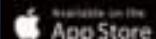


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*WHILE STOCKS LAST

Devaluation Nation

China's Central bank has devalued the yuan by 2 percent, in an effort to soothe its turbulent stock market. But it's not the only thing that could do with a bit of downwards momentum. Here are some other things we should be devaluating in the SAR.

The life's work of singer/actor Andy Lau.

Enough is enough. Sure, "Infernal Affairs" was pretty good. But it's time someone took a stand and objected to all those stupid Osim massage chair ads. THIS HAS TO END!

The yuan, still further.

The less value the yuan has, the more we can take advantage of the strong Hong Kong dollar by comparison. Which means that at long last, we can book that once-in-a-lifetime trip to picturesque Lanzhou, "The Landlocked Polluted Venice of the East."

The achievements of your friends and loved ones.

The only way to feel better about your own lack of success is to engage in a sustained campaign of emotional abuse towards those around you. So your BFF made VP at his investment bank? Shame he has no soul. Your wife is finally quitting her job to go back to school? Great, even more of a financial burden. Your only child got straight As at school? Shame he's fat and lisps. Soon they'll be so demoralized that you will naturally rise to the top, like scum on water.

The price of a cocktail in Central.

It's all well and good arranging to meet your friends for a couple of quick ones on Wyndham, but paying \$150 for a watered-down glass of vodka and hoping that anything will happen other than a slow decline into penury is a pointless exercise. As Einstein said, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. And he didn't have to pay \$90 for a draft Tsingtao.

Abalone.

Let's drop the facade once and for all and finally agree that abalone is a tasteless rubbery mess that's only prized because it's relatively difficult to get hold of and looks like an aquatic vagina.

Your hopes and dreams.

A 50 percent reduction in our hopes for the future will result in a more attainable set of goals: semi-democracy, a lifetime of renting tiny flats and settling for an adequate, if unspectacular, partner are all eminently achievable objectives that will leave us feeling more complete, if not more fulfilled. Besides, what is retirement for if not to look bitterly back at the mundane reality your life has become and wonder what might have been?

Who's in charge?

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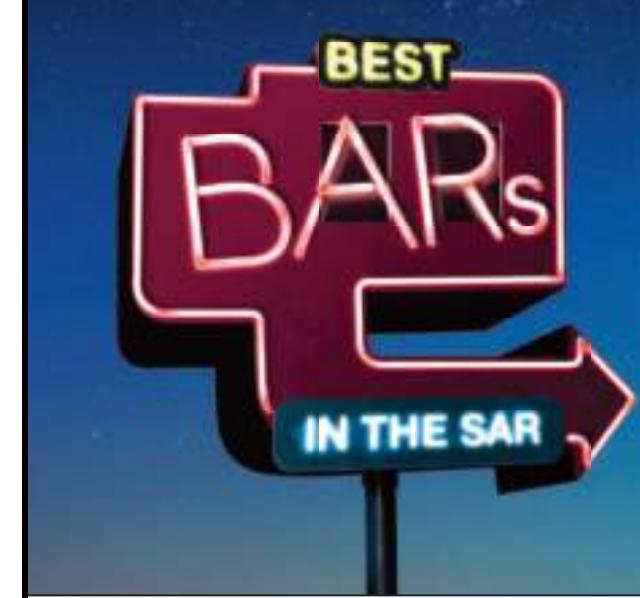


latest news and trends
@hk_magazine

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FIRST PERSON

Legislator, lawyer and actress Tanya Chan



MAILBAG

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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

What's going on with the Haiphong Road Temporary Market? I walk past it all the time in Tsim Sha Tsui and it looks like it's been there forever. – Market Mark

In Hong Kong terms, it pretty much *has* been there forever.

Haiphong Road is one of the few places in Hong Kong not named for a Chinese or British place or person. It actually takes its name from the northern Vietnamese port of Hai Phong, which once had close commercial ties to the area. Originally called Elgin Road, the avenue was renamed in 1909 to prevent confusion with the street in SoHo. (Other name changes in TST at the same time included Chater Street becoming Peking Road, Des Voeux Road turning into Chatham Road, and Robinson Road switching to Nathan Road).

As for the Haiphong Road Temporary Market—it's even less temporary than you might have thought. It was created in 1978 to house hawkers displaced by the redevelopment of Canton Road, making it the oldest temporary market in the city.

The hawkers were squeezed into the awkward triangular space created by the construction of the Kowloon Park Drive flyover, and asked to wait it out until more suitable accommodation could be found. But a purpose-built building never appeared and the site is difficult to develop, thanks to the flyover overhead. And so the market

continued and continues to this day, still temporary 37 years after it was set up.

Despite its ad-hoc nature, the Haiphong Road market is as permanent a part of Tsim Sha Tsui life as Chungking Mansions itself. The market serves the needs of TST, and so it's home to a large number of halal butchers catering to the area's substantial Muslim population. Meanwhile, the cooked food center portion of the market offers some of the city's best eats. **Tak Fat Beef Ball** (390 Haiphong Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2376-1179) is rightly famed for its firm, bouncy beef balls, flavored with a touch of mandarin peel and served in vivid orange bowls. A meal in the cooked food center is a loud, sweaty, uproarious and delicious tradition that's here to stay—as temporary at the market itself.



Halsgen via Wiki Commons

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

#PrivateEyeHK



Chasing Waterfalls

Photo by Sarah Richard
Instagram: @sricharduk



Your yeas, nays, amateur linguistics:

"HK Magazine thanks for choosing my good side"

Long Time No Read

Recently [July 31, issue 1107] Mr. Know-It-All explored Chinese phrases that have influenced English, such as "long time no see." Some Facebook readers agreed with the etymology lesson... and some didn't.

No doubt! Gung ho !!

Ben Zabulis

Good one Mr KIA! Seriously

Jason Wong

Could it be by chance when a person hasn't seen another person for a long time? Instead of saying the whole sentence 'It has been a long time since I saw you' that some genius shortened it to 'long time, no see'. There is no other explanation, and to even try is ridiculous in the extreme!

Christopher Mercer

Party Papped

We ran a photo of an event in "The Week" [August 7, issue 1108] and a Facebook reader recognized a friend...



@Gary Swart

Your picture on the front page of this article

Robyn Turner

Yea, that's me loving life. HK Magazine thanks for choosing my good side ;)

Gary Swart

Dim Sum and Some More

Our dim sum rule ("Charting Hong Kong," August 7, issue 1108) states that the perfect dim sum order is 2.2 baskets per person in summer and 2.4 baskets in winter. Facebook readers respond:

My rule is 1.7 basket per person all year round.

Nat Lam

Huh? Nothing less than 5 baskets!!!

Vincent Tan

Think we will still always over order!!

Josie Ling Sabrina

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THE WEEK

SAT 8/15



FRI 8/14



FRI 8/21



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Friday 8/14

No Seashells Sold

The Summer International Film Festival brings Brazil to the shores of Hong Kong with "**Seashore**," directed by Filipe Matzembacher and Marcio Reolon. The film explores the complexity of friendship and family through the eyes of teens Tomaz and Martin. No junk trips necessary.

9:50pm. UA Cine Moko, 4/F, MOKO, 193 Prince Edward Road West, Mongkok, 3918-5888. \$75 from www.urbtix.hk.

Saturday 8/15

Tri's Company

Couldn't score a getaway to Ubud this weekend? Grab brunch at Balinese restaurant **Tri** with some trendy Balinese bites such as crispy Duck Betutu and 48-hour short rib, at \$680 (for free-flow Louis Roederer Brut) or \$1,880 (Louis Roederer Cristal) per head. **Brunch sessions start at 11am and 1:30pm.** Shop 302, 3/F, The Pulse, 28 Beach Rd., Repulse Bay, 2515-0577.

Sunday 8/16

Baller-ino

Lam Chun-wing, the first Hongkonger admitted to the Paris Opera School and Paris Opera Ballet, stars in **Don Quixote** for the 55th anniversary of the Jean M. Wong School of Ballet. **Aug 15-16, 7:30pm.** Hong Kong Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$200-500 from www.urbtix.hk.

Monday 8/17

Viva la Anima

Five-piece funk/soul band **Animaviva** flies in from London to play this funktastic show. The band performs funked-up multilingual covers and duets of popular and indie songs. **7:30pm.** Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$120 from tiny.cc/hk-animaviva.

Tuesday 8/18

Oysters, Ersters

Get your fill of jet-fresh oysters at Grand Central's **Bi-annual Oyster Festival**, with a special focus on bivalves from the southern hemisphere. Fresh oysters start at \$19 each, or a half dozen for \$114. Classic baked oysters are also available. **Available all day.** Shop R001, 3/F, Civic Square, Elements, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 2736-4888.

Wednesday 8/19

Family Feud

Hong Kong Stories hosts a night of true stories told by regular folks. Expect cutting comedy, touching memoirs, embarrassing anecdotes and sob-worthy tales. This month's stories are themed around "Family Ties." **8pm.** Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$120 from www.hkticketing.com or at the door.

Thursday 8/20

#BitchBrows

Got an extra 20 minutes at lunch? Clean up that frumpy forehead fuzz at **Benefit**: Thursdays through September 30, get an express brow wax between 11:30am-2:30pm and you'll get an upper-lip waxing service thrown in. Make sure to book in advance. **\$160 at any Benefit Brow Bar, including Lab Concept, Queensway Plaza, 93 Queensway, Admiralty, 2116-9857.**

Friday 8/21

Morning D

Get the D bright and early: Burger joint **Double D** has launched a new breakfast menu of sandwiches with lots of bacon and cheese inside English muffins, and freshly brewed coffee with free refills. **8-11:30am.** 22 Wellington St., Central, 2881-1888.

Saturday 8/22

Summer Sonic

The Underground's lining up four acts for **Summer of Music @ Backstage**, their final event at Backstage Live: Sister Tangy and the Gang, headed by a reformed but angry accountant; veterans Site Access; psychedelic dance rockers ShumKing Mansion; and Junk! whose audiovisual sorcery will get you dancing. **9:30pm-1am.** Backstage Live, 1/F, Somptueux Central, 52-54 Wellington St., Central. \$120 from undergroundhk.com; \$150 at the door; both include one drink.



COMING UP

Ice Cream Dream

Join fellow hot and hungry Hongkongers at the **Ice Cream Fest** for two awesome afternoons of gorging on cold creamy delights, hosted by HK Magazine and SOHO east. Show off your speed skills at the Ice Cream Eating Championship, where contestants must eat as fast as possible without using their hands (or their brains freezing), or take part in the Ice Cream Walk, where you can guess ice cream flavours and play mini-games along the route. There's \$20,000 of prizes up for grabs, so get in quick!

icecreamfesthk.com



Phil 'The Power' Taylor
Raymond 'Barney' Van Barneveld
Stephen 'The Bullet' Bunting
Andy 'The Hammer' Hamilton
Wes 'The Warrior' Newton
Royden 'The Wolf' Lam
Scott 'The Alchemist' Mackenzie

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NEWS

Last Week In Reality

Sat 1

Decent Proposal A 37-year-old Hongkonger proposes to his girlfriend in an elaborate stunt, which includes a helicopter flying over Victoria Harbour with a banner saying, "I love you! Stephanie BB, will you marry me?" The entire proposal, including engagement ring and suite at the Ritz-Carlton, costs almost \$400,000. His girlfriend says yes. Netizens question if the expensive proposal is quite as out of the blue as it seems, as pre-wedding photos seemingly taken over two months ago are found online.



Sun 2

Routine Check Police arrest a 49-year-old man who has been wanted by the police since 2009, for his suspected part in the murder of triad boss Lee Tai-lung outside the Kowloon Shangri-La. The man is stopped by traffic police after he is seen driving past the Academy for Performing Arts in Wan Chai while talking on his mobile phone. The police are surprised to discover his identity and hand him over to the Organised Crime and Triad Bureau.



Mon 3

Forced Slapping A group of mainland tourists visits a jewelry shop on Tai Nan West Street in Lai Chi Kok. Their tour itinerary says they will spend two hours shopping in the location. Six female tourists from Hunan are dissatisfied with being detained by the forced shopping, and they argue with the tour guide. One of the tourists slaps him on the neck, injuring him. The tour guide is sent to the hospital, and the tour continues.

Tue 4

Hammer Time After the sudden closure of furniture store DSC, a 65-year-old man goes to the branch in Metro City, Tseung Kwan O, to try to claim the goods he has paid for. He knocks on the door but when no one answers, he becomes emotional, takes a hammer that he had with him and tries to batter down the door. Shopping mall security stops him and he is arrested.

Wed 5

Moooving Time After 37 years, the iconic giant neon cow outside Sammy's Kitchen steakhouse in Sai Ying Pun is taken down. The Buildings Department had ordered its removal two years ago, on the grounds of being an illegal structure. The sign will be taken to the M+ visual arts museum for display.



Thu 6

#Injured A mainland tourist is run over by a van outside her hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui, and her leg is pinned to the tarmac. She does not appear seriously injured and lies on the floor checking her phone until the ambulance arrives. Hotel staff fetch an umbrella to hold over her in the meantime.

