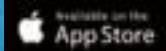


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The White Elephant Circus

The wasteful projects draining your cash

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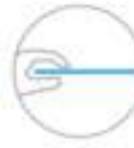
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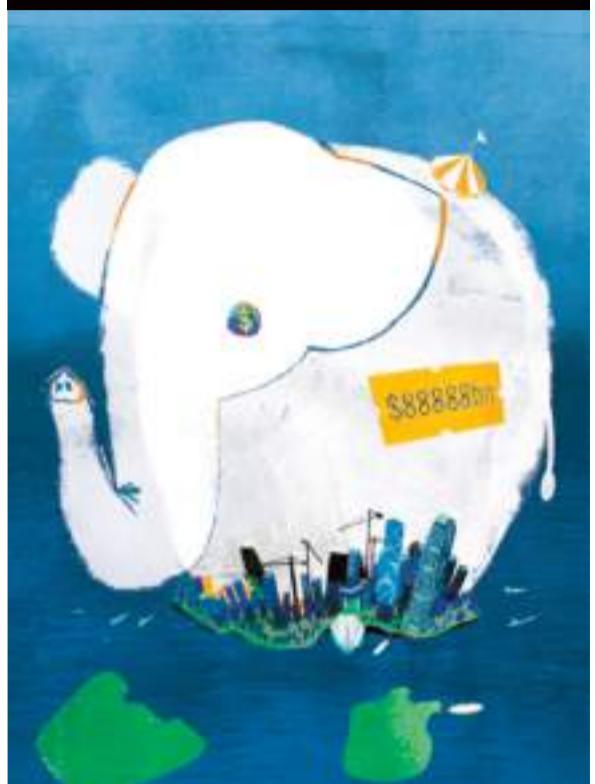
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GIVEAWAYS
We have the winner
of a three-night
suite stay at the
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Think of the Men!

Last week the Equal Opportunities Commission helped a man take a bar in Mong Kok to court, on the grounds that their ladies' night was discriminatory against men. It won, and the plaintiff is currently considering how much to claim in damages due to emotional distress.

Maybe, in some literal sense, the ladies' night really is discriminatory against men. After all, it's only on every single day except for ladies' night that men get better treatment in society. But if the EOC thinks it's worth the fight, then we're right here alongside it. After all: **WHAT ABOUT THE MEN?**

Take the city's nail salons, its hairdressers and its waxing salons. They're full of special deals for women but you've got to ask: **WHAT ABOUT THE MEN?** Don't men also need to get their nails manicured, their hair done and their pubic regions depilated? It's ridiculous to gender these services and we fully expect the EOC to be briefing its lawyers as we speak.

Hong Kong's gynecologists have an exclusively female-only clientele. Hey, hang on a second. **WHAT ABOUT THE MEN?** It's ridiculous that men should be unable to see doctors who specialize in female reproductive health and anatomy. EOC, why aren't you looking into this? Have you been scared off by the politically correct lobby?

Men earn considerably more than women in Hong Kong—on average, \$2,500 more per month. You might think guys have

the sweeter deal there. But **WHAT ABOUT THE MEN???** Sure, they make more money. But then they have to spend that cash on stuff like houses for their mistresses in Shenzhen. It's just not fair and it's just not right. We fully expect the EOC to be investigating this flagrant discrimination.

Bathrooms are a clear-cut case of discrimination. Men's toilets feature urinals and cubicles, whereas women's toilets have cubicles exclusively. So **WHAT ABOUT THE MEN????** You might think that this makes sense based on human anatomy but it doesn't. Some men are pee-shy and have to wait for a free cubicle, making urinals plainly discriminatory. EOC, time to put on those legal briefs.

CY Leung was in court this week to testify at the trial of Raymond "Mad Dog" Wong Yuk-man, who has been charged with assaulting the Chief Executive with a glass of water. But **WHAT ABOUT THE MEN?????** If CY Leung had been a man instead of a harbinger of the end times incarnated in human flesh, we'd all be treating this case pretty differently, wouldn't we? Classic discrimination. EOC, you'd better be on the case right now.

Who's in charge?

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HOME



Mr. Know-It-All's

— Guide to Life —

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

I don't get what the deal is with all this Panama Papers offshore banking stuff. Can you explain? — Bunker Bob

Think of it like this: Little Winson lives in Central. He's been a good hard-working boy, and so he's cleared a full \$1,000 in lai see from family members and friends over Chinese New Year. But he knows that if he tells his parents about his haul, he'd be forced to share some of the cash with his family.

So he goes to his good friend Kelvin Fonseca and says: "I have \$1,000 and I'd much rather I didn't have to share it with my family. What can I do?"

Kelvin says, "I have this friend who lives in Yuen Long. Give me your \$1,000 and he'll hang on to it. You can give me \$10 for the MTR fare up there, and an extra \$5 for my time."

And so all is well. Winson's cash is squirrelled away in Yuen Long, he can bring it back to the island if he wants to go for a bowl of wonton noodles, and his family's none the wiser. Has Winson broken the law? Certainly not. Is he morally questionable? That depends on if you think the family deserves to share in Winson's good fortune—or, of course, if Winson's planning on running for public office some day.

Of course, there's another possible scenario: Winson got the money by swiping stacks of lai see when his family wasn't looking, and he needs to hide his ill-gotten gains. In which case that friend in Yuen Long is looking like a pretty good bet to stash the loot. Has Winson broken the law? You betcha.

Hong Kong has a long association with offshore banking, and what some might call Hong Kong's "business-friendly" approach is what others might call "nontransparent," depending on which side of the tax coin you're on. The city

itself isn't a tax haven as such, but it built its reputation as the world's freest economy (you don't pay a maximum 15 percent salaries tax and 16.5 percent companies tax because of excessive government intervention, do you?).

It's incredibly easy to register a company here—unlike the similarly positioned Singapore, you don't even need a director who's a resident in the territory—and there's a critical mass of support services to help out with whatever you want to do, as well as a robust legal system that'll cover you if you did everything by the book. And of course, that magic formula: in Hong Kong you're not taxed on offshore earnings.

So it's no wonder the Panama Papers reveal that Hong Kong branch of Mossack Fonseca was its busiest, and the city's home to the most intermediaries—lawyers, banks, accountants—of any of the company's dealings. Between Hong Kong billionaires and China nobility looking to get in on that sweet, sweet offshore action, there's little surprise that the firm flourished here. As the saying might go, you can't take it with you... but you can make damned sure the government doesn't get its hands on it, either.



Photo: Dustin Shum/SCMP

No, not that kind of offshore



This week in My Perfect HK:

Environmental group The Nature Conservancy has teamed up with 24 Hong Kong restaurants across town to launch the **Step Up to the Plate** campaign this month, aimed at raising awareness of environmental conservation efforts in Asia. The participating restos will be asking for donations at the end of your meal—as little as \$1 or as much as you want, and restaurants can also choose to match your contribution. Proceeds go towards programs including the rainforest protection in Indonesia and tree planting in China. Check out the full list of participating outlets at tnc.org.hk/step-up-to-the-plate

Letters

"WOW the progress in this city really sweeps me off my feet sometimes."

Time and Time Again

Readers reflect on our Hongkabulary "Hong Kong Time" (April 15, issue 1141): Running at least 20-60 minutes later than the rest of the world.

If people didn't wait for them people would stop being late
Howard Sheard

Unless you are a domestic helper. Then if you are late you will get fired
Ione Smith

China time is three times that
James Chou

Better late than never!!!
Hatty Doherty

The Men Are All Right

Responses on Facebook to our article on the EOC's lawsuit against a bar for running ladies' night (see p. 14 for more):

I've totally enjoyed ladies' night plenty in the past, and I feel bad for the bars that are probably gonna lose lots of \$\$\$ now but LOL R U SRS the only discriminating factor is the whole concept of getting women inebriated cheap and fast in order to lure in male customers. If you wanna encourage equal

opportunities, fine, but I'm not gonna sit back and accept that our laws can change based on one whiny man's complaint about how he's not being INCWUDED IN THE CLUB WEH well guess what, there is already your very own club out there for you, and it's called every other goddamn day of your life. WOW the progress in this city really sweeps me off my feet sometimes.
Kat Weiss

Glad to see the EOC is focusing on the issues that really matter.
Alethea Jane

Sigh Me a Rivers

A reader is inspired by our interview with actor Gregory Charles Rivers ("First Person," April 15, issue 1141), who rose to fame at TVB and recently went viral thanks to 100Most:

Such a wonderful (and personally inspirational) story. My take away is his unwavering love of Hong Kong and his commitment to be here through thick and thin. This is something I deeply admire, and makes me feel like he and I are kindred spirits. I don't think I'll ever be in the public eye like he has been (I love his 100毛 performances, and I'm currently watching a TVB series from the late 80s that he has a part in), but that's okay. I'd rather impact people personally, one-on-one.
Gray Carper

#PrivateEyeHK



Mirror, Mirror

Photo by Simon Hui (Instagram: @simon_hui)

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



Wednesday 4/27 Swan Song

After their 2012 tour of "The Nutcracker," the Imperial Ice Stars are back in Hong Kong with another performance of a Tchaikovsky classic. **Swan Lake On Ice** features breathtaking aerial gymnastics, flying sequences, and even pyrotechnics—on ice, natch. Catch the opening performance today (7:45pm). **Apr 27-May 8, various times.** Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre. 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$345-945 from urbtix.hk

Friday 4/22

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

If you haven't seen "**It's Already Tomorrow in Hong Kong**," the indie romance flick about two strangers (Bryan Greenberg and Jamie Chung) who wind their way around Lan Kwai Fong and Central waxing poetic about life, romance and careers, here's your last chance to catch it on the big screen—soon there'll be no more tomorrows left. **Through Apr 25, various times.** AMC Pacific Place, One Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty. \$110 at amccinemas.com.hk

Saturday 4/23

Pop Up, Pop Out

After four months at their Causeway Bay location, super-soft apparel basics store **Grana** is closing up shop and heading back to their flagship store the way they came: with a pop and a party. Join them for drinks and snacks, and take advantage of a major warehouse sale too. You'll spot them by the balloons outside their doors. **6:30pm. 10 Pak Sha Rd., Causeway Bay, grana.com**

Sunday 4/24

Tip the Street Cleaners

The good folks of LKF are delivering some affordable, delicious, and portable calories to metabolize as you continue to drench your insides with booze. This weekend's **LKF Street Food Festival** is a culinary carnival that encompasses 50 stalls and food trucks, ranging from local to international street food of all kinds. **Apr 23-24, 1-10pm. Lan Kwai Fong, Central.** Admission free, \$188 for a voucher passport from ticketflap.com/lkfstreetfoodvoucherpassport, \$220 from participating outlets.

Monday 4/25

Farm Fresh

Organics purveyor, restaurateur and general eco-inclined gadabout Todd Darling and executive chef Vinny Lauria of Linguini Fini are pulling out all the stops for a **special tasting menu** chock full of local organic veggies for one night only. **Linguini Fini, 49 Elgin St., Central.** \$450 + 10 percent, reserve at 2387-6338.

Tuesday 4/26

Just What the Swami Ordered

As far as self-care goes, you can't catch a healthier day than at **Yoga Under the Stars** at the Cordis Hong Kong. The ticket includes a day at their sumptuous spa facilities, including onsen bath and gym, an outdoor rooftop yoga session with instructors from Aum Yoga, and a vegetarian dinner at hotel restaurant Alibi. **7pm. Cordis Hong Kong, 41/F, 55 Shanghai St., Mong Kok.** \$500 from ticketflap.com/yogaunderthestars

Thursday 4/28

All About the Monet

Monet's famous lily pads are pretty to look at, but knowing the history behind the work gives you a deeper appreciation for the father of Impressionism. **Duddell's Art Talk** brings together Bruno Girveau, director of the Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille and curator of the city's ongoing Monet exhibition, and Greg Thomas, professor of Art History at the University of Hong Kong, to discuss the artist. **5:30-6:30pm. 3/F, Shanghai Tang Mansion, 1 Duddell St., Central.** Free, RSVP at programs@duddells.co

Friday 4/29

Connecting Communities

Amnesty International and HK Community Connect bring together some of the city's top human rights defenders as well as refugees and asylum speakers themselves, to discuss how the city—and the world—deals with the refugee crisis. There'll also be a screening of a virtual tour of Syria. **7-9:30pm. Orange Peel, 2/F Ho Lee Commercial Building, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central,** tiny.cc/hk-refugeeamnesty



Saturday 4/30

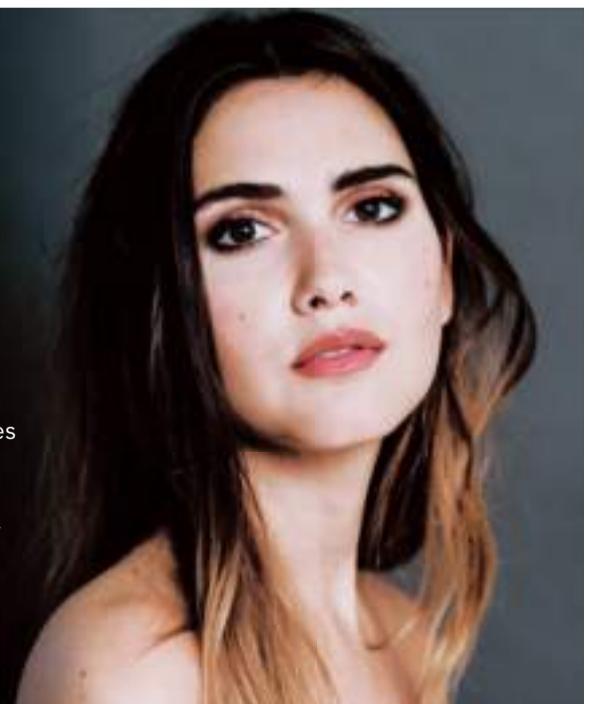
May Pourquoi Pas?

