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HK MAGAZINE NO.1110 FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015 www.hk-magazine.com



how do i be|



how do i become the next Chief Executive
how do i become Asia's next top model
how do i become the richest man in Asia
how do i benefit from knocking down old trees
how do i begin a taxi service that won't get shut down
how do i best John Tsang in single combat

24 Courses

To Change Your Life



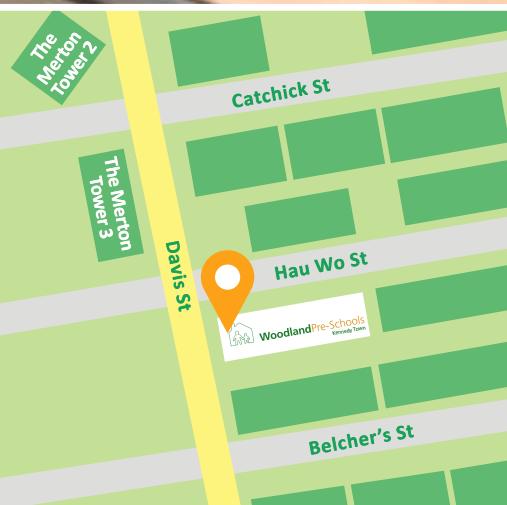
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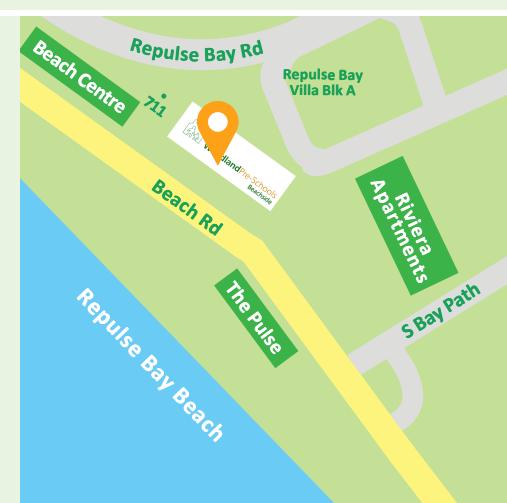
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Sure, you probably get your news online.
But do you get your news online...
IN LIMERICK FORM?

Uber, a willing young startup
Has cab drivers acting like martyrs.
They say "This disruption
Is down to corruption!"
Big words, when you won't cross the harbor.

The Liberal Party is wishin'
To visit Beijing on a mission.
Do they want to get cozy
With CCP cronies?
Or just land a date night with Jinping?

Last month, phone scams made a ruckus:
Stole one hundred million from suckers.
If they call you up next
Engage in phone sex
'Til they hang up disgusted, the fuckers.

Our wall trees, they come down non-stop
We're told they're not safe, must be chopped
So we're losing our banyans
And all their companions:
Now explain why you're razing pawn shops?

"Occupy's made the city less livable!"
Says a study we don't think admissible.
Are you confused? On a diet?
Mixed "protest" with "riot?"
Take it back, 'cause that shit's unforgivable...

To pass his reform with felicity
CY spent \$5 mil on publicity.
Tax bucks that enthused few;
Your own side *still* screwed you:
Pay peanuts, get monkeys in this city.

Who's in charge?

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Senior Editor **Adam White**
Senior Associate Editor **Adele Wong**
Staff Writers **Charlotte Mulliner, Evelyn Lok, Isabelle Hon**
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latest news and trends

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10

COVER STORY

Make yourself a brand new person



how do i be]

how do i become the next Chief Executive
how do i become Asia's next top model
how do i become the richest man in Asia
how do i benefit from knocking down old trees
how do i begin a taxi service that won't get shut down
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24 Courses

To Change Your Life



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ESCAPE ROUTES

Set up the perfect
Maldives holiday



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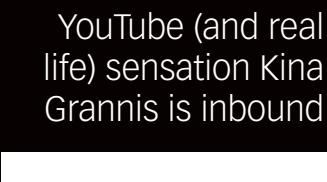
Right back matcha:
green tea delights



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UPCLOSE

David Jasper Wong
on the face of a
serial killer



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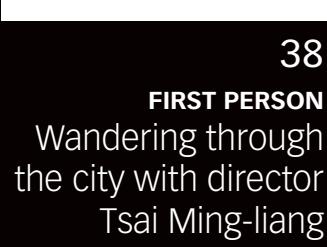
YouTube (and real
life) sensation Kina
Grannis is inbound



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FILM

"Wild City": Is Ringo
Lam still on fire?



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FIRST PERSON

Wandering through
the city with director
Tsai Ming-liang

MAILBAG

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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

I'm bored of talking about IFC 2 and the ICC all the time. What skyscrapers are more interesting? – King Kong

What about the circular Hopewell Center? We tend to ignore it a bit these days. But when it opened in 1980, the 64-story structure was the tallest building in Hong Kong. It held the title for an impressive 9 years, until the Bank of China came along and pipped it to the post.

The building is, of course, named after property giant Hopewell Holdings. Founder and board chairman Gordon Wu has his office on the top floor of the building, which must make for a worthwhile distraction during boring meetings. But it's not the top floor that's interesting: it's what's above it.

It's said that during the construction of Hopewell Centre, a feng shui master was consulted on the designs. The sifu expressed concern that the cylindrical shape of the building looked altogether too much like a candle, or cigarette, and hence posed some kind of invitation for fire. To assuage his concerns, the plans were updated with one small addition: a small circular pool sits on the rooftop of the Hopewell Centre, ready to douse any flames that might spark up.

Does Gordon Wu take an early morning dip, 216m in the air? Probably not. But there's an easy way to see the swimming pool for yourself. It's featured in the music video for 90s R&B group Dru Hill's 1998



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

#PrivateEyeHK



Sky Summer Elephant

Photo by Ray Cheung



Your 7-Eleven love:

"Who cares about the scene when there's good beer?"

Off the Charts

Facebook readers liked our Hong Kong Bar Chart [“Charting Hong Kong,” Issue 1108, August 7] in which we plotted the city’s bars on an x-axis of “straightlaced” to “hipster” and a y-axis of “priced” to “budget.” There was particular love for Club 7-Eleven:



Club 7-11 for sure

Cantfind Yu

I've never heard of any of the places in the upper right hand quadrant. No surprise there methinks...

Hans J. Brasseler

we're VIP's at Club 7/11!

Rebecca Swilks

now i know what hipster means, seems like i am in a more hispter side

Avery Yee Suen Lai

In other words, not many affordable bar out there.

Am Paiboon

Unfantastic Four

We gave “Fantastic Four” one star in our review [Issue 1109, August 14]. A Facebook reader agrees...

I’m sick of every reboot being an origin story. I do not want to see why batman became batman again, or how spidey became Spider-Man. Same for F4. They waste so much screen time in it. How about a few original movies Hollywood? #marvel

Ross Killin

Chill out! SUMMER COOL~LA~LA~

Summer time is in full swing, and as the mercury rises, there's no better way to cool off than with **city'super**'s range of icy-cool treats. Selected items include popsicles and ice cream, creamy cakes and refreshing handcrafted beers. To help you feel good all summer with cooling treats, **city'super**'s special summer carnival provides a range of gourmet products that will keep you fresh in the summer sun.

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THE WEEK

FRI 8/28



SUN 8/23



WED 8/26



Friday 8/21

Pink Pong

Azure is hosting **Pick Your Pink**, a rooftop party with free-flow tapas, DJ beats, and lots of rosé. Think you're good at beer pong? Take on its older, more refined cousin in a rosé pong contest. **6-11pm. Azure, 29-30/F, Hotel LKF, 33 Wyndham St., Central.** Buy one get one free before 8pm, RSVP at azure@azure.hk or 3518-9330.

Saturday 8/22

Sitting on my Arts

Do you like art? Do you like art you can actually use? **The International Design Furniture Fair Hong Kong** brings world-renowned designers and architects to the SAR. Go forth, buy a coffee table and try to fit into your 200 sq. ft. flat. **Aug 21-23, HKCEC, 1 Harbour Rd., Wanchai.** \$190-500 from www.hkticketing.com or at the door.

Sunday 8/23

Calmest Rave Ever

Center your chakra with a spot of quiet outdoor dancing at The Yoga Room's **Sunset Silent Disco Yoga Class**: Perfect your tree pose as you untz the stress away. Bring your own mat. **6:30-7:30pm, Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park, Eastern St. North, Sai Ying Pun.** \$150 from www.eventbrite.com.

Monday 8/24

Rum, Fatboy, Rum

Rummin' Tings is back with its weekly **Quiz Night**. First place winner gets a voucher for \$500, second place gets a bottle of rum, and you get to play a little rum roulette if you come in last. **8pm. Rummin' Tings, 28 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2523-7070.** Register at info@rummingtons.hk.

Tuesday 8/25

Berlioz Before Hos

If you're feeling kinda emo, here's a little something for you: The Hong Kong Festival Orchestra is putting on **Requiem for a Dream**, a two-day Berlioz series. "The Requiem" will be wholly devoted to Berlioz's "Requiem" and features tenor Dominique Moralez. "The Dream" is on Aug 24. **See Arts (p.23) for details.**

Wednesday 8/26

Pound Town

Need a hump day drink? Mrs. Pound will teach you some new tricks with **Afterwork—Make Your Own Cocktail**. DJ Woodtek will be providing the beats to your mix—just shake it like a Polaroid picture. **6-9pm. Mrs. Pound, 6 Pound Lane, Sheung Wan, 3426-3949.**

Thursday 8/27

Glow Wild

In case you couldn't make it to rosé pong on Friday, you can still get your pong fix at Illusion: They've teamed up with San Miguel and Universal Music for their **"Glow in the Dark" Beer Pong Tournament**. That's taking "Asian glow" to a whole new level. **See Nightlife (p. 26) for more info.**

Friday 8/28

Special Administrative Reggae

The Fringe Club hosts the first **Hong Kong International Reggae Ska Festival**. Bands from Singapore, Taiwan, and Japan are in for a night of fun Jamaican-Asian (Jamasian?) beats, plus some homegrown favorites too. **See Nightlife (p.26) for details.**

Saturday 8/29

Fight Night

Def Boxing Gym hosts **Night of Champions II**, bringing Rex "The Wonder Kid" Tso home to fight for the WBC Asia Super Flyweight title against Aussie Brad "The Pocket Rocket" Hore. **7pm. Hall 3D, HKCEC, 1 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai.** \$380-\$1880 from www.hkticketing.com.



Scott "The Alchemist" Mackenzie

COMING UP

A Hundred and EIIIIIGGGHHHTTTYYYYYY

You may be the best darts player at your local bar, but you probably still need to watch a sifu in action. Check out the first ever **Hong Kong Darts Masters**, which brings steep-tipped legends Phil "The Power" Taylor and Raymond "Barney" Van Barneveld, among others, to face down Hong Kong's Royden "The Wolf" Lam and Scott "The Alchemist" Mackenzie. Expect two nights of revelry, costumes, beer and LOADS of silly nicknames.

Sep 4-5. From \$499 from www.ticketflap.com.

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NEWS

Last Week In Reality

Sat 8

Lamppost Lover Marital troubles cause a 39-year-old Nepalese man to get drunk in his 10th floor flat and throw objects from the window, before climbing down pipes outside the building to the first floor platform. He uses a knife to cut himself before climbing a lamppost on Shanghai Street. He falls from the lamppost and runs away, evading police before he is caught in a restaurant on Saigon Street. This is the third time he has climbed a lamppost in Yau Ma Tei.



Sun 9

Busted Undies Customs officers at Lo Wu stop a man who is returning to Hong Kong from the mainland. They search him and discover that he is carrying one kilogram of drugs, including methamphetamine and cannabis, in his bag and his underwear. He and two other men are arrested.



