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# HK

HK MAGAZINE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2015 HK-MAGAZINE.COM

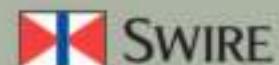
## OCCUPY, ONE YEAR ON

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## Top Decolonization Tips

In the last week Chen Zuoer, the former deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, blamed Hong Kong's troubles on the city's failure to "decolonize." Never fear, Chen Zuoer! We've got some suggestions to help speed the process along.

### Fix Hong Kong foodstuffs.

The city is rightly proud of its cuisine, but we'll never truly become a GENUINE third-tier Chinese city until we renounce decadent foreign influences on our comestibles and go back to all abalone, all the time. Therefore the following changes will be made to every cha chaan teng menu, effective October 1:

'Milk tea' will henceforth become known as 'tea.'  
'French toast' " " " " "toast."  
'Spam & egg macaroni' " " "an empty bowl.'

### Convert David Tang.

It's common knowledge that David Tang is the city's biggest Anglophile. Convert him from his Earl Grey-swilling ways back to the delights of oolong and institutional corruption and he'll probably bring half of the SAR with him. The downside here is that you would have to spend at least a week hanging out with David Tang, which isn't a fate we'd wish even on ex-Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office deputy director Chen Zuoer.

### De-Colon-Ize.

Remove the stick embedded in the alimentary canal of Chen Zuoer, once of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, and we'll be guaranteed a more free-flowing mainland-Hong Kong relationship.

### Recolonize.

In an elaborate scheme concocted by Chen Zuoer, former semi-head-honcho in the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, the whole of Hong Kong will wake up one morning to discover that it is once again a colony of the United Kingdom, the last outpost of the British Empire. Given that under British rule a lack of universal suffrage was widely accepted, Hongkongers will be far happier to accept edicts passed down from on high, even if they find it curious that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has decided to ditch English as an official language and become quite keen on red flags, anti-sedition legislation and maotai.

### Remove all traces of Western influence.

If you want a job done, do it properly. Instantly remove:

- All financial and logistical infrastructure.
- All interesting architecture.
- All three branches of government.
- The Hong Kong Club.

In other words: Just turn it into Zhuhai.

### Screw it, wipe Hong Kong off the face of the earth.

It'd be faster. And it's probably the only thing that will bring a smile to the face of Chen Zuoer, that guy who used to be kind of important in the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office.

**Who's in charge?**  
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### Look us up!



The List

where®





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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

### What are you doing for Mid-Autumn Festival this year? – Moon Raver

During the Mid-Autumn Festival I take the time to remember the hard-drinking, wine-obsessed poet Li Bai. The man was as close to a rock star as you'd get in seventh-century China, and the writer of the best-known poem in the Chinese language.

In Putonghua it's called *jìng yè sī* (靜夜思), which variously translates to "Quiet Night Thoughts" or "Thoughts in the Still of the Night." The poem is generally the first one any Chinese student learns, and with good reason. It goes like this:

床前明月光	<i>chuáng qián míng yuè guāng</i>
疑是地上霜	<i>yí shì dì shàng shuāng</i>
舉頭望明月	<i>jǔ tóu wàng míng yuè</i>
低頭思故鄉	<i>dī tóu sī gù xiāng</i>

(Very) roughly translated, it reads as follows:

At the foot of the bed, the moon shines bright:  
Almost like frost on the ground.  
I raise my head towards the bright moon  
I lower it, and think of home.

The image is clear. It's late in the year. The poet can't sleep, kept awake by a cold, bright glow. He thinks that there's frost sitting on the ground—but then he realizes that no, it must be the gleam of the moon: a single, untouched reminder of home. It's a subtly, gently perfect poem.

In Imperial China, scholars and court mandarins were often sent to the farthest reaches of the empire to carry out the Emperor's orders. It could be many years before a man would see his family again. Meanwhile in Chinese tradition,

a round moon signifies completeness and union. That full moon is the reason that families always make an effort to get together on the Mid-Autumn Festival. So when Li Bai sees the moon above his head, he can't help but get nostalgic.

"Quiet Night Thoughts" perfectly encapsulates that lonesome feeling of being far from those you love. In the poem the moon's light is beautiful, but it's a cold and austere beauty. It offers little solace to our poet, just a reminder that his duty keeps him away.

They say that Li Bai met his end in the year 762. The legend goes that the rock star poet was in a boat on the Yangtze River when he leaned out to embrace the reflection of the moon. He fell in, and drowned: The moon dominated his life and death alike.

This Mid-Autumn Festival, look up at the full moon, and be comforted that even if your loved ones aren't with you, they're looking up at the same moon—and thinking of you.



Mr. Know-It-All answers your questions and quells your urban concerns. Send queries, troubles or problems to [mrkia@hkmagmedia.com](mailto:mrkia@hkmagmedia.com).



This week in My Perfect HK:  
The Mid-Autumn Festival falls on September 27, just one day before the first anniversary of Occupy.

It's traditionally a time to get together with family and share a meal, perhaps even to heal the divisions between old and young that have arisen in the past year.

Head to the lantern carnival in Victoria Park this weekend and light a lantern for peace and happiness. If it's really boring? Head to Tamar.

## Letters

### "Doesn't get any more real than this shit"

#### Pink Names

Last week Mr Know-It-All gave a rundown of the city's best known gay celebrities [Sep 18, Issue 1114]. Facebook readers had more to add...

There shouldn't be such a thing as "gay rights." We all deserve EQUAL rights, regardless of sexuality.

#### Yi Long

@Yi Long Yes, but so long as HK remains ass-backwards in its treatment of LGBT people, then "gay rights" will remain an issue.

#### Stuart Hargreaves

There are more celebrities who had "come out" besides Leslie Cheung, Gigi Chao, Anthony Wong and HOCC:

- Chet Lam (the first openly gay singer since debut)
- Ray Chan Chi Chuen (the first gay LegCo member; formerly a radio DJ and TV host)
- Denis Ng (indie singer)
- Ronald Leung (formerly a radio DJ and now a TV host)
- Brian Leung (the MC of RTHK radio programme "自己人")
- Joey Leung "Pumpkin JoJo" (actor & TV host)
- Vinci Wong (TV host)

- Suzi Wong (TV host)
- Suzanna Kwan (TV actor; bisexual)

Remarks: Indie singer Wallis Cho represented "Gay" in one section of Pink Dot. The host Brian Leung claimed that it was a sign of "coming out" but I have no idea if it is for real.

#### Zacky Leung

#### Haters Gonna Hate

In Hongkabulary [Sep 11, Issue 1113] we coined "Check Hate": Having to pay extra at brunch because people leave early without paying service charge. We're not alone...

Doesn't get any more real than this shit

#### Jonathan F Ching

#### OMGGG STORY OF MY LIFE

#### Andrea Lo

Only if your friends are wankers. But then again, birds of a feather...

#### Marcin Rutecki

This is why prices on menus should be tax inclusive.

#### Russell Jvm Gutierrez

Write us! [letters@hkmagmedia.com](mailto:letters@hkmagmedia.com)

## #PrivateEyeHK



Pink Dot Glow

Photo by Adam White

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# THE WEEK



## Friday 9/25 Mega Mego

The Empty Gallery is celebrating the 20th anniversary of Viennese experimental record label **Editions Mego** with performances by Klara Lewis, Fennesz, Ilpo Väistönen of Pan Sonic, and more. See? The gallery isn't actually empty. OR IS IT?

Sep 25-26, 7pm. 19/F Grand Marine Center, 3 Yue Fung St., Tin Wan. Free.

## Saturday 9/26 Surf's Up

Do you like fit, semi-clothed, wet bodies? Hong Kong hosts the **Swimming World Cup** as part of the qualifiers for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Mmm. Moist.

Sep 25-26; Heats from 9:30am, Finals at 6pm.

Victoria Park Swimming Pool Main Pool, 1 Hing Fat St., Causeway Bay. Heats \$100, Finals \$200 at the door.

## Sunday 9/27 Making Sense

The **Sense 99 Art Fair** combines an art exhibition with performances and a handcrafts bazaar all afternoon. Antique colonial furniture, paintings and loads of hipsters: Sounds like Sense 99 to us.

1pm. 2/F, Sense 99, 99F Wellington St., Central. Free.

## Monday 9/28 Moonstruck

It's the perfect night for that romantic moonlit stroll you've been waiting for: The moon is at its biggest and brightest tonight. Spend your **Mid-Autumn Festival** stuffing yourself with lardy mooncake while gazing at that orb in the sky, or head over to the lantern carnival in Victoria Park to illuminate your night.

Through Sep 28. Victoria Park, Causeway Bay. Free.

## Tuesday 9/29 Against The Wall

Pink Floyd fans rejoice: **Roger Waters The Wall** premieres worldwide tonight. It's a documentary that follows Waters around with personal, unscripted conversations and lots of concert footage. How you wish, how you wish you were there? You can be!

Sep 29-30, 8pm. AMC Pacific Place, Broadway The One, and Broadway Cinematheque. \$190 at the box office.

## Wednesday 9/30 ¡Viva México!

We know it's hard to get proper Mexican food in Hong Kong (no, Cali-Mex don't count). So the Mexican Consulate has flown in Chef José Lazcarro for some proper Mole Poblano at the Island Shang in honor of Mexican independence. 2014 International Bartender of the Year Simone Caporale will be on hand for innovative twists on all things tequila. ¡Órale! Lazcarro until Sep 30; Caporale, Sep 30-Oct 2.

Lobster Bar and Grill, Island Shangri-La, 6/F, Pacific Place, Supreme Court Rd., Central, 2820-8560.

## Thursday 10/1 Om Nom Nom

It's another public holiday! This National Day NOM, aka Not Only Meatballs, adds something else to the list of non-meatball stuff they stock. Every first and third Thursday of the month they're hosting **Italian Street**

**Sound Thursdays**, with live music from DJ Marina D. Pair antipasti with cocktails or handcrafted Italian beers and saluti! NOM, 1/F, 1-5 Elgin St., Central, 2540-7988. Food and drink combos \$158.

## Friday 10/2 Incredible Ink

Over 100 international and local tattoo artists gather for the **Third International Hong Kong China Tattoo Convention**: This is your chance to check out inks from around the world, all in one venue. There'll also be live music, food, tat merch and art installations (in case you can't take any more needles).

Oct 2-4. Innocentre, Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong. \$120-360 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com) and at the door.

## Saturday 10/3 Kings of the Northstar

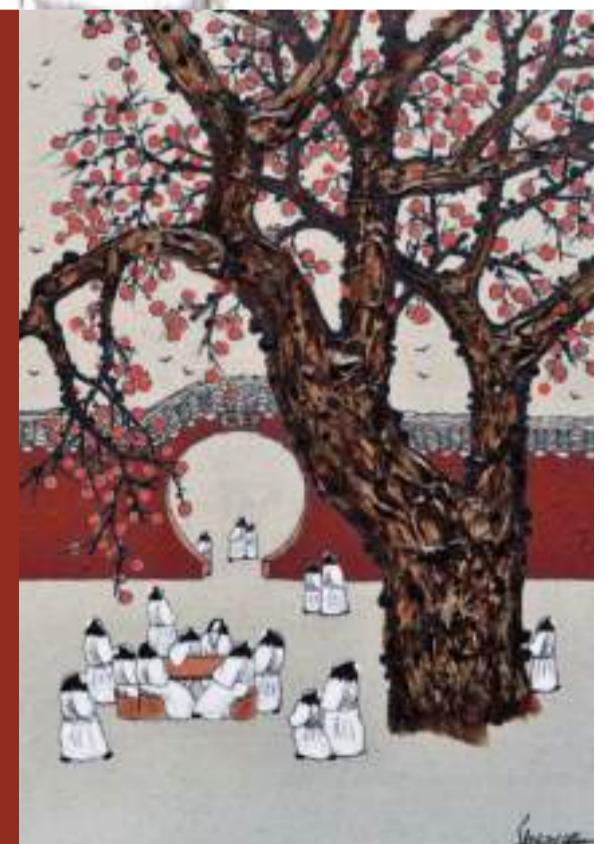
Hardcore-punk-metal band **Rise of the Northstar** brings a blend of manga, rap, hardcore and heavy riffs to Hidden Agenda. This Japanese band is made up of Parisian members who sing in English. Because globalization! 2A, Winful Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Kwun Tong. \$180 in advance from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com), \$220 at the door.

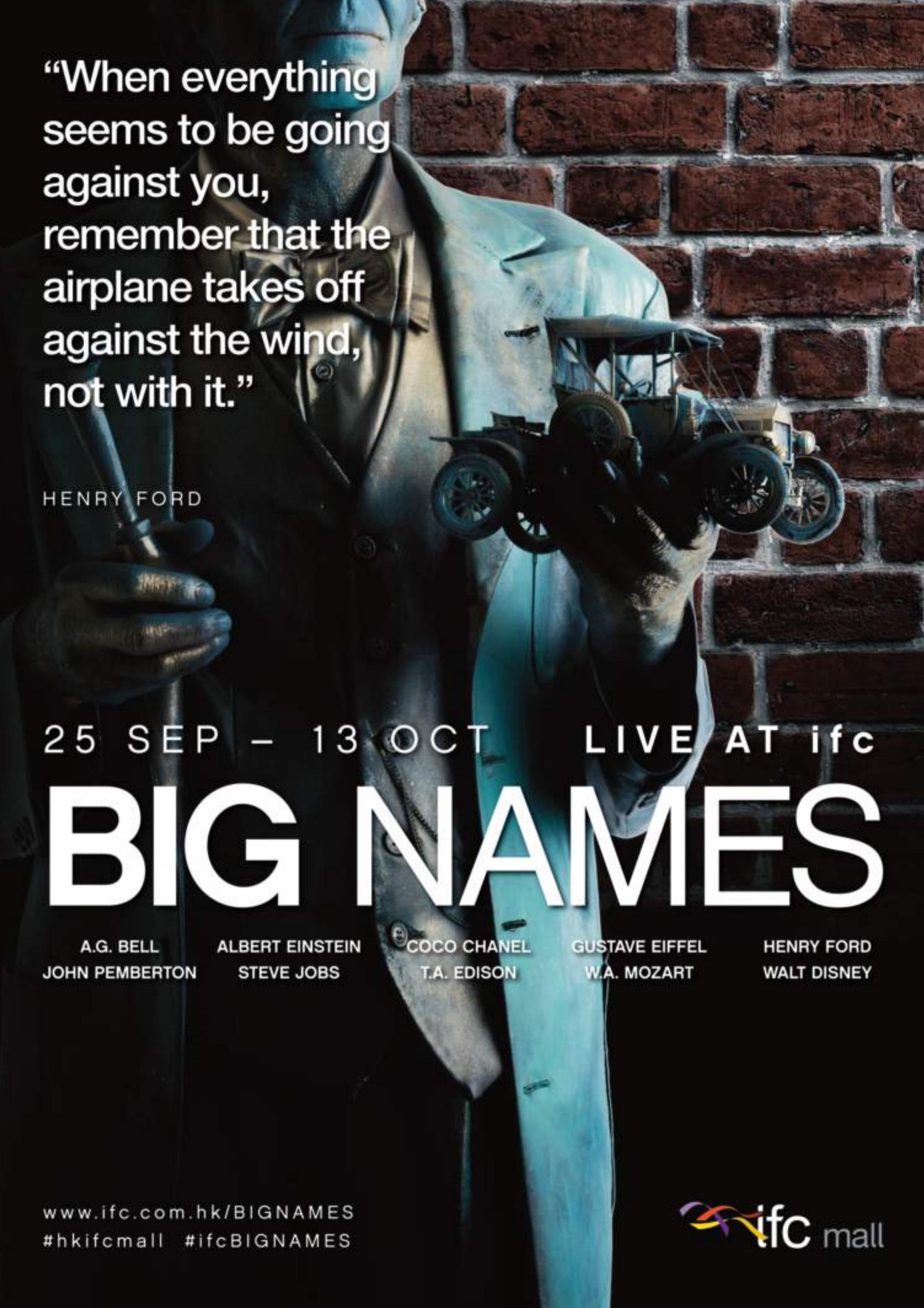


## This is the Art Part

Art aficionados and collector alert: The fall edition of this year's **Asia Contemporary Art Show** brings together over 2,000 works from every genre to the SAR. You can meet and talk to the artists, buy originals and limited editions, or just show up for a good ol' fashioned chin-stroke.

Oct 9-11. 40-42/F, Conrad Hong Kong, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty. \$220 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com) for two; \$220 per person at the door.