The French are coming, and they've been kind enough to bring with them their wine, music, cheese and artistic talents. For an early taste of May, check out the **Le French May Opening Ceremony** in the courtyard of PMQ, which will be redesigned to look like... a French village? **Through May 2, 10am-7pm. PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central.**



Internet Girl

French singer-songwriter **Joyce Jonathan** may have started tinkering around with a piano and guitar at home, but aged just 16 her MySpace account caught the attention of the world. Since then, her heart-rending folk and upbeat pop tunes have won her a platinum-certified album and a whole bagful of music awards. Following the release of her third album, "Une Place pour Moi," she'll be playing at the Vine Center in June. **Jun 7, 8pm. The Vine Center, 29 Burrows St., Wan Chai.** \$380-580 from ticketflap.com/joycejonathanlive



Last Week In Reality

Illustrations: Joyce Kwok

SAT 9

Masked Stranger A photo of a female passenger doing a facial on the MTR goes viral. She is standing with her head tilted back to prevent her sheet mask from sliding off her face. One netizen wonders if this is how she avoids being recognized in public, while another says he'll be dyeing his hair the next time he's on the MTR.



SUN 10

Border Control A photo uploaded to Facebook shows around 30 water dispenser refills lined up around a parking space, forming a large, rectangular border. Netizens wonder if this is yet another method of saving a parking space: Over the past month, two people had been seen online occupying empty parking lots to save them for incoming vehicles.

MON 11

Calls of Nature A woman walks to a corner of Sha Tin station on the East Rail Line and squats to urinate. She then gets back up and walks towards the platform while zipping up. Meanwhile, in Mong Kok, a man is captured on video urinating onto Nathan Road, into the path of passing motorists. A netizen wonders if he is just marking his territory.

TUE 12

Persistent Pestering At the Tuen Mun Magistracy, a judge hands down a one-year probation sentence to a single mother of two for harassing her Chinese medicine course lecturer, a married man. For nearly four years, the woman had repeatedly called her lecturer to ask if he'd ever loved her. At the peak of the harassment, the woman rang him a hundred times a day, finally prompting the man to file a police report. As part of her sentence, the woman is required to undergo psychological counselling.

WED 13

Patriarchal Victory A man wins a court case against a nightclub for sexual discrimination. With the help of the Equal Opportunities Commission, he had sued the nightclub for charging him higher entrance fees on Ladies' Night. His lawyer tells the court the man will be seeking compensation from the nightclub for the emotional distress he has endured. Find out more on p.14.



THU 14

Pleading Your Case A man gets on his knees at Sheung Shui MTR station to beg staff to let him through the gate. It appears that a staff member prevented the man from entering the gate because he was carrying a large suitcase. The man pleads with the staff, but they are unmoved and he is led away.



FRI 15

Extra Baggage A man pleads guilty to stealing the belongings of four female flight attendants from the luggage racks of buses. He stole their uniforms, high heels, makeup and thermos mugs, altogether worth more than \$8,300. The court hears that since the man broke up with his flight attendant fiancée a few years ago, he had started collecting the uniforms of flight attendants. The case has been adjourned to the end of this month.

Quote of the Week

"The Court of Final Appeal very clearly set out the limitation on freedom of expression, so you cannot exceed the limitation. Otherwise, it's [a] crime."

Wang Zhenmin, Head of the Law Department at the Hong Kong Liaison Office of the Central People's Government, uses the Court of Final Appeal's 1999 judgement on the desecration of the national flag to illustrate how talk of Hong Kong's independence goes against the Basic Law.

Talking Points

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

Toxic Water Comin' At 'Cha

A waste water treatment plant in Tuen Mun has allegedly been **discharging polluted water into the sea**. According to the plant's contract with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), contaminated waste water must be treated at **1,000 degrees Celsius to burn off toxic gas** before it is discharged. Earlier in January, two employees of the plant filed a complaint with the EPD, alleging that **management had told them to lower the temperature as low as 725 degrees**. The company managing the plant was fined by the EPD, but the two workers were also dismissed. After sampling water in the area, the EPD said they found nothing unusual, although the Labour Party says that **their tests have found otherwise**. Investigations are underway.

Our take: Smells fishy. Or gassy, perhaps...

Trouble in the Magic Kingdom

Almost 100 employees have been laid off by Hong Kong Disneyland, after the **House of Mouse reported a loss of \$148 million last year**. The loss is a first since 2012, when the theme park started turning a profit after its 2005 opening. **Official figures show a 20.5 percent decline in visitor numbers in February** compared with the same period last year. Blaming the drop in visitors on political unrest in Hong Kong and a weakening Chinese economy, analysts say the **much larger Shanghai Disneyland, which will open in June, could also mean fewer mainland Chinese visitors** for Hong Kong Disneyland.

Our take: Ocean Park—it's your time to shine.



Illustration: Elaine Tang

Street Talk

It's back to basics for 34-year-old **Mok Ho-kwong**, a.k.a. "Yeah Man": He collects water from a stream next to his Yuen Long countryside home and hasn't used toilet paper in 12 years—all in the name of environmental protection. The founder of educational social enterprise Natural Network tells Stephanie Tsui about what it means to be a "wild man" living in the 21st century.



HK Magazine: You go by "Ye Yan" in Cantonese, which translates to "Wild Man"—why?

Yeah Man: I want others to know that I've chosen a life that's different from your average urban dweller. For example, my wife and I do our laundry by hand. We use baking soda instead of clothes detergent, and tea seed powder to do our dishes and wash our hair. We brush our teeth with salt and use only plain water to shower. And instead of using toilet paper, I use a glass of water to clean myself!

HK: Wow! So you're fully out of society?

YM: Being eco-conscious is about choosing what's best for the environment, not abstaining from consumption. I still use electricity for my computer, fridge, fan and lights. I do shop, mostly for food, but I try to choose items with minimal packaging, or buy from small shops or the market.

HK: Have you always been an environmentalist?

YM: I became vegetarian in 2003 because it's better for the environment. Then in 2006, after I graduated from the University of Hong Kong, I moved to live in a natural environment because it's perhaps the most eco-friendly way of living. Now, I live in Yuen Long, right by a stream, where I get my water. I also farm vegetables for my own consumption. I may be "wild," but I don't deliberately distance myself from society. In fact, I think it's important to integrate into society to pass on my message. I want people to know that environmentalists are approachable!

HK: But what do your critics say?

YM: Some tell me it's pointless if I'm the only one living such a lifestyle. Some tell me not to eat at all because it will save more resources! Then there are those who are genuinely curious. They ask things like, "Isn't burning wood for cooking destroying the environment too?" The thing is, using gas and electricity also damages

the environment, but you don't see the immediate effects. Besides, I use waste wood. Even my parents didn't support me at first. They thought it was a waste of my education when I graduated from university and decided to form my own educational social enterprise. Three years on, they began to change their minds. People have told me to find a better job, but my role as an educator is the perfect way for me to give back to society. It isn't always about money—although for the first few years I didn't make any money as an environmental educator, so I did what university students do best: tutoring.

HK: Do you earn enough now, then?

YM: Happiness isn't about consumption. The tiles on my floor are of different patterns because I use the ones people throw out. Most of the things I have at home are stuff that people threw out. You see, I minimize my dependence on money. I don't consume a lot, so naturally I have less waste: I can go six months without emptying a small rubbish bin. I won't travel somewhere just to have a good time. I will do so if it's for a good cause—I recently flew to Taiwan to learn how to build a stove. That was the first time I'd boarded a plane since university!

HK: Have you ever considered leaving Hong Kong for good?

YM: I was born here, so I feel like even if the environment isn't how I'd like it to be, leaving isn't an option because I feel responsible for shaping my own environment. I don't know for how long I can keep this up. Maybe at some point, my decisions will change, but it's all about making choices. As an expectant dad, I'm not worried if my child will question our lifestyle choice—but we'll let our child decide their own path.

City life getting you down? Go wild with Yeah Man by checking out his tours and courses at facebook.com/naturalnetwork

Blowing Water

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

baau1 yi6 naai5
包二奶

"WRAP TWO MILK"

"Keep a mistress." *Siu naai naai* (少奶奶) "little milk," is a young wife—so a mistress is *yi naai*—"second wife."

HongKabulary



Carriage Clothesline (kærɪdʒ kləʊθslайн), v.

To barge into people flooding through the MTR doors when you're trying to get off, just to make a point.

"I Carriage Clotheslined that entire family when they tried to rush onto the train as I was getting off."



The Three-Runway System, Hong Kong International Airport

\$141.5 billion

The Dream: A third runway at the airport to meet the capacity for future air traffic growth.

The Reality: This is a contentious issue that's already costing considerably more than the original 2011 price tag of \$136.2 billion. There's some debate about whether it will serve its purpose, since the biggest problem is actually a lack of airspace—the skies of the Pearl River Delta are congested, and the Chinese military controls the allocation of mainland airspace. Aviation officials from Hong Kong, Guangdong Shenzhen and Macau have yet to arrive at a solution to these congestion problems, which have caused delays and greater fuel costs, as well as the inability to maximize runway usage. On top of that, the project is set to destroy the habitat of Hong Kong's



endangered Chinese White Dolphins. Among some 250 mitigation measures formulated against this rise is the construction of a marine park near Chek Lap Kok, set to be built after the third runway is completed in 2023. These measures will cost taxpayers even more money... maybe we'll have to get to that later.

The Critics Say: "The worst part is Hongkongers are forced to pay extra charges at the airport even if they don't support the project." **Roy Tam**, president, Green Sense.

How We'd Spend It: Feeding all 66 million of the world's hunger-stricken school-age children for five years and eight months, at \$24.8 billion per year.



The White Elephant Circus

There's nothing that the government's better at than spending public money on huge white elephant construction projects of questionable value. Roll up, roll up as we count them all down...

By Stephanie Tsui

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (Hong Kong section)
\$117 billion

Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Hong Kong section)
\$85.3 billion

West Kowloon Cultural District
\$47.1 billion

Shek Wu Chau Mega-Incinerator
\$19.2 billion

Kai Tak Cruise Terminal
\$8.2 billion



Northeast New Territories New Development Areas
\$120 billion

The Dream: A development project in some of the city's greener zones which will provide 60,000 new housing units.

The Reality: Only six percent of the development area will be set aside for much-needed public housing, while the rest will go towards private development. Discussions about the project were mooted at the end of the 20th century, but it wasn't until 2008 when the government started public consultation on it. In the meantime property developers jumped on the opportunity to purchase land carved out for development—that's one of the reasons why the price of compensation to indigenous villagers and land developers alone has hit \$30 billion.



Photo: Dickson Lee, SCMP

The Critics Say: "Kwu Tung villagers are forced to move while golfers get to continue playing in a golf course that's the size of Tsuen Wan." **Roy Tam**, Green Sense.

How We'd Spend It: Buying up 3,196 private islands like Crawl Caye off the coast of Belize (US\$3.95 million) from privateislandsongline.com.



Median monthly household income
\$24,500



Photo: Felix Wong/SCMP



Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (Hong Kong Section)

\$117 billion

The Dream: A series of bridges and tunnels linking up the two SARs and alleviating traffic congestion along the Hong Kong/Shenzhen border, as well as an artificial island providing border-crossing facilities.

The Reality: The bridge was supposed to be completed by the end of this year, but it's been pushed back to the end of 2017. That's due to a combination of issues, such as a one-year delay caused by a judicial review, labor shortages and an unstable supply of construction materials. Such delays prompted the government to ask for an extra \$5.46 billion, which was approved by Legco in January. Critics wonder how many years and how much in toll fees it would take to cover costs. The upcoming Shenzhen-Zhongshan Corridor might drastically reduce the usefulness of this bridge altogether.

The Critics Say: "How much use would such a bridge get from vehicles that serve the mainland Chinese and local manufacturing and re-export industries, which are no longer relevant?" **Lee Cheuk-yan**, Labour Party lawmaker.

How We'd Spend It: Buying 26,958 flats in Kowloon (at an average of \$4.34 million each)



Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Hong Kong Section)

\$85.3 billion

The Dream: A high-speed, high-capacity train running between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta.

The Reality: For one, there's already a pretty fast train between Hong Kong and Guangzhou. But at the end of last year we also discovered that the original \$65 billion price tag put on the high-speed rail link in 2010 didn't cover costs—a two-year delay due to unstable material supplies, lack of manpower, environmental protection requirements, land reclamation hiccups and problems with height limits resulted in the need for additional funding for the project, which is managed by the MTR Corporation. The additional funding request for \$19.6 billion of taxpayer cash was passed by the Legislative Council in March, after months of filibustering—the government insisted that the project had come too far to collapse, and would result in countless job and fiscal losses if funding did not continue. The rail link is expected to be completed in 2018, but another issue remains: A "co-location" system of immigration facilities, which involves stationing mainland authorities in Hong Kong, may be part of the plan.

The Critics Say: "If Hong Kong settles for co-location, we're sacrificing the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle. And that isn't something money can buy." **Lee Cheuk-yan**, Labour Party.

How We'd Spend It: On 312,454 of Tesla's new Model 3 cars at \$273,000 each.



West Kowloon Cultural District

\$47.1 billion

The Dream: A waterfront arts hub which will put the city's cultural scene on the world map.

The Reality: Part of the West Kowloon Cultural District is a temporary construction site for the Express Rail Link, which—on top of surging construction costs—is one of the reasons that the WKCD's \$21.6 billion price tag in 2008 has more than doubled to a "ballpark estimate" of \$47.1 billion. What the project does have now is a temporary "nursery park," originally intended to be a performance and exhibition venue. Features awaiting completion include a Chinese opera center due to open in 2017, the M+ visual arts museum slated for 2019, and a theater complex, which won't open until 2019. At least we can hold Clockenflap there until everyone gets their ass in gear...

The Critics Say: "In 1997 we identified the sheer lack of venues for arts and performances, and decided on doubling our capacity by adding 16 new ones. From that summit of excitement we continue to tumble down: All in one location, all with one developer, all with one committee, build a rail station underneath, fail to retain the creatives, going cheap on the budget... What else can go wrong?"

Paul Zimmerman, founder/CEO, Designing Hong Kong.

How We'd Spend It: Picking up 57 houses on the Peak, at \$819.1 million each—the world's most expensive homes by price per square foot.



Dumbos

The Little White Elephants costing us way too much

Public toilet, Sheung Shui Garden No.1: \$9.62 million

Target: September 2016

Good: Comes with a changing room.
Bad: Still a public toilet.