Mon 10

Grand Theft Mini At around 5am an Australian tourist is arrested after allegedly hijacking a minibus on Lockhart Road, driving it through Causeway Bay and along Stubbs Road before abandoning the vehicle. He is found nearby. In court, a magistrate sets bail at \$5,000, but the man is unable to pay because he lost his wallet during the joyride. The case has been adjourned.

Tue 11

Promo Opportunity Soprano star Li Yuanrong is cheated out of \$20 million by a telephone scam. During a press conference explaining the incident her son Ray Wong, a noted Erhu performer, takes out his latest CD and promotes his record to reporters.

Wed 12

Swimming Poo The Leisure and Cultural Services Department closes the Victoria Park Swimming Pool after a small amount of fecal matter is found in the water. It is temporarily closed for cleaning and reopens the next day. The LCSD appeals to bathers to be considerate, not swim after a full meal, and to leave the swimming pool to answer calls of nature.



Thu 13

Drag Chase At midnight, two South Asian men mug a 60-year-old man in Yau Ma Tei, hitting him on the head and stealing \$20,000 in cash and his Rolex watch. Several pedestrians give chase, including a cross-dressing man wearing black stockings. They catch one thief, but the other escapes. The victim and the cross-dresser are sent to hospital for injuries incurred.

Fri 14

Mom Scam A post on Facebook goes viral after a telephone scammer calls a mother, pretending to be her daughter. The "daughter" says she is being kidnapped, and requests \$800,000 in ransom. The mother calls her two daughters on another phone to make sure they are safe, before telling the scammer: "I have 10 daughters, so I don't know which one you've picked up." Authorities have warned the public to be careful, as phone scams are on the rise.

Illustrations: Ryan Chan

Talking Points

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



Photo: Franke Tsang/SCMP

Iconic Wan Chai Pawn Shop To Be Demolished

Demolition works are underway on **Wai Chai's venerable Tung Tak Pawn Shop**, despite a last-ditch petition to get the government to save the Grade III listed historic building. Located on the corner of Marsh Street and Hennessy Road, the structure is **facing its end because the site's owner plans to redevelop the building into a 23-story commercial tower**. The iconic Wan Chai building is **one of only three pre-war buildings of its type left in Hong Kong**. Local NGOs have launched an internet campaign to halt the project, as **Grade III classification grants no protection from redevelopment**.

Our take: Another bit of Hong Kong heritage sacrificed in the name of profit. Thanks, government!

Police Raid Uber, Arrest Interns

Police arrested seven drivers who worked for taxi company Uber last week, acting on allegations that they were using cars without permits and the correct insurance. The Uber offices were also searched, with police removing documents and **arresting three staff at the company—two of whom were interns**. Government agency InvestHK, which encourages foreign direct investment and played a large part in courting Uber's presence in the city, **distanced itself from the company, deleting a web page which praised the app**. A petition started by Uber titled "Keep Hong Kong Moving" has attracted 53,000 signatures.

Our take: Oh, great. So now it's even harder to get a cab than ever before.

Electoral Register Addresses Include Cultural Center, Lamp Post

A check of registered voting addresses by the Electoral Affairs Commission has revealed some unusual locations: EAC chairman Barnabas Fung announced that **some voters had registered themselves as residents in hotels, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, public parks and even a lamp post**. He reiterated that registered addresses should be the main residence of the voter. Some of **Hong Kong's homeless register public spaces as their residential addresses to allow them to vote**.

Our take: If we register ourselves as resident at the Mandarin, does it mean we get to stay there for free?

Quote of the Week

"Wait, endure, be ruthless."

Jacinto Tong Man-leung, CEO of property investment firm Gale Well Group, calls for young people to be patient when it comes to buying a new home, saying that within two years the property market will be in better shape. Tong was speaking at Fook Lam Moon in Wan Chai, where he had brought a meal for nine banquet tables after incorrectly predicting that cheaper flats would fall in price within the next three months.

UPFRONT

HongKabulary



SoHo Recall (səʊhəʊ̯ rɪ:kɔ:l), n.

Going back to SoHo after three months and not recognizing a single bar or restaurant.

*"What happened to Elgin Street? Why is it totally different?"
"That's SoHo recall, Mr. Quaid."*

Caption This

Fraud suspects are arrested in Tsim Sha Tsui. (Edmond So/SCMP)



CY Leung and Family Enjoy Anonymous, Spooky Day Out

SUPERHERO VIGILANTE GROUP ARRESTED BEFORE THEY COULD REALLY NAIL THE COSTUME

Shapeless Black Bag Replaces Face Masks as Illness Wear of Choice

Fast Facts

Uberternatives

What are we resorting to in Uber's time of difficulty?

- Bringing rickshaws back. Also opium and colonial oppression.
- Finally giving Segway Personal Transporters their chance to shine.
- Squeezing our neighbors' toy poodles into sled harnesses while shouting "mush!" until something happens.
- Taking regular taxis across the harbor, before realizing that it was just some kind of utopian fever dream and we're still stuck in Central.
- Never leaving Sheung Wan ever again.

Street Talk



Tram enthusiast **Eric Lee** is the curator of the "Hong Kong Trams Station" exhibition at the Peak and chairman of fan group Hong Kong Trams Enthusiast. He tells Joanne Lee about his fascination with the double-deckers.

HK Magazine: What do trams mean to you?

Eric Lee: Trams have served Hong Kong people since 1904, and can represent the spirit of Hong Kong. The tram models used in Hong Kong were eliminated in foreign countries in the 30s and 40s. At first, Hong Kong used British trams, but factories that produced tram parts in Britain closed down in the 30s. Trams nowadays are all designed and made in Hong Kong. It is hard to find a form of transport that is locally produced.

HK: When did you first start collecting model trams?

EL: I started when I was studying in primary school. There were not many tram-related toys at that time, and only metal models were available. I begged my parents to buy me one and that started my collection.

HK: Why do you find them so fascinating?

EL: I lived near the tramlines when I was a child. I only felt that trams were special because they traveled on rails, were powered by overhead electrical wires and had colorful advertisements on their bodies. You didn't find these features on other kinds of transportation.

HK: Where do your models come from?

EL: I handmade my own models when I was small. As there were not many tram-related toys at that time, I bought train models and changed them with home-made tram bodies. I used paper to make the bodies at first, and later used plastic and toothpicks. Now we make souvenirs for Hong Kong Tramways. They cost around \$200-\$300 and people who are less interested in trams might not pay so much. So we produce coasters, folders and toys too.

HK: What do you do at Hong Kong Trams Enthusiast?

EL: Hong Kong Trams Enthusiast is an organization for tram enthusiasts to communicate and we hold exhibitions. We cooperate with organisations, like Hong Kong House of Stories, to hold tram tours to tell people more about the history of trams and the changes to the tramway.

HK: What do you see as the future of trams?

EL: I hope we can continue to develop the tramways and not simply treat them as a leisure activity. Trams are still a form of transportation, not just part of tourism. It is hard for trams to survive if they stop while other modes of transportation develop.

HK: Vintage vs. modern trams: Which do you prefer?

EL: I like the modern ones. Vintage ones have their own characteristics but they are part of the past. Young people like new and special things—you feel more excited when you see new robots. But people who have lived through that period may find vintage trams more appealing.



Visit Hong Kong Trams Station at Shop 18, Level 2, The Peak Galleria, 118 Peak Rd., www.hktramstation.com.

THE NEXT BEST THING

Unhappy with your current profession? No problem. Pick a famous person and set your sights on becoming the next, better version of them. It's easy with these courses, lessons, workshops and diplomas. By **Adam White**. Additional reporting by **Jianne Soriano** and **Jonathan Wong**



So you want to be...

LI KA SHING?

You came to Hong Kong with nothing and you want to become the richest man in Asia? No problem. Follow these simple steps and you'll go from pauper to property tycoon.

1) Launch your property empire.

We all have to start somewhere. You'll want to know how to flip a property, to turn that poky little flat into a suite of palatial apartments. **Insight School** offers everything from a variety of vocational short courses to an intensive year-long professional diploma. The "Small Spaces Design" course (\$2,500) should come in handy when it comes to optimizing all those tiny homes.

24/F, Federal Centre, 77 Sheung On St., Chai Wan,
2114-2021, www.insightschoolhk.com.

2) Go big or go home.

You've got the apartments sorted out: Now it's time to think big. The only way you're going to get the property you need it to pull a whole new development out of thin air. For that you'll need to take the one-year certificate course in landscape design at **HKU Space** (\$21,500, Saturdays only), so you know how exactly to fill in the harbor for your new development. Call it something Frenchish, that always seems to work. How about "Le Grand Chine?"

494 King's Rd., North Point, hkuspace.hku.hk.

3) Manage expectations.

You'll need some help to become a financial force of nature. The **Hong Kong Management Association** offers various courses and workshops on all aspects of business management, including finance and accounting, as well as "Finance for Non-Financial Managers." Perhaps "Credit Management and Debt Collection" will keep when it comes to hauling in all that cash you were promised.

Courses held in various locations, including 14/F, Fairmont House, 8 Cotton Tree Drive, 2774-8500, finance.hkma.org.hk.

4) Diversify.

Of course, the property bubble might burst and leave you out of pocket. You're going to want to diversify those revenue streams with a startup or two. Feeling confident with your new, scalable idea? Take it to a **Nest** pitch day. The startup incubator holds "Dragon's Den"-style pitch days every three months, with up to US\$200,000 of investment and full support from the team. If your pitch is just "I build even more properties," then maybe save it for your bank manager. www.nest.vc.

5) Get that force field up.

Li Ka-shing famously has "Li's Force Field," which stops typhoons from hitting the city during banking hours. You'll need to work on similar powers if you ever want to be taken seriously as a tycoon. Learn your way around barriers with a game of **bubble soccer**, in which 10 people don large inflatable bubble suits and run around bouncing off each other. Bring it on, Hong Kong Observatory.

6/F, Grande Building, 398-402 Kwun Tong Rd., Kwun Tong, 9666-0869,
www.bubblefootball.com.hk.



So you want to be...

CY LEUNG?

One day you woke up with a dream:
To be the next Chief Executive of Hong Kong!
Here's everything you need to rise to the top
of the political pile.

1) Get some background.

CY Leung is renowned for his grip on the international political landscape. Why else would he keep bleating on about "foreign forces?" Better learn exactly what those foreign forces are. An "Introduction to World Politics, Incorporating Political Theories, Beliefs and Actions" certificate from **The Knowledge Academy** takes five days and will set you back \$70,195, but once you have it, all those rebellious students are bound to start giving you the respect you deserve. Right?

The Knowledge Academy, Room 907 Silvercord Tower 2, 30 Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, www.theknowledgeacademy.com

2) Speak to the people.

If you want to do well in politics, you're going to need to learn to talk proper. Take a professional development course aimed at getting your public speaking up to scratch. **HKU Space** offers courses which emphasize theater-based training in order to get you really projecting that voice (\$3,700). You might even learn to let slip a crocodile tear or two. Alternatively, public speaking organization **Toastmasters HK** is all about helping you work on your public speaking in a supportive environment. Now look at yourself in the mirror and repeat clearly: "A broadly representative nominating committee falls within the spirit of the Basic Law."

hkuspace.hku.hk; www.hongkong-toastmasters.org.

3) Learn your wines.

Any self-respecting aspiring politician has to know his way around a French winery. Hong Kong winemaker Eddie MacDougall, aka the **Flying Winemaker** (www.flyingwinemaker.asia), runs classes designed to help you tell your Alsace from your elbow. Classes are in the \$200 range and include topics such as "No Bullshit Burgundy," so you'll never be struck dumb in a tasting at the Hong Kong Club ever again. Take it further by signing up for a professional wine qualification at the **Asia Wine Service and Education Centre** (15/F, Kai Tak Commercial Building, 317-319 Des Voeux Rd. Central, Sheung Wan, 2964-0188). Four courses for varying levels of expertise start at \$1,280 and ensure you can drop mad booze knowledge to impress visiting Beijing dignitaries.

