

IT'S FREE!



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25 years HK

HK MAGAZINE FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016 HK-MAGAZINE.COM

Fishball is Forever!
Hong Kong's small, round, tasty universe





MARKUS KARSTIESS
ALICJA KWADE
BETTINA POUSTTCHE
JOHANNA REICH
MICHAEL SAILSTORFER
JAN SCHARRELMANN

15.3.2016 (TUE) |
7:00PM - 8:30PM
Exhibition Opening

25.3.2016 (FRI) |
11:00AM - 1:00PM

Guided Tour by Georg
Elben, Director of
Skulpturenmuseum
Glaskasten Marl, Germany

26.3.2016 (SAT) |
3:00PM - 4:00PM

Dialogue between Georg
Elben (Germany) and Nadim
Abbas (Hong Kong)

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BETTINA POUSTTCHE
HUGO

STATEMENT 3: NEW SCULPTURE FROM GERMANY

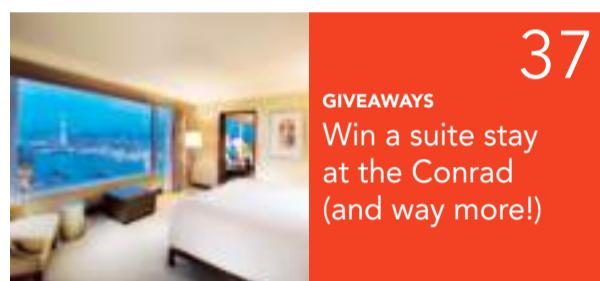
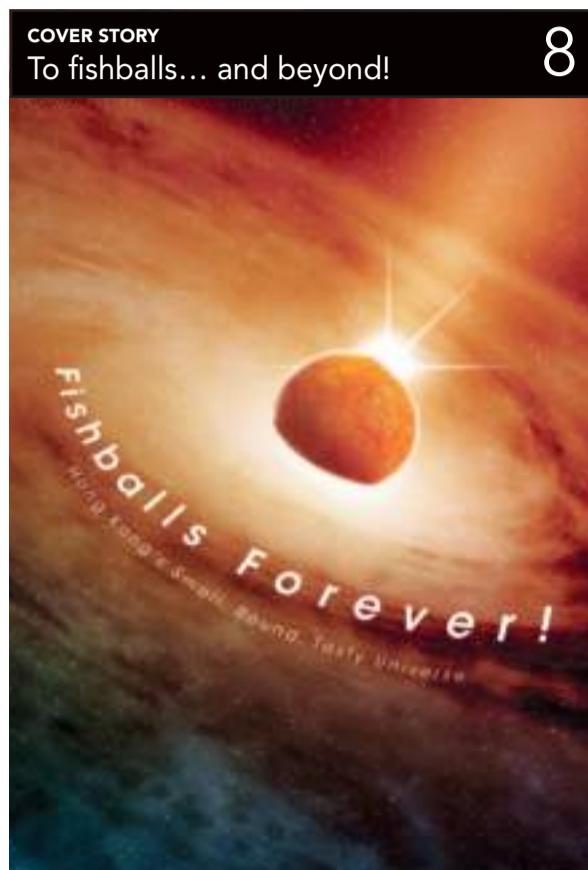
GOETHE-GALLERY | 14/F HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE | 15.3. - 9.4.2016



MINISTRY OF ART



Skulpturenmuseum
Glaskasten Marl



A Hong Kong Eclipse

Hong Kong witnessed a partial solar eclipse this week, although it was mostly hidden behind cloud cover. It got us thinking about other people and places in our magnificent city where brilliance is clouded over.

Octopus Cards

This week we learned that come November, we might be able to store up to \$3,000 on our Octopus cards. Sure, there are valid concerns about how easy it is to steal money from contactless cards. But the true genius of loading up an Octopus with \$3,000 is this: The garlic noodles in 7-Eleven cost about \$10. Suddenly we've enabled the effortless purchase of 300 orders of garlic noodles, or "one drunk person's worth." This is a total game-changer.

Lee Po

No one's giving the previously missing, now discovered bookseller enough credit. After all, wasn't he able, apparently singlehandedly, to smuggle himself from Hong Kong to the mainland undetected? Sure, most people are trying to go the other direction, but hey: that's ingenuity for you.

ATV

We all thought the ailing broadcaster had finally run out of money last week and would shut down—until a representative of investor Si Rongbin showed up with LITERALLY a suitcase full of cash and injected enough money to keep the station creaking onwards until April 1, when its license expires. Do you see the genius at work here? Every additional day that ATV is

on the air is one more day we don't have to use the internet to download clunky poorly dubbed 90s China travel shows, which is the only thing anyone wants to watch. Yes, this is just a brilliant scheme to ensure the failure of Netflix.

Edward Leung

The Hong Kong Indigenous member, who picked up 60,000 votes in the recent Legco by-election, admitted this week that despite his fervently anti-mainland stance, he was actually born on the mainland. To an unexperienced observer, this might deserve a whole new section in the dictionary under "irony." But look a little deeper: Leung's a first-generation immigrant trying to fend off other immigrants, right? Well, surely no one could be that much of a hypocrite. It HAS to be a cunning plot. Doesn't it?

CY Leung

If there was ever a case of hiding your light under a bushel, this is it. The Chief Executive's aloof, uncaring demeanor obviously hides a bleeding heart that's desperate to interact with the people of Hong Kong. The sad tragedy is that he can never do it and still retain the love of China. Love or be loved: How can we ask any human being to choose between the two?! Pity poor CY Leung. Pity him.

Who's in charge?

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Film Editor Evelyn Lok
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Next Week in HK Magazine...

We've got an all-new fashion page lovingly curated by Hong Kong designer, model, fashion guru and all around awesome chap Rafael Raya Cano. Stay tuned for style tips, essential advice and some pretty freaking great photos...

Look us up!



The List

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Mr. Know-It-All's

— Guide to Life —

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

Who are the elderly women under the Canal Road Flyover beating stuff with their shoes?

— Little Man

These ladies are doing what's called *da siu yan* (打小人), "villain hitting" or "beating the petty person." It's a piece of folk magic that's intended to curse its recipient.

See, we're in the middle of the *ging zat* period of the Chinese calendar, the "Awakening of Insects." This period, which started this year on March 5, doesn't just signify the beginning of Spring: It's also the most popular time of year for villain hitting. How does it work? Well, every villain hitter has a different ritual, but here's a rough idea.

You approach your chosen villain hitter and perform the necessary prayers and obeisances to the deities, most often Guanyin and the Monkey King. You write your own name on a red sheet of talismanic *fulu* paper, then the name of your cursee on a white *fulu*. If you want to curse general villains in your life—competitors, people who bitch about you, those who stand on the left on MTR escalators—leave it blank.

This is when the venerable old lady in front of you grasps a women's shoe and goes to town on the white *fulu*, cursing the villain as she thwacks the paper until it tears and breaks.

Next comes a sacrifice to appease *Baak Fu*, the white tiger deity who represents peace and virtue. *Baak Fu* is represented by a yellow paper tiger, and the hitter will rub pork fat into the tiger's mouth to gum up its jaws, so it won't be able to hurt you. Meanwhile the villainous *fulu* is tucked inside the tiger to fill it up, and then both are set alight.

Two crescent shaped divination blocks are thrown onto the ground, to verify that the curse has been cast. Lastly the

villain hitter scatters beans and rice grains on the ground, to signify the dispersal of the "little people" in your life.

Visiting a mystic figure who will curse your enemies smacks more of voodoo than of a Hong Kong street scene. But the elderly villain hitters of the city do roaring business—all the more so at a time like now, when the city's embroiled in uncertainty and anger. Who doesn't have someone they'd like to see suffer a mishap or two?

But if you decide to go have your own villain hit, perhaps don't curse an individual person. Fun as it may seem to watch a paper effigy of your ex be whacked into oblivion by a surprisingly spirited grandma, it's worth bearing in mind: What goes around, comes around. Tomorrow it could be your ex taking a seat in front of the selfsame grandma, who will quite happily beat your own villainous name into the dust.



Dickson Lee/SCMP

My Perfect HK

This week in My Perfect HK:

Chief Executive CY Leung's comments

have landed him in hot water yet again this week, after he suggested that worker bees should go fishing or swimming in the harbor at lunchtime.

It's not quite so easy as all that, but there's a lesson here: make your lunchtime your own. Step away from your desk and try to spend the time on yourself. Go for a walk, head to the gym, have a proper sit-down meal. Heck, if you really can, go for a swim.

Just don't tell CY we sent you.

Letters

"Acceptance of people with mental illnesses is crucially important."

An email response to our online feature about the plight of the mentally ill in Hong Kong ("Hong Kong's Mentally Ill Suffocated by Stigma and Red Tape," March 1):

I would like to suggest what the government and we could do to make the city a better place for people with mental illness.

1. What the government could do

It is estimated that about 1.7 million people are suffering from different kinds of mental problems in Hong Kong. It is crucial for the government and related organizations to identify people in need and do prevention work. The government should be committed to securing on-going funding for NGOs to organize public awareness campaigns and study programs about mental health issues.

According to the government, the Hospital Authority handles about 210,000 mental illness cases currently. However, the need for a mental health medical service in the community is larger than we can imagine. Furthermore, many people refuse to seek help due to misunderstandings about mental illnesses. We suggest the government should have a concrete plan to enhance general medical doctors' knowledge of mental illness and let them be the "gatekeeper" for early identification of mentally ill people.

The Hong Kong school curriculum does not include sufficient mental health knowledge. The government should enhance mental health education in primary and secondary schools by including related content in the curriculum.

It is also very important to enhance teachers' understanding and knowledge of mental health.

2. How the media can help

It is sad that whenever there is a violent accident, the media's focus falls on whether the person involved has mental illness. The media should take a leading role to reduce the formation of stigmatization of mental illness.

3. What can you and I do?

All of us can be involved in providing a better place for mental health patients. Acceptance of people with mental illnesses is crucially important. Let's make mental health problem no more a taboo subject and learn to not look at patients with prejudice.

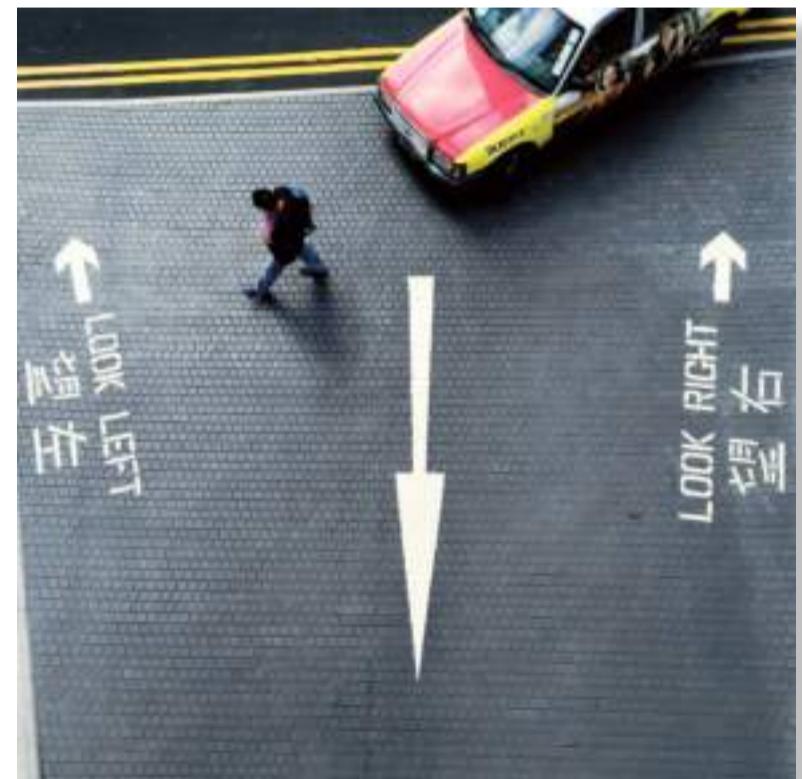
City life, busy work and complicated relationships can cause a lot of stress. We should stay aware of our emotional needs and mental health status. We can learn more ways to release negative emotions, develop positive thinking and try to establish a balanced life style.

Finally, I would like to point out that if you find yourself or people around you are having emotional distress or mental problems, you should seek help as soon as possible.

I believe that by joining together to fight for change, we can make Hong Kong a better place for people with mental health problems.

Ching Chi-kong
Assistant Director, the Mental Health Association of Hong Kong

#PrivateEyeHK



Conflicting Advice

Photo by Tricia Darling (Instagram: @triciadarlingphotography)

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



Saturday 3/12 So Far, King Good

Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company brings **King and Country** to the city, a chunk of Shakespeare's history plays encompassing "Henry IV" parts I and II and "Henry V," in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Bard's death. Uneasy lies the head... Through Mar 13, various times. Lyric Theatre, Academy of Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. \$200-680 from urbtix.hk.



Friday 3/11

Happy Beerday!

Craft beer suppliers Bestbev is turning three, and they're holding a **3rd Anniversary Party** to celebrate—a boozy evening of free-flow beer and pizza. What more could you ask for? 6-11pm. DreamLikeBubbles, 7/F, 36 Belcher's St., Kennedy Town. \$200 from bestbevhk.com, \$250 at the door.

Sunday 3/13

The Signs Are All There

We all forget to look up in this city. **City walk** app iDiscover has teamed up with urban expert Kevin Mak to organize a gently **guided wander** through the streets of Sham Shui Po, commemorating the area's rapidly disappearing signboards. 3pm. Wontonmeen, 135 Lai Chi Kok Rd., Sham Shui Po. Free, more info at tiny.cc/hk-SSPwalk.

Monday 3/14

From Dim Sum to Infinity

If your problem with your average yum cha session is that you never get enough, Dim Sum Bar has your back. They've got a two-hour **all-you-can-eat dim sum** deal so you can stuff yourself to death with char siu bao. With new dishes like deep-fried bean curd sheet puffs with shrimp paste added to the already bangin' menu, it's a pretty great way to start the week. Through Jun 15. Shop G103, G/F, Gateway Arcade, Harbour City, Tsim Sha Tsui. \$188 for afternoon tea and \$198 for dinner.



Tuesday 3/15

Semele, but Different

The HKAPA presents **Handel's Semele**, a three-part opera all about lust, love and morality. Semele is a princess who wants to be immortal... but things don't work out like she'd planned. Obviously. Mar 15-19, 7:30pm. Academy Concert Hall, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. 2584-8500. \$150 from hkticketing.com.

Wednesday 3/16

Je t'M

Spice up your humpday with "**-M- The Extraordinary Live Show**" by French rock singer Matthieu Chedid, aka "-M-". He's kicking off his Asian tour in Hong Kong, bringing his Gallic swagger to the SAR. Bof. 7pm. KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$600 from ticketflap.com, \$700 at the door.

Thursday 3/17

Shamrock 'n' Roll

On this St. Patrick's Day, it's your solemn duty to drink WAY MORE Guinness than is sensible. Head over to the **The Irish Village** at Cyberport, where you'll be serenaded by Irish five-piece Dargle as you down happy-hour-priced Guinness all night. There'll also be plenty more Irish food and drink available. Good luck with getting to work on Friday. 6pm-midnight. Cyberport Arcade, 100 Cyberport Rd., Cyberport. Free.

Coming Up

Center Pieces

Art Basel too hoity-toity for you? Art Central aims at a younger crowd, bringing in contemporary works to the massive tent at the Central Harbourfront. Check out Abdullah M.I. Syed's performance piece "The Flying Buck" on Monday, Mar 21 (5-7:15pm), in which the artist makes paper planes out of US\$1 bills, unfolds them, then eats and regurgitates them to create what he calls a "Money Art Object." Ew. Mar 21-26. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$230 for two from hkticketing.com.

Friday 3/18

But is it Art?

With the city's art season in full swing, embellish your Instagram with **Eat Art** at Aberdeen Street Social: food artist Ryan Foote has collaborated with chef Chris Whitmore to deliver a high tea that combines food and aromas in all new ways. Or is edible art just a commentary on the impermanence of anything that man seeks to achieve? Mar 14-24, 2:30-5:30pm. Aberdeen Street Social, 5 Aberdeen St., Central. \$317 for two from gormei.com.