Fri 7

Water Arson A 28-year-old man is arrested on suspicion of burning down a historic 200-year-old water mill in Yuen Long, because he found it an obstacle in the Grade I historic building he was squatting in. The man, who is a torture refugee claimant, was previously living in Lo Uk Tsuen but was ejected from that property when he was suspected of growing marijuana on the grounds.

Illustrations: Ryan Chan

Talking Points

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



Photo: Nora Tam/SCMP

Wall Trees Getting The Chop

Hong Kong's banyan wall trees have been having a hard time of it ever since a century-old wall tree collapsed in July's typhoon on Bonham Road in Sai Ying Pun, injuring two. Since then five more similarly ancient banyans in the area have been removed in the name of public safety. But local residents and conservation groups have been crying foul play, saying that even if there was structural weakness, **Hong Kong's wall trees are a piece of the city's heritage and they shouldn't be felled without prior consultation**. A miniature shrine has grown up around the trees' remaining roots. Meanwhile, four other trees across the territory collapsed last week after heavy rain.

Our Take: Ancient institutions replaced by modern development? Sounds like Sai Ying Pun to us.

Boob News Goes International

The controversial conviction of 30-year-old Ng Lai-ying for "assaulting" a police officer with her breast during an anti-parallel trader protest has gone global. While activists marched on August 2 in solidarity with Ng, with men and women wearing bras over their shirts, **the issue has seen massive support online**. The event has also reached the ears of American TV host Conan O'Brien, who performed a satirical monologue comparing breasts to nunchucks. Spanish web magazine Playground also uploaded a 30-second clip, labeling the events "**La Revolucion de los Sujetadores**"—"The Bra Revolution." So far the clip has had 9.2k likes on Facebook.

Our Take: It seems they've found the breast way to gain media attention...

Basic Modes of Transport Getting Freaky

Unfortunate escalator accidents appear to have spread from the mainland to Hong Kong. One of the four main escalators in Causeway Bay's Times Square broke down last Monday morning, with **dozens of loose fragments of yellow safety plastic breaking off along the edges of the steps**. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department says that it was not due to any internal mechanical failure and no injuries were reported. The same week, Times Square's elevator also experienced a malfunction: A lift carrying eight people plummeted from the 18th to the 14th floor. The **passengers inside were rescued after 10 minutes, unharmed**. Netizens have blamed Times Square's ongoing Gundam exhibition, claiming that **the accidents are due to battling mecha robots**.

Our Take: Let's just take Gundam robots everywhere instead. They're apparently safer...

Quote of the Week

"If the media wants to be successful in the future, editors in the newsroom should be under 35."

Peter Kuo, former president of now-closed newspaper the Hong Kong Daily News, reflects on the state of media in Hong Kong. He criticized Hong Kong media for being insufficiently attuned to the realities of online news.

UPFRONT

HongKabulary



7-Eleven Shower (seven elevan ſauər), n.

Running out for a quick errand and getting caught in a sudden torrential 5-minute downpour.

*"I went out for a pack of cigarettes and ended up taking a 7-Eleven shower."
"See? Told you smoking was bad for you."*

Caption This

Demonstrators wear bras in front of police headquarters in Wan Chai to object to the conviction of a protester for assaulting a police officer with her breast. (David Wong/SCMP)



AT LAST, MEN COVER THEIR NIPPLES OUT OF SHAME

Disgruntled Lady: "Look, This Man Doesn't Even Have Breasts"

Fast Facts

Let It Go

CY Leung says Hong Kong's "laissez-faire," "positive non-intervention" economic policy is outdated. What should we switch to?

- The introduction of mooncake redemption vouchers as the most stable form of paper currency.
- Quantitative easing of John Tsang's mighty moustache.
- Positive intervention, but only in other people's love lives.
- An economy regulated exclusively by a certain Mr. CY Leung, Esq.
- A "let-go" economy, which is exactly the same as "laissez-faire" but with way fewer French expats.

Street Talk



So you like the NBA? Not as much as superfan **Thomas Leung**, who collects and sells basketball merchandise from his Yau Ma Tei shop. He tells Adrienne Chum about his love of Michael Jordan and the Golden State Warriors, and refuses to let us into his super secret showroom.

HK Magazine: Why Michael Jordan?

Thomas Leung: He was the best on the court, the strongest. With all his achievements, Michael Jordan is the complete package: the scoring leader, MVP, all-star, Olympic gold medalist, everything!

really cheap at the time, because the Warriors were pretty bad. Another time, my season tickets included a William Hung concert, so I flew back from Hong Kong to see him perform. I couldn't miss that show because I'd already bought the ticket!

HK: Have you ever bought fake merch?

TL: Of course, when I was young—I bought a Michael Jordan photo with a signature for \$40. Obviously a real one wouldn't be that cheap. Much of what's on Ebay is fake. This is why the certificate of authenticity is so important. I haven't bought any fake jerseys; I've been able to sniff out what's real.

HK: Where do you keep your collection?

TL: Three-quarters of my collection is in Hong Kong, and the rest is in America. I keep a showroom with controlled air conditioning, humidity, lighting. The room needs to be dusted regularly, too. Normally nobody is allowed in and I keep all the lights off. It's private, just for fun, for me. Many people want to go in, but in the four years I've had the showroom, I've let less than 20 people do so.

HK: If you could take Michael Jordan around the city, where would you go?

TL: I would take him to eat fishballs. I'd take him to Sneaker Street, because his "Jumpman" logo represented our generation. His shoes represent a lifestyle; they're a status symbol.

HK: Do you ever play basketball with a Jordan jersey?

TL: Never. The number 23 is too great: It represents a standard. When you wear the number, you have the responsibility to uphold his greatness. I don't want to let the number down.



Pay your respects to Michael Jordan at TMC, Shop 255, In's Point Plaza, 530-544 Nathan Rd., Yau Ma Tei, 9162-3161.

* A BAR FOR ALL REASONS

Sure, there's nothing wrong with your tried-and-tested local. But sometimes you're in a particular mood and need to hit up the precisely right kind of bar. **Adam White** and **John Robertson** are here to help.



The Chinnery, Where Britannia still rules

Best bar for: *Expats who miss the Empire*

The sun never set on the empire at the **Chinnery**. Named for British artist George Chinnery, who documented the rise of the empire in the Far East, this clubby bar is all dark wood, plush seats and stiff upper lips which get slowly wobblier as the drinks slide down and you're reminded that the only empire likely to appear again in Hong Kong will have a red flag with five stars on it. Sorry, chaps. Another pint?

Order this: Tanqueray and tonic (\$120), of course. Chin chin!
1/F, Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong, 5 Connaught Rd. Central, 2825-4009.

Best bar for: *The end of the world as we know it*

Nuclear wasteland? Zombie apocalypse? Inbound meteor? CY Leung finally hit the big red "CHINA" button? Whatever's going down you'll want to hole up and wait for the whole thing to blow over. Get down to **XXX**. It's got a basement location, single point of entry and it smells a bit like a wine cellar. With luck that means there's penicillin growing on the walls, which you can use to keep yourself alive when the beer runs run out. Once you emerge blinking into the sunlight of the desolate future, you're guaranteed to be the most hipster person left in this brave new world.

Order this: Red Stripe, obviously.
B/F, 353-363 Des Voeux Rd. West, Shek Tong Tsui.

Best bar for: *White-collar bikers*

Weekend warriors, start your engines. You don't need to be a member of an outlaw biker gang in order to feel like one for a night at old favorite **Handle Bar**. Hell, you don't even need to own a bike. Just brush up on your chopper vocab and dig out that old leather jacket—just make sure you cover up the Brooks Brothers logo.

Order this: Nothing with a mini-umbrella or a fancy straw in it.
98-108 Jaffe Rd., Wan Chai, 2866-2911.

Best bar for: *The ridiculously unfit*

The biggest step to getting into shape is dragging your slothful self to the gym in the first place. Thankfully, at the new **Inn Side Out** in the South China Athletic Association, you can trick the enemy that is your body into complying by making it believe it's actually just going for a pint. Once there it'll be forced to sign up to a yearlong membership at SCAA (\$120 a year), which gets you access to swimming, bowling, a golf driving range and more. And, yes, a drink or two at the end of it.

Order this: Doing sports? Get a London Pride (\$62). Otherwise only bottles of San Miguel Light (\$55) til you get your ass in gear.
2/F 88 Caroline Hill Rd, Causeway Bay, 2895-2900.



Drink enough and you'll feel Inn Side Out

Best bar for: Messing with your memory

As you walk into **Tai Lung Fung** at PMQ, you find yourself slowly being taken back to another era. The vintage movie posters, the antique clocks, the yellowed newspaper clippings and other 60s Hong Kong memorabilia bring you back to that simpler time you knew way back when. And then it hits you: just like all the other patrons here, you weren't actually around in the 60s! Those memories passing through your head aren't of old Hong Kong at all, but simply of the *other* Tai Lung Fung you used to go to in Wan Chai. Better flag down a waitress and order something to teach your unreliable memory a lesson...

Order this: Their very own Pu-er whiskey ought to do the trick.

Shop H107, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central, 2572-2886.

Best bar for: People who wish they were in a spy movie

You're smoother than a CY Leung apology. You're suave like a misspelled Italian white wine. You have a license to kill, as long as you're just spraying cockroaches with Baygon. You must be an SAR spy, and everyone knows that means martinis by the bucketful. **Blue Bar's** martini list does it credit, although if you ask for one shaken-not-stirred then James Bond himself will leap from the pages of the nearest book and slap you for ordering a bad drink.

Order this: A dry vodka martini (\$130), shaken, not—OW OW OK FINE

Four Seasons Hong Kong, 8 Finance St., Central, 3196-8888.

Best bar for: Plotting the revolution

Just down the road from where none other than Sun Yat Sen once lived, the charming little **1911** takes its name from the date of Sun's Xinhai revolution, which overthrew the Qing dynasty. That doesn't mean it's the place for a boozy riot of a drinking session, though: Sun was a gentleman as well as a revolutionary, and would have appreciated 1911 for its quiet, rustic charm. And no window-smashing here—they're stained glass, thank you.

Order this: The Shanghai Passion cocktail (\$68): Stealthier and deadlier than a Molotov.

G/F, 27 Staunton St., Central, 2810-6681



Will you dine and dash at Taz?

Best bar for: Sporting that fake tan

These days there's no need to be ashamed about bronzing yourself up artificially. Whether you've used a tanning bed or just slapped on some orange out of a bottle, nobody can fault you for being too busy for a proper beach holiday. Show off your beach-ish bod at the brand new tiki-themed **Mahalo**. Bottle-tanners don't need to worry about the stuff rubbing off onto the furniture—every tiki-themed inch is just the right shade of wood for it to blend in perfectly.

Order this: The Chinese Delight (\$130), with vodka and fivespice plus a range of tikitastic juices.

29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2488-8750.

Best bast for: Ordering loads and then skipping out on the bill

Trying to get into **Tazmania Ballroom** can make some of us all too aware that "exclusive" and "exclusion" are pretty much the same word. If you haven't been feeling the love from their door folks at Taz, try this one: Stride confidently to front of the queue, then point to a few models and say "I'm with her, her and her only, so don't let any strangers put drinks on my tab this time." Once you're inside, tell the bartender to bring out the magnums on your tab again, and you'll triple last time's tip if he's fast. As long as you look and sound the part, you'll have a good 15 minutes to spread the joy as un-exclusively as possible. Bail when you see the manager grilling staff about whether they've ever actually seen you before. Good luck making it out the door, and don't send the bill to us.

Order this: Just yell "make it rain champagne!!!" like you do it all the time.

33 Wyndham St., Central, 2801-5009

Best bar for: Eurohipsters

Anybody who's hit the clubs in Berlin in recent years knows that many of them are hard to get into. And they can be especially inaccessible if you're not a proper Berliner. Call it hipsterized xenophobia, but many a tourist has found themselves turned away from dancefloor Mecca because something about them—too much cologne, not enough beard—just doesn't jibe with the true Berlin vibe, *yah?* Thankfully the Berlin-inspired **Mitte** is a hipster haven right here in Hong Kong that can't afford to be quite as discriminating. But wear a touch of leather or denim all the same.

Order this: One of their four kinds of negronis (from \$78). And you'd better say "bitte."

1A Upper Station St., Sheung Wan, 2803-7080.

Mitte rocks the hipster vibe





Defend Hong Kong independence by getting drunk at Mod Bar

Best bar for: Localists

Down with colonialists! Down with China! Hong Kong should be a self-sufficient nation, independent in all things, and that extends to your choice of tipple. **Mod Bar** creates Hong Kong twists on classic drinks, using traditional flavors to reclaim foreign drinks for the glory of the city. Wait, what do you mean the water we make ice from comes from China? Inconceivable!

Order this: The Tycoonin (\$105) uses wah mui dried plum for a uniquely local flavor.