Lam Tsuen Wishing Square, Tai Po: \$52 million

Target: Late 2017

Good: Improved facilities may attract more tourists.
Bad: Netizens think it looks like a knockoff of Tiananmen Square.

Decking of Tai Wai Nullah, Sha Tin: \$81.3 million

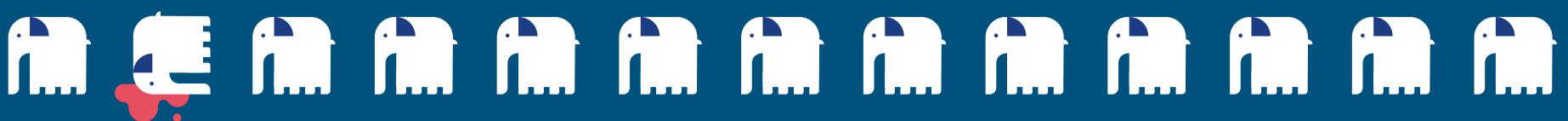
Target: Late 2018

Good: Inclusion of soccer pitch could make up for the lack of community facilities in the area.
Bad: May not have changing rooms.

Musical fountain, Kwun Tong promenade: \$53.5 million

Target: Q2 2017

Good: It'll be pretty.
Bad: Costs \$1.8 million per year to maintain; is a musical fountain.



Shek Kwu Chau Mega-Incinerator \$19.2 billion

The Dream: A solution to our growing waste crisis.

The Reality: A mega-incinerator on an island between Lantau and Cheung Chau isn't what most people would have in mind when it comes to environmental protection: Think dredging and reclamation, hundreds of tons of toxic ash, and a mega eyesore in an area that was designated for leisure and tourism. The Environmental Protection Department says that the city produces more than 9,000 tons of solid waste every day—which means that even with an incinerator, we'd still have to deal with 5,000 to 6,000 tonnes of waste per day which we'd have to recycle or dump. The EPD seems fine with proposing, assessing and approving its own plans to build the world's most expensive incinerator. Us? We're not so sure.

The Critics Say: "The government could have done something to reduce waste at source over the past decade, but they didn't. Now we have no choice but to go with the plan." **Roy Tam**, Green Sense.

How We'd Spend It: On a one-night package getaway to Phuket worth \$2,671... for every single person in Hong Kong.



Photo: EPD



Photo: Ceeseven via Wiki Commons

Kai Tak Cruise Terminal \$8.2 billion



The Dream: A repurposing of the old airport site into a brand-new cruise terminal able to accommodate the world's largest cruise ships.

The Reality: Good luck trying to get there: Only one green minibus takes you from Kowloon Bay to the cruise terminal, and be prepared to wait 30 minutes to an hour for it. Local visitor numbers haven't improved much since the terminal opened in 2013, and while cruise visitor numbers have increased lately, they still fall short of initial expectations. The cruise terminal appears to be no match for Singapore and Shanghai, which are favorites for Southeast and Northeast Asian cruise itineraries.

The Critics Say: "Poor retail and restaurant businesses are there as expected. The question is: Is the facility worth the substantial investment in terms of capital expenditure, as well as land?" **Regina Ip**, New People's Party lawmaker.

How We'd Have Spent It: On 931 Princess 67 superyachts at \$8,800,000 each. But where would we dock them?

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*Permanent result will depend on individual skin type.

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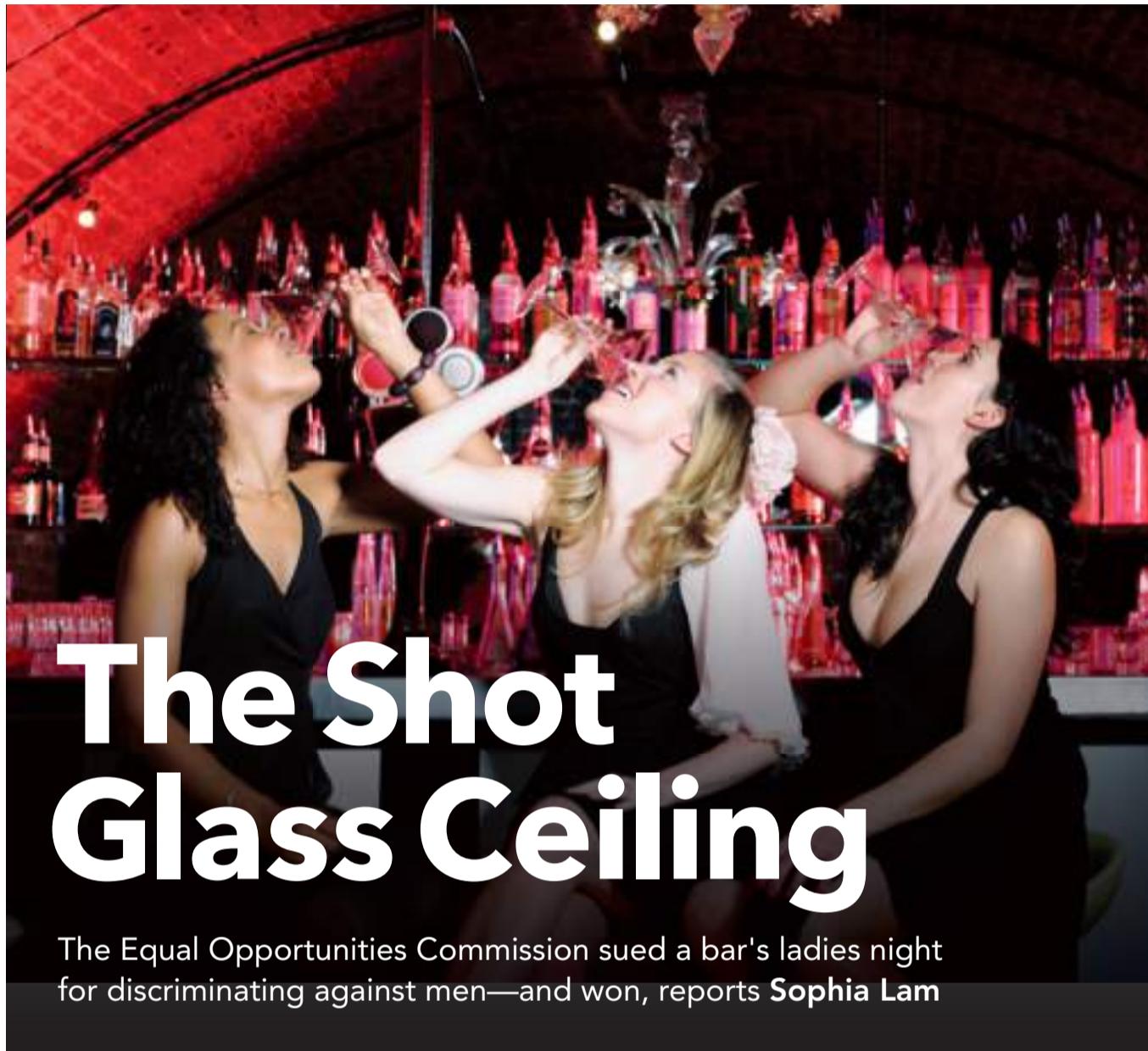


Ink Outside the Box

Yeh Shih-chiang has devoted his life to Zen Buddhism and creating art. After apprenticing with the master artist and revolutionary Gao Jianfu, he moved to Taiwan before the Chinese Civil War and lived his life in solitude and inner cultivation, only to emerge again as one of the country's master calligraphers and ink, oil and watercolor painters. **A Singular Life: Calligraphy and Art by Yeh Shih-chiang** is a celebration of his quietly remarkable life and works.

Apr 21-Jun 4. Hanart TZ Gallery, Room 401, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder St., Central, hanart.com.

NEWS FEATURE



The Shot Glass Ceiling

The Equal Opportunities Commission sued a bar's ladies night for discriminating against men—and won, reports **Sophia Lam**

Last week lawyers for the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) won a judgment against a Mong Kok karaoke bar for hosting a ladies' night, on the grounds that the event is discriminatory against men.

A claimant, represented by lawyers from the EOC, accused Legends Club in Mong Kok of sexual discrimination, because it forced men to pay more for drinks on ladies' night. The EOC had an easy victory—Legends failed to send a representative to court on April 13. The claimant is now seeking damages for emotional distress, the amount of which is yet to be determined.

Simon Wong Ka-wo, the president of the Hong Kong Federation of Restaurants and Related Trades, laughs off the courtroom farce: "The lawsuit itself is ridiculous, the court's ruling even more so."

He points out that ladies' night is nothing more than a marketing strategy and that it's not meant to discriminate against anyone. "According to the EOC's logic, restaurants offering discounts to senior citizens should be guilty of discriminating against the young, and gay bars against heterosexuals. What kind of nonsense is this?"

Tommy Cheung Yu-yan, who represents the catering industry in the Legislative Council, says the EOC has wasted public money on the case against ladies' night. "The EOC has stepped out of line this time," he says.

"This is simply pouring our money down the drain. Again."

— Joseph Ho, Liberal Party

The EOC came under fire just last month when its new chairman, Alfred Chan Cheung-ming, mistakenly referred to homosexuals as *lo tung*, a Cantonese slang term that roughly translates to "druggies." It was also revealed this month that Chan moonlit as a doctoral thesis supervisor at a second school during his tenure at Lingnan University in 2013, which is strictly prohibited. Speaking to media, Chan claimed his memory of the time is "fuzzy."

Simon Wong says it's likely that Legends will stump up a hefty payout rather than let anything else unfold in court—and he fears a ripple effect. "This doesn't simply strike a blow against one bar—it will leave a mark on the industry as a whole," he says. "Some bars may even feel intimidated into cancelling ladies' night."

It seems that the EOC hasn't just irritated the F&B industry. This Monday, several members of the Liberal Party issued a petition letter to the EOC during a protest outside EOC headquarters.

Joseph Ho Hin-ming, a Liberal Party member present at the protest this week, says, "I don't think it counts as discrimination if it starts off as a marketing gimmick. It's not like the bars host ladies' night every night—that could've been sexual discrimination." Ho, who is a former member of the Liquor Licensing Board, reflects that ladies' night is popular among customers, both sexes included.

"The EOC should've studied the case thoroughly before sending a band of lawyers to sue the bar," he says. "This is simply pouring our money down the drain. Again."

GENDER AGENDAS

While many in Hong Kong are treating the decision as a bad joke, the ladies' night argument is being taken more seriously in the United States. State courts in California, Maryland, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania have ruled that ladies' night is against the law on grounds of sexual discrimination. In California, bars are fined least US\$4,000 if convicted. So much for marketing strategies...

IT'S LADIES' NIGHT... AND THE FEELIN'S RIGHT

Check out the city's busiest ladies' nights to see if you're discriminating/being discriminated against, all night long.

Cé La Vi

Free flow Perrier-Jouët champagne from 11pm-midnight. Hairstyling stations by GHD's style squad all April. Wed 11pm till late. 24-26/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3700-2300.

Pastis

Free-flow candy-infused vodka 7-9pm, G.H. Mumm champagne for \$400 per bottle and \$600 for two. Wed 7-11pm. G/F, 65 Wyndham St., Central, 2537-5702.

Otto Lounge

Free-flow house spirits. Thu 8-11pm. Shop B, 4/F, Grand Progress Building, 15-16 Lan Kwai Fong, Central, 6627-7499.

Carnegies

Free bubbles. Wed after 9pm. G/F Spa Centre, 53-55 Lockhart Rd., Wan Chai, 2866-6289.

Rummin Tings

Buy-one-get-one-free for every drink on the Happy Hour menu. Wed after 7pm. 28 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2523-7070.

Boujis

Free champagne, brand varies. Wed and Thu 11pm-1am. 37 Pottinger St., Central, 2324-0200.





ESCAPE ROUTES

Compiled by Sophia Lam
sophia.lam@hkmagmedia.com



Get a golden tan in Pattaya

With Mother's Day just around the corner, it's time to plan ahead for the most important lady in your life. Forget about carnations—spoil your mom to the max with one of these weekend getaways fit for a queen.

For the Beachside Bum Mom

Pattaya, Thailand

Craving sun and sky? Book the Mother's Day Spa-rkling Escape at **Mövenpick Siam Hotel Pattaya** for the ultimate tropical vacay, including accommodation in a Premium Sea View room, breakfast for two and a 60-minute spa treatment.

Once you've checked in to the oceanfront resort, say goodbye to aches and pains at the award-winning spa, with signature treatments such as the Oriental Body Wrap, featuring the spa's signature body butter. The expert Mövenpick masseurs know just how to relieve those pressure points—the perfect remedy for mom's sore limbs. Afterwards, laze around the lagoon-shaped swimming pool with a glass of champagne in hand, or take a walk along the palm-fringed beach as the sun dips below the horizon.

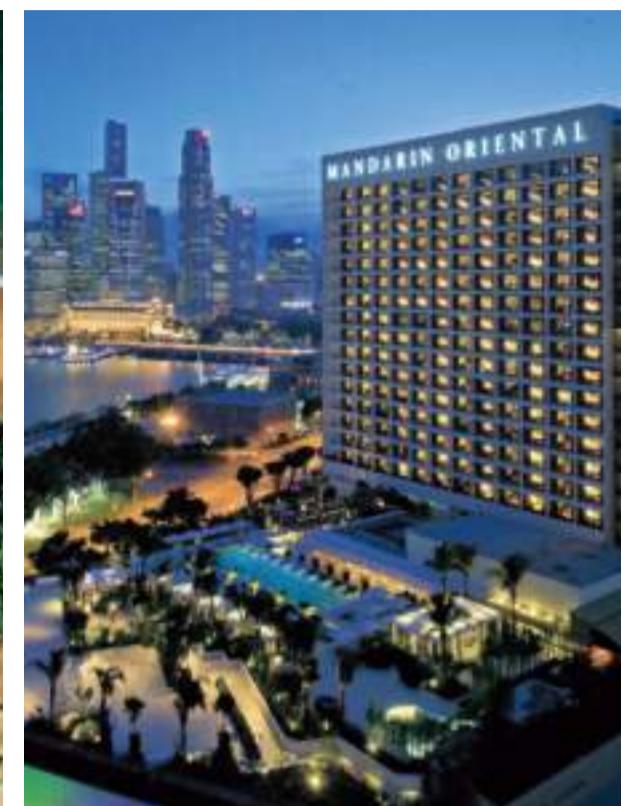
After you've dried yourself to a prune under the sun, head indoors and feast on authentic Thai eats at Twist Restaurant, with five live cooking stations to fire up your appetite.