Saturday 3/19

Musique, C'est Chic

Le French May is two months away, but there's no need to wait for Francophile fun. **Mars en Folie**, literally "March Madness," brings three French-speaking bands—Babel, Fabian Tharin and Félix Dyotte—to the city. Prep yourself for an ensemble of electro, ballroom punk and "elegant pop" (It's French: of course it's elegant). 7:30pm, The Vine Central, 29 Burrows St., Wan Chai. Free; register at alliancefrancaise.org.hk.

NEWS

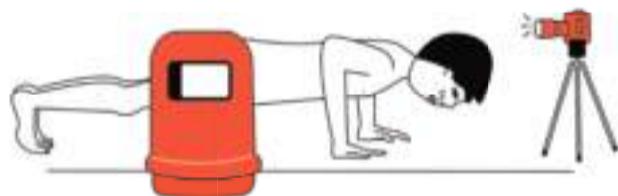
Last Week In Reality

SAT 27

Road Rage Two middle-aged men are driving through Yuen Long when they get stuck in traffic and get into an argument. The argument escalates into a fight, as one driver gets the other in a headlock and starts punching him in the head. The other driver pushes him to the ground, kicking him. The pair ends up grappling on the ground with no clear winner, and the fight lasts around three minutes before the two break apart. Police arrive to investigate the incident, but the drivers both agree not to take further legal action.

SUN 28

Parallel Thief A 42-year-old man appears in court charged with the theft of 41 bottles of shampoo from a supermarket. He had stuffed them into three bags and his backpack before leaving the store. A staff member chased after him, causing him to abandon the shampoo and flee, but he was caught and charged. He pleads guilty to theft and is sentenced to four months in prison. He explains that he had intended to sell the shampoo in Shenzhen.



MON 29

Selfie Strip At around 7am, an Apple Daily reader is on her way to work when she sees a nude man on Nathan Road in Mong Kok. He is doing planks and taking photos of himself with a camera on a timer. She suggests it might be some kind of performance art piece. The man leaves after around 10 minutes.

TUE 1

Sneaky Fix A netizen posts a picture of what appears to be a fire truck parked in front of an auto repair shop in Chai Wan. Oriental Daily reporters discover that the truck appears to have scraped against something, causing damage to the wheels and stripping the paint from the truck's door. They are told that a few firemen brought the truck to the shop and paid the repair fees themselves, before taking it back to the fire department. This is a violation of internal regulations, as damage to government vehicles must be reported to the police.

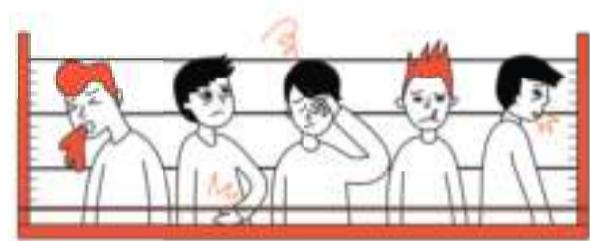
WED 2

Porn Switch At around 6am, a man in his 40s is looking at newspapers at a 7-Eleven in Yau Ma Tei. He stealthily slips a pornographic magazine worth \$58 into a newspaper worth \$7 before buying the paper and leaving the store. A staff member discovers the theft and chases after the thief. The man drops his bag as he flees, and police discover his identity card in the bag.



THU 3

China Charges A 25-year old man gets a phone call from someone who claims to be a Chinese law enforcement agent. The agent tells him to call two other agents, who say that there are criminal charges pending against him—but they will be dropped if he transfers RMB8,000 to a mainland Chinese bank account. The man transfers the money, but later he reports the incident to the police. Police believe the case is a phone scam, and investigations are underway.



FRI 4

Occupy Meth In the afternoon, nine people being tried for drug charges at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts simultaneously report that they are feeling unwell. They are rushed to the hospital, and when they arrive one shouts "We did this on purpose! Why are we refused bail for an ounce of meth? You released the rioters on bail!" He asks reporters at the hospital to help plead their case.

Quote of the Week

"It's money that opens one's eyes. This is the virtue of capitalism. Rest assured: When the Philippines and Indonesia come into power one day, television stations will start providing subtitles in their language as well."

Former TV presenter and news anchor Allan Au Ka-lun explains TVB's decision to display subtitles in simplified Chinese on its Putonghua news broadcasts.

Talking Points

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

Nursing Homes Suck

Police are investigating the death of a mentally disabled resident of a nursing home in Kwun Tong after **hospital staff found foreign objects in his anus**, including gauze, diaper tape and cotton pads. The 60-year-old patient was sent to United Christian Hospital on January 31 after experiencing vomiting, diarrhea and shortness of breath. After hearing what hospital staff had found, the family **called the police right before the patient died of pneumonia**. The patient's brother alleged that **staff at the nursing home had been irritated by his incontinence and tried to prevent it**. The nursing home denied abuse, claiming that the man would have reacted strongly if harassed. It also asserted that **no staff knew how to insert objects in this manner**. The man's sister-in-law said it was physically impossible for the objects to have been self-inserted since the man was paralyzed on the right side of the body, while his left hand could barely reach his own face.

Our take: Now that's an undignified way to go.

Plastic Junk is Here to Stay

The Environmental Protection Department recently announced that it's going to **stop funding the Yan Oi Tong EcoPark Plastic Resources Recycling Centre** by the end of next year, because **it's confident that the community has developed its recycling network sufficiently** to deal with plastic waste. Green group The Greeners Action reprimanded the government, describing the **decision as unwise and hasty**. They warned that given the continued low market value of plastic waste, closing the center could mean **abandoning plastic waste recycling altogether**. It said that in spite of the Community Recycling Network and Community Green Stations, the public's **waste reduction and recycling practices are still far from habitual**, meaning that most recyclable waste still ends up in landfills.

Our take: We need so many MORE recycling facilities, not less of them!



Illustration: Elaine Tang



Street Talk

Reputedly Hong Kong's only blind teacher, **Billy Yau Wai-lok** teaches at the Chinese YMCA Secondary School in Tin Shui Wai. He tells Natasha Fernandes how he began his journey and how he copes with his surroundings.

Photo credit: Berton Chang/SCMP

HK Magazine: Tell us a little about yourself. How and when did you lose your sight?

Billy Yau: I lost my eyesight at the age of 2 due to optic nerve atrophy. Doctors couldn't identify the reason for the disease and, despite advanced technology today, it's still impossible to repair one's optic nerve. I went to Ebenezer School for the Visually Impaired until Form 1, when I entered St. Paul's College. I studied English Language Education at HKU and graduated in 2008. I've been teaching ever since.

HK: Why did you want to become a teacher?

BY: I was inspired by two of my primary school teachers. My P.5 Chinese teacher would ask us to write a weekly journal every week and she'd write back long and detailed replies, which sparked my love for Chinese. The other was my class teacher in P.6. She always spent time chatting with us about anything from friendship to social issues. Once I was upset and wrote her a letter. To my surprise, she called me after dinner, chatting to me and comforting me. I was moved to tears. I realized the role of teachers is to accompany adolescents and guide them when they face difficulties.

HK: How does being blind affect your teaching methods—and how you keep the kids in line?

BY: I carry out most of my teaching duties on the computer. For example, I have my students turn in their assignments via email and in the classroom, I type on my notebook computer and connect it to the projector while teaching. As for discipline, I have my students work on their computers and send their work to me via instant messenger to ensure they're on task.

HK: What materials do you use to teach your students?

BY: Most of my materials come from the internet. With younger students, I use YouTube clips a lot as they are effective in catching students' attention and serve as useful prompts for writing. With students in senior forms, I make use of articles available online and adapt them into grammar exercises as well as reading, writing and speaking tasks. If it weren't for the computer, it would be difficult for me to find teaching resources.

HK: How is technology evolving to help the blind?

BY: In the past, everything had to be translated into Braille or read aloud and recorded for the visually impaired to read. It was time-consuming, so blind people had very limited access to information.

Now, more than nine Hong Kong newspapers are uploaded to a site for the visually impaired every day. I can also read e-books and e-journals. Another useful technology is smartphones. It's difficult for us to grasp the environment around us—for example, which street we are on and what shops are around us. But a smartphone gives us all this information. Some apps even allow us to take photos of an object and tell us what color it is—or even what it is. Isn't that incredible?

HK: How does Hong Kong compare to other cities when it comes to accessibility for the blind?

BY: Hong Kong is doing a great job in the sense that we have guided paths almost everywhere in public places and most traffic lights are installed with audible signals. When I visited Australia I found that there weren't as many facilities for the visually impaired. But in terms of human resources, countries like the US and Australia seem to be more helpful for people with disabilities. In Australia, the government pays people to be "readers" for visually impaired people to assist them with their studies and work, which is something we don't have in Hong Kong.

HK: What are some misconceptions you've faced?

BY: Some people think that blind people can walk around smoothly because we remember the number of steps we take from one place to another. In fact, we never do this and it's impossible to remember! What we do is, we have a map in our minds and we walk according to how we perceive the environment through our other senses. When I'm walking with my cane, sometimes I have to detect where an object is so I can avoid it, or I have to walk along the side of a wall. But people always think that I will bump into it: They shout out warnings or even grab me from behind!

HK: Sounds pretty annoying!

BY: Some people try to avoid the words "see" and "watch" when they talk to a blind person. They'll say, "Did you listen to the TV program last night?" It's weird, isn't it? Actually, we don't mind hearing such words—but what we do mind is being talked to as if we were a special type of people.

For more on how you can help the visually impaired in Hong Kong, visit the Hong Kong Society for the Blind at hksb.org.hk.

Blowing Water

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

霸王餐
baa3 wong4 caan1

"TYRANT'S MEAL"

"Dine and dash." A feudal ruler, *baa wong*, would never pay for anything, and so the word became a term for people who do the same.

HongKabulary



Soft Closing (soft kləʊsɪŋ), n.

When that new restaurant you wanted to try closes after just six months of operation.

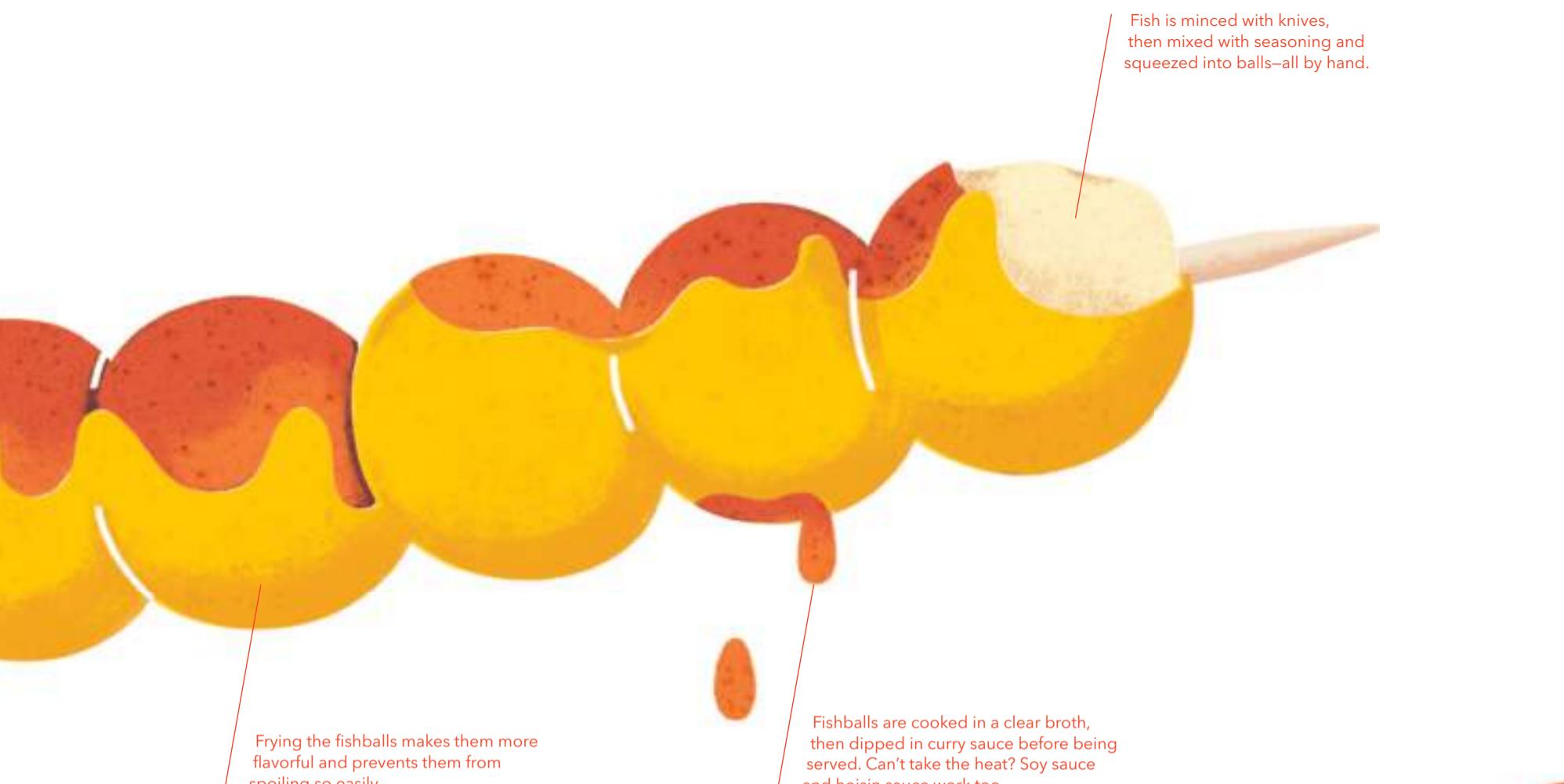
*"Hey, want to go check out that new fusion banh-mi-cupcake place?"
"We'd better go this weekend. It's already in its soft closing phase."*



FISHBALLS FOREVER

Forget the bauhinia, the skyline or the cha chaan teng. There's only one thing that really represents Hong Kong. By **Xavier Ng, Sophia Lam and Stephanie Tsui**

The story behind a skewer of fishballs dipped in curry sauce is the story of what makes Hong Kong special. Originally from Chiu Chow and Fujian provinces, fishballs have been a popular dish in Southern China since the Qing dynasty. But it was Hong Kong which made them internationally famous. At first, fishballs in Hong Kong were served closer to the Chiu Chow style—white and boiled—to pair with noodle soup. But to make the fishballs even more flavorful, Hongkongers started to fry them, giving them a golden coating. Fried fishballs were first popularized by street hawkers, who sold them amongst other snacks from wooden trolleys. But while most street hawkers have been taken off the streets, the fishball has lived on, an enduring symbol of the city. In our food, our economics, our culture—and our politics, the fishball is Hong Kong.



PART 1 THE BALLS

There's more than one way to ball a fish. Here's a peek at some of the best recipes in town.

Fishball & Co.

At Tak Hing Fishball Company the fish paste is freshly made by hand every morning, from croaker and Asian swamp eels. Tak Hing's owner Lam Lo-ping, aka "Ping Gor," tells us that the secret tip for getting a smooth and soft texture is to constantly pour ice onto the fish paste, as the heat from all the kneading and mixing stops the paste from gluing together.



All that hard work pays off, because there's a big difference between fish paste that's been hand-kneaded and balls that have been machine-molded. Machine-molded balls tend to lack the firm bite of a hand-made ball. Tak Hing insists on a no-flour and no-additive recipe—90 percent of their fishballs are meat, and the rest is seasoning. "Those with flour do not qualify to be called fishballs," scoffs Ping Gor.

"The stamina of Chiu Chow people is probably the key to making fishballs," he says. "It's a lot of hard work, you know."

See the man in action and bring home some freshly made fishballs at Tak Hing, where you can also pick up curry fishballs and homemade curry sauce. Can't get enough of them? Their fishballs are also available at Woo Cow Hotpot (1-2/F, China Insurance Building, 48 Cameron Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui) and Kam Ho Restaurant (91 Lion Rock Rd., Kowloon City).

