT Faces Closure

Shek Kip Mei's Pak Tin Estate is set to be demolished and redeveloped in the next three years. A fixture of the estate, the Fusion Court cha chaan teng, is worried for its future. Owner Leung Choi-ling is well known for **employing people who have suffered from cancer, depression and psychological issues**, as well as immigrants from the mainland. Instead of compensation, Leung has asked the Housing Authority for a space in the new mall to be built on the site. Seven years ago Leung started employing people who suffered from mental disorders. "I was just trying it out at the time, but they turned out to be surprisingly helpful," Leung told Oriental Daily. "And I like the idea of giving people a second chance to be self-reliant." The HA has yet to respond to the request.

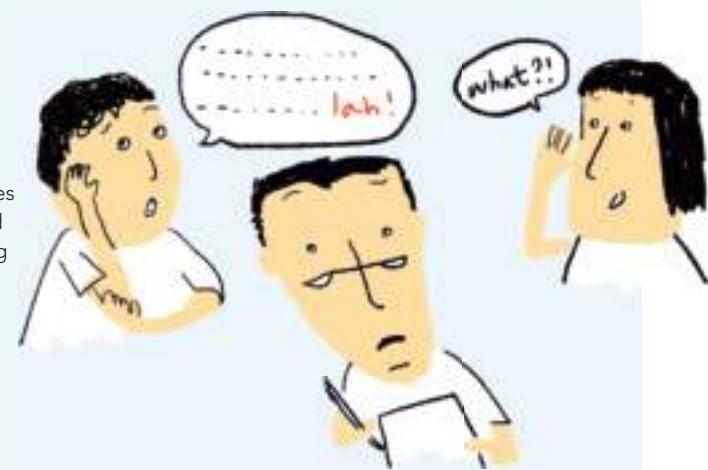
**Our take:** Housing Authority, help her out!

Illustration: Elaine Tang

### "Konglish" on the Rise

The examiner's report for the 2015 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education exams has commented on the unsatisfactory English skills of candidates. During English oral exams some mixed colloquial Cantonese phrases into their sentences, **adding terms such as "lah" in the end of sentences** and directly translating phrases from Cantonese, such as "I very enjoy it" instead of "I really enjoy it." Other errors included saying "fans" instead of "friend," "heavy" instead of "healthy," and "**Korea**" instead of "career." The report urged secondary school students to read a more extensive variety of English books to aid their learning of the language, and reminded students that it is important to leave some time during written exams to double-check spelling and grammatical mistakes.

**Our take:** If you understand is OK la...



## Street Talk

Hong Kong may have just tied with China in the most recent World Cup qualifiers, but that doesn't stop football song lyricist **Carter Wong**, who tells Isabelle Hon why he sets words to the beautiful game.



**HK Magazine:** How long have you been writing lyrics?

**CW:** Since SARS in early 2003. The social atmosphere wasn't good those days. I wrote a series of satirical songs with my partner to make fun of the current situation, and calm the anger of the public. I reached more than a million downloads in three months: It was crazy. Since then I've been writing football songs. Most of the comments are quite positive: Some football fans have told me that when they hear my songs in the stadium, they'll sing along loudly. Also, some will sing the songs at karaoke.

**HK:** Why are you so into football songs?

**CW:** I love to watch football, and I want to attract more potential fans to come to the stadium to support our local teams. A few years ago, I went to watch a Kitchee match. They have many fans but a lack of marketing, so not many fans went to the stadium. I got in touch with Kitchee and a composer, and wrote the song "We are Kitchee!" Some Kitchee fans suggested that I should write a song for the Hong Kong Team. I contacted the Hong Kong Football Association, and finally we wrote the song "Come on Hong Kong."

**HK:** How do you write songs?

**CW:** I don't need any inspiration to write about lyrics.

Inspiration is so unreliable. It's like Christmas—it only comes once a year. Before I write songs, I usually take a nap. Also, I write songs really quickly. Once I tried to finish a song within half an hour. It should take as long as a quick meal, or taking a bus from the New Territories to Central.

**HK:** Do you actually play football?

**CW:** I quit playing sports some time ago. When I was a kid I used to play football for fun, but I used to shout to my teammates: "Don't pass me the ball!" Maybe I wasn't really into it, I just wanted to have fun. Anyway, I don't play anymore.

**HK:** What's the greatest experience you've ever had?

**CW:** I am very lucky. I am the first lyricist who has had two football songs played in the Hong Kong Stadium. I still remember the day Kitchee played Arsenal—it was the first broadcast of my song, too. There were 40,000 people sitting and watching the music video—the feeling was just amazing. While listening to my song, I really wish that the Hong Kong team can win.

**HK:** Do you write love songs as well? Do chicks dig it?

**CW:** I do write love songs, but they're miserable songs. Miserable songs will only make people cry, but it didn't help me to attract any girls. Sometimes they attract boys.



There are so many rumors in society: Please don't believe that lyricists can attract girls. It's just a beautiful misunderstanding.

Listen to "Come On Hong Kong!" at [tiny.cc/hk-carterwong](http://tiny.cc/hk-carterwong).

## Blowing Water

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

daap3 saan3

# 搭訕

"TAKE RIDICULE"

"To chat someone up out of the blue."  
Dated expression. Presumably so named because chat-up lines (romantic or otherwise) put you in an awkward spot, exposing yourself to ridicule.

## HongKabulary



**MacLehose Blaster** (mækləhəʊs bla:stər), n.

The guy who goes hiking alone, accompanied only by a radio turned up to maximum volume.

*"Let's rest here for a while. There's a MacLehose Blaster behind us, I can hear his Cantopop classics from two mountains away."*

# MIND THE

Hong Kong's wage disparity is worse than ever. **Justin Heifetz** finds out why.

Lau Chung-ki is worried about the future of Tin Shui Wai. Property developer The Link REIT is ready to open the first phase of an upscale market at the Tin Shing Court public housing estate around Christmas. There will be a "SoHo" area for upmarket food and beverages, and a seafood street with chemical-free freshwater fish. Sounds great, but there's just one problem. Tin Shui Wai has always been one of Hong Kong's poorest areas and many of its inhabitants just can't afford it.

Lau, who works for the Tin Shui Wai Community Alliance, says that the Link is monopolizing options for the public housing estates that accommodate the city's working poor—the Link owns five of Tin Shui Wai's six wet markets and this upscale market isn't a new construction but instead a major expansion of

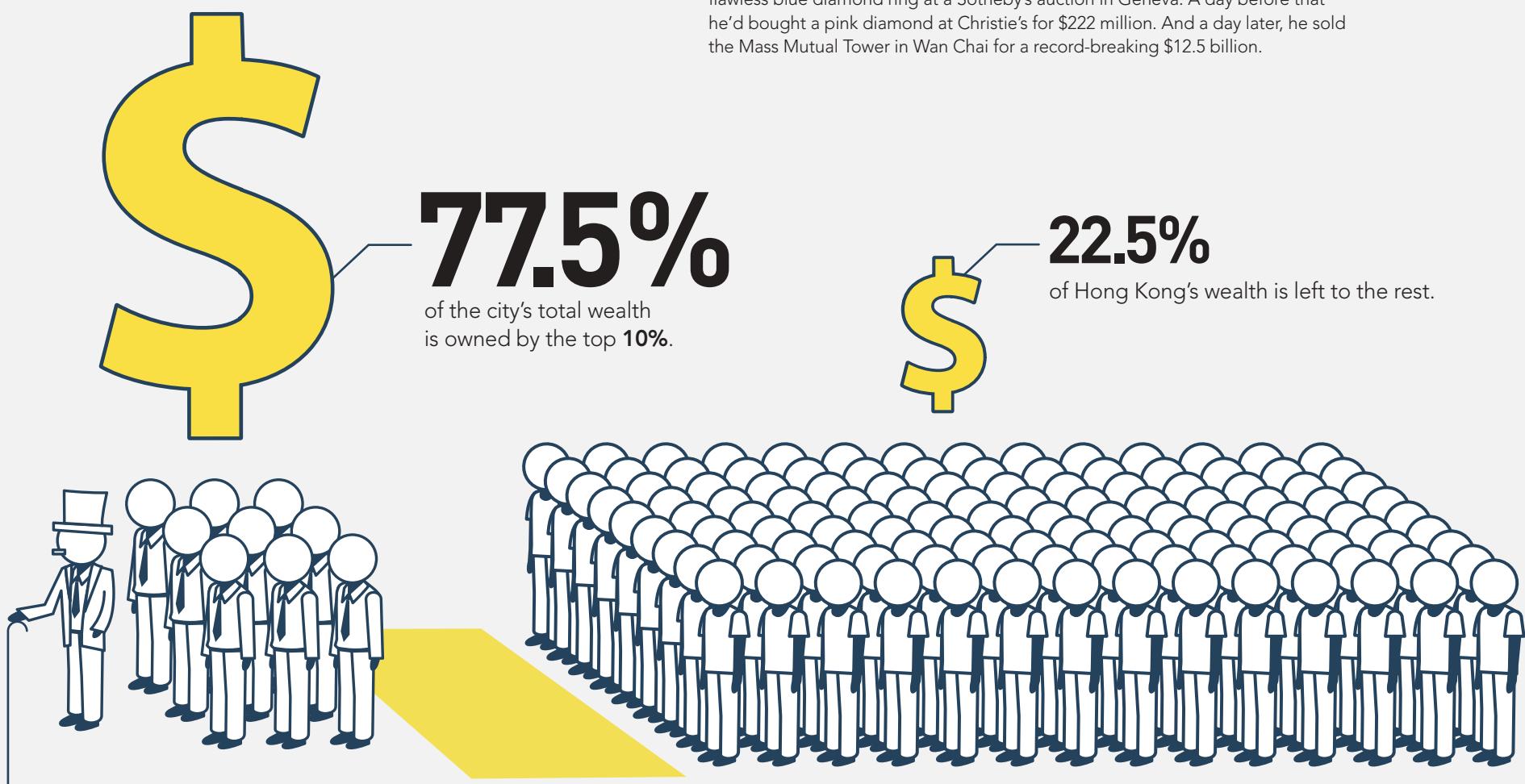
an existing wet market. Unless the government steps in, this gentrification is likely to push up prices for everyone in the area. "The Link's development is highly focused around a shopping mall," says Lau. "We're fighting for more options—like wet markets governed by the Housing Authority." It might be the only way to keep prices low.

But the problem isn't only in Tin Shui Wai anymore—Hong Kong is becoming increasingly and more drastically polarized between rich and poor. The wealth gap has long been a problem plaguing the city—and it's growing larger than ever. As the minimum wage—\$32.50 an hour—lags behind inflation, the number of working poor in the city continues to shoot upwards.

## The Top-Heavy Territory

In 2014, Hong Kong's top one percent of earners owned 52.6 percent of the city's wealth—income, investment and more—up from 35.4 percent in 2000, says Credit Suisse. That's staggeringly high compared to the developed world: In fact, Hong Kong ranks third-highest in wealth disparity after Turkey and Russia.

How rich are the rich? Just last week, Hong Kong tycoon Joseph Lau Luen-hung set world records when he bought his seven-year-old daughter a \$375 million flawless blue diamond ring at a Sotheby's auction in Geneva. A day before that he'd bought a pink diamond at Christie's for \$222 million. And a day later, he sold the Mass Mutual Tower in Wan Chai for a record-breaking \$12.5 billion.

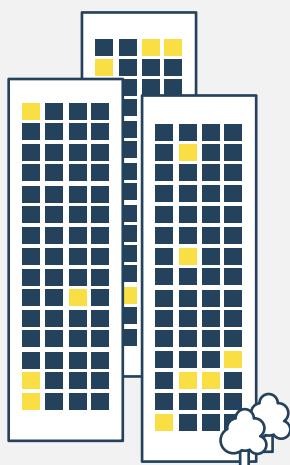


Source: Credit Suisse

# GAP

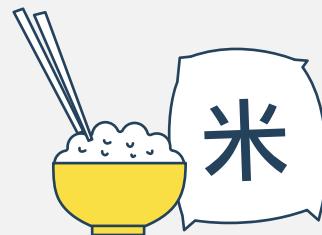
## What Can a Fugitive Billionaire Buy You?

We crunched the numbers. Joseph Lau's two new diamond rings, worth \$597 million, could instead buy:



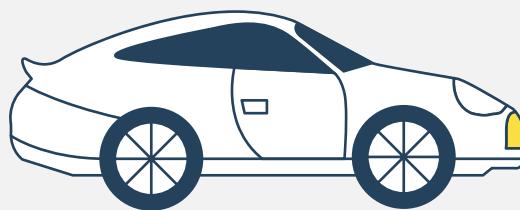
**23,032 years**

of rent for a family of three in public housing (\$2,160 per month per household).