To round out your itinerary...

Cruise along the Pattaya floating market and sample sweet snacks like mango sticky rice from the riverside vendors, or head to Silverlake Vineyard for a sip of Thailand's best wines.

How much? From \$1,300 per room per night for the Mother's Day Spa-rkling Escape (minimum two nights).

55 Moo 2, Na Jomtien, Sattahip, Chonburi, Thailand, (+66) 33-078-888, movenpick.com



For the Family Mom

Singapore

Why not use Mother's Day as an excuse for the whole family to take a quick holiday? **Mandarin Oriental, Singapore's** "Breakfast in Bed for Mum" package is just what you need to unwind, with plush accommodation in a five-star room furnished with tasteful accents and a dazzling city view.

Remember waking up to the aroma of mom's scrambled eggs and bacon? It's her turn this time. While mom breathes in the floral aroma of her welcome bouquet, you'll be downstairs with the hotel's chefs whipping up a surprise breakfast in bed for Mom, complete with a fluffy heart-shaped pancake.

In the afternoon, cool off in the stunning 25-meter outdoor pool, then pop over to poolside restaurant Dolce Vita for delicious, organic Italian cuisine, or head to the Mandarin's Melt Café for a sweet or savory late-night snack.

To round out your itinerary...

You could get lost all day in the city center with the sheer number of shopping malls and exotic food markets to explore in Singapore. At Marina Bay Sands, shop till you drop in over 300 stores. A few minutes' walk will take you to the lotus-shaped ArtScience Museum, where the Van Cleef & Arpels exhibition (through Aug 14) might just be the perfect thing for jewelry-loving moms.

How much? \$8,650 for a family of four per night.

Available from May 7-9. Mandarin Oriental, Singapore, 5 Raffles Avenue, Marina Square, Singapore, (+65) 6338-0066.

Treat mom to breakfast in bed at the Mandarin Oriental, Singapore



For the Serial Spa-Goer Mom

Noboribetsu, Hokkaido

There's no better way to coddle your hard-working mom than to treat her to a spring detox in Noboribetsu, the largest hot spring town in Japan's northernmost island, Hokkaido. Check in at the **Dai-ichi Takimotokan**, a serene, tatami-matted resort surrounded by volcanic hot springs.

Once you've settled in, slip on a pair of geta traditional Japanese flip-flops and head to the hotel's onsen bathhouse—the largest in Hokkaido. Feel your troubles float away in the aged cypress bath tubs as you drink in the beautiful, hill-covered scenery. The "Demon Spa" onsen features warm water pumped directly from the boiling hot springs of Hell Valley, while the "Cure Spa" is designed to rehydrate your skin with a gentle mix of calcium and chloride. End with a steam bath to open up your pores and give mom's skin a lasting, healthy glow.

After the relaxing spa sesh, head back to your room and indulge in the complimentary crab kaiseki dinner, where you'll dive into a parade of dishes made with sweet crab meat from the fishing port at Noboribetsu: think piping hot snow crab tempura and hot pot bubbling with king crab and veggies.

After dinner, wrap yourself in a kimono and explore the Yunomachi Gift Shop for local Hokkaido souvenirs, or head to one of the karaoke clubs for a mom-and-daughter duet.

To round out your itinerary...

Shop for cute cartoon-shaped souvenirs on the age-old Paradise Road, or head to the steamy Sengen Park to watch the geyser spout hot water eight meters high.

How much? \$2,684 per room per night. Includes breakfast, crab kaiseki dinner and accommodation in a standard room.

Package available through Oct 31. Dai-ichi Takimotokan, Noboribetsu-onsen, Noboribetsu, Hokkaido, Japan, (+81) 143-84-2111, takimotokan.co.jp/english

DINING

Super Salads

If you think a salad is just a pile of greens on a plate, you've still got a ways to go. When it comes to composing the perfect salad, there's little room for subpar ingredients, but limitless opportunities for creativity. By **Jessica Wei**



Queenoa ▾

If variety is the spice of life, the rotating salad menu at the new Central location of **3/3rds** should keep you alive for a while. Always made with seasonal ingredients, and only available at two-hour intervals to maintain freshness, their current signature salad (\$60 for a small box, \$90 for a large) is a parade of textures, and packed with protein: wild rice and quinoa get a hit of sweetness from dried apricot and pomegranate seeds, topped with crunchy pistachios.

Shop 1, Manning House, 38-48 Queens Rd. Central, 2562-8805, three-3rds.com

Dressing On The Side ▾

Vanimal, the new vegetarian hotspot in Kennedy Town, focuses on finding unique and inventive ways to serve vegetables. Sometimes this involves fried lotus root, turnip powder, or green tea salt. But their signature salad, billed as the "Catch of the Day," is a pure, unadorned selection of fresh produce at the peak of its season, served alongside chamomile-infused oil, pickle juice and smoked sea salt. After all, when you're working with the best ingredients, fancy doesn't mean fussy and flavor can't be compromised.

150 Belcher's St., Kennedy Town, 2872-8880.

Fab Food

Supafood, the latest concept from the people who brought you Locofama and Sohofama, is all about giving customers fresh options on the go. They offer a variety of seasonally rotating and always organic (their meat is Australian grass-fed or US pasture-raised) salad boxes, sandwiches, rice bowls, fresh juices and smoothies, available at their Sheung Wan location and by delivery (from \$20 delivery fee). Want to feel extra "supa" today, without having to leave the office? Try their baked sustainable halibut and kale salad (\$138) mixed with apples, cherry tomatoes, pumpkin seeds and couscous.

1 Jervois St., G/F, Sheung Wan, 2812-6088, supafood.co



Eating on the go?

Don't settle for fast food. Pick up a salad at these fail-safe counters in less time than it would take to order a burger.

Just Salads: Just Salads delivers on their very simple premise: it's just salads, but a full and very accommodating menu of them! If you're looking for something even more suitable for an on-the-go snack, ask for your salad to be turned into a wrap.

Hong Kong Station MTR, Shop HOK65, 2850-6818, hk.justsalad.com

Toss & Turn: You won't find quinoa or pomegranate seeds at Toss & Turn, but there's a reason why Caesar still leads the salad empire. The basic salads are fresh and affordable here, and there's also an option to design your own bowl.

Shop 3, B3 Three Pacific Place, Admiralty, 2633-8312, hk.tossturnsalad.com

Nosh by Secret Ingredient: For something quick, gourmet and calorie-countable, the new Nosh delivers their salads straight to your desk in biodegradable and compostable containers.

G/F, 23B Mosque St., Mid-Levels, 2697-8886, nosh.hk





Grill 'Em All

Not all salads have to be eaten raw. **The Restaurant by the Kinnet** has a warm alternative, bringing a bit of char to traditional salads by serving grilled eggplant, zucchini, tomatoes (the "meatiest" of all vegetables) and green beans with a tangy feta and pesto dressing (\$85). Smoky, creamy and utterly satisfying, this salad is a meal in itself—and it's healthy enough to follow with a slice of the Kinnet's light and airy coconut chiffon cake (\$40).

3/F, 33 Hillier St., Sheung Wan, 3968-7623.



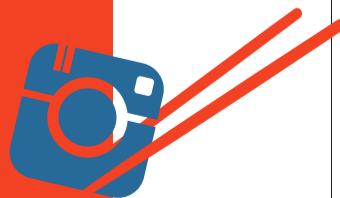
Lebaneasy

Salty and stale croutons are out; juicy and crisp pomegranate seeds are in. If you're not fiending for falafel at the new SoHo Middle-Eastern restaurant **Maison Libanaise**, try their golden fried eggplant (\$68) with a splash of tahini yogurt, drizzled with olive oil. Once your taste buds get in on this mix of creamy and tart, you won't even miss the carbs.

10 Shelley St., Central, 2111-2284.

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兩大傑出爵士樂新星首次於香港炙熱登場
The two famous jazz talents hit the stage for
the first time in Hong Kong
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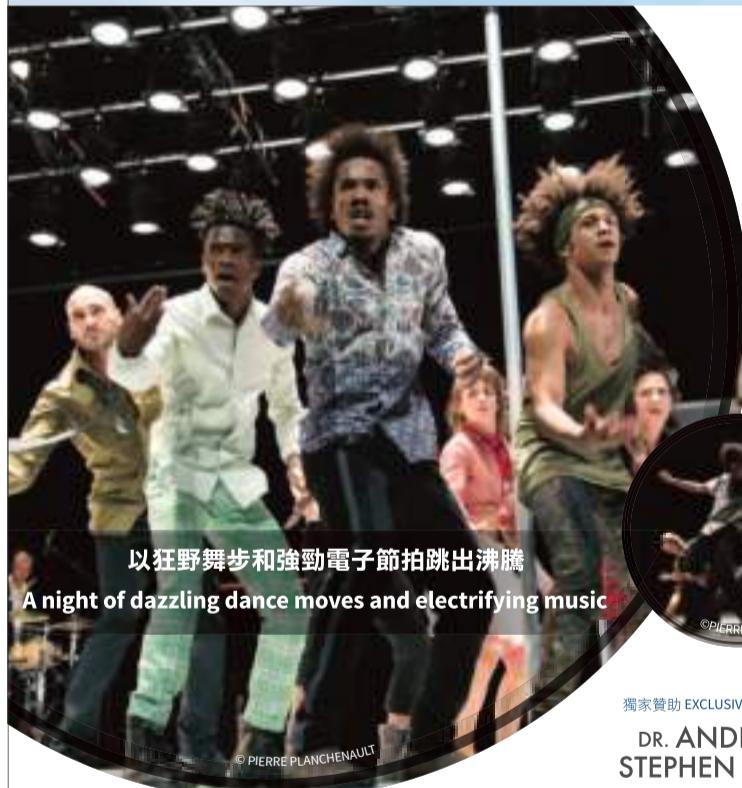


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Presenter: The Jazz Dance Group and Academic Theatre Association of Hong Kong
Poster designed by Twinkly Laiung | Photo by Celia de Cicco

Edited by Leslie Yeh

leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com



Korean goes mod at Jinjuu

K-Town, Brunch It Up

Follow the tantalizing aroma of Korean fried chicken to **Jinjuu** (UG/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3755-4868), celebrity chef Judy Joo's debut Hong Kong restaurant. With condiments, marinades and banchan made fresh and in-house, Jinjuu is one of our favorite new spots to inject some life into LKF's prosaic dining scene—and a surprising brunch option at that. Not sure you can handle copious amounts of kimchi and gochujang for breakfast? Just wait until you arrive at Jinjuu's funky restaurant space, with a spacious interior for raucous brunch merriment, free-flow drinks, a DJ spinning house tunes, and a fresh spread of tuna tartare lettuce cups, smoked salmon, jumbo shrimp, and pickled and marinated veggies. Mosey on down the line and you'll come upon the highlight of the semi-buffet (\$250, plus \$200 for free-flow alcoholic drinks, Sat-Sun 12-3pm): piles of Korean fried chicken thighs, wings and breasts—straight out of the fryer, and absolutely delicious. You can also add a main for an extra \$150, but why would you, when you have unlimited KFC?

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Issaya Siamese Club ★★★★☆

Thai. 25/F, Soundwill Plaza II Midtown, 1 Tang Lung St., Causeway Bay, 2154-3048.



There's no shortage when it comes to Thai restaurants in the city, so figuring out how to stand out seems to be the challenge. Bangkok import Issaya Siamese Club sets the bar high with a beautiful setting, an innovative spread of tempting dishes, and crucial ingredients flown straight from its flagship.

■ **HIT** The semi-buffet lunch was a pretty good deal with free-flow appetizers, salads and soups, and a choice of main. From the buffet, we particularly enjoyed the fried shrimp and eggplant salad, with the crunchy batter encasing sweet and tender shrimp

meat. For mains, the "hoy shell moo wan" (\$238) was an intriguing surf 'n' turf concept—the juicy wok-seared scallops brought to life by a meaty, tangy pork relish. The Australian veal cheek (\$288), simmered in spices and coconut milk, was ultra-tender and jam-packed with flavor. A highlight was the dessert buffet, with homemade macarons and ice cream boasting exotic flavors such as tamarind, passionfruit, Thai milk tea and sesame.

■ **MISS** The tom yung goong soup was lackluster—it missed the complexity of spices and needed more acidity. Our main of tiger prawns (\$288) was a bit rubbery, although we enjoyed the fragrant basil sauce that came with it.

■ **BOTTOM LINE** This upscale Thai restaurant scores on ambience and delivers the fresh and exotic flavors we love about Thai cuisine.

Open Sun-Thu 11:45am-3pm, 6pm-midnight; Fri-Sat 11:45am-3pm, 6pm-late. \$\$\$-\$\$\$

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
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Anzac Day
Hong Kong
Monday, 25 April 2016
6:15 am, The Cenotaph, Chater Road, Central
Members of the public may lay a wreath according to the order of service
To be followed by Gunfire Breakfast
Grappa's Cellar - \$190/\$100 (2-11 years old) +10%
Cash Only Bookings Essential: 2521 2322
LG/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, Hong Kong

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NEW AND NOTED



Brittany Bay

Need an insta-worthy lunch break? Pop over to **La Crêperie** (8/F, The L Square, 459-461 Lockhart Rd., Causeway Bay, 2898-7123) which has just launched a "Crêpe Escape" weekday lunch menu with 10 mains ranging from \$88-138: "La Marin" features tender scallops, bacon and mushrooms on a nutty buckwheat base, while "La Complete" is an all-in-one meal with egg, French ham and Emmental cheese. From their non-crêpe selection, we'd head back for the lobster pasta (\$138) with sweet chunks of lobster meat and pasta infused with fish stock. Sweet crêpes are done just as well as the savory options, from strawberries and cream to nutella to salted butter caramel. Here's a tip: check-in and like their Facebook page (facebook.com/lacreperiehk) and you can take home a jar of salted caramel for those midnight pancake cravings.