76 Fuk Lo Tsun Rd., Kowloon City, 2382-0646.

Fishy Secrets

Wong Yim-hing of **Wong Lam Kee Chiu Chow Fishball Noodles** has been making fishballs for over 40 years, ever since he started helping out his brother in the 70s.



His fish paste is made from the "three treasures of fishballs"—conger-pike eel, flathead grey mullet and croaker. Every morning he makes over 100 catties—more than 60kg—of fresh fishballs. Wong also keeps his fish cold to avoid breaking up the proteins in the paste. But cold as it is, the workers refuse to wear gloves when handling the ice-cold paste, so they get a better sense of its texture and stickiness with their fingers. Later, the paste is hand-squeezed into balls, which introduces air into the mixture and creates a fluffy fineness. Sometimes chopped spring onions are added for an extra herby note. Wong's idea of a good fish ball? Crunchy, smooth and al dente. Check, check and check.

Shop A, 10 Shau Kei Wan Main St. East, Shau Kei Wan, 2886-0068.

PART 2 THE SAUCE

There's something magical about fishball sauce that keeps us coming back for more. And more.

Sweet Sauces

Sai Wan Ho's Tai On Building is stuffed full of street food stalls, with everything from Japanese takoyaki balls to Taiwanese shaved ice. But fishball lovers will be familiar with **Yu Dan Lo** ("Fish Ball Guy"), which has gained quite the reputation for its highly addictive sauce, made from a secret recipe of more than 10 ingredients that the vendor refuses to reveal. All we know is that it's mixture of satay and curry, and the fishballs are sold out before 8:30pm every day. While the thick sauce lacks the spicy tang that many foodies call for, it's graced with a lingering sweetness that can be found in no other stall.



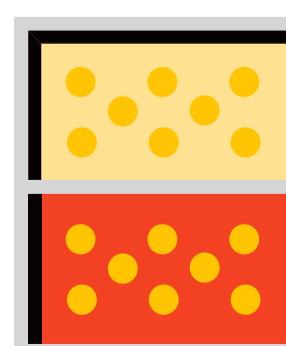
Shop B, A28, G/F, Tai On Building, 57-87 Shau Kei Wan Rd., Sai Wan Ho. \$5 for five fishballs.

Some Like It Hot

If you've really got the hots for fishballs, then you shouldn't miss **Sun Kee Cart Noodles**, which has risen to fame thanks to their super spicy sauce. Again, the sauce is a secret, but it's worth the trip. You feel the heat at first bite, a spiciness that gets the tastebuds tingling without covering the original flavor of the fish. But it's not just spicy: a satay-style aroma keeps us coming back for more.



Shop B, G/F, 49 Tang Lung St., Causeway Bay, 2573-5438, \$10 for five fishballs.



HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR BALLS?

PART 3 **FISHBALLS DEEP**

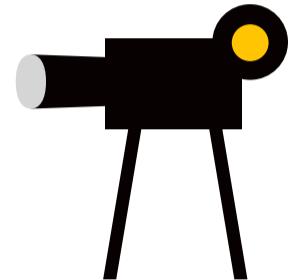
But fishballs aren't all tasty treats...



Becky Lam taking a break in *Lonely Fifteen*

The Cantonese phrase *yu daan mui*, "fishball girls," refers to minors, usually schoolgirls, who allowed punters to grope their bodies in exchange for money in the 80s. Squeezing a *yu daan mui*'s barely-developed breasts was said to be similar to squeezing fishballs. These girls didn't work at fish stalls, but in upstairs tearooms which were referred to as "recreation centers." Just like compensated dating nowadays, sex was not in the package but was often implied.

The term came to light when David Lai's 1982 film "Lonely Fifteen" blew our minds with its ruthlessly candid depiction of Hong Kong's sex industry. Lead actress Becky Lam won Best Actress at the Hong Kong Film Awards for portraying a runaway who ended up as a fishball girl. This (supposedly) touch-only form of prostitution passed out of fashion when one-woman brothels became popular in the 90s.



PART 4 **FISHBALLOONOMICS**

Hong Kong doesn't need complicated economic indicators: Fishballs do the trick just fine.



Causeway Bay is notorious for being one of the most expensive retail areas in the world, but nothing tells the story better than fishballs. Back in 2008, Singaporean pork jerky chain Bee Cheng Hiang forced a street food vendor out of its prime location on Causeway Bay's Sogo intersection by forking out about \$330,000 per month for the tiny space, around three times what the fishball stall was paying. If the fishball sellers had stuck to that location, they would have had to sell around **1,571 fishball skewers a day** to cover the rent.

This year, at the Lunar New Year Fair in Victoria Park, wedding banquet and restaurant group ClubOne paid a record \$630,000 for a 392-square-foot stall to sell abalone and fishballs during the week-long event. Two other snack vendors paid \$450,000 or more for their stalls. With rent like this, ClubOne would have to sell **9,000 fishball skewers a day**, at \$10 each, for the seven days of the festival, just to break even—and that's before considering other overhead costs.

So much for cheap eats.

PART 5 **FISHBALL REVOLUTIONS**

Fishballs have become so inseparable from Hong Kong identity that they dubbed the Lunar New Year Mong Kok unrest the "fishball revolution," even though fishballs had very little to do with the riots. But this isn't the first time that fishballs have stoked unrest.



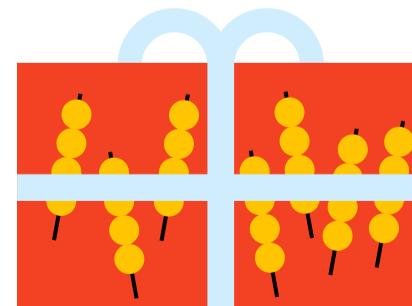
Reason to revolt?

When Financial Secretary John Tsang announced his 2015-2016 budget, he toyed with the idea of introducing food trucks selling street food classics such as beef offal and fishballs. The city's hawkers, already operating on rapidly dwindling licenses, would have to pay an estimated \$600,000 in start-up costs for a food truck.



Mother-tongue-tied

A parent told Ming Pao newspaper in January this year that in a school writing assignment, her daughter's teacher had instructed her to use the Putonghua word for fishballs—*yu wan zi*—instead of its Cantonese counterpart. Encroaching influence from the mainland, or just good written Chinese? You decide.



What a Load of Ball-ocks

During a 2013 legislative hearing into former anti-corruption chief Timothy Tong's alleged lavish spending on gifts, entertainment and official visits, Tong claimed that he acted in "courtesy of reciprocity" when he bought a visiting Mainland delegation a \$815 gift of beef brisket and fishballs. Guess dinner's on Tim tonight!

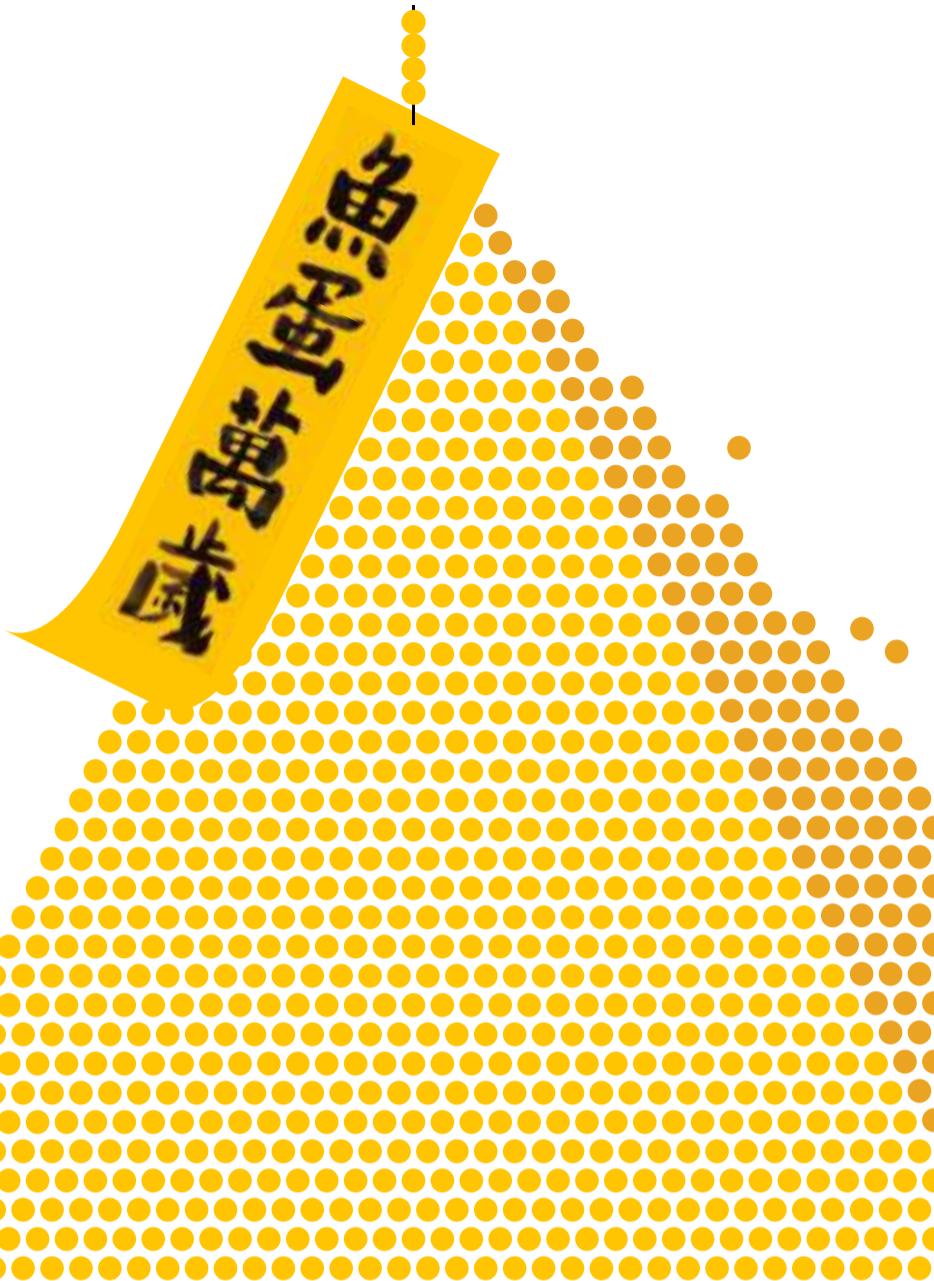
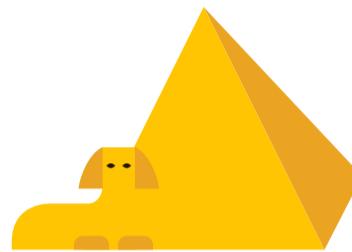
PART 6

THE FISHBALL ANTHEM

With fishballs having conquered the city's culinary, economic, cultural and political identity, there's only one way to go: We need a new anthem, a new symbol of our fishball city. Fishballs Forever! May the sun never set on this curry-sauced empire!

*Fishballs, fishballs, ever glorious
Sign of Hong Kong's will and might!
Dipped in curry, served with noodles
Sold by hawkers in the twilight!
Please don't take our fishballs from us
Or we'll hit the streets tonight...*

*Yu daan man sui!
Fishballs Forever!*



A Fishball Mountain

How much do Hong Kong people love fishballs? In a 2002 study by fishball maker Four Seas Fishballs Company, Hongkongers were estimated to consume 55 tons of fishballs daily—that's around 3.75 million individual balls. Taking population growth into account, in 2016 we're eating approximately **4 million fishballs per day**—over 1.4 BILLION per year. If that isn't love, we don't know what is.



Art Basel Hong Kong | March | 24–26 | 2016

The Premier International Art Show

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Vernissage | Wednesday, March 23, 5pm to 9pm

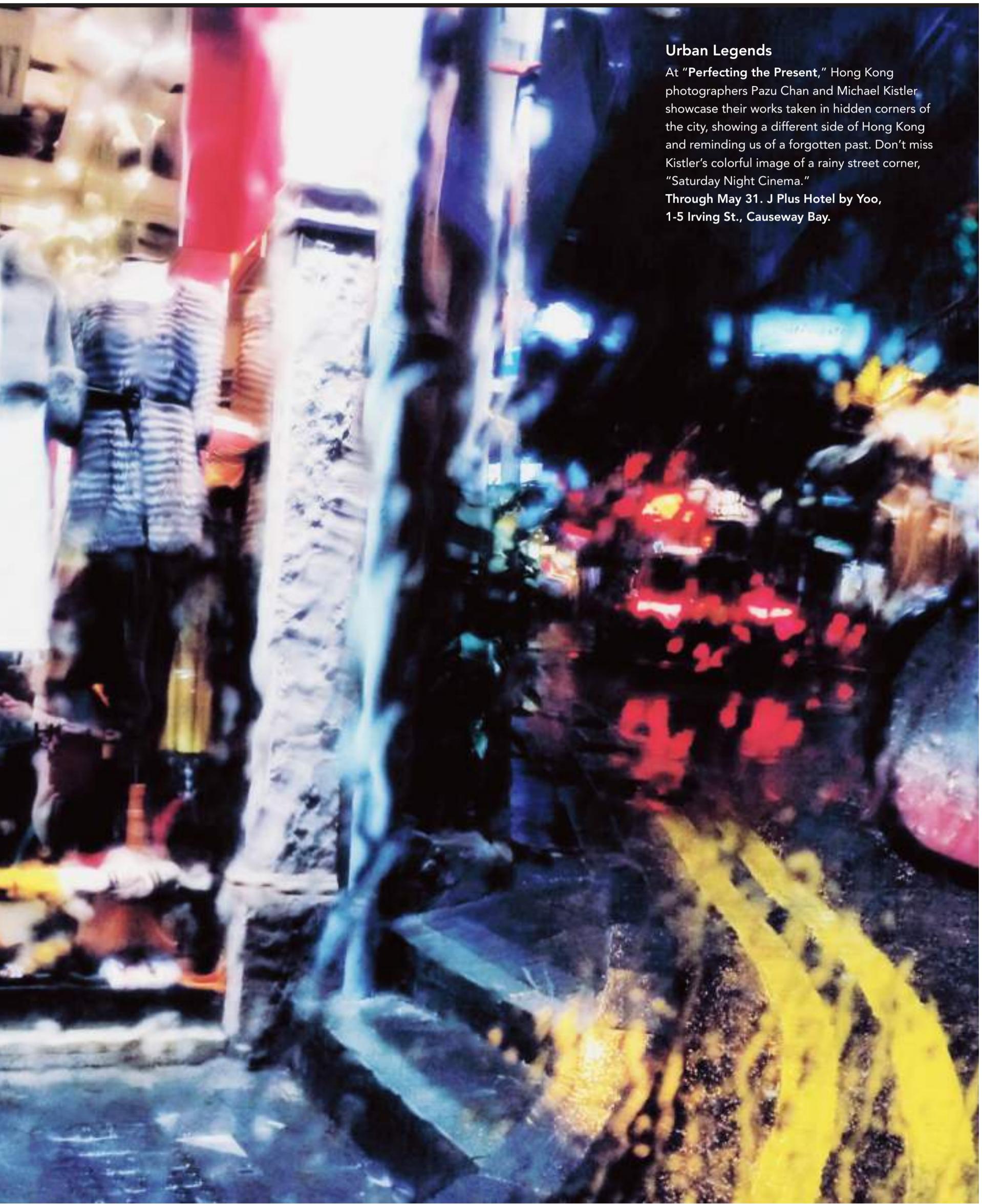
Public Opening Hours | Thursday, March 24, 1pm to 9pm; Friday, March 25, 1pm to 8pm; Saturday, March 26, 11am to 6pm

Tickets | Available at hkticketing.com, or by calling +852 31 288 288.
Tickets are limited, buy now to ensure entry.



The promotional poster features a large portrait of soprano Frances Yip in the foreground, wearing a white sleeveless dress with a green floral collar. In the upper right, there is a portrait of conductor Yan Huichang. Below them is a portrait of special guest Bo Lank. The background is dark with red and pink light streaks. At the bottom, there is text about ticket discounts and logos for various sponsors.