4) Woo the tycoons.

Need to persuade a powerful tycoon to back you? Nothing impresses like inviting them round for a home-cooked meal. Learn to cook classic cuisine at the **Chinese Cuisine Training Institute**, which offers everything from full-time professional culinary qualifications to four-hour immersion courses. The "Fun Kitchen" (\$880 per person, minimum 10 people) takes you through cooking your selection of classic dishes, from dim sum specialties to Sichuan standards. You'll even get a lunch cooked for you, just to show you how it should have been done. With these skills you'll sway those tycoons to your side in no time. Hope you remembered the abalone.

**7/F, VTC Pokfulam Complex, 145 Pokfulam Rd., 2538-2200,
www.ccti.vtc.edu.hk.**

5) Control your subjects.

Congratulations! You're in charge of Hong Kong. You're going to have a lot of unruly subjects to govern. Mediation agency **G2G** (www.g2g.hk) holds five-day mediation workshops for executives (from \$15,000) that should help you get the truculent public to toe the line. Alternatively, you might find yourself having to put down the uppity hoi polloi with extreme prejudice: A few rounds of laser tag at **LaserMads** (from \$158 per game, 6 Yee Wo St., Causeway Bay, 2343-3033, www.lasermads.com) will run you through the basics of crowd control, militia style.

6) Retire.

Uh oh. Everybody hates you and it's time to make yourself scarce. Dedicate yourself to the ultimate retirement pursuit: sport fishing. Captain Carmine Vastola dubs himself one of the SAR's most experienced recreational fisherman. His boat, the 32-foot **Thai Lady**, is available for everything from inshore squid fishing to much more elaborate offshore oil rig trips. A day's fishing (in a group) starts at \$1,000. Vastola has also recently picked up a huge 90-foot fishing vessel, if you're looking for deep-sea fish. Or maybe it's just a good place to hide out when they come looking for you.

9027-7948, www.thailadysportfishing.com.



So you want to be...

WONG KAR-WAI?

You grew up finding the romance in an ever-changing world. You're obsessed with sensuality and the capturing of a brief moment of love in turbulent times. Yes, it's looking like you could be the next Wong Kar-wai.

1) Learn your craft.

You've got the perfect idea for your movie. "Ashes of Umbrellas" will tell a vivid, sensual tale of a policeman and a protester who fall in love at the height of Occupy. But how are you going to make it? Take a course at the **The International Academy of Film and Television** to learn everything you need to know, from screenwriting to editing to digital film production. Start with the Independent Filmmaking Program (\$40,000), a two-part introduction to making your dream indie flick—or go straight for the full 900-hour Diploma in Filmmaking (\$128,700). Scholarships are also available. If that's all sounding like too much of a commitment, there's also a half-day Phoneography tour and workshop (\$1,535) if you want to shoot the whole thing on your iPhone.

1/F, Trust Tower, 68 Johnston Rd., Wan Chai, 5808-3440, iaft.hk.

2) Find your soundtrack.

You've got your visuals: Now your need your sounds. **Sol Passion Music**'s DJ and music production courses will give you the skills you need to lay down the perfect manic-pixie-dream-girl track as your star cavorts around the Occupy site. One-on-one sessions with producers, DJs and musicians alike will get you set up in no time. Try their DJ intro course (\$1,200) and hone whatever genre you wish.

11/F, EIB Tower, 4-6 Morrison Hill Rd., Wan Chai, www.solpassionmusic.com.

3) Get the colors right.

If you want to be a masterful cinematographer you'll have to learn your color combos. What better way than with a flower arranging course? Get your Ikebana on and learn from the best: Theresa Lam is passionate about passing on her knowledge of floral art at **The Hong Kong Academy of Flower Arrangement**. Classes range from basic introductions to the art, to full-blown official internationally recognized diplomas.

15/F, 164-166 Hennessy Rd., Wan Chai, 2882-1832, www.hkafa.com.hk.

4) Learn your stills.

One must truly know the still image to understand the moving one. Get a three-hour crash-course in all things visual with "**Photography 101**," courtesy of photographer Kenneth Lim of the Hong Kong Photography Workshop. Classes are \$800 (10 percent off with a friend).

hkphotoworkshop.com.

5) Head to wardrobe.

Unless you want to head to Pottinger Street and buy a "sexy policeman" outfit for your leading man, you're going to need to run up some costumes for your cast. Go for dressmaking classes at **ITS Tutorial**, where fashion designer Fa Harrington of Fashion Project Hong Kong will take you through everything from pattern cutting and garment finishing, to the construction of jackets, skirts, plus moulage and draping. Prices and times vary, from \$1,970.

3/F, Sun House, 181 Des Voeux Rd. Central (entrance on Wing Wo St.), 2116-3916, www.itseducation.asia.

6) Future-proof your films.

The future of film isn't 3D: It's smellovision! Make sure that the generations to come will still find your films visionary by incorporating smells into your movies. Get your palate aligned right with a scent workshop led by John Paulo Hui at **Artisenses**. As the film reaches its soaring crescendo, a burst of tear gas and pepper spray straight to the nostrils of every punter will leave them with an experience they'll never forget. That Oscar is as good as yours.

www.artisenses.com.

So you want to be...

ANGELABABY?

You've been singing in front of the mirror and posing in way too skimpy clothing for as long as you can remember. Perhaps it's time to turn your vanity into a professional advantage...

1) Train that voice.

So you've always wanted to be in the spotlight? **Christine Samson's Art and Music Studio** provides vocal training lessons for beginners and professionals alike. Get trained by Christine Samson herself, of 80s trio The Samson Sisters, or by Krystal D, coach on TVB's "The Voice" and mentor to cantopop stars aplenty. Private lessons start at \$1,200 per session.

Unit 2B, Timmar Court, 10-12 Wing Hing St., North Point, 2762-0112,
www.singing-in-hongkong.com.

2) Train those feet.

Anyone can learn to ballroom dance. But if you want a chance to be cast in Wong Jing's next semi-sleazy action epic, then you're going to want to know how to dance sexily. Brenda Blanca of **Flamenco.hk** teaches the passionate Spanish art of Flamenco to all comers. Group classes cost \$800 for four one-hour classes, or \$1,280 for two-hour classes.

Various locations, flamenco.hk.

3) Get made up.

If you're lucky, you'll be running all over town from photoshoot to TV commercial to acting gig. Make sure you look the part at **Touch Up**: The academy offers a huge range of makeup courses, from casual courses on model makeup or skin care, to full-blown ITEC (International Therapy Examination Council) certificate courses on Hollywood makeup or the perfect bridal look. Prices start at \$4,000 for eight lessons.

1 Suffolk Rd., Kowloon Tong, 2717-1940,
www.touchup.com.hk.

4) Take the next step.

Congratulations, you're a successful model-slash-actress! What next? Start your own fashion label, of course. **The Hong Kong Academy of Design** offers a wide range of fashion and design courses, from accessory and embroidery classes to a one year part-time fashion business course (\$1,980 per month). English classes are held every Thursday from 7-9pm. Wafty dresses, here you come!

13B Minden House, 13-15 Minden Avenue, Tsim Sha Tsui, 3460-4520,
www.aod.education.



So you are...

APPLE CHAN, MILD-MANNERED OFFICE LADY BY DAY, ASS-KICKING CRIME FIGHTER BY NIGHT?

Everyone thinks that you're a boring, average OL. But you have a dream. Once you are finally released from your punishing 14-hour work day, you will run into a cha chaan teng bathroom and run out as Lai Cha Lady, defender of the downtrodden and protector of the city!

1) Get the moves.

If you want to be the milky scourge of the night, you need to know how to fight. **Wan Kam Leung Practical Wing Chun Kung Fu International** is a martial arts school founded by Sifu Wan Kam-leung, who studied with Ip Man's disciple Wong Shun-leung. Wan's adapted form of Wing Chun is so practical that he's become the chief kung fu instructor of the Hong Kong Police. Prices start at \$750 for four classes, or \$1,100 for unlimited monthly classes.

1/F, Front, 456 Nathan Rd., Yau Ma Tei, 5639-4452,
wankamleung.com.

2) Get the kit.

Every self-respecting vigilante crime fighter must have a utility belt full of nifty gadgets. Sadly, it's hard to walk into a shop and buy a belt with pre-made pockets for tracking devices, sleep darts and knockout gas. Thankfully, co-working space **The Crafties** holds regular workshops to teach you how to make all kinds of accessories, from leather wallets to totes to crocheted hats: the perfect crimefighting headgear.

1/F, Sing Kui Commercial Building, 27 Des Voeux Rd. West, Sheung Wan, 3461-1368,
www.thecrafties.hk.

3) Get the skills.

It's not just about being able to punch people really hard in the face, although that helps. You'll also need to be a top computer whiz, able to hack into any criminal network in the planet. Great Learning Education Centre offers a course in becoming a **Certified Ethical Hacker**. This 35-hour examined course (\$17,800) will take you through everything you need to know to keep a network secure... or maybe to teach a vast evil criminal conspiracy the error of their ways. Good job, Lai Cha Lady! You're our hero!

Unit A, 20/F, Success Commercial Building, 245-251 Hennessy Rd., Wan Chai, 3620-3360,
www.greatlearning.edu.hk.



PERKS

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Check it out at www.madehk.com.

Shop 1-2, 10/F, Horizon Plaza, Ap Lei Chau. 2518 0028
Shop 1, G/F, 119 Caine Road, Central. 2517-0722



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Lenovo VIBE Shot prices at HK\$2,699, and now available at 3HK and ASK Super Outlet.

For more details: <http://shopap.lenovo.com/hk/en/smartphones/vibe/vibe-shot/>
Or contact us: 8118-0800 (Brightstar)



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119 Caine Road, Central, Hong Kong
Tel : 2549-9718
Website: www.rosiejeanscafe.com
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Tel: 3105-0767
Website: hongkong.ecotravel.hk



HK Phil's Season Opening Concert

The iconic Tan Dun joins the HK Phil to launch the 42nd season, with his inspiring new work Nu Shu. Nu Shu features entrancing film footage of folk songs and traditions from remotest China, interwoven with full orchestra and solo harp.

For more details: www.hkphil.org
Tickets available at URBTIX
Programme Enquiries 2121-2332



Terre d'Oc Afternoon Tea at Feast

Feast (Food by EAST) presents an afternoon tea menu inspired by terre d'Oc, an organic tea brand from Provence. Guests can enjoy a menu that captures the exotic flavours of the organic tea accompanied by a choice of coffee or unique terre d'Oc organic tea. Available from 1 Sept to 31 Oct, Monday to Friday (except public holidays) 3pm – 5:30pm, priced at HK\$238 for two persons.

1/F, EAST, 29 Taikoo Shing Road,
Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong

Made in Cheung Chau

Looking for handmade items with unique, clean designs? You'll love **Island Workbench**. This fashion brand from Cheung Chau is the work of two post-80s designers—Amy (pictured) and Steven Choi. Inspired by the simple and peaceful life of their island, each piece of clothing, handbag or accessory has its own story to tell. **Hand-printed salt pattern shoulder bag, \$350. Island Workbench Studio, No.2, G/F Rear, San Hing Back St., Cheung Chau, 5480-6627, www.island-workbench.com.**





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Hong Kong Dance Company is a Venue Partner of Tsuen Wan Town Hall.
Hong Kong Dance Company is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
Yat Po Singers is financially supported by the Springboard Grant under the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



Hong Kong Dance Company reserves the right to change programme details and substitute artists.
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Installation by Christoph Dahlhausen

18.8. - 12.9.2015



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Enquiries: 2802 0088
www.goethe.de/hongkong



852 TRAVEL

ESCAPE ROUTES with Kate Springer



Have a Maldivian evenin'

Dive into the Maldives

Thinking about dropping the big bucks on the Maldives? Choosing the right place to stay is massively important. Since the Maldives is so spread apart, the choice could make or break your trip. If what you're after is romance, you won't want to be battling screaming kids for space in a pool. And if all you want to do is snorkel, make sure your island has a reef. To help you sort your dream Maldives vacation, Flight Centre Marketing Manager Cecelia Yee picks the perfect hotel for every experience.



