

25 years HK

HK MAGAZINE FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2016 HK-MAGAZINE.COM

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Our Foreign Correspondent
Journeys to the Dark Side

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GOVT DECLARES SHEUNG WAN, SOHO

"EXPAT-ONLY"

ZONES

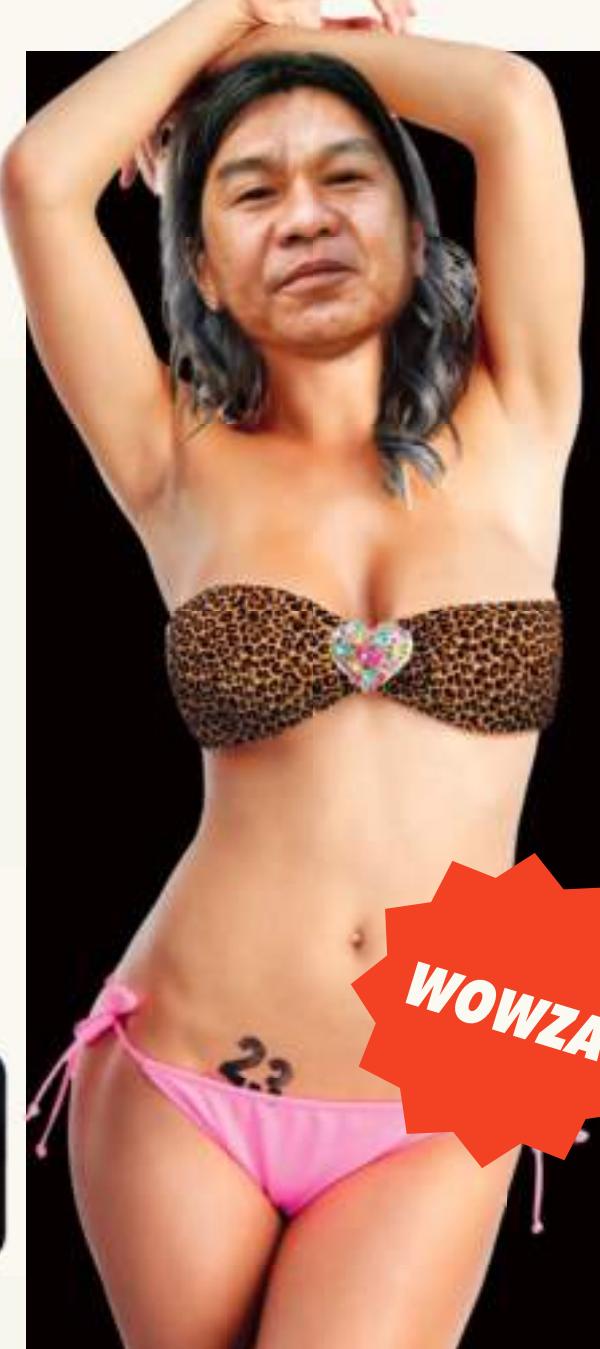
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"I'LL PUT A SWIMMING POOL IN EVERY OFFICE BLOCK!"

Rugby Sevens Rebranded
"Auspicious Rugby Eights"

LI KA-SHING JOINS,
BUYS TINDER

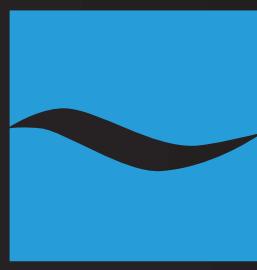


INSIDE: LEGCO MEMBERS
CAVORT IN THEIR
SKIMPY ARTICLE 23s!

FINANCIAL SEC SPENDS
\$ BUDGET SURPLUS \$
\$\$ IN STRIP CLUB \$\$



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Repulse Bay Store
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The Pulse
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Win a suite stay at the Ovolo Southside!



The HK National Party Manifesto

Hong Kong's messed up system gave birth to a new political party this week: The Hong Kong National Party. A localist party formed to advocate for the city's independence, the HKNP says that it refuses to acknowledge the Basic Law as valid. We were rooting in the bins round the back of their offices and found a scrap of what we're pretty sure is a draft of their manifesto...

PEOPLE OF HONG KONG!

For too long, this city's inhabitants have suffered under the crushing regime of whoever happened to be in charge at the time.

Year after year, we have been crushed: First under the boot of the imperialist British, and now by our mainland masters.

But today, we say to you: **NO MORE!**

NO MORE to a reliance on the mainland!

NO MORE to their money and investment!

NO MORE will we crawl to their trough for our every need.

Enough is enough! I say to you, it is time to fly the nest!

It is time to strike out on our own, as America did before us!

It is time for independence!

It is time to forge all-new trade agreements for basic necessities to ship in water, gas, food, electricity and daily essentials from overseas, because when we split from China they are NOT gonna like us!

It is time to spend billions on armaments and training to develop an effective military to defend ourselves, because again China's not going to be in a very good mood with us!

It is time to search for a leader with even half a percentage point of aptitude, who could run a country, when we're struggling to keep our heads above water! And we'd better not look to our closest Asian neighbor for help!

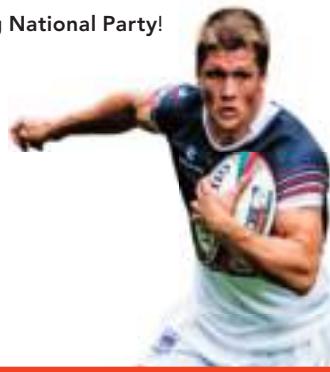
It is time to build an enormous wall along the Shenzhen border, just to show those Chinese with whom we are ethnically and culturally almost identical who's boss!

It worked for Berlin in the Cold War, and it can work for us!

So I say to you: **vote for the Hong Kong National Party!**
Vote today!

And remember our proud party slogan:

We're the best option available to you right now! Probably!



WIN HONG KONG SEVENS TICKETS!

Thanks to the Hong Kong Rugby Union we've got a pair of three-day tickets to the Sevens up for grabs! We've also got 10 pairs of tickets to the HKSevens Kick-off Concert, hosted by David Hasselhoff! Want to win? Email competitions@hkmagmedia.com with your best Sevens moment—on or off the pitch. Competition closes at 10am on Tuesday, April 5. Good luck!

Look us up!



The List

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f contests, updates, stories
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t latest news and trends
@hk_magazine



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Mr. Know-It-All's

— Guide to Life —

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

Who numbers Hong Kong's buses, and do they mean anything? – Bus Buster

Hong Kong's geographic split means that its bus system can be pretty stupid. For example, there's not one, not two, but THREE number 1 buses in Hong Kong, each serving a different route on Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and Lantau. Likewise for routes 2, 11, 23, 37 and 38, all of which could put you in three drastically different areas of the city. A tip for you: If you're looking to meet up with friends, don't do it at the number 37 bus stop.

The reason behind this repetitive numbering is, of course, history. Hong Kong's buses were originally operated by five or six different companies, and they called their routes whatever they liked. In 1933 the government imposed a franchise system, cutting down the operators in each area. But, by that point the bus routes and commuters were all set in their ways, and no one really had the heart to rename them.

But repeated routes aside, there's a logic to Hong Kong's bus numbering that may not be evident at first. Especially when it comes to triple-numbered routes, a little knowledge goes a long way.

100s Cross-harbor routes, via the Cross-Harbour Tunnel.
300s Express cross-harbor routes for peak-hour traffic.
600s Cross-harbor routes, via the Eastern Harbour Crossing.
900s Cross-harbor routes, via the Western Harbour Crossing.
700s Express buses which use the Island Eastern Corridor.
200s Air-conditioned bus routes: no longer relevant since the phasing out of the final non-air-con buses in 2012.
500s Air-conditioned bus routes on the island: similarly no longer relevant.
800s An auspicious number for routes to Sha Tin Racecourse on race days. Bus 888 shuttles between Sha Tin MTR station and the track.

There's also a series of letters added to give extra information:

N Overnight routes running in the small hours.
M Routes terminating at an MTR station.
K Routes terminating at what used to be KCR stations: now East Rail, West Rail and Ma On Shan Line stations.
P Peak time routes.
R Recreational routes, e.g. to Disneyland or holiday services.
X Express routes which skip intervening stops.
A As a prefix, airport services. As a suffix, can mean anything.

So with a little knowledge, you can tell at a glance where a bus is headed, how fast it'll get you there and if you can switch to the MTR at the other end.

Sadly, it's not all that logical. The "A" suffix is pretty randomly applied. There are exceptions to most of these guidelines, which don't begin to cover minibuses. And then there's the N8P bus, which runs along the island between Siu Sai Wan and Wan Chai. All well and good—until you realize that the letters imply that it's a night bus that only runs during peak hours. Perhaps the city's nocturnal workforce lives in Siu Sai Wan and works in Wan Chai? It's enough to make you yearn for multiple bus routes, each with the same number...



Photo: Robert Ng/SCMP

My Perfect
HK

This week in My Perfect HK:

At Chinese University, a group of graduating students has swapped out the traditional flower bouquets for more environmentally friendly "vegetable bouquets" instead. They pointed out that flower bouquets are wasteful one-time-only items, whereas a seasonal organic vegetable bouquet was not only more environmentally friendly, but it could also be eaten after use. And at \$79 per bouquet, it's a lot cheaper too. This is the kind of creativity we love to see in this city: long live the veggie bouquet.

Letters

"Police don't want people to puke while watching the news."

Well-Received

Responses on Facebook to our Hongkabulary "Centralese": the business-speak unique to Hong Kong (March 25, issue 1138)

Moreover, kindly attention to the attached A-lister Reid

Note to Hongkongers: if you sign off an email to a native English speaker with 'Regards', you might as well write 'Eat shit and die', because that's how they'll interpret it.

John Thompson

The Bag Man Cometh

Last week Mr. Know-It-All explained why police put black bags over the heads of suspects when they are arrested: To preserve their anonymity before trial (March 25, Issue 1138). Facebook readers weren't totally convinced...

Or they try to boast their efficiency of tracking down suspect by catching the wrong guy and by covering their head no body would know whether they are the real criminal or a mock show to make the police look good

Tsz Wong

@Tsz Wong hahaha you're an idiot

James Wong

I can tell you that the black bag does not keep you from being recognised by some. And that innocence does not mean without consequences, such as being pulled aside every time one entered HKG, even in the residents line. And that, at least in the late '90s, it was commonplace for one's commercial rivals to pay the Filth to make it happen.

R Scott Carlson

Because they are freaking ugly and the police don't want people to puke while watching the news.

Ken Iwaki

I think bcoz They are too handsome to be shown up

Jelitha Jolie

#PrivateEyeHK



The Path to Wisdom

Photo by Naitaba (Instagram: @naitaba)

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

Coming Up

You're Invited!

We're celebrating 25 years of being Hong Kong's best, free-est, and most fun magazine with our **anniversary party** on April 12! Wanna come hang at the best party of the year with some free food, drinks and awesome prizes? Head to hk-magazine.com and find the best story you think we've ever done, then leave the URL and your thoughts on our Facebook page for a chance to come! Deadline 10am on April 5.
Apr 12, 7-10pm. Zentral Club, 4/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central.
Email events@hkmagmedia.com for enquiries.



Saturday 4/2

World Music

Cha-cha-cha the night away with the soulful sounds of **Alonso Gonzalez Latin Jazz Quintet**. The percussionist and his cohort of musicians from Malaysia, Colombia, the UK, China and Canada will play Latin American rhythms and original tunes all night long at Orange Peel.
Orange Peel, 2/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central,
\$200 with one drink from thepointofsale.com

Sunday 4/3

Boogie Breakfasts

Get your groove on bright and early at the monthly **Le Disco Brunch** at La Vache! This free-flow tradition includes unlimited steak frites, mimosas, Guillotine cocktails and house wine. What's that they say about hair of the dog? Sorry, we're too day-drunk to remember.

From noon. La Vache, 36 Peel St., Central, 2880-0248, \$438.

Monday 4/4

Localists Unite

This Ching Ming Festival, why not sweep those tombs and then sweep your closet while you're at it? **Urban Edge Local Market** brings together more than 80 Hong Kong clothing and design brands at the Kwun Tong Promenade. Help the city's artists and look fresh doing it—it's a no-brainer.
Apr 2-4. Kwun Tong Promenade, 126 Hoi Bun Rd., Kwun Tong, free, honkiee.com

Tuesday 4/5

I Love Joo

Iron Chef **Judy Joo** returns to her kitchen in Hong Kong to serve up a special series of Korean dishes for two weeks only. The Korean-American chef and founder of Jinjuu in Lan Kwai Fong will be presenting 13 new small and large plates, including Sea Urchin Bibimbap, Braised Abalone, and Jinjuu Carnitas Fries.
Through Apr 7. Jinjuu, UG/F 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3755-4868.