74 Wellington St., Central, 3125-3228.

Best bar for: Introverts

We get it. You're not really big on going out. If you're having a drink, it'll be a nice, quiet snifter at a local hangout where the music's not too loud and you can enjoy your book in peace. So head to **The Pontiac**. Until recently the bar at Fatty Crab, the venue has been reborn under the auspices of mixologist and general boozespert Beckaly Franks, creating a venue that starts off quiet and neighborly... but when it gets late, it gets loud and fun enough that you'll either be broken out of wallflower mode or recede into yourself forever, never to emerge again.

Order this: The Hobnail (\$88): as unforgiving as it sounds. 13 Old Bailey St., Central, 2521-3855.

Best bar for: Insufferable beer snobs

It's not just about the hop content, you know: A high IBU doesn't guarantee a good beer. You've got to take into account water hardness, malt levels, how the yeast was fermented, where the brewmaster went to beer academy... It's pretty complicated. Thankfully the guys at **Coedo Taproom** know their beers. This new bar is the Japanese craft brewery's first taproom outside of Japan, and you can expect seven of their brews on tap plus local and international favorites, as well as yakitori bites if you get peckish. Best of all, you can spend the whole evening prattling about amber ales without boring your listener into an alcoholic coma.

Order this: The tasting platter of five Coedo beers (\$100) will let you really get your snob on.

Shop C, G/F, 50-56 Paterson St., Fashion Walk, Causeway Bay, 2156-3356.

Best bar for: When you're surrounded by boring people

So you've gone out for the evening and suddenly, without warning, you're the only interesting person left. Everyone else is talking about CrossFit, juicing or One Direction. Haul 'em all to **Pirata**. Thanks to this venue's multi-level layout, you can send them downstairs to eat or upstairs to chat on the roof, while you sit at the gorgeous vermouth bar with a drink of your own. You may be lonely, but at least you're the most interesting person you know.

Order this: The Torino-Tokyo One Way (\$110): a Japanese twist on the Negroni.

30F, 239 Hennessy Rd., Wan Chai, 2887-0270.

Best bar for: Coyote Uglying it up

Critics almost unanimously panned the movie "Coyote Ugly" as little more than an excuse to have scantily clad girls dancing on the bar. Since when were excuses needed? Just head to **Carnegie's** on an average night and you'll only find yourself needing one if you're *not* up there.

Order this: Bombs (as in Jaeger Bombs, Bolivian Bombs, Haggis Bombs, Fire Bombs, Sake Bombs...)

53-55 Lockhart Rd., Wan Chai, 2866-6289.

Best bar for: Decision theorists

If ever there was a need for choice modeling, scholastic dominance and other fancy ways for human beings to offload their decisions onto incomprehensible-but-reassuring-looking formulas, it's at a place that offers you 25 different beers on tap (and over 50 bottled). Don't trust all that mathematical fiddlesticks? No worries: **Roundhouse Taproom** has an iPad menu to help guide you through.

Order this: Our own algorithm, devised after a carefully calibrated sampling of their beer platter, says try the Young Master 1842 Island Imperial IPA (\$85). But the next beer... that's up to you.

62 Peel St., Central, 2366-4880



Choose wisely at Roundhouse



Neo Cocktail Club: ZOMG

Best bar for: Casual nudism

You're a free spirit who only feels free when your body is fully exposed to the elements? All well and good, but getting your fleshier bits out in the wrong bar will lead to a night in a stranger's bed or in jail, depending on how you play your cards. Head to **Aqua Spirit**, where the views of the harbor are so gobsmackingly good that no one's going to look twice at you when you disrobe and stand proud, wrinkly bits flapping in the air-conditioning. Ah, freedom!

Order this: The Biarritz (\$148) available through Aug 31, a chamomile-tinged martini which will get you standing to attention.

30F, 1 Peking Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 3427-2288.

Best bar for: Reformed nerds

Back in the day you were all about video games and tabletop role-playing-games. But then you discovered the opposite sex, and you put away your robe and wizard hat to concentrate on life's other delights. Walk into **Neo Cocktail Club** ready to get your mack on and land a hottie for the night: BUT WAIT—is that an old-school arcade machine in the corner? OK: Forget the hotties and let's get to breaking some high scores. Some things really *matter* in life.

Order this: It's not safe to go alone! Take this Neo Hive (\$120)! It's a +1 cocktail of booziness!

10 Shin Hing St., 2812-2280.

Best bar for: Pretending you don't have work tomorrow

The bar at **Stone Nullah Tavern** is getting increasingly popular with the after-work crowd that throngs this place and spills out onto the pavement on weeknights.

The reason? Probably their weekday happy hour. It runs from 5-7pm: Drinks start at \$1, and double in price every 20 minutes. You won't win mad respect by boasting you start your weekends on Thursdays here—just a patronizing pat on the back from folks who last went home in March.

Order this: A shot of Pappy Van Winkle's whiskey (\$888), once every 20 minutes. Forever. Can't hack it? Go for the Tall Mojito (\$98), with jalapeño, tomatoes and Thai basil.

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



Aqua Spirit: get your wang out, no one's looking

Best Bars in Hong Kong We Miss

- ✖ **Yumla**, whose beer garden was once center of our 3am world.
- ✖ The old **Lotus**, which pretty much brought molecular mixology to Hong Kong.
- ✖ **Joe Bananas**. It ain't the same any more—for better or worse..
- ✖ **Delaney's Wan Chai**, just closed but not forgotten,
- ✖ **Kangaroo Jack's**, thanks to which a fishbowl will never be the same again.
- ✖ **Homebase**, home to more dawn debauchery than anyone cares to admit.
- ✖ **The Cavern**, which gave Journey's lead singer Arnel Pineda his shot at stardom. *Never stop believin'*.



PERKS

SPONSORED FEATURE



Vienna Boys Choir Academy Choir Programme is available in HK now

Hong Kong children don't have to travel all the way to Vienna, but still have the opportunity to enjoy the music fun by Vienna Boys Choir Certified pedagogue in Hong Kong. In Oct, we are excited to announce the launch of new programme "Vienna Boys Choir Academy Choir Programme" aims to inspire children with the many pleasures of singing! Enrol now at Kidenza.

KIDENZA Shop 852-853, Level 8, Fortune Metropolis,
6 Metropolis Drive, Hung Hom, Kowloon
www.kidenza.hk 2997-1393



SPLASH Vol. 13 at Hard Rock Hotel Macau

Don't miss your last chance this year to dive into Macau's most loved Pool Party! Come to City of Dreams on 22 August and join Australia's #1 DJ the Stafford Brothers, Scottish house DJ and producer Chris Lake, German trance DJ Alex M.O.R.P.H. and raw house aficionado Amadei from France. Get your tickets now!

Tickets: from HK\$480

Hotline: 800 900 783

Level 3, Hard Rock Hotel at City of Dreams
Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau



Win 3D2N Gourmet Getaway to Singapore

Chope is celebrating Singapore's 50th anniversary with the "2015 Chopeholic Awards". From July 2nd to September 30th, BOOK and DINE at as many Chope restaurants in HK through the Chope Website or App, and get the chance to win an exciting 3-Day-2-Night vacation to Singapore, a stunning new Apple Watch, and other prizes! Are you ready to be our next Chopeholic?

Website: www.chope.co
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Chope.HK>



Woodland Pre-School Open Days

Woodland Kennedy Town Pre-School
12th September 2015
10:00am - 2:00pm
G/F, 1/F & 2/F, Hau Wo Building,
3C Davis Street, Kennedy Town

Woodland Beachside Pre-School
19th September 2015
9:00am - 1:00pm
G/F & 2/F, No. 35 Beach Road,
Repulse Bay

Classes for children from 6 months to 6 years are open for enrolment! Enquiries: 2559-4855
Email: enquiry@woodlandschools.com
Website: www.woodlandschools.com



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WhatsApp 5598-9128 for promotion and appointment.
13/F, One Lan Kwai Fong, Central 2905-0918
802 Parker House, 72 Queen's Road, Central 2905-0901



Tour Spain at Tapeo

From now until December, Tapeo will introduce a new weekly special from one of 17 distinct culinary regions in Spain. Let's fo and visit the Balearic Islands, Murcia and Canary Islands in August!

Additionally, you will be enjoying a complimentary tapas dish of the day upon entry with any dishes ordered from a la carte menu.

G/F, Au's Building, 15-19 Hollywood Road, Central, 3171-1989



Geopark Wonders Walk: Sharp Island

Appear, disappear, appear, disappear..... the tombolo of the Sharp Island shows off according to the tidal level. Different kinds of igneous rocks could be found in this island, including the "Pineapple Bun Rock" in a funny shape composed by Quartz Monzonite. To search for the evidence of huge ancient caldera, come and visit the SHARP ISLAND!

Tel: 3105-0767
[Web: hongkong.ecotravel.hk](http://hongkong.ecotravel.hk)



Waterfront Bar & Terrace Monday – Friday Set Lunch Specials

Creating divine flavours, pamper yourself with a perfect Set Lunch with the choices of appetiser buffet, main course and dessert buffet. Lunch at Waterfront Bar & Terrace is the ultimate way to spend your mid-day break. (Appetiser buffet at HK\$118*/Appetiser and dessert buffet at HK\$148*/Appetiser buffet and one main course at HK\$168*/Appetiser buffet, one main course and dessert buffet HK\$188*)

For reservations, please contact +852 2996-8455
fnb.hgkln@harbourgrand.com
Photo for reference only and *prices are subject to 10% service charge

It's Always Sunny

Hong Kong summers don't exactly promise eternal sunshine, but it's best to always be prepared for your next junk outing. Sick of dropping dollars on shades only to lose them in Millionaire's Bay? Zalora has a chic new solution for you—Philippines-based **Sunnies**

Studios debuted its eyewear line in Hong Kong last month, bringing affordable sunglasses to the SAR. There are over 60 styles available online, featuring everything from cat eyes to wayfarers, metallic, and tortoiseshell for a scorching summer look.

Sunnies Studios Jane Sunglasses, \$129,
www.zalora.com.hk.



WHAT'S HIDDEN INSIDE THIS PACKAGE?

After 25 years,
HK Magazine is
getting a makeover...

- Amazing holiday and fine-dine giveaways
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A whole new look!
Just 3 weeks to go...

852 TRAVEL

ESCAPE ROUTES
with Kate Springer



Explore your mystic side at The Siam

Ask an Expert

The gorgeous Siam Hotel in Bangkok recently introduced a surprising new service to its Opium Spa: Sak Yant tattooing. Getting a "magical" tattoo might not exactly be your idea of a vacation, but the sacred one- or three-day tattoo retreat is gathering a following from celebs like Cara Delevingne and Michelle Rodriguez. Here's what The Siam's own master tattoo artist Arjan Boo has to say about the experience.



HK Magazine: What exactly is Sak Yant tattooing?

Arjan Boo: It is a traditional form of tattooing that uses magical ancient geometric and deity symbols called "Yants" that essentially imprint Buddhist prayers onto the body. These Yants impart magical powers for luck, protection, charisma, fortune and others onto the wearer. Each design has very specific powers and gives the wearer a responsibility to follow certain rules—the more lines of Yant, the more rules there are to follow.

HK: When did you learn to do Sak Yant tattoos?

AB: As a young monk I had to assist my master with chores and was sometimes called to help prepare tattoos. The first time I drew a Yant, we were copying stencils by hand since there was no photocopy machine. I kept drawing for one and a half years and then was chosen by the monks to make Yants—later becoming known for my especially detailed work.

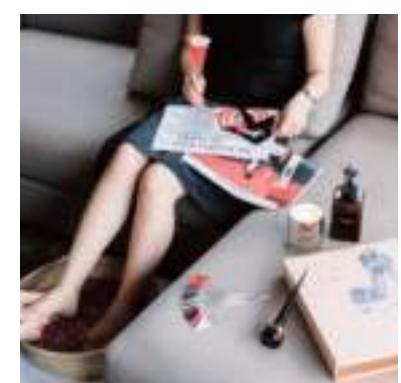
HK: Why do you think Yantra tattoos are more popular?

AB: Yantra tattooing has always been popular but was kept quiet and underground. As people and society have become more accepting of tattoos as an art form, people have started to be proud of showing their Yants and are comfortable with the power.

Tattoos from THB30,000 (\$6,666), includes all supplies and traditional ritual with Arjan Boo. The Siam, Khao, Wachira Phayaban, Bangkok, Thailand, (+66) 2-206-6999, www.thesiamhotel.com.

The Upper Echelon

Whether you're a big fan of Louboutin or simply love a luxurious staycation, **The Upper House's** autumn room package might be of interest—from now 'til October, book at least two consecutive nights and you'll have your very own pampering courtesy of the French luxury fashion house: We're talking daily breakfast, a "Red Slipper" welcome drink, an LV "With Love" leather cardholder, scented candle, \$500 credit, and an in-room manicure or pedicure from The Nail Library, using Louboutin varnish. Upgrade to a suite for double the spending credit, private car transfer, a personal consult at Louboutin's flagship in Central and a pair of "Air Loubi" flats.



From \$4,500 per night until October 31. Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 2918-1838, www.upperhouse.com.