Looking for... romance?

If you're after an intimate and romantic break, Yee recommends the **Anantara Veli Resort & Spa** (four-night packages from \$16,099). The hotel is full of over-water bungalows with sea life swimming below, pristine coral reefs and sun decks with views of the palm-fringed island. It's also totally free of noisy children or boisterous teenagers thanks to an age policy.



Looking for... family fun?

Towing along the little ones is brave, but it's all about picking the right spot, like the **Conrad Maldives Rangali Island** (four-night packages from \$18,499). "Watch Manta Rays with your children as you cross the bridge between the establishment, or even dive with them!" says Yee. "Taking your family snorkeling with a whale shark will make this a trip you'll all remember forever."



Looking for... a little snorkeling?

You can get equal doses of low-key luxury and breathtaking wildlife at **Cocoa Island by COMO** (four-night packages from \$20,599). "Stay in private stilted villas with a breathtaking beach lagoon setting," says Yee. "After some amazing warm-water diving and snorkeling sessions during the day, be sure to finish your night perfectly with the most romantic dining on the beach side."

Looking for... a natural paradise?

Relaxation is the name of the game at **Gili Lankanfushi Maldives** (four-night packages from \$20,699), where the concept is "no news, no shoes." Here, it's literally okay to show up shoe-less and embrace the bare necessities. "End each night listening to sea waves," Yee recommends. "It's the ultimate way to get back to nature."



Looking for... an adventure?

As the sole hotel in Laamu, **Six Senses Laamu** (three-night packages from \$20,899) is a fantastic base if you're into watersports. "The island is home to the Maldives' most famous surfing wave, Yin Yang," explains Yee. "There's also a coral-rich house reef, where you'll see oriental sweetlips, parrotfish and even green turtles while snorkeling. Everything you imagined trying in the seas, even swimming with dolphins, is conveniently available at this resort."

Packages include flights, return speed-boat transfers between hotel and airport, and accommodation with daily breakfast. Visit www.flightcentre.com.hk for more details.

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

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*WHILE STOCKS LAST

Matcha Makers

Trick your body into thinking it's getting its daily dose of greens at six of Hong Kong's best matcha dessert cafés. By **Tammy Ha**.



Via Your Tastebuds

Via Tokyo is a testimony to the undying obsession this city has for green tea, having been part of the first wave to bring matcha desserts to the SAR. Unless you manage to catch the café on a slow day, don't expect much elbow room at your table. Long queues are a common sight, with people vying for the famed soft serves that come with a variety of chewy or fruity toppings, as well as the refreshing matcha smoothies and lattes. They've recently added a line of matcha pastries as well, including napoleons and éclairs.

Shop 1A & 1B, G/F, Lei Shun Court, 106-126 Leighton Rd., Causeway Bay, 2895-1116.

On a Roll (Cake)

Owned by friendly Japanese expat Ouchi Hiroshi (who, if you happen to catch him in the shop, greets customers enthusiastically in a mix of Japanese and English), quaint café **Hiroshi** has quietly established a name for itself in the local matcha foodie arena. The roll cakes and parfaits are their signatures, but the award-winning green tea is not to be missed either. Your best bet is to get the matcha tea set for a little bit of everything.

G/F, The Lamma Commercial Centre, 15 Parkes St., Jordan, 2737-2665

Old-School Charm

The strong aroma of green tea floods your senses the second you step into what has been the mecca for matcha lovers in Osaka for the past hundred years—**Nakamura Tokichi**. At the Hong Kong branch, the sixth-generation Nakamura family has exported the authentic Kyoto experience to the rest of Asia for the first time. They literally brought everything: from the ingredients to the wooden furniture, the ice-shaver, the tea grinding instruments, the tea room, and of course, their Kyoto-style hospitality. With ingredients flown in every morning, you'll be devouring top-notch sweets from the likes of green tea jelly to local delights such as rice cake matcha and red bean soup.

18/F, The ONE, 100 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, Z2426-6111.

Green Crossover

Gum Jeng x Yu Qian Shang Cha is a collaboration between the hip lifestyle label GumGumGum and the Taiwanese matcha-themed restaurant Yu Qian Shang Cha (御前上茶). Their extensive matcha menu includes parfaits, pastries, waffles, shaved ice, slushies, sweet soup, and—if that wasn't enough—matcha tofu pudding and matcha tofu latte. The last two go so well together you find yourself surprised nobody had thought of it before.

G/F, Fashion Walk, 8-10 Cleveland St., Causeway Bay, 3486-7307.

Affogato 'Bout It

Opened by a Japanese-Chinese couple, dessert café **I Cremeria** takes many influences from Italy: from its name and décor down to the affogato (this is flavored, however, with rich Japanese matcha rather than espresso). The soft serves and shaved ice are delectably complemented by a variety of toppings including chewy daifuku mochi, wagashi sweet chestnuts, jelly and pudding. There's also a heavy focus on premium fruits flown straight from Japan: the fancy muskmelon is a signature fixture, and you can opt for a milky soft serve dished up inside a half-melon for a cool \$220.

Shop OT-G03A, Ocean Terminal, Harbour City, 3-37 Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2897-1118.

Sinmei City

Sinmei, the owner of **Sinmei Tea**, is a renaissance chick who brings a worldly and view to everything she does, from studying tea to learning the guzheng. She matches western combinations with traditional green tea, such as the matcha molten cake, matcha brownie on a sizzling iron plate, the matcha mojito and even a matcha Hakka rice dish that pays respect to her family origins. And with the café's stay-as-long-as-you-want policy, you have plenty of time to roam between the assortment of sweet and savory matcha flavors to find your favorite.

5/F, CS Tower, 50 Wing Lok St., Sheung Wan, 3690-8238.



The parfait glass
at Nakamura Tokichi



Cauldrons of cake
at Sinmei



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www.lcsd.gov.hk/cp

Trailer

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

852 DINING

NEW AND NOTED
with Adele Wong



La Cantoche

A Beast of a Feast

In case you're planning a shindig anytime soon, Original French gangsta resto **La Cantoche** (G/F, 5 Wah Lane, Sheung Wan, 2426-0880) is offering crazy-value group dinner packages starting at \$328 per person that promise to have you rolling out the door. Depending on which option you pick, the meal can start off with appetizers like Rice Krispies lettuce

wraps (which feel more Asian than French but are hella tasty) and goat's cheese spring roll salad, before moving onto scary-sized portions of leg of lamb, Merguez sausages, chicken cordon bleu, beef Wellington and sole fillet, accompanied by potato and yellow bean sides. The multi-course deal is a godsend if you have a strong preference for protein.

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Tfvsjs Café ★★★★☆

Shop No.B, 10/F, Gee Luen Factory Building, 316-318 Kwun Tong Rd., Ngau Tau Kok, 2415-4999.



the hipster crowd, but affordable Italian-inspired dishes keep them coming back.

HIT A dinner set (\$320) came with appetizer, main and dessert. Tomatoes with home-dried strawberries and a little balsamic vinegar combined sweet and sour to stimulate the appetite. Basil eggplant ravioli was a large homemade ravioli, topped with a little crunch. We also ordered the cured salmon with a green apple sorbet (\$102): a cool but not too sweet match with the salmon which worked very well.

MISS The dishes here are creative, but that's not always a good thing. Our dessert of green pea and elderflower tasted as weird as it sounds. Warm peas and cold elderflower sorbet? No thanks.

BOTTOM LINE Hipster décor, hipster crowd and good food—just skip the peas. Open Mon noon-3pm, Tue-Sat noon-3pm, 6:30pm-10pm. \$\$\$

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



Mr & Mrs Fox



Beat the Heat

Umai Ramen Sumibiyaki (Shop 02, G/F, D2 Place, 9 Cheung Yee St., Cheung Sha Wan, 2743-8011) will be serving kakigori—Japanese shaved ice—to help patrons beat the heat this summer. Take your pick of watermelon, red bean and other syrup combos, which come with everything from Okinawa black sugar to condensed milk. In other words, it's a pure sugar paradise.

Fancy Fox

Swire Restaurants looks committed to building an F&B empire, and they're launching the 12,000-square-foot, 3-story **Mr & Mrs Fox** (29 Tong Chong St., Quarry Bay) in September. The space will be quirky and rustic, the menu casual western. There's a private dining space on the top floor, a bar on the ground floor, and a communal dining area in between. It'll be a place to mingle for the office crowd—after they finish toiling at the Swire-owned buildings in the vicinity. Expect to dig into steak and seafood, and when you're ready for dessert, take your pick of cheeses and sweets from a rolling trolley.

Email me at adele.wong@hkmagmedia.com or follow me on Twitter: @adelewong_hk.

All of our reviews are independent and anonymous!

Nam Ah 1964 ★★★★☆

Singaporean/Malaysian. Shop A, G/F Kowloon Centre, 29-39 Ashley Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, 2466-6702.



Nam Ah has been around (more or less) since 1964, and was one of the earliest restos in Hong Kong to serve Singaporean/Malaysian fare, but it's inevitably picked up more Hong Kong tastes over the years. Muted woods make for a nice, Malay-ish space at this Ashley Road joint.

HIT If we see bak kut teh (\$75) on a menu, we have to order it. The herby, meaty soup was Cantonese style, more medicinal than meaty—and full of delicious bits to nibble—though it could have done with a touch more pepper. Hainan chicken rice (\$85) was well cooked and moist, and satay lamb (\$90 for a half-dozen) was well charred and came with ample, easily scooped-up peanut sauce. That's always a strong plus in our book.

MISS Curry ox tongue (\$75) had a good sauce, although the thick slabs of ox tongue were perhaps a little tougher than we might have hoped. The Hainan chicken rice set sadly lacked our favorite sticky dark soy sauce. When we asked, they said "we don't do that here."

BOTTOM LINE Decent Malay bites in the heart of TST.