Wednesday 4/6

Kick Hoff

Start stocking up on painkillers—The Sevens is almost here. Destination: Your liver. Start your party early with none other than Mr. David Hasselhoff himself. The former Baywatch bae will be hosting the **Sevens Kick-Off Concert**, joined by the Proclaimers and Abba tribute band Björn Again.
5-11pm. Sevens Village, 63 Caroline Hill Rd., Causeway Bay, \$199 from ticketflap.com

Thursday 4/7

Wine And Was-sail

How do you fancy a glass of Chianti in one hand and a canapé in the other, drifting along on undulating waves as you watch the glass towers of Central disappear into the mist? The **Italian Wine Tasting Junk Boat** is calling. Why not join them?
7-9pm. Board at Central Pier 9, Central, \$350 for non-members, tiny.cc/hk-italianjunk

Friday 4/8

The Sky is Pink

Fans of rosé, this night is a toast to you. Azure is hosting a rooftop party that celebrates the pink stuff. Join them in the sky at **Pick Your Pink** for a night of rosé-pong, unlimited tapas, tunes from Cliché Records and a huge selection of all things pink and quaffable.
From 5pm. Azure, 29-30/F, Hotel LKF by Rhombus, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 3418-9330.
Buy-one-get-one rosé until 8pm.

Saturday 4/9

Fashion is Free

Giving your wardrobe a little freshen up: The Consulate General of Sweden in Hong Kong is teaming up with H&M, Fjällräven and PMQ for a weekend of **Swedish Sustainable Fashion**, and they're starting with a clothing swap. Bring in your clean and high-quality pieces, and pick up something new—it's fashionable, fun and free.
Apr 9-10, noon-8pm. PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central, tiny.cc/hk-sustainedswedes



Friday 4/1

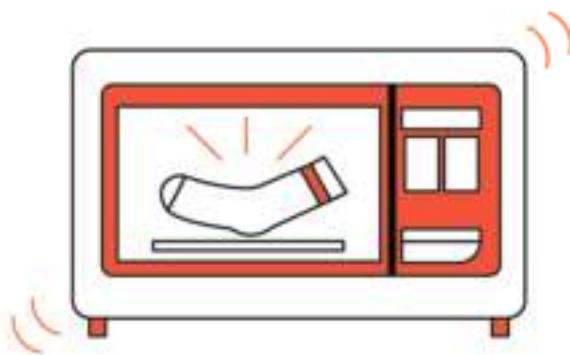
Get Medieval

Easter might be over, but the spirit of spring lives on. Join Hong Kong's own vocal ensemble **Tallis Vocalis** for a night of Renaissance music in "A Renaissance Easter Journey," featuring back-to-back renditions of Allegri's "Miserere"—first in its original version, and then with a modern interpretation.
Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, \$80-320 from urbtix.hk

Last Week In Reality

SAT 19

Noodle Attack An employee at the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong's Chai Wan office arrives at the office to discover two notices on the door have been vandalized, and soup and instant noodles have been spilled on the threshold. Police classify the case as criminal damage.



SUN 20

Socks to be You A Facebook post seeking the advice of other netizens goes viral. In the post, the Facebook user describes how he took his friend's advice and tried to get rid of a bad smell in his microwave by microwaving a sock, but ended up with an even fouler smelling microwave oven and an "odorless sock." He announces that he has ended the friendship, and is still looking for a solution to deodorize his microwave.

MON 21

Tired Drunk At around 7am, a passerby comes across a taxi parked in the road in Kwun Tong. The driver appears to be unconscious and the taxi's left front tire has been removed. Concerned that there has been an accident, the passerby calls the police, who arrive at the scene and rouse the driver. The driver explains that he felt tired while changing a punctured tire, and so returned to the car to take a break. Police administer a breathalyzer test, which the driver fails.

TUE 22

Honest Invite A netizen posts a wedding invitation from a female colleague to an online forum. The invitation includes two bank account numbers—one for HSBC, the other for Bank of China—along with a request for the recipient to make a contribution to their unborn child's education fund. Recipients are reminded to bring the advice slip to the wedding as proof of their gift.

WED 23

BO Tragedy On Lion Rock, police find the body of a 35 year-old man who had been reported missing on Monday. The man left a suicide note documenting his frustration with being unjustly fired from his job and being unable to provide for his family, as well as his body odor, which prompted a colleague to call him "shit man." The note reveals that the man had sought medical attention for his problem, but a doctor gave him the all clear.



THU 24

Chronic Fool A man returns to his Yuen Long flat and hears strange noises coming from within. Unable to open his door, he suspects that someone is in his flat and calls the police. After the police break the door down and enter the flat, they discover a 28-year-old man inside with \$20,000 in cash, a pipe and a cigarette case containing a small amount of marijuana. He is arrested on suspicion of burglary and possession of dangerous drugs.



FRI 25

Name and Shame A man tries to steal six tins of milk powder worth more than \$1,500 from a Sheung Shui pharmacy. A staff member sees him and stops the man from escaping by binding him to the bamboo scaffolding outside the building with a roll of cling film. He then hangs a sign that reads "I am a thief" from his neck. Police arrive and arrest the man.

Quote of the Week

"The Basic Law doesn't say that it will remain effective until 2047. I think it can remain effective forever. So don't worry about it. If every day we take care of what we should be doing, our future will take care of itself."

Financial Secretary John Tsang responds when asked if businesses should take into consideration whether the Basic Law will expire after 2047.

Talking Points

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

June 4th Museum Faces Closure

The June 4th Museum, which opened in 2014 in a Tsim Sha Tsui commercial building to **commemorate the Tiananmen Square massacre, will close after June 4 this year**. This comes as the building's owners' corporation appealed against the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China, the museum's operator, for breaching the building's Deed of Mutual Covenant by **not using the area as office space**. The alliance says it will be relocating the museum, citing **hefty legal fees if it stays**. It also criticized the building for its **rigorous screening procedure for the museum's visitors**, which left many mainland Chinese visitors feeling uncomfortable. The museum is the first in the world to memorialize the incident.

Our take: Here's hoping the museum's next home has more tolerant landlords.

Mainland Moms Want Vaccines

After potentially life-threatening illegal vaccines surfaced in Shandong province concerned **mainland mothers have been circulating advice on how to get their children vaccinated in Hong Kong**. A restricted number of vaccines for mainland children has always been available at government clinics. Hong Kong moms, haunted by the shortage of milk powder caused by panic buying due to tainted milk powder on the mainland, are worried that the **current supply of vaccines will be insufficient** if demand from the mainland increases—but the government has assured parents that it will purchase more vaccines if necessary.

Our take: Hospital beds, milk, schools, vaccines... What next?



Illustration: Elaine Tang



Street Talk

Australian ultra-marathon runner **Vlad Ixel** moved to Hong Kong a year and a half ago. He runs more than 15 major races a year and has set multiple records since 2013—all while on a vegan diet. He tells Charmaine Ng and Stephanie Tsui about being a vegan athlete and how every day can be cheat day.

Photo: Martijn Doeskes

HK Magazine: What exactly is an “ultra-marathon trail runner”?

Vlad Ixel: Marathons are 42km in distance and ultra-marathons are anything beyond that. I've run many 50km, 100km and 150km races. My biggest achievement to date was a 250km, self-supported ultra-marathon, meaning you carry all your stuff with you. It went on for five days across the Atacama Desert, where temperatures went as high as 40 degrees in the day and as low as zero degrees at night.

HK: How did you get into marathon running?

VI: I used to drink and smoke a lot. I was addicted to caffeine and I basically replaced water with Red Bull. When I was about to turn 25, I decided to make the second quarter of my life healthier—so I changed. I decided to challenge myself. I signed up for two marathons and without training, I ran them both. It felt good to achieve something new. So I went on Google and searched for the hottest running race in the world, and that's when I signed up for the 250km ultra-marathon.

HK: Why do it in Hong Kong?

VI: Trail running is booming in Hong Kong. You can run a hundred races a year, probably even more. It's the place you want to be if you're a trail runner. The Hong Kong Trail is my favorite: It's quite runnable and it's covered, which is very nice in summer. I train twice a day, seven days a week, and join races weekly. I'm determined not to get sucked into the nine-to-six lifestyle. My goal isn't to get rich. Here, I can coach in the morning and be on the trail in an hour. That doesn't happen anywhere else in the world. Back in Australia, I had to drive to get to a trail. Here I live in Sheung Wan, and after hitting the trail 2km away from town, I don't see anyone for hours.

HK: Do you bring music along on your runs?

VI: When I'm on the trail, surrounded by nature, I don't listen to music. I don't need it. I don't think about anything. I concentrate on my breathing. I run a lot of 100km races by myself and it allows me to zone out and meditate.

Find out more about Vlad Ixel's personal coaching sessions and his athletics at vladixel.com

Blowing Water

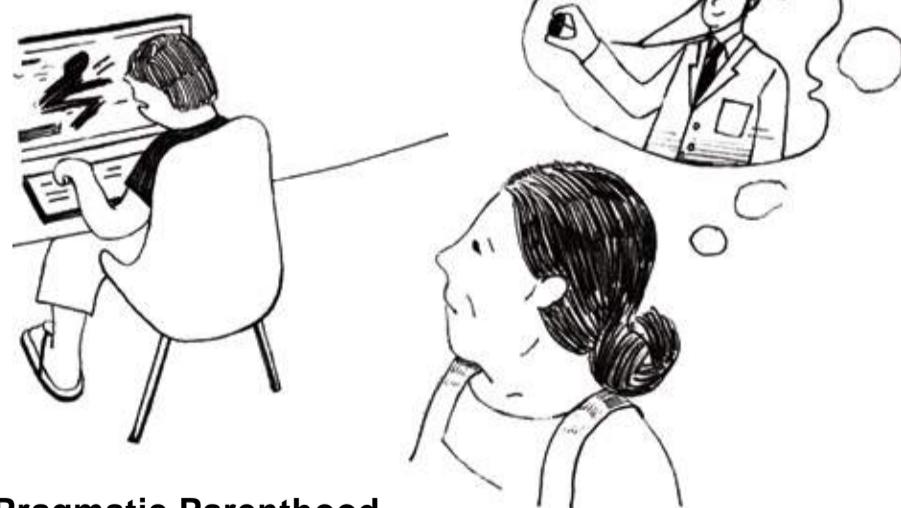
吹水 (*chui sui*), v. Cantonese slang. To chat, bullshit.

laai6 pei4
賴皮

“LEAVE BEHIND SKIN”

“Shameless liar.” A dishonorable person who doesn't deliver on their promises is said to *laai pei*, slough off their skin as they wriggle away.

HongKabulary



Pragmatic Parenthood

When your Hong Kong parents finally accept that you will never be a doctor, lawyer or architect.

“Haven't seen you in ages! How's the family?”

“Oh, not too bad. Little Winson is doing great with his media studies degree and I've hit pragmatic parenthood at last.”

“It's never too late for the law conversion.”

JOKES HOAX FOLKS IN APRIL FOOL'S SHOCK

A brief history of Hong Kong falsehoods, pranks and scams. By **Adam White**

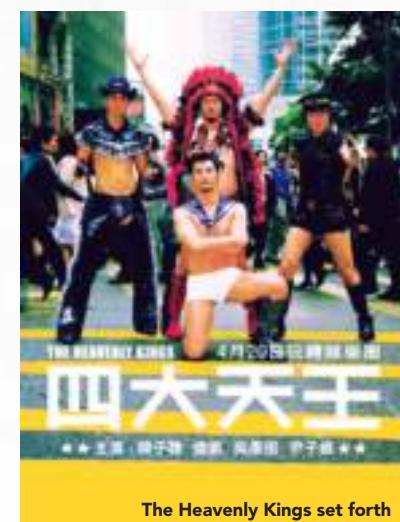


In 2005 the city woke up to a brand new musical sensation. Actors Daniel Wu, Terence Yin, Andrew Lin and Conroy "Drunk" Chan announced that they'd got together one night at karaoke and realized that they should start a group: and so four-piece boy band Alive was born. The group recorded an EP and was outraged when they discovered that one of their tracks had been illegally ripped and shared online before its actual release. Still, between that and a spot of bad-boy behavior—Wu ripped into "pale skin" Disneyland staff while filming a promo feature for them—the band got noticed. It looked like Alive was well on its way to Cantopop superstardom.

Except, of course, that none of it was real. Alive was actually a band created by the four in order to make 2006 mockumentary satire "The Heavenly Kings," a skewering of the city's pop industry—as Daniel Wu gleefully announced after the film's premiere at the Hong Kong International Film Festival.

The four had come up with the idea of a mockumentary, then realized that the cheapest way to make the movie was actually to create the band. If they really performed they wouldn't have to pay extras, could accept advertising cash, and so on. The song leak: they'd engineered it. Most of the band were pretty crap singers autotuned into harmony, and each was acting out a heightened version of their public persona: from Wu's control freak image to Chan's fame because he's married to the much more famous Josie Ho.

The media, which had reported gleefully on Alive's tribulations, was unamused: But the film won Daniel Wu "best new director" at that year's Hong Kong Film Awards. Alive lives on through their website alivenotdead.com, which has transformed into a social media and booking platform which works to give Hong Kong artists a global reach. From scene satire to scene saviors overnight: Maybe we should be waiting for the other shoe to drop.