Peer-to-Panda

Is **PandaBed** Asia's answer to Airbnb? Sure seems so. With 10,000 listed accommodations all over Asia, the peer-to-peer platform does apartment rental, house swaps, villas, bed and breakfasts, and even homestays using a few extras to improve the whole experience. Take the PeerMatch algorithm, for example, which is useful for those looking for a homestay experience. The algorithm attempts to line up travelers and local hosts who have similar interests and cultures based on their profiles and preferences. When searching for a place to stay, users will see a "match" score with the host, which could be a pretty good indicator of whether you will get along. So if you don't want to get stuck with a crazy cat lady or some raw-food revolutionist maybe make a note of it.

Check it out at pandabed.com.

Travelled anywhere incredible lately?
I want to hear about it! Email me at kate.springer@hkmagmedia.com or tweet @KateSpringer and #hktravels.



WELLINGTON ST

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We Love Korean Honey's

K-pop, K-drama and now K-desserts—bring it on, says **Joanne Lee**, who samples the best of the SAR's Korean dessert offerings



Norayo: Why didn't we think of this?



Too much of a good thing at Hanbing? Snow way

Pure Genius

You don't need to be Einstein to understand the "hot summer = cold beer" equation, but **Norayo K Café** brings it to another level with two popular booze-based Korean treats. The "Blue Lime-Lemon Rita"—essentially a citrus-based slushie mixed with tequila—is especially eye-catching, thanks to the upside-down bottle of Corona suspended from the top of the glass. Yes, it sounds crazy, but the sweet-sour base stays at the bottom while the beer floats on the top. As you drink the base, more Corona slowly flows in and the drink gradually turns beautifully greenish-blue, as you turn beautifully tipsy. Meanwhile, the mango "sulbing" shaved ice is comprised of ice, soju and mango, topped with roasted almond chips for a refreshing, boozy concoction.

2/F, Southgate Commercial Centre, 29 Granville Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 9695-1591.

Nice Ice Baby

While not new in town, **Hanbing** is nevertheless a must-try for Korean dessert lovers: It's all about the "snow ice," a crumbly version of traditional shaved ice. Mango snow ice is the shop's best-seller, but the blueberry cheesecake snow ice is also worth trying—the tart dried blueberries balance out the sweetness of the vanilla ice cream and blueberry sauce. Watermelon snow ice, recently added to the restaurant's seasonal menu, is also worth ordering—ice-cold red watermelon balls topped with fluffy, sweet shaved ice made of milk frozen under low temperature. The ice melts quickly, turning a lovely pink shade as it mixes with the watermelon juice. It's only on the menu until the end of August, so grab some watermelon action while you can.

Shop 4201K-4202K, Harbour City, Tsim Sha Tsui, 3791-2653.

The Real Deal

Don't be deceived by **Bingo Korean Dessert**

Café's low-key exterior—a ton of tasty Korean treats lurk within, watermelon shaved ice being one of its most popular. Shaved ice mixed with condensed milk and watermelon balls are put inside half a watermelon, which is then topped with ice cream in cones, and chocolate sauce drizzled over for good measure. Don't forget to order *injeolmi* toast, which is essentially a warm rice cake sandwich covered with ice cream. The rich cinnamon and soybean powder on the toast offers an authentic Korean dessert experience. The café is planning to add a bibimbap (Korean mixed rice) style dessert, topped with grapes, banana, kiwi and blueberry, sweet red bean paste and ice cream. Yum.

Shop A, G/F, Kimberly Mansion, 15 Austin Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2739-0633.

Pass the Poppers

Korean honeycomb ice cream was all the rage in the city last year. While this is still going strong,

Grandy Mary offers a variation—"honey poppers," little sweet jelly balls that burst in the mouth. Opt for ice cream or frozen yogurt soft serve, and jazz it up with your favored ingredients. Honey poppers not enough? Get it with a side of honeycomb instead. The shop also offers popular options such as popcorn soft serve, sundaes and ice cream macarons.

Shop 1, G/F, Sun Shine Building, 6G Belcher's Street, Shek Tong Tsui, 6879-8888.

Be a watermelon man at Bingo

Pop it to me, Mary



Corn-u-copia?

If you're looking for the classic ice cream cone, you've come to the wrong place. While **Bingco** offers awesome vanilla and chocolate ice cream, plus a weekly special which includes conventional flavors (green tea, chocolate mint) and less conventional ones (Chinese medicine?). The cones themselves are long, J-shaped tubes made from corn which Bingco imports from Korea and bakes itself. A popular street dessert in K-Land, the corn cones are packed with ice cream which spills out of either end: Fast slurping required.

Shop A, G/F, 60 Bute St., Mong Kok, 2217-8528;
Shop A2, G/F, 3 Lau Sin St., Tin Hau, 2701-9006.

We know, but just go with it

The Color Purple

Keen to jump on the purple sweet potato craze that's hitting the city, Sai Ying Pun's **Seoulmate Café** has come up with a purple potato range for its dessert menu. The "Purpling Potato Cheesecake" is our favorite—lavender-colored pastry topped with more purple potato. The "Purpling Potato Ajumma" is essentially toast filled with rice cake, topped with a scoop of ice cream, purple potato powder and nuts. Remember to grab a "Purpling Potato Latte" to complete your meal—the drink is light in flavor but with a rich taste of purple potato, just in case you haven't had enough yet. Skin looking slightly puce? It'll pass.

G/F, 83 Third St., Sai Ying Pun, 2104-3788.

Purple haze

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NEW AND NOTED with Adele Wong



Getting high at The Sky Boss

Showing 'em Who's Boss

Michelin favorite The Boss has just one-upped itself. **The Sky Boss** (Shop B2, 101/F, International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3955-1755) is on the 101st floor of the ICC, with commanding views of Victoria Harbour and commanding prices for its fancy Cantonese dishes and dim

sum. There's a whole page on the menu titled "Michelin Chef's Recommendations"—a sure sign of confidence. The restaurant appears to be endorsed by our very own Henry Tang, wine aficionado and former Chief Secretary and CE candidate, who was present at the grand opening ceremony.



Look up to The Sky Boss

Going for Silver

For whatever reason, Japanese and Italian cuisines always find a way to intermingle, and **Silver Room** (G/F, 16 Tsing Fung St., Tin Hau, 3995-8988) in Tin Hau is the latest to hop on the wagon, aiming to blend the best of both worlds. At SR, the dishes are Italian—think pastas, carpaccio, freshly baked breads—but there's a Japanese touch to the ingredients. For instance, you'll see uni-topped spaghetti and grilled Japanese octopus paired with aioli on the menu.



Aneurin Chong, right back matcha

Coffee, Tea or Both?

Have trouble choosing between tea and coffee? You don't have to at **Aneurin Chong House** (Room 602, Luk Yu Building, 24-26 Stanley St., Central, 2618-6568), a newly-opened retail shop above Luk Yu Tea House that stocks both beans and leaves in equal abundance. Tea cakes from Yunnan, matcha from Kyoto, coffee beans from

Southeast Asia, specialty blends and whatever else strikes owner Aneurin Chong's fancy make it to the shelves. The shop hosts weekly free tastings for you to sample the goods before you commit.

Email me at adele.wong@hkmagmedia.com or follow me on Twitter: [@adelewong_hk](https://twitter.com/adelewong_hk).

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Thai Hut ★★★★☆

Thai. Shop 3, G/F, Wanchai Central Building, 87-91 Luard Rd., Wan Chai, 2866-8528.



Thai Hut is a Luard Road institution, serving hungry bar-goers and snack-cravers unforgivingly traditional (read: spicy) dishes. The takeout shop has a giant glass counter displaying skewers, spring rolls and salads, and a few tables that nearly-but-not-quite spill out onto the streets.

WHIT Everything on the menu looks tantalizing, so it was a while before we narrowed down our choices to a chicken khao phad kaprao (\$55, stir-fried meat with chili and basil, accompanied by egg-topped steamed rice) and a beef guey tiew (\$55, stir-fried rice noodles). Both dishes were a gloriously greasy affair. The basil chicken was intensely savory and peppered with fresh chilies: nothing could've matched a bowl of steamed rice better. The guey tiew was soaked with flavor. We also enjoyed our fish and shrimp cakes on the side.

MISS The chefs are very heavy-handed with their seasoning at Thai Hut, so you'll be dying for a drink by the end of your meal. We were so parched we had to gobble down a whole box of coconut water just to keep up.

BOTTOM LINE It's as gritty and greasily delicious as it gets at Thai Hut.

Open daily noon-6am. \$

All of our reviews are independent and anonymous!

Stazione Novella ★★★★★

52-56 Staunton St., Central, 2559-0559.



Black Sheep group's latest project is an Italian all-day diner on the corner of Aberdeen and Staunton. The cozy space is stylish, with chianti bottles hanging from the ceiling and a classic dark wood bar that stops just shy of the open front, giving off a semi-alfresco vibe.

HIT We had a fillet steak, taleggio cheese and a balsamic onion panini (\$98)—a key item on the relatively simple menu that was hot-but-not-too-hot; oozy, sweet and satisfying. If the Philly cheese steak sandwich had an Italian

cousin, this would be it. We also enjoyed our truffle oil-asparagus-parmesan bruschetta (\$28 per piece), which was tiny but extremely moreish. The salumi platter (\$148 for two people) was sparse but good quality.

MISS We ordered a cheese board (\$158 for two people) and had to send it straight back—there were some frozen chunks that had not thawed properly (WHY were they frozen in the first place!?) and tasted like freezer-burned ice-cream. For something that costs \$158 and comes in such measly portions, it was just unacceptable. There was a bit of a mismatch between portion sizes and price points in general: The two of us paid about \$230 per person for our lunch (not counting the cheese), and we walked out far from stuffed. The music was blaringly loud: at one point we had to shout to hear each other across the table.

BOTTOM LINE For a Black Sheep restaurant, we certainly expected more. Open daily 8am-late. \$\$\$

Ratings

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

Price Guide

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

Our Policy

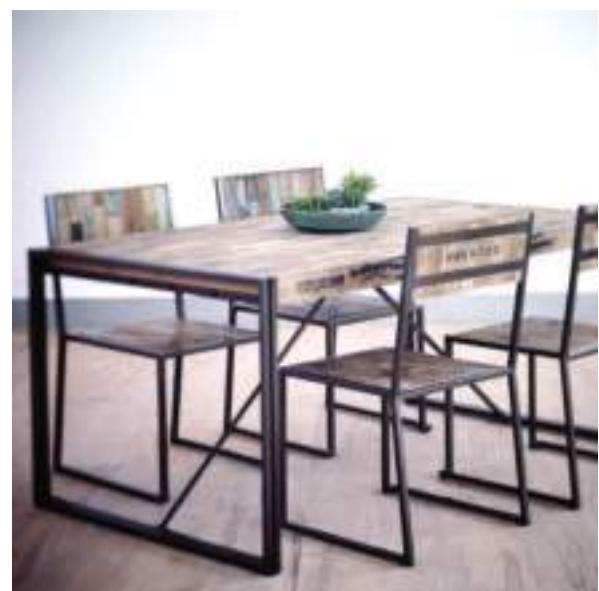
Reviews are based on actual visits to the establishments listed by our super-sneaky team of hungry reviewers, without the knowledge of the restaurants. Reviews are included at the discretion of the editors and are not paid for by the restaurants. Menus, opening hours and prices change and should be checked.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



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WHAT'S ON

CULTURE + NIGHTLIFE + FILM



Moving Pictures

To celebrate their second anniversary, Comix Home Base has launched **Ding! Ding! Comix Tram**, a collaboration between Hong Kong Arts Centre and Hong Kong Tramways. The mobile exhibition will feature six comic artists and illustrators: Bo Law, Leumas To, Bigsoil, Mandycat, Chi-kit Keung and Montagut Chuen. Their work will be showcased on six trams running along the island: Keep an eye out on your next commute.

Through Oct 31.

HK PICKS



Dance x Multimedia: iLuminate

The LCSD once again presents a new series of multimedia dance arts this summer. The series concludes with a heart-thumping cross-genre production by iLuminate, second-runners-up at America's Got Talent 2011, who perform in fully lit-up costumes in the dark. Aug 21-22, 8pm; Aug 23, 3pm. \$150-350 from www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService.

Classical

Asian Youth Orchestra

25th Anniversary Concerts

The Asian Youth Orchestra returns for its annual regional tour, this time celebrating its all-important quarter of a century milestone. On top of 103 specially selected musicians, more than 100 AYO alums and 85 AYO Hong Kong Music Summer Orchestra members will also join the extravaganza—plus there'll be a final concert on Aug 16 (at the Hong Kong Coliseum, 9 Cheung Wan Rd., Hung Hom) featuring Alan Tam and British cellist Steven Isserlis. It's officially the largest band camp ever. Aug 14-16, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$100-350 from www.urbtix.hk.



McDull: Me & My Mum

If you're feeling a little nostalgic, McDull is here for you: the Hong Kong Sinfonietta is collaborating with the creators of Hong Kong's favorite cartoon pig on a family-friendly concert of timeless classics, such as Khachaturian's Sabre Dance, movements from Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite, and Dvorak's Slavonic Dances. It's family bonding time! Aug 19-22. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$150-380 from www.urbtix.hk.