**365,809 fed**

for a month, based on a basic diet for Hongkongers aged 12 to 60 (\$1,632 per month)



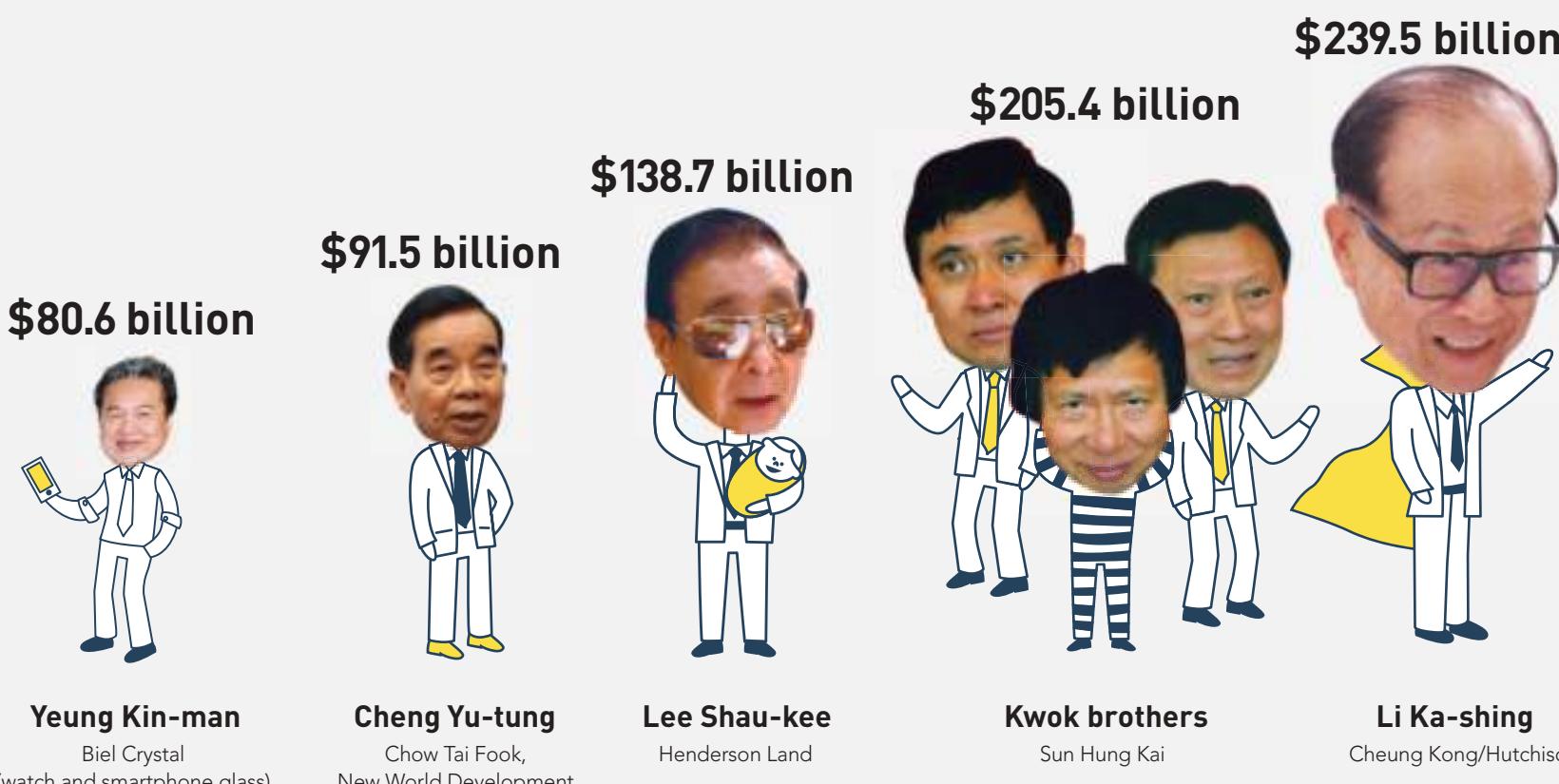
**314 Porsche 911s**

—the 2017 model. Screw it, just buy the car.

Sources: Hong Kong Housing Authority, Oxfam Hong Kong

## The Real Government?

Hong Kong's 25 wealthiest people are worth about \$1.51 trillion. That's only slightly less than the government's entire fiscal reserves of \$1.58 trillion. But who are these tycoons?



## Less Money, Mo' Problems

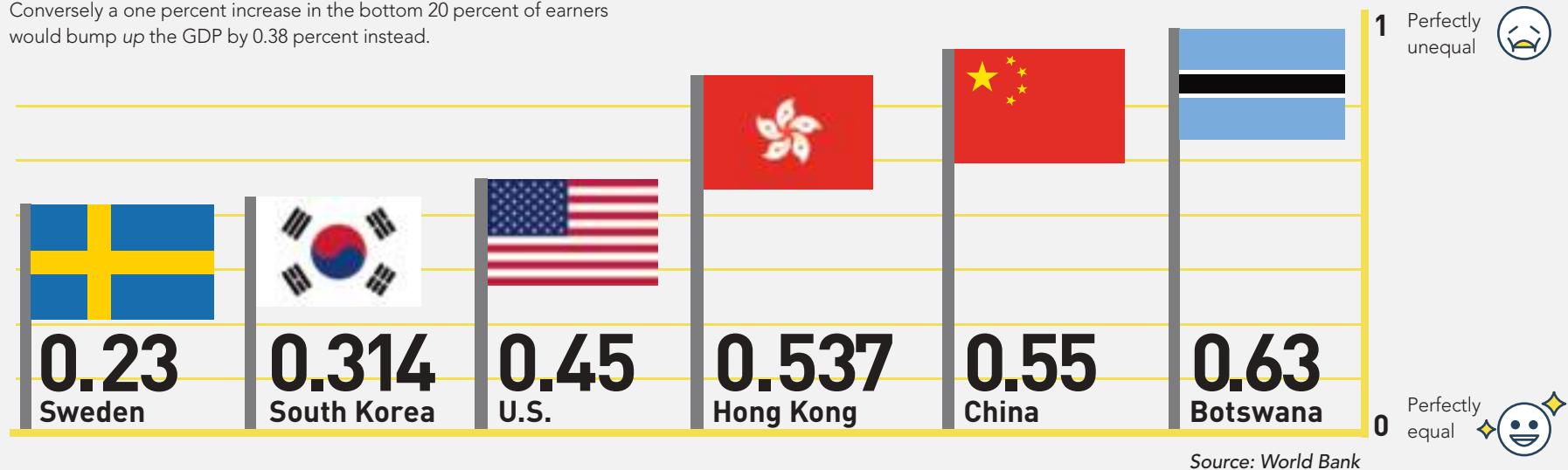
"Last year the wealthiest families earned 19 times more than the families in the lowest-earning decile," says Wong Shek-hung, Oxfam Hong Kong's program manager. "The richest sector in Hong Kong society has power and enough resources to do more and address this problem." But will they?

"We're not optimistic that we'll see the wealth gap narrowing in the near future in Hong Kong," says lawmaker Fernando Cheung Chiu-hung. Cheung, the chairman of Legco's Subcommittee on Poverty, says that as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, Hong Kong's economy suffers.

A new IMF study, presented to Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying by Cheung's committee, shows that every one percent of wealth growth in the top 20 percent of earners results in a GDP decrease of 0.08 percent. Conversely a one percent increase in the bottom 20 percent of earners would bump up the GDP by 0.38 percent instead.

Cheung, who's also a member of the Panel on Welfare Services, says that land and property prices remain an obstacle to Hongkongers, especially because "people are paid rather low in Hong Kong compared to other developed countries." Median earnings here hover at \$24,000 per month for a household of three. "That's not a whole lot," says Cheung.

Hong Kong's wage gap can be quantified by a number called the Gini Coefficient, which measures income inequality in society. Data shows that in 2011, Hong Kong's Gini coefficient rose up to 0.537—sandwiching the SAR between Colombia and Guatemala, and giving it the 11th-worst performance out of 141 countries.



## Wages Are Sin

Why are ordinary Hongkongers earning so little? For one, there's a lack of labor protection. Poon Man-hon, a policy researcher for the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, says that an immediate cause of Hong Kong's income gap is that there's no fair negotiation system for employers and employees.

"When a company earns a lot of money, there's not necessarily fair pay for the workers," says Poon. "If there's an economic downturn, these workers will suffer from losses and layoffs."

Unions in Hong Kong have asked the government for legislation to protect collective bargaining rights, so workers can negotiate fairly for pay raises—but the government has yet to act. "We don't have much labor protection or collective bargaining rights," says Fernando Cheung. "Unions have very little power. The market distribution itself is generating the income gap."

Trade unions are rallying for an increase in the minimum wage from \$32.50 to \$40 per hour and, like Oxfam and Cheung, are urging the Hong Kong government to review the minimum wage every year. Currently the government reviews the minimum wage every two years—mostly thanks to bureaucratic red tape.

"The Minimum Wage Commission's review exercise takes a whole year," says Oxfam's Wong Shek-hung. "If everything goes smoothly, the new rate will come up in 2017." That's at least a year's worth of inflation not accounted for, every single time.



## Assisted Living

Another solution to the city's widening wealth gap would be to provide help to the city's working poor—the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance welfare scheme exists for that purpose. But despite the rise in Hong Kong's working poor, the total CSSA caseload in September dropped by 1,144 cases, reports the Social Welfare Department.

"We approached many working poor in Hong Kong over the past few years and while most were eligible to apply for CSSA, they were not willing to do it because they thought there was a stigma attached," says Oxfam's Wong Shek-hung. "The idea of being reluctantly forced to apply for the scheme and increase society's burden is not a very good picture for them."

Poon Man-hon of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions likewise says that those who receive the subsidy are labeled by society as lazy. But this isn't the only problem with the CSSA scheme—the amount of the subsidy is low, Poon says, and it's still "not enough to live in Hong Kong decently." Wong adds that the application process is long and complicated. When HK Magazine asked the Social Welfare Department why the CSSA caseload has dropped, a spokeswoman responded that it is "believed to be the result of a sound local economy, which gives rise to ample employment opportunities."

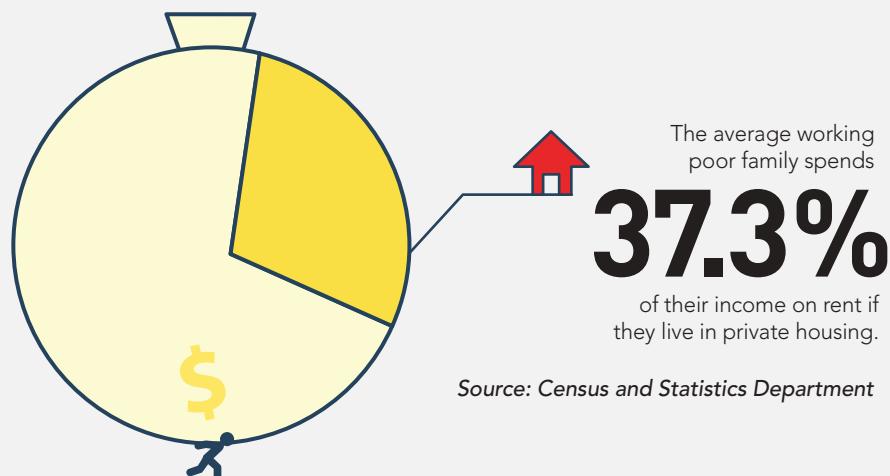
Cheung says that during the last Panel on Welfare Services meeting, an annual adjustment to the CSSA rate was discussed. But the subsidies could not catch up with new basic living requirements because "the baseline was drawn in 1996—no specific research has been done since then." In other words, there's been no comprehensive survey of Hong Kong's poor for 19 years. "We hope that the coming census in 2016 will generate more data about the income disparity problem," says Cheung. "It seems that's what the administration wants us to believe."

*"Last year the wealthiest families earned 19 times more than the families in the lowest-earning decile."*

— WONG SHEK-HUNG  
OXFAM HONG KONG

## Mandatory Minimums

The government's Mandatory Provident Fund pension scheme isn't making retirement any easier. There are 647,500 working poor in Hong Kong—nine percent of the population. For workers who make under \$7,100—the benchmark that qualifies working poor—existing legislation does not require that they contribute to their own fund. That makes it dependent on their employer's contribution. It's particularly bad when it comes to severance payments: Employers are permitted to take the severance out of the employee's MPF, effectively destroying their pension funds. This is particularly tough on workers whose jobs are on a contract basis, such as many of the government's outsourced projects. Last year the government employed some 60,000 workers, making it Hong Kong's biggest employer. Every two or three years a contracted job ends and workers are paid severance—which comes straight out of their MPF. There's no safety net for them.



Source: Census and Statistics Department



Hong Kong's seniors are often left high and dry from the MPF

Photo: K.Y. Cheng / SCMP

## What Next?

For Legco's Fernando Cheung, the sting of Hong Kong's wealth gap is spreading past the city's working poor. The government's targets for building public housing are lagging behind, he says, and the real estate market is distorted beyond the reach of ordinary people. Inflation continues to rise.

Last week, a study by intelligence provider ECA International braced Hong Kong for more bad news on the wealth gap: While salary is expected to rise 4.5 percent next year, it will only amount to a 1.5 percent increase after inflation. That's the third-lowest increase forecasted in Asia, with Hong Kong just topping Macau and then Burma.

"With people making less and paying the city's high rents or high mortgages, you end up with a lot of people who don't have much to make a living," says Cheung.

In Tin Shui Wai, civil worker Lau Chung-ki worries how the grassroots community will cope with The Link REIT's new upscale market. The property developer has promised Spanish hams and organic fruit on shelves. It's even completed a 1,000-person survey about the new market—although not all interviewees were Tin Shui Wai residents. At best, Lau says, the working poor can travel to Yuen Long to buy subsidized food from a government market. But that takes time—and more importantly, money.

"There are no options left," she says.