A close-up photograph of a man's face and upper body. He has a serious expression, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. In his left hand, he holds a small, dark toy car. The background is a brick wall.

"When everything  
seems to be going  
against you,  
remember that the  
airplane takes off  
against the wind,  
not with it."

HENRY FORD

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# BIG NAMES

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## Last Week In Reality

SAT 12

**Snack Attack** At 3am, police receive a report of a suspicious break-in at a primary school in Sham Shui Po. Police officers arrive to find a 34-year-old man hiding in a security booth, eating a bowl of steamed rice rolls. Police officers verbally warn the man, but when he refuses to cooperate they subdue him with pepper spray. As he is taken away in an ambulance he repeatedly asks officers if he is disfigured and if pepper spray is a deadly weapon.



SUN 13

**Nailed It** A group of Baptist University students order a KFC fried chicken delivery to their school. When it arrives, one student finds a 2.5-inch iron nail sticking out of his piece of chicken. The students take a photo of their discovery and complain to KFC. A spokesperson for the fast food chain expresses their concern and the company sends 12 egg tarts to the group in compensation.

MON 14

**Pervy Pic** A male Baptist University student is arrested for allegedly taking photographs of a fellow male schoolmate in the toilet. He is charged with accessing a computer with criminal or dishonest intent. The victim, a 21-year-old, was in one of the toilet stalls when he heard a shutter sound coming from above him. He found that someone from the next stall was taking pictures of him with a phone, but had forgotten to turn off the sound effect.



TUE 15

**Never Mind the Bullocks** At 1pm a group of 54 cattle is sent to a slaughterhouse in Sheung Shui. A 4-year-old male calf breaks off from the herd and escapes, injuring two people in its path. Slaughterhouse staff track the calf to the Ng Tung River, which it cannot cross. They secure the calf and a vet shoots it with a tranquilizer dart. It is later euthanized by the vet.

WED 16

**Party Animals** At midnight, a herd of around 20 wild boars is found wandering around a family-owned car park in Piper's Hill. They scavenge through rubbish piles and bushes for food, ignoring curious passers-by and chasing off several monkeys. A couple driving past in a car stops to watch and throws two boxes of grapes to the wild boars.

Illustrations: Ryan Chan and Elaine Tang

THU 17

**Temple Thief** At 11am, a 50-year-old man is caught taking \$10 out of an offertory box in Wong Tai Sin Temple. One of the staff members at the temple witnesses the act and reports it to the police immediately, who arrest the man. Police suspect that the man took advantage of the overflowing box to take the money. A member of staff at the temple says that is the first time the Temple has ever experienced a theft like this.



FRI 18

**You Jump, I Jump** A mainland couple is visiting Disneyland when they get into an argument. The woman jumps into the moat in front of the Sleeping Beauty Castle, so the man follows her into the water and attempts to pull her back on to dry land, but the woman refuses to get out. Staff members retrieve the couple from the moat. The woman refuses to speak to the man after they are rescued.

## Quote of the Week

"Why don't you give us some rope so we can hang ourselves? We'd die faster."

Legco member and Catering constituency representative Tommy Cheung Yu-yan objects to a government plan to axe the Mandatory Pension Fund's "offset mechanism." The mechanism allows employers to save money when paying staff severance packages. Cheung insisted that the move would kill off small businesses in the city.

## Talking Points

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

### MTR Phone Theft Up 90%

The number of reported instances of pickpocketing and miscellaneous theft on the MTR is **up 90 percent from last year**, say police. Police explained that criminals usually take advantage of the MTR's morning and evening rush hours, **targeting busy areas such as platforms, elevators and full train carriages**. Common practices include unzipping victim's backpacks under the cover of swarming crowds, or **intentionally colliding with the victim** to divert their attention while stealing their belongings. Police have advised the public to pay extra attention to their personal belongings when commuting, and stressed that they will continue to **closely monitor MTR crime trends** and deploy officers accordingly.

**Our take:** How is this even a problem for our phone zombies?

### HKUST Students Banned from "Happy Cornering" On Campus

Halls of Residence officials at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology have issued an email **banning students from "Happy Cornering" in halls**. The "Happy Corner" is a popular game among university students in which a group of people lifts their victim by the arms and legs and **repeatedly bangs the person's crotch into a nearby pole**. The email states that the action not only makes a noise that affects residents of the hall and the staff quarters, but it also **poses a potential threat** to people walking nearby. The email explains that **street lamp poles "could collapse at any moment under forceful and repeated banging,"** and urges students to refrain from engaging in such actions. Offenders will be penalized with a minimum of two weeks' suspension. The ban has created an uproar from students, with one pointing out "I'm sure Happy Cornering hurts the player more than it does the street lamp pole."

**Our take:** You're seriously worried about the pole?



## Street Talk

**Tired of tapping away at your computer? You need a mechanical keyboard. Unlike the common electrical signal keyboard, it's got spring-loaded switches under each key.** Percy Lee runs mechanical keyboard shop Keyboard Hell. He tells Adrienne Chum about humble beginnings, the shopping habits of Hongkongers and what his family thinks of his hobby.



### HK Magazine: Why did you open a keyboard shop?

**PL:** A friend let me borrow a mechanical keyboard in around 2000, but you couldn't buy one in Hong Kong back then. After trying it, I couldn't go back to using a regular keyboard, and I began buying keyboards. I began paying more attention to the brands, the types of keyboards and they became my toys. Ten years later someone on a forum said that he didn't buy keyboards online because he couldn't try them. So I asked him: "If I opened a shop, would you buy from me?" He said yes. I wasn't really serious about it at the time, but I was unemployed, so I opened a shop. It was just \$2,000 a month in rent, so I thought I'd try it: The most important part was that I could play with the keyboards too.

### HK: How was business?

**PL:** I expected to close down in a year—how would I sell so many keyboards? But I know how Hongkongers buy things: We have to try it out before we buy it because we are so afraid of being ripped off, especially because we can't return the item to the store. It doesn't matter how cheap or expensive the item is: You have to let them play with your product or they won't buy it.

### HK: Where do you get your keyboards from?

**PL:** I first started buying from China and Taiwan, but after a few months I found that Chinese stock was cheaper but their brands were unreliable and sometimes even unsellable, so I began only buying from Taiwan. Since

nobody sold these things in Hong Kong, I talked to the companies and distributors around the world and became the sole importer for many brands. Representatives began stopping by to drop off their cards and samples to get their name out. East Asian companies give a lot of attention to the Hong Kong market: It isn't about selling a lot of products, but getting their brand name, their image, out with a good reputation. If you can get a product to sell in Hong Kong, those companies have confidence that it will sell all over Asia.

### HK: What's wrong with Chinese brands?

**PL:** Ugh. I've gotten shipments with smashed packaging—I can't sell those! The material is cheap and poor. Their quality control is minimal: They just need to get a signal to pass the test, and I'd reckon that out of 10, five or six have problems. Of course they are super cheap, maybe \$500 each, whereas a Taiwanese brand would be around \$800—but if a customer gets a crap keyboard, they'll complain to the shop and it's bad for the shop's image. So I don't sell them at all. I don't even wanna touch them. My shop has standards!

### HK: Does your whole family use mechanical keyboards?

**PL:** Not at all: We even have a Hello Kitty keyboard at home. I gave my wife a nice keyboard to use: She had no idea how expensive it was, and took it to work. An IT guy noticed her keyboard while passing by and commented on

how expensive and nice it was, and asked her why she of all people would buy one. That was when she found out that I sell expensive things—that keyboard was more expensive than the computer on her desk! It was the only time she talked to me about my work.

### HK: What does she think of your hobby?

**PL:** My wife doesn't really care, even though I've filled our home with keyboards. First, we've been married for a long time, and second, the shop makes enough for us to live off of. Even if I take a day off, I don't let my wife run the shop because I don't want work to affect my family. I'm very democratic: If you like playing with Barbies, why would I force you to play with keyboards? If they have an interest, I'll answer their questions, but I've never thought of this as a family business and I don't want my kids to inherit the shop. I don't want to deal with having a family business.

**Need new keys? Visit Keyboard Hell at Golden Computer Arcade (New Wing), 1/F, Shop 21, 141A Kweilin St., Sham Shui Po, or find him online at [tiny.cc/hk-keyboardhell](http://tiny.cc/hk-keyboardhell).**



## Blowing Water

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

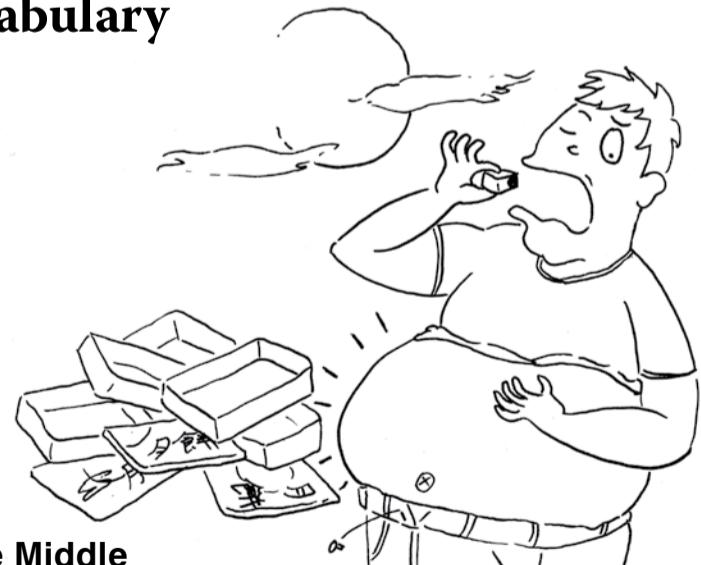
ding2 nei5 go3 fai3

# 頂你個肺

### "I POKE YOUR LUNG"

"Screw you." Conjures up images of poking someone in the chest; *fai* may originate as a euphemism for female genitalia. Now a fairly mild, old-fashioned expression, often shortened to "ding" to express frustration or irritation.

## HongKabulary



### Mooncake Middle (mu:nkeɪk midl), n.

The five pounds of extra abdominal fat that everyone puts on around Mid-Autumn festival.

*"Another cholesterol-laden slice while you admire the moon?"*  
*"Ugh, no way. I've already got a serious Mooncake Middle."*

# ONE YEAR ON

September 28, 2015 marks one year since Occupy Central changed the city. But what's happened since thousands took to the streets? Has the umbrella movement turned inside out? Or is it just furled and put aside for another rainy day? By **Adam White**

## WATERLOGGED



### The Hong Kong Police Force

A heavy-handed response to peaceful protest cemented the Hong Kong Police in their new role as Hong Kong's most hated—at least among the protesters and their sympathizers. But even the most strident Blue Ribboners would concede that the initial response was more worthy of Aleppo than Admiralty. Meanwhile, the cops seem to be dragging their feet over investigating their own. Have the police regained their reputation as Asia's finest? Hell no. But at least they've cleaned up Lan Kwai Fong, right?

### The Pan-Dems

Ever since the Occupy protests, the majority of the pan-dems have been on the back foot. Depending on your point of view they either didn't go far enough by not fully supporting the protesters—or went too far by associating with the law-breaking scum. Either way, since 2014 it's been all about trying to regain the initiative. The Electoral Reform proposal was a great chance to get the public back on their side—but the pan-dems' refusal to budge was more frustrating than inspiring. You expect it from student protesters. You expect it from our intransigent government. But should you expect the same from our lawmakers?



### The Legal System

In a year fraught with questions about the rule of law, the last thing we needed was any hint the system was getting shaky. But it's taken prosecutors almost the whole of the year to bring the student leaders of Occupy to court. At the end of August they were finally charged with taking part in and inciting others to unlawful assembly. The prosecutor has said that the case was "straightforward," but as presiding magistrate Bina Chainrai pointed out: "If it is pretty straightforward, it should not take a year to prosecute."

What a very good point. Was the prosecution delayed until public memories died down? Is this just another instance of the government playing the waiting game? The case has been adjourned until October 30—even more time will tell.

### Pro-Beijingers

Want to know how much the umbrella movement was separated from the usual run of politics? Exhibit A: The pro-Beijingers were unable to capitalize on the movement's dissolution. When the tide of public opinion turned against Occupy, the loyalists (rightly) feared to rush in. But their true uselessness was underlined by June's embarrassingly botched electoral reform vote. The pro-establishment camp accidentally walked out en masse before the vote, turning the government's defeat into a landslide. With friends like these...



### Occupy Central's Founding Fathers

When university professors Benny Tai Yiu-ting and Chan Kin-man, and minister Reverend Chu Yiu-ming created "Occupy Central with Love and Peace" in March 2013, they lit the slow fuse on a powder keg they couldn't hope to stamp out. As soon as Tai had to announce the start of Occupy four days early, it was evident the movement had outgrown its leaders. In a recent interview Benny Tai expressed regrets over the speed and scale of the whole thing, maintaining that he's hopeful for a "tipping point" when the public will be back on the side of democracy. But the establishment seems to have found its own way of reprimanding Tai. In August he was banned from managerial-level responsibilities at HKU for three years, due to the improper handling of Occupy-related donations. Institutional retaliation or a way to dodge dismissal? That's up to you.



# WATERPROOF

## CY Leung

Face it: Despite everything—and we mean *everything*—somehow, someway, CY Leung has come out of Occupy on top. We don't mean his public approval ratings—which have been on a reliably steady downwards trajectory—we mean that somehow, someway, he's still IN CHARGE. You can't deny it: after the Chief Executive's masterful stonewalling over Occupy, he's got Beijing's confidence. Recent liaison office comments about the "transcendent" role of the CE only underline this. With an unchanged electoral system in place, there's every chance that CY Leung will run for office again in 2017—and there's every chance that he'll win. Buckle up.



## Robert Chow

It's been a good year for the white-haired ex-journo founder of anti-Occupy groups the Silent Majority for Hong Kong and the Alliance for Peace and Democracy. He was recently back in the news, vowing to stay vigilant to ensure that Hong Kong did not become "another Syria, Egypt or Libya." Hey, remember his video predicting that if 10,000 people occupied Central, the city would fall apart within an hour? Or his snitch hotline that encouraged the public to inform on students who boycotted classes? We can't shake the feeling that Chow's done very well out of the fears of the older grassroots: Presumably he's well paid for the privilege. At least he's admitted that he doesn't have the answer to the whole situation—although we look forward to yet another hare-brained scheme.

## The New School

The weakness of the pan-dems during the protests left a huge hole to be filled, and the post-Occupy groups have stepped into the breach. Organizations such as Youngspiration, the Progressive Lawyers Group and Power for Democracy are presenting a new wave of pro-democracy voices in the city, a more political aspect of the umbrella movement. It's these groups who will stake out the next battleground in the city.

In November, Hong Kong goes to the polls for one of the very few things it can vote in—the district council elections. While most of the pan-democrats and the new groups have been working to avoid splitting the pro-democracy vote, there are a few post-Occupy groups who are in it to win it, even if it means going up against other pan-dems. Will the post-Occupy world be as fractured as the one before it? Or can we remember that for 79 days in 2014, half of Hong Kong came together in a communal belief that *something* had to change? After all, there's a chance it still might.



## Joshua Wong

This has been the year that Scholarism's darling grew up—and it's been a difficult adolescence. For many, Joshua Wong was the voice of Occupy—the most present and constant of student leaders. Since then, the road hasn't been quite so smooth. Wong's role ever since has been one of waiting, as prosecutors try to work out what exactly to do with him. But in the last year he's been attacked in Mong Kok, denied entry to Malaysia and most recently been hounded on the MTR by a Youtuber in search of a few more video views.

But it's not all been bad. He's also got a girlfriend, a makeover from Apple Daily—and appeared on the cover of Time magazine. And he's still only 18. He's got plenty of time to change the world.



## Remember when...?

Smooth jazz clarinet crooner **Kenny G** visited the Occupy site in Central, posting a photo of himself on Twitter and his wishes for "a peaceful and positive conclusion to this situation." He was forced to backtrack and withdraw his support once the Chinese Foreign Ministry got involved. G's butter-smooth melodies are inexplicably popular in China, and his cheesetastic tune "Going Home" is commonly played to indicate closing time in malls. Go home, Kenny G.

## A Gentle Reminder

Remember how CY Leung insisted that "**foreign forces**" were at work in Hong Kong during the protests? And not only that, but he had compelling evidence of this which would be revealed "at the appropriate time"? It is 11 months since he made this claim, and we're still waiting on the evidence. Any time now, CY...