The Heavenly Kings set forth



MEDIA

TOMORROW'S NEWS TODAY!

On April 1, 2010, Metro Daily was handed out as usual to the commuters of the city. But the city's first free paper was different today: it was dated **April 1, 2028**, and the headline read: "Hong Kong Island Borders Kowloon Peninsula," alongside a photograph of the whole of the harbor having been reclaimed for land. Property experts welcomed the news as sure to bring down property prices, while transportation officials welcomed the relief it would offer to the Cross-Harbor Tunnel. Meanwhile, on the inside pages a 400-square-foot Tin Shui Wai flat had been sold for a record \$40 million, a move authorities said was an orderly

increase. And Hong Kong's convoluted functional constituencies were proposed for submission to the United Nations as part of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage.

Better still, this blackly comic April Fools' joke was actually spun not from the minds of Metro Daily's jaded staff—but from the minds of Hongkongers themselves. The entire paper had been crowdsourced from the public, who were invited to send in their idea of what a paper of 2028 would look like. The result then wasn't exactly optimistic: Doesn't it make you wonder what a vision of the future would look like today?



HEALTH

CITY DECLARED INFECTED PANIC OBVIOUSLY ENSUES

Hong Kong's SARS outbreak in 2003 pushed the city far off balance. Over the second half of March, the city went from business as usual to ghost town as this deadly disease spread. Block E of Amoy Gardens, which saw the worst of the outbreak, was placed under quarantine at the end of the month.

Growing nervousness over this deadly disease turned into panic when what appeared to be a Ming Pao news report claimed that the **city's ports had been closed** to prevent the virus spreading any further across the globe. Also in the report: The Hang Seng Index had collapsed in the wake of the news and Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa had resigned in disgrace.

The news spread fast in the on-edge city, triggering panic buying as Hongkongers rushed to stock up before the city ran out of supplies. Fights broke out in the shops as shelves emptied of rice

and bottled water. The economy really did dip, and the government had to hold an emergency conference denying the story.

In fact, the news story was the work of a 14-year-old boy, who posted it to his own website on April 1, 2003. The page had been mocked up to look like Ming Pao's site. Combined with the public mood at the time, no one was in the right frame of mind to check their sources: cue panic. The juvenile prankster was found and sentenced to 12 months of social worker supervision. As for Tung Chee-hwa—he didn't resign for another two years.



Panic buying spurred by the April 1 hoax

Photo: Antony Dickson/SMP

IN OTHER NEWS...

Milk Tea Shortage Brings City to Standstill p.5

Uber Wins; Taxis Outlawed p.6

Anson Chan Ascends to Sainthood p.18

Cecil Chao Follows Trump, Announces CE Candidacy p.69

Submersible Tram to Traverse Harbor As Soon as They Seal the Windows p.205

Can You Name the Housing Secretary? Nor Can We p.689

UK Takes Hong Kong Back: "We Can't Stay Mad at You" p.888

THE WEATHER (IN YOUR OFFICE): FREEZING, AS ALWAYS.





MICRONATIONS

CROWN PRINCE SCAMS CITY!

In 1995, royalty dropped into Hong Kong. A young man appeared in the territory going by the name of "His Serene Highness Gerald-Dennis Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein." He said he was the Crown Prince of the Dominion of Melchizedek: a micronation which claims as its sovereign land a semi-submerged island in the South Pacific, one of the Marshall Islands and a sizable slice of Antarctica.

The Crown Prince was rumbled in Hong Kong when he was caught trying to use Melchizedekian checks he claimed were worth \$500,000 to open Hong Kong bank accounts. It emerged that the micronation of Melchizedek was the cornerstone of a large-scale banking fraud which sold nonexistent licenses for companies and raised money on the country's equally nonexistent assets. As for the crown prince, he turned out to be 22-year-old Gerhard Bacher, an unemployed Austrian who had been living inside the terminal at Kai Tak airport. He was tried (where it came out that he'd traveled around the region on his Melchizedekian passport) and sentenced to six months in prison.

Three years later, three other representatives of the nation, including former Hong Kong barrister and public prosecutor Stuart Mason-Parker, were arrested in Manila on suspicion of running a million-US-dollar passport scam. Mason-Parker was deported to the UK and never charged. But if you still think business with the Dominion of Melchizedek is a good idea, we've got some lovely solid gold watches we'd love you to take a look at...



SPORTS

SPEED SKATER SECRET LOCALIST?

Speed skater Barton Lui Pan-To was a proud Hongkonger indeed when he became the city's only athlete to compete in the 2014 Sochi Olympics. But feathers were ruffled when a screenshot made the rounds online of a TVB interview with the athlete at Sochi, in which Lui's name appeared next to the Hong Kong flag—the colonial era Hong Kong flag, that is. Post-90s kids and localists were thrilled by the mistake, but the image was soon revealed to have been doctored. Sadly, Lui's hopes for success were similarly short lived: He dropped out in the second heat of the competition.



OBITUARIES

JACKIE CHAN DIES AGAIN!

For some reason, people really, really, really want **Jackie Chan dead**. The kung fu star has been rumored to have died in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015 and earlier last month, on March 26, 2016. In one compelling version of the tale, Chan dies after falling 12 storeys to his death in the pursuit of the perfect stunt. It's all the more believable given his history of pulling off his own death-defying stunts—surely, the logic goes, he'll fail to defy death some day?

As Chan's representatives responded to the 2015 hoax: "stop believing what you see on the Internet." The only real takeaway from all of this? Simple: Jackie Chan will never die.



Chan points out that rumors of his demise have been greatly exaggerated, again



CRIME

THE BALLAD OF THE APRIL FOOL'S THIEF

In 2014 a Hubei man came to Hong Kong to pull off the bank robbery of the century: three banks in three days. The only problem? He started on April 1. On April Fool's Day the man allegedly headed to a bank on Ngau Tau Kok Road, where he handed the teller a threatening note demanding money and threatening to explode a bomb. The harried teller thought it was scrap paper and helped the robber throw it away. In the second bank just down the road, he handed over the note but wrote the characters for "robbery" wrong. The teller thought it was an April Fool's prank, and by the time she realized it wasn't, the man had lost his nerve and run off. Two days later he tried to rob a Sham Shui Po bank for a paltry \$10,000, but again he left before the money was handed over. Police arrested him on April 4. Earlier this year he pleaded not guilty to theft: The case continues.

Photo: Apple Daily

The Joker's Guide

A round up of some of the city's biggest jokers.



John Tsang

The grinning buffoon has been in charge of Hong Kong's purse strings for the past nine years now. And for every one of those years he's operated with a mind-blowingly large surplus that he seeks to hang on to, like a hamster stuffing celery into its cheeks for later, all while making dire prognostications about Hong Kong's future—and woefully underestimating the budget surplus year on year. Here's a thought, John: If you spent some public money on making things better right now, maybe the future wouldn't look quite so bleak. Best of all, the hairy man-walrus is looking increasingly tipped to become the city's next Chief Executive. Oh, joy!



Stephen Chow

Hong Kong comedy royalty. This perky dude pretty much invented the *mo lei tau* nonsense movie, propelling Hong Kong cinema beyond action flicks and into a whole new genre of slapstick non-sequitur humor where you either got it... or were left scratching your head, wondering what everyone else was laughing at.

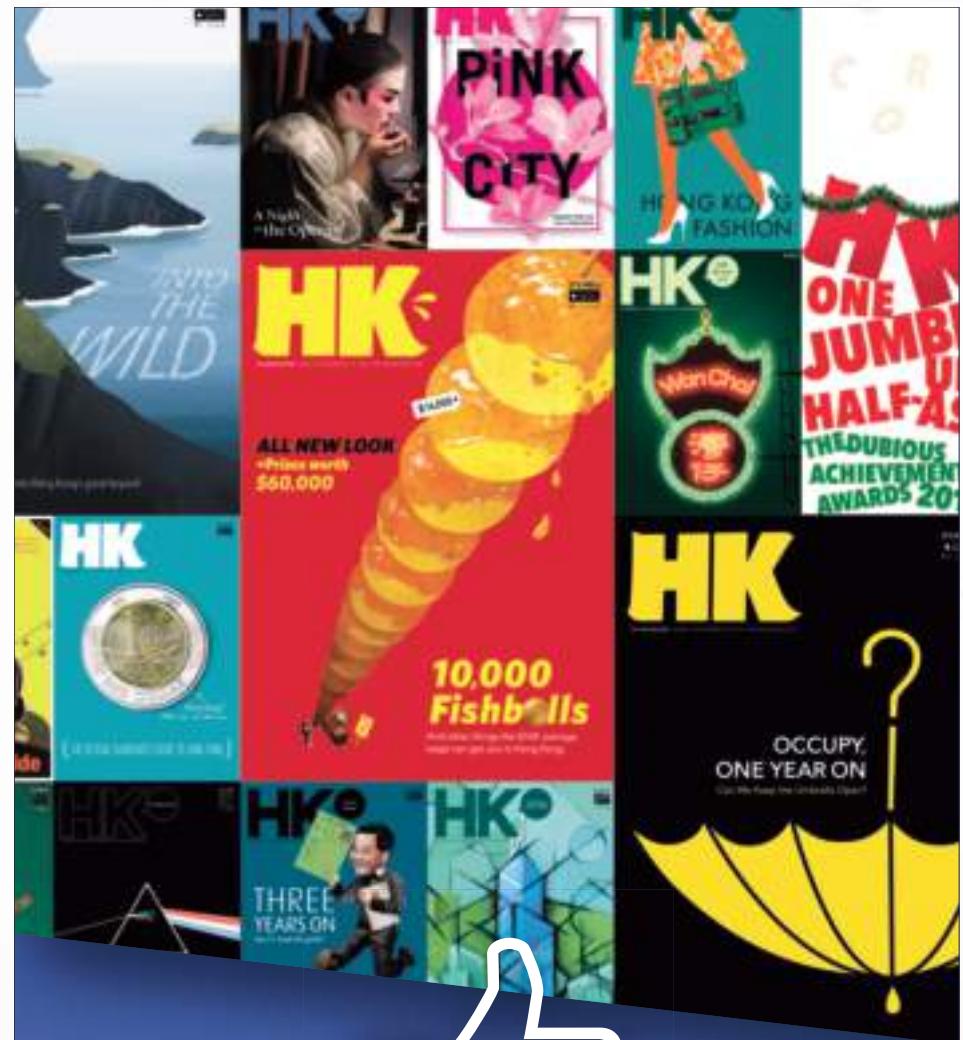


HK Golden Forums

Never underestimate the power of the *gou dung jai*, the golden boy: a member of the city's most active, most powerful forum. Originally started as a site for the Golden Computer Arcade in Sham Shui Po, the site has since become an archive and an originator of Hong Kong pop culture, living proof that the city is more creative than ever. If you see a Hong Kong meme or joke out in the wild, chances are it originated on HK Golden. The same applies to new Cantonese slang, which is born on the platform before spreading out into the real world. Notable successes of the forum include its use as a discussion and organization platform during the Occupy protests, and 2014 Fruit Chan movie "The Midnight After," which was adapted from the novel "Lost on a Red Mini Bus to Tai Po," which user "Mr. Pizza" posted in serialized form to HK Golden from February to July 2012.

CY Leung

'Nuff said.



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HK



RUGBY 7S
SPECIAL



SEVENS HEAVEN

We're just one week away from the Rugby Sevens, aka Hong Kong's biggest, baddest party. Still haven't got your week planned out? **Xavier Ng** rounds up where to go and what to do (and drink...) over Sevens week.

BEFORE THE GAMES

The Sevens craze starts well before the actual games commence. Get warmed up and set that rugby spirit ablaze with these pre-event parties.

A Load of Hassel

Kick off the craziness with the **HKSevens Kick-off Concert**—hosted by the one-and-only "Baywatch" legend David Hasselhoff. The Hoff will present Scots rockers The Proclaimers and ABBA tribute band Björn Again in one of the most hilarious lineups that's ever been created in the history of mankind.

Apr 6, 5-11pm. Sevens Village, Indian Recreation Club, 63 Caroline Hill Rd., Causeway Bay. \$199 from ticketflap.com

Win Sevens Tickets!

Thanks to the Hong Kong Rugby Union, we've got a pair of **three-day tickets** to the Sevens up for grabs! We've also got **10 pairs of tickets** to the HKSevens Kick-off Concert, hosted by David Hasselhoff! Want to win? Email competitions@hkmagmedia.com with your best Sevens moment—on or off the pitch. Competition closes at **10am on Tuesday, April 5!**



Games On!

Here are the coolest rugby games you don't want to miss this week...

GFI HKFC 10s Rugby Tournament Cup Final:
Thursday, Apr 7, 7:50pm

HK Women's Rugby Sevens Cup Final:
Friday, Apr 8, 5:24pm

Sevens World Series Pool D Game 19—
Fiji vs Canada:
Friday, Apr 8, 8:06pm

Sevens Qualifier Tournament—
Hong Kong vs Zimbabwe:
Saturday, Apr 9, 10:50am

Sevens World Series Cup Final:
Sunday, Apr 10, 7pm

Carnival Fun

Who doesn't love a carnival? Check out the hottest (and only) carnival of the week right in the middle of Central. The **Lan Kwai Fong Sevens Carnival** on Tuesday is the perfect dress rehearsal for your Sevens costume, and you can get the week started with live music, HKSevens rugby ambassadors and plenty of pre-game drinking.