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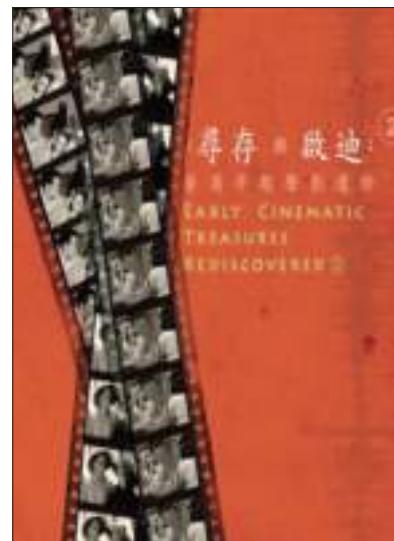
Managed by GR8 Leisure Concept



## HK Phil: Yu Long x Maxim Vengerov

Superstar of the violin Maxim Vengerov joins us for performances of a Chinese classic – the Butterfly Lovers concerto at 8pm on 18 & 19-12-2015, Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Yu Long's first concerts as Principal Guest Conductor of the HK Phil will culminate in Tchaikovsky's Pathétique symphony – and begin, fittingly, with a great Chinese work – Chen Qigang's evocation for orchestra of Peking Opera.

For programme enquiries, 2721-2332  
[www.hkphil.org](http://www.hkphil.org)



## Early Cinematic Treasures Rediscovered 2

Six long-lost Hong Kong's cinematic gems will be screened at the Hong Kong Film Archive from January 9 to March 27 next year. These immensely precious nitrate films were brought back to Hong Kong from San Francisco in 2012 and are ready to be shown on the big screen after meticulous efforts in scanning, test screening and other repair work.

Tickets \$40 are now at URBTIX  
[www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp) / [www.filmarchive.gov.hk](http://www.filmarchive.gov.hk)

## Revolution Asia Ltd. presents the Taikoo Place Aquathon 17.3 race

Fantastic turnout for the Taikoo Place Aquathon 17.3 on Saturday 14 Nov!! 316 hardcore athletes tackled sea, mountain and urban jungle in one of the toughest races in Hong Kong which started on South Bay Beach and finished in Taikoo Place. Swimmers, Runners, families and friends gathered for a huge party extravaganza at Tong Chong Street, complete with ice-cream, popcorn, beer and champagne! Great fun for weekend warriors and families!!



## What Goes Around Goes Around New Works by Yi Kai

Alisan Fine Arts is pleased to present the travelling exhibition of new works by Chinese-American artist Yi Kai. This body of work represents a way in which to scrutinize the relationship between individuals and crowds, and how these connections are informed by modern telecommunication. His work suggests a lack of culpability in today's society, and that perhaps life's accounts will never be quite so balanced.

Exhibition runs till 2nd December  
Alisan Fine Arts  
2305 Hing Wai Ctr, 7 Tin Wan Praya Rd, Aberdeen  
Enquiry 2526-1091



## PRESTIGE FAIR AT THE CONRAD HONGKONG

If you're looking for the latest in designer jewellery and fashion, scrumptious chocolates and gourmet foods, fabulous accessories and homewares, children's products, stationeries, Christmas decorations and more, then head to the most popular fair in town, The Pre-Christmas Gift Parade at the Conrad HK - Grand Ballroom on 25 Nov, Tues. Preview the fair at [www.prestigefair.hk](http://www.prestigefair.hk). Don't miss Prestige other fairs also at The Conrad on Dec 1 and 14.

25 November, Tuesday, 10am-8pm  
Conrad HK - Grand Ballroom  
Free Admission. Open to the Public



## Urbanears FALL/ WINTER 2015 COLOR COLLECTION

Presenting our Fall/Winter 2015 color ways—designed to capture the mood of autumn, with three cozy, nostalgic shades to choose from. Flint Blue, Sea Gray, and Bonfire Orange will help you fall into tempo with the new season and embrace whatever it may bring. Choose from the range of model including Kransen, Humlan, Plattan ADV to Zinken which fit you the best.

Available at [www.streetvalue.asia](http://www.streetvalue.asia)  
Enquiry: 2577-2599

## Room to Play

"International Man of Mirth" Rob Torres will perform the clown theatre show "Room to Play" from December to January next year. This one-man theatre show will go on a journey into the world of a character who speaks his own language, builds his home out of a suitcase, and invites audiences in to play. When audiences join Torres in this world of fun, anything can happen.

Dec 31, 2015 to Jan 3, 2016  
Tickets: [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)  
Enquiries: 2268-7323



## TOTO NEW Neorest Intelligent Toilet

Streamlined Design. Perfection of Cleaning: The product's modernized flat lines are unobtrusive—neatly complementing simplistic, yet elegant designs of contemporary bathrooms.

CeFiONtect Glaze and Antibacterial Material: The perfectly even surface helps flush away all waste matter, in effect providing a long-lasting shield for surfaces that make them clean by nature. The toilet lid, seat surface and retractable wand are made with antibacterial material to eliminate the spread of germs and bad odors.

TOTO Architectural and Design Centre  
1/F, East Town Building, 41 Lockhart Road,  
Wanchai, Hong Kong





### The Milliner's Tale

Hong Kong-born milliner Awon Golding's designs have graced the heads of Lady Gaga and Miriam Yeung, among others (that's a party we'd like to be at). She's back in town this month to hold a series of hat-making workshops (veils on Nov 26, floral headpieces on Nov 24, both \$980) at The Crafties in Sheung Wan. Not into doing all the work yourself? Golding is making an appearance on Nov 25 at Hatwoman (Shop 209, 2/F, Man Yee Arcade, 68 Des Voeux Rd. Central, 2167-8337), where you'll be able to meet the woman herself, plus pick up some signature pieces for a discount.

\$980 from [ticketflap.com/awongoldingmillinery](http://ticketflap.com/awongoldingmillinery).

# FASHION

## LOOKBOOK

Edited by Zoe Chan

Blogger & Stylist at [normalchic.com](http://normalchic.com) | Instagram @zoe\_normalchic



### Acting Casual

How do you up the cool factor of casualwear? It's a tough question for us all. Here are three tips to help you get ahead of the fashion curve. First: Always choose good materials. When it comes to basics, you'll wear them again and again, so invest in them—buy less, buy better! Second: Layering! Here I'm wearing a striped top with a denim shirt tied around the waist. You'll create a sense of layering—and as a bonus it'll keep you warm. Third: Sneaker chic. More and more stars are wearing beautiful sneakers out and about: a good pair will make you look more energetic and boost that sporty look.



Uniqlo Chambray Long-sleeve shirt,  
\$249



Uniqlo Merino V-neck sweater,  
\$249



Proenza Schouler striped top,  
\$2,105 from [net-a-porter.com](http://net-a-porter.com)



Fendi printed leather slip-on sneakers,  
\$6,100 from [net-a-porter.com](http://net-a-porter.com)



Common Projects Original Achilles leather sneakers,  
\$2,610 from [net-a-porter.com](http://net-a-porter.com)

Muji

Shop 3212-3, 3/F, Tuen Mun Town Plaza I,  
1 Tuen Shing St., Tuen Mun, 3971-3180.

Uniqlo

G/F, B1/F and B2/F, Lee Theatre, 99 Percival St.,  
Causeway Bay, 2577-5811.

Got a great street style shot? Tag us on Instagram @HK\_Magazine!



## ESCAPE ROUTES

Edited by Daniel Creffield  
daniel.creffield@hkmagmedia.com



Mövenpick Heritage Hotel Sentosa



Nihiwatu Resort Villa



Dorsett Grand Labuan

Looking for a quickie weekend getaway before, during or after the seasonal shenanigans? Whether your motivation is health or hedonism, these retreats should perk up your jaded senses.

### Ice Cream Dreams

Swiss operator and ice cream legend Mövenpick is offering a **Swiss Weekend Escape** at its Sukhumvit 15 Bangkok property. You'll need to book a minimum stay of two nights but in return will receive a complimentary one-day BTS Skytrain travel pass and one-way airport transfer. And yes, free Mövenpick ice cream.

Highlights of the 297-key Mövenpick Hotel Sukhumvit 15 Bangkok include a 20-meter rooftop pool and bar, plus F&B outlets serving a range of cuisine, from Thai classics to European and international dishes. Current promotions are going on at Lelawadee Restaurant and Rainforest Rooftop Bar, so guests can grab drinks and snacks before hitting the Sukhumvit lightlife.

Rates start for the Swiss Weekend Escape start at \$870 per night, with a minimum stay of two nights in if you're checking on Friday or Saturday.

**47 Sukhumvit 15, Khlong Toei Nuea, Wattana, Bangkok, Thailand (+66) 2119-3100, [movenpick.com](http://movenpick.com).**

In Singapore, the Mövenpick Heritage Hotel Sentosa is also offering savings of up to 30 percent on its **Winter Sunshine** deal, applicable for stays from December 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016. You'll need to book by the end of January 2016.

**23 Beach View, Sentosa, 098679, Singapore, (+65) 6818-3388, [movenpick.com](http://movenpick.com).**

### Cheap Lay

We're always grateful when other people write our funnies for us, so Dorsett Hospitality International's latest offer, "**Sleep With Us For RM1**," is a gift. So's the deal by the sound of it: Stay at any Dorsett or Silka hotel in Malaysia and pay just 1 Malaysian Ringgit per night. Where can you go? The idyllic island of Labuan, for example, an urban oasis such as in Subang, bustling Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru (home to

Asia's first Legoland theme park, FYI) and many more locations.

Of course there's a bit of fine print—the offer is only valid for Dorsett and Silka hotels in Malaysia; it's subject to a minimum F&B daily spend and you have to book by December 6 and stay before January 10, 2016. Still sounds sweet to us.

**For full details, check out [dorsett.com](http://dorsett.com).**

### Healthy Mind, Healthy Body

If you're looking to combine your getaway with a detox—either post Christmas because you've overdone it or pre-Christmas to get an early conscience-clearing session in—we might have the deal for you.

Koh Samui's boutique villa estate **Samujana** has just formed a partnership with leading luxury wellness brand Amrita Retreats, to offer escapes that provide holistic wellness services. These include 100 percent natural detoxification, weight loss and renewal programs, self-discovery and learning activities. Signature programs are based on traditional Thai herbs and western naturopathic expertise as well as nutrition science.

While daily routines are customised for each client, participants can expect to rise at 7am, be in a yoga and meditation session by 8:30am, mid-morning health therapy at 10:30am, try a massage or other leisure activities during the day before a workout, early dinner and bed by 9:30pm. The deal doesn't seem to contain any references to beer or partying, but you can expect to drink a lot of detox shakes and organic young coconut water. A lot.

**Prices start at US\$900 (\$6,975) per day for a personalized detox program, which includes all treatments as well as accommodation. [samujana.com](http://samujana.com).**

### Retail Therapy

Need a more hedonistic getaway? Of course you do! In that case look no further than our sister SAR, where the Conrad Macao is offering a **shopping break and hotel package**. As well as the Conrad's hospitality, there's a bunch of exclusive discounts available through its "Shop & Dine Specials" discount booklet redeemable at over 125 selected international designer shops and outlets within the Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao.

The deal includes accommodation for two in a King Deluxe room, breakfast and two one-way Macau to Hong Kong Cotai ferry tickets.

**Package starts at \$2,198 per night for stays from now through February 7, 2016. [conradmacao.com](http://conradmacao.com), (853) 8113-6000.**

### Best of Both Worlds

Need a post-fest combination spiritual/fun-type getaway? Those hoping to salve both mind and body will find solace at **Nihiwatu Resort**, a retreat on the island of Sumba in Eastern Indonesia, 400km west of Bali. Here you can indulge in a "Spa Safari" where you'll receive treatments while surrounded by two private beaches and rice paddies.

If you want to get more physical there's water activities, horse riding and various excursions, while for the more community-minded there are local visits to experience Sumbanese traditions with visits to schools, villages and farm projects supported by Nihii's Sumba Foundation.

**A rate of US\$650 (\$5,000) per room per night includes full board, internet, mini-bar, daily excursions and activities on land, non-motorized sea activities and scheduled group yoga and meditation classes. Rates are based on a minimum three-night stay. [nihiwatu.com](http://nihiwatu.com).**

### Amrita & Samujana





## K-Town, Funk You Up

Kimchi tacos, bulgogi pizzas and soju cocktails? Korea's rocking the cross-culture culinary pollination fad... and we're not complaining. By **Leslie Yeh and Evelyn Lok**

### Jinjuu Say You Were Hungry?

Gearing up for its launch on Dec 7 at LKF's California Tower is the first outpost of London's Jinjuu, which serves up modern Korean from celeb chef Judy Joo. The street-style dishes, designed to be eaten while boozing at the same time (aka the whole idea of *anju*, the Korean eating and drinking MO), include the likes of carnitas fries, Korean tacos, sliders, *mandoo* dumplings and of course *tongdak*—Korean fried chicken. For those more serious about the eating portion of the experience, there are also larger mains to share such as lettuce meat wraps and bibimbap rice bowls.

**UG/F, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3755-4868.**



### Korean Mod

**Jang** definitely gets points for the cool factor, boasting a sleek, contemporary design with modern fare to match. Free of tabletop grills, Jang trades the smoky, boisterous ambience of typical Korean barbecue joints for a sophisticated setting, with Japanese-style tableware and fresh seasonal ingredients. The menu steers away from the traditional in jazzed-up offerings such as a K-style tartare with sweet soy sauce and pear, and a beef carpaccio heaped with red onion and cucumber. But don't worry—you'll still get the benefits of family-style Korean dining out, including complimentary plates of banchan to nibble on.