# UNDER THE UMBRELLA

Key moments in Occupy, from early days to now...

2013

Jan 13

Benny Tai proposes the Occupation of Central.

2014

June 10

Beijing white paper emphasizes that Hong Kong's autonomy is "subject to the central government's authorization."

June 22-28

787,767 Hongkongers vote in unofficial electoral reform referendum. Global Times calls the process "tinged with mincing ludicrousness."



Aug 31

Beijing announces highly restrictive framework for the next Chief Executive election.

Sep 23

Benny Tai strongly hints that Occupy will start on October 1.

Sep 26

Students organize a class boycott, spend two nights camping outside government headquarters in Tamar.

Sep 28

Benny Tai finds his hand forced, proclaims in the early hours that Occupy Central is officially underway.

Sep 28-29

Police fire 87 cans of tear gas at protesters, charge with batons, driving thousands more to Admiralty. Protesters spread to Mong Kok and Causeway Bay.

Oct 3

In Mong Kok and Causeway Bay, clashes erupt between pro- and anti-Occupy activists.

Oct 8

In Mong Kok, a woman sets up a shrine to Guan Yu, the god of war and patron saint of police and triads, in order to pray for protection for the protesters. It becomes a landmark of the site.



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**Oct 15**  
TVB footage appears to show seven police officers attacking Civic Party activist Ken Tsang in Tamar Park.

**Oct 19**  
CY Leung alludes to "foreign forces" behind the protests, provides no evidence to support his claim.

**Oct 21**  
CY Leung gives disastrous interview to international media in which he says that universal suffrage would mean letting poor people make decisions.

**Oct 22**  
Activists hang huge "I want genuine universal suffrage" banner from Lion Rock.

**Through Oct-Nov**  
Community grows up around the Admiralty Occupy sites, with homework, food and drinks and carpentry stations appearing, as well as urban gardens. Admiralty at peace. However, public support begins to flag.

**Nov 25-26**  
Police clear Mong Kok site.

**Dec 11**  
Admiralty site cleared.

**Dec 15**  
Causeway Bay site cleared.

**Dec 17**  
Air quality in Admiralty worsens by 80 percent, returning to normal pre-Occupy figures.

**Feb 14**  
HKU votes to leave the Federation of Students after the university's localist faction objects to their mission to "build a democratic China."

**Feb 22**  
Rapper Common namechecks the Umbrella Movement when accepting the Oscar for Best Original Song.

**Jun 18**  
Electoral reform vote fails embarrassingly as pro-Beijing faction accidentally walks out minutes before the vote.

**June 24**  
Final tents from Occupy spillover camp in front of Legco cleared.

**Aug 26**  
Benny Tai and colleagues punished for improperly handling Occupy-related donations.

**Aug 27**  
Student leaders charged over Occupy protests.

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# An Umbrella Glossary

A wealth of words and phrases arose from the umbrella movement. Here are some of the best.

lau leen mut mut mut  
**榴 檳 乜 乜 乜**  
"Durian and whatever"

A blue ribbon protester who took a knife to the Occupy barricades explained to TV cameras that he carried a fruit knife with him at all times, because he was from Shenzhen and liked to sample the local produce, including durian and suchlike.



sei dim jung Hui sir  
**四 點 鐘 許 sir**  
"4 o'clock Hui Sir"

Steve Hui Chun-tak, the Chief Superintendent of the police public relations bureau, gained the nickname "4pm Hui Sir" thanks to his daily 4pm press briefings. He gained a significant fanbase on both blue and yellow sides thanks to his politeness and use of catchphrases such as "I appeal" and "I will now recap in English."



sau bei dik yeen sun  
**手 臂 的 延 伸**  
"An extension of my arm"

Now-retired police superintendent Chu King-wai came under fire after video footage emerged of the policeman using his baton to strike demonstrator Osman Cheng on the back in November in Mong Kok. Chu defended his use of the baton, saying that he used the baton as an "extension of my arm."

The phrase caught on online.



chi mo  
**慈 母**  
"Loving mother"

In a TVB interview, Police Commissioner Andy Tsang insisted that the police had taken care to protect pro- and anti-Occupy protesters alike. He cited an example of a human chain formed by police in Mong Kok, in which a female officer had to place herself in front of the anti-Occupy protesters, "just as a loving mother would." A gleeful internet jumped on the phrase and "loving mother" has become a nickname for the police.



gau wu  
**鳩 鳴**  
"Shopping / speaking nonsense"

Phrase that originated from an iCable interview with an anti-Occupy protester.

When asked why she had come to the event, the woman replied that she was in town to "gau wu"—a Putonghua term meaning "to shop." This telling word choice exposed her as a mainland tourist and protesters seized on it as a sarcastic response to mainland influence in Hong Kong—even organizing late night "gau wu" groups in Mong Kok to retake the streets after CY Leung encouraged the public to shop in the area.



gwong ming lui lok um kok dar wok  
**光 明 磬 落 / 暗 角 打 鑊**  
"Bright, clear and with the law / Beaten up in a dark corner"

On October 15, TVB cameras captured footage of seven men, who appeared to be policemen, taking turns to assault Civic Party activist Ken Tsang in a dimly lit corner of Tamar Park. Several days before police had defended their actions as bright and transparent: Protesters coined a mocking, rhyming response. After the assault, seven policemen were placed on suspension pending an inquiry. Eleven months after the alleged assault, those seven policemen are still suspended. On full pay. A year's holiday for allegedly beating up a protester? Hand us that baton...



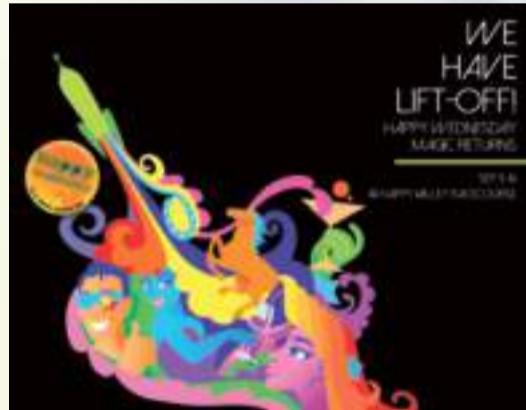
# Street Energy Lends Celebratory Magic to Happy Wednesday

When The Hong Kong Jockey Club was looking for an edgy, contemporary artist to provide a stunning visual accompaniment to its Happy Wednesday race meetings and Oktoberfest, it found a talented local who surpassed their expectations on every level

Cath Love, a young Swiss-Thai artist and graphic designer is one of several local pioneers who blur the boundaries between street and gallery. Lauded for her cutting-edge work, in which she has blended cartoon, pop art and graffiti to create a series of larger-than-life characters, she was the perfect choice to illustrate Happy Wednesday night race events.

Cath, whose past clients have included Island Records, Selfridges, Nike, H&M, Jimmy Choo, Lane Crawford and others, says she came into the project to add 'pizzazz' to Happy Wednesday through her exciting visuals.

"They liked the emotion and energy of my colorful street style, and believed it would appeal to the demographic of people who attend Wednesday parties, so I went for it!"



Cath Love's design brings out the magical vibes of an evening at Happy Wednesday Magic Returns.

Cath's creations are certain to achieve this. They will represent the key visuals for all Happy Valley's Happy Wednesday events this season, to be displayed at the racecourse and also used for external promotion.

Happy Wednesday evenings are different to Shatin race days, in that a wide range of specially designed themes are on offer to attract an affluent, well-educated Westernized Chinese and expatriate audience.

While racing is still key, the meetings are a celebration of culture and the arts, offering trendy, vibrant, international and interactive entertainment. This includes festive parties at Christmas, Chinese New Year and Easter, as well as specially-themed events such as Oktoberfest, Japan Night, Digital (which recently had a high-tech and Korean theme), and French Night, which is part of Le French May, the annual celebration of French art and culture.

With such a wide range of inspiration to draw from, Cath, whose work has also had exposure in Australia and the UK, says she was given a fairly free hand. "My brief was to lend a happy face to Happy Wednesday!"

Certainly it was this unique combination of immediacy, cuteness and street influenced edginess that attracted Happy Wednesday and convinced the organizers that Cath was the artist they needed. What do you think? Come along to join the fun and judge for yourself how perfectly her creativity has summed up the party fiesta vibe that is Happy Wednesday!



Prost! Cath Love merges the two classics of Oktoberfest—beer and traditional German dress—into one design.





# Trilogy Tales

Christopher Doyle's latest film captures three generations of Hong Kong voices in a post-Occupy city. He tells Evelyn Lok about shooting in the middle of protest.

The work of Hong Kong filmmaker Christopher Doyle has defined the city. Best known for his collaborations with Wong Kar-wai, Doyle has a distinctly recognizable style—lingering shots that follow protagonists through a hyper-saturated world—exemplified in classics such as “In the Mood for Love” and “Chungking Express.” But Doyle’s latest film is working to define the city in another way, as one of the first films to address the Occupy movement.

The “Hong Kong Trilogy” is a three-part pseudo-documentary dedicated to the stories of the children, youth and elderly of Hong Kong, named “Preschooled,” “Preoccupied” and “Preposterous,” respectively. Doyle takes a decidedly simplified approach, with a realistic yet at times absurd storytelling style he calls “realidada.” The film is a patchwork of a variety of voices: From schoolchildren to aspiring rappers, from a mainland Chinese street singer to an urban farmer who grew organic vegetables in the Occupy camps. Their words overlay footage of the city, its people and the protests, weaving together an investigative narrative all about what it means to live in the SAR.

The first segment, focusing on schoolchildren, began as a commission from the Hong Kong International Film Festival, with the short film premiering last March, while the following parts were filmed and evolved just as the Occupy movement swept the city exactly a year ago. The film was backed by a crowdfunding campaign on Kickstarter, allowing Doyle and his team to start filming immediately, rather than having to wait months on end for a film company to invest. Launched in January, the campaign successfully raised USD124,126 in a month—20 percent more than Doyle’s goal.



The team would head to the Occupy camp at Admiralty at 6am to avoid being recognized

## The People’s Project

Having lived and worked in Hong Kong for over four decades, Doyle stresses the importance of this film in terms of its relevance for Hong Kong people, as well as celebrating the city as a whole. “Hong Kong is my home, it’s where my energy comes from,” he says. “I live here and I love it here, but who am I to speak for other people? You have to let go: You have to stand back and let the thing happen.” As a result, Doyle says that 90 percent of the film is “people expressing themselves, and us giving them a visual parameter. A context.” Doyle gives most of the credit for the film to the individuals who gave their voices to the 10 days of filming, and over a year of interviewing people from hundreds of different backgrounds. “They’re just telling us how they feel about being in Hong Kong at their age, and they can do it much better than I can.”

Doyle and his collaborators didn’t set out to find specific “characters” to furnish a Hong Kong story. Instead, it was more a serendipitous flow: The team met the right voices as they went along. “We tried to learn our city through people,” says the film’s producer Jenny Suen, who also conducted most of the interviews. “Most of [them] came from interactions in our own lives.”

There were specific subjects that Doyle wanted, though: Suen spent six hours riding trams in the summer heat to find a suitable tram driver to interview. For Doyle, the tram is an important symbol of the city. “There’s something about the tram which is steady and true and very Hong Kong, and it gets you to where you want to go.” Little wonder that Doyle is agitated by ex-town planner Sit Kwok-keung’s plans to ban trams from Admiralty and Central. “It’s a fucking desecration of everything that matters. We have to keep the trams, it’s the bloodstream of Hong Kong! Are you kidding? I will personally go and put a GoPro up his ass. If you take away the trams, you might as well fill in the harbor, and build high rises and forget about what Hong Kong really is.”

## Guardians of the City

Despite mostly taking on a calm and contemplative tone and flavor, the film is also intended as a call to action, an attempt to end the complacency and passivity that comes from living in Hong Kong. “You dream when you’re a kid. When you’re old, you look back and think: ‘Oh, if only I’d done this,’” says Doyle. “That’s why we made the film: to tell people to wake up! Have a fucking whisky and go to work—not to the bloody fiscal tower, the big penis in the sky. Don’t go work in a penis.”



▲ In “Preschooled” Ching Man asks: “Why are there so many gods in this world? Are there so many of us who need to be saved?”



▲ In “Preposterous” teacher Selene volunteers during “Preposterous Seniors Speed Dating.”

“You dream when you’re a kid. When you’re old, you look back and think: ‘Oh, if only I’d done this.’”



Thierry Chow looks into the past, present and future of Hong Kong



Architectural conservationist Maoshan Connie records the changes of the city.

A challenge also came in terms of creating a succinct link between the three segments and three generations. The team chalks up their solution to the accidental but happy discovery of two muses, two women who ended up providing a metaphor for the Hong Kong spirit in the film: Feng shui master Thierry Chow and architectural conservationist Maoshan Connie, who drew maps of the Occupy camp in Admiralty. The two balance the overall narrative between the mystical, superstitious side of Hong Kong tradition and the modern, methodical urge to record our city as it grows, decays or evolves. "They are the menshen, the guardians of our city," says Doyle. "For us, that was the link. To me, they're the spirit of Hong Kong."

Being such a high profile filmmaker, working and filming during Occupy was no easy task. "We had to keep as low-profile as possible so we could be as true as possible," says Doyle. The team would head to the Occupy camp at Admiralty at 6am, and be done by 10am. "We couldn't do what we wanted to do with the fans and paparazzi," said Suen. "The point was to keep as under the radar as possible so we could actually make the film, not be there and make a political statement."

### Celebrating the SAR

Focusing on individuals and their aspirations and energies, Doyle's portrayal of the Occupy movement is a deeply humanistic piece of filmmaking. "The umbrella movement to me is not about politics, it's about economics. It's about hope for yourself. It's about all the lies you've been told all your life, and how you reconcile them. It's political in the sense that it's: 'What the fuck are we going to do?'

"I want to celebrate this city because this is the city that gave me almost everything I have—this is the city that created [Doyle's alter ego] Du Kefeng. In my case, the only way to give something back was to give it a visual energy," Doyle concludes. "If we don't celebrate who we are, who will?"

**"Hong Kong Trilogy: Preschooled Preoccupied Preposterous"** opens Sep 28. Broadway Cinematheque, Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square St., Yau Ma Tei. \$80 from [www.cinema.com.hk](http://www.cinema.com.hk).

"The umbrella movement is political in the sense that it's: 'What the fuck are we going to do?'"

Kevin Sherlock, a close friend of Doyle's, also starred in his 1998 film "Away With Words." He appears in "Hong Kong Trilogy" as a beer-obsessed foreigner. Doyle says the character is a metaphor for himself. ▼



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### Spray and Pray

British artist Nick Walker was the mentor of the notorious Banksy, which means that depending on your view he's either a genius or a liability. Above Second presents **Entropy**, a solo exhibition inspired by the historical and gritty sides of the SAR. The show explores Walker's changing style, from the vandalist stencil aesthetic to a more abstract but organic style that reflects the chaos of change. What if Banksy shows up and tags the show? Would the pupil have become the master?

Through Oct 24. **Above Second**, 9 First St., Sai Ying Pun, 3483-7950.



# FASHION

## LOOKBOOK

Edited by Zoe Chan

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



### Boho in SoHo

Who said the bohemian look is reserved for summer only? Top fashion brands have been bringing boho looks to the fall runways. I'm wearing a maxi dress from one of my favorite French brands, **Ba&Sh**—with its light texture, it's perfect for the weather. If you're five-foot-two like me, add a pair of comfortable wedges, then enrich the look with gold accessories. To complete the boho look, nailing the hair is essential. Never make it too tidy—a little messy and a little wavy is the key.

Maxi dress, \$3,300 from **Ba&Sh**, Shop 3085A, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St., Central, 2786-0238.

Solitaire ring with citrine & 18K gold, \$10,999 from **Les Amis**, 6B Union Commercial Building, 12-16 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, 3796-3688.

Cross-body bag, \$1,980 from **Pernelle**, Shop 32, JP Plaza, 22-36 Paterson St., Causeway Bay, 3956-5698.

Leather loop belt, \$3,790 from **Isabel Marant**, Podium 3, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St., Central, 2118-2288.