Open Sun-Thu 11:30am-11pm, Fri-Sat 11:30am-11:30pm. \$\$

Our Policy

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

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Piano
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Ben Kim Plays Chopin

Programme

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Chopin	Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor, Op 11
Brahms	Symphony No 4 in E minor, Op 98

12.9.2015

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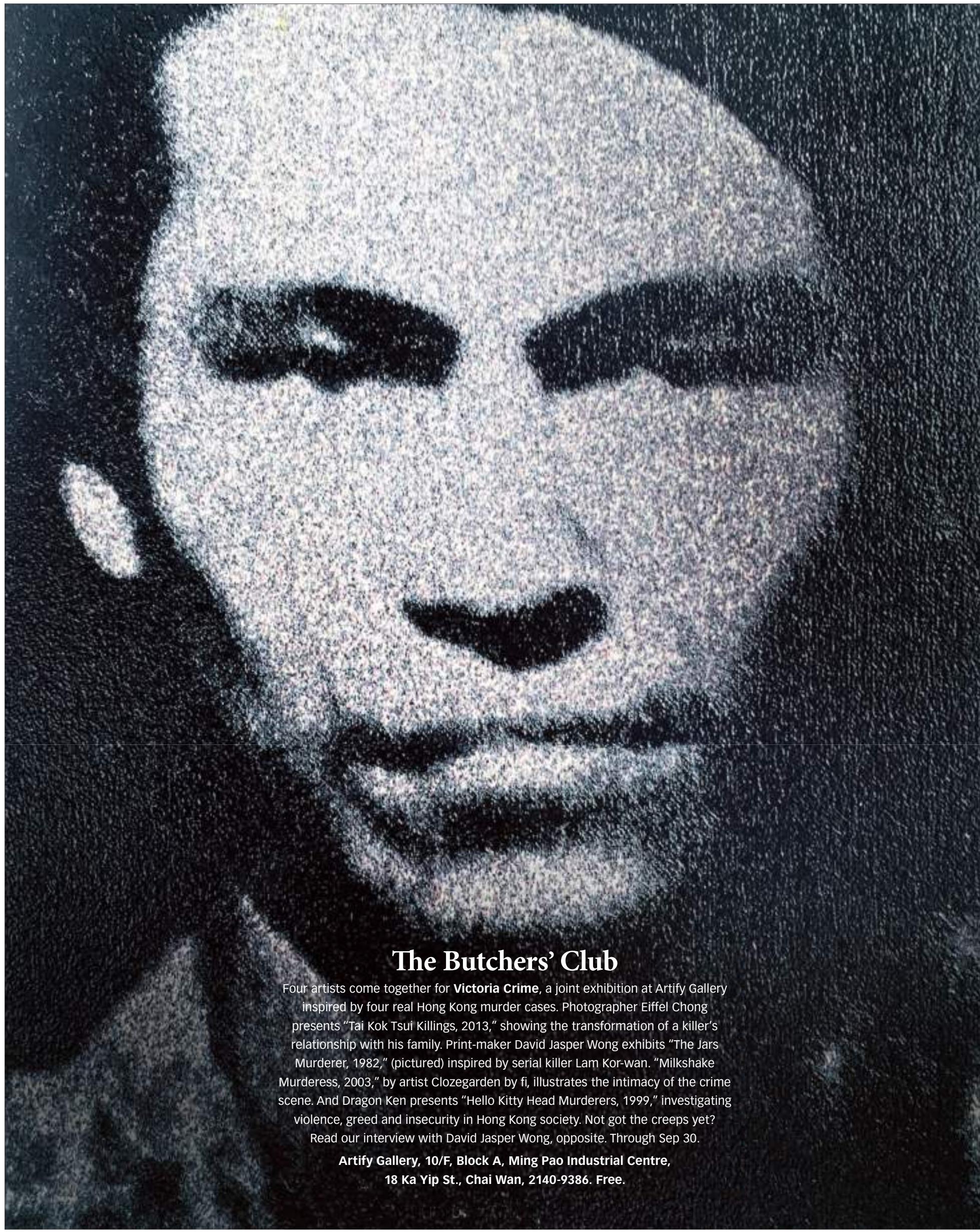


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CULTURE + NIGHTLIFE + FILM



The Butchers' Club

Four artists come together for **Victoria Crime**, a joint exhibition at Artify Gallery inspired by four real Hong Kong murder cases. Photographer Eiffel Chong presents "Tai Kok Tsui Killings, 2013," showing the transformation of a killer's relationship with his family. Print-maker David Jasper Wong exhibits "The Jars Murderer, 1982," (pictured) inspired by serial killer Lam Kor-wan. "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 violence, greed and insecurity in Hong Kong society. Not got the creeps yet?

Read our interview with David Jasper Wong, opposite. Through Sep 30.

**Artify Gallery, 10/F, Block A, Ming Pao Industrial Centre,
18 Ka Yip St., Chai Wan, 2140-9386. Free.**

UPCLOSE David Jasper Wong



David Jasper Wong has taken a step away from his established, abstract style to revisit a pop-art inspired aesthetic in "Victoria Crime," a chilling joint exhibition at Artify Gallery featuring works that reinterpret the inner lives of four high-profile Hong Kong murderers. Speaking to Evelyn Lok, Wong sheds light on Hong Kong's first serial killer, the "Jars Murderer" Lam Kor-wan.

Classical

Naturally 7

Itching for a bit of R'n'B? American acapella group Naturally 7 is bound 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.

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 for 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! Through Aug 22. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$150-380 from www.urbtix.hk.



The Book of the Hanging Gardens

RapsVoce Performance Collective puts together a German Lieder program with soprano Jasmine Lau, baritone Caleb Woo and pianist Nancy Woo. The recital includes Schoenberg's "The Book of the Hanging Gardens," a 15-part song cycle set to the poems of Stefan George, and a selection of Lieder by Brahms, who greatly influenced Schoenberg's understanding of music. Schoenberg is known for his cerebral style, so get ready for some serious singing. Maybe bring a notepad? Aug 22, 7:30pm. Recital Hall, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. \$180 from www.hkticketing.com.

Bach: The Art of Fugue

Multi-instrumental virtuoso and Bach enthusiast Stephen Hung steps up to the HKAPA stage with 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. 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.

Requiem for a Dream

If you're in need of some seriously heart-wrenching and emotional music, Hong Kong Festival Orchestra has got just the program for you: Requiem for a Dream, a two-day Berlioz series. "The Dream," on Aug 24, includes Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique" and Brahms's "Tragic Overture," and will also feature cellist Trey Lee in the Elgar "Cello Concerto," a mournful work that honors the fallen British soldiers of World War I. The Aug 25 program, "The Requiem," will be wholly devoted to Berlioz's "Requiem" and features tenor Dominique Moralez. Bring tissues. Aug 24-25, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$180-360 from www.urbtix.hk.

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.

Opera

Così Fan Tutte

One of Mozart's best well-known operas lands in the SAR, courtesy of the singers at Opera Hong Kong. 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.

Need to Know

Theater & Arts

Urbrix (credit cards)	2111-5999	HK City Hall	2921-2840
Urbrix (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

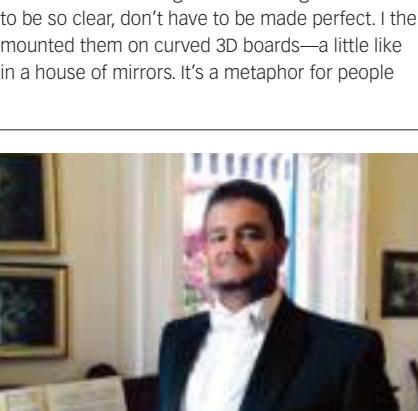
as well: You may appear to be a simple man, but looking at your reflection in the distorted mirror, you will see another version of yourself. I hope viewers will ask themselves: "Who are you?"

HK: What implications do you hope your work will have?

DJW: Hong Kong is not very open when it comes to sex. It's considered taboo to talk about it, so perhaps that's why this serial killer repressed a lot of his thoughts. I hope this exhibition can have an impact, so that [in the Hong Kong art scene] this topic, or other themes, can be explored as well. Artists can explore different aspects of humanity. It doesn't always need to be about love, or pretty pictures.



Check out "Victoria Crime" through Sep 30. Artify Gallery, 10/F, Block A, Ming Pao Industrial Centre, 18 Ka Yip St., Chai Wan, 3543-1260.



Opera Passion III

The Opera Society of Hong Kong brings Italian mezzo-soprano Chiara Angella, tenor Davide Piaggio and baritone Silvio Zanon to Hong Kong for the first International Opera Exchange Master Class on Sep 13. Places are closed, but you can still go pick up some tips from the masters. The Opera Passion III concert the next day will feature various classic arias and operatic movements, including Te Deum from Puccini's "Tosca" and Habanera from Bizet's "Carmen." The participants in the masterclass will sing alongside the Italian greats, backed by the Opera Society of Hong Kong Chorus and Orchestra. Sep 14, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$100-500 from www.urbtix.hk.

Dance

Dance x Multimedia: iLuminate

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

Pinocchio

The Hong Kong Ballet kicks off its new season with none other than the ultimate coming-of-age fairytale, "Pinocchio." The production, choreographed by Pär Isberg, tells the adventures of the young puppet from his creation by Geppetto to the chaos that ensues as a result of his lies. Will the Blue Fairy come along and save the day and reconcile the boy with his father? Or is that just a Disney thing? Aug 28-Sep 6. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$140-1,000 from www.urbtix.hk.

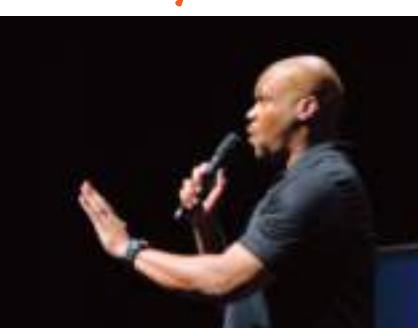
Theater & Dance

DisneyLive! Mickey's Music Festival

Mickey and friends return to KITEC to perform favorites from "The Little Mermaid," "Aladdin" and "Toy Story," among others. The Disney crew will be remixing nostalgic hits and getting turned up with hip hop, country, reggae takes on the classics. M-m-m-Mickey in da house! Aug 19-22, 7pm; Aug 22-23, 11am, 3pm. Star Hall, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$180-680 from www.hkticketing.com.

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. Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 3pm. Through Aug 30. Lyric Theatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, 2584-8500. \$280-980 from www.hkticketing.com.



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 Mahbubani 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 from www.hkcomedyfestival.com.

ARTS

Exhibitions



**Heroic Spirit:
Painting Exhibition of Lee Chi-ching**
Lee Chi-ching, Chinese ink painter and manga artist, inserts martial arts characters into Chinese landscape paintings to create dramatic yet cinematic scenes that depict the heroism of the fighters and emphasise the awesomeness of the land. Through Aug 26. Wan Fung Art Gallery, 3/F, New Lee Wah Centre, 88 To Kwa Wan Rd., Kowloon, 2736-9623. Free.



Black + White

International artists gather in Hong Kong's Karin Weber Gallery to explore and challenge the use of color. The exhibition focuses on the use of contrast and the power of a black and white palette. Art group Brainental demonstrates photography's influence on painting in their work, "Leica M4-2." Chilean-American Luca Cruzat uses human hair in her print drawings, studying the lines it creates in "Cuando Miro el Agua (When I Look Into Water)." German artist Udo Noger illustrates white light through "Wartend (Waiting)," and Indian artist Phaneendra Nath Chaturvedi investigates human strengths and weaknesses in "Appear Disappeared." Through Sep 22. Karin Weber Gallery, G/F, 20 Aberdeen St., Central, 2544-5004. Free.



Unveiling the Underwater World
Award-winning underwater photographer Alan Lo displays some of his favorite works at Mei Foo Plaza. He brings to life the secrets of the sea by showing the personalities and characters of ocean creatures as you have never seen them before. No, not like Sebastian from "The Little Mermaid," although a photograph of a calypso crab WOULD be great art. Through Sep 17. Free. www.alanol.com.hk.

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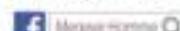
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HK

NIGHTLIFE

HK PICKS



Summer of Music @ Backstage

The Underground's lining up four quirky acts for their last ever event at Backstage Live, which closes at the end of the month. *Weep* They are: Sister Tangyi and the Gang, headed by a reformed but angry accountant; local music vets Site Access; psychedelic dance rockers ShumKing Mansion; and Junk! who'll loop in some audiovisual sorcery to get you dancing through the night. Aug 22, 9:30pm. Backstage Live, 1/F, Somptueux Central, 52-54 Wellington St., Central, 2167-8985. \$120 from undergroundhk.com. \$150 at the door; both include one drink.