**18/F, The L. Place, 139 Queen's Rd. Central, 2412-0002.**

### Vacate Your Stomach

Housed behind a shipping container facade and sporting a vowel-less name, uber-cool **VCNCY** serves up a reasonably priced range of fusion street foods—think the spiral potato chips that you can get in Myeong-dong, but paired with more indulgent dips such as black truffle, bourbon or black garlic aioli (\$78). VCNCY's twist on Korean fried chicken is marinated in a Southern-style buttermilk for extra tenderness and a bit of heat. For larger sharing plates, there are pork belly wraps and rice cakes topped with pork neck, gruyère and jalapeños. Don't miss the perfect winter dessert: sweet potato crumble cooked with bacon bits and tangy ginger in a skillet.

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



### Ta for the Tacos

Sitting on the prime intersection between Wellington Street and Lyndhurst Terrace, fusion burrito joint **TaKorea** is frequented by office workers at lunch and does the job well and pretty cheaply, though you'll have to tiptoe down a disconcertingly eerie flight of stairs to get there. Starting at \$75, you can choose between a rice bowl, burrito or three tacos, along with your choice of protein—"K-pop" chicken, spicy pork, galbi beef or eggplant. It all comes with ample fresh greens and TaKorea's own gochujang-based sauce. \$80 for three tacos? Not too bad for Central.

**B/F, 55 Wellington St., Central, 2362-1999.**



### Sold on Soju

If there's one thing Koreans do better than grilled marinated meats, it's rowdy drinking games. Get the best of both at **K-Pocha**, a watering hole in LKF outfitted with neon lights and an edgy industrial vibe. Become a pro at popular drinking games such as "007 Bang" and "Titanic" while loading up on Korean street snacks, including a seafood *ddeokbokki* with fresh shrimp, octopus and mussels smothered in a layer of melted cheese. Slightly spicy and unapologetically heavy on the waistline, this dish is a hearty stomach-liner between shots of soju or cups of K-Pocha's signature house-brewed *makgeolli* rice wine.

**7/F, Ho Lee Commercial Building, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2770-0611.**





### Seoul Refreshing

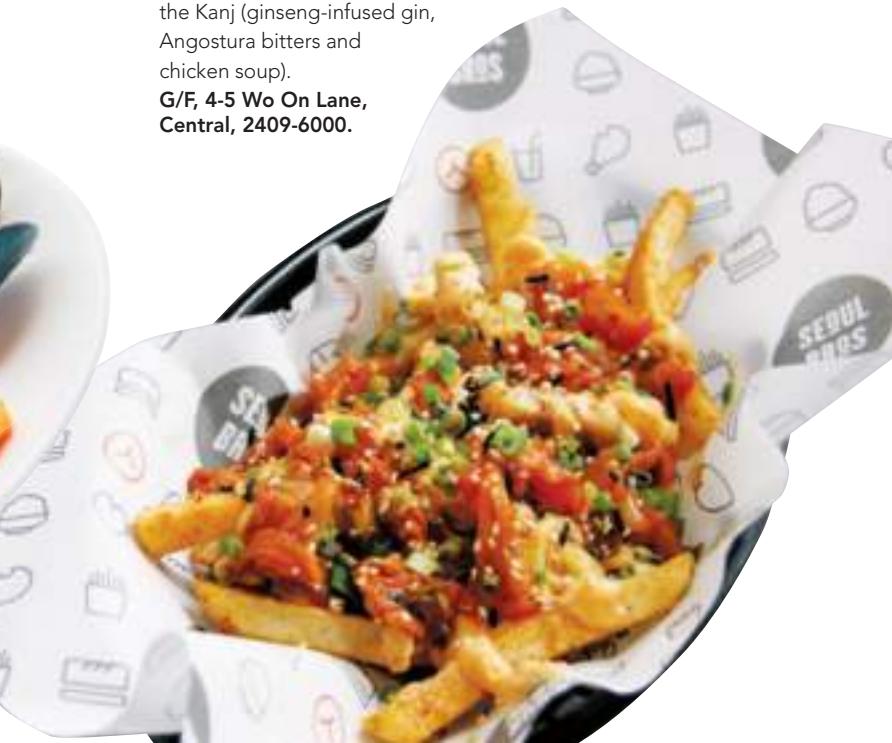
One of the newest kids to the block, Korean fast food **Seoul Bros** is perched on top of perhaps Hollywood Road's most iconic corner, above French resto Le Grand Bouffe—coincidentally, co-owned by the same guys—and overlooking the rickety hillside dai pai dong Leaf Dessert. For comforting eats with unfussy surrounds, Seoul Bros' dishes are the best blend of unassuming Korean ingredients (equating to lots of spice and cheese). Think cheesy kimchi fries, mixed rice bowls with scrambled eggs, melty Korean quesadillas and more. Finish it off with a banana soft ice cream for dessert—doubtless a hit with die-hard followers of the Binggrae banana-flavored milk craze of '14. And no, we didn't just make that up.

**G/F, 66 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2793-5703.**

### Kimchi Here, Kimchi Everywhere

Operating as an unpretentious, semi-alfresco bar in Lan Kwai Fong, **Hanjun** is an excellent place to line your stomach before getting lacquered up on soju cocktails and hitting the town. This gastropub serves up comfort food such as nachos topped with kimchi and bulgogi, Korean fried chicken and the "Fist of Fury"—pork knuckle with 11 kinds of medicinal herbs. The fusion influences extend well into the drinks menu; don't miss the Kimchi Fizz (kimchi-infused vodka with egg white and tabasco) and the Kanj (ginseng-infused gin, Angostura bitters and chicken soup).

**G/F, 4-5 Wo On Lane, Central, 2409-6000.**












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HK MAGAZINE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015 19

# DINING

Edited by Leslie Yeh  
leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com



## Surf's Up, Dude

We've heard a lot of fusion—this and fusion—that in food gossip this year, but Indian-Californian fusion? Admittedly, this one has taken us off guard. The formal explanation of new SoHo eatery **Juhu Beach Club** (28 Elgin St., Central, 2177-3544) describes the food as traditional Mumbai street eats such as sev puri (deep fried bread topped with crunchy chickpea noodles) and varieties of pav (they're like Indian sliders) made with respect to seasonal Californian produce and

local ingredients. While we suspect the Cali vibe breezing in from Top Chef alum Preeti Mistry's first international outpost may have more to do with the brightly-hued interior and surfer-esque name than anything else, we're champing at the bit to sample these authentic Mumbai bites that have caught the attention of San Francisco's gastronomes as well as the man himself, Anthony Bourdain. Look out for an attack on the taste buds when doors open in December.



## NEW AND NOTED

### Fight for the Fishes

It's all too easy to get bogged down in the next big thing, which is why it's good sometimes to turn the spotlight on more charitable causes. This month more than 30 restaurants are pledging support to the **Kin Hong Seafood Festival**, with each serving up at least one dish which features certified sustainable seafood. With some of the city's most prized fish under severe threat from overfishing (some have declined by 80 percent in the past eight years), we have no problem doing our part for the cause, especially if it means revisiting some of our favorite tables in town. Participating restaurants and hotels include Sohofama, Café Gray, Grand Hyatt and Four Seasons. Check out the full list at oceanrecov.org.

### Eat 'n' Learn

Running low on places to take clients or first dates? Hong Kong's newest upscale restaurant comes from multimedia group Lifestyle Federation, who've taken their experience of creating high-end "edutainment" F&B experiences to open the city's latest private dining club. Covering 4,000 square feet, **The First Floor** by **Lifestyle Federation** (1/F, Baskerville House, 13 Duddell St., Central, 2840-0032) is an elegant space, serving up nouvelle cuisine from chef Kit Cheung, previously of Caprice and Spoon by Alain Ducasse. The First Floor also specializes in experiential events, from food demos to whisky and cheese tastings, and is available to rent for private functions. Next birthday bash, perhaps?

## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

### Yu Raku Tei ★★★★☆

Japanese. G/F, 2-8 Humbert St., Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Mei Foo, 2745-9189



With a bustling izakaya-style atmosphere and relatively cheap prices, Yu Raku Tei is a Mei Foo favorite, serving up some of the best Japanese food in the area.

**HIT** The restaurant gets pretty busy most nights, so go before 7pm—and be prepared to get cozy with your neighbors. This is a no-frills establishment and prices remain low, with the exception of the sashimi platters which start from \$298. We opted for the tuna belly salad (\$90) and a few sticks of yakitori (\$42 per order); the first was a disappointment

as the tuna had been mashed into a mushy consistency and slapped unceremoniously onto some bread. But the yakitori was a highlight of the night, with a crispy and charred exterior giving way to juicy, tender chicken thigh meat. Our sashimi platter for two (\$298) was fresh and generous, with a decent selection of yellowtail, salmon, tuna and sweet shrimp. The vegetable tempura (\$70) is also a must-try, as the veggies are roasted first to develop a nice caramelization before being battered and fried, making them both succulent and sweet.

**MISS** The house sake (\$60 per 60ml) didn't go down as smooth as we would have liked—you'd be much better off paying double the price for a more premium bottle.

**BOTTOM LINE** This is casual, comforting Japanese fare at its best—go for the excellent yakitori or warm up with steaming bowls of udon and Japanese hot pot as winter hits.

**Open Mon-Sun, 6pm-11:30pm. \$\$**

### Foody ★★★★☆

Taiwanese. Shop 3, G/F, Leader Industrial Centre, 57-59 Au Pui Wan St. (Entrance on Fo Tan Rd.), 3586-0863.



What the heck do people in Fo Tan eat for dinner? In a factory district with buildings brimming with warehouses, car mechanics and artist's studios, there's surprisingly only a handful of restaurants, mostly dingy CCTs. After dark, the arty local hipster diner Foody is pretty much the oasis in the midst of empty streets.

**HIT** Foody is a quirky designed, spacious eatery with a chill café vibe, usually hosting live music acts on the weekends. Perhaps the most interesting thing about the restaurant is the décor, which features plenty of vintage Hong Kong objects, from

retro 70s print wallpaper to old school Coca Cola clocks. Afternoon chilling at Foody is on point: Creative Taiwanese beverages fill the menu, from winter melon iced teas to sour plum iced teas to hazelnut iced coffees (\$28), all of which are excellent on a warm day.

**MISS** Sadly the food at Foody is average at best, and fails to deliver authentic Taiwanese. The beef udon (\$60) was lackluster, with grainy and overcooked beef slices. Though it came with an onsen egg, the whites were barely cooked, verging on slimy. The spicy chicken meal, which came with a big bowl of rice and a dish of pickles, was a lot of food for \$68, but the chicken was just acceptable: flavored well, but bony.

**BOTTOM LINE** Making the trek out to Foody may be worth it on your annual trip to Fotanian Open Studios, but maybe skip dinner.

**Open Mon noon-6pm;  
Tue-Sun noon-10:30pm. \$**

### 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

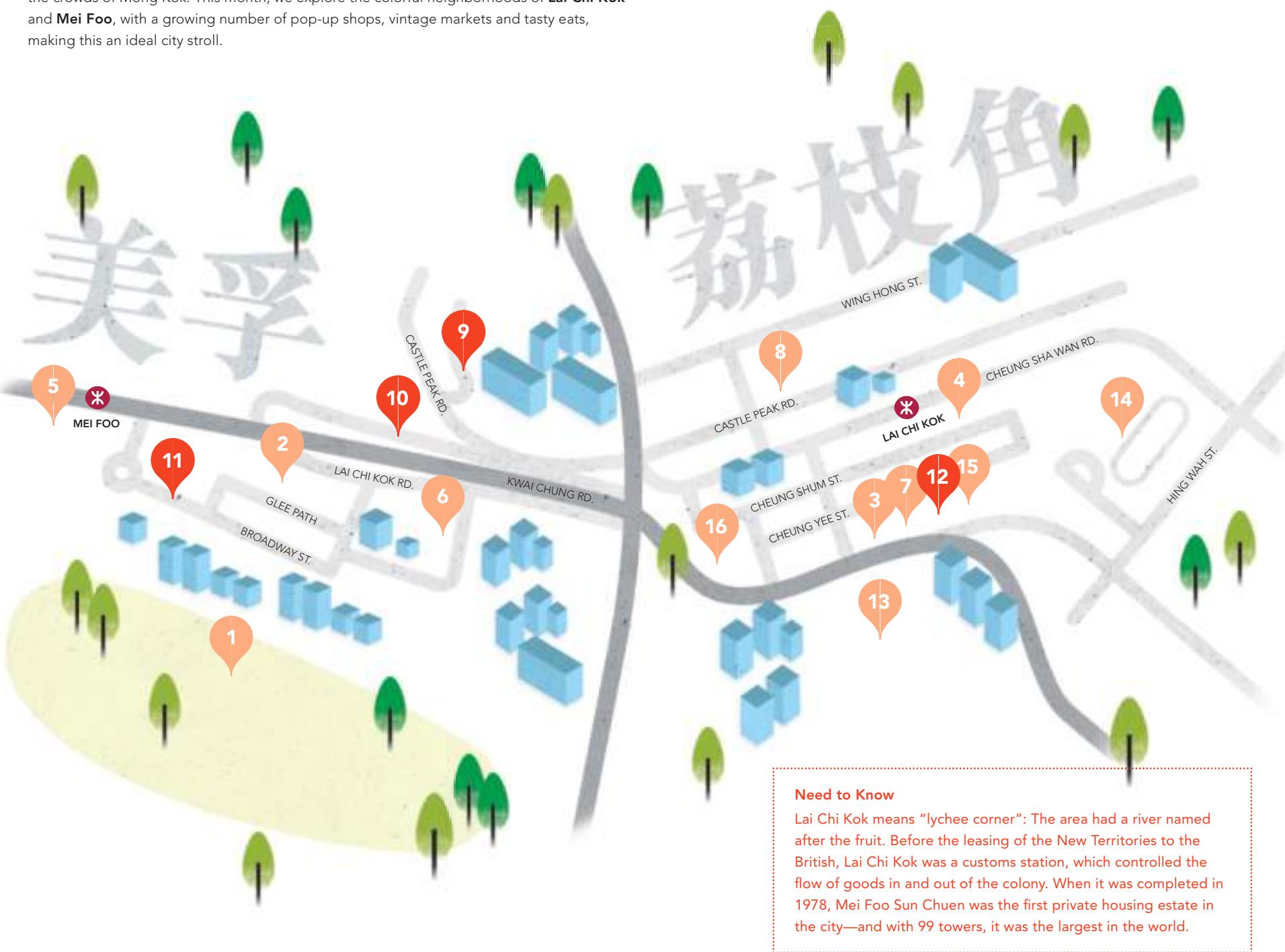
### Our Policy

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

# CITY STROLL

## Lai Chi Kok & Mei Foo

Still think it's the "dark side?" Think again: 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.