Naturally 7

Itching for a bit of R'n'B? American acapella group Naturally 7 is inbound to soothe your senses with voices so smooth you'll slide across the dancefloor. The band calls their style "Vocal Play." They beatbox all their backing instruments, from drums and bass to horns to turntables. Sounds like an all-natural night. Aug 21, 8pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St., Mong Kok. \$400 from www.cityline.com.

Bach: The Art of Fugue

Multi-instrumental virtuoso and Bach enthusiast Stephen Hung steps up to the HKAPA stage for a program packed with fugue-ing fun, kicking off with Bach's mammoth "The Art of Fugue," built up from variations on a central melodic theme. Just to mix things up, Hung will also be playing Bach's "Chaconne in D minor" and two recently transcribed organ pieces. Bach geeks, don't miss the final pre-concert talk in the HKAPA's Music Lab Education Studio (11/F Mau Lam Commercial Building, 16-18 Mau Lam St.) on Aug 15, 7:30pm. It's pay-what-you-want: register for a seat at tiny.cc/hk-fugue. Aug 23, 6:30pm. Concert Hall, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. \$100 from www.hkticketing.com.



All That Swing

Hong Kong's Saturday Night Jazz Orchestra has been a stalwart of the local swing and jazz scene ever since 1990. Band leader Taka Hirohama will be taking you on a journey through works by some of the greatest legends: Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman and more. So if you're a jazz newb, this is a great place to get your big band beginnings. Aug 29, 9:30pm; Oct 31, 9:30pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$130-150 at the door, includes one drink.

Piano Recital by Francesco Tristano

Classically trained at Juilliard, the Luxembourg-born composer Francesco Tristano is equal parts Bach expert (studying under the Bach legend Rosalyn Tureck)... and New York club technohead. He's one of the first to radically combine music from such different eras and styles. Bach with sick beats? We're there. Aug 30, 7:30pm. Concert Hall, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. \$100 from www.hkticketing.com.

Need to Know

Theater & Arts

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Urbitix (credit cards) | 2111-5999 | HK City Hall | 2921-2840 |
| Urbitix (enquiries) | 2734-9009 | HK Academy for Performing Arts | 2584-8500 |
| HK Ticketing | 3128-8288 | Kwai Tsing Theatre | 2408-0128 |
| HK Arts Centre | 2582-0200 | LCSD Music Programme Office | 2268-7321 |
| Fringe Club | 2521-7251 | LCSD Dance/Multi-Arts Office | 2268-7323 |
| HK Cultural Centre | 2734-2009 | LCSD Theatre Office | 2268-7323 |



Masterworks: Season Opening – Tan Dun's Nu Shu

The HK Philharmonic opens its fall season with Oscar and Grammy award-winning composer Tan Dun, who will be wielding the baton to conduct this program. The concert includes two of Tan Dun's pieces, "Symphonic Poem on Three Notes" and "Nu Shu: The Secret Songs of Women," as well as Mendelssohn's classic violin concerto. "Symphonic Poem on Three Notes" was written in 2012 as a birthday gift to Plácido Domingo, using the notes *la-si-do*, a play on Domingo's first name, as the motif. "Nu Shu," Tan Dun's latest multimedia work, captures the dying vocal tradition of Hunanese women in a mini-film symphony of 13 movements. Sep 4-5, 8pm. Hong Kong Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2734-2009. \$280-580 from www.urbtix.hk.

CHK Youth Symphony Family Series: Peter & the Wolf, Japanese Anime Symphony Concert

Yes, it's a family-friendly program of Tchaikovsky... and anime music. The China Hong Kong Youth Symphony performs the classic children's musical symphony Peter and the Wolf, along with orchestral renditions of old childhood anime favorites such as Dragon Ball Z and Sailor Moon. Bring your kids (or your dweebiest friends)! Sep 13, 3pm. Hong Kong Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2734-2009. \$60-120 from www.urbtix.hk.

Opera

Così Fan Tutte

One of Mozart's most well-known operas lands in the SAR, courtesy of the singers at Opera Hong Kong. Its title normally taken to mean "Women Are All Like That," the comic piece tells the story of two army officers who try to seduce each other's fiancées for a bet. Sung in Italian with Chinese and English surtitles. Aug 30, 7:30pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$80-350 from www.urbtix.hk.

Musicals



Singin' in the Rain

Hot off the trail of "The Sound of Music," and "Phantom of the Opera" and "Mamma Mia" last year, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions presents the SAR with another catchy song-and-dance spectacle straight from the West End. Never seen it? The beloved umbrella-touting, rainboot-splashing Hollywood musical—arguably the best of them all—follows three performers in the thick of the transition between the silent film and talkie era. The current production will be recycling 12,000 liters of water per performance: so prepare to get splashed. Sep 25-Oct 11. Lyric Theatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, 2584-8500. \$445-1,125 from www.hkticketing.com.

Comedy

9th Annual HK International Comedy Festival

The HK International Comedy Festival is back for a ninth round, featuring comedians from the US, Australia, the UK, and more. Local comedians Vivek Mahabubani and the People's Liberation Improv will also be performing for some good giggles. Don't forget to check out the comedy competition for up-and-comers—or sign up by Aug 23 to take part, if you think you've got what it takes. Various locations; check the website for more info. Sep 3-26. \$150-300. www.hkcomedyfestival.com.

Theater

Le Dieu Du Carnage

Yasmina Reza's play is adapted for the Hong Kong stage to fire up Dionysus Contemporary Theatre's new season. Two pairs of parents try to resolve differences after their respective sons fight in a playground, but their behavior gets increasingly out of hand as the underlying problems of their marriages emerge. You'll see this farce played out by Anthony Wong Chau-sang and Olivia Yan (co-founders of the troupe), plus Sandra Ng and Poon Chan-leung. Performed in Cantonese with Chinese and English surtitles. Showtimes are Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 3pm. Aug 6-30. Lyric Theatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, 2584-8500. \$280-980 from www.hkticketing.com.

Hamlet

The Shakespeare's Globe company has embarked on an ambitious two-year world tour to visit every single country in the world with its brand new production of "Hamlet," the bard's definitive work. The travelling version of the play features a stripped-down stage for ease of setup, and uses just 12 actors for more than two dozen parts. To go, or not to go? That's barely a question. Sep 4-5, 7:30pm; Sep 5-6, 2:30pm; Sep 6, 7pm. Lyric Theatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, 2584-8500. \$595-795 from www.hkticketing.com.



La Soirée

Move over, Cirque du Soleil. La Soirée is a hair-raising contemporary circus sideshow descending on Hong Kong this September. Met with rave reviews and winning awards in London and New York, it brings a slew of twisting acrobatics, burlesque and vaudeville acts to the Hong Kong stage. Grab your tickets quick! Sep 16-20. Lyric Theatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, 2584-8500. \$395-1,095 from www.hkticketing.com.

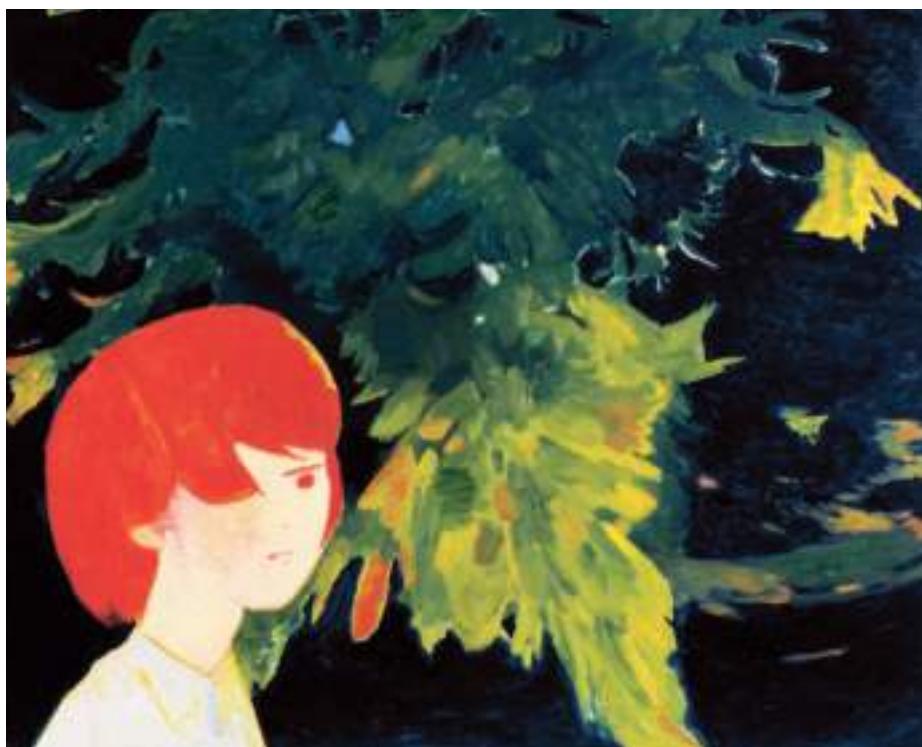


The Naked Magicians

Just when you thought "Magic Mike XXL" was intense, here comes the real magical deal: This Aussie duo brings sneaky R-rated sleight-of-hand to the stage—but the magic wands aren't exactly what you'd expect. Promising "full frontal illusions," these strip sorcerers will be worth a watch. Just one question: where did he pull that rabbit from, exactly? Sep 15-20. Drama Theatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. \$395-595 from www.hkticketing.com.

ARTS

Exhibitions



Winter Garden: The Exploration of the Micropop Imagination in Contemporary Japanese Art

The Hong Kong Arts Centre's latest exhibition that ties together 14 Japanese artists born between the late 60s and early 80s, who became professionals in the late 90s and early 00s. It explores the idea of what critic and curator Midori Matsui calls "micropop," which involves integrating individual experiences and re-using everyday places and things to recreate new situations, without drawing on dominant cultures or trends. The weekends will also see related art workshops, exhibition talks and tours. Aug 13-30. Hong Kong Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, 2582-0200.

Victoria Crime

Four artists come together for Victoria Crime, a provocative joint exhibition at Artify Gallery inspired by four real Hong Kong murder cases. Eiffel Chong, an acclaimed Malaysian photographer, presents "Tai Kok Tsui Killings, 2013," showing the transformation of a killer's relationship with his own family. Printmaker David Jasper Wong exhibits "The Jars Murderer, 1982," inspired by serial killer Lam Kor-wan's mental profile. "Milkshake Murderess, 2003," by artist Clozegarden by fi, illustrates the intimacy of the crime scene. And Dragon Ken presents "Hello Kitty Head Murderers, 1999," investigating the prevalence of violence, greed and insecurity in Hong Kong society. Aug 13-Sep 30. Artify Gallery, 10/F, Block A, Ming Pao Industrial Centre, 18 Ka Yip St., Chai Wan, 2140-9386.



Rainbow Tse: A Walk At Night

Painter Rainbow Tse, known for her use of lighting and colour in her night scenes and cityscapes, is exhibiting "A Walk at Night" at Voxfire Gallery this weekend. Her watercolour works are themed around Hong Kong at night, bringing the dark, moody, but calm side of Hong Kong to life. Aug 14-16. Voxfire Gallery, 1/F, 52 Gage St., Sheung Wan, 2581-3385. www.rainbowtse.com.

Cool students join the fun at Ice Cream Fest 2015

The countdown to the biggest fun event of the summer is under way and Hong Kong's student fraternity has already staked a claim for glory.

More than 200 have-a-go students were certainly up for the challenge when Hong Kong's biggest fun event of the summer finally got under way.

Competition was fierce as 42 teams of battling students from across the city turned up for the university try outs -- held on August 4 and 5 -- looking to secure a coveted place in the starting line-up at the finals of the one-of-a-kind Ice Cream Fest 2015.

The five-strong teams were drawn from eight Hong Kong universities and those taking part in the first round of qualifying definitely had a real blast. Now the numbers have been whittled down and just eight teams managed to make it through to the final showdown on August 22 and 23.

Come join our Ice Cream Walk and Ice Cream Eating Challenge at SOHO east on August 22 and 23. Let battle commence!

The 2015 Ice Cream Fest is co-organized by SOHO east and HK Magazine.