Clubs



Palms & Charms First Anniversary

Hong Kong and Tokyo based label Palms & Charms celebrates its first anniversary with a joint performance from three DJ siblings: Balearic house beats from Max Essa, and tunes from label-owners Sam and Barnaby Bruce. Barnaby plays Afro-Cuban jazz with group Banda Orbita on the side, and he'll take to the stage with some percussion after his set. Bro DJs! Nice! Aug 22, 9pm. Honi Honi Tiki Cocktail Lounge, 3/F, Somptueux Central, 52 Wellington St., Central, 2353-0885. \$150 from ticketflap.com, \$200 at the door. Includes one drink.

Tom Swoon

Hitting number one on the Beatport trance charts with his single "Wings," Polish DJ Tom Swoon is also known for his boppy club remixes. A music aficionado from a young age, he officially caught the EDM bug after listening to Deadmau5 and Daft Punk—but then again who didn't? He'll be fresh from playing at Road To Ultra Macau, so don't miss his Hong Kong appearance. Aug 27, 11pm. Bungalow, Shop 2, G/F, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, 2623-7868. \$250 at the door.

Gigs

Confession With Parallel Horizons

Australian melodic hardcore band Confession confesses that it's had a volatile lineup in the past, but has finally settled on its central members. Fronted by Michael Crafter, former lead of Aussie metalcore group I Killed The Prom Queen, they're touring Hong Kong with their latest record, "Life and Death." They're supported by local prog-metalcore band Parallel Horizons. Get moshin'. Aug 26, 8:30pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$180 from www.ticketflap.com, \$220 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 August. Aug 28, 8pm. Backstage Live, 1/F, Somptueux Central, 52-54 Wellington St., Central, 2167-8985. \$340 from www.eventbrite.hk.

Against the Current: Gravity World Tour

Pop rock three-piece Against the Current is back in the eastern hemisphere with this world tour. Hailing from upstate New York, ATC started as a YouTube covers band in 2011 and have since released two EPs, plus acoustic versions. They're already completely sold out for their upcoming shows in Taiwan, Holland, and Germany, so book soon or you'll be swimming against the current for tickets. Geddit? Sep 2, 8pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St., Mong Kok. \$380-680 from www.cityline.com.



Kina Grannis: The Elements Tour

Youtube's favorite songstress embarks on her Asia tour this summer, with a one-night-only performance in Hong Kong. You'll know the singer-songwriter from her sweet vocals, internet-breaking covers and collab videos with Wong Fu Productions. The \$780 tickets get you in on the meet and greet session: Don't be creepy, OK? Doors open 7pm. Sep 20, 8pm. Rotunda 2, KITEC, 1 Trademark Dr., Kowloon Bay. \$380-780 from www.cityline.com.



Splash

The pool party at Macau's Hard Rock Hotel is now in its 12th 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 from 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.



Southside Craft Beer Fair

\$150 gets you six hours to taste-test more than 100 different craft beers at Ovolo Southside, and mop it up with some free bites. Deal! Aug 22, 12pm. Ovolo Southside, 64 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Wong Chuk Hang, 2165-1000. \$150 from pelago.co. events. Includes three craft beers and free food.



Eden by Rewind x Love & Beats

The guys from Rewind who brought us a spectacular beach party earlier in August are back to turn up at the Central Harbourfront. Featuring a lineup of international DJs (well, mostly French), and an outdoor, mini-festival vibe, it'll be a night of raucous spirits, literally. The theme is "angels and devils" or "Adam and Eve." What if your name actually is one of those? Aug 23, 4pm. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central, 3929-9500. \$200 in advance from pelago.co/eden; includes one drink.

Nightlife Events



W Hotel Shock Wave: #PoseWhenever Pool Party

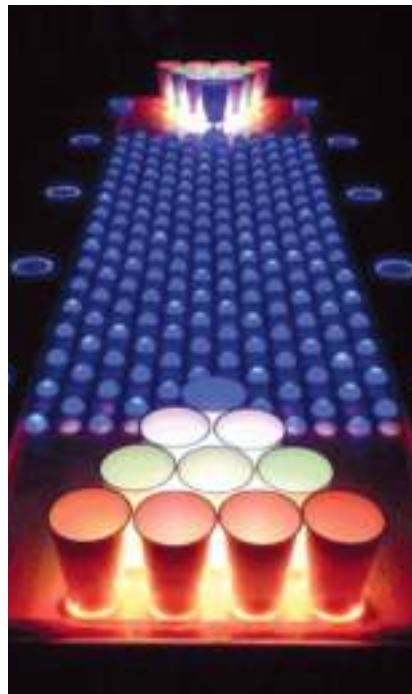
The notorious W Hotel summer pool parties are back. This time, they come with the cumbersome title Shock Wave: #PoseWhenever Pool Party. Splash around on the 76th floor pool and gawk at the half-naked beautiful people all around you. Aug 22, 8pm. W Hotel, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2222. \$400 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 www.w-hongkong.com/en/shockwave.

HK PICKS



Junkzilla

What are you doing on September 3, our new and totally racist public holiday? Dating app Grouvly (if you didn't know already, it matches group dates in threes) is hosting the biggest junk event of the season with all the essentials across six boats. Janette Slack, Too Much, and Zelazowski provide the tunes, while Honi Honi serves up free flow cocktails and Grouvly dishes up the entertainment: think insane floaties, waterslides, and "sinful games" like baby oil twister. 200 spots only: Get your tickets quick (and don't be late to the pier). Sep 3, 9:30am. Central Pier 9, Central. \$1,000 from www.junkzilla.co. Junks leave at 10:30am sharp.



Illusion x San Miguel x Universal Music: Glow Beer Pong

Two much-loved party themes mash together at this event: Cover yourselves in glow paint and don glow sticks as you try your hand at an epic beer pong tournament, with a chance to win a \$3,888 cash prize, bottles of bubbly, or other swag sponsored by Universal Music. Losers pay for the round of beer pong (\$150 per game). Iffy about your hand-eye coordination? There's also flip cup (\$150) and stack up (\$250). Teams of 2-4 can sign up by emailing queenie@voltage-pr.com. Aug 27, 7pm. Illusion, 2/F, Cosmo Building, 8-11 Lan Kwai Fong, Central, 2526-9996. Free entry. Ladies get one free drink.

IPA Madness: Summer Wine Craft Beer Launch

Hailing from Yorkshire, Summer Wine Brewery is about to take over The Globe with five of its signature brews. It's \$195 for a five-beer flight. Whether you're an IPA fan or if you're just a dirty hipster who pretends to enjoy hoppy brew—git on it. Aug 27-30, 6pm. The Globe, G/F, Garley Building, 45-53 Graham St., Central, 2543-1941.



Beertopia

The boozy craft beer fest returns—bigger and better than before and the grand slam end to this year's Hong Kong Beer Week. It's hosted in Central this time around, so Islanders can quit yer whining for once. There'll be more than 500 featured beers from 23 different countries, plus 33 Hong Kong brews. An ample selection of ciders, porters and stouts will also be available. Apart from all the beer, expect standard booze fest food vendors, live music, beer games and even a family-friendly market. Oct 9-10. Early bird tickets start from \$280 from www.beerweek.hk.

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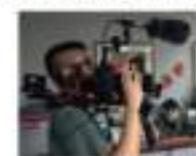
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Wild City ★★★★

(Hong Kong) Action. Directed by Ringo Lam. Starring Shawn Yue, Louis Koo, Tong Liya, Yuen Qiu.

Category IIB. 102 minutes. Opened Aug 20.

Back in the late 80s, Ringo Lam was on fire. And he wasn't afraid to let everyone know it. The then-young action film director let fly a string of successes under the in-your-face titles "City on Fire," "Prison on Fire" and "School on Fire." The first of these famously provided much of the inspiration—not to mention actual scenarios and sequences—for Quentin Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs". It was a wave of success that Lam was able to ride well through the 90s all the way to the shores of Hollywood, where he made "Maximum Risk" with Jean-Claude Van Damme. But soon after, the fire went out. Aside from his contribution to the multi-director experiment of a film that was 2007's "Triangle" (with Tsui Hark and Johnnie To), this is Lam's first feature-length film in over 10 years. And the results are... well, closer to smoldering than an outright blaze.

The main premise and theme of "Wild City" could easily have been plucked from one of Lam's early hits. Louis Koo stars as a disgraced former cop who now runs a bar. One night he takes a passed out female customer back to his apartment (purely out of concern for her wellbeing—he's the good kind of disgraced-former-cop-who-now-runs-a-bar). There she meets his brother, played by Shawn Yue, who displays somewhat less honorable intentions towards her. But neither brother's intentions matter much, for she's soon violently snatched away by a group of savage Taiwanese thugs, and the brothers are tasked with tracking her down, as well as a mysterious suitcase full of cash.

There's a complicated backstory to the suitcase, but all you really need to know is that everybody wants to get their hands on it. And thus we have the film's core—and for that matter, only—theme, which rears its ponderous head at every opportunity from the opening scene onwards: The dangerous allure of money, and the fact that none of us are immune to it.

As I said, it all could have come straight out of one of Lam's mega-hits from the 80s. But this isn't the 80s, and you find yourself wishing that Lam had brought a slightly more complex view to bear on the age-old theme of lust for money, particularly in a post-financial crisis world where many of us are more aware than ever that greed isn't quite as awesome Ronald Reagan and Deng Xiaoping once had us believe.

That said, fans of Lam's original work are bound to enjoy "Wild City" simply for the nostalgia factor. And the action sequences don't disappoint. There's some particularly fine work with car chases that tear through—and tear up—familiar parts of the city, including one scene that might just forever alter the way you experience that underground walkway between Chater Road and the old Star Ferry.

Ultimately, whether you enjoy this film will depend on what you're looking for. A deeper exploration of the central themes as they apply to today's Hong Kong does seem called for, but that can be easy to forget as you watch the city streets get taken to pieces again by Ringo Lam, that sorely missed demolition man. **John Robertson**

Coming Soon



The Assassin

(Taiwan/China/Hong Kong) Taiwanese auteur Hou Hsiao-hsien's 2015 Cannes-winning film is finally out on mainstream release. It's said to be Hou's most elegantly made film yet: a slow wuxia epic starring Shu Qi as the protagonist of the Tang dynasty tale "Nie Yinniang." Looking for a heartpumping gorefest? Maybe look elsewhere. Opens Aug 28.

Assassination

(South Korea) Not to be confused with Hou Hsiao-hsien's "The Assassin," out in theaters in the same week, "Assassination" stars the indelible Jun Ji-hyun ("My Sassy Girl," TV's "My Love From the Star") and tells the tale of 1930s espionage set in Manchuria. What does that mean? Lots of confusing code-switching between Japanese, Korean, and Putonghua. Opens Aug 27.

The Emperor in August

(Japan) Set at the end of World War II's Pacific theater in 1945, "The Emperor in August" recounts the final days before Japan's unconditional surrender from the point of view of its monarchy. So... what's everyone doing on September 3? Opens Aug 27.

Hero

(Japan) The dashing Takuya Kimura returns as legendary prosecutor Kohei Kuryu in the movie version of the popular Japanese TV drama. Taking on a case concerning a curious traffic accident, Kohei finds that the key to solving the case is locked behind the gates of a foreign embassy. Kimutaku will get around it somehow... Opens Aug 27.



Hollywood Adventures

(China/USA) Vicky Zhao Wei, Huang Xiaoming and Tong Dawei tear up Hollywood in this whirlwind east-west road trip romp. Two Chinese tourists and their clueless yet hardy tour guide rampage through Beverly Hills and Tinseltown, but get mixed up with some shady characters. Expect American celeb cameos and a whole bag of bad stereotypes. Opens Aug 27.

Knock Knock Who's There

(Hong Kong) Opening in theaters just in time for Hungry Ghost Festival is a classic Hong Kong horror tale set in a funeral home. Babyjohn Choi breaks his innocent facade and takes on the role of funeral host, overseeing affairs as three haunted stories intertwine. Opens Aug 27.