See Food for Days

In case you haven't noticed, seafood seems to be the trend right now, with more restaurants featuring (and named after) sea creatures than we can count (Fish School, Fishsteria, The Ocean, Lobster Central...). The latest restaurant to test the waters is **Seafood Room** (26/F, 535 Jaffe Rd., Causeway Bay, 3708-9668), which promises to be the biggest of them all: an interactive dining experience with an 8,000-sq.-ft. dining room and 2,000-sq.-ft. rooftop lounge. The menu ranges from Asia to the Mediterranean to South America, but the focus remains on freshly prepared seafood: think langoustine tartare with avocado, salt-baked sea bass, and miso salmon with lime. Head up to the rooftop bar afterwards for cocktails, DJ tunes, and a 270-degree view of Victoria Harbour. Let's just hope they don't play "Under the Sea..."

*For more in-depth reviews,
visit hk-magazine.com!*

Little Break ★★★★☆

Café. G03, G/F, D2 Place, 9 Cheung Yee St., Cheung Sha Wan, 2742-2782.



Little Break straddles the line between a western and Asian café: You'll find cutesy décor like alphabet letters and heart-shaped candles, but also a solid menu of non-Cantofied western dishes.

HIT Sometimes you just need a break from hipster coffee shops—Little Break's vibe is casual and unpretentious, whether you're settling in for a few hours of work or breezing by for a quick bite. The new dinner set menu comes with a daily starter and soup, which turned out to be a small fried mozzarella cube and a foamy mushroom soup served in a coffee cup which we almost wanted

to slurp up like a latte. The flavor was spot on and we appreciated the chunks of mushroom that hadn't been pureed into oblivion. The grilled pork chop (\$248) was a Flintstone-sized caveman chop cooked to a blushing pink and the accompanying apple cider sage sauce was lovely, sweet with dried cranberries and fragrant with sage. From the all-day dining menu, the wagyu beef burger (\$158) was also a winner.

MISS Little Break encourages you to chill out from the hectic pace of Hong Kong life, but unfortunately the kitchen and barista seemed to be doing the same. Our drinks came about halfway through the meal, and the pork chop arrived after we'd finished the burger.

BOTTOM LINE With good coffee, a no-fuss atmosphere and free Wi-Fi, Little Break is a cozy nook to while away the day—and possibly stay for dinner.

**Open Mon-Fri 11:30am-10pm;
Sat-Sun 8:30am-10pm. \$\$**

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.



BALANCHINE

George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

Serenade

* Featuring Tan Yuan Yuan

FEI BO EDWAARD LIANG

Over There

Performed by Zhan Xinlu and Wang Jiuyu of The National Ballet of China

Shenren Chang

(World Première)

(Harmony Between Gods and Men)



* Tan
Yuan
Yuan

Hong Kong Ballet /
San Francisco Ballet



Zhan
Xinlu

The National
Ballet of China



Wang
Jiuyu

The National
Ballet of China

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HONG KONG

Suitable for ages 6 and above
The performance lasts approximately 2 hours including intermission(s)
Latecomers will not be admitted until a suitable break or the intermission
The presenter reserves the right to alter the programme and artists
Hong Kong Ballet is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Hong Kong Ballet is a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Artistic Director

Madeleine Onne

藝術總監：歐美蓮

Dancers: Chen Zhiyao, Lucas Jerkander | Photographer: Tim Wong

hkballer.com

CITY STROLL

Tin Hau

Tin Hau is the goddess of the sea, worshipped by fishermen for safety at sea and a bountiful catch. Neighboring the shopaholic Causeway Bay, in the last few years Tin Hau has gradually transformed into a foodie wonderland. But the district is still full of living history, if you're willing to look—and eat—a little further.



17 Camper's

This healthy-eating Japanese restaurant specializes in making veggies count. Chef Kenta Fujita makes a point of loading them into his food: The curry dishes all contain 350g of veggies, which is your daily quota. With no MSG and no additives either, you're guaranteed a healthy—but delicious—meal.

G/F, 127 Electric Rd., Tin Hau, 2889-7377.



18 Les Artistes Café

This quiet café-slash-book shop holds regular art exhibitions, as well as occasional gigs. There's also a large selection of books in store—most are from mainland publications, so you'll have to brush up on your simplified Chinese.

1/F, Man Oi Building, 98 Electric Rd., Tin Hau, 3426-8918.



19 TPTEA HK

This famous Taiwanese brand landed in Hong Kong little more than a month ago, right next to the MTR station. Check out their signature Tieguanyin Latte, which blends rich, intense Tieguanyin oolong tea with milk for a whole new flavor profile.

Shop 4, G/F, Park Towers, 1 King's Rd., Tin Hau, 2556-6397.



20 Vietkid (越南仔)

There's more to Tin Hau than Hong Kong eats. Sometimes all you want is a bowl of warm, soothing Vietnamese pho. Vietkid is a cheerful joint serving up big bowls with plenty of beef and abundant veggies. Fresh, affordable plates keep us coming back.

64 Electric Rd., Tin Hau, 2570-9200.



Tall Tower Tales

On December 28, 1987, a fire broke out on the top few floors of **Park Towers**, above Tin Hau MTR station. The property had only just been completed, but the blaze was so fierce that helicopters had to be called in to drop water bombs to quell the flames. The fire ravaged the top floors of the brand new property so badly that they had to be rebuilt. It was finally opened in 1989.

Park Towers and Tin Hau MTR station stand on the site of the former Causeway Bay Magistracy, which once housed branches of the Treasury and the Immigration Department. It was one of the major sites of violence during the 1967 riots, when left-wing demonstrators and riot police clashed outside the building. The building was demolished in 1986 to make way for the building of Tin Hau MTR station. The rebuilt Park Towers is still one of the most expensive properties in the area, with apartments selling for more than \$20,000 per square foot.



A leftist protester confronts police in 1967

Check back next week for more awesome things to do in Tin Hau!

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UPCLOSE: ZHANG ZHENYU



Chinese artist **Zhang Zhenyu's** "Dust" series is the result of five years of painstakingly gluing specks of dust onto canvas. His mirrorlike works are a mesmerizing display of the tiny, insignificant particles that float all around us. He tells Sophia Lam about the process.

HK Magazine: Does "Dust" represent your idea of China?

Zhang Zhenyu: I've been asked a lot of times whether my work is related to the smog in mainland China, but no, this wasn't what I had in mind when I started the project. Air pollution in Beijing is a pretty hot topic now, so it's only natural that people

are reminded of this when they look at my work. If that's what they get from my work, so be it. But it's definitely not the inspiration behind "Dust"—besides, the haze wasn't that thick in 2011.

HK: So how should it be interpreted?

ZZ: People tend to have different interpretations on my work, like the exceptionally rapid urban development in China and the growing desires of mankind in general. All these add to the meaning of "Dust," but these practical issues are not the concept I would like to convey. I'm trying to express a much bigger idea here, one that transcends nations and deals with existence itself.

HK: Is there a single message you want your audience to walk away with?

ZZ: My works are open for interpretation and I don't care what the audience thinks of them. I believe every person will perceive my work in a different light, and I feel reluctant to "polish" their thoughts in a certain way. So, instead of telling them what to think, I'd rather ask them: what do you see in your reflection in the dust?

HK: Why dust?

ZZ: It all traces back to four years ago, when I saw dust motes dancing in sunlight by the window sill one day. I was instantly struck by the beauty and lightness of its movement. I find it interesting how dust is constantly in the air everywhere we look—especially in our country—but at the same time it's such an elusive substance that we pay almost no attention to. This emptiness, the paradox of its ubiquity, urged me to capture the moment on my canvas.

HK: What's the process of how you create your work?

ZZ: I try to transform the form of dust by directly sticking it onto the canvas and polishing it over and over again, until it becomes a mirror where you can see yourself. I try to keep the raw materials to a minimum—I only need two things for my work. Glue and dust. The color you see is the result of chemical reactions with the glue, and the superimposition of so many layers.



HK: Where do you get your dust?

ZZ: Most of my dust is collected in Beijing—on the streets, from a passing car or a windowsill. In 2014 I issued a call for dust from all parts of the country, so people would collect it and send them to me in Beijing. I received around 100 samples, and I made an art piece out of dust from each city. It's fascinating how dust exudes a different "aura" from place to place.

HK: What about you—what do you see in the reflection?

ZZ: In my imagination, dust depicts the nothingness on the two ends of the spectrum of time—before creation, and after the apocalypse. When a living being dies, it disappears into dust. Amidst all the formlessness and chaos, it seems that only dust stays on. It also makes me reflect on how men are but a speck of dust in the universe, so trifling and tiny in the face of Mother Nature.

See "Dust" through May 14 at Yallay Gallery, 6 Yip Fat St., Wong Chuk Hang, 3575-9417.

Concerts



Jazz Duet by Baptiste Trotignon & Minino Garay

French jazz pianist Baptiste Trotignon and Argentinian percussionist Minino Garay have a string of accolades as soloists, but since the beginning of their collaboration in 2011 they've set the French jazz world afire with their acoustic sets, delivering killer ballads, jazz and Argentinian tango. They're bringing their cool piano and hot Latin percussion to the Hong Kong stage for Le French May. May 12, 8pm. Theatre, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, 2016.frenchmay.com. \$180-380 from urbtix.hk.

Classical

Romantic Piano Trios by Sophia Yang, Chang Pei-chieh and Gilbert Sak

The City Hall Virtuosi Series continues with this threesome of Hong Kong musicians Sophia Yang and Gilbert Sak, as well as Taiwanese cellist Chang Pei-chieh. They'll be playing swoon-worthy classics including Dvorak's Piano Trio No. 4. Apr 22, 8pm. Theatre, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, \$150-200 from urbtix.hk.

Recital Series 2016: Louis Schwizgebel

Just shy of 30 years old, the Swiss-Chinese piano virtuoso Louis Schwizgebel makes his first appearance in Hong Kong on April 25, to help raise funds for the Society of the Promotion of Hospice Care. He'll be playing selected pieces by Haydn and Liszt, as well as Schubert's Piano Sonata in A minor. Since winning second prize at the Leeds International Piano Competition in 2012, Schwizgebel has been playing across the world. Talented AND eurasian? Some people have all the luck. Apr 25, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, \$80-480 from pphk.org.

Radovan Vlatkovic with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta

The world's leading French horn soloist Radovan Vlatkovic plays with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta. The program includes Haydn's "Military" Symphony No. 100 in G, and Strauss' Horn Concerto No. 1 in E flat. Apr 23, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, hksl.org. \$140-360 from urbtix.hk.



When Violin Meets Ballet

What happens when violin meets ballet? Pure magic. The Pan Asia Symphony Orchestra performs selected works by their music director and composer Yip Wai-hong, plus pieces by Chinese composers as well as Tchaikovsky's suites, "Swan Lake," "Sleeping Beauty" and "The Nutcracker"—all with a live ballet accompaniment. May 6, 7, 8pm. Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall, 1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin; Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium, 72 Tai Ho Rd., Tsuen Wan, \$100-180 from urbtix.hk.



Dance

Never-Never Land by Unlock Dancing Plaza

The newest dance work by Unlock Dancing Plaza explores themes of usefulness and uselessness in our rapidly developing society. The performance is a duet, choreographed and performed by Artistic Director Ong Yong Lock and Taiwanese dancer Chou Shu-yi. Apr 8, May 7, 3pm; May 6, 8, 8pm. Kwai Tsing Theatre, 12 Hing Ning Rd., Kwai Fong, lcsd.gov.hk. \$220 from urbtix.hk.

Theater

A Tale of Two Cities: Blood for Blood

Things are getting bloody... Chung Ying Theatre Company collaborates with the UK's Red Shift Theatre and playwright Jonathan Holloway to present a rewritten version of Charles Dickens' literary classic. With extra blood. Apr 22-May 1, various times. Amphitheatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, \$160-420 from hkticketing.com.

Gypsy! A Musical Fable

The musical that launched Stephen Sondheim's career and turned the stage mother into a theater trope is coming to Hong Kong. "Gypsy" tells the story of a stubborn mother who will do anything to get her two daughters into show business—even if the business is striptease. Don't miss this performance by The Hong Kong Singers. May 4-7, 7:30pm. Studio Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2111-5999, hongkongsingers.org. \$300-320 from urbtix.hk.



4.48 Psychosis

The play "4.48 Psychosis" was completed just months before its British playwright Sarah Kane's suicide, and was performed for the first time shortly thereafter. Her suffering resulted in a true-to-life interpretation of clinical depression that's now performed globally. Don't miss Bonnie Chan's self-directed performance at Theatre du Pif. May 12-15, 8:30pm. Studio Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2111-5999, httdupif.com. \$160-240 from urbtix.hk.

Auditions

Showbiz is a hard nut to crack. In this musical written and directed by Hong Kong playwright Michael Sharmon, "Auditions" brings together four wannabe stars who take you through the harrowing realities of making it big onstage. Apr 29, 8pm; Apr 30, 3:30pm, 8pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 3128-8288, hkfringeclub.com. \$210-260 from hkticketing.com.



Jouer Juste (The Right Play)

In Fabrice Michel's stage adaptation of François Bégaudeau's "Jouer Juste," a man who has just experienced a painful separation confronts images and the memory of the one he loved and lost. French actor Erick Deshors leads this one-man play. May 3-7, 8:30pm. Charbon, 8/F, Sing Tek Factory, 44 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Aberdeen, charbonartspace.com. \$200-300 from eventbrite.hk.

John & Jen

This two-person chamber musical produced by Western District at the Fringe Underground gives audiences an intimate look into the relationship of siblings, from childhood to adulthood and the joys and tragedies in between. Features live accompaniment by piano, cello and percussion. Apr 21-23, 7:30pm. Fringe Theatre, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2868-4415, hkfringeclub.com. \$250-280 from hkticketing.com.