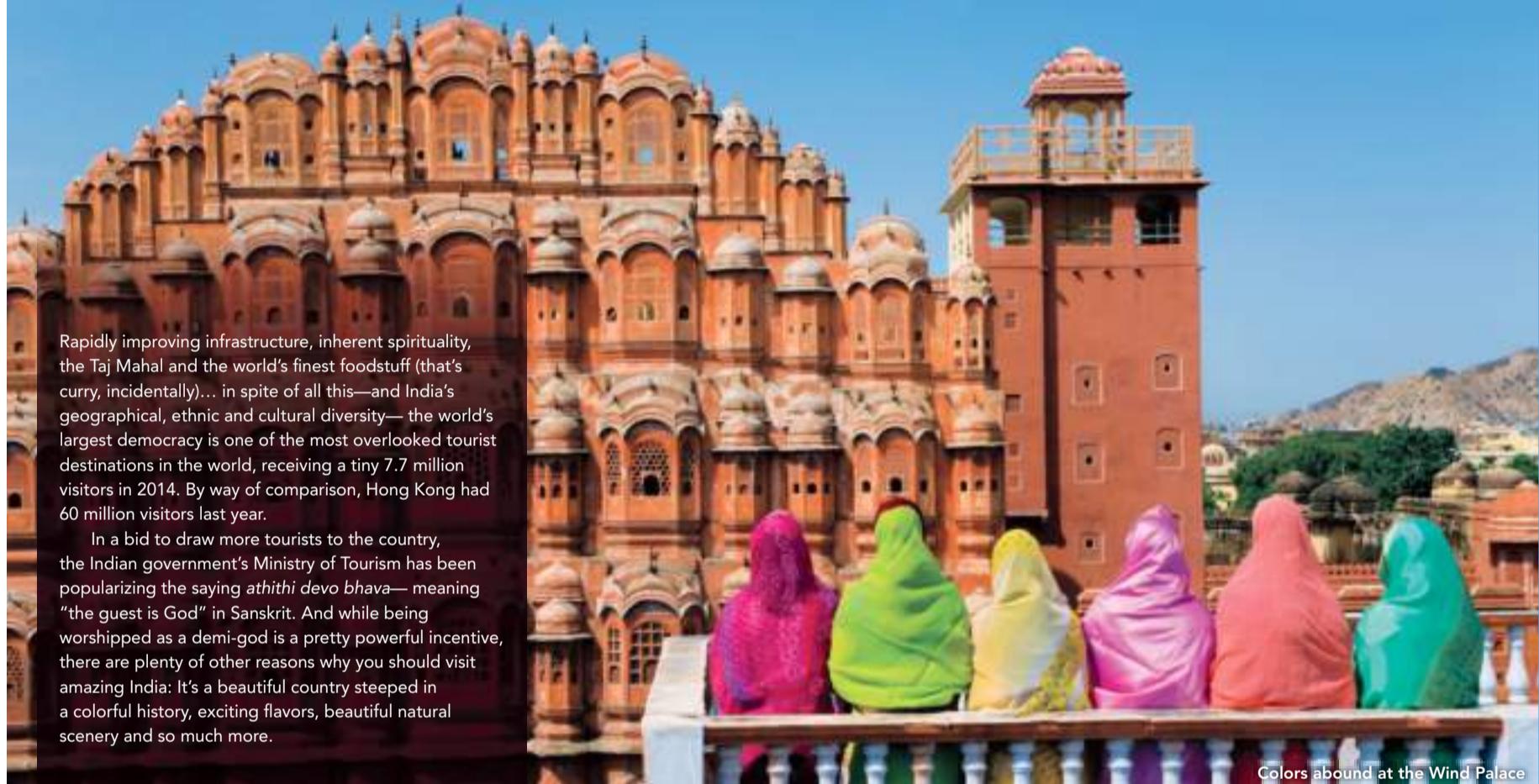
Glitter suede sandals, \$3,300 from **Kate Spade**, Shops 6-7 & 20, Fashion Walk, 11-19 Great George St., 2154-1388.



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# Five Great Reasons to Visit India

By M.C. Hughes



Rapidly improving infrastructure, inherent spirituality, the Taj Mahal and the world's finest foodstuff (that's curry, incidentally)... in spite of all this—and India's geographical, ethnic and cultural diversity—the world's largest democracy is one of the most overlooked tourist destinations in the world, receiving a tiny 7.7 million visitors in 2014. By way of comparison, Hong Kong had 60 million visitors last year.

In a bid to draw more tourists to the country, the Indian government's Ministry of Tourism has been popularizing the saying *athithi devo bhava*— meaning "the guest is God" in Sanskrit. And while being worshipped as a demi-god is a pretty powerful incentive, there are plenty of other reasons why you should visit amazing India: It's a beautiful country steeped in a colorful history, exciting flavors, beautiful natural scenery and so much more.

Colors abound at the Wind Palace

## 1) Get into Lake Living

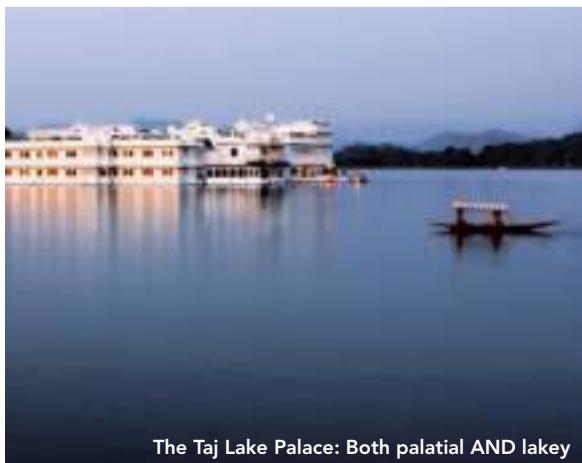
Built in the 1700s as a summer palace, the **Taj Lake Palace** was built facing east so guests could worship Surya, the Indian sun god. Today it serves as a lavish hotel and spa. It's a white marble palace built on an island in the middle of a vast lake with a panoramic backdrop of the Aravalli mountains: It doesn't get more majestic and romantic than that.

**Udaipur, Rajasthan, (+91) 294-242-8800, tajhotels.com.**

## 2) The Red Fort

One of the remnants of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's rule, the former royal residence of **the Red Fort** also served as the ceremonial and political center of the Mughal Empire. Aptly named because of its towering walls of red sandstone, the site is now a popular tourist destination. Every Independence Day the prime minister raises the flag at the fort and delivers a national address.

**Netaji Subhash Marg, Chandni Chowk, Delhi.**



The Taj Lake Palace: Both palatial AND lakey

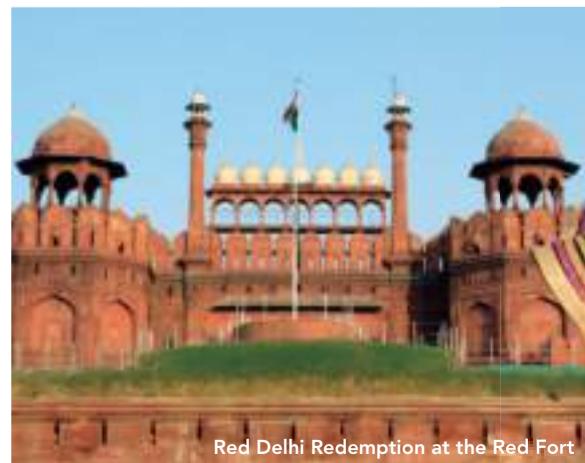
## 3) The River Ganges at Varanasi

The Ganges is the most sacred river in all India to Hindus, who hail the water for its holy cleansing properties—although these days the Ganges is more famed for its high levels of pollution. Despite this, the banks of the river are well worth a visit. **Varanasi** is a bustling city that's an assault on the senses, but the many riverside ghat steps leading down to the river are home to much of the city's life. Take a morning boat trip across the river to immerse yourself in the city's sights and smells.

## 4) Peek at the Palace of Winds

Structurally and aesthetically, the ornate **Hawa Mahal** in Jaipur is a sight to behold. The "Palace of Winds" was built to resemble Hindu deity Lord Krishna's crown, and its unique façade exists so that women of the royal household could observe the outside world and not be seen by the general public. Best viewed during the early hours of sunrise.

**Hawa Mahal Rd., Badi Choupad, Jaipur.**



Red Delhi Redemption at the Red Fort

## 5) Dance The Night Away

Dancing is a time-honored tradition in India and there are many different forms, each steeped in its own colorful and unique history. The **Leela Palace** hotel in Udaipur offers live music with dinner, accompanied by colorful, energetic Rajasthani folk dancing.

**Lake Pichola, Udaipur, Rajasthan (+91) 294-670-1234.**

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## Super Snack Streets

Put on those walking shoes and a loose pair of trousers:  
Joanne Lee seeks out Hong Kong's very best snack food streets.

### Electric Road, Tin Hau

Packed with restaurants, Tin Hau's Electric Road is well worth a hungry wander. Go Taiwanese with an egg wrap from **S-Yoco** (96 Electric Rd., Tin Hau, 6402-6976). This traditional Taiwanese breakfast is a snack that wraps ingredients such as corn, cheese and pork floss in a thin layer of egg. Alternatively, go all-out on a burger in a wholemeal bun. At **Eggs Bakery** (蛋香烘焙) (Shop A4, 254-280 Electric Rd., Tin Hau), egg puffs are made to order and served hot and crispy. Similarly fresh are the Hong Kong-style buns and egg tarts at **Violet Cake Shop** (94A Electric Rd.,

Tin Hau). They come straight out of the ovens in the back of the shop to be deposited on the counter in front of the line of customers. Grab whatever's just come out: Warm, rich and buttery, it's a total treat.

### Nullah Road, Prince Edward

Not far from Dundas Street, Nullah Road collects foodies aplenty. Most of the stalls on this strip sell classic Hong Kong street food like fish balls and siu mai, but there's plenty of choice as well. Swing by **Delicious Food** (Shop 10, 30-32 Nullah Rd., Prince Edward, 2142-7468) for some of their signature deep-fried large intestine, before heading to **Three Potatoes** (Shop 5, 30-32A Nullah Rd., Prince Edward, 6432-0118) which does what the name suggests and serves up spud treats of all kinds, from baked potatoes to chips, potato cakes and rosti.

### Fau Tsoi Street, Yuen Long

Yuen Long isn't all about poon choi feasts. Grilled food lovers should head straight to **Skewer King** (Shop 11D, 2 Fau Choi St., Yuen Long, 2470-6688), where you can find grilled... everything, really. Order chicken and beef, pork, seafood and vegetables, all dipped in the shop's spicy satay sauce. Mark the end of your street snack journey with a bowl of tofu fa pudding from **Ah Yuk Tofu Pudding** (亞玉豆腐花) (Shop 12, 2 Fau Tsoi St., Yuen Long, 2664-9622). The dessert house makes a special version made with black soybeans.

### Dundas Street, Mong Kok

There's always something new to try on Mong Kok's most famous snack street. On top of traditional Hong Kong snacks, the road is crammed full of innovative street food. **Fei Jie** (Shop 4A, 55 Dundas St., Mong Kok, 9191-7683)—which means "Fat Sister"—is a must-visit for popular Hong Kong snacks such as chicken kidneys and pig's intestines, with plenty of sweet sauce and mustard drizzled on top. Meanwhile, Korean enthusiasts will be satisfied by **Bbokki** (55 Dundas St., Mong Kok, 9470-2945) which sells traditional Korean street snacks, such as spicy ddeokbokki rice cakes.

Cheese on cheese action at Honor Street Food Stall



### Pei Ho Street, Sham Shui Po

Sham Shui Po's not just good for bargains: It's also awesome for food. Pei Ho Street is stuffed full of delicious snack stalls. **Kung Wo Dou Bun Chong** (118 Pei Ho St., Sham Shui Po, 2386-6871) is a time-honored store that's specialized in beancurd since time immemorial. Make sure to go for the pan-fried stuffed tofu, as well as the sweet tofu fa pudding—topped of course with ginger syrup and red sugar. Just a few steps away is **Kwan Kee Store** (Shop 10, 115-117 Fuk Wah St., Sham Shui Po, 2360-0328), another old-timer serving up Hong Kong classics. Of particular note is their put chai gou bowl pudding.

Desserts at Kwan Kee Store—looks like building material, tastes yummy



### Ma Tau Wai Road, To Kwa Wan

To Kwa Wan is full of hidden gems, and Ma Tau Wai Road is one of the top places to look. On top of stalls serving up grilled skewers of all kinds, **Honor Street Food Stall** (187B Ma Tau Wai Rd., To Kwa Wan) is full of variety. Their fish balls are large and excellent, and also on offer are hot dogs covered in melted cheese and assorted meats—but mostly melted cheese. Cross the road to **Shun Hing Lung** (182 Ma Tau Wai Rd., To Kwa Wan, 2356-1211) for classic Chinese desserts, including their famous red bean put chai gou bowl pudding, sago pudding and traditional cha gwor tea cakes.

Can't top this—unless it's with ginger syrup and red sugar





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HONG KONG CHINESE ORCHESTRA

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## DINING

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Hugo's re-ups its chef

### A Hugo Ego

Hyatt Regency (18 Hanoi Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2311-1234) has a new executive chef, and his name is Raymond Cheung. Chef Cheung will be in charge of all of the hotel's restaurants, from Chinese institution Chin Chin Bar to western staple **Hugo's**. At Hugo's in particular, chef Cheung will be revamping the menu to give diners refreshing new

creations on a rotating basis. Rest assured: The lip-smacking and endless appetizers and desserts that they push out in trolleys right to your table are still all there, along with the classic lobster thermidor and roasted rib mains. But if you're feeling adventurous, you'll also be able to dig into the likes of schnitzels, pan-fried pork cutlets, and Dover sole meunière.

## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

### Yakiniku Great ★★★★☆

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



Japanese wagyu grill import Yakiniku Great reached Hong Kong just last year—and meat lovers descended in droves. Thankfully, the early dinner queues have now subsided.

■ **HIT** We opted for the “Chateaubriand Course,” (\$1,200) which is a 13-course affair that's just enough for two. It came with a variety of appetizers including crunchy Japanese kimchi. The somen cold noodles were served iced, and as a result

the strands were perfectly al dente with a subtle sweetness. Yakiniku uses Japanese cuts flown in daily, and the chef gave each table special attention to teach us the perfect grilling time for each type of beef. Highlights were the restaurant's prized thin-cut tougarashi and marinated misuji slices—marbled but not greasy—and a trio of flavorful chateaubriand chunks.

■ **MISS** Just over \$500 per head is pretty steep for meat you have to cook yourself. It could have been worse: A single plate with a measly four slices of misuji costs \$159, so the recently introduced set is actually a good value in comparison.

■ **BOTTOM LINE** With attentive service and god-level wagyu cuts, Yakiniku is worth the splurge.

**Open Daily 5pm-midnight. \$\$\$**

### Ratings

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

### Price Guide

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

## NEW AND NOTED



Time for some school food at Saam

### Getting Schooled

Chef Patrick Dang from **Saam** (51 Graham St., Central, 2645-9828) has concocted a back-to-school menu, available from now until the end of October, for those of us nostalgic for the simpler days. You'll be seeing dishes with names like "Nutella & Toast," "Cereal & Yogurt" and "Sausage & Egg," that on the surface look like what they're named for—but they're actually made of completely different ingredients that taste nothing like you'd expect. So for instance, the yogurt is actually foie gras, while the sunny side up "egg" and "sausage" combo consists of coconut, butternut pumpkin, lobster and curry. Trying to reconcile what you see with what you taste is a bit of a mindfuck—

but a fun one. The special menu is offered at \$638 for five courses, or \$788 for seven. Drinks are extra, starting at \$248 for five half-glasses.

### Wine and Dine

The Butchers Club group just refuses to stop, having taken up yet another space in SoHo called **Butchers Barrel** (17 Shelley St., Central, 2530-3170). This time, it's a 1,500 square foot wine and meat space that lets you pair your cold cuts, cheese and short ribs with a classy glass of red or white. The BB guys promise that just under half of their tipple selection costs less than \$100 per bottle. You'll also be able to sign up for butchery classes... and jam-making classes too. Beef jam, maybe?

Email me at adele.wong@hkmagmedia.com or follow me on Twitter: @adelewong\_hk.

### Xiao Wang Beef Noodle ★★★★☆

Taiwanese. Shop 23 & 25, U/GF, Olympian City 1, 11 Hoi Fai Rd., Tai Kok Tsui, 2749-2111.



Originally from Taiwan, this award-winning beef noodle shop has now expanded to Hong Kong, bringing its aromatic beef along for the ride. There are also original sauces on sale, so you can cook the dishes at home as well...