She's Funny That Way

(USA) Hollywood vet Peter Bogdanovich returns to directing feature films after a long stint in TV, with Noah Baumbach and Wes Anderson lending a producing hand. "She's Funny That Way" presents an intricate web of relationships and hearsay as an escort-turned-actress finds herself in the middle of a play—but she's sleeping with the director, and acting with his wife. Look out for its ensemble cast, including Owen Wilson, Rhys Ifans and Jennifer Aniston. Opens Aug 27.

Opening

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. Opened 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"? Opened 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! Opened 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! Opened Aug 20.

Wild City

(Hong Kong) See review, left. Opened 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? Opened Aug 20.

Continuing

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.

Fantastic Four

(USA) The reboot to the Marvel franchise sees a decidedly younger foursome: Miles Teller ("Whiplash") plays Mr. Fantastic, Kate Mara is the Invisible Woman, Michael B. Jordan is the Human Torch, and Jamie Bell ("Billy Elliott," "Snowpiercer") plays The Thing. But in taking itself too seriously and its paper-thin characterization, this reboot is a tremendous step backwards. ★

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. ★★★★

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Jimmy's Hall
(UK/France) Kitchen sink drama specialist Ken Loach takes a thoughtful, 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. Set in 1932, when Ireland was on the cusp of civil war, Jimmy reopens a village hall to serve for dance nights and general good times. However, it comes under scrutiny of the local church, who suspects the hall is also being used to brew political intrigue. ★★★★

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. ★★★★



Paper Towns
(USA) Quentin (Nat Wolff) and his free-spirited crush neighbor Margo (Cara "Eyebrows" Delevingne) go on an overnight 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. John Green's second book-to-screen adaptation may be yet another coming of age adventure, but surprises with its balanced, likeable characterization and refreshing take on the pains of growing up. ★★★★

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 a 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. Screenings take place at Broadway Cinematheque or Broadway Kwai Fong. \$75-80. www.cinema.com.hk.

Film Festival

CineFan SIFF 2015

The annual Summer International Film Festival has returned this August. Apart from opening film "The Assassin," catch the amusingly named "PK" (Aug 23), a Bollywood sci-fi from the guys who made box office success "3 Idiots." Through Aug 25. Various screening locations. www.cinefan.com.hk.

HK PICKS



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. A fun, flashy movie that scrapes through on style alone. ★★★★

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.



Life is Art Film Festival

Are you the type of person to gasp in awe at the beauty of raindrops against a window or the wonder of a double rainbow? This might be the film festival for you: It celebrates the diversity of art in everyday life through 12 hand-picked films. It opens with "Amy," a British documentary about the life of Amy Winehouse. Other highlights include "Steak Revolution" about a group of chefs who go in search of the perfect steak; and Juliano Ribeiro Salgado and Wim Wenders' documentary "The Salt of the Earth" about photojournalist Sebastiao Salgado's career. Aug 28-Sep 30. Various locations. \$60-170 from www.movie movie.com.hk/lifeisart.

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY



Leo (Jul 23-Aug 22): English author Barbara Cartland published her first novel at age 21. By the time she died 77 years later, she had written more than 700 other books. Some sources say she sold 750 million copies, while others put the estimate at two billion. In 1983 alone, she churned out 23 novels. I foresee a Barbara Cartland-type period for you in the coming months, Leo. Between now and your birthday in 2016, I expect you to be as fruitful in your own field as you have ever been. And here's the weird thing: One of the secrets of your productivity will be an enhanced ability to chill out. "Relaxed intensity" will be your calming battle cry.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): "On or about December 1910, human character changed," wrote English author Virginia Woolf in 1924. What prompted her to draw that conclusion? The rapidly increasing availability of electricity, cars, and indoor plumbing? The rise of the women's suffrage movement? Labor unrest and the death of the King? The growing prominence of experimental art by Cezanne, Gauguin, Matisse, and Picasso? The answer might be all of the above, plus the beginning of a breakdown in the British class system. Inspired by the current astrological omens, I'll borrow her brash spirit and make a new prediction: During the last 19 weeks of 2015, the destiny of the Virgo tribe will undergo a fundamental shift. Ten years from now, I bet you will look back at this time and say, "That was when everything got realigned, redeemed, and renewed."

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): "The greatest and most important problems of life are all in a certain sense insoluble," said psychologist Carl Jung. "They can never be solved, but only outgrown." I subscribe to that model of dealing with dilemmas, and I hope you will consider it, too—especially in light of the fact that from now until July 2016 you will have more power than ever before to outgrow two of your biggest problems. I don't guarantee that you will transcend them completely, but I'm confident you can render them at least 60 percent less pressing, less imposing, and less restricting. And 80 percent is quite possible.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Hundreds of years ago, Hawaiians celebrated an annual holiday called Makahiki. It began in early November and lasted four months. No one worked very much for the duration. There were nonstop feasts and games and religious ceremonies. Community-building was a featured theme, and one taboo was strictly enforced: no war or bloodshed. I encourage you Scorpios to enjoy a similar break from your daily fuss. Now is an especially propitious time to ban conflict, contempt, revenge, and sabotage as you cultivate solidarity in the groups that are important for your future. You may not be able to make your own personal Makahiki last for four months, but could you at least manage three weeks?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): Located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the Museum of Failed Products is a warehouse full of consumer goods that companies created but no one wanted

to buy. It includes caffeinated beer, yogurt shampoo, fortune cookies for dogs, and breath mints that resemble vials of crack cocaine. The most frequent visitors to the museum are executives seeking to educate themselves about what errors to avoid in their own companies' future product development. I encourage you to be inspired by this place, Sagittarius. Take an inventory of the wrong turns you've made in the past. Use what you learn to create a revised master plan.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result." Virtually all of us have been guilty of embodying that well-worn adage. And according to my analysis of the astrological omens, quite a few of you Capricorns are currently embroiled in this behavior pattern. But I am happy to report that the coming weeks will be a favorable time to quit your insanity cold turkey. In fact, the actions you take to escape this bad habit could empower you to be done with it forever. Are you ready to make a heroic effort? Here's a good way to begin: Undo your perverse attraction to the stressful provocation that has such a seductive hold on your imagination.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): "Everything I've ever let go of has claw marks on it," confessed the late, great author David Foster Wallace. Does that describe your experience, too? If so, events in the coming months will help you break the pattern. More than at any other time in the last 10 years, you will have the power to liberate yourself through surrender. You will understand how to release yourself from overwrought attachment through love and grace rather than through stress and force.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): "Most people love in order to lose themselves," wrote Hermann Hesse in his novel "Demian." But there are a few, he implied, who actually *find* themselves through love. In the coming months, Pisces, you are more likely to be one of those rare ones. In fact, I don't think it will even be possible for you to use love as a crutch. You won't allow it to sap your power or make you forget who you are. That's good news, right? Here's the caveat: You must be ready and willing to discover much more about the true nature of your deepest desires — some of which may be hidden from you right now.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): You'd probably prefer to stay in the romantic, carefree state of mind.

But from what I can tell, you're ripe for a new phase of your long-term cycle. Your freestyle rambles and jaunty adventures should now make way for careful introspection and thoughtful adjustments. Instead of restless star-gazing, I suggest patient earth-gazing. Despite how it may initially appear, it's not a comedown. In fact, I see it as an unusual reward that will satisfy you in unexpected ways.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): In accordance with the current astrological omens, I recommend the following activities: Sing a love song at least once a day. Seek a message from an ancestor in a reverie or dream. Revisit your three favorite childhood memories. Give a gift or blessing to the wildest part of you. Swim naked in a river, stream, or lake. Change something about your home to make it more sacred and mysterious. Obtain a symbolic object or work of art that stimulates your courage to be true to yourself. Find relaxation and renewal in the deep darkness. Ruminating in unbridled detail about how you will someday fulfill a daring fantasy.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): The ancient Greek epic poem the Iliad is one of the foundation works of Western literature. Written in the eighth century BCE, it tells the story of the ten-year-long Trojan War. The cause of the conflict was the kidnap of Helen of Troy, reputed to be the world's most beautiful woman. And yet nowhere in the Iliad is there a description of Helen's beauty. We hear no details about why she deserves to be at the center of the legendary saga. Don't be like the Iliad in the coming weeks, Gemini. Know everything you can about the goal at the center of your life. Be very clear and specific and precise about what you're fighting for and working towards.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): The comedian puppets known as the Muppets have made eight movies. In "The Great Muppet Caper," the muppets Kermit and Fozzie play brothers, even though one is a green frog and the other a brown bear. At one point in the story, we see a photo of their father, who has the coloring and eyes of Kermit, but a bear-like face. I bring up their unexpected relationship, Cancerian, because I suspect that a similar anomaly might be coming your way: a bond with a seemingly improbable ally. To prepare, stretch your ideas about what influences you might want to connect with.

HOMEWORK: Were you told there's a certain accomplishment you'll never be capable of? Ready to prove that curse wrong? Testify at FreeWillAstrology.com.

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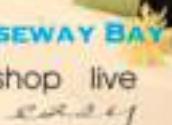
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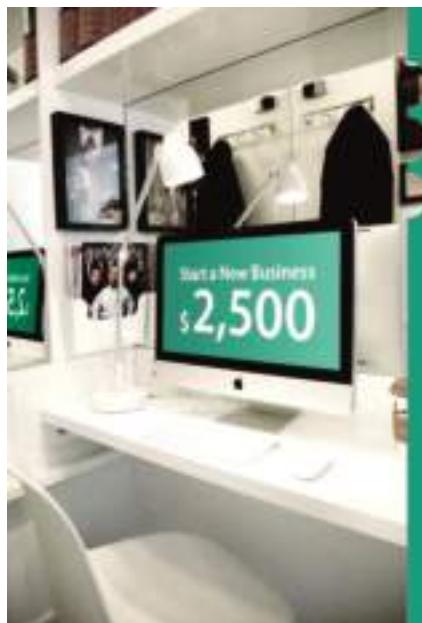
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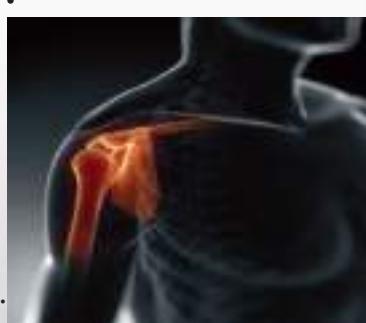
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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I'm a woman in a straight relationship. I woke up this morning, and my BF wasn't in bed with me. He felt ill in the middle of the night and went to sleep in the spare room—where he found a condom in its wrapper behind the nightstand. Now my BF thinks I'm cheating on him. I haven't cheated on him and have no desire to. I have an IUD and we are monogamous, so we don't use condoms. But I used to keep condoms around to use on an old sex toy that I liked but was allergic to. That toy is long gone (I found out it was made of terrible materials and disposed of it), but I kept the condoms in case I met someone. That someone ended up being him—but by the time we met, I had an IUD. I explained all this to him, but he doesn't believe me. We've lived together for two years and were just talking about buying a house and having kids

– Condom Resurfaces And Shatters Happiness

Your boyfriend should ask himself—order him to ask himself—which is the likelier scenario: that his girlfriend scatters condoms around the house because she's cheating on him? Or that his girlfriend, like almost all sexually active adults who have used condoms for birth control, disease prevention, and sex-toy safety, has a few loose condoms rattling around her living space?

That your boyfriend can't accept your perfectly reasonable explanation for that one stray condom, CRASH, has me wondering if the recent talk about buying a house and having kids might be the actual issue. Is he looking for an excuse to dump you, and the stray condom is a convenient *casus belli*? Or is he really that jealous and insecure? If he doesn't want to buy a house and have kids, then you obviously shouldn't buy a house or have kids with him. But the same goes if he's really this jealous and insecure. You don't want to be saddled with a partner who sees evidence of infidelity where none exists, CRASH, because life is a parade of incidents and ephemera—an easily misinterpreted text message from a male coworker, a stray pair of underpants left behind by a boyfriend who predares him, a cute waiter/barista/personal trainer who catches your eye—that could potentially set him off.