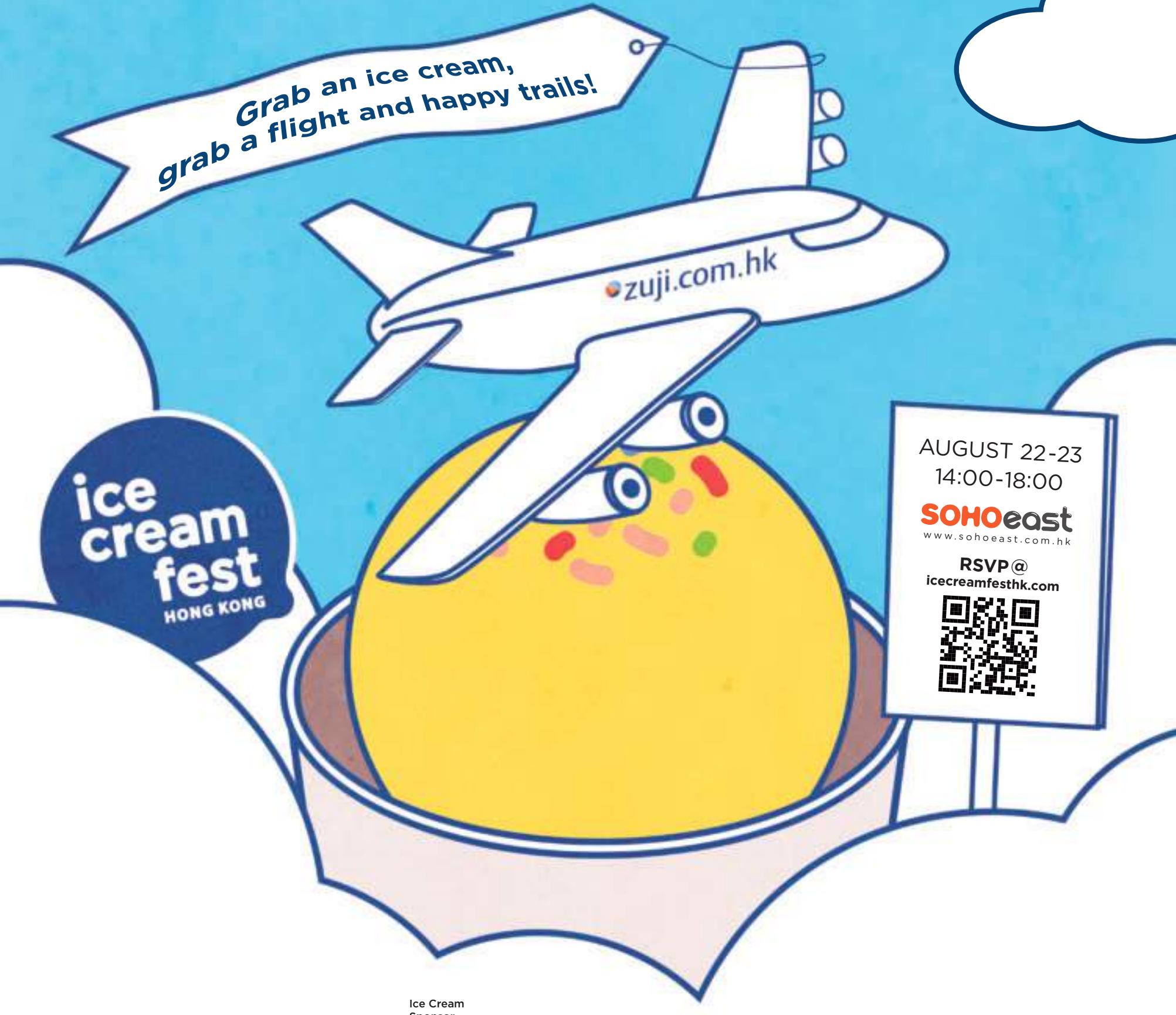
For more details, please visit www.icecreamfesthk.com.



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NIGHTLIFE

Open Bar The Pontiac



The buzz: After Fatty Crab and Rummin Tings, the Roopchand brothers are at it again: teaming up with "First Lady of Mixology" Beckaly Franks all the way from Portland's Clyde Common to open The Pontiac. Here, it's all about a personable neighborhood dive with character: from the craft cocktails to the bartenders knowing you by name, down to the torn up rock posters on the walls and the newly installed

railings on the ceiling—all the better for some after-hours table dancing à la "Coyote Ugly," perhaps...

The décor: Taking over Fatty Crab's former bar space, the dark, brushed concrete interior now works well with the grungy, no-fuss familial vibe, which is further perpetuated by the team of expert bar babes—who all surely had to pass

a ridiculously-good-hair test before they could land the job. Its glass doors are flung open to the streets, letting the party spill outwards.

The drinks: The Pontiac's tipple is all about craft liquors, designed for ultimate drinkability. The menu is short and sweet, providing only eight signature cocktails, all priced at \$88 each (!!!). Want a sweeter drink? "The Kissy Kissy" is a refreshing, short gin-based concoction with Muscadet wine, bitters and grapefruit oil. "The Runaway" is made with Jamaican rum, pineapple, coconut, and almond liqueur—tasting like a way more sophisticated piña colada. Prefer something a little more hardcore? Try the "Death Row"—dark rum, red vermouth, and "lemon fire" in which a spritz of lemon oil gets a flash of aromatic flame before it's served.

Why you'll be back: If you're into rock, 90s muscle cars and hot, capable women mixing your drinks, pull up a leather stool at the bar near the x-rated video game console in the corner and get ready to raise hell—you're in good hands. **Evelyn Lok**

13 Old Bailey St., Central, 2521-3855, www.facebook.com/ThePontiac.



HK PICKS



Photo: Mikko Väistönen/Wiki

Fat Joe

Despite the perpetually unfortunate pseudonym, American rapper Fat Joe is actually looking pretty trim these days. The Terror Squad founder is best known for hits such as "What's Luv" with Ashanti and "Make It Rain" with Lil' Wayne. And how many of you have ever leaned too far back and fallen over to "Lean Back" at da club? Just us? OK. Aug 19, 11pm. Bungalow, Shop 2, G/F, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, 2623-7868. \$250 from fatjoehk.eventbrite.hk, \$300 at the door; both include one standard drink.

Clubs

Shaquille O'Neal

That's right: former NBA legend Shaq will be making an appearance at Dragon-i. It's not to shoot hoops though: it's to spin as DJ Diesel. Touting a sizable music career with four rap albums already under his belt, Shaq is also getting ready to play a guest set at Atlanta's TomorrowWorld festival this September—check out his recently unveiled Trap set on SoundCloud (tiny.cc/hk-shaq). Trap queens assemble! Aug 17, 10pm. Dragon-i, U/G, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, 3110-1222. \$300 at the door.

Slice N Dice

Having toured all across the States, Asia and South America, the masked Melbourne duo Slice N Dice finally brings their signature #Masklife sensibility and "Melbourne Bounce" beats to Bungalow this August. It must be something to do with kangaroos. Aug 20, 11pm. Bungalow, Shop 2, G/F, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, 2623-7868. \$250 at the door.



Endless Summer Hong Kong International Reggae Ska Festival

Head to the Fringe Club for this ska and reggae extravaganza featuring some of Hong Kong's finest indie acts, including 10-piece ska group extraordinaire the Red Stripes and Cantonese reggae band Sensi Lion. Also making appearances are Japanese reggae singer Machaco and Taiwanese group Skaraoke. Aug 28, 7pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$290-320 from pelago.co; \$360 at the door.



A Place to Bury Strangers

NYC three-piece A Place to Bury Strangers plays Hong Kong for one night only. Check out their noise rock, psychedelic rock, shoegaze and space-rock sounds at Backstage Live before the venue closes for good at the end of the month. Aug 28, 8pm. Backstage Live, 1/F, Somptueux Central, 52-54 Wellington St., Central, 2167-8985. \$340 from www.eventbrite.hk.

Concerts

Imagine Dragons

Did you miss Imagine Dragons' free gig last year at the "Transformers" premiere? The Las Vegas alt-rock band is coming back for a one-night performance. This time, though, you'll have to pay. Sorry. Aug 23, 9pm. AsiaWorld-Arena, Sky Plaza Rd., Chek Lap Kok, 3606-8828. \$288-788 from www.hkticketing.com.

Maroon 5

A Maroon 5 concert is kind of like the bus: You miss one, and the next one is just around the corner. See them at AsiaWorld-Arena. Sep 4, 8pm. AsiaWorld-Arena, Sky Plaza Rd., Chek Lap Kok, 3606-8828. \$488-988 from www.hkticketing.com.



Bon Jovi in Macau

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

Muse

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



Elton John

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

HK PICKS



The Dapper Club

W Hotel's sexy Woobar joins hands with whisky brand Chivas and luxury watch company Hublot to bring us the Dapper Club, a series of parties taking place over the summer. What's in store? There's an open bar with 12 different kinds of whiskies, plus a showcase of new, shiny watches—but as importantly, there are free-flow cheeses, cold cuts, sweet treats and savory snacks. Who can say no to free-flow snacks? Aug 14, 8:30pm. Woobar, W Hotel, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2222. \$300 per person; call to book.

Nightlife Events



W Hotel Shock Wave:

#PoseWhenever Pool Party

The notorious W Hotel summer pool parties are back. This time, they come with the cumbersome title Shock Wave: #PoseWhenever Pool Party. Splash around on the 76th floor pool and gawp at the half-naked beautiful people all around you. Aug 22, 8pm. W Hotel, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2222. \$400 in advance or \$500 at the door, including one drink at the pool and one at the after-party. \$950 for "WIP" tickets in advance or \$1,100 at the door, including free-flow drinks and champagne until 1am. Tickets from website: www.w-hongkong.com/en/shockwave.

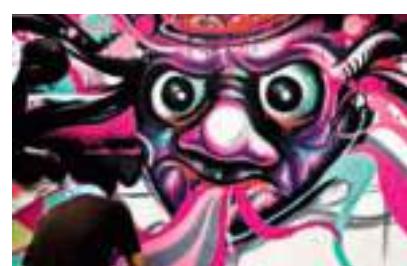


Splash

The pool party at Macau's Hard Rock Hotel is now in its 13th edition. This year the Stafford Brothers & Chris Lake are headlining with their progressive and electro house beats. Expect live DJs, shots and lots of bikinis. Don't want to catch the ferry home like some kind of zombie? Book a hotel room quick. Aug 22, 3:30pm. Hard Rock Hotel Macau, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, (+853) 8868-3338. \$480 from www.cityofdreamsmacau.com.

Tropical Haven Party

The Mira's secret-garden-esque lounge bar Vibes brings us the Tropical Haven Party. Sip on tiki cocktails served in fresh pineapples, watch conga drummers do their thing, and kick back in one of the cabanas to nu-disco beats by DJs from Cliché Records. Dress in your tropical finest, and you'll have the chance to win a cash voucher—there's also a prize for best dressed group. Friendly reminder from us: Dress for the body you have, not the body you want. Sep 4, 9pm. Vibes, 5/F, The Mira Hong Kong, 118 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2315-5999. \$100 at the door.



Secret Island Party 2015

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

Zuma Supper Club

Ever had to leave da club because you're too hungry to dance? For your next pre-game session, head to Zuma's recently launched Supper Club happy hour, which offers free-flow house pours and snacks for two hours. These ain't just crackers and peanuts: You'll be stuffing your face with Zuma's signature maki rolls, wasabi peas and cassava chips. Every Sat, 10pm-midnight. Zuma, 5-6/F, The Landmark, 15 Queen's Rd. Central, Central, 3657-6388. \$400 per person.



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Fantastic Four ★★★★

(USA) Action. Directed by Josh Trank. Starring Miles Teller, Jamie Bell, Kate Mara, Michael B. Jordan. Category IIA, 99 mins. Opened Aug 6.

The best thing about "Fantastic Four" is that, unlike every other Marvel comics movie, it doesn't have a pointless cameo from Stan Lee. Sadly, this means that everything that's actually IN this enduringly pedestrian superhero film is a total write-off.

Reed Richards (Miles Teller, "Whiplash") is a high school science prodigy who more or less invents interdimensional space travel. Together with his childhood friend Ben Grimm (Jamie Bell, "Billy Elliot" all grown up) he builds a teleportation device in his garage, which gets the attention of the Baxter superschool for supernerds. There he meets siblings Sue and Johnny Storm (Kate Mara, TV's "House of Cards" and Michael B. Jordan, "Fruitvale Station") and emo loner Victor Von Doom (Toby Kebbell, "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes"), and they set about perfecting the device. The team travels to another planet, where an accident imbues them all with various superpowers. But the government wants the technology for its own, and true to his name Victor Von Doom doesn't see superheroism as quite his thing and becomes bent on, duh, Dooming the world.

"Fantastic Four" is a thin gruel of lackluster characterization of the most superficial kind. There's no chemistry at all between the actors—all of whom have been strong in other movies—and the camera spends more time on endless typing, science and engineering montages than it ever does on building relationships between the humans of the film—and with so many superpeople all occurring at once, we need that emotional connection long before they get all their powers.

A tremendous step backwards in terms of characterization, plotting and fun, "Fantastic Four" has none of the deftness of the current crop of superhero movies. A lot of this comes down to the fact that (boring film history segment alert!) back in the 80s Marvel Comics sold off the rights to some of its titles to other film studios. Sony got Spider-Man and the X-Men, while Fox snapped up the Fantastic Four. Since then Marvel has raised the art of the superhero movie to a populist peak, while Christopher Nolan's cinematic "Batman" films have insisted their way into pop culture. But the Fantastic Four, never the most interesting superhero team, has languished in the apparently inept hands of Fox.

The only truly effective section of the movie comes just after the Fantastic Four all gain their abilities. They wake up in a government facility unable to comprehend their changing bodies, and for 15 strong minutes the movie segues into full-on Cronenbergian body horror. Similarly when Victor Von Doom is revealed (say it ain't so!) as the baddie, we get 10 minutes of tremendously effective straight-up horror. What a crying shame that the movie so drastically loses the plot afterwards.