Apr 5, 7-11pm. Lan Kwai Fong, Central. Free.

A-list Treatment

So you didn't make the Hong Kong Sevens squad this year? Not to worry. Young'uns can head to the **Rugby Union's Rugby Clinics** at HKSevens Central on Wednesday and Thursday, where a line-up of A-list Sevens ambassadors including rugby legends David Campese, Christian Cullen and Colin Gregor will be giving out pointers to improve their skills.

Apr 6, 10am-4pm, Apr 7, 10am-5pm. Chater Garden, Central, free.





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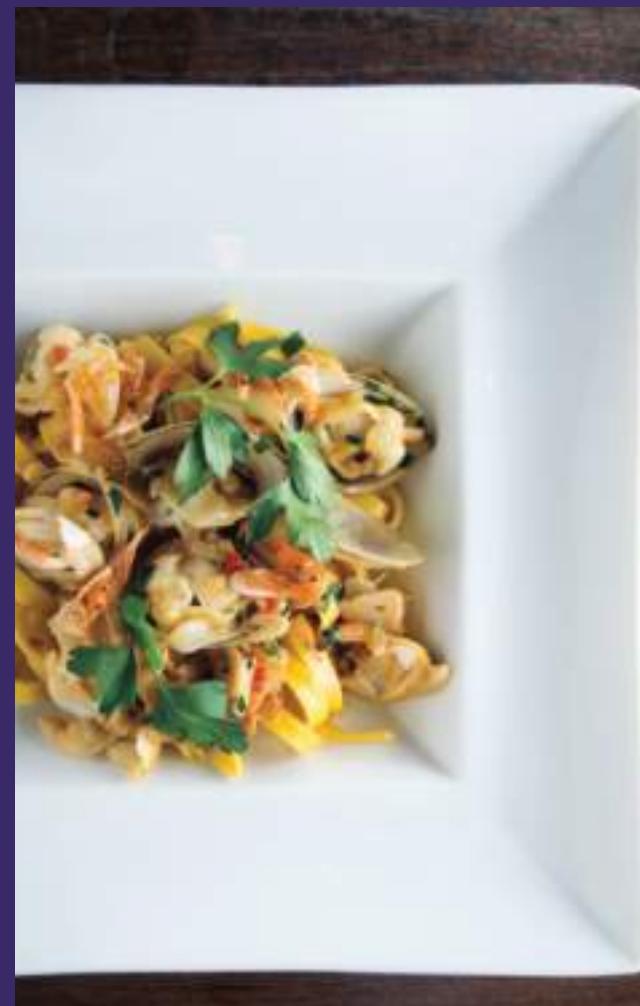


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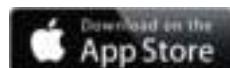
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DURING THE GAMES

The Rugby Sevens runs from April 8-10, during which 16 international teams, including defending champions Fiji, will go head to head in hopes of picking up much needed points in the HSBC Sevens World Series. Not lucky enough to have landed a ticket? Here's where to check out the games regardless.

Center of Attention

The Rugby Union has transformed Chater Garden into Sevens party HQ for the weekend. Head to **HKSevens Central**, where you'll be able to catch all the stadium action on the big screen. On top of the games, a range of kids' activities, live entertainment and a variety of food and drinks options will all be available.

Apr 6-10, various times. Chater Garden, Central, free entry.

Village People

Location, location, location—it's all about proximity to the action and the **HSBC Sevens Village** has that covered. As the official village of the games, you'll get to watch live streaming of the tournament on a giant screen throughout the weekend, as well as have the chance to meet—or even beat—some of rugby's greatest legends at the Rugby Sevens Superstar's Challenge. With plenty of food and drink up for grabs and a family-friendly atmosphere, it's a must-visit over the Sevens weekend.

Apr 8, noon-final whistle, Apr 9, 8am-final whistle, Apr 10, 8:30am-final whistle. Indian Recreation Club, 63 Caroline Hill Rd., Causeway Bay, free entry.

You're Inn

Couldn't get into the stadium? Go for the next best thing and head to **Inn Side Out**, just around the corner. The top-floor beer bar will be showing all the games on their big screens, so you can chug down a beer or two (or seven) while cheering on the Hong Kong side. Expect a big crowd after the games as they flock from the stadium to the nearest bar in sight.

2/F, SCAA, 88 Caroline Rd., Causeway Bay, 2895-2900.





Doggie Style

Even though the Kennedy Town branch is closed, the remaining **Bulldog's / The Doghouse** in Kowloon and Wan Chai will still be showing the games for all those unlucky pups who haven't landed a ticket. Chowing down on pub grub while catching all the action: Sounds like a perfect Sevens weekend.

TST: Shop G5-UG15, Tsim Sha Tsui Centre, 66 Mody Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui East, 2311-6993.
Wan Chai: 72-86 Lockhart Rd., Wan Chai, 2528-0868.

Storming In

Of course, how could you miss Lan Kwai Fong? Check out **Stormies**, LKF's staple sports bar, for live rugby and live partying. The bar will also be giving out a set of Sunday tickets on Saturday, April 2. Feeling lucky? Order a beer and cross your fingers...

G/F & 1/F, 46 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2845-5533.

Frites Feast

Catch the Sevens with some ice cold Belgian beer on tap at **Frites**. What's more, if you're a lucky Sevens ticket holder, head to one of the branches (including the Causeway Bay one, which is just 10 minutes from the stadium) and you can get a free pint of Stella Artois if you order a main course.

Various locations including 38 Haven St., Causeway Bay, 2142-5233.



Photo: Nora Tam/SCMP, Power Sport Images for HKRFU

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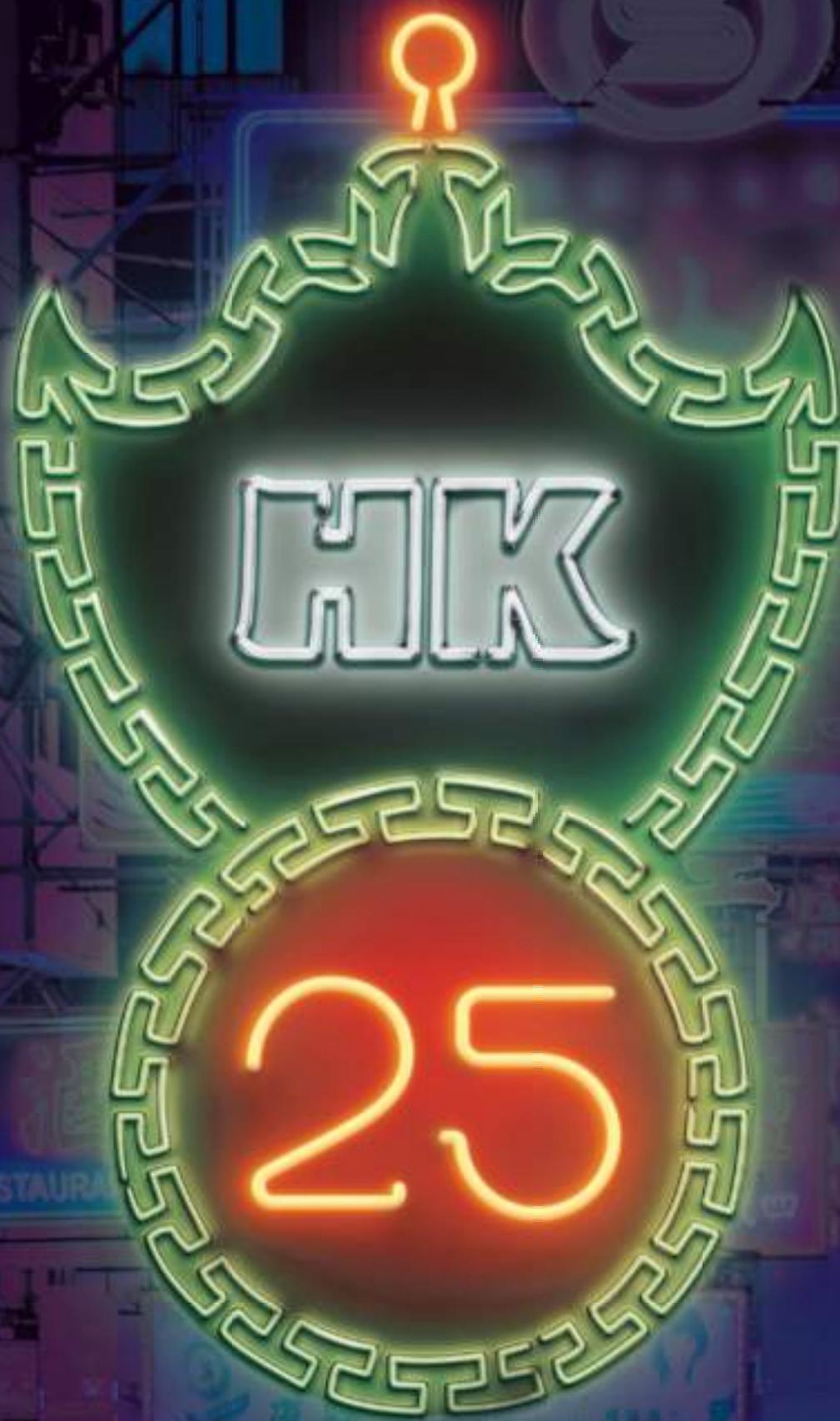
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A Street Car Named Debris

"Debris," a new multi-disciplinary exhibition by Portuguese artist Alexandre Farto (better known as Vhils), takes commuters on a trip through Hong Kong through Vhils' eyes. Passengers board an artsplashed tram at Pier 4 in Central and ride past various iconic locations across the city which have been reinterpreted through the use of drilling, billboard collages, neon light boxes and sculpture.

Through Apr 4. Pier 4, Man Kwong St., Central, alexandrefarto.com

Edited and styled by Rafael Raya Cano
Instagram @RafaelRayaCano | rcano.co



SUIT UP

When it's time to look sharp, smart and put-together, whether in the office or out, there's nothing like a suit to do the job. Here are nine do's and don'ts to up your suit game.



Do: Hide that ugly undershirt

Don't let a white undershirt appear above your dress shirt at the neck: It's unnecessary. Go buy yourself some v-neck undershirts or even better, just don't wear one. If you absolutely must, make sure you're wearing a tie.

Don't: Forget about the buttons

Never button the last button of your suit jacket—and always unbutton the jacket when you sit. You're supposed to close all the buttons on a dress shirt. If you can't close the top button without choking yourself: Go get a new shirt.

Cotton poplin dot contrast shirt, \$1,434 from Milk Shirts, Room 503, Wing On Plaza, 62 Mody Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui.

Do: Pair with a waistcoat

Some people think three-pieces are old-fashioned, but when the waistcoat has the right fit, you'll look slim and modern. This one's part of a three-piece suit from my brand, RCANO, but Hola Classic also has great waistcoats.

Hola Classic, G/F, 11A Caroline Hill Rd., Causeway Bay, 2870-0246.

Don't: Forget about fit

Waistcoats come in many different cuts and styles. They are worn to add another layer of formality, to add contrast or as a figure-enhancing piece. Make sure it's the right fit and style for you, otherwise it will look out of place and ruin your whole outfit. A tip: Waistcoats should sit just above the top of the belt line.

Do: Get it tailored

Even the most expensive suit will look bad if it is not tailored to your body. Tailoring your pants a little shorter will add distinctiveness to a simple look, while thin lapels and double vents are more modern and fashionable. For a more casual and trendy look, go for a single-button jacket.

Two piece navy suit, starting at \$2,280 from rcano.co

Don't: Keep that high school suit

Chances are, your old suit is worn and baggy. Keep in mind that your shirt cuffs shouldn't go over your hands, the shoulder of your suit should hug your own shoulders, and there should be no gap between the collar of your shirt and the collar of your jacket.

Do: Leave your gym watch at home

Save the bulky sports watch for the gym or your outdoor-adventure excursions. It has no place with a suit. Wear a thin, silver, gold or black, elegant watch and you can't go wrong!



Iconic 38SS silver watch, \$1,715 from Nordic Time, nordic-time.com

Do: Accessorize

If you do choose to wear a tie clip, make sure it's never wider than your tie. But remember to not over-accessorize—if you're already wearing a pocket square and a tie clip, don't dig out a lapel pin. And save your necklaces and bracelets for the weekend: They're inappropriate with a suit.



Gunmetal moustache tie clip, \$350 from Cuffs, 2/F, Yuen Yick Building, 27-29 Wellington St., Central, 2413-8098, cuffs.hk

Do: Make your tie stand out

Thin or thick, it doesn't matter: Don't be afraid to express yourself by mixing and matching contrasting patterns and shades. Colored ties can fit a wide range of occasions, and pairing a patterned tie on a patterned shirt is a good look for the office. Your tie should end at or just before your belt.