Everyone is entitled to moments of insecurity, of course, but you don't want to be with a man who melts down over nothing.

My boyfriend of six months tied me up for the first time a month ago. He didn't know what he was doing, and I didn't get turned on because it hurt. I got him two sessions with a professional bondage top as a gift. I was the "model," and I was very turned on as the instructor walked my boyfriend through safe bondage techniques and positions. The guy was attractive, but not as attractive as my boyfriend. At one point I shuddered, and my boyfriend is convinced I had an orgasm. He says I cheated right in front of him, and now he wants to dump me. What do I do?

– Helplessly Explaining My Predicament

Call that attractive instructor, HEMP, and tell him you're single now so you'll be coming to that second session alone.

My boyfriend of three years and I have an ongoing problem. His libido is much higher than mine, and at one point I wasn't making enough of an effort to meet him in the middle. But now we have great sex on average four or five times per week, and

I initiate about a third of that. (If it were completely up to him, we'd probably have sex one or two times a day.) This past week, I've been working crazy shifts for a work event—14-hour days with a 1.5-hour commute each way. I told him that I very likely would not have the energy to have sex. But when I got home the other day, knowing that I had to get up and leave again in less than seven hours, he initiated sex and I refused. I was too tired. He got very upset. Whenever I say no, he seems to automatically categorize my refusal as evidence of laziness or selfishness. I'm not sure what to do at this point. I really want to make this work.

– Working Hard And Tired

Your boyfriend is inconsiderate—in the most literal sense of the word. He has failed to take into consideration that sex five times a week is a lot of sex, objectively speaking, particularly in a long-term relationship. And your boyfriend failed—utterly failed—to take into consideration your current crushing workload when he attempted to initiate sex after you had worked/commuted for 17 hours and had to get up in seven hours and do it all over again. I suggest you get your boyfriend a Fleshlight, WHAT, for those moments when you can't be his human masturbatory aid, and stop feeling guilty about having sex "only" four or five times per week.

I'm a bed wetter and am super embarrassed about it. My boyfriend knows, and I know he doesn't mean to hurt me, but he makes jokes about it. He even once saw me wet myself and made a joke. I know I should say something, but I'm afraid to.

– Wants Emotional Tenderness

There are only two reasons your boyfriend would be making jokes about your bed-wetting problem: He is trying to be nice (he mistakenly believes these jokes put you at ease; he's trying to make you feel less self-conscious, not more; he wants to make the bed-wetting seem like no big deal, i.e., something you two can laugh off together) or he is a giant asshole (he knows you're sensitive about it and makes these jokes anyway because HE'S AN ASSHOLE; he makes jokes expressly to demean you because HE'S AN ASSHOLE; he is intentionally shredding your self-esteem so that (1) you'll think that no one else would ever want you and (2) you'll settle for this guy even though HE'S AN ASSHOLE).

There's just one way to figure out whether he's a nice doofus who's accidentally hurting you or a giant asshole who actually does mean to hurt you: USE YOUR WORDS. Tell him the jokes hurt your feelings—no smile, no ambiguity, no gloss—and then see what happens. If he knocks it off, WET, he was a nice doofus and the relationship may be salvageable. If he keeps it up, if the jokes don't stop, he's a giant asshole and he actually does mean to hurt you and the relationship isn't worth salvaging. (Please bear this in mind: An asshole might claim to be a nice doofus—he'll tell you he was just trying to make you feel better about the bed-wetting thing with humor—but if the jokes don't stop... he's not a nice doofus. He's a giant asshole.)

The reason you're afraid to say something is that you don't want to lose him. But you need to flip that on its head: If your boyfriend is a giant asshole—even if he's just a medium asshole—you should be in a big fucking hurry to lose him. Say something.

On the *Lovecast*, special guest Peter Sagal from *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!*: savagecast.com.

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

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FIRST PERSON

"Sometimes I feel I don't belong to the world I live in."

Malaysian-Chinese director **Tsai Ming-liang** was at the forefront of the "Second New Wave" of Taiwanese cinema, winning awards at film festivals across the world. He tells Isabelle Hon about his childhood, his impressions of Hong Kong and the joy of rice cookers.



Photo: Lam Hon Ming. Venue: Assaggio Trattoria Italiana

When I was a kid, I used to live in an apartment in Malaysia where I was surrounded by coconut trees. When they were blown by the wind it felt like a forest.

I used to play hide and seek with other kids in the neighborhood. The people, the grass, the chickens running around—everything was so real, unlike how the new generation farms and fishes on the computer.

When I go back, the grassland is still there. It used to be solid, but now it has turned soft, since the children don't come to play anymore.

Unlike cinemas located in shopping malls nowadays, cinemas were often standalone buildings in the 60s.

Going to the cinema used to be such a big deal: We went with my whole family, including grandparents.

I grew up with Cantonese operas and films performed by Lam Ka-sing and Fung Bo-bo, who was more or less the same age as me when she was still a child star.

But movies now are all made with computers.

Old movies described the relationships between people, and movies today don't: They deem it as '*lo beng*' [old fashioned].

When I was younger I was raised on the works of Eileen Chang. I also enjoyed watching films by Francois Truffaut, Michelangelo Antonioni, Akira Kurosawa, Yasujiro Ozu and many others.

My first visit to Hong Kong was 1997. I felt psychologically connected with this city. Later I chose to film "Walker" here.

The whole movie is about [Taiwanese actor and frequent collaborator] Lee Kang-sheng's slow walk through the city. I found it interesting that only old people noticed, stopped and watched, while youngsters were indifferent and just walked past.

But I'm not as familiar with Hong Kong as I used to be. It changes so rapidly that I can't keep up any more.

One of my films is about Lee Kang-sheng slowly walking alone in Marseille. People thought he was a beggar and gave him money.

A person gave him two Euros. Later an old lady gave him five, but felt it was too much and took the two Euros as change. When she found out it was a film performance, she took back the whole five Euros.

In another short film of mine, "Diamond Sutra," I filmed Lee walking slowly in front of a rice cooker, which took exactly 20 minutes to cook a pot of rice.

To observe the process of rice cooking is fun. From none to done. When you think it's over, it still gives you an extra burst of steam. Just like life.

When "Walker" was first published on the mainland website Youku, there were 10,000 messages criticizing me.

I want my works to be seen but I couldn't care less about the opinions. I know my works will only be appreciated by a small group of people. A lot of people refuse to open themselves up to new things.

I haven't had a script for a film production for a very long time. A script to me is for gathering funds and simply to let others know what I want to do.

But when it comes to the production stage, I take the most minimal approach. I throw away things I don't need.

Whenever investors come to me to shoot a movie, I tell them: My movies might not be liked by most of the public, but only adored by small part of audience. Do you still want it?

They still wanted it, so eventually they lost money.

Investors always have too many requests. You want this, you want that: So why don't you film it yourself?

I don't make a lot of money with my films. I just make enough for my basic needs.

Some professors ask me to give some suggestions or advice to film students. It's funny. They should know far better what they want from their students than I would. I don't even know them.

Sometimes I feel I don't belong to the world I live in—I'm more like the Europeans living in the 60s. I have changed and found my own way of life.

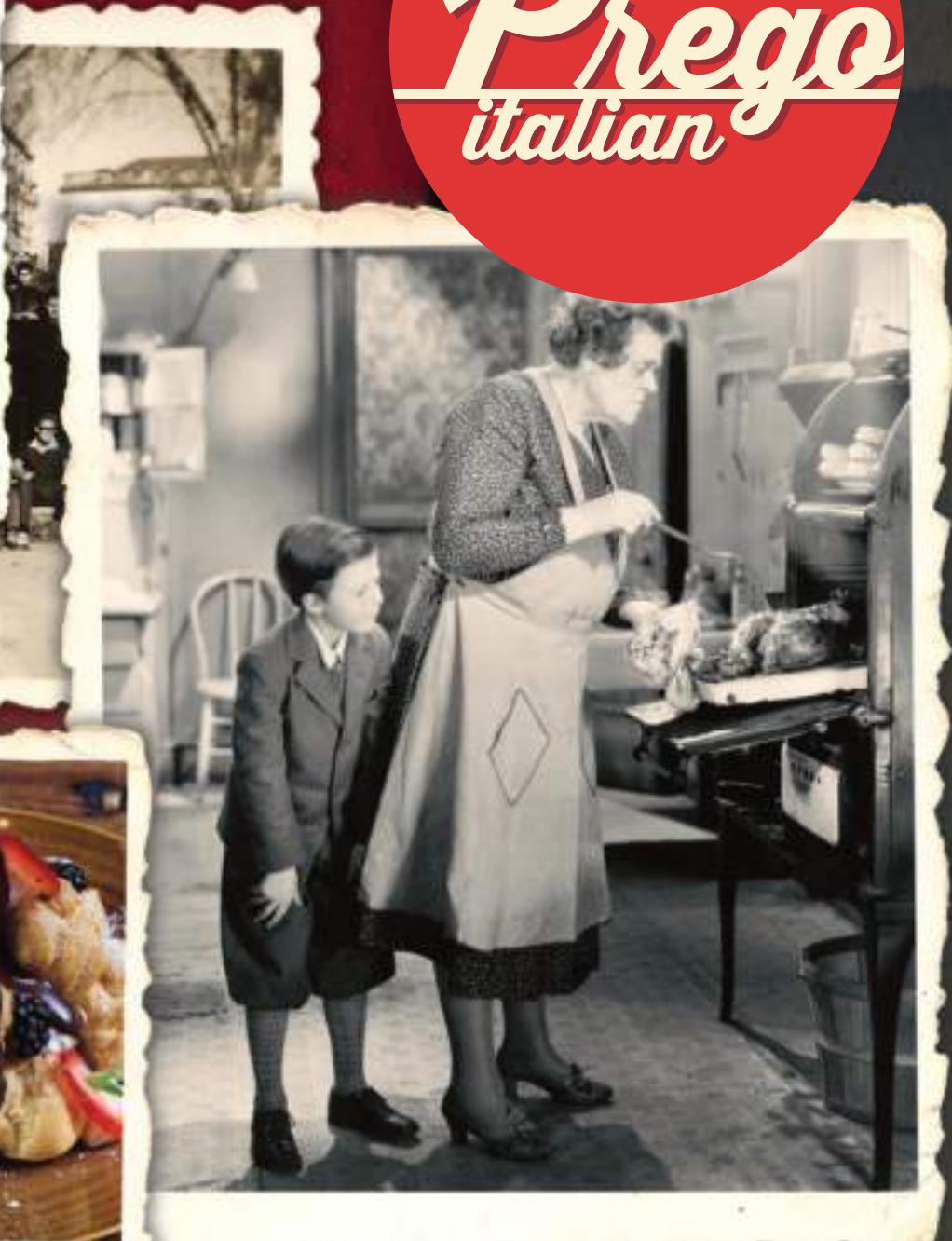
Nowadays, movies seem to be made for people to judge and criticize online.

I never think about whether I should continue to make films or not. Maybe yes? Or maybe no.

Anyway, I am old. I won't think about tomorrow.

NEED TO KNOW...

Tsai Ming-liang's film honors include the Golden Lion for "Vive L'Amour" at the 1994 Venice Film Festival and the Silver Bear for "The River" at the 47th Berlin International Film Festival. Check out his work during the Summer International Film Festival, including "Walker" on Aug 23, 7:30pm. Through Aug 25, cinefan.com.hk.



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