**Urban Legends**

At "Perfecting the Present," Hong Kong photographers Pazu Chan and Michael Kistler showcase their works taken in hidden corners of the city, showing a different side of Hong Kong and reminding us of a forgotten past. Don't miss Kistler's colorful image of a rainy street corner, "Saturday Night Cinema."

Through May 31. J Plus Hotel by Yoo,
1-5 Irving St., Causeway Bay.

GADGETS

Edited by Adam White

adam.white@hkmagmedia.com | Twitter/Instagram: @adamawhite

TECH HEAD



So Superhot Right Now

Just launched at the beginning of this month: indie game **Superhot**. This first-person shooter game puts you into a simple world of whites, blues and greys, with blocky red polygon baddies gunning for you every step you take. But that's the interesting thing: It really is every step you take, because time only moves when you yourself move. Creep forward, and the baddies creep forward too, bullets inching past. Sprint, and the world speeds around you. The game is all about switching between the two, from elegant takedowns to flawless bullet dodging. It replaces the twitch-response and frantic mashing of a boring old shoot-em-up with cold, hard logic. How great is that?

\$148 from Steam for Windows and Mac,
superhotgame.com



Nerd Alert

A certain kind of nerd ought to be very excited right about now, because the **Raspberry Pi 3 B** has just been released. This tiny circuit board may not look like much, but the darling little thing is actually an almost entirely self-sufficient computer, complete with a quad-core processor, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth functionality built in—all for just \$300. Add a MicroSD memory card, load on a few files and voila: you've actually got a fully working computer, complete with operating system and office applications. But that's not the most interesting part: The Raspberry Pi is built to be powerful and totally customizable, an easy mini brain for everything from wireless cinemas to automated cat feeders to smart mirrors to quadcopters to supercomputers. Just want to run office apps or old N64 games? You can do that too.

\$321 from
hken.rs-online.com



Butter Me Up

Today in amusing Kickstarter campaigns: the **Biēm Butter Sprayer**, a gadget that takes fridge-cold sticks of butter and turns 'em into a spray of buttery goodness. Suggested uses include being able to butter popcorn without sogginess and bread without it tearing: Wonder how it would tackle a Hong Kong-style French toast? As of press time, the campaign has made US\$128,000—almost a million Hong Kong, and well over its US\$42,000 goal. So, how much do you want to be part of the butter-melting elite? Early bird prices start at US\$129 (\$1,000), with the product due for delivery within the year.

biemspray.com



Smashing News

Here's one of those things that if you know about it, you're rolling your eyes at having to read this. But if you don't know, I'm about to save you a bomb, so pay attention.

So you've dropped your iPhone one time too many, and now the screen is so cracked that your WhatsApp messages look like ancient Icelandic Runes. You're tired of embedding glass shards into your fingers every time you try to swipe right on Tinder, but you REALLY don't want to have to haul it to the Apple Store, where they'll look patronizingly at your gormless face and charge you a few thousand bucks to swap the screen out, or better yet try to sell you an iPhone 6 Plus. Take your shattered phone and dreams to **Sincere Podium aka Sin Tat Plaza** (83 Argyle St., Mong Kok) instead, where the multitude of repair shops will swap out your phone screen for just \$500. Anything else that has to be replaced—batteries, cameras, etc.—all cost way less than they would otherwise. You're very welcome.

PUBLIC SAFETY WARNING!

Mac users who use the Transmission BitTorrent app to, um, legally download freely licensed content and shared software, take care: For the first time ever, a piece of "ransomware" has made its way onto the Mac platform. The **KeRangers** malware was included in a version of Transmission and it warns the user that the computer's entire contents will be encrypted within three days, unless they pay a ransom of 1 Bitcoin (\$3,177) into an anonymous account. Ouch. Transmission has since released a fixed version of its app, so upgrade if you can.

OUTBOX

Raymond Tomlinson, the inventor of the email, died last week at the age of 74. He was also the man who chose the @ symbol we all use today. The next email you send, make it in remembrance of him.



Photo: Sam Tsang/SCMP

TRAVEL

Edited by Daniel Creffield



ESCAPE ROUTES



Phu Quoc could be your next getaway



Go for a simple sunset at the Sun Siyam

It's definitely time for a vacation, and with a great excuse on the horizon in the shape of Easter, a long weekend away will kick out any remaining winter doldrums.

Sea and the City

Flight Centre has rounded up six easily accessible destinations perfect for a short weekend getaway over the holidays. Beginning with city breaks, packages to **Bangkok** start from \$3,859, and include economy airfare, three nights at Aloft Bangkok - Sukhumvit 11 in a Chic room (that's what it's called) and daily breakfast.

Want to get your pho on? Head to **Ho Chi Minh City** instead, with packages starting from \$4,400 for economy airfare, three nights at Sofitel Saigon Plaza and breakfast. If **Singapore**'s hawker eats and beautiful botanic gardens are more up your alley, deals start from \$6,100 including an economy flight to Singapore and premium economy return, three nights at Studio M Hotel and breakfast included.

If the idea of hitting the beach while the rest of us shiver in the last of the winter chill floats your boat, packages to **Hua Hin** in Thailand start from \$5,500, including economy airfare via Bangkok, four nights at the Evason Hua Hin, breakfast and return airport transfers. **Krabi** deals start from \$6,300, including economy flights, four nights at Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort and breakfast. Alternatively, you could head to the Vietnamese island paradise of **Phu Quoc**, with packages from \$8,400 including outward economy flights, business class return and three nights at La Veranda Resort Phu Quoc.

Deals are per person and flights exclude tax.
flightcentre.com.hk, 2830-2810.

Spring Bling

Want to live it up like a rock star this Easter? Of course you do. Thanks to **Sri Panwa Phuket**'s extended Easter deal, which offers four nights and five days in a luxury five-bedroom Ocean View Residence Villa, you and nine of your pals can do exactly that—even down to dancing around the private pool like you're on a mid-90s MTV dance show.

The package includes airport transfers, daily champagne breakfast, a speedboat day trip, Thai cooking class, private pool party including a BBQ feast, open bar cocktails, spa treatments, a private yoga class and Thai boxing lessons.

The catch? It's \$194,000, which sounds like a lot of dough until you divide it up between 10 of you for an even \$19,400 per person. Yes, it's still a lot, but it's worth looking at if you're wanting to splurge. The deal is available for stays between Mar 15-Apr 15. Prices don't include an 18.7 percent service and tax surcharge.

88 Moo 8, Sakdidej Rd., Vichit, Muang, Phuket, Thailand. (+66) 76-371-000, Thailand, sripanwa.com.

The Maldives Relieves

Family fun, diving, water sports and a spa? **The Sun Siyam Iru Fushi** in the Noonu Atoll, Maldives, has you covered. A 45-minute seaplane journey from Malé, the resort features 221 beachfront and over-water lagoon villas inspired by traditional Maldivian architecture. There's a PADI dive facility and a water sports center, tennis and badminton courts, a kids' club and multiple swimming pools. The tropical spa boasts 20 treatments rooms, each dedicated to a different Eastern or Western wellness philosophy for a wide range of health, beauty and relaxation options. The Easter package

between Mar 19-Mar 28 starts at \$4,257 per night for four nights in a Beach Villa room, including free meals for kids under 12, Easter kids' activities, and a half-day excursion for the family.

thesunsiyam.com/irufushi/promotions/easter-package.

Monkeys and Mountains

For a serene mountain escape, head to the **Alila Ubud** hillside retreat in Bali's monkey-inhabited foothills, in the traditional Balinese village of Payangan. The beautiful hideaway is outfitted with traditional Balinese architecture and modern amenities for ultimate relaxation. For Easter, the property is offering 20 percent off the best available rate, with breakfast included. A minimum stay of two nights is required.

Starting from \$2,058 per night. alilahotels.com/ubud/rates.

Panda Party

If lazy, adorable pandas and a hot cup of tea sound like your idea of a fun-filled Easter, **The Temple House**, Chengdu is for you. The Gong Fu Panda package includes a Gong Fu tea ceremony, transfer to the city's giant panda research base and two entrance tickets. You'll also get a panda soft toy. Who could say no to that?

\$2,251 per night. thetemplehousehotel.com.

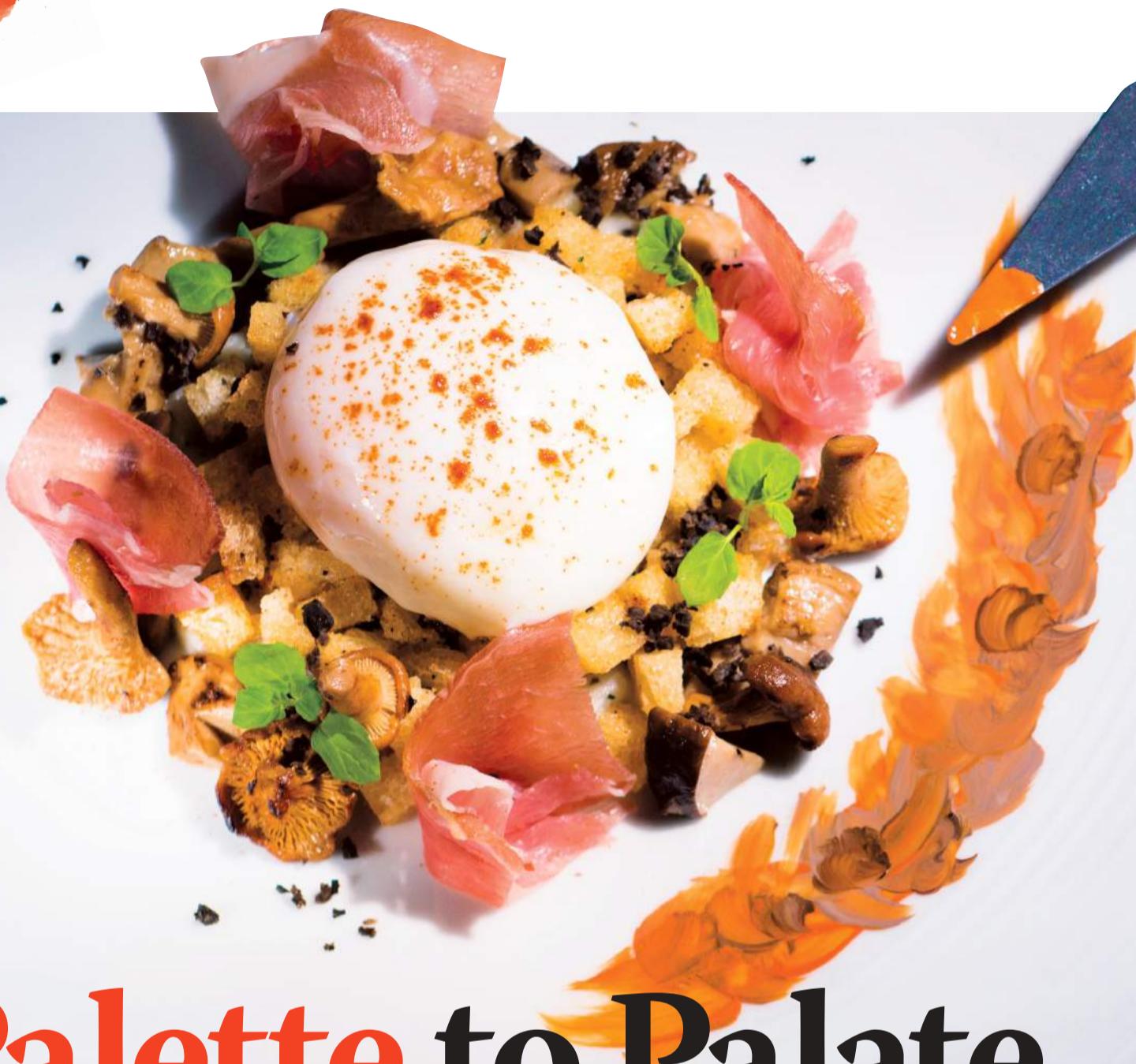
Wildlife So Fly

Stunning accommodation and warm hospitality including a welcome beverage and fruit basket await you at **The Datai Langkawi** but it's the pristine rainforest, believed to be at least 10 million years old with an abundance of plant and animal life, that you're likely to go for. Expect wild encounters with the great hornbill, the dusky leaf monkey, macaques, lizards, geckos and more unruly creatures on the resort's complimentary morning and evening nature walks.

From \$2,635 per night, thedatai.com/langkawi.



Live a villa life at the Sri Panwa this Easter



Palette to Palate

Condiments arranged in a paintbox and cocktails where you spray the finishing touch: It all happens this month as art fever takes over Hong Kong's top chefs. By **Leslie Yeh**



◀ Infinite Stripes

Lines play a central role at **Popsy Modern Kitchen** this month, as the art-meets-food restaurant exhibits colorful experimental works by Berlin-based artist Elisabeth Sonneck. Two themed cocktails—the Turquoise Ray (\$128) with gin and guava juice, and the Violet Stripes (\$128) with Kahlua and vanilla vodka—allow guests to spray on their own edible stripes, made from colored syrups. Meanwhile, the Crimson Tide dessert (\$168) showcases the color nuances and rhythmic stripes of Sonneck's works with alternating layers of strawberry cake and white peach mousse. Don't miss a series of "Eat More Art" workshops led by Popsy founder Jennifer Chung, that explore edible art inspired by icons such as Picasso and Warhol.

Eat More Art workshops run every Sat from Mar 12-Apr 16, \$350 per person. 5/F, The Wellington, 198 Wellington St., Sheung Wan, 2907-8188, popsymodern.com.



◀ Elemental Art

Art comes to life at the dinner table for **The Bostonian's "Elements of Art Menu"** (\$728) inspired by Hong Kong artist Michael Lam, whose works will also be on display in the dining room. Embodying the four basic elements of earth, wind, water and fire, the palate-teasing and visually arresting menu takes the diner on a four-course journey of color compositions, textures and shapes in dishes such as Hokkaido scallop with sea urchin carpaccio, representing "water," and iberico bellota ham with a poached egg on crumb soil, representing "earth" (pictured, left). End the night with an artsy cocktail at the Artesian bar, including the Vincent Van Gogh-inspired "Starry Night" (\$158) with Chalong Bay Rum, Frangelico, lime juice and a dash of Blue Curacao to represent the swirling night sky.

Mar 23-Apr 30. **The Langham Hong Kong,** 8 Peking Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, 2132-7898.

Sensory Dining ▶

Ahead of Art Basel 2016, the **Mandarin Grill + Bar** is serving up a multifaceted menu of art-inspired courses dreamt up by head chef Uwe Opocensky. The meal is both innovative and interactive: The hands-on three-course lunch (\$988) or five-course dinner menu (\$1,888) is designed to stimulate all the senses, with guests encouraged to mix and match a multi-colored array of condiments with a painter's brush, dig for dessert in an ancient "Art Excavation" box, and mimic Chinese calligraphy with a brush tip molded from Alaskan king crab wrapped with puff pastry.

1/F, **Mandarin Oriental**, 5 Connaught Rd. Central, 2825-4004, mandarinoriental.com/hongkong.

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COMPETITION!



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The Art of Nature ▶

Armani/Aqua celebrates the arrival of art month with a nature-influenced menu that incorporates whimsical components such as Aonori seaweed, yuzu ice, wasabi snow, and lychee and lime-infused bubbles. Chef Shun Sato's forest-inspired dishes score major points in the aesthetics department, with intricate details evident everywhere: from the seafood shaped like a moss ball to the cold salad imitating a coral reef, and leaves and tree stumps used to form plates. As for flavors, expect a rush of sweet, salty and sour elements, grounded by heavy umami accents from seaweed, ponzu and shiitake.

\$688 for five-course dinner menu. 2/F, **Chater House**, 8 Connaught Rd. Central, Central, 3583-2828, armani-aqua.com.



Cocktails mimic art at Popsy Modern Kitchen

Arty-noon at Ammo

After a morning spent art gazing, head to **Ammo** for an "Arty-noon" tea set, which includes fruit puree pens for you to design your own miniature masterpiece. The plush afternoon tea set kicks off with a savory spread of brioche with figs and honey, pastrami burger and poached scallops with green apple sauce, before moving on to the lip-smacking sweets—think ricotta tarts, yogurt panna cotta, and lemon mousse cake. Design your own macarons with rainbow sugar, chocolate pearls and fruit pens and Instagram a shot with hashtag #sweetjamammo for a chance to win a \$500 voucher.