**HIT** Guava with preserved plums (\$24) was a good starter to whet the appetite, but of course we were here for the beef and tendon noodles (\$58). You can choose thick or thin noodles—we went

thick and it tasted just like being in a Kaohsiung noodle shack. Tender beef was paired with al dente tendon, all in a rich beef broth with a touch of Chinese medicine flavor. It all matched well with fresh, crisp Taiwanese "A" vegetables with sesame sauce (\$22).

**MISS** The beef brisket noodles (\$65) weren't as good as the normal noodles, despite costing \$7 more—the brisket being somewhat tough. Stewed chicken soup with Shaoxing wine (\$68) tasted good but was too small. The soyed dishes such as marinated goose kidney (\$28) and duck tongue (\$42) were too dry.

**BOTTOM LINE** Go for the beef noodles and you won't leave disappointed.

**Open Daily 11:30am-10:30pm. \$\$**

### Our Policy

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

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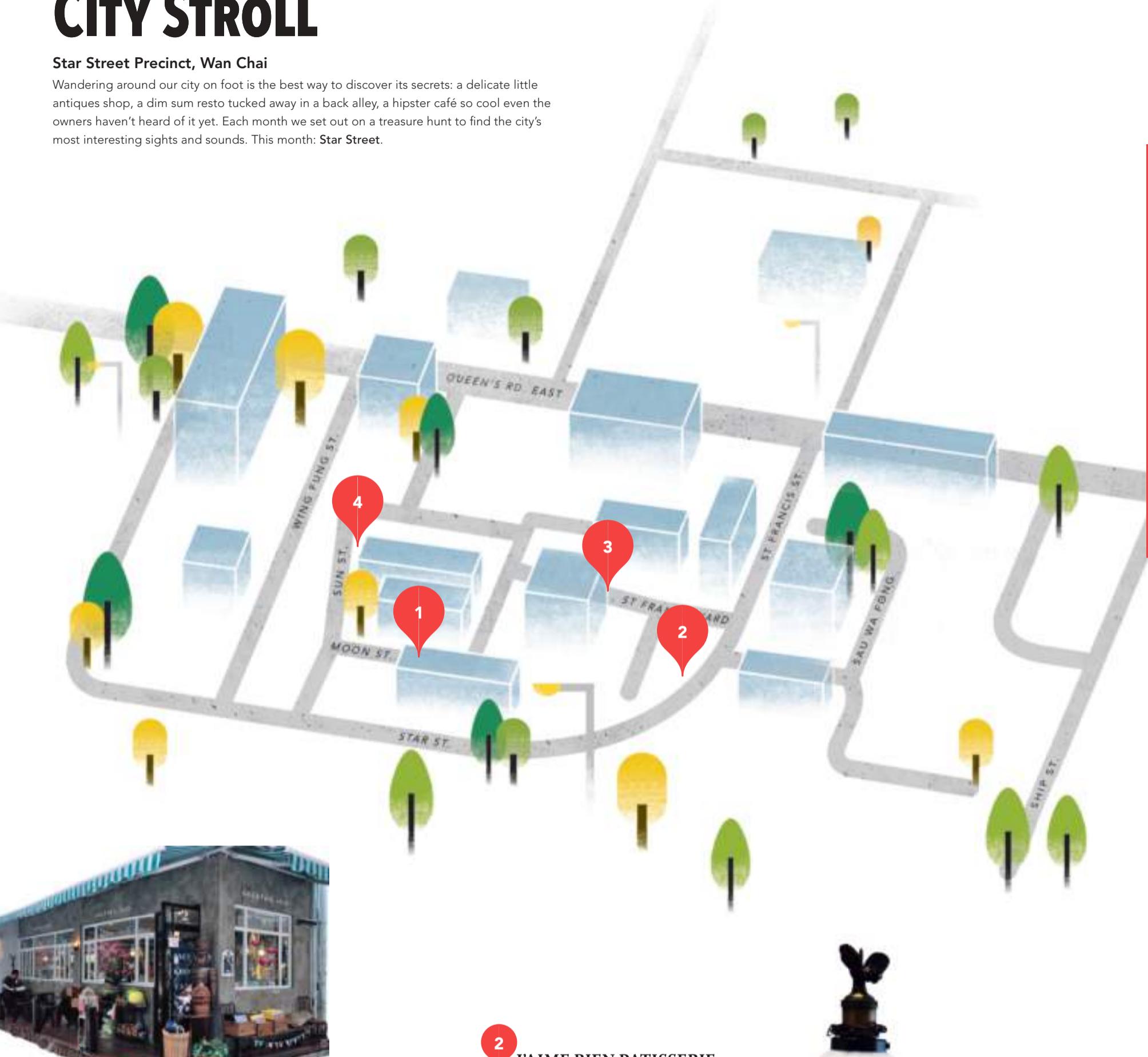
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# CITY STROLL

## Star Street Precinct, Wan Chai

Wandering around our city on foot is the best way to discover its secrets: a delicate little antiques shop, a dim sum resto tucked away in a back alley, a hipster café so cool even the owners haven't heard of it yet. Each month we set out on a treasure hunt to find the city's most interesting sights and sounds. This month: Star Street.



### 1 COCKTAIL JOJO

There are no drinks to be had at Cocktail JoJo: Instead it's all about quirky, fun home décor and accessories. Think pop art cushions, funky necklaces and quite a lot of llama dolls, for some reason. Everything in the store's been carefully curated for maximum impact. Hurry up: There's a sale that lasts through the end of the month.

2 Moon St., Wan Chai, 2511-8666.



### 3 NLOSTANDFOUND

Crazy cool (and annoyingly named) vintage store that's stacked high with stuff you never knew you needed: everything from Japanese "E.T." posters to vintage slide rules; from Smurfs Pez dispensers to 50s guidebooks to Hong Kong and LP players. It's hard to wander in without wanting to buy EVERYTHING.

Shop 3, St. Francis Yard, Wan Chai, 2574-1328.



### 2 J'AIME BIEN PATISSERIE

We walked into this little café and a man sitting at the entrance told us to try the Earl Grey scones. "I'm here on business from Philadelphia," he said. "Every time I come to Hong Kong I make sure I come to this café." International fans? You know they must be doing something right.

Shop 3, UG/F, Manrich Court, 33 St. Francis St., Wan Chai, 2528-2118.



### 4 ITER ITINERIS

Simply cut, gorgeous fabrics are the order of the day at Iter Itineris. This menswear label does everything in super-small batches, and we mean small—a single jacket design may see as few as 10 pieces made. Design touches are key, from the beautiful linings to the shirt-style sleeves on the jackets for easy rolling in the summer heat.

Shop B, 1-1A, Sun St., Wan Chai, 2606-1918.

# Dress Pink Day

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Star Street Precinct was the earliest burial ground assigned to the non-Chinese population of Hong Kong, remaining so for almost 50 years. In 1890, Star Street became home to the Wan Chai Power Plant, the first electricity-generating station in Hong Kong. In honor of the region's new street lights, the streets of the area were renamed "Sun," "Moon" and "Star" streets, the "three luminaries" which are named in classical Chinese text the "Three Character Classic."

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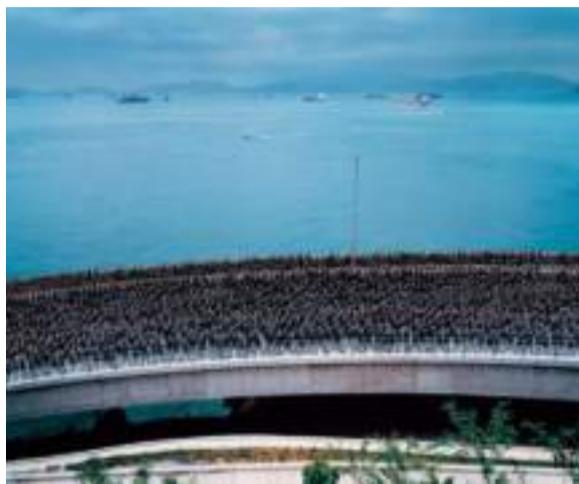


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# CULTURE

## UPCLOSE: ALMOND CHU



Photographer **Almond Chu**, who's best known for his nude studio portraits, is bringing works from his "Parade" series into a single show for the first time in "Silent Shouts," a joint exhibition with Nick Gleitzman and Denis Darzacq at La Galerie that examines urban society through photography. He tells Adrienne Chum about his changing perceptions of Hong Kong, the symbolism of his works and his craft.

### HK Magazine: How did this series begin?

**Almond Chu:** About 12 years ago I had a project with the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and I created my first image, "Parade 1." At the time, the idea was that I'd have a very wide shot of the scenery and have a tiny person in it. But after

I did it, I realized that I couldn't see [the person]. So I had an idea: I could take that person, and multiply him several hundred times. But after I tried that, I realized that it now had a different message, that it appeared to have very many people, but they were all the same. It was like a person mindlessly following society, without a sense of self, without any personal desires or dreams. The more I made these photos, the more layers of meanings I found in them.

### HK: From nude portraits to large scale landscapes—how come?

**AC:** In 2003 I did a residency in Germany, and a lot of artists there influenced the way I saw things, so I began trying to learn more about where I lived. I noticed that Hong Kong was

like Michael Wolf's photographs: very repetitive. The people are very repetitive. It's peculiar how Hongkongers in general are afraid to show themselves off, and want to blend in with their groups or communities. So I wanted to show that in these instances, the individual exists, but individuality disappears.

### HK: How do you create so many copies of the same person?

**AC:** When I take the photo, there are two parts. The first part involves taking a photo of the scene with a large camera. Then, I use a smaller camera to photograph the person. I take continuous shots of the person walking and then choose the photos when I do the retouching. The most important thing is to make sure that the movements are natural and in the right space. I don't use a green screen because I want the lighting and environment to match the scene.

### HK: You have one work in "Parade" related to Occupy Central. Are you starting to get political?

**AC:** No, it's just that one work. I was going to do two, but after finishing one, I decided it was enough. I felt that it was very important to create something about Occupy, because it was the one time the world noticed Hong Kong; otherwise, with the exception of the 1997 Handover, nobody really cared. And since Occupy ran for 79 days, there are 79 versions of me in the image.

**Check out "Silent Shouts" through Oct 14 at La Galerie, G/F, 74 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2540-4777, [www.lagalerie.hk](http://www.lagalerie.hk).**

## Classical

### Happy Go Lucky Big Band

Kenny Matsura 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 doesn't mean a thing if you ain't got that swing. Sep 26, Dec 19, 10pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$150 in advance; \$180 at the door.

### Pipe Organ Recital by Jean-Philippe Merckaert

Belgian organist Jean-Philippe Merckaert plays a free concert on the big pipes of the Cultural Centre. The program includes French music (including his own transcription of Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun") and some classic Bach, so hurry down to check out his massive organ. Heh. Sep 26, 5pm. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. Free tickets available from the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Enquiries Counter.

### Phantoms of the Orchestra

This collaboration between Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of Hong Kong (MYO) and the Magic Circle Mime is a family-friendly concert that blends classical music with mime, so expect a few surprises and lots of fun. Oct 10, 8pm, Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium, 72 Tai Ho Rd., Tsuen Wan; Oct 11, 3pm: Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$200-400 from [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk).



### The Joy of Music Festival

The Joy of Music presents a packed program of concerts and talks for all of you who are music geeks at heart. World class performers will fill your nights with music: Leeds Piano Competition winner Federico Colli (1st place, 2012), Hong Kong International Piano Competition winners Giuseppe Andaloro (1st, 2011), Ilya Rashkovskiy (1st, 2005), Jinsang Lee (1st, 2008), and internationally-acclaimed guitarist Álvaro Pierri and friends will be playing recitals, while the Logos Chamber Group will be performing with the pianists as well. Check out a morning talk on music production by Andrew Walter (Oct 17), a mastering engineer at Abbey Road Studios, or a seminar by film score composer Henry Lai (Oct 18). Oct 12-18, 7:30pm; Oct 17-18, 10:30am. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$20-250 from [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk). More info at [www.chopinsocietyhk.org](http://www.chopinsocietyhk.org).

### Mandolin Virtuoso Avi Avital & The Cologne Academy Chamber Orchestra

Mandolinist Avi Avital and the 14-member Cologne Academy Chamber Orchestra perform a program that includes Baroque classics from Bach and Vivaldi, modern classics such as Bartók's "Romanian Folk Dances" and De Falla's "Danse Espagnole." Avital's the first mandolin player to get a Grammy nomination, so you can trust he's real good with his fingers. Nov 2, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$80-480 from [www.pphk.org](http://www.pphk.org).



## Comedy

### 9th Annual HK International Comedy Festival

The grand finale of the ninth HK International Comedy Festival is here, with Gina Yashere performing on Sep 25 for some good giggles. Plus, check out the up-and-comers on Sep 26—Gina is also hosting the finals of the English part of the Comedy Competition. Sep 25, 8pm and 10pm, TakeOut Comedy, B/F, 34 Elgin St., Central, \$300 from [www.hkcomedyfestival.com](http://www.hkcomedyfestival.com); Sep 26, 8pm, KITEC Auditorium, 3/F, 1 Trademark Drive, Kowloon Bay, \$300 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com).



### Love Pings

One woman, seven men, and a lot of pings from her phone: "Love Pings," by American director Kate March, is all about finding meaningful connections in the Tinder age. A woman explores her relationships through texts, social media, online messaging, and live meetups. Can e-love exist? Or is she just another one of those Hot Girls In Your Area? Oct 8-10, 7:30pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$350 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com).



### Fish in the Hand

Part of the Boundless Multimedia Series, "Fish in the Hand" combines Cantonese opera, drama, dance and contemporary chamber music to present the fear and humiliation of William the veterinarian. It's a performance straight from the deepest, darkest part of his mind, the part he keeps hidden away. Creepy! In Cantonese with English subtitles. Oct 9-10, 8pm; Oct 11, 2pm. Theatre, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$180-240 from [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk).

## Theater

### The Human Voice

Going through a breakup? This might help: Lara Fabregas, founder of Ellipsis Theatre, is performing Jean Cocteau's "The Human Voice" as her maiden production. It's a monologue in which woman talks on the phone with her ex-lover, who's getting married in the morning. A portion of ticket sales will go to the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital Foundation. Oct 5-6, 15, 8pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$250 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).





## Exhibitions



### Traveling Into Your Bookshelf

A traveling project by artist and guerilla knitter Movana Chen, "Traveling Into Your Bookshelf" is the first exhibition of the newly-opened Charbon Art Space. Chen has been creating a dialogue with others through book sharing and knitting shredded pages into fashion pieces since 2009. Through Oct 17. Charbon, 8/F, Sing Tek Factory, 44 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Aberdeen, 2518-0035.



Courtesy of the artist

### Form, Gesture, Feeling: Robert Motherwell (1915-1991)

Pearl Lam Galleries hosts its first solo exhibition of the work of abstract expressionist Robert Motherwell, 100 years after his birth. As part of The New York School, which included the famed Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko, his paintings and collages appealed to the deep levels of the subconscious. The exhibition includes over 15 works in various media, influenced by Asian calligraphy, Zen and automatism. Through Nov 6. Pearl Lam Galleries, 601-605, 6/F, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder St., Central.

### Silver

Liu Wei's solo exhibition of new works at White Cube uses painting, installation, mirrors and sculpture to explore the symbolism of shapes and forms. His works question stability and examine the reality of space with angled and mirrored sculptures, allowing the viewers to become part of the work as well. It's selfie time! Through Oct 24. White Cube, 50 Connaught Rd., Central, 2592-2000.



© Liu Wei. Photo © Jackal Lau. Courtesy Liu Wei Studio & White Cube



### Nam June Paik

Any art aficionado in town this month has reason to geek out: The Gagosian Gallery is hosting an exhibition dedicated to the father of video art, Nam June Paik. The Korean-American artist was a key player in the neo-Dada movement Fluxus, and one of the first to begin experimenting with video, music and everyday sounds in art. See works from his last decade of his life in "Nam June Paik: The Late Style." Through Nov 7. Gagosian Gallery, 7/F, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder St., Central, 2151-0555. Free.



### Until You Are Here

YY9 Gallery presents a solo exhibition from emerging artist Ngai Wing-lam. The series depicts stories inspired by her daily interactions, her environments and her dreams. The "Fish Man" and "Fish Woman" are the protagonists of her works, one of which is inspired by Thomas Hardy's novel, "Far From the Madding Crowd." Didn't that movie come out last month? Through Oct 31. YY9 Gallery, 2/F, Chai Wan Industrial City Phase 1, 60 Wing Tai Rd., Chai Wan, 2574-3730.