It's surprising, in a lot of ways. Director Josh Trank helmed "Chronicle," a fantastic flick about teenagers who discover that having superpowers isn't quite the gas they thought it would be. But there's none of that movie's spark or wit here. Instead "Fantastic Four" is a paint-by-numbers superhero origin story, where you're given a pot of grey paint to paint a storm cloud. In grey. With average filmmaking, questionable special effects and above all tissue paper-thin characterization, "Fantastic Four" goes straight to the bottom of the superhero bargain bin. The only saving grace? At least Stan bloody Lee wasn't in it. **Adam White**

Coming Soon



C'est Si Bon
(South Korea) Based on the story of Korean 60s folk legends Twin Folio, "C'est Si Bon" follows a budding music trio in their 20s who gain fame by playing at the music hall of the same name, and eventually meet their muses. Get ready for 60s mushroom haircuts and lots of soft K-guitar strumming. Opens Aug 20.



Hitman: Agent 47
(USA) A remake of the 2007 film based on the stealth video game series, "Hitman: Agent 47" stars Rupert Friend as the titular protagonist. The premise? Agent 47 is a genetically enhanced assassin who must fight a major corporation that wants to steal his secret to engineer an army of killers. Isn't that the plot of "Ant-Man"? Opens Aug 20.



Hungry Hearts
(USA/Italy) Italian director Saverio Costanzo is at the helm of this psychological drama all about the anxiety of raising a newborn. Adam Driver and Italian actress Alba Rohrwacher play young NYC parents, but the mother's new obsession with purity and veganism threatens the life of their child. Just feed it more quinoa! Opens Aug 20.

Pixels
(USA) When space aliens begin attacking Earth after misinterpreting a video feed of 8-bit arcade games, four seasoned old-school gamers (Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Josh Gad, Peter Dinklage) band together to save the world. 80s kids, get ready for a nostalgic trip as Pac-man, Donkey Kong, Galaga, Space Invaders, and Centipede make their appearances. Everyone else, RUN FROM ADAM SANDLER! Opens Aug 20.



Jimmy's Hall
(UK/France) A feast of low-key filmmaking, this self-declared swansong from kitchen sink drama specialist Ken Loach takes a thoughtful and sympathetic look at the true story of Jimmy Gralton, a political activist who became the only Irishman ever to be deported from his own country. Opens Aug 20.



Wild City
(Hong Kong) Veteran director Ringo Lam (best known for "City On Fire," 1987, which won him Best Director at the Hong Kong Film Awards and also influenced Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs") is back on the scene with a full feature after more than a decade. This time around, the crime master brings us a brooding Hong Kong-based noir, centering on a former cop/bar owner (Louis Koo), his half-brother (Shawn Yue), a woman, her triad boss old flame, and a suitcase full of black money. Opens Aug 20.



While We're Young
(USA) After "Francis Ha," Noah Baumbach brings us yet another sobering slice-of-life tale, this time focusing on the woes of the middle-aged. Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts are Josh and Cornelia, a married couple in their 40s who are stuck in a rut. When they meet young hipster couple Jamie (Adam Driver) and Darby (Amanda Seyfried), they find themselves craving the free-spirited youth they never had. But will the friendship last? Opens Aug 20.

Opening

Attack on Titan
(Japan) Hajime Isayama's dark fantasy manga/anime franchise comes to life this summer in its first live-action instalment. In a post-apocalyptic world, humans are forced to live in walled enclaves to protect themselves from the titans: formidable human-eating giants. After their mother falls victim, adopted siblings Eren and Mikasa join the military to fight for revenge. Opens Aug 13.



Ant-Man
(USA) Marvel rolls out the underappreciated superhero card in this summer's blockbuster, proving that big heroes can come in small doses too. Paul Rudd is Ant-Man, an ex-con who dons a suit that shrinks him down to the size of an ant, but increases his strength in equal measure. He's tasked with pulling off a teeny-tiny heist that might just save the world. A fun romp; We only wish there was a little more whimsy thrown into the mix. ★★★★

Mini Review

The Man from U.N.C.L.E.
(USA) Guy Ritchie's sleek take on the 60s spy series stars the beautiful Henry Cavill as CIA Agent Napoleon Solo. When he discovers that a covert criminal organization with access to nuclear weapons has plans to upset the balance of the Cold War, Napoleon is forced to team up with a KGB agent (Armie Hammer) to stop the global threat. Opens Aug 13.

Paper Towns
(USA) Following last year's book-to-film release of "The Fault in Our Stars," John Green's third young adult novel "Paper Towns" sees repeat collaborator Nat Wolff and supermodel-turned-actress Cara Delevingne in this screen adaptation. Quentin (Wolff) and his free-spirited crush neighbor Margo (Delevingne) embark on an overnight pranking adventure to exact revenge on her cheating boyfriend—after which she disappears, seemingly for good. But Margo's left some breadcrumbs for Quentin to follow... as he searches for her, he may just find himself along the way. Opens Aug 13.

Continuing



Ant-Man
(USA) Marvel rolls out the underappreciated superhero card in this summer's blockbuster, proving that big heroes can come in small doses too. Paul Rudd is Ant-Man, an ex-con who dons a suit that shrinks him down to the size of an ant, but increases his strength in equal measure. He's tasked with pulling off a teeny-tiny heist that might just save the world. A fun romp; We only wish there was a little more whimsy thrown into the mix. ★★★★

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Fantastic Four
(USA) See review, opposite.

I Kissed a Girl

(France) Leading up to his wedding with his boyfriend of 10 years, Jeremie (Pio Marmai) wakes up in the bed of a beautiful blonde woman. What does it mean for his relationship? Cue stock dodgy rom-com gags.



Inside Out

(USA) Another summer, another Pixar cartoon to tug at your heartstrings. The heroes of "Inside Out" are none other than the emotions of Riley, an 11-year-old girl from the Midwest. As she and her parents move to San Francisco, Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust have to work out how to help Riley adjust to her new home. Buckle in: It's going to give you ALL THE FEELS.

★★★



Magic Mike XXL

(USA) Ladies (and gents), hang on to your shorts, because it's time yet again for shirtless, ab-tastic gyrating from the likes of Channing Tatum, Joe Manganiello and Matt Bomer. This time round, the legendary Kings of Tampa band together for one last hurrah at a stripper convention. Your heart will be aflutter thanks to the impeccable dance routines, bro banter—and did we mention the abs? ★★

Minions

(USA) The pesky yellow creatures from 2010's "Despicable Me" finally get their own spin-off movie. This time, the plot takes us way back before the minions were serving supervillain Gru. Having worked from the beginning of time for unsuccessful baddies such as T. Rex and Napoleon, they now seek out a new evil boss to worship lest they fall into deep depression. The search leads them to Scarlet Overkill, the world's first ever super-villainess.

Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation

(USA) It's round five of the Tom Cruise show, and you can bet on classic MI action that ticks all the boxes. The impossible mission du jour? Cruise is once again lone operative Ethan Hunt, who has been trying to track down and prove the existence of the Syndicate, a criminal organization that wants to establish a new world order. He teams up with Ilsa Faust (Rebecca Ferguson) to kick spy butt. ★★★

Monster Hunt

(Hong Kong/China) Raman "Father of Shrek" Hui's latest project combines the star-studded likes of Jing Boran, Tang Wei and Sandra Ng with an array of animated monsters. Based on traditional supernatural stories from "Strange Tales from Liaozhai," the family-action-comedy-romance mixes too many oddly matched themes to make an impact. ★★

To the Fore

(Taiwan/Korea/Hong Kong/China) Wong Kam-po, eat your heart out. If you took Dante Lam's trademark brooding drama and slapped it right on the Tour de France, you'd get "To the Fore." It's a coming-of-age cycling drama starring Taiwanese heartthrobs Eddie Peng and Ethan Juan, about the camaraderie between four budding cyclists and their individual romances.

Vacation

(USA) The fifth and latest National Lampoon Vacation film sees young Rusty Griswold now as a middle-aged dad (Ed Helms, "The Hangover"). Attempting to relive fond childhood memories of wacky family holidays, he takes his wife and kids on a cross-country drive back to his beloved theme park Walley World before it closes down for good. Buckle up for plenty of silly shenanigans and gross-out humor.



What We Do in the Shadows

(New Zealand) Jemaine Clement of comedy rockers Flight of the Conchords directs and stars in this mockumentary about three age-old vampire flatmates who try to cope with the woes of modern day life. When a freshly turned fledgling vampire joins the house, the three try to show him that being undead ain't so bad after all.

Special Screening

Hill of Ilha Verde

(Hong Kong) Following 2009's documentary "KJ: Music and Life," director Cheung King-wai returns with a musing on the absurdities of reality. He tells the story of Hio, a 14-year-old girl who searches throughout the city for her mentally ill mother. As she visits different family members around the city, together they uncover a long-forgotten family secret. Each screening is followed by 45-minute Q&A with the director himself and a guest. See www.facebook.com/HillofIlhaVerde for screening updates. Aug 22, 28-29, Sep 12, various times. Screenings take place at Broadway Cinematheque or Broadway Kwai Fong. \$75-80. www.cinefan.com.hk.

Film Festival



CineFan SIFF 2015

The annual Summer International Film Festival has returned this August. Featured films include Hou Hsiao-hsien's latest offering, "The Assassin," which won him best director at Cannes this year. Starring Shu Qi, it's an arty first foray into the martial arts genre for the director. Through Aug 25. Various screening locations. www.cinefan.com.hk.

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Leo (Jul 23-Aug 22): Many people harbor the unconscious bias that beauty resides primarily in things that are polished, sleek, and perfect. Celebrities work hard and spend a lot of money to cultivate their immaculate attractiveness, and are often treated as if they have the most pleasing appearance that human beings can have. Art that is displayed in museums has equally flawless packaging. But the current astrological omens suggest that it's important for you to appreciate a different kind of beauty: the crooked, wobbly, eccentric stuff. For the foreseeable future, that's where you'll find the most inspiration.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): "No tree can grow to heaven unless its roots reach down to Hell," wrote psychologist Carl Jung in his book *Aion*. My interpretation: We earn the right to experience profound love and brilliant light by becoming familiar with shadows and suffering. Indeed, it may not be possible to ripen into our most radiant beauty without having tangled with life's ugliness. According to my understanding of your long-term cycle, Virgo, you have dutifully completed an extended phase of downward growth. In the next extended phase, however, upward growth will predominate. You did reasonably well on the hellish stuff; now comes the more heavenly rewards.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): The Great Balancing Act of 2015 doesn't demand that you be a wishy-washy, eager-to-please, self-canceling harmony whore. Purge such possibilities from your mind. What the Great Balancing Act asks of you is to express what you stand for with great clarity. It invites you to free yourself, as much as you can, from worrying about what people think of you. It encourages you to be shaped less by the expectations of others and more by what you really want. Do you know what you really want, Libra? Find out! P.S.: Your task is not to work on the surface level, trying to manipulate the appearance of things. Focus your efforts in the depths of yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Muslims, Jews, and Christians are collaborating to erect a joint house of worship in Berlin. The building, scheduled to be finished by 2018, will have separate areas for each religion as well as a common space for members of all three to gather. Even if you don't belong to any faith, you may be inspired by this pioneering effort to foster mutual tolerance. I offer it up to you as a vivid symbol of unity. May it help inspire you to take full advantage of your current opportunities to heal schisms, build consensus, and cultivate harmony.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): In some phases of your life, you have been a wanderer. You've had a fuzzy sense of where you belong. It has been a challenge to know which target you should aim your arrows at. During those times, you may have been forceful but not as productive as you'd like to be; you may have been energetic but a bit too inefficient to accomplish wonders and marvels. From what I can tell, one of those wandering seasons is now coming to a close.

In the months ahead, you will have a growing clarity about where your future power spot is located—and may even find the elusive sanctuary called "home." Here's a good way to prepare for this transition: Spend a few hours telling yourself the story of your origins. Remember all the major events of your life as if you were watching a movie.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): You have been slowing to a crawl as you approach an exciting transition. But I'm here to advise you to resume normal speed. There's no need for excessive caution. You have paid your dues; you have made your meticulous arrangements; you have performed your quiet heroisms. Now it's time to relax into the rewards you have earned. Lighten your mood, Capricorn. Welcome the onrushing peace and start planning how you will capitalize on your new freedom.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): "Most people reach the top of the ladder of success only to find it's leaning against the wrong wall." Aquarian actor Paul Sorensen said that. It's no coincidence that I'm bringing this theory to your attention right now. The coming months will be a good time to determine whether the ladder you have been climbing is leaning against the right wall or wrong wall. My advice is to question yourself at length. Be as objective as possible. Swear to tell yourself the whole truth. If, after your investigations, you decide it is indeed the wrong wall, climb down from the ladder and haul it over to the right wall. And if you're satisfied that you are where you should be, celebrate!