### Need to Know

Lai Chi Kok means "lychee corner": The area had a river named after the fruit. Before the leasing of the New Territories to the British, Lai Chi Kok was a customs station, which controlled the flow of goods in and out of the colony. When it was completed in 1978, Mei Foo Sun Chuen was the first private housing estate in the city—and with 99 towers, it was the largest in the world.

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### Jao Tsung-I Academy

Formerly a seaside customs house at the turn of the 20th century and subsequently a hospital building, this historic compound now serves as a cultural platform for Hong Kong's youth. The Academy holds a variety of seminars, lectures, workshops, performances and exhibitions worth checking out if you're in the area.

**800 Castle Peak Rd., Mei Foo, jtia.hk.**



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### Lai Wan Wet Market

Need to stock up on cheap groceries? Make a stop at Lai Wan Wet Market for tons of fresh produce and seafood. Grab a basket of fresh shrimp for \$30 or a whole fish for under \$50, and have yourself a seafood feast.

**8 Lai Wan Rd., Mei Foo, 2371-0937, open daily 6am-8pm.**



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### Wolf Den Café

If you're hankering after a burger, Wolf Den Café is your best bet. With al fresco seating and a relaxed ambience, this is the place to satisfy hunger pangs with a juicy burger and golden-crisp waffle fries. They also whip up a decent cup 'o joe if you're after a midday jolt.

**1 Broadway St., Mei Foo Sun Chuen, 3102-9628.**



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### Green Live Golf Simulator

Practice your swing and get on par with the pros at Green Live in D2 Place. Using advanced golf simulation technology, the "Golfzon" lets you tee off and improve your game while precise sensors provide helpful training feedback.

**Shop 114-127, 1/F D2 Place, 9 Cheung Yee St., Lai Chi Kok, 2593-6888.**



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

## UPCLOSE: NICK DARYANANI AND NATALIE CHAN



Hong Kong's about to get a reality TV show that kicks community altruism into high gear. Filmmaker **Nick Daryanani** and producer **Natalie Chan** are the duo behind "Dream On"—an indie show which aims to help individuals in marginalized communities in Hong Kong achieve their dreams... starting with giving a Hong Kong asylum seeker the chance to make his own rap single. After launching their pre-pilot teaser, the pair tells Evelyn Lok how helping others helps Hong Kong.

### HK Magazine: So how does the show work?

**Nick Daryanani:** Each episode focuses on a different individual, from a different marginalized community. We interview them, then one day we rock up to their house—we tell them we have to do some pickup shots, and suddenly we take them on an adventure for one day. [In the first episode], we help an underprivileged African activist who wants to make music—having struggled with racism in the city, his dream was to inspire people and get rid of prejudice in the world. Japanese clothing company Evisu sponsored the top floor of their shop for a photoshoot, we got a bunch of supporting singers and an experienced local rapper to mentor him. We went out and got this amazing studio and he recorded his own single. The idea was to take his single and put it on RTHK.

### HK: How is "Dream On" different from other reality TV shows?

**ND:** There's a lot of reality shows out there where you don't know what's real and what's not. Here it's real. No part of this is a shortcut, there are no camera tricks. There's transparency with donations. This is a real person, in a real situation, and we do our best to give them a leg up on their dreams.

**Natalie Chan:** The focus is more about the social issue than about that person. In Hong Kong, there are always issues that people write about or make documentaries about, but it's always portrayed in a negative way. We're here to put a more positive, pop culture spin on it, but we're also careful about not pigeonholing people into different social issues.

### HK: How do you pick your subjects?

**ND:** We actively talk to NGOs who suggest people for us to speak to, and we hear their stories. We tell them that we're shooting a documentary about them. There are so many people with so much passion and ambition who haven't had a chance.

**NC:** We're tired of all these celebrities that people idolize in Hong Kong—what value do they really provide to the younger generation? We want to create new heroes within the community. Ultimately there are three criteria: They have to have some sort of dream or goal; they have to have a positive can-do mentality; and third, perseverance—we don't want to reward people who are just going to be lazy.

### HK: What's the main takeaway for audiences?

**ND:** A lot of people have big dreams but no one really goes out there to chase after them. I want to make sure that whoever is part of this has their one shot. It may not be a huge, Jay-Z, Hollywood-level shot, but I want them to look back on their life when they're 90 without regrets. Truthfully, we're nobodies: We're just two people in Hong Kong who want to push this idea along. You don't have to have money, you don't have to be someone in order to help people. You just have to find the right people to dream with. Me and Nat, we're not the heroes. It's the community that gives them that shot.

**Filming for the full-length pilot of "Dream On" is slated to begin in Jan 2016, with fundraising events coming up in-between. Check out the preview at [tiny.cc/hk-dreamon](http://tiny.cc/hk-dreamon) and watch for updates at [facebook.com/dreamontheshow](http://facebook.com/dreamontheshow).**

## Classical



**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 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 urbtix.hk.



**A Dialogue of Trees**

This program is a multimedia cultural crossroads between Hong Kong and Norway, with interactive visual projections and chamber music. Percussionist Heidi Law will be playing with Norwegians Karoline Vik Hegge (viola) and Finn Magnus Fjell Hjelland (piano), as artist Vvzel Kook projects her new media art. The program will include commissioned pieces from Norway and the SAR, an Asian premiere of a Norwegian work and more. Go, then name your first-born child after the pianist. Nov 22, 8pm. Youth Square Y-Studio, 2/F, 238 Chai Wan Rd., Chai Wan, 3721-8888. \$180-220 from urbtix.hk.



**Island Express Jazz Orchestra Live at Fringe Dairy**

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

### Il Trovatore

Verdi's four-act opera, Il Trovatore, sends us back to medieval Spain to watch troubadour Manrico and his rival Count di Luna fight over their love for Leonora. As tension rises in the love triangle, the two men duel and blood is shed... In Italian with Chinese and English surtitles. Dec 11-12, 7:45pm; Dec 12-13, 2:45pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$150-630 from urbtix.hk.

### Happy Go Lucky Big Band

Kenny Matsuura of The Flying Machine Revival Quartet and the HGL Big Band take over the Fringe Dairy for a night of slick classical jazz. Expect all things Duke Ellington. Take it as read that this gig means a whole lot. After all, it don't mean a thing if you ain't got that swing. Dec 19, 10pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$150 in advance; \$180 at the door.



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## Comedy



**Paul Zenon, Damian Clark, Andrew Stanley**

Punchline Comedy brings UK comedy magician Paul Zenon, Aussie Damian Clark (pictured) and Irishman Andrew Stanley to headline at the Tamarind all weekend. You can eat while you laugh (but try not to spit your food out). Nov 20-21, 9pm. Tamarind, 2/F, Sun Hung Kai Centre, 30 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, 2827-7777. \$350 from [cityline.com](http://cityline.com) and [ticketflap.com](http://ticketflap.com); pre-show buffet \$150, 7-9pm.

### 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](http://takeoutcomedy.com).

## Dance

### L'amour Immortel

This dance-drama is a reinterpretation of an old, classic Chinese ghost story in which Nie Xiaoqian, a beautiful ghost, is forced by the devil to prey on humans. But then she meets and falls in love with a warm-blooded man, and tries to save him whatever the cost. The classic plotlines of forbidden love and being in love with dead people are dramatized on stage by the Hong Kong Dance Company. Orpheus and Eurydice, eat your heart out. Nov 27-29, 8pm; Nov 28-29, 3pm. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$160-360 from urbtix.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 subtitles. Nov 20-22, 7:45pm; Nov 21-22, 2:45pm. Theatre, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$160-300 from [urbtix.hk](http://urbtix.hk).

### A Language of Their Own

This drama at the Fringe Upstairs is all about the cultural challenges of being both gay and Chinese in the west. Written by Singaporean playwright Chay Yew, "A Language of Their Own" examines the lives of four gay men living in America who deal with AIDS and abandonment on top of their cultural issues, with some sex sprinkled in. The play was formerly banned in Singapore and is now making its Hong Kong premiere. Sounds like some delicious forbidden fruit... Nov 19-21, 7:30pm; Nov 21, 3pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$180 from [hkticketing.com](http://hkticketing.com). Not suitable for people under 18.



**Cirque Adrenaline**

Cirque Adrenaline's Strong Men came to Central ahead of their show to display their physicals and their physiques: Check that out! The Cirque's upcoming show will have 15 choreographed acts with high-risk stunts that include acrobatics, humor, and lots of spinning. Woo! Dec 22-Jan 3, 2016. AsiaWorld-Arena, Sky Plaza Rd., Chek Lap Kok, 3606-8828. \$295-895 from [hkticketing.com](http://hkticketing.com).



Edited by Adrienne Chum  
adrienne.chum@hkmagmedia.com

## Exhibitions



### Event Horizon

British artist Antony Gormley has installed sculptures of naked dudes standing on buildings in 31 locations around Central and Western districts, including the tops of St George's Building and City Hall, and at ground level at LKF Plaza. As the largest public art project ever in the SAR, "Event Horizon" aims to make art accessible to the public, and examine the relationship between humans and their environments. Maybe it'll even get Hongkongers to stop looking down at their phones... Nov 19-May 18, 2016.



**Love is Wild**  
Project C: Change and Sean Lee-Davies are raising money and awareness for wildlife conservation through charity photography exhibition Love is Wild. With beautiful images of exotic fauna in Africa posing with hot actresses and models, it's eyecandy for everyone involved. A charity gala ball, "Out of Africa," will be held to auction large prints on Nov 26 at the Island Shangri-La at 7pm; RSVP required. Nov 21-24, Galerie Huit, Shop 2, G/F & 1/F, SoHo 189, 189 Queen's Rd. West, Sheung Wan. More info from projectcchange.com.



### Rings on Fire

Phil Akashi is a Belgian artist who chose a Japanese pseudonym and a Chinese name after feeling a deep connection with Asian culture. This exhibition examines the idea of marriage in Chinese culture and uses the "double happiness" character as the base of his works: the trilogy includes "Tradition," "Challenge," and "Wisdom of Happiness." It's all a little bit like if Jackson Pollock had yellow fever. Through Nov 27, Fabrik Contemporary Art, 1102, Nam Wo Hong Building, 148 Wing Lok St., Sheung Wan, 2525-4911.

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# NIGHTLIFE

## OPEN BAR REPUBLIC BAR AND LOUNGE

**The buzz:** Co-owned by a trio of seasoned and new SoHo and Sheung Wan restaurant-owners, Republic takes on the solid, if slightly dated, concept of a prohibition-era bar.

**The décor:** Republic sports a speakeasy vibe, from its upstairs location at the quieter end of Elgin Street to the viewing hatch that meets you at the door. But it's not overdone: Inside you'll find unpretentious interiors, with the spotlight placed firmly on the top-shelf tipples behind the bar.

**The drinks:** Classic cocktails fill most of the menu here, but the bar's bread and butter lies with using carefully selected American craft liquors—from Hanson of Sonoma organic vodkas to three types of moonshines,



which you can try neat or on the rocks (\$98-108). Our favorite was the sweet tea moonshine: very drinkable, with nothing of the strong hooch flavor you might expect, leaving an aromatic aftertaste of tea tannins. The

apple pie moonshine was juicy and tart, with a strong smack of cinnamon. For those who like a hardcore challenge, the potent (103-proof!) "Harley-Davidson moonshine" aptly smells kind of like motor oil. It's a heavily smoked whiskey best savored in the Otto Walker (\$178) cocktail, named after the famous motorcycle daredevil and made along with Fireball whiskey, triple sec, amaretto and cranberry. Of the signatures, the old fashioned (\$158) wins the popularity contest for incorporating cherry bitters, charred orange and maple syrup that's been smoked and cigar infused, resulting in a smooth, layered drink.

**Why you'll be back:** While the signature drinks are best saved for payday, Republic's classic cocktails hit SoHo-friendly prices starting from \$78. The vibe at Republic teeters between an introvert's paradise on a weekday (one of the best seats is out on the terrace, where you can watch the SoHo action unfold from a safe distance) and packed party haven come Fridays and Saturdays, with regular live music nights and themed events. **Evelyn Lok**

1/F, The Elgin, 51 Elgin St., Central, 2670-0698.