# NIGHTLIFE



## Madonna: Rebel Heart tour

The immortal queen of pop makes it through the wilderness and embarks on an international tour for "Rebel Heart," her 13th studio album. What we want to know is, who out there loves the "Bitch I'm Madonna" single enough to drop \$16,888 on the two-ticket VIP package? Feb 17 2016, 8pm. AsiaWorld-Arena, Sky Plaza Rd., Chek Lap Kok, 3606-8828. \$699-2,488 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com), VIP packages from \$4,888-16,888.

Photo: Kevin Mazur, Getty Images

## Death Certificate

Metalheads: Get ready to rage. The four headliners at this one-night-only concert are Finnish heavy metal chiefs Children Of Bodom, UK's deathgrind and melodic death metal founding fathers Carcass, Japanese melodic death metal trio GYZE, and Hong Kong's own black death metal band Evocation. SO MUCH DEATH. Oct 8, 8:30pm. Musiczone, KITEC, 1 Trademart Dr., Kowloon Bay. \$480-580 from Zuk Studio. Two branches including Room 311, Sincere House, 83 Argyle Street, Mong Kok; \$680 at the door. [www.facebook.com/zuk.studio](http://www.facebook.com/zuk.studio).



Photo: Krzysztof Sado Sadowski/Wiki

## Behemoth

All the way from Gdańsk, Polish blackened death metal band Behemoth—the fathers of the Polish extreme metal underground (what an accolade)—are here for one night only. Oct 9, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$480-880 from [www.cityline.com](http://www.cityline.com).

## Clubs



### Recondite

Volar brings a touch of Berlin's stoic cool to Hong Kong with techno sorcerer Recondite, also known as Lorenz Brunner. Those who get excited by the idea of dramatic drum synth loops will want to catch this one. He's supported by Push resident DJs Frankie Lam, Lukas and AKW. Sep 30, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-1510. \$250 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com), \$300 at the door before 12:30am, \$350 thereafter; both include two drinks.



Photo: Peter Chiapparino/Wiki

### Cream Tours: Paul Van Dyk, Cosmic Gate, Christina Novelli, Bz Li

Dance your butt off at this celebrity DJ fest (it's the night before Chung Yeung Festival): The first Cream Tours event in Hong Kong brings EDM god Paul Van Dyk, German trance duo Cosmic Gate, UK's Christina Novelli and Hong Kong's own Bz Li to the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal. Oct 20, 9pm. Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, Kowloon City. \$480-1,280 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com).

## Gigs



### True To This

The Underground is putting on a high energy Saturday night gig that promises "a night of elevated consciousness through music..." or maybe that's just all the pints of Singha talking? The headliners are three ambitious regional bands: pop rockers Zpecial, pop punk stalwarts F.B.I., and Taiwan's Outlet Drift, who play avant-garde psychedelic garage rock. Sep 26, 9:30pm. Orange Peel, Flat A-C, 2/F, Ho Lee Commercial Building, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2812-7177. \$120 from [tickets.undergroundhk.com](http://tickets.undergroundhk.com), \$180 at the door; both include a beer.



### Lil Jon

Lil Jon is ready to Turn Up at Levels. What, were you hoping for a quiet Tuesday night in? Oct 20, 11pm. Levels, 2/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, 2811-1568. \$550 from [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), \$680 at the door.

### Tiesto at Club Cubic

Dutch deck master Tiesto needs no introduction: He's one of the best, most sought-after DJs in the world. He's back for round two at Club Cubic—it's looking like the hottest party of the fall. If only because of the sheer heat generated by a club full of people jumping up and down. Oct 2, 10pm. Club Cubic, 2/F, Hard Rock Hotel, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, (+853) 6638-4999. \$580-980 from [www.cubic-cod.com](http://www.cubic-cod.com).

### Steve Aoki

The DJ with all the hair hits the deck at Levels. Oct 15, 11pm. Levels, 2/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, 2811-1568. \$550 from [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), \$680 at the door.

### Hong Kong Street Music: Gianni Denitto and Dripping HK

Free gig alert! Saxophonist Gianni Denitto and Hong Kong pop rockers Dripping HK (冷氣機滴水)—literally, "dripping air-con"—will be performing a free gig in the outdoor area at Comix Home Base. Sep 27, 3pm. Comix Home Base, 7 Mallory St., Wan Chai, 2824-5303. Free.

### Sick of It All

Living the hardcore life since 1986, Queens hardcore punk legends Sick of It All is touring Asia, with their last stop in Hong Kong. They're supported by Hong Kong bands King Lychee and newcomers Fight Club, as well as Filipino hardcore band Piledriver. Time to get your mosh face on... Oct 4, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$250 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).

## Music Festivals



### Full Moon Festival

There's no need to lose your hipster cred while celebrating an old fashioned thing like mid-autumn festival—Forgo the mooncakes and check out the Full Moon Festival at The Pulse, which will host live music gigs from Hanjin Tan, Supper Moment, Sensi Lion, SiHungMo, New Youth Barbershop and more. There'll also be food, arts and crafts workshops, a flea market and even an on-site barber for all your mustache grooming needs... Sep 26-28. The Pulse, 3/F, 28 Beach Rd., Repulse Bay. \$120-300 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).

### Don't Let Daddy Know

Throwing the whole concept of filial piety to the wind, the curiously named music festival Don't Let Daddy Know hits Asia for the first time in September, boasting a super star DJ lineup and Ibiza-style party effects. Get ready to twerk like there's no tomorrow to the likes of Skrillex, The Chainsmokers, Laidback Luke, Sander van Doorn and Sem Vox. Sep 30, 5pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$580-980 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com), \$22,000 for VIP table with 10 tickets, including two bottles of bubbly, VIP bar and lounge access, priority entry and giftpack.



**Edited by Evelyn Lok**  
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#### Secret Island Party

The Secret Island Party is back: In case it isn't obvious enough, the weekend music festival takes place at a secret location on an unknown island. Expect an awesome DJ lineup, camping, interactive art, theater and dance performances, and apparently, fire of some sort. The theme this year? "Folklore, Fables and Fairytales"—so dress in your fanciful best and get ready to do some moonlit frolicking on the beach. Oct 16-18, 12pm. \$750 early bird tickets for all three days from [pelago.co/sip](http://pelago.co/sip).



#### Little Taiwan Calling Festival

The two-day Taiwanese music festival comes to the SAR for its debut run this year. Six artists will be playing across the two days: folk songsters Misi Ke and Ke Zhi-tang (no relation), electronica sounds from Ma Te Lin and Astrobunny, indie pop band Chocolate Tiger, and rock band Flux. What are the chances there'll be Taiwanese street food too? Oct 31-Nov 1, 8pm. Musiczone, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$420-600 [timable.com](http://timable.com). [www.facebook.com/taiwancalling](http://www.facebook.com/taiwancalling).



#### Clockenflap 2015

The SAR's biggest festival is back. The preliminary lineup is stronger than ever, featuring big names The Libertines and Damien Rice, while fans of more twizzly beats can nod to Flying Lotus, Ratatat and Mr Scruff. There's a touch of soul via the Earth Wind & Fire Experience and singer-songwriters Crowd Lu and Rachael Yamagata. Early bird tickets are now on sale (\$1,280 for a three-day pass, from [www.clockenflap.com/tickets](http://www.clockenflap.com/tickets)), but you'll have to contain your excitement for another two months... Nov 27-29. West Kowloon Cultural District, West Kowloon. \$680-1,940 from [www.clockenflap.com](http://www.clockenflap.com).

#### Concerts

##### Bon Jovi in Macau

Love classic tunes like "Livin' On a Prayer" and "It's My Life"? See US rock legends Bon Jovi live at the Venetian's Cotai Arena in September. It'll be just like standing outside Stormies in LKF, only actually live. Sep 25-26, 8pm. CotaiArena, The Venetian. \$580-3,688 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com).



#### Muse

Brit-rockers Muse have been around since 1994, making them one of the most successful, most consistent rock bands in the world. Bellamy and co. always rock their live shows, so this gig will be one to watch. Sep 29, 8pm. AsiaWorld-Arena, Sky Plaza Rd., Chek Lap Kok, 3606-8828. \$780 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com).

#### Big Bang Made World Tour

K-fans must already be gearing up for the big event: Go see T.O.P., G-Dragon, Daesung, Seungri and Taeyang oppas celebrate their comeback as a group this year, following the new release of their latest singles compilation, "Made." Oct 23-24, 8pm. CotaiArena, The Venetian.



#### Nightlife Events



##### Don't Let Daddy Know Official After Party

Follow up the celebrity DJ fest with yet MORE celebrity DJ-ing. An unmissable special guest—who won't be revealed until the night of—is slated to hit the decks, accompanied by rising star DJ Mija. Sep 30, 11pm. Levels, 2/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, 2811-1568. \$550 from [www.eventbrite.hk](http://www.eventbrite.hk), \$680 at the door; VIP ticketholders get free entry.

##### Beertopia

The boozy craft beer fest returns—bigger and better than before and the grand slam end to this year's Hong Kong Beer Week. It's hosted in Central this time around, so Islanders can quit yer whining for once. There'll be more than 500 featured beers from 23 different countries, plus 33 Hong Kong brews. An ample selection of ciders, porters and stouts will also be available. Apart from all the beer, expect standard booze fest food vendors, live music, beer games and even a family-friendly market. Oct 9-10. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$330-550 from [www.beerweek.hk](http://www.beerweek.hk).

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## Love & Mercy ★★★★

(USA) Biopic/Drama. Directed by Bill Pohlad. Starring Paul Dano, John Cusack, Paul Giamatti, Elizabeth Banks. Category IIB. 120 minutes. Opened Sep 24.



The Beach Boys may have faded in comparison to their contemporaries such as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, and the band's sunny, southern California sounds have been accused of lacking depth. But under those pop tunes lies the pervading melancholy and anxieties of its core member Brian Wilson, who later withdrew deep into substance abuse and mental illness. "Love & Mercy" is a biopic that sheds light on the struggles of a man deeply in and out of despair, and provides a much-needed reminder of the band's songcraft in today's world of twerk-worthy tunes.

The film takes us through the evolution of the band, from their days at the forefront of California surf rock to the evolution of a more mature, innovative sound—at the same time tick-tocking between Brian Wilson as a promising young talent (played by Paul Dano) and his middle-aged self (played by John Cusack), a man living under the authoritarian control of therapist Eugene Landy (Paul Giamatti).

The film shows off Brian Wilson's true genius in the studio without any pretension or over-complication: As the band took off in the mid-60s, Brian left behind his simple, fun summery tunes and began working in genres of jazz, doo-wop and even baroque classical, experimenting with eclectic harmonies and



instruments on the way to making the band's "Pet Sounds" album, now considered one of the best of all time. The use of music is of course pivotal here. Ghostly ethereal harmonies replay in Brian's head as he tackles his introverted anxieties and loneliness, while his band and family cease to understand his behavior. And in demonstrating the music of The Beach Boys itself? Paul Dano is no vocal virtuoso, but the energy he conveys as he composes his harmonies is contagious, and he carries Wilson's hopeful and intelligent demeanor across fantastically.

The acting is no less strong in the other characters: Paul Dano and John Cusack are seamless as the younger and older Brian Wilson, with Cusack bringing just a little extra kookiness to his world-weary character. Paul Giamatti is terrifyingly good

as the doctor who famously misdiagnosed and overmedicated Wilson. Elizabeth Banks, who plays Miranda Ledbetter, the model-turned-car-salesman who later became Brian's wife, is genuinely lovely, demonstrating a convincing sense of vulnerability yet also the strength to help him out of his hopeless circumstances.

Named after Brian Wilson's 1988 post-recovery single, "Love & Mercy" firmly reinstates the timeless appeal of The Beach Boys and cements Brian Wilson's status as one of the most respected music makers of the century. But more than that, it's a movie that sensitively describes mental illness and investigates the way that patients were (and perhaps still are) being cared for. If you've ever felt a smidgen of anxiety or self-doubt, Brian Wilson's story will resonate. **Evelyn Lok**

## Coming Soon

### Dark Places

(USA) After the success of last year's book-to-film adaptation of "Gone Girl," Gillian Flynn's second novel "Dark Places" gets its screen time this year. Charlize Theron is Libby Day, a woman who confronts her traumatic memories of seeing her family murdered as she revisits her brother, who was incarcerated for the crime—and who may turn out to be innocent. Opens Oct 1.

### Hong Kong Trilogy:

**Preschooled, Preoccupied, Prepostorous (Hong Kong)** Christopher Doyle's latest work is a three-part movie that weaves in the voices of three generations in Hong Kong: "preschooled" schoolkids, unsatisfied "preoccupied" youth and the "prepostorous" elderly. It's one of the first features to cast a spotlight on the Occupy movement, filming and interviewing those who were involved as it unfolded last year. Opens Sep 28.

### Hotel Transylvania 2

(USA) The sugary monster cartoon is back with this sequel. Dracula (Adam Sandler) is worried that his half-human grandson isn't showing enough of his bloodsucking tendencies, and enlists his spooky friends to put the boy through bloodsucking boot camp to coax the vampire out. Opens Oct 1.



### The Martian

(USA) Calling it: It's "Interstellar" part two as Jessica Chastain and Matt Damon return in this year's much anticipated space drama, based on the 2011 novel by Andy Weir. During a mission on Mars, a team of astronauts leaves Mark Watney (Damon) behind after a fierce storm hits, presuming him dead. Mark must find his own way to survive on scarce supplies, while the team brew up their own mission to bring him back. Opens Oct 1.

### The Transporter Refueled

(France) The fourth in the Luc Besson-penned "Transporter" franchise is here. Jason Statham is replaced by Ed Skrein (who played Daario Naharis in "Game of Thrones") as Frank Martin, a mercenary-turned-messenger who transports parcels for questionable characters. When former prostitute Anna robs a bank and kidnaps Frank's father, Frank is forced to pull all his old mercenary tricks back out of the hat. Opens Oct 1.

### Veteran

(South Korea) In this cop thriller directed by Ryoo Seung-wan ("The Unjust"), a detective follows a longstanding corruption case targeting the third-generation heir to a major conglomerate—only to have him slip between his fingers each time. Opens Oct 1.

## Opening



### The Beauty Inside

(South Korea) Could you fall in love with someone who became someone else every day? Woo-jin suffers from that exact predicament: He transforms every day into a totally different person; a man, a woman, even a foreigner (no! Not a foreigner!). When he falls for a girl at first sight, can he muster up the courage to confess his feelings? And is this what it's like when you get a rhinoplasty in Seoul? Opened Sep 24.



### The Intern

(USA) 70-year-old widower Ben Whittaker (Robert De Niro) rebuffs retirement and decides to intern at an online fashion site, headed by the stressed but sincere Jules Oshin (Anne Hathaway—finally likable again). With director Nancy Meyers ("The Parent Trap," "Something's Gotta Give") taking us through conversations on experience, growing old, trust and marriage, it's a cheesy feel-good flick of the best kind. Opened Sep 24. ★★★★

### Irrational Man

(USA) See review, p.34. Opened Sep 24.

### Love & Mercy

(USA) See review, above. Opened Sep 24.

### Office

(Hong Kong) No Ricky Gervais or Steve Carell for you here. Johnnie To directs this Hong Kong musical dramedy centering on a billion-dollar company getting ready for its IPO. Chow Yun-fat is the chairman about to make good on his promise to make his mistress and CEO (Sylvia Chang) a major shareholder. An entertaining representation (and satire) of corporate culture, if you can look past the distracting swings into Putonghua singing. Opened Sep 24. ★★★





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## Need to Know

AMC Cinema, 2265-8933  
www.amccinemas.com.hk

Golden Harvest Cinema,  
2622-6688  
www.goldenharvest.com

UA Cinema,  
3516-8811  
www.uacinemas.com.hk

The Grand Cinema,  
2196-8170  
www.thegrandcinema.com.hk



**Northern Limit Line**  
**(South Korea)** This real-life story is set during the 2002 World Cup in South Korea. As the country is swept up in football frenzy, the North Korean navy begins to attack, silently encroaching on the Northern Limit Line. It's here where the South's unassuming Chamsuri 357 patrol boat is docked... Opened Sep 24.