\$328 for two. **Asia Society Hong Kong Center**, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, 2537-9888, ammo.com.hk.

Gormei Art Month

Can't narrow it down to just one restaurant? Bespoke dining experience curator **Gormei** hosts a number of events this month showcasing art and gastronomy: Check out "Art Hours" (Mar 1-17) where you can mingle with local artists at casual happy hours including La Paloma and Linguini Fini; "Art on the Table" dinners featuring the Soho 189 Anniversary Party (Mar 18) and "The Art of Ceramics & Sake" (Mar 23), hosted by Japanese potter Shinsaku Nakazono; and "Eat Art" events including an art-inspired menu at Stone Nullah Tavern (Mar 13-27) featuring Hong Kong street artist Bao Ho, or an artsy afternoon tea at Aberdeen Street Social (through Mar 14).

For more, visit gormei.com.

AROUND
TOWN



Edited by Leslie Yeh
leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com

NEW AND NOTED

Sweets from Singapore

With the weather still chilly, we're banking on at least a few more weeks until we have to think about baring it all for bikini season again. That makes it the perfect time to head over to Singaporean import **Cobo House by 2am:Dessert Bar** (8-12 South Lane, Shek Tong Tsui, 2656-3088). With Janice Wong—two-time winner of Asia's Best Pastry Chef at Asia's 50 Best Restaurants—on board, you can expect more than a little razzle-dazzle, with seductive desserts including the Cassis Plum (\$138) made with plum wine, yogurt, elderflower and cassis meringue, and the Chocolate H2O (\$128)—an edible art piece featuring aerated frozen chocolate that mimics the coral of the San Sebastián coast. Another play on textures and temperatures is the Tsujirhei Green Tea Tart (\$108, right) with an oozing warm liquid matcha pastry. A savory menu will be launched later this month, but for now the sumptuous sweets are more than enough reason to stop by.



A New Act at Zafran

If you missed **Zafran's** (Basement, 43-55 Wyndham St., Central, 2116-8855, zafran.com.hk) "Theatre of Tapas" tasting menu, you're out of luck—the Spanish resto has completely reset the stage with a new 30-dish à la carte menu created by new executive chef Pere Moreno. Luckily, the menu has the same bold flavors and unique ingredients that previously wowed us at Zafran, with rich herbs and spices evoking the earthy influences of Morocco as well as the fresh seaside fare of the Mediterranean. Expect generous pinches of saffron (only fitting given that "azafrán" is Spanish for "saffron") throughout, and influences from all over, from Galician octopus on paprika hummus (\$180) to prawn tartare with sea asparagus (\$190) and black paella (\$320) with an intense flavor imparted by Spanish red prawns and cuttlefish ink.

Artsy Appetites

It's all about art this month, but Hong Kong—food-obsessed city that is—has decided that no art fair is complete without gourmet eats to help you ponder the abstract significance of contemporary art. Returning for the second year, **Art Central** (Mar 23-26, Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central, 2174-0322, artcentralhongkong.com) raises the bar in the gastronomy department, with some of Hong Kong's most trendy restaurants sharing the limelight with collector's pieces. An expanded street food section will feature the first pop-up edition of the latest from Black Sheep Restaurants, Belon, which serves up French-rooted classical dishes with a neo-Parisian bistro vibe. Other restaurants include Brickhouse, Beef and Liberty, Tri, XTC Gelato and Bread & Beast.

Throwback Pasta

A new chef de cuisine is raising the stakes at home-style Italian restaurant **Sabatini** (3/F, The Royal Garden, 69 Mody Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui East, 2733-2000), revamping the menu with creative dishes rooted in various regions of Italy. Chef Gleb Snegin previously sharpened his knives at La Fermata in Casatenovo and Trussardi Alla Scala in Milan, before moving to Asia to head up the menu at Terrazza Italian Restaurant in Galaxy Macau, which won its first star in the latest Michelin guide. The new menu at Sabatini features six or so chef's recommendations, including anelli pasta with lobster and spicy sausage (\$508, right) and parmigiana risotto with black trumpet mushrooms and balsamic vinegar (\$428) exhibiting chef Snegin's deftness with elevating classic Italian comfort carbs. Try several plates to share, and don't miss out on the amaretti and cacao pudding with chantilly and hazelnut ice cream (\$128) for a sweet ending to the meal.



RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Cheng Banzhang Taiwan Delicacy (程班長台灣美食) ★★★★☆

Taiwanese. Flat 2, 1/F, Elite Industrial Centre, 883 Cheung Sha Wan Rd., Lai Chi Kok, 2576-1199.



Craving Taiwanese street food? Head to this no-frills eatery for authentic beef noodle soup and xiao chi, or Taiwanese snacks.

HIT A favorite of residents in the area, the place gets jam-packed most Friday and Saturday nights, but quick turnover means you won't have to wait long. You'll find most people slurping down a big bowl of beef noodle soup (\$50) with two choices available, spicy or clear broth: Get the spicy option and be rewarded with an aromatic bowl of steaming, collagen-rich broth, with fork-tender hunks of beef nestled in a maze of

For more in-depth reviews, visit [hk-magazine.com!](http://hk-magazine.com/)

hand-pulled noodles. Another signature dish is the Dongpo pork belly, which you can order in a bao with pickled mustard greens and cilantro (\$32) or as part of a bento box with rice, minced braised pork, cabbage, dried fish flakes and a boiled egg (\$45). In both, the portion of Dongpo pork is massive—a fatty, sweet and succulent piece of meat. Side dishes can be ordered three to a plate (\$25) and all are worth trying, from the crisp pig's ears to fresh seaweed to cold silken tofu and thousand-year-old egg.

MISS If we're being picky, the dumpling wrappers and noodles can be a bit thick—on the tough side of al dente.

BOTTOM LINE For the bustling industrious vibe of Taipei's night markets, friendly service and authentic Taiwanese eats, this spot is the closest thing to the real deal we've found in Hong Kong.
Open Mon-Sat 11:30am-9pm, closed Sundays. \$

Xoco ★★★★☆

Tex-Mex. Shop 2, G/F, Ryan Mansion, 31-37 Mosque St., Mid-Levels, 3620-2323.



This Tex-Mex joint may be colorful inside, but its open-air front on quiet Mosque Street makes it a peaceful place to while away an evening.

HIT The servings at Xoco are BIG: no teeny-tiny \$80 tacos here. An enormous chimichanga with pulled pork (\$158) can easily feed two, a huge tortilla packed with fresh ingredients before being deep-fried and served on a bed of rice, salsa and black beans. The pork was tender and juicy but perhaps a little lacking in seasoning, although a glug of the house-made habanero sauce soon solved that. The carne asada grilled

steak (\$198) was a large, well-cooked hunk of striploin, served on the same bed of rice, salsa and beans. It was precisely medium-rare and tender, though again needed sauce to amp up the flavor. Still, for under \$200, it was a steal. Bottles of beer, including the malty Mexican Bohemia, all went for an agreeable \$48 per bottle. And while you might have expected the free tortilla chips and salsa at the start of the meal, a couple of free shots of tequila at the end were a nice surprise to cap off our night.

MISS The salbute (\$88), a crispy puffed-up fried tortilla, was topped with the same pulled pork as the chimichanga, but there wasn't enough else going on to distract us from that lack of flavor.

BOTTOM LINE Tasty and above all affordable Tex-Mex bites had us walking out stuffed, sated, and mulling over maybe just one more tequila shot...
Open Mon 6-9:30pm, Tue-Sun noon-9:30pm. \$\$

Ratings

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

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.

Price Guide

- | |
|-------------------------|
| \$ Less than \$200 |
| \$\$ \$200-\$399 |
| \$\$\$ \$400-\$599 |
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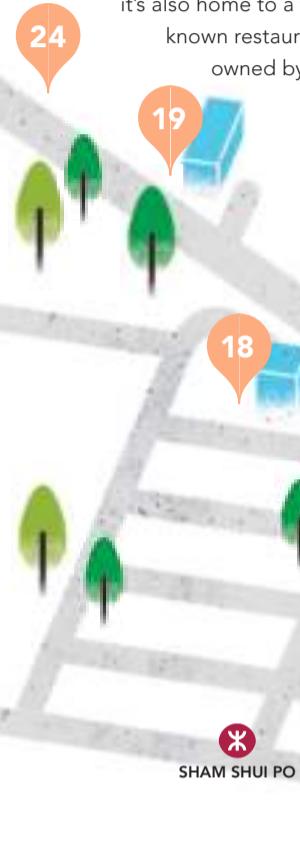
Ages restriction for 18 or above

CITY STROLL

Shek Kip Mei

Wedged between the sprawl of Kowloon Tong and the markets of Sham Shui Po, Shek Kip Mei has been a poorer district of Hong Kong ever since it was settled. In the 1950s it was a shantytown for Mainland Chinese immigrants, until a Christmas Day fire in 1953 devastated the area and left some 53,000 homeless. The government introduced Hong Kong's first public housing scheme to rehouse the immigrants, and the district grew from there. Nowadays

Shek Kip Mei still has plenty of public housing, but it's also home to a treasure trove of lesser-known restaurants and shops, many owned by the locals of the district.



Nam Fung Restaurant

No fancy décor, no bells and whistles—Nam Fung is known for its speed of service. It's a popular location with the student population of City University right around the corner, so head over if you're looking to relive your student days.

Shop 208-209, Nam Fung House,
Nan Shan Estate, Shek Kip Mei,
2778-7196.



Tung Tin Café

With its pale blue/green décor and rickety furniture, This old-school cha chaan teng feels like it hasn't moved out of the 60s. Go and pretend you're Tony Leung or Maggie Cheung in "In the Mood for Love."

75 Berwick St., Shek Kip Mei,
2779-0271.



Nam Shan Egg Puffs

This isn't just any old egg waffle shop: Here the waffles aren't cooked by electric heat, but instead they're grilled over a charcoal fire. Crispy outside, soft inside and with a touch of char: and all for just \$8.

Nam Shan Estate Podium,
Nam Shan Estate, Shek Kip Mei.



Mak Kee Store

This tiny little stall sells \$1 squid pieces. Yep: That's not a typo. \$1 squid pieces, cooked in soy sauce and thrown onto a sheet of waxed brown paper. Delicious.

Nam Shan Estate Podium,
Nam Shan Estate, Shek Kip Mei.



Mei Ho House

This renovated Grade II building is the last of its kind: the final monument to the first public housing buildings in Hong Kong. After a sympathetic restoration it's now a youth hostel, plus there's a museum on the first floor. Regular guided tours are available.

Block 41, Shek Kip Mei Estate,
Shek Kip Mei, 3728-3500.



Mei Ho House Fullcup Café

Hipster meets heritage at Fullcup, which takes its style cues from Mei Ho House itself: old-school tiles and furniture, set alongside more modern art prints on the walls. There's also a large terrace area if the weather's good and you feel like lingering over your coffee.

G/F, Mei Ho House, 70 Berwick St.,
Shek Kip Mei, 3728-3454.



Check back next week for more awesome things to do in Shek Kip Mei!



CCDC Dance Season 2016 - Up To 30% Discount for Advance Booking NOW!

City Contemporary Dance Company Season 2016 commences: Dominic Wong's Little Pieces, pondering on the bonds and links within human connections; Fragile Beauty by Resident Choreographer Sang Jijia describing the eschatological scene followed on from prosperity; Journey to the West for families by Artistic Director Willy Tsao – featuring Gregory Charles Rivers and Jonathan Wong; She Says, He Talks by Hong Kong Dance Awards winners Noel Pong and Anh Ngoc Nguyen.

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The wide range of Chinese instruments includes not only those from the Han of the Central Plains, but also those from ethnic minorities of more obscure regions. That is why Chinese folk instrumental music is so full of character. The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra will bring you the various types of folk instruments that are less familiar to the frequent concert-goer.

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"Constellations" by Spanish dance company Aracaladanza

"Constellations" is a dance cocktail of vivid colours, shapes and games based on imagery conceived by the great Spanish artist, Joan Miró. Taking inspiration from a series of Miró works focused on space, choreographer Enrique Cabrera fills his imaginary blank canvas with wonderful dance, ingenious puppetry and terrific digital visuals in line with the company's trademark playfulness, creativity and style.

March 25–27, Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre (\$140-\$240) Enquiry: 2268 7323



Shambala's Going Out of Business Sale

Hong Kong's most beloved furniture emporium, Shambala, is going out of business after 24 years. As they clear out their warehouses, everything in the store is 50% - 80% off. Visit now to bring home a unique piece of Shambala at incredible value!

P.S.: Beginning in mid-April, Shambala will donate a portion of all sales to relief for Syrian refugees.

Address:
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2 Lee Wing Street, Ap Lei Chau



UPCLOSE: YARON LIFSCHITZ

Australian circus group Circa is coming to Hong Kong to present their nail-biting masterpiece "Opus." Xavier Ng talks to their artistic director **Yaron Lifschitz** about the show, his inspirations and how it's different from anything you've seen before.



HK Magazine: How did you come up with the concept of Opus, where you perform alongside the Debussy String Quartet?

Yaron Lifschitz: Like all our creations, Opus has no story. It is based on a series of extreme human states. The dramaturgy of Opus follows the three and a half string quartets of Shostakovich that make up its score.

HK: The setting of Opus is very different from traditional circus performances: why is that?

YL: Because we are not a normal circus! We are a contemporary circus and we do difficult, strange and unusual things not only with our bodies but also with the art form.

HK: How did you start directing circus productions?

YL: Well, I got bitten by the theater bug. I loved the experience of being in the theater and seeing work on stage. But I failed miserably as a theater director. I just didn't really like stories and acting very much. The thing that appealed to me was the excitement, the immediacy and the presence of what happens in theater, and that seemed to be captured best by the circus. I don't think I evolved. I just made mistakes, tried to learn from them and then made more.

HK: What's the difference between directing a circus performance and normal theater?

YL: The bodies! It also helps having fewer, if any, words. You come to the theater to be unexpectedly moved and connected with bodies that somehow surpass their virtuosity and hit some kind of artery of emotion. The ideal for the circus show is to make you feel emotions that you didn't know, that you don't have words for.

HK: What's so special about Circa? How are they different from other circus performers?

YL: Circa's look is very stripped back – clean lines, elegant but simple costumes. The focus is on the body as the site of expressive possibilities. It's what the artists do, rather than how they look that carries the meaning and emotion.

HK: What are your inspirations?

YL: I was influenced by [choreographer] William Forsythe's writings about ballet—rather than the works themselves, which I hadn't seen yet, Pina Bausch of course, but also jazz music, Richard Serra, Derrida and the philosophers—not as philosophy as such, but more as ways of thinking... plus life.

HK: Why combine the circus performance with music of Shostakovich? And why blindfold the musicians?

YL: It is incredibly great music that moves me profoundly. The physical movements and the music match in a complex variety of ways. The pieces were written at time of great oppression under Stalin. The blindfolds refer to the challenges of this period including the vast number of executions that occurred.

HK: What message do you want to bring to the audience with the performance?

YL: My shows do not have messages—the audience is free to take from them whatever they choose.

Check out "Opus," Mar 11-12 at 7:30pm, Mar 13 at 2:30pm. Grand Theater, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$120-380 from urbtix.hk.

Classical

Jacky Wong's Beethoven Piano Concertos

Hong Kong pianist Jacky Wong sets his fingers to ivory for some Beethoven classics. Wong will conduct the Pan Asia Symphony Orchestra and perform a selection of movements from some of Beethoven's best-loved pieces, including the legendary "Emperor" Concerto. Check out the Friday performance at Tsuen Wan Town Hall and the Saturday gig at the Yuen Long Theatre. Mar 11-12, 8pm. Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium, 72 Tai Ho Rd., Tsuen Wan; Auditorium, Yuen Long Theatre, 9 Yuen Long Tai Yuk Rd., Yuen Long, \$100-140 from urbtix.hk.