## Clubs

### Karma Kid

Karma Kid aka turntable prodigy Sam Knowles heads to Lily & Bloom's weekend lounge nights Bloom Bloom Room, with his fun future bass beats and quirky YouTube sampling in tow. Nov 20, 10pm. Lily and Bloom, 6/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 2810-6166. \$200 from ticketflap.com, \$300 at the door, includes one drink.

### FuFu 1st Anniversary

Creative agency FuFu celebrates its first birthday at MyHouse, welcoming Russian DJ and producer Lay-Far to its deck. Just fresh from releasing his second album, he brings a mix of deep, Detroit and soulful house to the new venue. Nov 21, 10pm. MyHouse, 26/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2323-1715. \$100 from ticketflap.com, \$200 at the door with one drink.



### Gregor Salto

Grammy Award-winning Dutch DJ Gregor Salto takes over the decks for Cé La Vi's first ever White Party. The best-dressed in white will get a bottle of Grey Goose. Nov 21, 10pm. Cé La Vi, 24-26/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3700-2300. \$300 from hk.celavi.com, \$400 at the door; both include a white cocktail.

### Tang Twinz

Hot Eurasian model DJs coming through: Canada's Jade and Mariah Tang are Tang Twinz, two of Edmonton's celebrity Tang triplets. The sisters also made appearances in 2009's "Wolverine Origins." As for the music? Hope you like to do your ogling along to a mix of prog and deep house. Nov 26, 11pm. Bungalow, Shop 2, G/F, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, 2623-7868. Free.



### Marcel Fengler: Push 6th Anniversary

Electronic music advocates Push are all grown up. All the way from legendary Berlin techno club Berghain, Marcel Fengler makes his way to Hong Kong to celebrate Push's 6th birthday with a night of mindblowing beats. Free Push anniversary T-shirts for those who get there early. Dec 4, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-1510. \$250 from ticketflap.com, with two drinks before 12:30am, one drink thereafter. \$300 at the door before 12:30am, \$350 thereafter; both include two drinks.

### DJ Yella

Straight outta Compton and into Cé La Vi's club lounge, DJ Yella, aka a founding member of rap group NWA along with Dr. Dre, Ice Cube, MC Ren and Eazy-E, will be spinning the best of his new album, "West Coastin'." Dec 5, 10pm. Cé La Vi, 24-26/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3700-2300. \$300 from hk.celavi.com, \$400 at the door.

## Music Festivals

### Clockenflap 2015

The SAR's biggest festival is back next week! The final lineup features seminal artists New Order, The Libertines and Damien Rice, while fans of more twirly beats can nod to Flying Lotus, Ratatat and Mr Scruff and more. There's a touch of soul via the Earth Wind & Fire Experience, singer-songwriters Crowd Lu and Rachael Yamagata and French cover duo Nouvelle Vague. Disco-funk legends Chic and Nile Rodgers are also back for a return gig. Still haven't gotten your tickets? Get on it. Nov 27-29. West Kowloon Cultural District, West Kowloon. \$680-1,940 from clockenflap.com.

## Concerts



### Elton John

Elton John is back again to perform at the HKCEC. He dropped classic hit "Your Song" more than 40 years ago and he has done an OK job since, with 35 gold and 25 platinum albums under his belt as well as 250 million records sold worldwide. And with only one warby Princess Diana song to get in the way... Nov 24, 8pm. Hall 5BC, HKCEC, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai. \$488-2,388 from hkticketing.com.

### The Vamps

Not to be confused with the 60s Aussie all-girl rock band of the same name, boyband The Vamps first started off as a YouTube sensation that further exploded on the UK pop scene when they supported a McFly show in 2013. The foursome are playing Hong Kong in early 2016, and are accompanied by The Tide, an American teen group that they've just signed to their own record label. Teen-tastic! Jan 28 2016, 8pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$488-888 from hkticketing.com.

## Gigs

### Songs Without Words II

The Undergrounds' instrumental series returns: Three local bands will be bringing their swoon-worthy ambient tunes to the stage. On the roster? Award-winning post-hardcore group Last Digits, masters of complex multi-instrumental melodies Prune Deer and progressive metal band Omicron. Nov 21, 9:30pm. Orange Peel, 2/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2812-7177. \$120 in advance from undergroundhk.com/events/tickets, \$150 at the door; both include one Jack & Coke.

### 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



### Bond at the Valley

Get your Bond fix at the Happy Valley races, which is offering British food and 007-inspired cocktails this November. Dress up as a secret agent and you might win a pair of tickets to see "Spectre," a bottle of Bollinger's Spectre Edition 2009 James Bond bubbly, or at least a free drink or two... Nov 25, 7pm. Happy Valley Racecourse, Happy Valley. \$10 at the door.

Edited by Evelyn Lok  
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com



#### Bounce After Dark

KITEC's massive trampoline gym Bounce is hosting its first ever after-hours event, which will feature club-style lighting, plenty of glow accessories and a hundred people free-jumping to live DJ beats. There'll also be a live performance by a LED/Tron dance crew. Elbows in! Free shuttles provided from Central and Tsim Sha Tsui. Nov 20, 7pm. Bounce Inc, G/F, E-MAX, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$180 per person, from 2305-8109. [bounceinc.com.hk/afterdark](http://bounceinc.com.hk/afterdark).

#### Rewind Vol 7

The Rewind Sunday party redux is hosted this time at Armani/Privé, putting on an ensemble DJ set from the likes of Gaby Endo and new-to-town DJ Will, international turntable siren Helen Ting and resident Orma DJ Jeremy. Nov 22, 3pm. Armani/Privé, 2/F, Chater House, 8 Connaught Rd, Central, 3583-2828. \$50 cash at the door.

#### Lan Kwai Fong Carnival

This year's LKF street carnival gets the whole K-pop treatment, alongside plenty of international snacks and tipples. Wo On Lane will be transformed into a mini Myeong-dong with beauty and fashion stalls aplenty, and there'll also a chance to take selfies dressed in traditional hanbok, plus gawk at Taekwondo demos and K-pop dance performances. Nov 21-22, 1pm. Lan Kwai Fong, Central. Free.



#### White Christmas at The Woods

Artisan cocktail bar The Woods is serving up a festive cocktail pairing menu for the month of December, with plate and tipple pairings including a pine-tree martini with white asparagus, and a clarified milk punch with a white chocolate foie gras lollipop. Available Monday-Thursdays and Saturdays. Dec 1-31. The Woods, L/G, 17 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2522-0281. \$588 per person from [thewoods.hk](http://thewoods.hk).

HK PICKS

#### Clockenflap Official After Party: Woo Stage 2015

Once again Woobar hosts the official Clockenflap after-party, if you're still standing after eight hours of day-drinking. This year the venue is open to everyone, with priority entry for Clockenflap ticketholders. You'll get to move your stuff to a range of international DJs, from American electro duo Wolf + Lamb to Japanese DJ Mitsu the Beats to Hong Kong's own Arun R. On Saturday, The Libertines will also be delivering an encore set. Nov 27-29, 10pm. Woobar, W Hotel, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2222. Free.



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# FILM

## Lost in Hong Kong ★★★★

(China/Hong Kong) Comedy/Action. Directed by and starring Xu Zheng. Also starring Bao Beier, Vicky Zhao Wei, Eric Kot, Sam Lee. Category IIB. 114 minutes. Opened Nov 19.

A baldie and a mushroom-head are once again heroes in Xu Zheng's latest comedy: A worthy, though somewhat chaotic, follow-up to 2012's box-office hit "Lost in Thailand."

While not a direct sequel per se, "Lost in Hong Kong" threads together raucous road trip action and laughs in a similar vein to Xu's previous directorial effort. This time the plot focuses on a mainland family's vacation in Hong Kong. The spotlight is on breadwinner Xu Lai (Xu himself), a former visual artist turned jaded bra designer. While entertaining his wife's family—particularly mushroom-headed wannabe-filmmaker brother-in-law Lala—the story takes a decidedly more dramatic spin as Xu reflects on his could-have-beens when the opportunity to meet an old flame arises. As Lala chases after him all around the city in attempts to sabotage the meeting, things get even more complicated when the two are suddenly put in the radar of two local policemen investigating a murder.

If there's one thing "Lost in Hong Kong" does amazingly, it's allowing us the novelty of seeing Hong Kong through new eyes. The cinematography is varied and beautiful, using fabulous framing techniques that make the most of Hong Kong's best-known features, from the overhanging signboards to the Star Ferry gently puffing across the harbor. (The Tourism Board should really get their hands on those stills.) In other moments, heavy usage of bokeh lenses and special effects

is artful, matching Xu's characters' sentimental monologues—although admittedly it creates a bit of disjoint when interspersed with all the high octane chase scenes, flying cars and deadly stunts.

As Xu and Lala jump from shopping mall to Star Ferry to a smoky triad den, we also get a fantastic tongue-in-cheek representation of Hong Kong cinema, with plenty of cameos (director Wong Jing, for one, and a whole host of bona fide 80s Hong Kong stars) and awesome use of epic 80s Cantopop hits playing along to laugh-out-loud silly montages.

The humor in "Lost in Hong Kong" is ultimately utterly silly. Bao Beier as Xu's goofy brother-in-law is infuriatingly annoying, but equally great comedy fodder, as he chases after Xu like an unrelenting puppy that keeps peeing on your rug. It's mostly well-timed physical comedy here, with more stunts and slapstick than witty quips. Precious dialogue is mostly



Xu Lai makes his escape from brother-in-law Lala

reserved for dramatic exchanges instead, and we wish it were the other way around.

"Lost in Hong Kong" is a multi-layered cake of mystery, drama, comedy and action, and perhaps tries too hard to showcase talents in all those genres. It's all these things separately, but not quite enough. The finale isn't quite fleshed out enough, and getting there tests the audience's patience and may lose a few along the way. Bear with it: "Lost in Hong Kong" is a bit of an insane movie, but that's also why it's so fun.

Evelyn Lok

## Coming Soon

### By the Sea ▾

(USA) It's the first Brangelina collab since "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" brought them together, and look how far they've come. As opposed to the sexy tension of the former, this year's romantic drama, penned and directed by Angelina, is about harrowing disintegration of a couple's marriage, set in a seaside French resort in the 70s. Opens Nov 26.

### Keeper of Darkness

(Hong Kong) Nick Cheung Ka-fai returns for his second stab at directing with this frankly insane horror flick, starring as a hip-looking, silver-haired exorcist who rids the city of vengeful spirits with his uncanny way with words. But when videos of his exorcisms go viral, he attracts the energy of a serial-killing spirit. Opens Nov 26.

### Victor Frankenstein

(UK) The latest adaptation of Shelley's classic sees the tale told from the eyes of Igor (played by Daniel Radcliffe), assistant to mad scientist Victor Frankenstein (James McAvoy), as they uncover the secrets of creating life from death. It's Harry Potter with Professor X! Opens Nov 26.

### The Virgin Psychics

(Japan) Based on Kiminori Wakasugi's manga "All Esper Dayo!," a high school kid suddenly gains supernatural powers and uses it for the most trivial reasons... presumably losing his V-card? It's every otaku's dream... Opens Nov 26.

### Opening



### The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2

(USA) Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson return in the final segment of The Hunger Games franchise, in which the resistance against President Snow's dystopian dictatorship finally reaches a conclusion. Katniss and Gale continue their march onto the capital on a mission to assassinate Snow... and meanwhile figure out how to fix Peeta, now a violent amnesiac freshly rescued from Snow's prison. Opened Nov 19.

### Lost in Hong Kong

(Hong Kong/China) See review, above. Opened Nov 19.

### Standing Tall

(France) A strangely harsh film to have opened the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, "Standing Tall" is a peek into the French juvenile justice system through the story of Malony, from his mother's abandonment through 10 years of his life as social workers refuse to give up on him. Opened Nov 19.

### Zinnia Flower

(Taiwan) Starring Karena Lam and Shih Chin-hang, "Zinnia Flower" is about dealing with loss. A man deals with a devastating car crash that took the life of his pregnant wife, while on the same day, Ming (Lam) loses her fiancée. Having made its rounds in the festival circuit, Tom Lin Shu-yu's latest film is a direct and grieving response to the death of his wife in 2012. Opened Nov 19.

## Continuing

### Black Mass

(USA) Johnny Depp is James "Whitey" Bulger, the formidable kingpin of the Irish-American Winter Hill gang in the 70s, who rose to power through a FBI alliance in exchange for intel to take down the Italian mafia. Scott Cooper's take on the source material salutes to some of the best mobster movie conventions and is full of tightly managed tension. ★★★★

### 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?

### The End of the Tour

(USA) Starring Jason Segel as the reclusive genius novelist David Foster Wallace ("Infinite Jest") and Jesse Eisenberg as Rolling Stone reporter David Lipsky, "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.

### 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 illustrator fought her malignant tumor.



### The Green Inferno

(USA) Eli Roth ("Hostel") comments on internet slacktivism with a new cult horror flick. A group of college students venture deep into the Amazon on a mission to stop deforestation. But when their plane crashes, they are taken captive by a cannibalistic tribe. Sounds like bloody fun...