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): When he served as Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi denigrated the cuisine of Finland. "Finns don't even know what prosciutto is," he sneered. At best, he said, their food is to be "endured." He mocked the "marinated reindeer" they eat. But Finland fought back against the insults. In an international pizza contest held in New York, their chefs won first prize for their "Pizza Berlusconi," that featured marinated reindeer. The Italian entry finished second. I foresee you enjoying a comparable reversal in the coming months, Pisces. And it all begins now.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): To ensure the full accuracy of this horoscope, I have been compelled to resurrect an old-fashioned English word that isn't used much any more: "gambol." It means to cavort and frolic in a playful manner, or

to romp and skip around with mad glee, as if you are unable to stop yourself from dancing. The astrological omens seem unambiguous in their message: In order to cultivate the state of mind that will enable you to meet all your dates with destiny in the coming weeks, you need to gambol at least once every day.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): Do you remember your first kiss? How about the first time you had sex? Although those events may not have been perfectly smooth and graceful, they were radical breakthroughs that changed your life and altered your consciousness. Since then, there may have been a few other intimate rites of passage that have impacted you with similar intensity. No doubt you will experience others in the future. In fact, I suspect that the next installments are due to arrive in the coming months. Get ready for further initiations in these mysteries.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): Two-thirds of us don't know what our strengths and talents are. That's the conclusion of a study published in *The Journal of Positive Psychology*. One reason for the problem is what the report's co-author Dr. Robert Biswas-Diener calls "strengths blindness," in which we neglect our real powers because we regard them as ordinary or take them for granted. Here's the good news, Gemini: If you suffer from even a partial ignorance about the nature of your potential, the coming months will be a favorable time to remedy that glitch. Life will conspire to help you see the truth. (Read more: bit.ly/truestrengths.)

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): In 1504, Michelangelo finished his sculpture of the biblical hero David. But he hadn't been the first person to toil on the 17-foot-high block of marble. Forty years earlier, the artist Agostino di Duccio was commissioned to carve David out of the stone. His work was minimal, however. He did little more than create the rough shape of the legs and torso. In 1476, Antonio Rossellino resumed where Agostino had stopped, but he didn't last long, either. By the time Michelangelo launched his effort, the massive slab had languished for 25 years. I see parallels between this story and your own, Cancerian. I suspect that you will be invited to take on a project that has been on hold or gotten delayed. This may require you to complete labors that were begun by others—or maybe instigated by you when you were in a very different frame of mind.

HOMEWORK: What's the best thing you could give right now to the person you care for the most? Testify at FreeWillAstrology.com.

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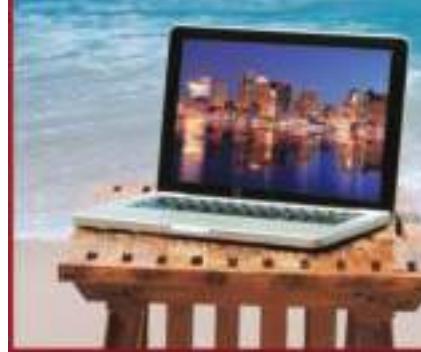
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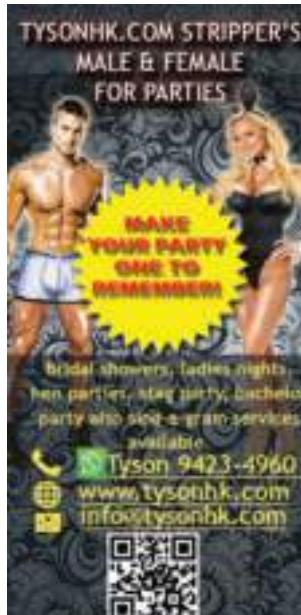


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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I've been reading your column for a while, and you always advise kinky people to go seek the same within the kink community. But in my experience, the kink community is very "sex right away, get to know you later"-oriented. So I have two questions. First, as someone who's a bit of an old-fashioned romantic, is there somewhere I can go to find sexually compatible people who are willing to let me get to know them before we fuck? And second, it's very difficult for me to come in vanilla situations, which has caused some awkwardness in the past. My fetish is intense CBT (cock and ball torture), it's pretty specific, and in my (admittedly limited) experience, most guys aren't very willing to let me inflict that kind of pain. Seeing as I'm probably not going to stop dating people from the general pool (shy 24-year-old cub, not into hookups—I take what I can get), do you have any advice for making conventional sex a little better for me?

—Horny In SanFran, Bitching About Lacking Love Scene

"Congratulations to HISBALLS for admitting to himself that he has a creative sex drive," says Donald Roger, the sadistic entrepreneur behind Shotgun Video (shotgunvideo.com), a gay BDSM porn studio that specializes in CBT. "Instead of wasting his time on why-am-I-bored-with-this sex, HISBALLS can look forward to a passionate and fascinating sex life."

To say that Roger shares your kink, HISBALLS, is putting it mildly: Just torturing another man's balls—listening to that man moan and groan—is all it takes for Roger.

I'm going to quickly answer your main question, HISBALLS, and then let Roger give you some advice that might actually be useful: Hardcore kinksters—kinksters who find it difficult to come in vanilla situations—make conventional sex a little better by entertaining fantasies about their kinks.

But you know what's better? Dating guys who share or are open to your kinks.

"Finding appropriate partners is harder for seriously kinky men, but it's a lot easier now than it used to be," said Roger. "Recon is a worldwide cruising site (recon.com) that caters to alt-sex men. HISBALLS can choose a profile name for himself (like MuscleCBT—that guy is *notorious*), he can put up a few pictures, and most importantly he can write out what he's looking for. He can tell people if he's a top or a bottom, give some indication of what experience he's had, focus on what he wants, but also tell people what his no-fly zones are—as in 'no unsafe sex, no drugs, and no Republicans.'"

You can also find kinky guys at Adam4Adam, Manhunt, and BigMuscle—and you'll find kinky guys in the general dating pool, too—and you're not obligated to jump into bed and/or immediately start torturing the cock and balls of someone you've just met.

"HISBALLS can suggest going to a movie or dinner, or taking in the entire opera season together first," said Roger, "or go straight to bed if it seems right. He should go at the speed that's right for him. And he'll be surprised—or more likely stunned—at just how many romantic, CBT-oriented men there are out there."

A quick programming note about CBT: You can really hurt someone—you can really damage someone—if you attempt CBT without knowing what you're doing. Follow Roger on Twitter @RogerOfShotgun.

I lost my dad young and I had a bunch of issues growing up. I'm probably gay, I love the idea of light bondage, and I've

been this way for as long as I can remember. I feel like I've been on a self-discovery thing over the past year and have caught tidbits that bothered me. I have depression/anxiety and the old "abandonment complex," and I'm still insecure about a lot of this. Is it reasonable to blame psychological trauma for my sexuality—the possibly gay thing and the kinks?

—Troubled Over Yearnings

The inclination to blame your sexuality and kinks on your loss is understandable, TOY, but it's not reasonable. (Sorry about your dad, kiddo.) Because when you think about it—when you apply reason—you quickly come to this: There are lots of gay men out there who are into bondage who didn't lose their dads at a young age, who don't suffer from depression or anxiety, who don't have abandonment issues, and whose childhoods were comparatively issue-free. It's natural to wonder how you got to be kinky, TOY, but kinks are pretty random and pretty inexplicable.

Your advice to UGH last week was fine in general—he's the frustrated man whose wife isn't interested in sex—and a pretty solid rehash of your standard advice for people trapped in sexless marriages. But I'm writing because you missed something that may have been key: "Currently, she can last having sex for nearly half an hour before feeling exhausted and stopping, regardless of me reaching orgasm or not." Two things: (1) Half an hour of PIV sex when you're not feeling it would take a vat of lube and probably still be painful. (2) His wife lies there getting the inside of her vagina sanded off by Jackhammer McGee here and then has the nerve to ask him to stop when it's too much "regardless" of HIS orgasm? What about her orgasm? What about her delicate vaginal tissue getting torn up? Not that he will magically consider her pleasure if he's blind to her comfort and general well-being, but it might help him put his marriage in perspective.

—Engaged Reader Represents

Thanks for your e-mail, ERR, and I really should've spotted that. We all have our blind spots, and this is definitely one of mine: When someone says they were having sex for half an hour, I don't think of 30 minutes of PIV/PIB, as I don't define "sex" as "penetrative vaginal or anal intercourse." My working definition of sex includes mutual masturbation, oral, fantasy play, and PIV/PIB. So when someone says, "My partner can only last having sex for half an hour," I imagine half an hour of oral and mutual masturbation and penetration all jumbled together. I need to bear in mind that not all of my readers define sex the same way I do—indeed, far too many people believe penetration is sex and vice versa. Thanks for the reminder, ERR.

CONFIDENTIAL TO AMERICAN WOMEN: Did you watch the big GOP debate last week? Scott Walker said that he supports a ban on abortion with no exception to save the life of the pregnant woman, and Marco Rubio said that women impregnated by rapists should not be allowed to get abortions—and not one of the other eight men onstage objected, not even the one supposedly pro-choice candidate. That would be George Pataki, the "pro-choice Republican" who bragged about defunding Planned Parenthood when he was governor of New York.

On the Lovecast, Dan and Amanda Marcotte on Planned Parenthood and Republican lunacy: savagelovecast.com.

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestrange.com/savage.mail@savagelove.net

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FIRST PERSON



"Without principles you're done.
You might as well be a robot."

Politician, barrister and stage actress **Tanya Chan**

Suk-chong is a founding member of the Civic Party. A Legco member from 2008 to 2012, she became the party's Vice-Chairman in 2012. She tells Andrea Lo about changing her plans to open a dai pai dong and where she sees Hong Kong in 2047.

I grew up in Hong Kong. I was here all through school and I went to HKU.

I went to an all-girls school. A few of us said that we would remain single and buy a house together to live as spinsters.

The other girls are all married and some have become mothers. I have remained single, although I haven't bought a home yet.

When I was a child, I was the kind who talked back at people a lot. My aunties and uncles said I should become a lawyer.

I studied for an LLB [Bachelor of Laws] and felt like I had been tricked, because it was so boring. I decided I never wanted to be a lawyer. But it made sense to have a professional degree.

I worked in investment banking and then went back to study for a PCLL [postgraduate legal qualification]. I was a solicitor, then became a barrister. I was in my early 30s and things were stable.

A friend asked if I was interested in doing theater.

I acted in a political comedy, "East Wing, West Wing." A lot of political figures came and I met [Civic Party leader] Audrey Eu.

When I joined the Civic Party almost 10 years ago, I didn't know a single person.

Originally I thought I would be in politics for a decade, then go and open a dai pai dong. But sometimes things don't happen just because you want them to.

More importantly, with the current social environment, I might not feel comfortable bowing out.

I feel like a chair with three legs. Without any one of the things I'm doing I'd feel uncomfortable.

I always forget that I'm a woman. When I see two guys fighting in the street I try to get in the middle of it.

No female Legco member has ever got married during her term. Every time a single woman joins Legco, she leaves single.

I wouldn't call it a curse. It's a phenomenon.

In political circles, I feel it has always been quite fair—no one would treat you any better or worse because you're a woman.

Still, there are not enough women in politics.

I'm lucky in that when the tabloids write about me, my track record is mentioned—they don't simply gossip.

My biggest success? I have many good friends around me. My failures have happened when I've gone too far with things, like when I've been too blunt with what I say.

I don't like offending or upsetting people. I think everyone has a right to be happy.

People are more lenient now when it comes to how they expect their politicians to be. We used to have to be very straight-laced and could never do a single thing out of line.

Would I run for Chief Executive? That's like asking me if I would run for Miss Hong Kong again. I've never thought about it. I like having more freedom.

But if people started worshipping me like some kind of god I wouldn't like it.

2047 is a long time away. If everyone wants things to be better, we need to work hard at it.

The most important thing is to do things that are good for all of society.

I'm worried about people who do things just to make a profit.

It leads to corruption, class conflict and things being done at the expense of other people.

Maybe people can't see far into the future, so when they see an opportunity for power and profit, they grab it.

But Hongkongers are good at making the best out of a bad situation.

It's going to be a tough road towards 2047, but when Hongkongers know there are difficulties ahead, they'll tackle them.

I like that Hong Kong is extreme. There's not a lot of gray areas. It's a pretty crazy place.

A lot of my friends have left or are planning to leave. I don't think they've completely given up on Hong Kong, but they're choosing to channel their energies elsewhere.

Maybe they feel like they can't risk the fight—especially those with children.

You could say it was crazy that I shaved my head [in 2014 to protest for political reform]. Just because I did it, it didn't mean we were then going to get universal suffrage. If that was the case, most people in Hong Kong wouldn't have hair.

I remember stepping out of the shower for the first time without a head of hair, looking into the mirror and thinking: We were born like this. You can live without a lot of things.

The most important thing in life is happiness—and having principles. Without principles you're done. You might as well be a robot.

Every five to seven years, I go through big changes. In the past I have gone to study or changed careers. Right now it feels like I'm preparing for another big change to come.

NEED TO KNOW...

In 2010 Tanya Chan teamed up with four other lawmakers to resign from Legco, forcing a de facto referendum on political reform. She applied for the Miss Hong Kong pageant in 1992 and is the host of a popular Apple Daily online radio program, "Luen Up 24" (亂噏24).

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