Silk polka dot necktie, \$280 from Cuffs.

Got a great street style shot? Tag us on Instagram @HK_Magazine!

ESCAPE ROUTES

Edited by Sophia Lam
sophia.lam@hkmagmedia.com

Tired of hour-long queues for a seat at that "must-eat" restaurant? Embark on these tantalizing food tours around Asia and discover little-known gems as you dig into the heart of a city's culinary landscape.

Korea: Spice and Everything Nice

Korean food may be traditionally made for sharing, but fear not, single travelers: **O'ngo Food Communications** has you covered. Their Night Dining Tour (US\$88 (\$682)) will take you on an adventure through Seoul's thriving food scene.

Stroll through Gwangjang Street Market for finger-licking Korean snacks and feel your mouth water as you watch Korean *ahjumma* aunties dish up piping-hot cheap eats. Make sure you have a go at the crispy mung bean pancakes, one of the market's signature dishes, made from ground mung bean with specks of kimchi. In a local barbecue house enjoy the view of your meat sizzling on the grill plates, alongside dozens of free-refill side dishes such as sautéed cucumber and potato with soy sauce. Last of all, savor the spicy-sweet combo of chewy ddeokbokki rice cakes to end the day on a high.

The tour starts at 6pm and lasts for three and a half hours, with four stops scheduled along the way. Non-alcoholic options are available, so kids are free to join; but if you want to embrace the full Korean dining experience, take advantage of traditional rice wine tastings at each stop along the way.

ongofood.com

Vietnam: Streets of Saigon

What's better than a guided tour that walks you through local foodies' favorites? A guided tour where you don't need to walk! Sit tight on a scooter as the English-speaking guides of **Saigon Food Tour** whiz you through the busy streets of Vietnam's largest city.

Founded in 2014, Saigon Food Tour is getting rave reviews for the authentic taste of Vietnam it offers. There are three tour packages to choose from: Grab a cup of slow-drip Vietnamese coffee before shopping for exotic spices during the "Taste of the Morning" tour for US\$48 (\$372); or discover off-the-guidebook hidden gems as you chow on street food during the "Taste of the Night" tour, priced at US\$60 (\$465). A local dinner of seafood and street eats awaits you at the "Saigon by Night" tour, priced at US\$48 (\$372). Drink in a steaming bowl of pho brimming with barely-cooked beef, onions, mint and bean sprouts, and finish off the night with a sweet grass jelly and mixed fruits soup.

Saigon Food Tour is also launching a "One tour for one meal" charity program in which proceeds go towards the needy, so you can eat to your heart's content in the knowledge that it's for a good cause.

saigonfoodtour.com

**Japan: The Food Capital**

People travel from all over the world to sample Japan's world-famous cuisine, and there's no better way to experience the endless eats on offer than with an insider guiding you around the tasty streets. Founded by a team of real Tokyoites passionate about food, **Food Tours Tokyo** hosts tours that will have you exclaiming "oishii!" from beginning to end.

Take your pick from an array of gastronomic tours like the "Walk and Taste Tsukiji Fish Market Morning Tour": Priced at JPY18,000 (\$1,230) for a small group of up to six people, venture deep into the alleys of the famous Tsukiji fish market, your taste buds tingling in the salty air as you ogle at piles of salmon, tuna and jumbo crabs. Not a fan of sashimi? The outer market has loads of hot snacks to offer as well, from crunchy deep-fried fishcakes to fluffy sweet omelets.

Alternatively, for the same price you can opt for the "Delicious Downtown Shinjuku Izakaya Evening Tour," where you'll feast on ramen and yakitori (skewered chicken) in classic Japanese gastropubs.

Drink in the nostalgic ambience—alongside plenty of chilled sake.
foodtourstokyo.com

Thailand: Bangkok's Bangin' Eats

Eat like a local with the guides from the **Bangkok Food Tours**, where you'll be able to immerse yourself in the rich history and culinary culture of Thailand's capital.

If you're up for something authentically Thai, the Offbeat Floating Markets Food Tour for THB3,600 (\$791) is just your cup of tea. You'll swing by three floating markets on the rivers that roll out through the Samut Songkram Province, including the Tha Kha Floating market and the Amphawa Floating market, during the full-day journey. Relish roasted bananas dripping with syrup and sticky rice in bamboo leaves. Then hitch a ride on a row boat as you paddle your way through a coconut farm and learn the secrets of coconut sugar making.

Another day trip takes you to Ayutthaya, the capital of Siam and a UNESCO world heritage site. An enlightening experience for the stomach as well as the mind, the Ancient Ayutthaya Food and History Tour (minimum THB2,800 (\$615), depending on the group size) will show you around stunning temples while feeding you with local delicacies made from centuries-old recipes. Make your own roti saimai, the Thai-style candy floss, and get a taste of Thailand's other beloved sweet treats.

bangkokfoodtours.com



Scrummy Dining

Missed out on a Sevens ticket this year? Head to one of these neighborhood bars to catch all the action live with a cozy seat and a cold beer in hand. By **Leslie Yeh**



◀ Fancy Scrums

Catch the rugby in style at the Mandarin Oriental's **Captain's Bar**, which will be broadcasting the action in posh surrounds with special lunch and dinner menus available throughout the weekend. Hunker down on one of the plush red leather armchairs and dig into amped-up versions of fish and chips (\$248), Hainan chicken rice (\$268), beef burgers (\$168) and spicy tandoori chicken tikka makhani (\$238). Of course, the Sevens revelry wouldn't be complete without plenty of beer—Mandarin's seasonal beer on tap is from Hong Kong's own Young Master brewery, and is a light Belgian-style brew with floral hints of jasmine, osmanthus and chrysanthemum. Sounds too delicate for the rough-and-tumble Sevens? Drink four and then let's talk.

5 Connaught Rd., Central, 2522-0111.

◀ Jockeying for Pub Grub

Get your fill of burgers, baby back ribs and French fries at **The Jockey**, a quaint pub nestled in Happy Valley right near the heart of the action (who knows, maybe you'll be able to catch the sounds of distant cheering?). This neighborhood watering hole is giving rugby fans something large and tasty to tackle outside of the playing field: a full rack of saucy, caramelized baby back ribs paired with crispy, hand-cut fries (\$268). The set also comes with a 1-liter "charge-down" cup that you can take home with you as a souvenir—after you polish off the Carlsberg in it, that is.

33 Wong Nai Chung Rd., Happy Valley, 2572-2266.

The Luck of the Irish

Old-fashioned Irish bar **McSorley's** is the perfect place to catch the Sevens action short of being up in the stands—complete with comfortable chairs, large screen TVs and fantastic food to boot (plus no one will be sloshing their beer all over you). A booming sound system puts you right in the thick of the action as you nosh on mouthwatering pub grub—think risotto balls (\$78), crispy crab cakes (\$98) and beef & Guinness pie (\$145). From now until Apr 10, the pub is offering a Ribs & 1L Carlsberg Combo (\$268) that you can feast on while rooting for your favorite teams. **Shop G11A, G/F, D'Deck, Discovery Bay, 2987-8280.**

South African Sevens Dinner

What better way to get hyped up for the sports event of the year than by dining with the players?

Join the **Southern African Association of Hong Kong** for their 21st annual Sevens dinner, where you can meet, greet, and dine with players from the Blitzbokke, South Africa's national rugby team. Get pumped for the main event with speaker Ian McIntosh—who's been picking the Springboks team for years—while dining on fancy fare from the Hong Kong Football Club, and vintage bottles from Wines of South Africa.

Apr 6, 6:30pm. \$10,450 for tables of 12, \$960 per individual. Email sahkinfo@gmail.com to RSVP, wosa.hk



◀ Diamond Formation

Majored in beer pong back in uni? Now's your chance to put those frat-boy skills to the test for the chance to win last-minute Sevens tickets. Stop by **Grand Central** on April 7 and face-off in the ultimate beer pong competition to win a set of two Sevens tickets for one game day, along with limited Carlsberg mini gifts. If you get knocked out, you can still console yourself with generous pints of Carlsberg and the pub's American-portioned bar snacks, from deep-fried buffalo wings dripping in hot sauce to crispy nachos piled high with all the fixings. Head back to Grand Central's spacious two-story digs to catch the games, televised live April 8-10.

Apr 7, 6-8:30pm. Purchase a 1-liter Carlsberg beer (\$180) to enter the competition. Shop R001, 3/F & Roof, Civic Square, Elements, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 2736-4888.

For full listings of Sevens dining events, visit hk-magazine.com/restaurants.

Pizza Pass ▶

For those who feel exhausted just thinking about navigating the throngs of wild, boozed-up fans at the stadium, **Spasso** presents a relaxed alternative where you can catch the games as well as great food, beer and wine, all with a waterfront view. The party kicks off with a pretty sweet pizza deal: 13" handcrafted pizzas available for just \$100, with flavors including spicy salami, prosciutto and funghi, and a special "Rugby 7's" pie loaded with tomato sauce, sausage, mozzarella and rosemary gorgonzola. Round out the pizza viewing party with buckets of chilled Peronis (\$320 for six bottles), or pints of Carlsberg and Asahi (\$78 each).

Apr 8-10, 2:30-5:30pm. G5-8, 12-17, Empire Centre, 68 Mody Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui East, 2730-8027.



#HKMagDish

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ASIA MILES  **LIFE REWARDED**

FIRST BITE

We tuck into the hottest new tables in town

Edited by Leslie Yeh
leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com

Animalistic Cravings

New K-Town eatery **Vanimal** proves that vegetables are anything but boring.

Vegetables have had their fair share of the spotlight in recent years: Hong Kong has adopted each new health trend faster than you can say "home-brewed kombucha"—from the coconut water craze to cold-pressed juices and mountains of kale everywhere you look. Despite this, most of us omnivores aren't quite ready to pick out a vegetarian restaurant just for the sake of "eating healthy."

But what if that primordial pleasure was present in chewing on meaty chunks of grilled mushrooms, or diving into a wild and robust veggie paella alive with contrasting flavors and textures? **Vanimal**, the newest addition to Kennedy Town's

stable of hip, concept-driven restos, aims to answer the question: Can vegetarian eating be just as exciting as diving into a plate of ribs or gnawing on a char-grilled bone-in steak?

For starters, the cooking is distinctly modern—there's a sensibility to textures, geometry on the plate and even molecular-inflected preparations that hint at a chef who's gained experience in kitchens outside of Hong Kong. That someone is Paul Hui—co-owner and lead "gastronomist"—who studied in Florence and ran the private kitchen Fa Zu Jie for six years before developing the idea for **Vanimal**: An eatery where vegetarians could go to enjoy a meal just as thrilling as their carnivorous counterparts, and where non-vegetarians could go to experience greens from an all-new point of view.

From the moment you step through the warehouse-style sliding doors, **Vanimal** tries to fight the mindset that vegetarianism is boring—from the energetic R&B beats to the glossy produce display marked as the "day's catch," intended to evoke the same anticipation as the fish tanks in a seafood restaurant.

"Can vegetarian eating be just as exciting as gnawing on a bone-in steak?"



The menu leans mostly Asian, with fried croquettes made with black-eyed beans on a dusting of turnip powder, or a vegetable tempura medley of lightly-fried lotus root, asparagus, and eggplant that's brushed through green tea salt and fermented bean curd powder. The grilled French horn mushroom—sliced crosswise like a rib eye—highlights the ingredient's inherent meatiness with a butter soy sauce, while the slow-cooked Japanese egg with cèpes and shiitakes in a ring of Jerusalem artichoke chips demonstrates the focus on contrasting textures and rhythms that seems to be Paul's MO. For the grand finale, don't miss the **Vanimal Paella**, a complete and wholly satisfying dish—without a single animal in sight.

It's worth noting that the drinks list is about 10 times as long as the food menu, and with lip-smacking cocktails, a cozy long bar and the promise of robata skewers in the future, **Vanimal** has huge potential as a destination for pre-dinner tipplings and snacks. But if you miss the main event, you've only got yourself to blame.

Recommended: Japanese egg, fried potato "dual," vegetable tempura, "Chocolate 5572"

Prices: \$88-128, \$368 paella to share, \$100 cocktails

Open: Wed-Mon, 6-11pm

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

Chef's Fave!

Vanimal Paella

"The rice is cooked in three types of stock—morel, bean and veggies—until it's chewy and has absorbed tons of flavor. It's finished off in the oven with a colorful mix of roasted lily bulbs, lotus root, baby carrots from Australia, morels, turnips and radish."

—Chef Paul Hui



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RESTAURANT REVIEWS

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Lobster and Mussels by Paul's Kitchen ★★★★☆

European/Seafood. G/F, 16 Gough St., Central, 2815-8003.



After moving a few doors down, Gough Street stalwart Paul's Kitchen has rebranded with a focus on just two items—you can guess which ones. Flown in from Boston, the quality of the seafood is evident, although preparations are touch-and-go.