Chamber Gems

Get your classical fix for free thanks to the Hong Kong Sinfonietta's "Chamber Gems" series, featuring chamber works by Mozart, Stravinsky, Richard Strauss and other big names. Mar 10-11, 7:30pm. Loke Yew Hall, Main Building, The University of Hong Kong, Pok Fu Lam Road, Pok Fu Lam, free.

Gloucester String Quartet

Join the Hong Kong Chamber Music Society for a night of intimate chamber music from the Gloucester String Quartet, four HKAPA Masters students who have already toured the UK—and join them for dinner afterwards if you're hungry for more. Mar 22, 6:45pm. Ladies' Recreation Club, 10 Old Peak Rd., Mid-Levels, \$320 for concert, \$690 for concert and dinner from 2579-5581, both include a glass of sparkling wine.

A Renaissance Easter Journey

Easter is just around the corner! What better way to celebrate the Holy Week than with some Renaissance music? Tallis Vocals, the city's first early music vocal ensemble, is presenting a special performance for the occasion, including a new version of Allegri's iconic "Miserere." Apr 1, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, \$80-320 from urbtix.hk.

Comedy

Stand Up Comedy Live!

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with not one, not two, but three Irish comics—Andrew Stanley, John Lynn and Karl Spain—at Punchline's upcoming all-Irish show. There's no dress code but we suggest... go green? Mar 17, 8pm; Mar 18-19, 9pm. Tamarind, 2/F, Sun Hung Kai Centre, 30 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, \$350 from ticketflap.com.

Tom Cotter

"America's Got Talent" runner-up Tom Cotter brings his quickfire wit to Hong Kong. The award-winning comedian will be cracking jokes at TakeOut Comedy. Mar 17, 8pm; Mar 18, 9pm; Mar 19, 8pm, 10pm. Champs, 209-219 Wan Chai Rd., Wan Chai, \$250-300 from takeoutcomedy.com.

Dance

Arirang of Mount Paektu

Sick of K-pop already? Go for K-traditional music and dance instead. Korean group Yanbian Song and Dance Troupe is putting on a show that focuses on the harmony between humans and nature, inspired by the magnificent landscapes of Yanbian on the border of China and North Korea. Mar 26, 8pm; Mar 27, 3pm. Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium, 72 Tai Ho Rd., Tsuen Wan, \$120-220 from urbtix.hk.



Musicals



Jersey Boys

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

Constellations

After an awesome performance in 2008, Spanish modern dance company Aracaladanza returns to Hong Kong to present their latest show, Constellations. The show is a dance cocktail filled with colors and shapes like a vivid moving painting, a journey for the imagination. Mar 25-26, 7:30pm; Mar 26-27, 3pm. Theatre, Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre, 11 Clear Water Bay Rd., Choi Hung, \$140-240 from urbtix.hk.



Kennedy

Set in late 20th-century Barcelona, award-winning Spanish poet José Manuel Sevilla's play is a tale of loss and redemption for the main character Kennedy, who tries to track down his sister after being released from prison. Mar 17-19, 8pm. The McAulay Studio, Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, \$180-200 from urbtix.hk.

Festivals

Irish Festival: St. Patrick's Day Parade

Hong Kong's first Irish festival sees a long list of events all through the month to celebrate the culture of the emerald isle, showcasing the best of Irish music, dance, art, literature and more. There are worse ways to celebrate it than with the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday March 13th. Yes, St. Paddy's Day is actually on the 17th—but you're going to be waist-deep in Guinness by that point, aren't you? Mar 13, 2-5pm. Tamar Park, Harcourt Rd., Admiralty. irishfestival.asia.

Exhibitions



Cyril Carret: Cellule

Cyril Carret's latest exhibition features a series of portraits of naked bodies with their faces locked into jeweled masks, representing the quest for freedom and the way we're imprisoned in our own lives. Dark... Through Apr 30. Charbon, 8/F, Sing Tek Factory, 44 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Aberdeen.



Aico Tsumori and Tetsuya Ishiyama: Storytellers

Japanese artists Aico Tsumori and Tetsuya Ishiyama tell their stories with ceramic works in this exhibition at Giant Year Gallery, combining their sculpture with traditional Japanese elements to tell the complete tale. Through Apr 2. Giant Year Gallery, G/F, 15A New St., Sheung Wan.



Rokni Haerizadeh: Reign of Winter

Yallay Gallery presents the animated film "Reign of Winter" by Iranian artist Rokni Haerizadeh. Based on the royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, the rotoscoped video is made from thousands of images painted-over by hand, mocking the hysteria of the occasion and how it was approached by the media. Through Apr 2. Yallay Gallery, Unit 3C, Yallay Building, 6 Yip Fat St., Wong Chuk Hang.

Li Yonggeng: A Path to Life

Chinese artist Li Yonggeng has transformed Galerie Du Monde into a home-like environment, in which he displays worldly goods like his bed, turning everyday objects into works of art. Through Apr 19. Galerie du Monde, Room 108, 1/F, Rutonjee Centre, 11 Duddell St., Central.



Chen Xi: So We Remember

Chinese artist Chen Xi's paintings illustrate and commemorate important events that have shaped our modern world, presenting them locked inside a TV screen as a commentary on the way we witness the world. Through May 15. University Museum and Art Gallery, Hong Kong University, 94 Bonham Rd., Pokfulam.



M+ Sigg Collection: Four Decades of Chinese Contemporary Art

Take a closer look at Chinese contemporary art with these highlights from the vast M+ Sigg Collection. This chronologically curated exhibition charts the development of Chinese art over the last 40 years. Through Apr 5. ArtisTree, 1/F, Cornwall House, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Rd., Quarry Bay.

NIGHTLIFE

OPEN BAR BREWDOG

The buzz: The mischievous Scots craft brewery Brewdog is slowly taking over the world, having just opened its 45th worldwide branch here in Hong Kong, bringing its own imported brews on tap as well as guest drafts featuring local and international favorites.

The décor: Brewdog has opened up in the former Tapeo space and converted it into two stories, with a medium-sized bar and street-facing seats downstairs. A large mural of a very doglike Chinese dragon by graffiti artist Craig Fisher leads you upstairs, where you'll find leather banquets for larger groups. Incorporating the brewery's own badass style and giving a nod to the Central Police Station just across the road, there are plenty of prison-style touches from the hard concrete, mesh fence and metal pipes everywhere, down to the cold hard metal toilet seats in the restrooms. A private room upstairs seats around 10-12.

The drinks: While offering 14 beers on tap at any given time, Brewdog's own selection is decidedly popular (plus they only make each beer in batches of 5,000 bottles max), and they'd almost run out of stock when we paid a visit. The signatures include the award-winning Punk IPA (\$60), which was shockingly light and sessionable for an IPA, with a floral, passionfruit aftertaste. The 5am Saint

(\$60) is apparently more popular with the ladies: a sweeter, fruity red ale that's apparently made with three types of hops but isn't overwhelmingly hoppy. The German-style Candy Kaiser (\$68) is a steely red ale with plenty of caramel flavor, but subtle with the alcohol. In fact, most of Brewdog's beers feel quite light, even the Libertine Black Ale (\$72), which wasn't as bitter as your everyday dark beer: It was surprisingly bright and hoppy instead.

Why you'll be back: The tatted-up servers may look aloof but they know their beers, so don't hesitate to ask for recommendations. You'll want to wash your booze down with some of the fantastic, mostly beer-influenced bar snacks, from thick-cut caramelized Canadian bacon (\$108), which is cured in porter for 10 days, to a gloriously soft roast beef French dip sandwich, spilling with melted provolone (\$108). On weekends, Brewdog hosts lessons in craft beer appreciation—it's just \$330 to learn and drink five different types of brews. For updates on what's currently on tap, be sure to check the website before your visit. Evelyn Lok
15-19 Hollywood Rd., Central,
2219-9905, brewdog.com.



Volar Presents Louisahhh!

With two EPs under her belt, LA-based Louisahhh! brings her deep and sultry vocals plus her deep house and techno beats to Volar. Or is that Volaaaaar!? Apr 8, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, \$250 from ticketflap.com/buzzconcepts, includes two drinks before 12:30am, one drink thereafter; \$300 at the door before 12:30am, \$350 thereafter, both include two drinks.



Gigs

Godspeed You! Black Emperor

Lift your skinny fists like antennas to heaven, because Canadian post-rock giants Godspeed You! Black Emperor are heading back to Hong Kong after their sold out show in 2013. They'll be touring their 2015 album "Asunder, Sweet And Other Distress." Yeah! Canada! Mar 11, 8-10:30pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St., Mong Kok, \$470 from ticketflap.com.



Blackbird Blackbird and Chad Valley

Electro/chillwave/synthpop kids Blackbird Blackbird (pictured) and Chad Valley make a pit stop in Hong Kong on their co-headlining indie tour. How indie are they? So indie that the venue they're playing hasn't even officially opened yet. Mar 12, 9pm. Cafe Hillywood, LG/F, 152 Austin Rd., Jordan, \$250-300 from ticketflap.com/blackbirdchad; \$350 at the door.

Jamie Lawson

The first artist to sign to Ed Sheeran's own label Gingerbread Man Records, Jamie Lawson is set to play the cozy KGV stage. The British singer-songwriter's best known for his chart-topping, YouTube-famous single "Wasn't Expecting That." Was anyone? Apr 29, 8pm. King George V School, 2 Tin Kwong Rd., Ho Man Tin, \$380-680 from ticketflap.com/jamielawson.



Morton's Power Hour

Get a taste of Morton's brand new premium bar bite menus, with special prices between 5-7pm on weekdays. Fill up on the likes of parmesan truffle fries, short rib steak tacos, the new filet mignon trio and the signature filet mignon sandwiches, with prices starting at \$50. Cocktails, wines and beers start at \$40. Mon-Fri, 5-7pm. Morton's Of Chicago, 4/F, The Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel & Towers, 20 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2732-2343.

Nightlife Events



Bestbev's 3rd Anniversary Party

Celebrate the third boozy birthday of the Hong Kong craft beer suppliers with an evening of free-flow beer and pizza. Frankly, we can't think of a better way to consume carbs. Mar 11, 6-11pm. \$200 from bestbevhk.com, \$250 at the door.

Clubs

Wolf Music

House and disco masters Matt Neale and Stu Clark are bringing the groove—and their extensive record collection—to Ozone. Mar 12, 10pm. Ozone, 118/F, International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, \$250 at the door, includes a glass of Veuve Clicquot Champagne.



Blame It On Thursday: The Captains of Industry

Graham Funke and StoneRokk of The Captains of Industry make their way to D-i this month with a whole bag of funky beats. Expect a mix of funk, latin, disco and electro house. Mar 24, 10pm. Dragon-i, U/G, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, \$300 at the door.

Hungry Monday with Gotsome

Deck wizard Adam Gorsky of UK production duo Gotsome brings the bass to Dragon-i. Mar 21, 10pm. Dragon-i, U/G, The Centrum, 60 Wyndham St., Central, \$200 at the door.



Happy Hours



\$10 Oysters at Fishsteria

Get those aphrodisiac juices flowing with Fishsteria's awesome oyster deal: buy a drink between 5-7:30pm daily and you can order freshly shucked French oysters for just \$10 each. Fishsteria, G/F & 1/F, 109-111 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai.

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 hipster 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. Daily, 5-7pm. Le Garçon Saigon, 12-18 Wing Fung St, Wan Chai.

Edited by Evelyn Lok
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com

Boomshack: Beer Pong Thursdays

Spiked milkshakes, obscenely fatty burgers and rounds of beer pong: if this is your idea of a great Thursday night, head to Boomshack's weekly beer pong nights, which will reserve the center table for teams of up to five to duke it out. No dillydallying, though—games only go for 10 minutes each, so make sure you've got some fast elbows. Every Thu, 10pm. Boomshack, Shop B, G/F, 8-12 Wo On Lane, Central, \$150 per game.

Cliché Records: Rabbit Hole Party Returns

The Hong Kong record label returns with another of its ever-popular Rabbit Hole parties. Celebrating delicious house and disco beats with a top-of-the-line Funktion One sound system, this time they're inviting international acts San Soda and Francis Inferno Orchestra to the decks. Mar 24, 8pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, free entry.



GHD x Cé La Vi Ladies Night

There are officially no reasons left for ladies to stay in on Wednesday nights this April: Cé La Vi's not only continuing its popular free-flow champagne deal (for the first 100 girls who show up), they're also bringing in a team of GHD stylists to give everyone hair makeovers with the brand's new limited edition "the Azores" styler. There's also prize giveaways valued up to \$10,000 each night and a range of special beachy cocktails will also be available. Apr 1-30, Every Wed, 9pm-late.

Cé La Vi, 24-26/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, free.

Mermaid Night

Feeling like a quiet night of drinking? Wan Chai seafood hotspot Fishsteria teams up with Cliché Records for a mellow drinks night aimed at the ladies for \$18 first cocktails, where you'll be serenaded by live violin and chill beats by DJ Miya. \$278 gets you three signature cocktails, \$588 gets you a dozen oysters and a bottle of Chablis wine, while \$1,288 gets you a bottle of Louis Roederer bubbly and a dozen oysters. Mar 16, 8pm. Fishsteria, G/F & 1/F, 109-111 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai.

Waves at Rummin Tings

Rummin Tings' brand new ladies night brings a mix of reggae and dancehall beats by DJ Pak to the Caribbean bar. Ladies can get in on the buy-one-get-one drinks deal all night, free tropical shots after 7pm, and the Grand Dame cocktail (made with rum, Grand Marnier, cardamom and kaffir lime leaf) is available for just \$50. Every Wed. Rummin' Tings, 28 Hollywood Rd., Central.

Moon Thai \$7 Happy Hour

Bring all your iron-livered pals: Michelin-recommended resto Moon Thai's happy hour gets you selected spirits for \$7 each in the first seven minutes of the hour, then a buy-one-get-one-free deal for the remainder of the hour. At each visit, you can also draw a card that decides what you pay for free-flow night market-style Thai snacks, from \$8 up to \$48. OUR BODIES ARE READY!

Daily, 4-7pm. Moon Thai, 2/F, Holiday Inn Express Hong Kong, 83 Jervois St., Sheung Wan.

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HK

FILM

Brooklyn ★★★★

Directed by John Crowley. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Emory Cohen, Domhnall Gleeson, Jim Broadbent, Julie Walters. Category IIA, 112 minutes. Opened March 10.

With a name "Brooklyn," you'd be forgiven for assuming that this film is about a group of permabored millennials who lie around drinking cocktails out of jars as they bemoan with equal lethargy the decline of society and their artisan sourdough cultures. Thankfully, "Brooklyn" has nothing to do with mustaches, fixed gear bikes or kombucha, and is therefore totally tolerable. In fact, this immigrant's tale is gentle, beautifully shot and acted, and really rather good.

It's 1952, and Eilis (confusing Irish name alert: this is pronounced "Aylish"), played by Saoirse Ronan (confusing Irish name alert #2: this is pronounced "Ser-sheh") is a shy young Irish woman who's packed off to Brooklyn, New York by her sister in hopes of a better life. Bitterly homesick and all alone in this brave new world, Eilis struggles to find a reason to be in America: That is, until she meets Italian-American Tony Fiorello (Emory Cohen, impressively channeling a wry, nicer Marlon Brando), who starts to show her that she can build a home in this strange new country, where everyone wears sunglasses and daringly cut bathing suits. But when Eilis' sister suddenly dies, she must head back to Ireland, where she meets the softly spoken and rather rich Jim Farrell (Domhnall Gleeson)—and finds her affections torn.

So, yes: Nick Hornby's script of Colm Tóibín's book is a fairly basic, fairly melodramatic plot. But melodrama often works in cinema, and director John Crowley and his cast weave a magic out of this tale. "Brooklyn" is an immigrant's story, so of course we're confronting classic ideas of home and identity, of how



we define ourselves by where we are and the lives we build. But it's also a tale of maturity and self-knowledge, flawlessly delivered by Saoirse Ronan. Ronan is the vivid heart at the center of "Brooklyn," bringing a breathless kind of warmth into each scene, while also keeping a lid on most of the melodrama. When she's not in shot—and that's rarely—the film suffers for it. She absolutely deserves her Best Actress Oscar nomination for her role as the shy, unsure Eilis, who finds herself blossoming in the new world—and being torn apart when she finds that the old world might hold something for the new her. The knowledge of having a place, of having someone who cares for you, gives her an inner confidence that she'd never thought she would have. That can be a dangerous thing.