### 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?"



### Me and Earl and the Dying Girl

(USA) This coming-of-age drama isn't your average teen movie—this Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner deals equally in wit and tears. Greg Gaines (Thomas Mann) is a pretty weird kid, clinging onto an inferiority complex and shunning the complex social networks of high school life—save for his one friend Earl, with whom he makes bad film parodies. Greg's mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl who's just been diagnosed with leukemia, and who soon tears down Greg's taciturn and aloof exterior. Think you know where this story's going? Just wait. In a world where teens combatting deadly diseases seems a frequent trope, "Me and Earl" combats this without being overly sentimental, and by throwing you a twist just as you settle into the story's false predictability—here's where you break out the Tempo. Based on a novel, author Jesse Andrews was also behind the smart and often lighthearted script, which makes the film much more of a joy than a depressing cancer movie. Layered performances from the young cast don't hurt either. "Me and Earl" has the potential to pulverize even the most hardened of hearts. Evelyn Lok. Opened Nov 12. ★★★★

MINI REVIEW





**Edited by Evelyn Lok**  
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**Mountains May Depart**  
(China) Known for his long, minimalist takes, Jia Zhangke's latest film just opened the Hong Kong Asian Film Festival. It's 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.



**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.



**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.

**Return of the Cuckoo**  
(Hong Kong) Oh man, get ready for the nostalgia trip: The beloved 2000 TVB series of the same name (十月初五的月光, 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 end up together? ★★★★



"Blade Runner" final cut at CineFan

## Special Screenings

### CineFan: The Taste of Cult

CineFan's cult classic series continues, this time bringing screenings of 1997's "Starship Troopers" (Nov 21)—the perfect gory cross-pollination between "Top Gun" and "Alien" with a whole load of satire thrown in for free; and 1976's "The Man Who Fell to Earth" (Nov 29, Dec 20)—starring David Bowie as a beautiful extraterrestrial. Screenings held at The Grand and Agnès B. cinemas. Nov 21, 5pm; Nov 29, 7:30pm; Dec 20, 2:30pm. \$65-75 from [cinefan.com.hk](http://cinefan.com.hk).

### CineFan: Back to the Screen

Two unmissable classics from the "1001 Films to See Before You Die" bucket list come to the screen this season: Stanley Kubrick's seminal cold war satire "Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" (Nov 28) and the final cut of the cyberpunk classic "Blade Runner" (Nov 22; Dec 19). Screenings held at The Grand and Agnès B. cinemas. Nov 22, 7:30pm; Nov 28, 5pm; Dec 19, 12:30pm. \$65-75 from [cinefan.com.hk](http://cinefan.com.hk).

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# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY

**SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21):** Some athletes think it's unwise to have sex before a big game. They believe it diminishes the raw physical power they need to excel. For them, abstinence is crucial for victory. But scientific studies contradict this theory. There's evidence that boinking increases testosterone levels for both men and women. Martial artist Ronda Rousey subscribes to this view. She says she has "as much sex as possible" before a match. Her approach must be working. She has won all but one of her professional fights, and Sports Illustrated calls her "the world's most dominant athlete." As you approach your equivalent of the "big game," Scorpio, I suggest you consider Rousey's strategy.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21):** If you were embarking on a 100-mile hike, would you wear new boots that you purchased the day before your trip? Of course not. They wouldn't be broken in. They'd be so stiff and unyielding that your feet would soon be in agony. Instead, you would anchor your trek with supple footwear that had already adjusted to the idiosyncrasies of your gait and anatomy. Apply a similar principle as you prepare to launch a different long-term exploit. Make yourself as comfortable as possible.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19):** Here's how Mark Twain's novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" begins: "Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished; persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot." The preface I'd write for your upcoming adventures would be less extreme, but might have a similar tone. That's because I expect you to do a lot of meandering. At times your life may seem like a shaggy dog story with no punch line in sight. Your best strategy will be to cultivate an amused patience; to stay relaxed and unflappable as you navigate your way through the enigmas, and not demand easy answers or simple lessons. If you take that approach, intricate answers and many-faceted lessons will eventually arrive.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18):** The Confederation of African Football prohibits the use of magic by professional soccer teams. Witch doctors are forbidden to be on the field during a match, and they are not supposed to spray elixirs on the goals or bury consecrated talismans beneath the turf. But most teams work around the ban. Magic is viewed as an essential ingredient in developing a winning tradition. Given the current astrological omens, I invite you to experiment with your own personal equivalent of this approach. Don't scrimp on logical analysis, of course. Don't stint on your preparation and discipline. But also be mischievously wise enough to call on the help of some crafty mojo.

**PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20):** Slavery is illegal everywhere in the world. And yet there are more slaves now than at any other time in history: at least 29 million. A disproportionate percentage of them are women and children. After studying your astrological omens, I feel you are in a phase when you can bestow blessings on yourself by responding to this predicament. How? First, express gratitude for all the freedoms you have. Second, vow to take full advantage

of those freedoms. Third, brainstorm about how to liberate any part of you that acts or thinks or feels like a slave. Fourth, lend your energy to an organization that helps free slaves. Start here: [bit.ly/liberateslaves](http://bit.ly/liberateslaves).

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19):** Urbandictionary.com defines the English word "balter" as follows: "to dance without particular skill or grace, but with extreme joy." It's related to the Danish term *baltre*, which means "to romp, tumble, roll, cavort." I nominate this activity to be one of your ruling metaphors in the coming weeks. You have a mandate to explore the frontiers of amusement and bliss, but you have no mandate to be polite and polished as you do it. To generate optimal levels of righteous fun, your experiments may have to be more than a bit rowdy.

**TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20):** You've arrived at a crossroads. From here, you could travel in one of four directions, including back towards where you came from. You shouldn't stay here indefinitely, but on the other hand you'll be wise to pause and linger for a while. Steep yourself in the mystery of the transition that looms. Pay special attention to the feelings that rise up as you visualize the experiences that may await you along each path. Are there any holy memories you can call on for guidance? Are you receptive to the tricky inspiration of the fertility spirits that are gathered here? Here's your motto: Trust, but verify.

**GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20):** English model and TV personality Katie Price has been on the planet for just 37 years, but has already written four autobiographies. "You Only Live Once," for instance, covers the action-packed time between 2008 and 2010, when she got divorced and then remarried in a romantic Las Vegas ceremony. I propose that we choose this talkative, self-revealing Gemini to be your spirit animal and role model. In the coming weeks, you should go almost to extremes as you express the truth about who you have been, who you are, and who you will become.

**CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22):** A flyer on a telephone pole caught my eye. It showed a photo of a nine-year-old male cat named Bubby, whose face was contorted in pain. A message from Bubby's owner revealed that her beloved pet desperately needed expensive dental work. She had launched a campaign at [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) to raise the cash. Of course I broke into tears, as I often do when confronted



so viscerally with the suffering of sentient creatures. I longed to donate to Bubby's well-being. But I thought, "Shouldn't I funnel my limited funds to a bigger cause, like the World Wildlife Fund?" Back home an hour later, I sent \$25 to Bubby. After analyzing the astrological omens for my own sign, Cancer the Crab, I realized that now is a time to adhere to the principle "Think globally, act locally" in every way imaginable.

**LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22):** How well do you treat yourself? What do you do to ensure that you receive a steady flow of the nurturing you need? According to my reading of the astrological omens, you are now primed to expand and intensify your approach to self-care. If you're alert to the possibilities, you will learn an array of new life-enhancing strategies. Here are two ideas to get you started: 1. Imagine at least three acts of practical love you can bestow on yourself. 2. Give yourself three gifts that will promote your healing and stimulate your pleasure.

**VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22):** To activate your full potential in the coming weeks, you don't need to scuba-dive into an underwater canyon or spelunk into the pitch blackness of a remote cave or head out on an archaeological dig to uncover the lost artifacts of an ancient civilization. But I recommend that you consider trying the metaphorical equivalent of those activities. Explore the recesses of your own psyche, as well as those of the people you love. Ponder the riddles of the past and rummage around for lost treasure and hidden truths. Penetrate to the core, the gist, the roots. The abyss is much friendlier than usual! You have a talent for delving deep into any mystery that will be important for your future.

**LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22):** Normally I charge \$270 an hour for the kind of advice I'm about to offer, but I'm giving it to you at no cost. For now, at least, I think you should refrain from relying on experts. Be skeptical of professional opinions and highly paid authorities. The useful information you need will come your way via chance encounters, playful explorations, and gossipy spies. Folk wisdom and street smarts will provide better guidance than elite consultants. Trust curious amateurs; avoid somber careerists.

**HOMEWORK:** Take a guess about what your closest ally most needs to learn in order to be happier. [FreeWillAstrology.com](http://FreeWillAstrology.com).

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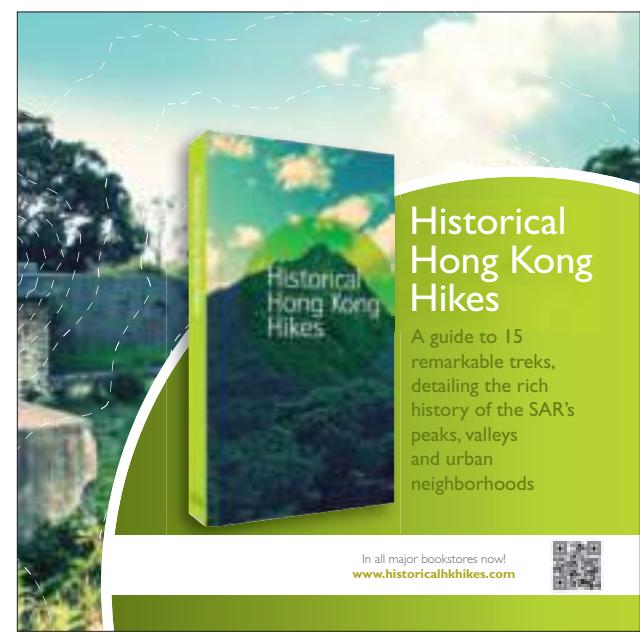
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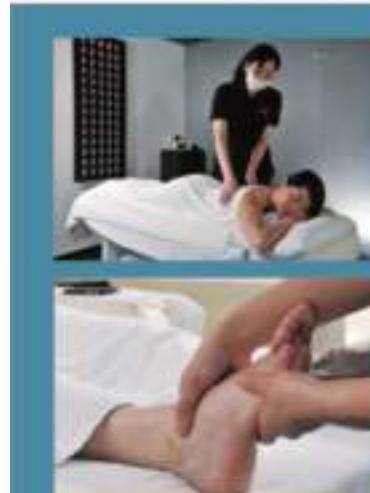
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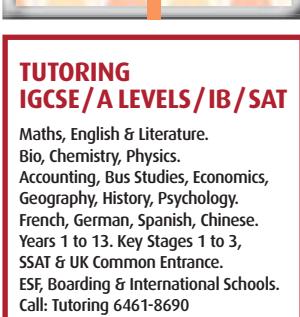
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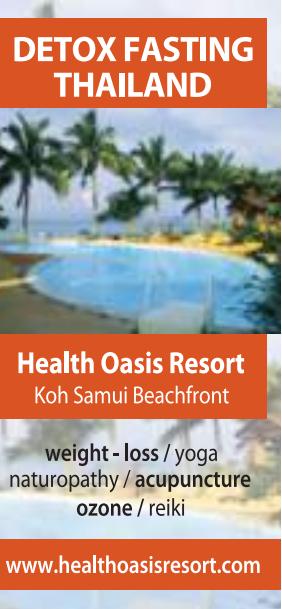
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## SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I've always been a big believer in the common sense obviousness that monogamy is hard. Additionally, I like the idea of my wife getting fucked. I don't have any desire to be denigrated or emasculated; I just get off on the idea of her being satisfied and a little transgressive. Early in our relationship, we talked about monogomish guidelines: I'd like to be informed and consulted, and she would rather I kept mine to myself. Last weekend we were having sex, and she asked me if I "wanted to hear a story," code for treating me to a tale of a sexual contact. She'd been out of town for work most of the summer, and she told me that one of her roommates had gotten in the shower with her and fingered her until she came. I asked her if she'd fucked him, and she said yes. It was all hot and awesome. But a few hours later, I was experiencing pangs: Why hadn't she told me or asked me at the time? Also, I felt very alone and depressed that summer, and when I'd gone to visit her, my wife and this roommate acted very strangely. I told her that I thought it was hot and cool, but that I didn't think it was cool that she'd kept this from me for so long. Things got worse from there: Over the last week, we've had some great sex and open conversations but also a lot of anger and hurt. The truth is that she carried on with this guy all summer. It's not the sex that bothers me so much as the breadth of the deception, the disregard for my feelings, and the violation of our agreement. And, yes, I'm feeling a little emasculated. How does a loving husband who intellectually believes that fooling around is okay—and who finds it hot sexually—get over this kind of hurt and anger? Help me get right with GGGesus.

– Cocked Up Cuckold Keeps Stressing

Two things have to happen in order for you to move on. One thing your wife has to do, CUCKS, and one thing you have to do.

Your wife has to express remorse for this affair—and it was an *affair*, not an *adventure*—and take responsibility for the anger, the hurt, and, um, all the great sex you two have been having since the big reveal.

You don't give her version of events—why she kept this from you—but you were depressed and lonely while she was away, and she may have concluded that informing and consulting you about this guy (first when she wanted to fuck him, and then when she was actually fucking him) would've made you feel worse. This conclusion is a massive self-serving rationalization, of course, because she knew you would veto the affair if she informed and consulted you. Figuring it would be easier to ask for forgiveness than permission, she went ahead and fucked the guy all summer long and then disclosed when your dick was hard.

Your wife needs to own up to the deception, the dishonesty, and the manipulation, and then take responsibility for the hurt she caused—that requires a sincere expression of remorse—and promise it won't happen again. She shouldn't promise not to fuck around on you again. You don't want that, right? What she's promising is not to deceive you again, not to go in for self-serving rationalizations again, and not to avoid informing and consulting you again.