■ HIT The lunch set ranges from \$168-228 and includes a starter, main, and coffee/tea. To start, we chose the pan-seared Hokkaido scallops (\$45 add-on) and the lobster bisque (\$35 add-on). The scallops were beautifully cooked, tender and raw with a golden crust, while the bisque had depth of flavor.

The moules pot (\$208 for 600g, \$148 for 300g in the set) was filled with tender Boston mussels in a tasty white wine cream sauce.

■ MISS While we understand a chef taking liberties to reinvent classic dishes, we couldn't help but weep at the distorted version of a lobster roll served here (\$188). The mango salsa (WHY mango salsa?!) completely overwhelmed the fresh lobster meat and the flavor combination fell flat. What's more, it had seeped through the roll, which was a flabby brioche-like bread rather than the sturdy butter-grilled split-top bun it should have been.

■ BOTTOM LINE A cozy restaurant to feast on fresh Boston lobsters and mussels, but head elsewhere for your lobster roll fix.

**Open Mon-Fri noon-3pm, 6-11pm;
Sat-Sun 11am-3pm, 6-11pm. \$\$**

Ratings

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

Price Guide

\$ Less than \$200	\$\$ \$200-\$399	\$\$\$ \$400-\$599	\$\$\$\$ \$600-\$799	\$\$\$\$\$ \$800 and up
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High Street Cart Noodles ★★★★☆

Cart noodles. G/F, 39 High St., Sai Ying Pun, 2858-2680.



Cart noodles—in which you pick everything that goes in your bowl—can be forbidding for the noodle newbie. But this stylish new Sai Ying Pun noodle shop makes it easy.

■ HIT There's a wealth of ingredients to pick from on the bilingual menu here, and staff are happy to walk the clueless through the process. You choose at least three ingredients, most of which are \$9, then choose your preferred noodle (also \$9) and soup base (from clear soup to curry or even a Sichuan mala broth). It all works out to about \$40 for a big bowl. The beef brisket broth

was dark and rich in flavor, with a satisfyingly herby, almost medicinal aftertaste. Ingredients were of a high standard: An onsen-style egg had a delicious, runny yolk, while the marinated pork belly was similar to what you'd find at a Japanese ramen joint. Pig's blood cubes were springy and flavorful, and our shaved noodles were clearly freshly made. The fried cheung fun rice rolls (\$28) were a highlight: pan-fried with egg and then drenched in peanut and sesame sauce.

■ MISS The beef brisket itself, while making for a wonderful broth, was sadly lackluster as an ingredient: a little tough and flavorless. We were disappointed to learn that the marinated chicken's testicles were sold out.

■ BOTTOM LINE A noodle shack we'll happily revisit.

Open daily 11am-9pm. \$

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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CITY STROLL

Tin Hau

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



1 Sister Wah

This famed noodle shop serves up some of the best beef brisket and tendon in the city. The beef is tender and very well cooked: Go for the dandan broth for an extra hit of flavor. Expect long queues, but food is served fast—and it's eaten fast, too.

G/F, 13A, Electric Rd., Tin Hau,
2807-0181.



2 Tin Hau Temple

The temple that gives the neighborhood its name was built by the Hakka Tai family in the early 1700s, and it's not changed much since then. The area's residents may not be fishermen any more, but they still visit the goddess Tin Hau to pray for prosperity.

10 Tin Hau Temple Rd., Tin Hau.



3 S-yoco

Not been to Taipei in an age? This little stall serves plenty of Taiwanese snack food, such as egg wraps and burgers in a distinctive garlic and soy sauce. All the taste of Taiwanese street food—and none of the air fare.

G/F, 96 Electric Rd., Tin Hau, 6402-6976.



4 Silly Boo

Tired feet from all that strolling? Grab a cuppa at Silly Boo and watch the foodies of Tin Hau go by. This cosy café serves up quality all-day breakfasts, although silliness seems to be in regrettably short supply.

G/F, 96 Electric Road, Tin Hau,
2570-8030.



5 Ganguya

The owner of Ganguya certainly likes his old-school Japanese cartoons: The walls of this izakaya are plastered with posters, while the shelves are packed with figurines. Leaf through a manga book or two while you wait on fresh sashimi or freshly grilled meats.

G/F, 16 Ngan Mok St., Tin Hau,
2348-7800.



6 Palki Indian Restaurant

Tin Hau isn't just about the Asian vibes. Palki serves up affordable, classic Indian dishes to sate your every spicy need. We'd go for the tandoori chicken and garlic naan, because if it ain't broke...

G/F, Fook Wah Mansion, 2 Tsing Fung St.,
2566-8411.



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

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HK

UPCLOSE: SAMSON YOUNG



Samson Young is a sound artist from Hong Kong and last year's recipient of the BMW Art Journey Award. This year at Art Basel, he designed a multimedia walk around Hong Kong, titled "So You Are Old by the Time You Reach the Island." He tells Jessica Wei about sights, sounds and video arcades.



Photo courtesy: Samson Young

HK Magazine: Tell us about your multimedia walk for Art Basel.

Samson Young: It's based on this fictional secret organization called the "Ministry of Gentlemanly Warfare," which is similar to a real organization that was founded by Winston Churchill during the Second World War. It's basically an organization that conducts various forms of sabotage and espionage. So there's this secret organization, which is fictional, and there's a character in this secret organization called Lok: He's a senior engineer. He goes along the coastlines of Hong Kong to install pirate radio broadcasts as forms of sonic sabotage. When you go along this path on the multimedia walk, you're hearing the story of how he did it, or why he did.

HK: How did you first get into sound art?

SY: It was pretty organic. In my undergraduate years, I was basically a composer and nothing else. I came back to Hong Kong [after university] and I met a bunch of new media artists. From collaborations, I slowly learned how to do the things these other people were doing. When I went to graduate school, it was much easier for me to make my video, or build circuits, or learn programming to do the things that I wanted to do. And after that my palate expanded. It was never a conscious effort of, "I want to break boundaries." It was like, "I have this work I want to make."

HK: Are creating sound art and composing music getting more similar, given how technology is making it easier for sound and visuals to mix?

SY: Music has always been very fluid, in terms of its representation across mediums. Dance is a perfect example of music crossing into another media. I think it's actually quite natural to us to have these sorts of senses crossing. But what has become easier is learning new tools. So now, if I want to program for an interactive element of a piece or build a circuit for a musical installation, it's much easier for me to go on the Internet and try to learn it myself with tutorial videos. That would not have been possible two decades ago. Now there are expectations for artists to be dabbling into these different things.

HK: What is your favorite place, sonically?

SY: I love how video arcades sound.

HK: Really? Isn't it so chaotic?

SY: Yeah! It's a cacophony of sound! Everyone is screaming on top of each other, it's so loud. But I like how when you're walking, you get a little lost, and for the first half minute you're not sure if the sound is coming from the machine right next to you or somewhere else, and it takes a moment for you to figure out where that soundtrack is. You're trying to lock into that sound and once you're locked in, you can't hear anything else but that.

HK: What can we expect from you in the coming months?

SY: I am doing a new work with Para Site, which is also a piece about sound: That's happening in May.

Find out more about Samson's work at thismusicisfalse.com

Classical

A Renaissance Easter Journey

Tallis Vocalis, the city's first early music vocal ensemble, is presenting a special performance, including a new version of Allegri's iconic "Miserere." Apr 1, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, \$80-320 from urbtix.hk.



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

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



Beethoven "Emperor" Concerto with Saleem Ashkar

Israeli-Palestinian piano virtuoso Saleem Ashkar makes his Hong Kong début with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta. He'll be playing Beethoven's "Emperor" concerto, Schumann's "Spring" symphony, as well as premiering "Efflorescence" by Hong Kong composer Daniel Lo Ting-cheung. If you're not feeling the swing of spring already, you will be after this gig. Apr 9, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, 2111-5999, \$140-340 from urbtix.hk.



Recital Series 2016: Louis Schwizgebel

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

Dance

Little Pieces

City Contemporary Dance Company opens the 2016 season with Dominic Wong's "Little Pieces," which explores our relationship with choreography, and how it touches people's emotions. Twerking certainly touches ours. Apr 15-16, 8pm; Apr 16-17, 3pm. Studio Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$160-220 from urbtix.hk.



I, Carmen

Spanish flamenco artist María Pagés returns to Hong Kong with a new take on the classic tale of "Carmen." But instead of the original story's femme fatale, this retelling reflects the real lives and feelings of ordinary women. May 27-28, 8pm. Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall, 1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin, \$180-450 from urbtix.hk.

La Partida

Flamenco dancer Adrian Santana returns to Hong Kong for a one-night performance of his new show, "La Partida" ("departure"). Santana depicts his personal experiences of both Spain and Asia, through the medium of dance. Performing in collaboration with both Spanish and Hong Kong dancers and musicians, this is looking like one multicultural passion-fest. May 14, 8pm. Youth Square Y-Studio, 2/F, 238 Chai Wan Rd., Chai Wan, \$280-450 from ticketflap.com/lapartida.



Swan Lake on Ice

Don't worry: There are no ugly ducklings in this world-renowned ice capade. The cast of Swan Lake on Ice slides into Hong Kong to present acrobatic moves and drama alike, all on a frozen theater stage. Apr 27-May 8, various times. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$345-945 from urbtix.hk.

A Tale of Two Cities: Blood for Blood

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

Musicals



Jersey Boys

Currently playing in London's West End and on Broadway, this smash hit musical tells the remarkable story of 1960s group Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons—four boys from the wrong side of the tracks who became one of the most successful, most falsetto-tastic groups in music history. Apr 13-May 1, various times. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$395-1095 from lunchboxticketing.com.

Theater

The Illusionists

Magic, illusion and mind-reading come together straight from Broadway to Hong Kong. An ensemble of top-flight magicians brings their individual specialties to this group show. Did you ever see the movie "Now You See Me?" It'll be like that, only not awful. Apr 14-24, various times. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$445-995 from urbtix.hk.

Classes & Workshops

The Kaleidoscopic World of Musical Theatre

Want to know more about musical theater? Here's a chance to learn from the experts. Tenor David Quah will host four lectures, each one delving into hit musicals of different genres. He'll be giving live demonstrations, alongside pianist Timmy Tsang. The first talk on April 6 is all about pre-1970s musicals. When do we get to talk about "Hamilton"? Apr 6, 13, 20, 27, 7:30pm. Lecture Hall, Hong Kong Space Museum, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$50 from urbtix.hk.

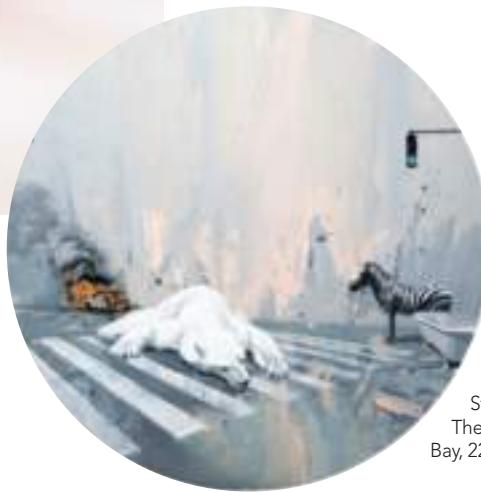


Exhibitions



Pacific Red by Larry Bell

American artist Larry Bell brings his iconic glass cubes to Pacific Place. Visitors will be left basking in red light after interacting with his three large-scale sculptures: Each glass face sends a different beam of light outwards, altering and shifting the artwork depending on how the audience interacts with it. Don't miss this chance to see Bell's fragile art—the glass cubes are often accidentally destroyed when they're dismantled. If that isn't a comment on the transience of light, color and art, then what is? Through Apr 17. Golden Court, Level LG1, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, pacificplace.com.hk/happenings.



Wyng Masters Award Exhibition

Since 2012, the Wyng Foundation has held an annual award for up and coming photographers in and around Hong Kong. This year, contestants have submitted pieces on the theme of "Identity," and the resulting exhibition has a huge range of diverse interpretations of the theme, from sexual representation to family history, social activism, politics and more. Apr 9-19. Hong Kong Central Library, 66 Causeway Rd., Causeway Bay, wyngmastersaward.hk.



Mao Yanyang: Confession in the Ruins

Visit the Ebb & Flow lobby lounge at the Park Lane Hotel between now and September to check out their new exhibit, "Confession in the Ruins," which features pieces by Mao Yanyang, two-time recipient of the Chinese Art Prize. While you're there, munch on the hotel's exhibit-inspired éclairs, offered in flavors including Lemon Meringue and Strawberry Pop Rocks. Through Sep 15. Ebb & Flow, The Park Lane Hong Kong, 310 Gloucester Rd., Causeway Bay, 2293-8888, parklane.com.hk/ebb-and-flow.html.

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Cultural Presentations Section

NIGHTLIFE

UPCLOSE: KERVIN UNIDO

Having tended bar for three years in Hong Kong across Aqua Spirit, Flint Bar & Grill and now Mr. And Mrs. Fox, **Kervin Unido** is the finalist from the Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan leg of the annual Bacardi Legacy Cocktail Competition, and he'll be heading to the global finals in San Francisco this April. Evelyn Lok sat down with Unido to talk about the literary inspiration behind his cocktail creation, the Reborn Padre Blanco.