Director Crowley and Cinematographer Yves Bélanger nail the mood of the movie, especially in their use of color. Ireland gets depressing greys and blues, while America is a land of bright yellows. When Eilis returns home, though, Ireland takes on a different hue, a more subtle warmth. She's told that there's a future here for her, and we see it in the shots themselves. Meanwhile, Ronan is shot (and costumed) with a wonderful touch of soft-lit, old-school Hollywood glamor.

The film is a charming fable, and it's a rarity to see a good tale told well. "Brooklyn" nails the storytelling, and all without a single fixed-gear bicycle in sight. **Adam White**

Coming Soon

Kung Fu Panda 3 ▾

(USA) Jack Black is back as Po, the dumpling-loving panda savior. Reuniting with his long-lost father (Bryan Cranston) and finding his true hometown, Po is tasked to train a band of clumsy pandas in the art of martial arts so that they can take on Kai (JK Simmons), the evil supernatural warrior who's been sweeping across the country defeating Kung Fu masters. Opens Mar 17.

The Tag Along

(Taiwan) Cheng Wei-hao's debut feature is inspired by the Taiwanese urban legend of the moxina, a mountain demon in the guise of a little girl in red, who steals children and the elderly. Tiffany Ann Hsu plays a woman trying to get to the bottom of the mystery when her boyfriend and his grandmother disappear. Opens Mar 17.

Trumbo

(USA) The story of Hollywood screenwriter Dalton Trumbo comes to the big screen with Bryan Cranston in the lead role. Trumbo was blacklisted by the industry after being suspected of being Communist; Under a pseudonym, he went on to write the Academy Award-winning films, "Roman Holiday" and "The Brave One"—but was unable to take credit for either. Opens Mar 17.



Youth

(Italy) Director Paolo Sorrentino, who won the 2014 Best Foreign Film Oscar for "The Great Beauty," steps further into Hollywood with his newest drama. Meditating on age and youth, life and death, Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel play two old friends vacationing at a Swiss spa resort. Opens Mar 17.

Opening

Brooklyn

(USA) See review, above. Opened Mar 10.

The Divergent Series: Allegiant

(USA) The penultimate film of the Divergent Series is based on the first half of the third book "Allegiant." Protagonist Tris Prior (Shailene Woodley) must explore where her trust and loyalties lie as she and Four (Theo James) escape post-apocalyptic Chicago and look for a way to save their city. Opened Mar 10.



Hail Caesar!

(USA) This highly anticipated Coen Brothers ensemble epic centers on early 50s Hollywood. Real-life producer Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin) is tasked with his biggest challenge yet when the star of an upcoming period flick (George Clooney) is kidnapped—in costume. Starring the likes of Channing Tatum, Scarlett Johansson, Ralph Fiennes and Tilda Swinton, this one's looking pretty great. Opened Mar 10.

Continuing

iGirl

(Hong Kong) The prayers of every *duk nam* geek in Hong Kong have been answered: Bikini model and actress Chrissie Chau plays a humanoid love robot. Our advice: keep it in your pants. Opened Mar 10.

Journey to the Shore

(Japan) A romantic ghost story deeply embedded in Japanese culture, "Journey to the Shore" is about a piano teacher's second honeymoon with her husband—who went missing and returns as a ghost. This delicately heartbreaking romance was screened in the 2015 Cannes Film Festival's Un Certain Regard section and won Kiyoshi Kurosawa Best Director. Opened Mar 10.



Kill Time

(China) Adapted from a novel by Chinese mystery novelist Cai Jun and directed by Fruit Chan, Angelababy plays a girl who investigates the death of her policeman father, and meets a curiously familiar man (Ethan Ruan). Opened Mar 10.



The Finest Hours

(USA) This disaster film stars Chris Pine as Bernie Webber, a Cape Cod Coast Guard crewman who is sent on a mission to rescue an oil tanker that has split in half during a lethal storm. Thrilling and hopeful in the best Disney-saccharine way possible. Watch it in IMAX! ★★★

Gods of Egypt

(USA) Gerard Butler is the baddie du jour, playing god of darkness Set, who usurps the kingdom of Egypt, leaving it up to mortal hero Bek (Brenton Thwaites) and god of the sun Horus (Nikolaj "Kingslayer" Coster-Waldau) to save the day.

London Has Fallen

(USA) A sequel to 2013's explosive-tastic "Olympus Has Fallen," Gerard Butler returns as the US Secret Service agent, gunning to protect the American President (Aaron Eckhart), whose life is in danger thanks to a nefarious plot to destroy the world's leaders as they attend the funeral of the British Prime Minister.





Edited by Evelyn Lok
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Miss You Already
(USA) The token Drew Barrymore comedy this season celebrates BFF love between a woman (Toni Collette) undergoing chemotherapy and her best friend (Barrymore) who is trying to get pregnant.



Room
(USA) Based on Emma Donoghue's 2010 novel inspired by the Josef Fritzl case, "Room" is the story of a woman (Brie Larson) who was held captive in a backyard shed for seven years, where she gave birth to and raised her five-year-old son Jack (Jacob Tremblay)—a result of rape by her captor "Old Nick"—all alone. Touching and terrifying at the same time, "Room" is a hard movie to watch, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't. ★★★★



Son of Saul
(Hungary) Winner of the Best Foreign Film award at the Oscars, Holocaust film "Son of Saul" centers on a prisoner at Auschwitz in 1944 who is forced to burn the corpses of his own people. Coping with his own moral struggle, he makes plans to rescue a young boy's body from the flames and offer him a proper Jewish burial.

Spotlight
(USA) Based on the 2001 Pulitzer-prize-winning investigation in which a team of journalists at The Boston Globe dug into the case against John Geoghan, a Roman Catholic priest who was accused of molesting over 80 children—and it was only the tip of the iceberg. All rapid-fire twists that leave you breathless, a salute to the good work of the reporters involved. ★★★★

Zoolander 2
(USA) 15 years later, Ben Stiller reprises his role as really really really ridiculously good-looking supermodel Derek Zoolander, who's back to solve a crisis in which the world's most beautiful people are being killed. In attempts to make itself relevant again, "Zoolander 2" blurs the parody by being chock-full of celebrity cameos. Despite being armed with mostly weird, outdated gags, it'll still be fun for any fan. ★★★



"Trivisa" at the 40th HKIFF

Film Festival

Reel Women Film Festival

A group of gender-conscious filmmakers, scholars and curators have put together a cinema program to bring more awareness to how women are represented in cinema, and also to support independent women filmmakers in Hong Kong. The program opens with cross-cultural romance "It's Already Tomorrow in Hong Kong," which filmed here in 2014 and even features a cameo from HK Mag alum Zach Hines, and closes with Iranian vampire drama and international festival favorite "A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night" (Mar 18). Apart from screenings, there are also masterclasses with female directors, talks, and a university tour of select films. Mar 6-27. reelwomenhongkong.org. \$85 from cinema.com.hk. Register for events and talks at tiny.cc/hk-reelwomen2016uni.

40th Hong Kong International Film Festival

The Hong Kong International Film Festival returns for the big 4-0 this year, featuring more than 240 titles from 66 countries. The festival opens with Chinese director Yang Qing's second feature "Chongqing Hot Pot," about the adventures of three high school kids who open a hot pot restaurant; and "Trivisa," a Johnnie To-produced, pre-1997 heist film following three criminals, in which each character's point of view is shot by a different director—Frank Hui, Vicky Wong and Jevons Au. The festival closes with the Asian premiere of Kiyoshi Kurosawa's thriller, "Creepy," about a former policeman who suspects that his neighbor is involved in a missing persons case. Mar 21-Apr 4. hkiff.org.hk.



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PISCES (Feb 18-Mar 20): "I wish I knew what I desire," wrote Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, born under the sign of Pisces. "I wish I knew! I wish I knew!" If he were still alive today, I would have very good news for him, as I do for all of you Pisceans reading this horoscope. The coming weeks will be one of the best times ever—EVER! —for figuring out what exactly it is you desire. Not just what your ego yearns for. Not just what your body longs for. I'm talking about the whole shebang. You now have the power to home in on and identify what your ego, your body, your heart, and your soul want more than anything else in this life.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): "He in his madness prays for storms, and dreams that storms will bring him peace," wrote Leo Tolstoy in his novella "The Death of Ivan Ilych." The weird thing is, Aries, that this seemingly crazy strategy might actually work for you in the coming days. The storms you pray for, the tempests you activate through the power of your longing, could work marvels. They might clear away the emotional congestion, zap the angst, and usher you into a period of dynamic peace. So I say: Dare to be gusty and blustery and turbulent.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): Quoting poet W. H. Auden, author Maura Kelly says there are two kinds of poets: argument-makers and beauty-makers. I think that's an interesting way to categorize all humans, not just poets. Which are you? Even if you usually tend to be more of an argument-maker, I urge you to be an intense beauty-maker in the next few weeks. And if you're already a pretty good beauty-maker, I challenge you to become, at least temporarily, a great beauty-maker. One more thing: As much as possible, until April 1, choose beauty-makers as your companions.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): To have any hope of becoming an expert in your chosen field, you've got to labor for at least 10,000 hours to develop the necessary skills—the equivalent of 30 hours a week for six and a half years. But according to author William Deresiewicz, many young graphic designers no longer abide by that rule. They regard it as more essential to cultivate a network of connections than to perfect their artistic mastery. Getting 10,000 contacts is their priority, not working 10,000 hours. But I advise you not to use that approach in the coming months, Gemini. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will be better served by improving what you do rather than by increasing how many people you know.

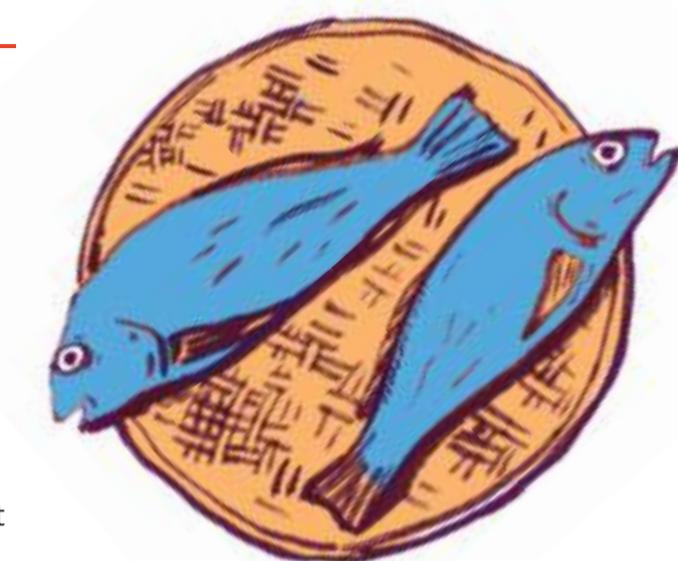
CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): "I sit before flowers, hoping they will train me in the art of opening up," says poet Shane Koyczan. "I stand on mountain tops believing that avalanches will teach me to let go." I recommend his strategy to you in the coming weeks, Cancerian. Put yourself in the presence of natural forces that will inspire you to do what you need to do. Seek the companionship of people and animals whose wisdom and style you want to absorb. Be sufficiently humble to learn from the whole wide world through the art of imitation.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): The marathon is a long-distance footrace with an official length of over 26 miles. Adults who are physically fit and well-trained can finish the course in five hours. But I want to call your attention to a much longer running event: the Self-Transcendence 3100-Mile Race. It begins every June in Queens, a borough of New York, and lasts until August. Those who participate do 3,100 miles' worth of laps around a single city block, or about 100 laps per day. I think that this is an apt metaphor for the work you now have ahead of you. You must cover a lot of ground as you accomplish a big project, but without traveling far and wide. Your task is to be dogged and persistent as you do a little at a time, never risking exhaustion, always pacing yourself.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): In old Vietnamese folklore, croaking frogs were a negative symbol. They were thought to resemble dull teachers who go on and on with their boring and pointless lectures. But in many other cultures, frogs have been symbols of regeneration and resurrection due to the dramatic transformations they make from egg to tadpole to full-grown adult. In ancient India, choruses of croaks were a sign of winter's end, when spring rains arrived to fertilize the earth and bestow a promise of the growth to come. I suspect that the frog will be one of your emblems in the coming weeks, Virgo—for all of the above reasons. Your task is to overcome the boring stories and messages so as to accomplish your lively transformations.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): "Your anger is a gift." So proclaims musician and activist Zack de la Rocha, singer in the band Rage Against the Machine. That statement is true for him on at least two levels. His fury about the systemic corruption that infects American politics has roused him to create many successful songs and enabled him to earn a very good living. I don't think anger is always a gift for all of us, however. Too often, especially when it's motivated by petty issues, it's a self-indulgent waste of energy that can literally make us sick. Having said that, I do suspect that your anger in the coming week will be more like de la Rocha's: productive, clarifying, healthy.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): "Even now, all possible feelings do not yet exist," says novelist Nicole Krauss. In the coming weeks, I suspect you will provide vivid evidence of her declaration, Scorpio. You may generate



an unprecedented number of novel emotions—complex flutters and flows and gyrations that have never before been experienced by anyone in the history of civilization. I think it's important that you acknowledge and celebrate them as being unique—that you refrain from comparing them to feelings you've had in the past or feelings that other people have had. To harvest their full blessing, treat them as marvelous mysteries.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): "Look at yourself then," advised author Ray Bradbury. "Consider everything you have fed yourself over the years. Was it a banquet or a starvation diet?" He wasn't talking about literal food. He was referring to the experiences you provide yourself with, to the people you bring into your life, to the sights and sounds and ideas you allow to pour into your precious imagination. Now would be an excellent time to take inventory of this essential question, Sagittarius. And if you find there is anything lacking in what you feed yourself, make changes!

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): According to a report in the journal Science, most of us devote half of our waking time to thinking about something besides the activity we're actually engaged in. We seem to love to ruminate about what used to be and what might have been and what could possibly be. Would you consider reducing that amount in the next 15 days, Capricorn? If you can manage to cut it down even a little, I bet you will accomplish small feats of magic that stabilize and invigorate your future. Not only that: You will feel stronger and smarter. You'll have more energy. You'll have an excellent chance to form an enduring habit of staying more focused on the here and now.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 19): One of the legal financial scams that shattered the world economy in 2008 was a product called a Collateralized Debt Obligation Squared. It was sold widely, even though noted economist Ha-Joon Chang says that potential buyers had to read a billion pages of documents if they hoped to understand it. In the coming weeks, I think it's crucial that you Aquarians avoid getting involved with stuff like that—with anything or anyone requiring such vast amounts of homework. If it's too complex to evaluate accurately, stay uncommitted, at least for now.

HOMEWORK: What's the single thing you could do right now that would change your life for the better? Freewillastrology.com.

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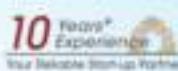
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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I'm your average straight 42-year-old white guy. Married for a little less than a year (second marriage for both). We have an active sex life and are both GGG. My wife wants to be forcibly fucked—held down and raped. Normally I'd be all over this because I do love me some rough sex. My issue: She told me she was traumatically raped by a man she was dating prior to me. All I know is that it involved a hotel room and him not stopping when she said "no." So for now, I play along, but I know I'm not taking things as far as she'd like. I'm over here wondering if her previous trauma was a result of her encouraging forceful sex and regretting it later, and I worry the same thing could happen to me. Or is she trying to relive the experience? Should I fear her motivation and the potential consequences? Am I overthinking things?

– Tremulous Husband Is Needing Knowledge

When it comes to rough sex—particularly when it involves role-playing forced-sex scenarios—overthinking is preferable to underthinking. But before we think through your specific issues, THINK, a few points of clarification.

A woman who's into rough sex, even forced-sex/rape-role-play scenarios, can still have been raped by a partner—and a rape can occur during what was supposed to be a consensual forced-sex/rape-role-play scene. If your wife withdrew her consent and her former partner continued, it was rape.