Exhibitions



Streetease Exhibition by Mr. Brainwash and SEEN

Since a humble start in back alleys and subways, street art has been elevated to its own, highly sought after artistic movement. The walls of Opera Gallery, which have previously featured works by Chagall and Picasso, will be graced by the canvases of two of the best known street artists around: the controversial Mr. Brainwash from LA and long-time New York veteran, SEEN. May 5-26. Opera Gallery Hong Kong, G/F-3/F, W Place, 52 Wyndham St., Central, 2810-1208. operagallery.com.



Shifting Surfaces at Karin Weber Gallery

At Karin Weber Gallery's new group show "Shifting Surfaces," four German artists—Willi Siber, Angela Glajcar, Udo Nöger and Tina Buchholz—come together to celebrate the diverse uses of textures in art. These pieces encompass steel sculptures, handworked paper, mixed media canvas and light and glass. May 6-Jun 11. Karin Weber Gallery, G/F, 20 Aberdeen St., Central, 2544-5004. karinwebergallery.com.



Les Cages: The Echo of the Crash, Bam, Pow!

Superhero comicbook panels get a new treatment in Montreal artist Sandra Chevrier's new solo show. With this new exhibit she superimposes superheroes onto images of female identity, almost like a mask, demonstrating the repressive effects of social and pop cultural conventions. | Mar 22-May 7. Above Second, 9 First St., Sai Ying Pun, above-second.com.



North Point Dream Properties Ltd at Oi!

The new exhibit at Oi! tackles an issue Hongkongers are all too familiar with: the housing problem. Presented as a show flat, visitors can wander through the space and examine how the city builds its identity around the tiny spaces we live in. Apr 15-Jul 17. Oi!, 12 Oi St., North Point, lcsd.gov.hk.

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NIGHTLIFE

BAR HIGHLIGHT GIN AND JAZZ NIGHTS AT SUGAR

The buzz: East hotel's 32nd floor terrace bar Sugar may be frequented by those who work nearby, but it's almost a forgotten choice for Centralites looking for an after-work cocktail, despite being less than 20 minutes away by MTR. This month, Sugar's hosting Gin and Jazz Tuesdays, offering a strong list of premium and small-batch gins and gin cocktails paired with live tunes.

The décor: We love the spacious outdoor terrace here, which looks out over the harbor towards Kowloon City. Inside is a colorfully lit mezzanine and bar area. On our visit, we got treated to some smooth live "yazz flute" (Ron Burgundy, anyone?), played alongside DJ-spun house beats from 7-11pm. Unobtrusive, relaxing and just right.

The drinks: The new Tuesday night deals here are a gin-lover's paradise, especially for those looking to explore different brands of gin from small batch distilleries around the world. For \$105, you can get a tasting flight of two gins and a Fever Tree tonic—a practically unheard-of price these days. The "SpicyGin" combo paired with Indian tonic came with Polish Lubuski gin with a

slice of ginger, and the floral Boodles gin with a sprinkle of peppercorn and chili—we expected it to be more savory but turned out slightly bland. From a number of jazz-inspired cocktails, we enjoyed the Armstrong (\$85) made with Aviation gin from Portland, Oregon: With cava, apple, lemon and oregano, it was a refreshing, puckering summer drink. You can also pick your own G&T combos, including Sipsmith (\$95) and Edinburgh (\$80) gins and your own choice of tonic.

Why you'll be back: How many good rooftop bars in Central offer anything more than a claustrophobic view of a neighboring skyscraper? At Sugar, you can soak in the fabulous sunset vibes on the terrace and educate yourself all about gins, without hurting your wallet. That works for us.

Gin and Jazz Nights available every Tuesday until May 3. Sugar, 32/F, East Hong Kong, 29 Tai Koo Shing Rd., Quarry Bay, 3968-3738.



Clubs

DJ Revolution:

Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike

Electro nuts all better sit down, because DJ legends Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike are hitting up AsiaWorld-Expo this Spring. They're number 1 on DJ Magazine's list of top 100 DJs—but you already knew that, didn't you? May 20, 8pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$580-900 from hkticketing.com.



Studio Presents:

Ryan Hemsworth

Sadly he's not another of the hunky Aussie Hemsworth brothers, but Canadian DJ Ryan Hemsworth will still be blowing your minds when he takes over the decks at Studio. Known for his remixes of Grimes, Frank Ocean, Tinashe and Cat Power, it's sure to be a hipsterstastic night. Apr 22, 11pm. Studio, 1/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, RSVP through pelago.events.

Lil Jon at Pacha Macau

As the saying goes: Turn down for what? May 13, 9pm. Pacha Macau, Studio City, Estrado do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, MOP350 from pachamacau.com/en/events.

Fly Presents DJ Krush

Tokyo DJ and producer Krush has been spinning hip hop since the late 80s, and those in the know may recognize him from Krush Posse, Japan's top 80s hip hop act. Krush heads to Fly this April to bring us his signature jazz and soul-influenced beats. Apr 30, 10pm. Fly, G/F, 24-30 Ice House St., Central, \$250 from ticketflap.com/buzzconcepts, \$300 at the door; both with two Red Bull drinks and two shots.

Aly & Fila at Pacha Macau

Egyptian turntable sheikhs Aly & Fila were voted number one trance DJs in the Trance Podium Top 100 Awards over two consecutive years, and they're bringing their unique brand of trance to Pacha Macau. Apr 30, 9pm. Pacha Macau, Studio City, Estrado do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, \$150-200 from pachamacau.com/en/events, with one drink.

Nightlife Events



Cliché Records 4th Anniversary

Celebrating its fourth birthday this spring, Hong Kong label and party brand Cliché Records is throwing a weekend bash, starting off with a Friday party at Kee Club. Headliners include the legendary Chicago House DJ Rahaan and German DJ ND_baumecker of famed Berghain Club's Panorama Bar, bringing a touch of Berlin techno to town. All this is followed by an after-party at Bassment with German DJs Dustin and Konstantin, founders of house and dub techno label Giegling. Apr 22, 10pm; Apr 23, 11pm. Kee Club, 6/F, 32 Wellington St., Central; Bassment, LG/F, 13 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central. At Kee Club: \$150 from ticketflap.com/clicheanniversary, \$250 at the door; both include one tequila drink. At Bassment: \$150 at the door.

Hong Kong Swings 10th Anniversary Party

Celebrate 10 years of swing dancing in Hong Kong with yet more lindy hopping and Charleston-ing at Grappa's Cellar, to live music from jazz stalwarts the Happy-Go-Lucky Big Band. Apr 23, 7pm. Grappa's Cellar, B/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, \$200 from Grappas Cellar, includes one drink.



Happy Wednesday HKJC Digital Nights

The Happy Valley Racecourse is going digital, with a series of tech-inspired and somehow also Korean fun this April. Because maybe Koreans are the future? Either way, while placing your bets you'll be able to gorge on Korean snacks and admire performances from b-boys the Jinjo Crew. The tech part of the evening includes a host of high end tech games for you to take part in, from virtual reality stable visits and horse-riding challenges, to breeding your own hologram horse. Competitions offer prizes including a pair of round-trip tickets to Seoul. Apr 13, 20, 27, 7pm. Happy Valley Racecourse, Wong Nai Chung Gap Rd., Happy Valley, hkjc.com. \$10.

Exotic Arabic Nights at Dada Bar + Lounge

The Luxe Manor hotel's Dada Bar + Lounge is hosting a monthly Arabian-themed night from April to June, featuring belly dance performances (of course), Arabic lounge beats, and a buffet of Middle Eastern pastries and sweets, from baklava to milk pudding and more. There's also a \$188 deal for free flow Arabic teas: it's time chill out and get really, really minty breath. Apr 28, May 26, Jun 30, 9pm. Dada Bar + Lounge, 2/F, The Luxe Manor, 39 Kimberley Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui.



Hong Kong Rum Run

Are you a lover of all things rum and/or a pirate? May is your month: The inaugural Hong Kong Rum Run, which leads up to the annual Hong Kong Rum Festival, has handpicked 26 bars across town (including Mahalo Tiki Lounge, The Envoy, The Woods, Zuma and more) where you can collect stamps in a "Rum Run Passport" (available at any participating outlet) for each special Rum Run Cocktail (\$100) you order. Participants can return to any of the 26 bars to submit the filled passport, and the first 20 will win a masterclass with Global Rum Ambassador Ian Burrell and Honi Honi Tiki Lounge founder Max Traverse. May 1-27.

Gigs

Charlie Lim & the Mothership

Don't let this unassuming Singaporean dude fool you: indie singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Charlie Lim has been building up a name for himself ever since last year's double EP release, "Time/Space." He was even seen jamming with Hong Kong star Khalil Fong back in January. Don't miss his eclectic blend of indie pop, folk, R'n'B, electronic and acoustic tunes when he comes through Hong Kong. May 22, 7pm. Hang Out, 1/F, Youth Outreach Jockey Club, 2 Holy Cross Path, Sai Wan Ho, \$280 from charlielim.pelago.events; \$300 at the door.

Gabriele Poso at MyHouse

Hailing from the sunny Mediterranean island of Sardinia, multi-instrumentalist Gabriele Poso is a master at percussion and the guitar. He brings a soulful, jazz and Afro-Latin influenced sound to MyHouse. Apr 30, 11pm. Free, register at ticketflap.com/gabrieleposo to enter lucky draw for a \$500 MyHouse dining voucher.

Happy Hours

Maximal Concepts Cocktail Hour

To thank its faithful customers, Maximal Concepts is offering complimentary free flow cocktails between 6-7pm at Limewood and Fish & Meat. You're welcome! Mar 1-Apr 30, 6-7pm. Mon-Wed only. Limewood, G/F, The Pulse Shopping Mall, 28 Beach Rd., Repulse Bay; Fish & Meat, 1-2/F, 32 Wyndham St., Central, free.

Edited by Evelyn Lok
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com



Free Flow Beers at Le Garçon Saigon

New Vietnamese restaurant Le Garçon Saigon is extending its opening hours and offering a \$98 deal for free-flow beers between 5-7pm. From local Young Master Ales to French La Parisienne brews, you'll also be able to soak up that booze with a range of complimentary bar bites. Mon-Sun, 5-7pm. Le Garçon Saigon, 12-18 Wing Fung St, Wan Chai, \$98.

HK Magazine x Lan Kwai Fong

\$25 Happy Hour

It's HK Magazine's 25th anniversary, and we're showing our appreciation to our readers the only way we know how: with cheap drinks in Hong Kong's rowdiest area code.

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Beats & Liberty Pop-up

Burger-loving hipsters will be happy to hear that Beef & Liberty has opened a pop-up restaurant at the arts hub. The burger joint is bringing together its bestselling eats with live music and craft beer. You'll be able to gorge on the brand's signature bacon cheeseburger (\$122), or the Notorious P.I.G. pulled pork burger (\$98), and there's also a veggie option of a beetroot patty burger with goat's cheese (\$90). Pair it with a craft brew, a G&T or Moscow Mule (\$92) and sit back: The relaxed lounge provides live entertainment every Friday and Saturday from 9-11pm. Open Sun-Thu noon-9pm; Fri-Sat noon-11pm. S109-S113, 1/F, Block A, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central, 2548-9789, beef-liberty.com/hk.

LKF Street Food Festival

You won't have to wait until 4am for your fix of LKF munchies when the first ever LKF street food festival hits town: 50 food vendors are setting up shop along the hill for you to gorge on treats including Stacks ice cream sandwiches, Roundhouse beer and snacks and, if you're feeling a little healthy, even noms by food delivery service Nosh by Secret Ingredient. The event is free, but you can get in on a voucher passport for awesome deals at vendors and surrounding F&B outlets. Apr 23-24. Lan Kwai Fong, Lan Kwai Fong, Central, free entry. Voucher passport \$188 from ticketflap.com/lkfstreetfoodvoucherpassport, \$220 at the door.



Disclosure

Guy and Howard Lawrence, aka the brothers behind British house/electro duo Disclosure, are hitting up Hong Kong this summer for the first time ever. Twice nominated for a Grammy and loved for their pop collabs with stars like The Weeknd, Lorde and Sam Smith, you can bet tickets will be selling like electro hotcakes. Aug 12. \$580-880 from hkticketing.com.



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10 Cloverfield Lane ★★★★

(USA) Suspense/Thriller/Sci-fi. Directed by Dan Trachtenberg. Starring John Goodman, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, John Gallagher Jr. Category IIA. 103 minutes. Opened Apr 14.

Trapped in a nuclear fallout bunker and contemplating escape might sound like the premise of a gamer geek's fever dream, but "10 Cloverfield Lane" is a smartly written, gut-wrenchingly tense spiritual sequel to J. J. Abrams' 2008 found-footage monster blockbuster "Cloverfield," although it's limited by the scope of the universe it imagines.

You may wonder if the monsters from "Cloverfield" make a repeat appearance, but there's no visible link to the 2008 film aside from the suggestion of an attack. Michelle (horror queen Mary Elizabeth Winstead, "Scott Pilgrim vs. The World") is a seamstress/fashion designer who frantically leaves home one day after a lover's quarrel. She crashes her car in the countryside and wakes up locked in the basement of Howard (John Goodman), a farm owner who's been preparing for the end days in his underground bunker, accompanied by neighbor Emmett (John Gallagher Jr.), who barged his way into the shelter uninvited. Believing that everyone above ground is dead due to the contaminated air, they survive on supplies under Howard's strict and slightly sinister rule, while Michelle secretly plots her escape.

"10" was produced in secret by Abrams' company Bad Robot Productions, and it's director Dan Trachtenberg's debut feature (he previously worked on a short film that brought the game "Portal" to cinema), with a screenplay collab with Damien Chazelle ("Whiplash"). The script is an effectively written genre piece—aka a goldmine of great jump scares—but it also presents enough mystery to keep you guessing 'til the end.



A strength and a weakness of the movie is that for most of the short screentime—just over 100 minutes—we're kept wondering whether or not Howard is a strict and scary apocalypse survivalist, or if he's just a perverted hick who's developed an elaborate ruse to keep Michelle prisoner. The setting gives the writers a lot to play with, and they really squeeze the most out of the cramped three-room setting, with some great acting from all three main roles.