## Continuing



**American Ultra**  
**(USA)** Jesse Eisenberg is Mike, a small-town slacker who spends his days getting baked with his girlfriend (Kristen Stewart). But he's actually a top-secret deadly CIA sleeper agent, with skills that he doesn't even know exist. Soon he finds himself the target of a rival program gunning to wipe him out. It's much like a wacky, stoner version of "Bourne." Great fun, but stumbles with maintaining its genre. ★★

### The Assassin

**(Taiwan/China/Hong Kong)** A slow wuxia epic starring Shu Qi as the protagonist of the Tang dynasty tale "Nie Yinniang." And by slow, we mean sloooow: It's full of impossibly beautiful, impossibly long shots, but the story rambles on without much actual assassination. ★★

### Attack on Titan: End of the World

**(Japan)** The second of the two-part, giant-annihilating action epic is here. After the destruction of the protective wall that keeps the human-eating Titans at bay, Eren Jaeger and his team are suddenly ambushed. Will they fail humanity or will they vanquish the damn things once and for all?



**Boychoir**  
**(USA)** Dustin Hoffman, Kathy Bates, and Eddie Izzard (!) manage a prestigious singing academy for young boys. Looks to be a movie celebrating a metaphor for the pre-teen male singing voice: fleeting and gone in the blink of an eye... or is it just Hoffman having another go at the angry offbeat mentor role?

### Everest

**(UK)** A story based on the 1996 Mount Everest disaster, in which eight climbers of two expeditions were caught in a blizzard and perished during their attempts to reach the summit. "Everest" sees two star-studded entourages attempt the same: one led by Jake Gyllenhaal as Scott Fischer, and another by Jason Clarke playing Rob Hall. This ain't gonna end well.

### Guia in Love

**(Macau)** Sam Leong Tak-sam is behind this sweeping (or sappy?) romance set in our sister SAR. Ka-sing and Kai-kwong are two best friends who look back over 45 years of being in love with the same girl. Now Kai-kwong is a powerful Macau tycoon, and they look at the romances of the next generation.



### La Famille Bélier

**(France)** A teenager growing up on a dairy farm, Paula (French "The Voice" semifinalist Louane Emera) plays interpreter between her deaf-mute family and the outside world. One day she finds out she's gifted with an incredible singing voice, and must decide on pursuing her musical dreams in Paris—or staying behind to look after her family. The genuine nature of the story—and Emera's incredible set of pipes—is sure to melt hearts. A feel-good film with plenty of honest (and even rude) laughs. ★★

### Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials

**(USA)** It's the long-awaited sequel to the YA-lit sci-fi thriller. This time, Thomas and his fellow amnesiac "Gladers" who survived the magical maze last time continue the search for why they're all there—all while struggling to survive in the next desolate arena that is the Scorch, a desert wasteland full of hidden dangers.

### P.K.

**(India)** Rajkumar Hirani, who was behind the tear-inducing box office hit "3 Idiots," brings us a lofty comedy of ideas disguised as a benign alien's wacky adventure on Earth, in which the search for a lost gadget becomes a hopeful pilgrimage in search of God. Touching and thought-provoking in parts, but you'll be wading through cheesy Bollywood conventions to get there. ★★

### A Royal Night Out

**(UK)** Ever wondered what princessy debauchery would have been like in 1945? The future Queen Elizabeth and teen Princess Margaret get freaky as they're allowed out on V.E. Day for the night of their lives...

### A Tale of Three Cities

**(China/Hong Kong)** Award-winning director duo Mabel Cheung and Alex Law ("Echoes of the Rainbow") base their latest sweeping period romance on a true story. A war-torn couple (Sean Lau Ching-wan and Tang Wei) struggles to stay alive in Anhui, Shanghai and Hong Kong in the midst of the turbulent 40s.



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## Irrational Man ★★★★

(USA) Drama. Directed by Woody Allen.  
Starring Joaquin Phoenix, Emma Stone, Parker Posey.  
Category IIB. 94 minutes. Opened Sep 24.

A defining feature of a Woody Allen movie is its characters' inherent talent for complaining. Oftentimes it's funny because it's all too close to home. In Allen's latest, there's plenty of complaining to do: It's just all on the audience's side.

Disillusioned philosophy professor Abe Lucas (Joaquin Phoenix, who's developing a bit of a gut, but is otherwise still quite the lady charmer) takes on a summer teaching role at a privileged, predominantly white college. Abe tries to make the most of his work, but he lives a tepid existence teaching, sipping scotch and finding company in his best student (Emma Stone) and fellow faculty member (Parker Posey), both of whom are enamored of him.

But then he overhears a woman's story in a diner: She's losing a custody battle in court because of the corrupt local judge. Abe decides to take morality into his own hands. He's suddenly reenergized by dreaming up ways for the judge to die.

But the whole process that takes us through Abe's moral awakening is dubious. Allen is no stranger to using murder as a plot device, usually as a desperate means to personal ends. But paired with Abe's pretentious name-dropping of Russian literature and Kierkegaard, the loftiness of his reasoning renders it an ungraspable reality—as if the setting and circumstances of exclusive campus life wasn't already enough of a bubble.



Writing characters whose heads are up in the clouds is nothing new to Woody Allen, but his efforts here are formulaic and lackluster. It's no fault of the acting: Joaquin Phoenix, Emma Stone and Parker Posey are all fantastic, but each carefully written word they deliver echoes way too much Woody Allen, not their own characters. Perhaps hardcore fans might rejoice, but all too often the characters simply become mouthpieces for the director's ramblings about lofty ideas of morality and justice and death. "Irrational Man" might as well have been a one-man show, starring Allen himself.

That said, it's not quite unwatchable: The film is redeemed near the end with a tension-filled twist. But it then lets us down by rounding off into a simpering reflection on life. "I can't write, I can't breathe," sighs Abe. "I couldn't remember the reason



for living, and when I did it wasn't convincing." Perhaps this is the biggest joke in this film—because when Abe finally does find his raison d'être, you won't find it convincing either. **Evelyn Lok**

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Photo: Sundance

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## Film Festivals



### Life is Art Film Festival

The Life is Art Film Festival celebrates the diversity of art in everyday life through 12 films. It opened with "Amy," the definitive film on the life of Amy Winehouse. Other highlights include "Steak (R)evolution" about a group of chefs who go in search of the perfect steak; and Juliano Ribeiro Salgado and Wim Wenders' documentary "The Salt of the Earth" about photojournalist Sebastiao Salgado's career. Through Sep 30. Various locations. \$60-170 from [www.movie movie.com.hk/lifeisart](http://www.movie movie.com.hk/lifeisart).

### Sundance Film Festival in Hong Kong

A selection of best picks from this year's Sundance Festival reaches the SAR. Don't miss: "Dope," a coming-of-age flick about a California hoodrat with dreams of Harvard, and "The Witch," a horror about puritanical New England told through the eyes of a teenage girl. Through Sep 27. The Metroplex, G/F, E-Max, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$90 from [www.metroplex.com.hk](http://www.metroplex.com.hk).



### Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

The longest-running LGBTQI film festival in Asia returns. Catch films such as "Freeheld," starring Julianne Moore and Ellen Page as a couple fighting for equal rights in state pension benefits, and "Boulevard," which features Robin Williams' last on-screen role. As is with tradition, there's also bags of international short films categorized into boy, girl or queer topics. Through Oct 10. Various screening locations. Tickets from [www.cinema.com.hk](http://www.cinema.com.hk) and [www.amccinemas.com.hk](http://www.amccinemas.com.hk).

### Chinese Documentary Festival

The eighth iteration of the annual Chinese Documentary Festival returns this September, with screenings of more than 30 works from China, Taiwan, France and Hong Kong. Don't miss Tsang Tsui-shan's "Flowing Stories" (Sep 27), about the notion of home in the lives of Hong Kong indigenous villagers who live abroad. Through Oct 5. Various locations. \$70 from [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk). [www.visiblerecord.com](http://www.visiblerecord.com).

## Special Screenings

### Gooood Secrets Presents:

#### Salty Summer

Charity pop-up event organizers Gooood is putting together a secret movie screening, this time at the Clearwater Bay Film Studios. It's not just any screening: "Salty Summer" will showcase a secret X-rated movie, plus a "sexual fortune-telling game" as well as snacks and craft beer. There's also free goodie bags and a lucky draw by sponsors Sally Coco and Amika. 50 percent of profits will benefit local charity Sticky Rice Love, a platform that encourages Hong Kong youth to be open about sex. Sep 25, 7pm. DD224, Lot 368, Clearwater Bay Rd, Hang Hau. \$150-250 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).

### National Theatre Live:

#### Of Mice and Men

Chris O'Dowd, James Franco and Leighton Meester dream of "living off the fatta' the lan'" in this play based on John Steinbeck's classic Depression-era novel. It was directed last year by Anna D. Shapiro at London's National Theatre: Catch it on screen this month. Sep 26-28, Oct 3, 24, 27, 31. Screenings are at Broadway and AMC Cinemas. \$200 from [www.cinema.com.hk](http://www.cinema.com.hk) and [www.amccinemas.com.hk](http://www.amccinemas.com.hk).



"The Witch" at Sundance Film Festival in Hong Kong

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# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY



**LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22):** "I feel like a wet seed wild in the hot blind earth," wrote author William Faulkner. Some astrologers would say that it's unlikely a Libra would ever say such a thing—that it's too primal a feeling for your refined, dignified tribe; too lush and unruly. But I disagree with that view. Faulkner himself was a Libra! And I am quite sure that you are now or will soon be like a wet seed in the hot blind earth—fierce to sprout and grow with almost feral abandon.

**SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21):** You and I both know that you can heal the sick and raise the dead and turn water into wine—or at least perform the metaphorical equivalent of those magical acts. Especially when the pressure is on, you have the power to attract the help of mysterious forces and unexpected interventions. I love that about you! When people around you are rendered fuzzy and inert by life's puzzling riddles, you are often the best hope for activating constructive responses. According to my analysis of upcoming cosmic trends, these skills will be in high demand during the coming weeks.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21):** Some astrologers regard the planet Saturn as a sour tyrant that cramps our style and squelches our freedom. But here's my hypothesis: Behind Saturn's austere mask is a benevolent teacher and guide. She pressures us to focus and concentrate. She pushes us to harness and discipline our unique gifts. It's true that some people resist these cosmic nudges. They prefer to meander all over the place, trying out roles they're not suited for and indulging in the perverse luxury of neglecting their deepest desires. For them Saturn seems like a dour taskmaster, spoiling their lazy fun. I trust that you Sagittarians will develop a dynamic relationship with Saturn as she cruises through your sign for the next 26 months. With her help, you can deepen your devotion to your life's most crucial goals.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19):** The coming weeks will be a favorable time to break a spell you've been under, or shatter an illusion you have been caught up in, or burst free from a trance you have felt powerless to escape. If you are moved to seek help from a shaman, witch, or therapist, please do so. But I bet you could accomplish the feat all by yourself. Trust your hunches! Here's one approach you could try: Tap into both your primal anger and your primal joy. In your mind's eye, envision situations that tempt you to hate life and envision situations that inspire you love life. With this volatile blend as your fuel, you can explode the hold of the spell, illusion, or trance.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18):** "Go to the edge of the cliff and jump off. Build your wings on the way down." So advised author Ray Bradbury. That strategy is too nerve-wracking for a cautious person like me. I prefer to meticulously build and thoroughly test my wings before trying a quantum leap. But I have observed that Aquarius is one of the three signs of the zodiac most likely to succeed with this approach. And according to my astrological calculations, the coming weeks will be a time when your talent for building robust wings in mid-air will be even more effective than usual.

**PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20):** You are being tempted to make deeper commitments and to give more of yourself. Should you? Is it in your interests to mingle your destiny more thoroughly with the destinies of others? Will you benefit from trying to cultivate more engaged forms of intimacy? As is true for most big questions, there are no neat, simple answers. Exploring stronger connections would ultimately be both messy and rewarding. Here's an inquiry that might bring clarity as you ponder the possibility of merging your fortunes more closely with allies or potential allies: Will deeper commitments with them inspire you to love yourself dearly, treat yourself with impeccable kindness, and be a superb ally to yourself?

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19):** You are destined to become a master of fire. It's your birthright to become skilled in the arts of kindling and warming and illuminating and energizing. Eventually you

**HOMEWORK:** Formulate your game plan for hunting down happiness during the last three months of 2015. [FreeWillAstrology.com](http://FreeWillAstrology.com)

will develop a fine knack for knowing when it's appropriate to turn the heat up high, and when it's right to simmer with a slow, steady glow. You will wield your flames with discernment and compassion, rarely or never with prideful rage. You will have a special power to accomplish creative destruction and avoid harmful destruction. I'm pleased at the progress you are making toward these noble goals, but there's room for improvement. During the next eight weeks, you can speed up your evolution.

**TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20):** Taurus-born physicist Wolfgang Pauli won a Nobel Prize for his research. His accomplishment? The Nobel Committee said he discovered "a new law of nature," and named it after him: the Pauli Principle. And yet when he was a younger man, he testified, "Physics is much too difficult for me and I wish I were a film comedian or something like that and that I had never heard anything about physics!" I imagine you might now be feeling a comparable frustration about something for which you have substantial potential, Taurus. In the spirit of Pauli's perseverance, I urge you to keep at it.

**GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20):** In 1921, the French city of Biarritz hosted an international kissing contest. After evaluating the participants' efforts, the panel of judges declared that Spanish kisses were "vampiric," while those of Italians were "burning," English were "tepid," Russians were "eruptive," French were "chaste," and Americans were "flaccid." Whatever nationality you are, Gemini, I hope you will eschew those paradigms—and all other paradigms, as well. Now is an excellent time to experiment with and hone your own unique style of kissing. I'm tempted to suggest that you raise your levels of tenderness and wildness, but I'd rather you ignore all advice and trust your intuition.

**CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22):** The astrological omens suggest you could get caught up in dreaming about what might have been. I'm afraid you might cling to outworn traditions and resuscitate wistful wishes that have little relevance for the future. You may even be tempted to wander through the labyrinth of your memories, hoping to steep yourself in old feelings that weren't even good medicine for you when you first experienced them. But I hope you will override these inclinations, and instead act on the aphorism, "If you don't study the past, you will probably repeat it." Right now, the best reason to remember the old days is to rebel against them and prevent them from draining your energy.

**LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22):** You may laugh more in the next fourteen days than you have during any comparable fourteen-day period since you were five years old. At least I hope you will. It will be the best possible tonic for your physical and mental health. Even more than usual, laughter has the power to heal your wounds, alert you to secrets hiding in plain sight, and awaken your dormant potentials. Luckily, I suspect that life will conspire to bring about this happy development. A steady stream of antics and whimsies and amusing paradoxes is headed your way. Be alert for the opportunities.

**VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22):** It's a favorable time to fantasize about how to suck more cash into your life. You have entered a phase when economic mojo is easier to conjure than usual. Are you ready to engage in some practical measures to take advantage of the cosmic trend? And by that I don't mean playing the lottery or stealing strangers' wallets or scanning the sidewalk for fallen money as you stroll. Get intensely real and serious about enhancing your financial fortunes. What are three specific ways you're ignorant about getting and handling money? Educate yourself.

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## SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I'm a 26-year-old single bi woman. Sometimes my roommate/best friend and I have drunken threesomes with men. We've had some great one-night stands (less scary with a friend!), but recently we slept with a man I've been (drunkenly) sleeping with over a period of months, my "friend with benefits." I shared my FWB with my roommate because she wanted to have sex, and I shared my roommate with my FWB because he wanted to experience a threesome. I told my roommate afterward that I wouldn't like it if she slept with my FWB on her own, and I told my FWB that we should have discussed having a threesome before it happened. We went out drinking another night, I left early, and they wound up sleeping together. I was upset with my roommate, because she knew how I felt. But I am disgusted and angry with my FWB because he had to "work" to convince my roommate to get her into bed. I have forgiven my roommate—she says she is mad at herself and at him—but it's hard to blame these two friends for hurting me because people make mistakes when they're drunk. Still, this whole ordeal has made me reconsider my friendship with my FWB. He thinks we're just friends, but I have now realized that I have deeper feelings for him. I feel very close to him, and we do a lot of fun things together. I've been pretty open with him about my feelings, but he hasn't shared how he feels. Can I continue being friends with my FWB? Or do I need to break off my friendship with my FWB because I actually want something more with him? What can my FWB do to mend this? What can I do?

– Best Friend Fucker

I had to read your letter three times to figure out who did what—and I had to shorten it considerably (and edit for clarity)—and honestly, BFF, I'm still a little fuzzy on the violations. But I think it goes like this: You asked your roommate not to fuck your FWB in your absence despite having already invited her to fuck him in your presence and your roommate went ahead and fucked your FWB anyway (violation #1), and you told your FWB that a threesome with your roommate without prior discussion was a misdemeanor so he should've known that initiating a twosome with your roommate would be a felony but he went ahead and twosomed the shit out of your roommate anyway (violation #2).