Also, THINK, lots of women fantasize about "rape," which I'm putting in quotes here because these fantasies typically involve a woman being "taken" by someone she's attracted to, and lots and lots and lots of women are victims of rape. Obviously there's going to be overlap between these two groups. Your wife's forced-sex fantasies could have nothing to do with her rape—it could be a coincidence—or your wife may be one of those people (not all of them women) who have eroticized a past sexual trauma (not always rape), and playing with a partner she trusts provides her with feelings of control and catharsis, empowerment and pleasure.

But what about you, THINK?

You worry "the same thing could happen to me." By that you don't mean, "I could be raped!" You mean, "I could be falsely accused of rape." That's a pretty big and disrespectful leap. What you're saying is, "I think my wife is lying when she says this other man raped her—and I don't want her to do the same to me." I'm not sure what to do with that. I mean, I don't think your wife is lying, THINK, and I don't know or love your wife. You presumably know and love your wife, and yet you're worried she may be setting you up for a false rape accusation. That's some dark shit—that's some *Gone Girl* shit, that's the plot of some horrible Kathleen Turner/Michael Douglas shit movie from the 1980s.

If you're really concerned about protecting your own butt, THINK, then have a nice long conversation with your wife about her fantasies over e-mail. I've given that advice to people negotiating edgy and/or forced-sex scenes with strangers or near-strangers. It feels odd to give that advice to someone negotiating a fantasy role-play scenario with his spouse. But here we are.

Don't tell your wife you wanna chat over e-mail because you're worried about needing an alibi. I would suggest that you believe your wife, first off, and that you have this conversation over e-mail—two anonymous accounts created just for this purpose—because it will allow you both to be more thoughtful and less inhibited (sometimes these things are hard to discuss face to face). Tell her you don't want to accidentally traumatize or trigger her, first and foremost, but you also don't want to wind up traumatizing yourself. You would feel like

a monster if you hurt her while attempting to fulfill her fantasies.

Finally, THINK, this isn't something your wife will wanna do just once. So take baby steps: Increase the intensity gradually, from scene to scene, check in afterward, google "sexual aftercare" and read the piece on *Curve* that pops up (it's a lesbian website, but the lessons/advice/insight are generally applicable), and keep having long conversations—via e-mail or face to face—about what's working for her and what isn't.

Good luck

I had given up on relationships after a failed marriage and another partner trying to kill me (no joke). Then, after five years single, abstinent, and lonely, I met a man who frustrated me, turned me on, and was understanding about my trust issues. I'm excited about a future with him—except for two things. First, he says he loves me but he's not sure yet if he wants to spend the rest of his life with me—he's not sure if I'm "The One." He also has needs I'm not able to fulfill. It may not seem like a big deal to most people, but swallowing is out for me, as I was orally raped when I was a teenager. I've worked my way up to enjoying giving head, but come in my mouth makes me cry. And I can't give head after anal. He says these are the things that make him come the hardest. I've asked him if my inability to provide these things are a "deal breaker" for him and he says no, but when we get into bed, he talks about me doing them the entire time we're having sex. I've asked him to stop, and he says he will, but it doesn't stop. He will also have sex only in the positions he likes, and if I ask for something different, he'll just stop having sex with me, leaving me frustrated. If letting him go so he can find the right person to fulfill his needs makes him happier, then I feel it's the right thing to do, as much as it would hurt.

– Failing At Intimacy/Love

You need to let this guy go for your own happiness and sanity.

I know you were alone for a long time—alone and lonely—and you know who else knows that? Your shitty boyfriend, FAIL, and he's leveraging your desire to be with *someone* against your right to sexual autonomy and your need for emotional safety. You have an absolute right to set your own limits, to rules things in and out, and to slap "not open for discussion" labels on some things. Ruling two things out—swallowing and ATM—particularly for the reasons you cite, is perfectly reasonable. If he can't accept that, if he's going to hammer away at those two things endlessly, that should be a "deal breaker" for you.

You see his inability to determine if you're "the one" as a separate issue, FAIL, but it's of a piece. He's refusing to make you the one—"the one" is an act of will, not an act of God—in hopes that you will submit to his sexual demands. I have a hunch that swallowing and ATM aren't really the things that make him come the hardest. If it was anal and cunnilingus you couldn't do, FAIL, then those would be his favorite things. Because the issue here isn't whether he's "sure" you're the one or the sex acts that make him come the hardest. This is about him controlling and degrading you.

DTMFA.

Please ignore KISSES and write as much as you want! I read your column because I like what you write!

– Dan Should Go On At Length

I've obviously reverted to form already, DSGOAL, but thanks for your support!

Listen to the Savage Lovecast recorded live on Valentine's Day in Portland: savagevoicecast.com.

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday
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SPOTLIGHT

The latest news and deals from our partners



Easter Egg-stravaganza at Conrad Hong Kong

Spring has finally sprung and Easter is just around the corner! To welcome this egg-citing season, Conrad Hong Kong is presenting sumptuous Easter brunches at three of its top-notch restaurants—Nicholini's, Brasserie on the Eighth and Lobby Lounge—over all four days of the Easter long weekend.

To celebrate Easter like the Italians, head to Nicholini's for some amazing comfort food and the perfect environment for sharing and laughter. In the elegant dining area, you'll be able to savor a spread of dishes which represent the bounties and cooking traditions of the various regions of Italy. From succulent seafood to freshly made pastas, the choices are plenty for diners looking for a *laid-back* afternoon, Italian style.

Feel like living the French way? Brasserie on the Eighth is the go-to place for a leisurely afternoon. Throughout the Easter holiday, the French restaurant will be offering a delectable array of luscious brunch delicacies, including

freshly imported lobsters from different regions, as well as made-to-order gourmet dishes such as traditional slow-roasted duck breast with orange sauce and melt-in-your-mouth braised ox tail in red wine sauce.

Wash down your fine food with unlimited Perrier-Jouët Champagne at both Nicholini's and Brasserie on the Eighth. Worried about the kids getting in the way of all those bubbles? Balloon twisting and magic performances will be available during Easter at both restaurants to entertain the little ones.

Meat-lovers shouldn't miss the Carvery and Bubbles buffet lunch at the Lobby Lounge for a meaty Easter. Featuring a selection of specialties including slow-roasted UK pork belly, oven-roasted sirloin, twice-cooked suckling pig and oven-roasted Aussie lamb leg, this buffet is a carnivore's heaven. The meal is paired with free-flow red, white and sparkling wines for a complete dining experience.

Make your booking through the hotel's "Hungry

Tuesday" online platform, where you can get up to 20 percent discount at all three restaurants. On March 25, 26 and 28, brunch at Nicholini's and Brasserie on the Eighth is just \$470 and on March 27, \$718. Alternatively, the Carvery and Bubbles menu is just \$380 for all four days of the Easter weekend.

Want to extend your celebration to the whole of March? Check out other Hungry Tuesday offers on the Conrad's website, where you can enjoy a fine Italian four-course tasting set menu at Nicholini's for just \$638, a scrumptious supper buffet at Lobby Lounge at \$275 per person on weekends, or a flavorful international lunch buffet at Garden Café at \$258 per person on weekdays, and \$293 on weekends and public holidays.

2521-3838,
www.conraddining.hungrytuesday.com



Easter Feasters – Hong Kong's best festive brunch spots

This Easter, don't fuss about where the next egg hunt will be or how to get your post-Lent chocolate fix. Leave it to Aberdeen Street Social to treat you and the kids with an indulgent spread of British favorites. This coming Easter weekend (March 25-28), adults can choose from eggs Benedict (\$138), lobster Benedict (\$288) or the special brunch steak with fried eggs and roasted tomatoes (\$218).

Kids can sample the Social's specially made Easter float mocktails, created by innovative bar manager Audrey Eschermann. As a base, kids can choose from Coca-Cola, ice cream or lemonade and top it with a special chocolate egg and bunny. Of course, no British meal would be complete without a warm serving of sticky toffee pudding and ice cream (\$98). Whoever said that the Brits don't know a thing about good food?

Duddell's is also offering a top-notch selection of Cantonese dishes during the Easter weekend. Fill your boots with an unlimited selection of dim sum and other Cantonese favorites from 11:30am-3:30pm and top it off with a glass of Veuve Clicquot or one of Duddell's seasonal crafted cocktails: The Jack Jazz Rabbit features a mix of fresh carrots, green apple juice and Żubrówka vodka, while the That's What She Said is a saucy combination of fruity Chartreuse, elderflower and berries topped with sparkling wine. For only \$480 per head or \$250 for under 10-year-olds, you'll be able to stuff yourself silly with unlimited food and non-alcoholic drinks.

208 Duecento Otto is also offering an Easter weekend buffet special for \$388 per person. Among Chef Michael Bolam's creations are a slow roast leg of lamb with duck fat potatoes, linguine with prawns, mussels and clams, and more. Brunch-goers can pay an additional \$180 and enjoy unlimited drinks until 3pm. Let's not forget Otto's homemade Easter eggs and hot cross buns—how else will you get your sweet fix this Easter?

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- Control and manage all food and beverage related cost, including monitoring revenue and expenses, developing and managing annual budget, etc.
- Plan and implement procedures for events, special occasions and promotions

Requirement:

- Minimum 5 years' experience at senior management level in medium to large dining restaurant
- Commitment to delivering a high level of customer service
- Proactive, enthusiastic and self-motivated with strong leadership
- Able to work under pressure with excellent time management
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skill
- Good command of both spoken and written English and ability to speak Mandarin / Cantonese is a plus

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Requirement:

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Job Duties:

- Provide quality food and beverage service to customers
- Maintain a smooth and efficient operation at the restaurant/bar area
- Organize and ensure the delivery of wine and beverage orders
- Perform any other tasks assigned by supervisor

Requirement:

- Excellent customer service, self-motivated and inter-personal skills required
- Should be punctual and hard working
- Must be a team player
- Good command of written and spoken English, ability to speak Mandarin / Cantonese is a plus
- Immediate available is highly preferred

Interested parties, please email to janeli@recruithk.net or call at 2151 1269
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HK GIVEAWAYS

It's week two of our March giveaways and we've got some winners! Not lucky this time? No worries. We've still got some fantastic Riedel glassware and a gorgeous stay at the Conrad Hong Kong up for grabs.

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Thanks to the Conrad Hong Kong, you now have a chance to win an awesome staycation at this fantastic hotel. We've got a **one-night stay for two in an Executive Harbour View Suite**, with access to all the luxury services of the executive lounge including breakfast, afternoon tea, evening cocktails, plus personalized butler and concierge services to top off the wonderful experience. The suite on the hotel's executive floor is an exemplar of luxury living, featuring a comfortable living room overlooking the picturesque Victoria Harbour, and a separate bedroom taking in the tranquility of The Peak. The total value of this prize? A whopping \$11,110.

Wanna live the high life for a night? Here's how.

If you were reading our March 4 issue, you should already have found an *italicized* word in the appropriate Spotlight page article. Now you have to do the same with this and the next issue. Once you've got all three, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about what you'd do with a staycation at the Conrad Hong Kong. Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before 10am on March 21, 2016.

Good luck! The winner will be announced on March 25.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of tickets to Taboo: The Resort of Desires!

Congratulations to William Ho, Susan Lee, Janet Ng, Stan Lau and Sheila Ardales, who have each won a pair of A Reserve tickets (one pair valued at \$1,960) to catch **Taboo: The Resort of Desires** at the City of Dreams Macau!

William wants to "Enjoy good food and hea la," while Susan's more interested in "making it rain" at Club Cubic afterwards—and Janet's got plans for a certain lucky someone...

Congratulations to all five of our lucky winners and enjoy the show!



WE HAVE
WINNERS!



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Got a few bottles of good wine at home? Then you'll need some proper glasses to take them to the next level. Townhouse is generously offering a **set of Riedel glassware** (total value \$5,070) for you to savor your wines at home.

The set includes six Riedel Vinum XL Syrah glasses, six Riedel Vinum XL Riesling Grand Cru glasses and six Riedel Swirl Red Wine glasses. Want to bring them home? Just describe in one sentence your most memorable experience with fine wines. Don't send us your drunk texts, though...

Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before 10am on March 14, 2016. The winner will be announced on March 18.

FIRST PERSON

“No matter how high you reach, you are never going to reach higher than the sky.”

Chan Wing-him has written songs for almost every Cantopop star in Hong Kong, including Eason Chan, Pakho Chau, Joey Yung and Fiona Sit. Now the award-winning lyricist has moved from backstage to the spotlight, with a string of successful singles. He tells Isabelle Hon about an overachieving childhood, dealing with setbacks, and the key to success.

Thinking back to my childhood, I was doing extra work most of the time.

I was a good student and I didn't mess around much.

My mom wanted me to have a good education. I studied in two kindergartens and three primary schools, each one better than the other. Each time, I had to work to get better results to get into a better school.

But it made me more independent and gave me less of an emotional attachment to these matters.

No matter how close I was with my friends, our friendships would fade away as I moved to another school.

This influenced me as I grew up. Many people might have strong attachments to specific people, places or things, but I seem to find it easier to let things go.

When I was in primary six, I was selected to be a team member to take part in the International Mathematical Olympiad.

During the summer training camp, a teacher asked me to photocopy some exercises in the staff room.

There was no one in the room so I messed around. I turned all the medals and cups into a golden robot. Also I faked some love letters between the teachers.

I was kicked out of the team.

As a member of Hong Kong Children's Choir, I was lucky to have more chances to see the world than other kids.

The places we went on tour aren't the usual places that Hong Kong people would go: Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Marseille in southern France and Kagoshima in Japan.

I really enjoyed it. I kept singing in the choir—until my voice broke.

I joined the debate team afterwards, and soon became the team leader and won “Best Debater” in public competitions.

Also, I got my Grade Eight with distinction in piano.

It was so easy to get what I wanted in my childhood. But I didn't know how to deal with failure and setbacks.

As I grew up, there were more and more problems that had to be dealt with.

I started to become frustrated, even by small matters. Like if I couldn't be the most popular person in a group, I would be unhappy about that. I was used to getting attention from everyone.

I turned into a quiet person. I hid myself away.

I started not going to classes in university. I hid at home during the day and went out at night. My life was eroding away.

I met a gangster boy on the Hung Hom waterfront. We talked about our thoughts and dreams every night for two months, and then we never met again.

Our paths might not cross again, but once we shared our dreams with each other.

That's the interesting and mysterious part of life.

I started writing lyrics. At first I just wanted to show others how smart I was and the interesting angles I could think of.

Later on, I came to regard it as my responsibility.

Writing Cantonese lyrics seems difficult to most people: This talent of mine is a precious gift from God. I should take the responsibility and help people to write out their thoughts.

I moved to a village house in Tai Po. By always looking at the blue sky, I realized how small we are. No matter how high you reach, you are never going to reach higher than the sky.

[Cantopop producer and singer] Eric Kwok called me after seeing my lyrics, and it got me the chance to write for Karen Mok, Charlene Choi and Eason Chan. I was a newbie but I got the chance to write for Eason!

Later I got a call from [legendary lyricist] Wyman Wong, who asked me to join his “Shot the Lyricist” songwriters' union. It was a milestone for my career. After that I started working with Pakho Chau and Phil Lam.

I used to use words and music to express my thoughts. But then I thought it would be good to directly express myself to audiences. So last year I switched to being a singer.

My most recent song is about a fat boy: ‘If I am smart enough, I can be fat.’ You think my style is similar to Bruno Mars? Yeah, his music has influenced me a lot.

Why am I successful? There's a theory I believe in.

There are many people waiting for a bus that hasn't come. Some leave the line because it's too hot under the sun. Some leave to go buy food.

After half an hour the bus has still not arrived, so some choose to walk or take a taxi. Soon there's only me left in the line. So when the bus finally comes, only I can get on the bus.

You have to stick to your beliefs.

NEED TO KNOW...

Chan Wing-him won Commercial Radio's best lyricist award in 2013 and 2014. Check out his latest song “Fatty Jealous” at tiny.cc/hk-fattyjealous.

LAST MONTH HSSSSSS ...

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