Winstead shines as a smart female character in uncertain and frightening territory, but her character's masterful stunts and impressive ad hoc problem solving skills are a little inconceivable for a regular seamstress under shock, which leads to a few implausible fights. And of course, the ominous threat of danger that suffuses the movie wouldn't have been nearly as effective without Goodman, who easily unsettles you with his

seemingly benign Goodman-ness. The film gratifyingly does away with the shaky cam stylings of "Cloverfield," adding plenty of close-up shots to ramp up the stress and the claustrophobia.

That said, it feels like there's more to explore in the entire world of the movie. With so much concentration on the bunker plotline, the ending suffers as a result. It feels as if the writers were too bogged down by executing each minute tension-laden scene, rather than fleshing out the characters' motives and backstories, which all leads to an abrupt ending that feels more like an interruption than actual closure.

"10 Cloverfield Lane" delivers countless thrilling gems pieced together like the opening sequence to a video game—but it tails off just when the real potential begins to shine through. **Evelyn Lok**

Coming Soon

Captain America: Civil War

(USA) The gang's back together, and by "together," we mean, separated into two factions and in debate about whether a rag-tag group of ass-kicking, superhuman misfits with megawatt smiles (played by RDJ, ScarJo, Chris Evans—and literally every other A-lister below Clooney) should be more supervised by the government or less (why would anyone want less!?). Opens Apr 28.

Mustang

(Turkey) A group of sisters in a conservative town live under strict house arrest by their grandparents; taken out of school, they're taught to sew, cook, and perform other domestic tasks as they wait for marriage. But as time wears on, the sisters start to plan their escape. Opens Apr 28.

Opening

The Boy

(USA/China/Canada) Old tropes die hard for a reason, and that reason is that people will never not be freaked out by three things: dolls that come to life, mysterious messages on the wall written in blood, and deadpan British children. Horror veteran William Brent Bell ("Stay Alive," "The Devil Inside") directs this thriller starring Lauren Cohan ("The Walking Dead") as a nanny to an English family's porcelain doll, which goes, inevitably, from weird to murderous. Opened Apr 21.

The Dressmaker

(Australia) Tilly Dunnage (Kate Winslet) is a couturier in the 50s who returns to her provincial Australian childhood home to take care of her ailing mother. Having been accused of murder as a child and exiled at an early age, she's back to find the truth and get revenge on her accusers, armed with... a sewing machine? Opened Apr 21.



Hardcore Henry

(Russia/USA) Video gamers won't know what to do with their hands when they sit down to watch "Hardcore Henry," a first-person-shooter movie filmed almost entirely on a GoPro worn like a mask on Henry—a newly resurrected cyber-soldier with no memory of his past life. Through his eyes, audience members are taken on an adventure to save his wife (Haley Bennett) from a warlord (Sharlto Copley, "Chappie"). Talk about being in on the action. Opened Apr 21.

In the Room

(Hong Kong/Singapore) Billed as Singapore's first erotic movie, "In The Room" spans six decades and centers around a single room in a Singaporean hotel and its various inhabitants: Six couples of all orientations and backgrounds. Stars Josie Ho as brothel madam who's all about the female empowerment. Opened Apr 21.

◀ The Kid from the Big Apple

(Malaysia/Hong Kong/Singapore) A lot of people will recognize this story of an assimilated, second-generation Asian kid who goes back to the old country and deepens her cultural awareness of her roots. Stars legendary Shaw Brothers veteran Ti Lung as a conservative grandfather and Malaysian newcomer Tan Qin Lin as Sarah, the kid in question. Opened Apr 18.

Anomalisa

(UK) This Oscar-nominated stop-motion flick follows an inspirational speaker who is bored with his cookie-cutter life—until he meets a woman (Jennifer Jason Leigh) who shakes things up. A complex meditation on humanity, but you can't help feeling tired watching every tiny mundane detail of human life. ★★

The Bodyguard

(Hong Kong) A rare directorial effort from Sammo Hung, but the action film vet proves he's still got it in this latest flick, which is actually titled 特工爺爺—"Special Agent Grandpa" in Cantonese. Andy Lau also makes an appearance as a thief. OF OUR HEARTS.



Demolition

(USA) Director Jean-Marc Vallee (last year's runaway success "Wild"), tells the story of an investment banker (Jake Gyllenhaal) who is grappling with the death of his wife. In unlikely circumstances, he befriends a customer service rep (Naomi Watts) and her son.

Eddie the Eagle

(USA/UK) Taron Egerton ("Kingsman: The Secret Service") is Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, a real-life British ski jumper who represented the UK in the 1988 winter Olympics—and came dead last. Growing up with Olympic dreams, he receives coaching from a reluctant ex-Olympian Bronson Peary (Hugh Jackman), who in turn learned his stuff from Warren Sharp (Christopher Walken).

Life

(Canada/USA) This biopic of James Dean by Anton Corbijn ("A Most Wanted Man") centers on Dean (Dane DeHaan) and photographer Dennis Stock (Robert Pattinson) and their unexpected friendship while they travel the USA shooting the now iconic Life magazine spread. A gorgeous film but ultimately lacking, "Life" seems better viewed in photos than on screen. ★★

Continuing

10 Cloverfield Lane

(USA) See review, above.

45 Years

(UK) After 45 years of marriage, Kate and Geoff Mercer (Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay) get a letter in the mail reminding them of a long-ignored fact from the past, and their relationship begins to take on a different tone.



Edited by Evelyn Lok
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Louder Than Bombs

(USA) In Norwegian director Joachim Trier's English-language feature debut, Gabriel Byrne ("The Usual Suspects"), Jesse Eisenberg and Devin Druid play a family trying to piece together what they know of their war photographer mother in the light of her growing, posthumous fame.

Macbeth

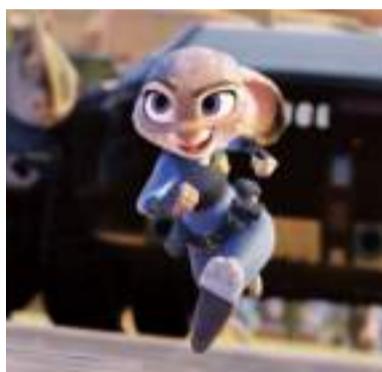
(UK/France/USA) One of Shakespeare's darkest plays gets a star-studded retelling. Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard star as the eponymous couple, who would kill for power—and do, at the urging of three witches.

The Mobfathers

(Hong Kong) Director Herman Yau's back with more disjointed storytelling: Chapman To is the boss of a triad faction. Every three years, the five leading gangs elect their big boss, but only nine of the top-ranked are allowed to vote. An on-the-nose metaphor for Hong Kong politics, paired with plenty of sex, violence and gore. ★★★★

Robbery

(Hong Kong) What can go wrong in one evening at a convenience store? Depending on who walks in, a lot. This gory comedy is the debut film of Hong Kong director Fire Lee, and centers around a useless clerk who finds himself caught in the middle of a hold-up, at the mercy of a few customers with a penchant for blood.



Zootopia

(USA) In "Zootopia," anthropomorphic mammals reign. Judy Hopps is the first rabbit to join the Zootopia police department, and attempts to crack a difficult case—but she needs the help of a sneaky fox (Jason Bateman) to do it. Through snappy humor and rich landscapes, Zootopia teaches us that perceptions can be deceiving, but hearts are genuine. ★★★★



"The Face of Ukraine: Casting Oksana Baiul," Sundance Short Film Festival

Film Festival

Sundance Short Film Festival

The Sundance Institute and the Metroplex have teamed up to bring a selection of Sundance Film Festival's shorts to the city between April and June. The first program is a selection of Sundance Award-winning shorts, the second includes fiction and doc shorts, and the third program features a compilation of Sundance animated shorts. Sundance is also holding a short film competition for Hong Kong residents: Grand prize is \$30,000 and a visit to the 2017 Sundance Film Festival in Utah. Apr 20-Jun 26. The Metroplex, G/F, E-Max, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$75 at metroplex.com.hk.

Le French May Cinema Program: Utopias

Le French May has found inspiring ways to inject a little French soul into all sorts of arts, presenting unique plays, exhibits, and concerts. It's no surprise that they're also shining a light on France's cinematic tradition: This year, their cinema program is presenting 15 films, with the theme "Utopias." Highlights include award-winning animated fantasy thriller "April and the Extraordinary World" starring Marion Cotillard, and black comedy "The Brand New Testament," in which an exceedingly grumpy God lives in a run-down Brussels apartment. May 10-31. Broadway Cinematheque, AMC Pacific Place and Palace IFC. \$85 at Broadway Cinematheque; \$95 at AMC Pacific Place and Palace IFC, cinema.com.hk.

Listings compiled by Jessica Wei

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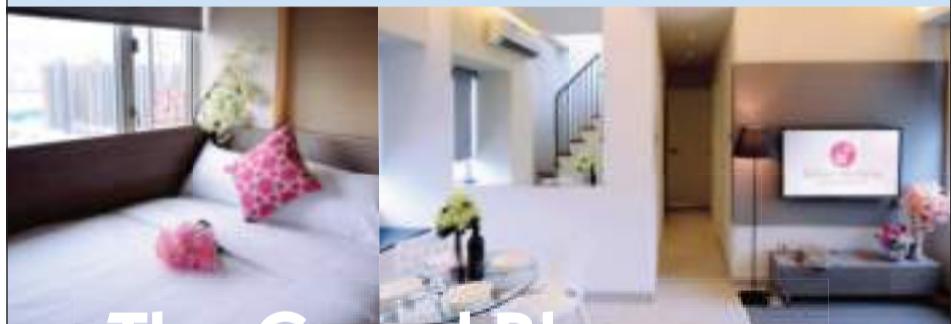
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): The ancient Greek geographer Pausanias told a story about how the famous poet Pindar got his start. One summer day, young Pindar decided to walk from his home in Thebes to a city 20 miles away. During his trek, he got tired and lay down to take a nap by the side of the road. As he slept, bees swarmed around him and coated his lips with wax. He didn't wake up until one of the bees stung him. For anyone else, this might have been a bother. But Pindar took it as an omen that he should become a lyric poet, a composer of honeyed verses. And that's exactly what he did in the ensuing years. I foresee you having an experience comparable to Pindar's sometime soon, Taurus. How you interpret it will be crucial.



GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): "I measure the strength of a spirit by how much truth it can take," said philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Measured by that standard, your strength of spirit has been growing—and may be poised to reach an all-time high. In my estimation, you now have an unusually expansive capacity to hold surprising, effervescent, catalytic truths. Do you dare invite all these insights and revelations to come pouring toward you? I hope so. I'll be cheering you on, praying for you to be brave enough to ask for as much as you can possibly accommodate.

cause him to act like a lunatic as it freed up tremendous energy. Would you consider pursuing a course like that in the coming weeks, Scorpio? In my astrological opinion, you have earned some time off from the grind. You need a break from the numbing procession of the usual daily rhythms. Is there any captivating person, animal, adventure, or idea that might so thoroughly incite your imagination that you'd be open to acting like a lunatic lover with boundless vigor?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): "Difficulties illuminate existence," says novelist Tom Robbins, "but they must be fresh and of high quality." Your assignment, Sagittarius, is to go out in search of the freshest and highest-quality difficulties you can track down. You're slipping into a magical phase of your astrological cycle when you will have exceptional skill at rounding up useful dilemmas and exciting riddles. Please take full advantage! Welcome this rich opportunity to outgrow and escape boring old problems.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): "When I grow up, I want to be a little boy," wrote novelist Joseph Heller in his book "Something Happened." You have cosmic permission to make a comparable declaration in the coming days. In fact, you have a poetic license and a spiritual mandate to utter battle cries like that as often as the mood strikes. Feel free to embellish and improvise, as well: "When I grow up, I want to be a riot girl with a big brash attitude," for example, or "When I grow up, I want to be a beautiful playful monster with lots of toys and fascinating friends who constantly amaze me."

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): In one of his diaries, author Franz Kafka made this declaration: "Life's splendor forever lies in wait around each one of us in all of its fullness—but veiled from view, deep down, invisible, far off. It is there, though, not hostile, not reluctant, not deaf. If you summon it by the right word, by its right name, it will come." I'm bringing this promise to your attention, Aquarius, because you have more power than usual to call forth a command performance of life's hidden splendor. You can coax it to the surface and bid it to spill over into your daily rhythm. For best results, be magnificent as you invoke the magnificence.

PISCES (Feb 18-Mar 20): I've got a controversial message for you, Pisces. If you're addicted to your problems or if you're convinced that cynicism is a supreme mark of intelligence, what I'll say may be offensive. Nevertheless, it's my duty as your oracle to inform you of the cosmic tendencies, and so I will proceed. For the sake of your mental health and the future of your relationship with love, consider the possibility that the following counsel from French author André Gide is just what you need to hear right now: "Know that joy is rarer, more difficult, and more beautiful than sadness. Once you make this all-important discovery, you must embrace joy as a moral obligation."

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): "The writer should never be ashamed of staring," said Aries writer Flannery O'Connor. "There is nothing that does not require his attention." This is also true for all of you Aries folks, not just the writers among you. And the coming weeks will be an especially important time for you to cultivate a piercing gaze that sees deeply and shrewdly. You will thrive to the degree that you notice details you might normally miss or regard as unimportant. What you believe and what you think won't be as important as what you perceive. Trust your eyes.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): In many cultures, the butterfly is a symbol of transformation and rebirth. In its original state as a caterpillar, it is homely and slow-moving. After its resurrection time in the chrysalis, it becomes a lithe and lovely creature capable of flight. The mythic meaning of the moth is quite different, however. Enchanted by the flame, it's driven so strongly toward the light that it risks burning its wings. So it's a symbol of intense longing that may go too far. In the coming weeks, Libra, your life could turn either way. You may even vacillate between being moth-like and butterfly-like. For best results, set an intention. What exactly do you want?