And one more thing that won't do: She won't humiliate you again. You feel emasculated in the wake of this affair because her summer fuck buddy knew what was up when you two met and you didn't. He knew who you were (the husband), but you didn't know who he was (the fuck buddy).

Now here's the thing you have to do, CUCKS:

You have to forgive your wife. Mistakes were made, feelings were hurt, massive loads were blown. The fact that there was an upside for you even in this messy affair (see: massive loads, blown) should make forgiving your wife a little easier.

I'm a 27-year-old straight woman. I've spent this last year back on the dating market, and it's HORRIBLE. I have a reasonably pretty face, I'm fit, and I take care of myself. I have my life together—friends, interests, job—and I'm emotionally stable. I go out, I enjoy meeting people, I'm on Tinder. And I keep hearing that with a huge influx of young dudes, Seattle is an easy place to date as a woman. So why am I finding it so hard? I can get casual sex, and that's fun. But as far as finding a relationship beyond just fuck buddies, it's depressingly predictable: Guy acts interested, texts me all the time, but eventually starts fading away. I've asked close friends to be honest with me; I even had a heart-to-heart with an ex-boyfriend. Everyone says I'm not doing anything wrong. Are they all lying to me? I'm currently seeing someone I really like. When we're together, it seems like he likes me a lot. But now he's starting to do the fade. I'm really sad and anxious. It's killing my soul to be rejected constantly.

– Bummed About Dating

You've been "back on the dating market" for one year, BAD. Twelve measly months! And in that time, you've dated/fucked a handful of men and nothing panned out. That sounds pretty normal. If you expected to be back in a committed relationship within weeks, BAD, then your unrealistic expectations are the source of your grief, not your thoroughly typical dating/mating/fading experiences.

There are worse things than being single for a year or two in your 20s. Get out there and meet men, pursue those non-men interests, and throw yourself into your work. Being single is not an aggressive cancer—there's no immediate need for a cure—and panicking about being single isn't the secret to romantic success. (And being single means being miserable only if you convince yourself that single = miserable.)

So here's what you can do: Chill the fuck out; listen to your friends, your ex, and your advice columnist; and stop melting down about what sounds like a thoroughly normal love life, BAD, not an unfolding catastrophe.

This is NGAA, the guy you advised to make a gay friend and listen to some musicals with him. I didn't find a gay friend, but I did buy recordings of the shows you suggested and I've been listening to the songs you recommended. I don't know them by heart yet, so I have more listening to do. But Mr. Stephen Sondheim's message seems to be that I need to quietly move on. Thanks for your answer, Dan. It really helped.

– No Good At Acronyms

Thank you for writing back, NGAA, and for listening to the shows I recommended: "Company," "Follies" and "A Little Night Music." My advice for you made a lot of my other readers angry—really angry. They accused me of blowing you off and not answering your question and failing at this whole advice column thing. But I didn't blow you off. I directed you, as I've directed many other readers, to the expert I thought could help you. In your case, NGAA, that person was Mr. Stephen Sondheim.

On the Lovecast, Dan chats with Jonathan Eig, author of *The Birth of the Pill*: [savagecast.com](http://savagecast.com).

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tea in The Ritz-Carlton Club Lounge, all free of charge.

One lucky winner will be able to get The Ritz-Carlton Club experience firsthand, because we've **one night's stay for two worth \$10,450** to give away.

Want to win? If you were reading the last two weeks, you should have found two *italicized* words in articles on the Spotlight page of that issue. Now you just have to do the same with this issue, and then include all three words in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about why you'd like to win a stay at The Ritz-Carlton. Go to [hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways](http://hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways) to submit your entry before **10am on November 23, 2015**. The best, most convincing entry will win the top prize.

**Good luck! The winner will be announced on November 27.**

## Congratulations to the winner of a Christmas dinner for eight people!

Congrats to Tina Li, who's won a Christmas dinner at home for eight people, worth \$5,200, courtesy of classic French Mediterranean restaurant/bistro Le Port Parfumé.

Tina treated us to her dream fusion Christmas menu ("Turducken done Cantonese five-cup style," anyone?) so she and her friends will be sitting down to a feast of charcuterie, foie gras terrine, spring chicken, salmon wellington and more.

Not a lucky winner? You can still get yourself a Christmas feast: check out [port-parfume.com](http://port-parfume.com)



WE HAVE  
WINNERS!

## Congratulations to the winners of a box of chocolate truffles!

Congratulations to:

Nancy Lai  
Emily Tang  
Kristy Mizele  
Jessica Lam  
Anastasia Moskvina  
Catherine Lajeunesse  
Hui Ling Lee

Who have each won a box set of the latest truffles from La Maison du Chocolat, altogether worth \$5,000.

These multicolored chocolate truffles are the perfect gift for the festive season.

Well done, guys!

If you weren't a lucky winner, check out [lamaisonduchocolat.com](http://lamaisonduchocolat.com) to pick up some truffles of your own.

# FIRST PERSON

“Most girls love getting flowers. The best gift for me is an 8TB external hard drive.”

Comedian, DJ, writer and film director **Vincci Cheuk Wan-chi**, also known as GC Goo-Bi, is a multimedia talent who rose to prominence at the age of 13 as a Commercial Radio DJ, and has since gone on to work in print, TV and film. She tells Isabelle Hon about being a middle-aged “zhong nui” and why she loves nerdy men.



I started my DJ career at the age of 13.

I took part in a Commercial Radio DJ competition and they chose me.

As they were hiring a child, people at the station all got very nervous come 11pm. They would kick me out because it's illegal for children to work overtime. If I stayed longer, its broadcast license could have been terminated.

I was the youngest person in the entertainment field, aside from child stars.

Playing music on a radio station, announcing the death of Kurt Cobain—these became my childhood memories.

I studied fine arts in the UK for a year. It was a crazy year. You think I'm crazy? Everyone there is crazy.

I've had many different roles. I've published books. I'm also a film director—I made “Temporary Family” last year.

I'm also the first female comedian in Hong Kong to play a big solo show.

I just love to make people laugh.

Most of the gags come from the struggles of life. The more struggles there are, the funnier it is.

Messed up Hong Kong is going to be hilarious, because we are in deep shit.

Sometimes it's hard to be a Hongkonger. For example, rent is crazily expensive, and don't even talk about buying a flat.

Things are getting more ridiculous in Hong Kong: the government and our societal issues.

But we are stuck in such times.

That feeling is so lonely that I wanted to use the name “You Look Single.” for my upcoming show.

“Single” to me is not a relationship status, but someone's feeling and situation.

Put it this way: You are fighting alone.

When I was young I had the blind faith to look for Mr. Right. But now I'm already a “zhong nui” [middle-aged woman]. All I ask for is someone who can stand my personality—I'm not an easy person.

Women of this kind are everywhere. They are all middle-class, working in management.

These women are strong in their careers, but score zero in relationships.

They are opinionated. They make a lot of comments when their boyfriends buy clothes. They're high-maintenance—their diets are vegetarian and gluten-free.

Women nowadays tend to learn something specialized, such as dying denim fabric or making sofa wraps. The more specialized the knowledge, the more taste they think they have.

They will gather in groups for wine tasting or “Secret Garden” [coloring therapy] sessions. Because they know

something about everything, they are extremely picky.

They either live a troubled life, or are trouble in someone else's life.

Recently, my criterion for choosing a spouse is someone who can make me a better person. He must also be someone I worship.

I need to clarify a misunderstanding. Many believe that funny and easy-going girls have more admirers, but it's not true. And I am the proof of this.

Many think I'm a party girl. But in real life it's the opposite—I love to stay home and hide away.

When I'm free I stay home and write. Many think that writers must also be wanderers. But my job is to write in front of a computer monitor.

My recent dream has been to sail around the world alone. I go windsurfing every week.

Hongkongers think I'm very open, but in fact I'm very nerdy. All the men I like are nerdy. My favorite man is Jesse Eisenberg.

If a man really chases after me, I may give him my Facebook. But the fact is there isn't a strong pursuit anymore. Contemporary love is a power game—women need to provide a reaction for men to go after.

I've never been a romantic person. While most girls love getting flowers, the best gift for me is an 8TB external hard drive.

To be more attractive, women should be broad-minded and knowledgeable. If a girl is asked where Libya is and she can't answer, she should go study again. She must have a love for exploring, and always stay curious.

I live with my grandma, who is 86. She's very funny and often has hilarious punchlines. I'm always running around her—she's like the Earth, and I'm the moon.

I am good at seizing opportunities to tell jokes. Even my love letters have punchlines.

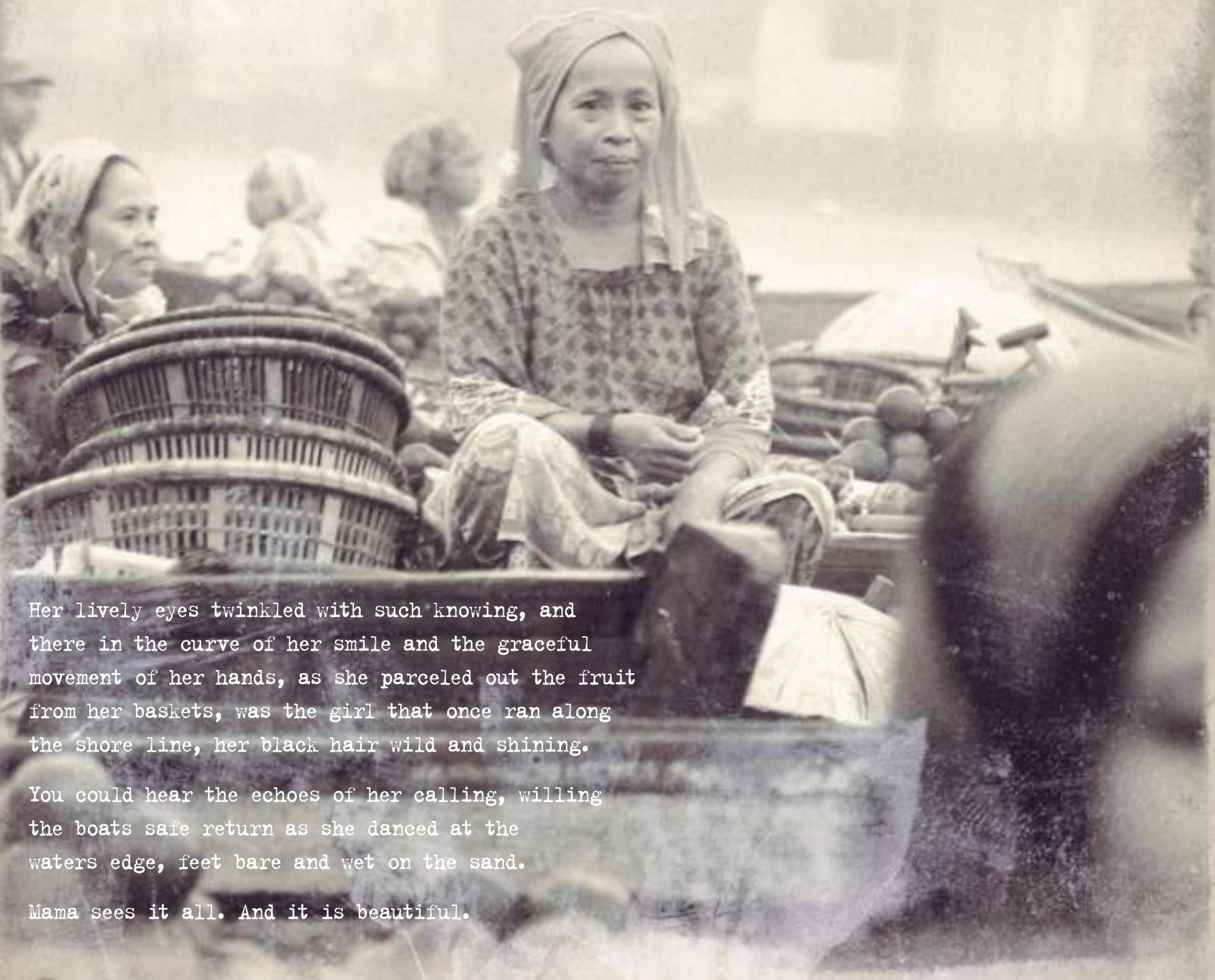
But I don't think I would have a baby. I'm not good at taking care of others.

Hong Kong's “leftover women” all share the same characteristics. They will group together, sometimes with one or two gay men, and go do the same thing, like art jamming. This is the ecosystem of our society.

If I find my love one day, I will leave this group. Some might pretend that they will not give up their friends over lovers.

But the fact is, you only have 24 hours in a day. If I spend it with my lover then I won't have time for my friends. Unless you want to be single forever.

Check out Vincci Cheuk's upcoming show “You Look Single” on Dec 5, 8:15pm at Queen Elizabeth Stadium, 18 Oi Kwan Rd., Wan Chai, 2591-1346. \$380-490 from urbtix.hk.



Her lively eyes twinkled with such knowing, and there in the curve of her smile and the graceful movement of her hands, as she parceled out the fruit from her baskets, was the girl that once ran along the shore line, her black hair wild and shining.

You could hear the echoes of her calling, willing the boats safe return as she danced at the waters edge, feet bare and wet on the sand.

Mama sees it all. And it is beautiful.

**The dish: Grilled King Prawn Padang Style.**

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