HK Magazine: Tell us about your cocktail.

Kervin Unido: It's a straight-up drink: some people might think that it's a daiquiri, but it's not. The daiquiri only needs three ingredients: Bacardi, sugar, and lime. [For the competition], they gave us a maximum of six ingredients. My drink has Bacardi Carta Blanca, guava juice mixed with agave nectar—a sweetener—and lime juice to balance the sweet and sour. I wanted to make it palatable for Hong Kong tastes, but I also made it a little stronger [by topping it off] with lager beer. Then a little bit of egg white for the texture, to give it a bit of foam

along with the lager. I'm using a sweetener because the inspiration for my drink is Ernest Hemingway. When he was living in Cuba he used to drink a lot of daiquiris. He couldn't take sugar because he had a hereditary disease which led to diabetes.

HK: The Hong Kong part of the competition was held at Mr. and Mrs. Fox—did your win have anything to do with it being held on your home turf?

KU: Not really. A lot of my competition was tough. Most of them were more experienced than me: bar managers and supervisors.

The other four were from Taiwan—I watched them and these guys were executing their cocktails very well—even flairing a lot, not to mention their presentation. I didn't flair at all. I just stood tough and did my best.

HK: You'll be up against more than 40 other bartenders at the finals in San Francisco. What do you think the challenges will be?

KU: It's a lot bigger than last year and there will be more pressure. I'm nervous about my competitors. There's another guy from the Philippines as well, called Richie, who also made a cocktail using beer. The competition [process] is similar, but this round I will have to promote my drink more. I'm doing guest shifts. On Apr 1, I will be at the Flint Grill & Bar, and at Swire outlets [including The Continental] the week after.

HK: If you had to make a cocktail to represent Hong Kong, what ingredients would you pick?

KU: I should look for ingredients that are the specialty of Hong Kong, that could easily be made around the world: For me I think longan fruits and mandarin orange, mixed it with a little bit of port wine. I'd use the bauhinia flower as a garnish.

Sip the Reborn Padre Blanco at Mr. and Mrs. Fox, 23 Tong Chong St., Quarry Bay, 2697-8500. See Kervin Unido in action at Flint Bar & Grill (5/F, JW Marriott, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 2810-8366) on Apr 1.



Clubs

Volar Presents Louisahhh!

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



Play Presents: Grandmaster Flash

It's April 1 but it's no joke: Grandmaster Flash was one of the founding fathers of hip hop and a pioneer of using the turntable as an instrument—and he'll be spinning at Play. His group, Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007—the first hip hop group to win the award. Go for hip hop classic "The Message," stay for the beats. Apr 1, 10pm. Play, 1/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central.



Red Rack'em

UK producer, Smuggler's Inn radio broadcaster and Boiler Room regular Daniel Berman, aka Red Rack'em, is heading to Bassment with an energetic and eclectic mix of house, techno and bass. Apr 8, 11pm. Bassment, LG/F, 13 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, \$100 in advance, \$150 at the door; both include one drink.

Studio Presents: RAC

Standing for "Remix Artist Collective," one-man-show and pop/rock remix genius RAC is playing at Studio for one night. You might already know his excellent single "Let Go," featuring Kele from Bloc Party and MNDR. That's a lot of acronyms. Apr 8, 11pm. Studio, 1/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, RSVP through pelago.events.



Paul Oakenfold at Pacha Macau

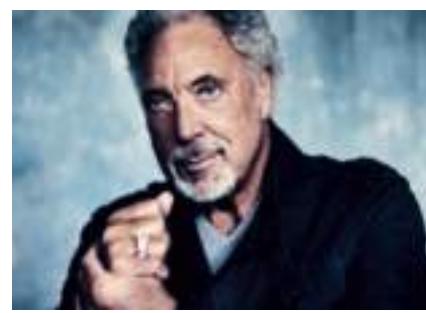
It's trance time! English record producer and veteran DJ Paul Oakenfold spins at Pacha, so if you want to party like it's 1999, you know where to go. Apr 9, 9pm. Pacha Macau, Studio City, Estrado Flor de Lotus, Cotai, Macau, \$250-300 from pachamacau.com/en/events, includes one drink.

Jason Derulo at Club Cubic

Wiggle wiggle wiggle to Cubic's 5th birthday with Jason Derulo. Apr 9, 10pm. \$450 from cubic-cod.com, \$600 at the door. 10pm-midnight for invites only, open to the public after midnight.



Concerts



An Evening with Tom Jones Live

The "Sexbomb"-singing septagenarian returns to Hong Kong. His latest albums "Spirit in the Room," "Praise & Blame" and "Long Lost Suitcase" have garnered some of the best reviews of his 50-year career, so expect some great soul from the suave rocker. Ladies: do NOT throw your underwear at him. It's just unsanitary. Apr 7, 8pm. Grand Hall, HKCEC, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai, 2629-6240. \$688-1,488 from hkticketing.com.

GHD x Cé La Vi Ladies Night

There are officially no reasons left for ladies to stay in on Wednesday nights this April: Cé La Vi's not only continuing its popular free-flow champagne deal (for the first 100 girls who show up), they're also bringing in a team of ghd stylists to give everyone hair makeovers with the brand's new limited edition "the Azores" styler. Apr 1-30. Wednesdays, 9pm-late. Cé La Vi, 24-26/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, Free.



Cliché Records 4th Anniversary

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

Nightlife Events



Mermaid Night

Feeling like a quiet night of drinking? Wan Chai seafood hotspot Fishsteria teams up with Cliché Records for a mellow drinks night aimed at the ladies with \$18 first cocktails, where you'll be serenaded by live violin and chill beats by DJ Miya. \$278 gets you three signature cocktails, \$588 gets you a dozen oysters and a bottle of Chablis wine, while \$1,288 gets you a bottle of Louis Roederer bubbly and a dozen oysters. Apr 13, May 11, 8pm. Fishsteria, G/F & 1/F, 109-111 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, \$278-1288.

The Great Hong Kong Bar Race

If you've ever wondered what playing The Amazing Race while boozed up would be like, The Great Hong Kong Bar Race is the place to find out. In teams of four, you'll be tasked with solving riddles to decipher the names of five watering holes across Hong Kong Island. All money raised will be donated to the Love 21 Foundation, which supports those with Down syndrome and autism in Hong Kong. Apr 23, 3pm. The White Stag, 52 Lockhart Rd., Wan Chai, \$1,200 for teams of four (\$1,000 early bird) from active.com/the-great-hong-kong-bar-race-2016.



Edited by Evelyn Lok
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com

Gigs

Ladybeard Returns to Hong Kong
Bored of the Hong Kong music scene? Here's something completely different. Dressing up as a pigtailed 5-year-old, six-foot-tall Aussie wrestler and "kawaii-core" pioneer Ladybeard returns to Hong Kong for this gig. Known for his metal covers of Cantopop and his Japanese pop-metal band Ladybab (formed together with two Japanese teens), Ladybeard's return is unmissable if you're after something a little more... alternative. Apr 16, 9-11pm; Apr 17, 3-5pm. Focal Fair, 28/F, Park Avenue Tower, 5 Moreton Avenue, Causeway Bay, \$250 from undergroundhk.com, \$300 at the door, VIP tickets \$450 with access to post-show meet and greet.



Brewdog Rocks Again!

Shazza Music and new-to-town craft brewery and bar BrewDog play host to five Hong Kong rock bands: pop-punk kids Joke Ian 捉伊人 (that's Cantonese for "hide-and-seek"), ska stalwarts The Red Stripes, instrumental post rockers Life Was All Silence, hard rockers Tri-Accident and JUNK! aka rapper/sound experimentalist Glen Lloyd. Apr 23, 8:30pm. Orange Peel, 2/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 9486-4648. \$120 from shazzamusic.com, \$150 at the door; both include a bottle of BrewDog Punk IPA.



The Underground: Heavy #12

Hong Kong gig organizer The Underground kicks off its first residency at Orange Peel with a taste of heavy metal. Canto nu-metal rockers 一般性 (JatBunSing) start the night off, followed by LA hard rock from Nasty Dudes, post-hardcore screams from Scream for Silence, rounding off with melodic metal rockers Black Night Red Sky. Apr 7, 8pm. Orange Peel, 2/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 9486-4648. \$90 from undergroundhk.com or Orange Peel, \$120 at the door; both include a Jack Daniels drink.



HK PICKS

Rosé Revolution

Rosé lovers can get their fix of pink bubbly on Mother's Day weekend at the return of the Rosé Revolution, a rosé wine festival making its first stop in Hong Kong before moving on to Singapore, Shanghai and Macau. Sip from 25 different types of rosé from international winemakers, wash it down with a sausage sizzle barbecue on the lawn, and do it all over again. Groups of four can get in on a yum cha group ticket offer, and VIP ticketholders get a premium rosé cocktail as well as VIP lounge access. May 7, 1-7pm. The Garden, Whisky@Stables, 1/F, Hullett House, 1881 Heritage, 2A Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$200-450 from ticketflap.com/roserevolution2016hk; \$1,800 for four for dimsum and rosé at Loong Toh Heen with access to Rosé Revolution.

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Zootopia ★★★★

(USA) Animation. Directed by Byron Howard, Rich Moore, Jared Bush. Starring Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, Idris Elba, Jenny Slate, J.K. Simmons. 108 minutes.

Category I. Opened Mar 24.

A successful Disney/Pixar movie does three main things: It's colorful and action packed. It appeals to children—or to the inner child in all of us. And it teaches important lessons—often about the way you should and shouldn't treat or see others. Disney/Pixar has been setting the bar high in recent years (let's ignore "The Good Dinosaur"): In last year's heartwrencher "Inside Out," it was about the pain and joy that comes with growing up. In "Zootopia," it's all about how people—or anthropomorphic animals—can live together despite their differences.

In Zootopia, a world dominated by mammals—and upright-walking, clothes-wearing and speaking ones at that—prejudices and assumptions about other species are inescapable. Herbivores are immediately considered to be the docile underdogs, whereas predator species are seen as stronger and potentially dangerous. When Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin, TV's "Once Upon a Time") becomes the first bunny to be inducted into the Zootopia police force, she's determined to prove herself worthy. Even when she's given lowly parking meter duty, she jumps at the chance to solve a mysterious case in which 14 mammals go missing across town—and curiously, they're all predators. But when her sole lead to break the case is a wily fox (Jason Bateman), her species' natural enemy, she has to question whether she should put her faith in the predator—or follow everyone's warnings that foxes are never to be trusted.



At face value (well, muzzle value), "Zootopia" may just be about bunnies and foxes, but it's easy to extrapolate the film's truths. How many times have you made assumptions about another's ability or character based on appearance? In "Zootopia," Disney has updated its long-time MO of telling kids they can achieve anything they dream of. Now there's a hint of smartly executed reality, of a middle ground: Yes, you ARE limited by other people's perceptions, but it doesn't mean you shouldn't always try.

The jokes in "Zootopia" are snappy and constant, consistently delivering punchlines beyond what you predict and in the places where you least expect it. While it's not rapid-fire belly laughs, it's sure to keep adults and kids alike entertained. And with undisputedly spectacular animation

and character design, the amount of creativity and detail in this movie is jawdroppingly high—from pun-filled brand names and companies to city living solutions that cater to the tallest giraffe or the tiniest hamster. The scene is perfectly set in Officer Hopps' first commute into the city via futuristic train that worms its way through the city's boroughs of different climates, from desert to rainforest. The guys at Pixar really do think of everything.

Of course as a Disney film, ultimately there's a happy ending, but "Zootopia" is a fantastic feature that's well thought-through. It's meaningful for kids and even more for grown-ups, as you reflect on how people really coexist in life. Just when you thought you knew Disney-Pixar, they knock it out of the park once again. **Evelyn Lok**

Coming Soon

Anomalisa ▾

(UK) This painstakingly shot Oscar-nominated stop-motion flick by Charlie Kaufman ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind") and Duke Johnson follows an inspirational speaker (David Thewlis) who is bored with his cookie-cutter life—until he meets a woman (Jennifer Jason Leigh) at a conference who shakes things up. Opens Apr 7.

The Himalayas

(South Korea) The latest film by Lee Seok-Hoon ("Dancing Queen") is centered on the careers of two South Korean mountaineers who try to scale Everest in order to retrieve the body of a stranded team member under ever more forbidding circumstances. Morbid... Opens Apr 7.

The Huntsman: Winter's War

(UK/USA) Disney gets dark (and cold) in this prequel/sequel to 2012's "Snow White and the Huntsman." Evil queen Ravenna (Charlize Theron) and her spurned sister (Emily Blunt) are the Magic Mirror, and they're armed with an army of highly trained warriors and the power to freeze any enemy. It's like a gory "Frozen!" Opens Apr 7.

Miracles From Heaven

(USA) Get the tissues ready, because this Christian-flavored faith film will have you sobbing in your seat. Jennifer Garner plays the real-life Christy Beam, whose daughter is diagnosed with a seemingly incurable disease—until she falls into a hollow tree and is miraculously cured. Also starring Queen Latifah as a sympathetic waitress, because obviously. Opens Apr 7.