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): "I gladly abandon dreary tasks, rational scruples, reactive undertakings imposed by the world," wrote Scorpio philosopher Roland Barthes. Why did he do this? For the sake of love, he said—even though he knew it might

HOMEWORK: If you had to choose one wild animal to follow, observe, and learn from for three weeks, which would it be? FreeWillAstrology.com

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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I've been aware of my emetophilia since a very young age and have always kept it private. No need to tell me about the health risks, I'm aware, and I've only ever indulged this kink through videos online. The actual substance doesn't turn me on—I have no desire to be puked on. For me, the fantasy involves being with someone as they begin to feel sick, and then taking care of them as they puke. It has something to do with the buildup and release. Who knows? I'm married, and I told my husband about my kink exactly once, a few years ago. He wasn't judgmental, but he never brought it up again. We have a great sex life otherwise, and I've always assumed I'd have satisfying, normal sex with my husband and masturbate to this kink in private. But recently, on a whim, I posted a message on a kink site. A few weeks later, a guy reached out to say the description exactly mirrored his own kink. We've been texting for a few weeks. He makes me feel like less of a freak, it's been super hot, and we've talked about meeting up and role-playing for each other. It makes me go crazy just to think about this. In light of the health risks—and the fact that I'm married—this would be a one-time thing. Do I have to tell my husband? I don't want to have sex with this person; I just want to live out my fantasy for one night, which doesn't necessarily involve getting naked. But obviously we will both get off, so there's a definite sexual element. My husband and I have had threesomes, so he's not a "strictly monogamous" guy, but it is new for me to strike out on my own. But more than that, I'm mortified at the thought of him knowing about the kind of night I'm having, asking me about it later, etc. I would just rather him not know. But is that cheating?

—A Lady Emetophile Meets Her Match

The answer to your last question—is that cheating?—is obvious. If *that* wasn't cheating, ALEMHM, or if you thought your husband wouldn't regard it as cheating, you would be asking him for permission to meet up with your vomit buddy. So let's just run with the assumption that getting together with your VB would constitute infidelity, if the low-grade, nonpenetrative, not-for-everyone kind.

So do you have to tell your husband? You could tell your husband—and lots of people will insist you must tell your husband—but I'm sitting here, in this Starbucks on Lex and 78th, wondering if your husband would rather not be told.

You shared your kink with your husband once, and he never brought it up again. We can reasonably assume that your husband isn't interested in discussing, much less indulging, this very particular sexual interest of yours. Another reasonable assumption: Your kink may not be something your husband wants to think about. The awareness of your kink, to use Emily "Dear Prudence Emeritus" Yoffe's phrase, could be a libido killer for him. If your husband worked at stuffing your disclosure down the memory hole, because it interferes with his ability to connect with you sexually, asking permission to spend an evening with your VB could come as an unwelcome reminder.

So you could make—as I've just made—an argument for sparing your husband the reminder, and sparing yourself the discomfort, by not telling and/or asking him, and then discreetly meeting up with your VB just this once. (The counterargument is also easily made: He never brought it up again because he picked up on your shame, he didn't want to distress you, etc.) But if you decide to meet your VB, ALEMHM, weigh the risks (what happens if you get caught?) against the rewards (scratching this off your kidney dish list!), meet up with your VB in public first, and let someone

know where you are and who you're with on the big night.

I find myself in the most boring of straight white girl pickles: My boyfriend is dragging his feet on proposing. I'm 29, and he's 31. We've been dating for three years. Things are great. We talk about our future a lot—buying a house, vacations, blah blah blah. Lack of proposal aside, we're solid. But I would hate to waste another year in this city for this guy when I could have been working toward tenure somewhere else. (I'm in academia.) I've tried bringing this up to him several times with no concrete results.

—Really Into Not Going Solo

Propose to him, RINGS. Don't informally propose a formal proposal—don't ask *him* to ask you to marry *him*—but go get a ring (for him) and ask him to marry you (for fuck's sake). You have the power to pop the question and call it at the same time. Good luck, I hope he says yes

I met a man two and a half years ago on Tinder. Our relationship was built on lies from the start. I lied to him about having a child so I could put a wedge between us. I came clean after we slept together a few times—the most mind-blowing sex I've ever had—because I was afraid he might want to meet my made-up child. I caught feelings. But Tinder man is married and lives in France. I see him only three times a year. Fast-forward to now. He pursues other people. Women throw themselves at him. We were at the mall, and he picked up a girl while I was getting my hair done. He's not my boyfriend. He hurts me. I am terrified of losing him. Here comes the tricky part: My doctor found a tumor on my lymph nodes. I go in for tests on Friday. I'm ready to pick out my coffin at this point. I contacted my lover's ex-wife and asked why she divorced, and she said because he cheated all the time. I know what he's capable of. I don't want to change him. I love him. I go insane when we don't talk. He told me he doesn't respect me any more than he respects his current wife. I'm so scared.

—Help Me Please

Um... you won't find the help you need wedged between escort ads at the back of a weekly newspaper, HMP, or on a website underneath pop-up ads for vaporizers. You need a therapist, someone who can help you work through legitimate-but-possibly-premature fears for your health (let's wait for those test results to come back before we pick out your coffin, okay?) and your emotional dependence on a man who isn't your boyfriend, isn't your husband, isn't around much, and has told you he doesn't respect you. He's not the kind of guy who's going to come through for you during a health crisis—that guy couldn't come through for you during a haircut.

Don't get me wrong: I sleep with men, I understand the sexual appeal of a man who treats you like shit, I'm a huge Peggy Lee fan (<http://tiny.cc/dan-peggylee>). But you can't depend on a guy like that at a time like this. If it turns out you're seriously ill, HMP, you need to lean on family and friends, join a support group, buy one of those vaporizers, and concentrate on getting healthy. And take comfort: If/when your health is restored, there are plenty of shitty, selfish, sadistic guys on the planet who'll treat you badly, cheat on you flagrantly, and—not coincidentally—get you off spectacularly.

I'm sorry you may be ill, HMP, and I'm sorry you're scared. Best wishes for a speedy physical, emotional, and sexual recovery.

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Want to Go the Extra Mile? Leave It to Le Méridien on Mother's Day

Make it all about that special lady in your life on May 8 and treat her to a relaxing and unforgettable weekend at one of Hong Kong's trendiest stays, Le Méridien in Cyberport.

No, we don't mean your girlfriend: There's still time to book an extra special treat for mom and spoil her on her special day.

With Le Méridien's "All About Mom" staycation package, you can treat mom to a pampered night in one of the hotel's snazzy rooms—as well as an awesome buy-one-get-one-free seafood dinner buffet and a breakfast buffet for two at Prompt, one complimentary drink from 6pm onwards at PSI Bar, a lovely gift and plenty of other amenities.

For \$888, you can book one of Le Méridien's Smart Rooms, which features upscale amenities, a luxurious walk-in rain shower, a standalone roll-top bathtub, state-of-the-art technology, a 40-inch plasma TV and complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi.

Of course if you want to take it up a notch, you can upgrade mom's stay while she's there. For an extra \$100 you can go for the Smart Pure Room—or the Deluxe Ocean Room for an additional \$300, which delivers all of the usual luxury amenities plus a stunning panoramic view of the South China Sea and the outlying islands.

Offers are valid from May 6-8 only and rooms are subject to availability. Rates shown are based on single and double occupancy per room per night and are subject to a 10 percent service charge. Check in is from 3pm and checkout is at noon.

lemeridien.com/hongkong



Spring for New Eats at The First Floor by Lifestyle Federation

Not able to leave Hong Kong this dreary wet month? Head to premium restaurant and dining club The First Floor by Lifestyle Federation instead to sample delectable new dishes and participate in a hands-on Umeshu "edutainment" workshop showcasing the art of Japanese plum wine making.

Combining education and entertainment for an elevated dining experience, The First Floor by Lifestyle Federation is a unique destination for Hong Kong gastronauts and vinophiles. Through May 15, guests will be able to participate in complimentary plum wine workshops during dinner time, experiencing the unique aroma and taste of Ume plums and getting a chance to create a custom blend catered to their own tastes.

The rich aroma, gentle sweetness and touch of acidity of Ume plums is the perfect accompaniment to the restaurant's new menu, featuring a range of first-class signature dishes made with fresh, seasonal ingredients.

At \$198, begin with the beautifully arranged foie gras ballotine with homemade brioche and blueberry gelée, or opt for the creative roasted corn soup with balsamic popcorn (\$75) to whet your appetite for the parade of mains to come.

The main courses are a difficult choice between the cod fillet with squid ink orzo pasta and snow peas (\$120) and the French pigeon with truffle and foie gras on spinach sponge cake (\$250). If the mood calls for something cooler, The First Floor's chilled angel hair with scallion and caviar (\$210) should fit the bill. Indulge your sweet tooth and cap off an elegant meal with the zesty yoghurt and honey crème with lemon curd dessert (\$95).

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HK GIVEAWAYS

Can you believe it's week four of our April giveaways already? We've got a winner for our fabulous three-night staycation at Ovolo Southside! But we've got even more fantastic prizes up for grabs next week—and here's a sneak peek...

WE HAVE
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Congratulations to the winner of a three-night staycation at Ovolo Southside, valued at \$10,500!

Akanksha Gandhi is the lucky winner of a three-night stay for two in a Long Loft Suite, plus \$1,000 food & beverage allowance that can be used at the hotel's restaurant Cirque or rooftop bar Above, as well as two tickets to Ocean Park and pick-up & drop-off service to and from the hotel within Hong Kong.

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

I would love to kickstart my 'newly-wed' life, Explore and enjoy our staycation, just us—husband and wife; Ovolo Southside has the perfect atmosphere, for finding precious moments of my love-life!

Congratulations, Akanksha, and enjoy your holiday!

Not a Winner? Check Back for Our Flash Giveaway!

Sorry you didn't win this Southside staycation, but we have even more prizes coming right up!

Check back next week for a special FLASH Giveaway—we've got a sweet **two-night weekend stay at the East Hotel** (valued at \$14,800), plus **more than a dozen other prizes** up for grabs!

Pick up a copy of the magazine on April 29 for a chance to win these fantastic prizes, available for **one week only!**



FLASH
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FIRST PERSON

The Civic Party's **Alvin Yeung Ngok-kiu** is the newbie of the city's Legislative Council, having assumed office after winning the February 2016 New Territories East by-election. He tells Xavier Ng about going from barrister to lawmaker, what he thinks about the Hong Kong political arena, and gives his take on Hong Kong independence.

I went to study in Canada when I was 14 years old

It was the 90s. After [June 4] 1989, many middle-class families in Hong Kong did the same thing.

I went to a boarding school, had my secondary education and got my first degree there.

It made a big impact. I am very liberal, and this liberal belief has to have something to do with my Canadian education and upbringing.

I then went to Beijing to do an LLM [Master of Laws] degree.

I read a lot of Chinese history books when I was little, so I wanted to go back to China—not as a tourist, but as a student—to see the country.

To some extent, there's a fantasy of building up China. I can't build the infrastructure because I can't be an engineer; but I can be a lawyer to work out the rule of law.

The turning point was when I realized Hong Kong was also in need for me to come back and contribute.

It was the year 2003: First, there was SARS. It made me realize Hong Kong is a place that values professionalism.

I really admire the spirit of Dr Joanna Tse Yuen-man [who gave her life treating patients during SARS].

Second, there was Article 23. I realized Hong Kong's rule of law could be very fragile.

When I saw Hong Kong's situation, it made me not want to stay in China anymore. So I went to the UK for another law degree. I came back to Hong Kong in 2007.

My family has always been in Hong Kong. So the decision to return was never difficult. This is where my family is.

Law and politics are twin brothers. The gist of politics is about law, and the making of law is politics.

Ever since I was a kid, I found politics fun and fascinating. When I watched the news, I thought the politicians were really cool. I wanted to be like them.

I'm just one of those who want to do more than staying in a barristers' chambers.

I'm interested in politics and I don't mind doing a bit more for Hong Kong. So becoming a legislator is only natural.

All politics is local. Politics has to be local.

I personally don't fancy [Hong Kong independence]. I don't see it as a practical way out.

But I respect and I understand why people ask for it. Because people get disappointed.

In a perfect world, people would not have expected Hong Kong to go independent, simply because the "one country, two systems" would be a promise. But now it's a broken one.

When people are upset, when people see no hope, they look for something else. This is the situation we are facing right now, and you can't blame them.

After all, we're only politicians, not magicians.

We're not here to perform magic, but we have a duty to convince those who are losing patience that we still have a slim chance of success.

If you're a believer in non-violence, then you have to demonstrate that non-violence still gives a way out—albeit a difficult one.

What's a better Hong Kong? A more democratic, more liberal, more just society.

The way to achieve it: non-violence. This is what I think, in a few simple words, is a pan-democratic lawmaker's duty.

I get disappointed too. The mere fact that [additional funding for the] express rail link was passed in such a manner, it's just hilariously unacceptable.

But on the other hand, this is something that would inevitably happen during our long battle if you refuse to use violence.

Legco is not a strange place for me. I've been to this "kitchen" many times and seen how the "food" was made.

But the difference is, when you are in the kitchen as a chef, you have to go to the wet market to buy food, and do the cleaning, chopping and everything.

That's quite a different experience from simply watching.

Politics can be sexy. Politics is about people's lives. But why do people not care much? Because it's at such a distance.

You don't really care how Coke is made, but you drink it because it's sweet. You don't care about politics because it's bitter.

I'm not Daniel Wu, I can't make politics sexy. It's not entertainment, after all. But I still think there's something in politics that can attract people.

To get the attention of those who only like to read about wine and food, and watch TVB dramas, that's our job. That's why we need better politicians.

In September [after the Legco election], you'll see a lot of new faces. The fresh blood will bring new ideas and new approaches to Hong Kong politics.

So I'm optimistic: Joshua Wong is only 19 years old. Even [student activists] Nathan Law, Oscar Lai—come on, they're young. I'm not sure if they can make Legco, but I'm sure they'll be in the campaign.

These newcomers will definitely reshape Hong Kong's political landscape. I've full confidence in that.

"I'm not Daniel Wu. I can't make politics sexy."



NEED TO KNOW...

Alvin Yeung started out in politics when he became a campaign volunteer for Civic Party leader Alan Leong Kah-kit, also a barrister-turned-politician, in the 2004 Legislative Council election.

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A dynamic photograph of a woman in mid-workout. She has long brown hair and is wearing a teal tank top and matching teal shorts. She is shouting with her mouth wide open, showing her teeth, and is holding a large red kettlebell with both hands. The background is plain white.

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