Taking your questions one at a time: Can you continue being friends with your FWB? That depends on what your roommate means by "work." If she means your FWB overcame her initial reluctance to fuck him solo with some flirty talk and assurances that you wouldn't mind, then, yeah, you can continue to be friends with your FWB. People have managed to salvage friendships out of relationships that imploded much more spectacularly, BFF. If someone can get past an infidelity or a betrayal or a child conceived with a piece-on-the-side and remain on friendly terms with their cheating, lying, breeding ex, you should be able to work through this. But if what your roommate means by "work" is that your FWB coerced her into having sex, you shouldn't want to salvage a friendship with that rapey POS.

Do you need to break off your friendship with your FWB because you've realized you want something more from him, i.e., a committed relationship? Someone in a FWB arrangement wanting to be more than friends—boyfriend or girlfriend or nonbinaryfriend—is the leading cause of death for FWB arrangements. And while normally the friend who wants to keep things

casual is the one who ends the arrangement, BFF, if you want more and you know he can't give it to you, or if you fear you can't trust him around current and future roommates, then feel free to end it. But if you really like him—despite the violation and, emphasizing this again, only if the "work" he did on your roommate wasn't coercive or rapey—then go ahead and ask him to upgrade your FWB arrangement to GF/BF relationship.

What can your FWB do to mend this? He can apologize to you and your roommate and toss his dick around more considerately in the future.

What can you do? You can try to see this for what it was: Two people who'd already fucked—two people who fucked in front of you at your invitation—got drunk and fucked again. You can choose to see that encounter as a violation that requires drastic retaliatory measures (friendships ended, leases broken), BFF, or you can choose to see it as the messy denouement of an ill-advised/rushed threesome that you set in motion.

**What does it mean when you find a pair of tit clamps in your "vanilla" boyfriend's dresser?**

– Told Him I'm Not Kinky

It means he's the pope—what the fuck do you think it means? *It means he owns a pair of tit clamps.* It could mean he's slightly less vanilla than he's let on, THINK, or it could mean he has a kinky ex who left a pair of tit clamps behind, or it could mean he got a pair of tit clamps as a dirty Secret Santa gift and isn't phobic about being perceived as even slightly kinky so he tossed them in a drawer without a second thought.

**Straight man, married for 12 years, love my wife very much. We have a great relationship, and I cannot see myself being with anyone else. A few years ago, she came out to me as bisexual. At the time, it hit me harder than I would have expected. Part of the reason was she explained that she often fantasizes about women when we have sex in order to come. She says she is attracted to me and loves our sex life. We have exhausted the topic of bringing someone else into our relationship and recommitted to monogamy. Is it inevitable that she will cheat to satisfy her curiosity? She says she wouldn't, and I have to trust that, but it is always in the back of my head. What do I do?**

– Just One Exception

I can't promise you that your wife won't ever cheat—not because she's bisexual, JOE, but because she's human. Women who are 100 percent straight cheat on their husbands every day; husbands who are 100 percent straight cheat on their wives every day. And while on the one hand, it's unfortunate your wife told you she sometimes has to think about women to get off during sex with you (not everything has to be shared, people), the fact that she trusted you/burdened you with that information says a lot about your relationship.

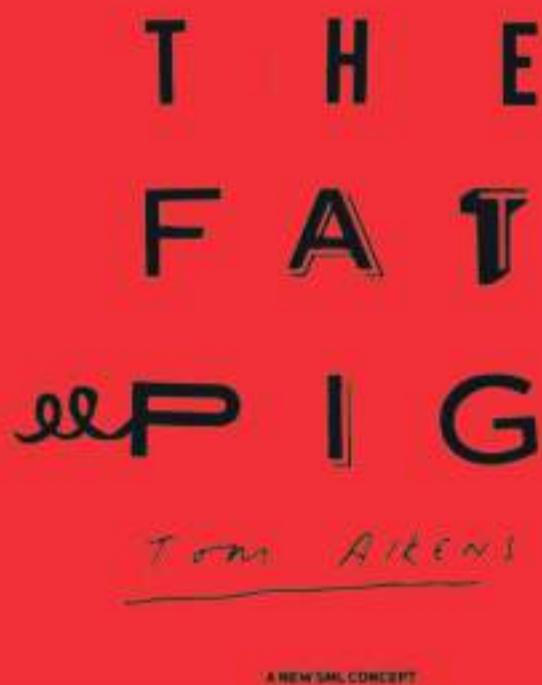
So what do you do? Two things: Continue to put your trust in your wife, while at the same time reassuring yourself that your absolute worst-case scenario—your wife sleeps with a woman—will result in the destruction of your marriage only if you define a single infidelity as a relationship-extinction-level event. A pass to fuck a woman at some point in her life may not be something you can let your wife have, JOE, but it may be something you could let yourself forgive.

On the Lovecast: It's the dick show! Listen at [savagecast.com](http://savagecast.com).

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

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# SPOTLIGHT

The latest news and deals from our partners



Photos: Kirk Kenny / studiogzag.com

## Albania, from Ancient to Modern

As you might expect, Tirana, the capital of Albania, is the country's beating heart. This lively, colorful city is where the hopes and dreams of this tiny Balkan nation come together in an explosion of fun, unashamed consumerism and a vibrant whirl of chaotic traffic.

Albania has witnessed massive changes since the early 1990s, when the country managed to slip the shackles of its communist past. Today Tirana's center is unrecognizable. Its buildings are painted in bright, bold primary colors and wandering through the city's public squares and pedestrianized streets has become a pleasure. It's an experience you won't forget.

The eye-catching grand boulevards are lined with remnants of Albania's checkered past. The Italian, Ottoman and communist influences are there for all to see from delicate minarets to loud socialist murals.

One thing is for sure, Tirana is never dull; it's a unique mix that's definitely worth experiencing first hand.

But no visit to Albania would be complete without paying a visit to Sarandë, where one of the best things to do in the evening is join in the local "passeggiata" which sees people stroll along the promenade. Everyone gets dressed up, so it's a sight worth seeing.

Sarandë is also a good stepping-stone to hit other must-see attractions. Factor in a one-day trip to the ancient city of Butrint, home to the Greek amphitheater, later remodeled by the Romans, the cathedral and the popular Lion Gate.

If you want to take a step back in time, then put the coastal city of Durres on your hit list. The ancient port city dates back to the 7th Century BC and is a wonderful walking, sight-seeing and beach location. In Roman times it was known as Epidamnos, and was a vital port on the trade route that connected Rome with Byzantium.

**Want to win a trip to Albania and the Balkans? Check out HK Giveaways, opposite!**



## Indulge in a Taboo or Two in Macau

At the City of Dreams on Macau's Cotai Strip, there's a secret tucked away inside one of Macau's hottest hubs, Club Cubic.

It's the hour and a half of titillation that is **Taboo**. It's pegged as a cabaret show, as the audience remains seated (most of the time) and the drinks are flowing, but with a fun, sexy and naughty twist. It's a seamless and diverse choreography of dancers, *corde lisse* [aerial rope] performers, back-bending acrobats and more.

What also makes the show so fun is its interactive element. If you're seated up front, you may be lucky enough (or unfortunate enough, if you're shy) to be plucked out of your seat by the show's vivacious singer: What happens next is entirely up to her.

Taboo is a heart-stopper, and not just because of the provocative outfits and positions. The knife throwing from

a charming Brazilian duo is sharp as well as sexy. You're racked with fear as each knife thuds into the board.

While the beat-boxing segment seems like a digression from the otherwise nubile performances in the show, Franco Dragone (known for his work with Cirque du Soleil and Celine Dion) delivers a tantalizing hour and a half of excitement and seduction. It's sexy but not lewd, salacious but always tasteful: The Strip's most exciting show.

Taboo has been running successfully since 2012, and the show is due to be revamped with new elements and performances. Based on its current formula it's looking like the new Taboo will be sexier and more exciting than ever.

**Taboo runs Tue-Sat, 9:30pm at Club Cubic, City of Dreams, Macau. Tickets from \$380 at [cityofdreamsmacau.com](http://cityofdreamsmacau.com).**

# HK GIVEAWAYS

Welcome to HK Magazine's Giveaways and the final week of our Balkans competition! Read below to find out how to enter, if you haven't already.

You've got to be in it to win it, and the competition ends Monday, September 28. Good luck!

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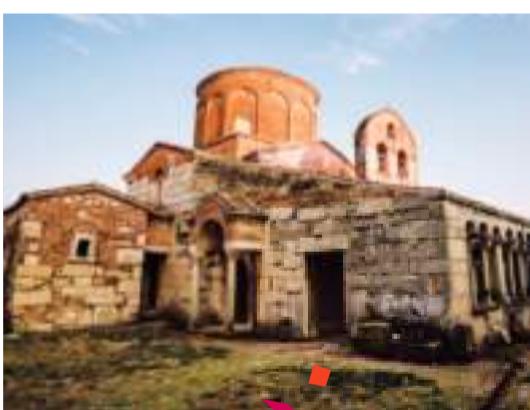


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[hk-magazine.com/travel/article/albanian-escapes](http://hk-magazine.com/travel/article/albanian-escapes)

We've got a **two-week trip for two** to Albania and the Balkans worth more than **\$50,000** to give away, courtesy of GGF Globe Syndicate Limited! Want to win? If you were reading for the last two weeks, you'll have found two *italicized* words on the **Spotlight** page of those issues. Now you have to do the same with this one! Once you've got all three, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about how you feel about Hong Kong. Go to **hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways** to submit your entry before 10am on **September 28, 2015**. The best, most convincing entry will win the top prize. Good luck! Winner will be announced on October 2. Prize is valid for one year from date of prize announcement.



Congrats to the lucky winner of Bon Jovi Tickets!

Congratulations to Ritchie Latham, who claimed two tickets (plus ferry and hotel stay!) to see **Bon Jovi** when they rock the **Cotai Arena at The Venetian Macao** on Sep 25 and 26, 2015.

Commiserations to those who didn't win, but never fear—there's still time to get your tickets!

**Bon Jovi** plays the Cotai Arena at the Venetian Macao today and tomorrow (Sep 25-26), 8pm. Tickets from \$580: 6333-6660, [www.cotaiticketing.com](http://www.cotaiticketing.com).

WE HAVE A WINNER!

# FIRST PERSON

“Just as people jam with songs in a band, we jam with words on paper.”

Cantopop lyricist and humorist Roy Tsui, also known as Lin Rixi, has written songs for Joey Yung, Miriam Yeung, Edison Chen, Fiona Sit and more. He's also the founder of one-sheet magazine Blackpaper and weekly satirical magazine 100 Most. He tells Isabelle Hon about being kicked out of school, getting his songwriting break, and the future of TV.



Photo by: Tony Leung

I grew up in a public housing estate in Tai Wo Hau with my parents, grandparents and auntie.

**My father barely talks.** The only advice he gave me is when I was promoted to a Band One secondary school was: “This is going to be tough.”

**I ignored his advice** and went. I had to repeat the first year.

**My academic results** were never good, so I was kicked out and had to change to another school.

**After a year** I was kicked out again.

**I was never** a bad student, I was just not good academically. I was bad at all the subjects except English.

**Later I took** a 3-year graphic design course.

**One day** I suddenly thought: What's the meaning of this course? What will I do after graduation? I realized how much I sucked.

**I didn't go back** after that day.

**I spent a year** at home afterwards. I read a lot of books and watched lots of movies.

**I watched more** than 300 movies that year. Yes, it was like one movie a day.

**During that period** I also started to study and write lyrics.

**I'm addicted to** writing Cantonese lyrics. It's much more difficult than Putonghua and English.

**Because of the tones**, there is always a standard frame in Cantopop.

**Producing content means** there's a frame that you have to follow: Otherwise, it's art.

**In art**, you can do everything just to express your own feelings. But when you create something interesting within a frame, it's much more satisfying.

**I'd always wanted** to be a lyricist. I tried joining competitions or applying to production companies, but with no luck.

**I joined Commercial Radio** in 2003 as a sound editor. Then I got transferred to a new job. My desk was in front of the big boss [legendary radio personality and mentor] Winnie Yu's office.

**My new job** was coordinating the forums, which was a new thing at the time. It came out especially well. There was lots of interaction on the forum.

**One day**, senior management told me the forum had to close. I was really upset, since I'd spent so much effort on it.

**As they were** paying the DJs so much, they thought the DJs shouldn't be criticized.

**The next day** I stopped Winnie Yu and told her that the forum shouldn't be closed. I was a nobody at that time but I just wanted to express how I felt.

**She asked me** to step into her office.

**She didn't talk to me**, and made some phone calls. Three minutes later, all the upper management at Commercial Radio walked into the room, and sat around me to have a meeting. The forum was saved.

**After I talked** to Winnie, I thought it would be a great chance to show her my lyrics.

**I took my** 20 best lyrics, asked a friend to sing a demo, printed out the lyrics and put them on her desk.

**A few weeks later**, she asked me to write 10 more. After that, all the upper ranks came to the office to have a meeting, again.

**She didn't directly** help me, but [legendary lyricist] Lin Xi was also in the meeting. My career path changed from clerk to production.

**Between the ages** of 23 and 31, I changed my job once every few months.

**When I became** upper management in [creative training initiative] Skyhigh Creative Partners, I started to think of doing a side project with [Commercial Radio DJs] Ah Bu and Chan Keung.

**Who said a magazine** must be a book? We started to sell Blackpaper, a magazine that was a sheet of paper, for \$1 in 7-Eleven.

**Just as people** jam with songs in a band, we jam with words on paper.

**We didn't earn** much money at first, but found more people to collaborate with.

**As Blackpaper** was quite dark and criticized society, we wanted to have another magazine which was just for fun, to make people laugh. So we started 100Most.

**100Most** is localized, precise and funny, which has gained lots of support from teenagers.

**Nowadays teenagers** don't watch TV anymore. And there's also a large number who feel ashamed of watching TV.

**When they tell** someone that they watched something on TV, they tend to say “when I was in a cha chaan teng, I saw...”, “my mum turned on the TV so I saw...”

**Why do they need** to give that context? It shows that the TV industry has brought a negative image to teenagers and they subconsciously feel shame when watching.

**I thought we should** do something fun with this. So this year we started our TV website, TV Most.

**We wanted** to redefine the local media scene. A single sheet of paper could be a magazine, so why must TV be on TV?

**I don't know** too much about music. I only played the recorder and triangle in school.

**If you are passionate** about something, then you will do it anyway—it's a natural process.

**In truth**, I am a quiet person. I don't talk much.



NEED TO KNOW...

Roy Tsui took his pen name Lin Rixi from the legendary lyricist Lin Xi and is known for songs such as Siufay's "Time Machine." His newest project, TV Most, features satirical videos all about Hong Kong life.

[www.tvmost.com.hk](http://www.tvmost.com.hk)

# LE COMPTOIR

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One restaurant at a time, Le Comptoir is redefining the ultimate restaurant experience. We are a fast growing F&B group with four restaurants currently in Hong Kong – Bibo, which brought together the worlds of contemporary art and French fine dining; Hotshot, a California-style beach restaurant; contemporary Balinese cuisine at TRi; and The Ocean, a spectacular new seafood restaurant featuring state-of-the-art design. We are seeking motivated, dynamic individuals with fun and energetic personalities to join our team. A passion for the F&B industry and a positive attitude are essential.

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- Assistant Manager   • Supervisor   • Captain

## BACK OF THE HOUSE

- Comis/Cook   • Chef de Partie   • Demi chef de Partie   • Sous Chef
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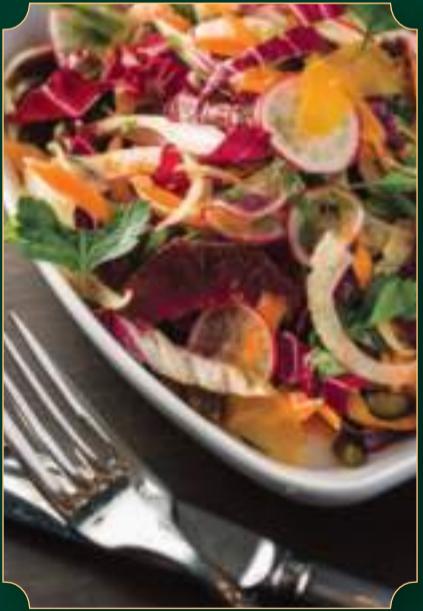
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