Trivisa

(Hong Kong) Filmed by three young directors under the wing of Johnnie To, "Trivisa" follows three criminal masterminds (Jordan Chen, Lam Ka-tung, Richie Ren) who are each planning their biggest crimes yet, set against uncertain times leading up to the 1997 Handover. Opens Apr 7.

Opening

The Bodyguard

(Hong Kong) A rare directorial effort from Sammo Hung, but the action film vet proves he's still got it in this latest flick, which is actually titled 特工爺爺—"Special Agent Grandpa" in Cantonese. Andy Lau also makes an appearance as a thief. *OF OUR HEARTS*. Opened Apr 1.



Eddie the Eagle

(USA/UK) Taron Egerton ("Kingsman: The Secret Service") is Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, a real-life British ski jumper who represented the UK in the 1988 winter Olympics—and came dead last. Growing up with Olympic dreams, he receives coaching from a reluctant ex-Olympian Bronson Peary (Hugh Jackman), who in turn learned his stuff from Warren Sharp (Christopher Walken). Weirdest cast pairing ever? Opened Mar 31.



Galaxy Turnpike

(Japan) The first sci-fi feature by theater vet Koki Mitani, this comedy was a hit at the Japanese box office. Set in the year 2265 along an interspace highway known as the Galaxy Turnpike, a lone burger joint receives a variety of colorful (alien) customers. It's like if the Mos Eisley Cantina had its own movie! Opened Mar 31.

The Mobfathers

(Hong Kong) Director Herman Yau collaborates again with Chapman To with a peek into the underbelly of triad society. Every three years, the five leading gangs elect their big boss, but only nine of the top-ranked are allowed to vote. Triad flick, or metaphor for Hong Kong's leadership? Opened Mar 31.

Continuing

Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice

(USA) Following up on 2013's "Man of Steel," director Zack Snyder returns with the ultimate showdown between Batman (Ben Affleck) and Superman (Henry Cavill), who duke it out in Metropolis. Also featuring the first appearances of Wonder Woman, Aquaman, The Flash and Cyborg. Squeee!

Brooklyn

(USA) A romantic immigrant's tale in 1950s Brooklyn, pre-hipster takeover. Saoirse Ronan is an Irish girl who falls for an Italian plumber, but meets another man when she returns to her homeland on a visit. A charming fable told well, with a vivid performance from Ronan to keep the lid on any potential melodrama. ★★★★

Creed

(USA) No comeback is as legendary as Sylvester Stallone's return as Rocky Balboa. The retired boxing star mentors rising talent Adonis (Michael B. Jordan), whose late father was Rocky's old rival Apollo Creed. A classic story of an underdog's victory paired with excellently executed action packs a punch in our books. ★★★★

The Divergent Series: Allegiant

(USA) In the penultimate film of the Divergent Series, protagonist Tris Prior (Shailene Woodley) must explore where her trust and loyalties lie as she and Four (Theo James) escape post-apocalyptic Chicago and try to save their city.



Hail Caesar!

(USA) This new Coen Brothers ensemble epic is an ode to the golden age of Hollywood. Real-life producer Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin) is tasked with his biggest challenge yet when the star of an upcoming period flick (George Clooney) is kidnapped. Starring the likes of Channing Tatum, Scarlett Johansson, Ralph Fiennes and Tilda Swinton, this one's a fun romp despite its light and jumbled plot. ★★★★



Heaven in the Dark

(Hong Kong) Jacky Cheung's getting seduced by Karena Lam all over again after Ann Hui's 2001 "July Rhapsody." Adapted from Hong Kong theater stalwart Candace Chong's play "French Kiss," "Heaven in the Dark" portrays a scandal between Pastor To (Cheung) and Michelle (Lam) after they share a kiss and she files for sexual harassment. The pastor soon loses faith in his religion and Michelle finds solace in it. What happens when they meet years later?

Kung Fu Panda 3

(USA) The dumpling-loving panda savior returns. Reuniting with his long lost father (Bryan Cranston) and finding his true hometown, Po is tasked to train a band of clumsy pandas in the art of martial arts so that they can take on Kai (JK Simmons), the evil supernatural warrior who's been sweeping across the country defeating Kung Fu masters. This third sequel proves to be barrels of fun, even for grown-ups. ★★★★



Edited by Evelyn Lok
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Panay
(Taiwan) An ode to Taiwanese aboriginal culture if there ever was one, "Panay" explores the tale of an indigenous Taiwanese family coping with developers trying to build a hotel on their land. Protagonist Panay (Ado Kaliting Pacidal, who herself is part of the Amis people) in particular shines light in tribal tradition on the hopeless landscape of modern Taiwan. Good, if at times verging on melodrama. ★★★

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



The Tag Along
(Taiwan) This Taiwanese thriller is inspired by the urban legend of the moxina, a mountain demon in the guise of a little girl in red, who steals children and the elderly. Tiffany Ann Hsu plays a woman trying to get to the bottom of the mystery when her boyfriend and his grandmother disappear.

Trumbo

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



Truth

(USA) James Vanderbilt brings the story behind the 2004 Kilian documents scandal—aka "Memogate"—to the silver screen. CBS producer Mary Mapes (Cate Blanchett) and news anchor Dan Rather (Robert Redford) uncover memos critical of President George W. Bush's performance in the Air National Guard, two months before the election—but are the documents authentic? And how will this match up against "Spotlight"?

Youth

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

Zootopia

(USA) See review, opposite.



Film Festival

Film Ireland

The inaugural Film Ireland, organized by the Irish Festival, celebrates a fruitful year for Irish cinema, with prominent wins and recognition at Cannes and the Oscars in particular. Here's your chance to catch six amazing films from the Emerald Isle, with a highlight being the 2015 Cannes Jury Prize-winning "The Lobster" (Apr 9, 7:30pm), a black satire on marriage and monogamy starring Colin Farrell as a divorcée who's given 45 days to find a new mate or he'll be turned into an animal of his choice. Apr 6-10. The Grand Cinema, 2/F, Elements, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, film-ireland.hk. \$85 from thegrandcinema.com.hk.

Orgasmo

Gooooood Secrets is back with another secret cinema event, this time celebrating the mighty orgasm (the second coming, if you will). Looking to revive erotic film in Hong Kong, at Orgasmo an "unthinkable place" will be transformed into a pop-up cinema seating a thousand people. On the bill: a surprise steamy classic. To warm you up for the main event, French choreographer Alice Rensy will be performing a dance piece, apparently involving a few ropes. You can also catch a workshop on erotic art on Apr 2. May 14, 7:30pm. \$200 from tiny.cc/hk-orgasmo; half of ticket sales will go to the Hong Kong Aids Foundation. Venue is at a secret location.

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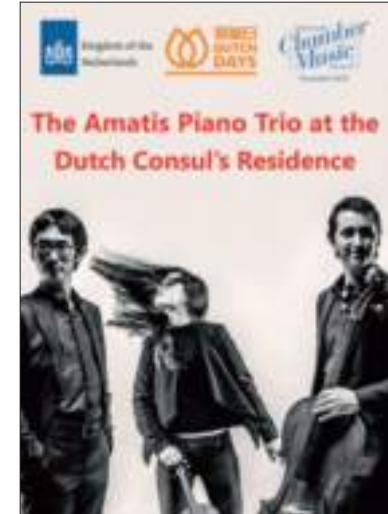
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): According to my astrological analysis, you would benefit profoundly from taking a ride in a jet fighter plane 70,000 feet above the earth. In fact, I think you really need to experience weightlessness as you soar faster than the speed of sound. Luckily, there's an organization, MiGFlug (migflug.com), that can provide you with this healing thrill. (I just hope you can afford the \$18,000 price tag.) APRIL FOOL! I do in fact think you should treat yourself to unprecedented thrills and transcendent adventures. But I bet you can accomplish that without being quite so extravagant.



TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): "People only get really interesting when they start to rattle the bars of their cages," says philosopher Alain de Botton. If that's true, Taurus, you must be on the verge of becoming very interesting. Metaphorically speaking, you're not just rattling the bars of your cage. You're also smacking your tin cup against the bars and trying to saw through them with your plastic knife. APRIL FOOL! I lied. You're not literally in a prison cell. And I got a bit carried away with the metaphor. But there is a grain of truth to what I said. You are getting close to breaking free of at least some of your mind-forged manacles. And it's making you more attractive and intriguing.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): If I had to decide what natural phenomenon you most closely resemble right now, I'd consider comparing you to a warm, restless breeze or a busily playful dolphin. But my first choice would be the mushrooms known as *Schizophyllum commune*. They're highly adaptable: able to go dormant when the weather's dry and spring to life when rain comes. They really get around, too, making their homes on every continent except Antarctica. But the main reason I'd link you with them is that they come in over 28,000 different sexes. Their versatility is unprecedented. APRIL FOOL! I exaggerated a bit. It's true that these days you're polymorphous and multifaceted and well-rounded. But you're probably not capable of expressing 28,000 varieties of anything.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): "Whatever it is you're seeking won't come in the form you're expecting," warns Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami. If that's true, why bother? Why expend all your precious yearning if the net result won't even satisfy your yearning?! That's why I advise you to ABANDON YOUR BELOVED PLANS! Save your energy for trivial wishes. That way you won't be disappointed when they are fulfilled in unanticipated ways. APRIL FOOL! I was messing with you. It's true that what you want won't arrive in the form you're expecting. But I bet the result will be even better than what you expected.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): You're due to make a pilgrimage, aren't you? It might be time to shave your head, sell your possessions, and head out on a long trek to a holy place where you can get back in touch with what the hell you're doing here on this planet. APRIL FOOL! I was kidding about the head-shaving and possessions-

dumping. On the other hand, there might be value in embarking on a less melodramatic pilgrimage. I think you're ready to seek radical bliss of a higher order—and get back in touch with what the hell you're doing here on this planet.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): Are you ready to fight the monster? Do you have the courage and strength and stamina and guile to overcome the ugly beast that's blocking the path to the treasure? If not, turn around and head back to your comfort zone until you're better prepared. APRIL FOOL! I lied. There is a monster, but it's not the literal embodiment of a beastly adversary. Rather, it's inside you. It's an unripe part of yourself that needs to be taught and tamed and cared for. Until you develop a better relationship with it, it will just keep testing you. (P.S. Now would be a good time to develop a better relationship with it.)

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): Your advice for the near future comes from poet Stephen Dunn. "If the Devil sits down," he says, "offer companionship, tell her you've always admired her magnificent, false moves." I think that's an excellent plan, Libra! Maybe you'll even be lucky enough to make the acquaintance of many different devils with a wide variety of magnificent, false moves. APRIL FOOL! I lied. In fact, I think you should avoid contact with all devils, no matter how enticing they might be. Now is a key time to surround yourself with positive influences.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): In 1841, a British medical journal prescribed the following remedy for the common cold: "Nail a hat on the wall near the foot of your bed, then retire to that bed, and drink spirits until you see two hats." My expert astrological analysis reveals that this treatment is likely to cure not just the sniffles, but also any other discomforts you're suffering from, whether physical or emotional or spiritual. So I hope you own a hat, hammer, and nails. APRIL FOOL! I lied. The method I suggested probably won't help alleviate what ails you. But here's a strategy that might: Get rid of anything that's superfluous, rotten, outdated, or burdensome.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): To begin your oracle, I'll borrow the words of author Ray Bradbury: "May you be in love every day for the next 20,000 days, and out of that love, remake a world." I have reason to believe that this optimistic projection has a good chance

of coming true for you. Imagine it, Sagittarius: daily swoons of delight and rapture from now until the year 2071. APRIL FOOL! I lied, sort of. It would be foolish to predict that you'll be giddy with amorous feelings nonstop for the next 54 years and 10 months. On the other hand, I don't think it's unrealistic for you to expect a lot of that sweet stuff over the course of the next three weeks.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): "I am tired of being brave," groaned Anne Sexton in one of her poems. "I'm sick of following my dreams," moaned comedian Mitch Hedberg, adding, "I'm just going to ask my dreams where they're going and hook up with them later." In my opinion, Capricorn, you have every right to unleash grumbles similar to Hedberg's and Sexton's. APRIL FOOL! The advice I just gave you is only half-correct. It's true that you need and deserve a respite from your earnest struggles. Now is indeed a good time to take a break so you can recharge your spiritual batteries. But don't you dare feel sorry for yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 19): In 1991, hikers in the Italian Alps discovered the well-preserved corpse of a Bronze Age hunter. Buried in the frigid terrain, the man who came to be known as Otzi the Iceman had been there for 5,000 years. Soon the museum that claimed his body began receiving inquiries from women who wanted to be impregnated with Otzi's sperm. I think this is an apt metaphor for you, Aquarius. Consider the possibility that you might benefit from being fertilized by an influence from long ago. APRIL FOOL! I was just messing with you. It's true you can generate good mojo by engaging with inspirational influences from the past. But I'd never urge you to be guided by a vulgar metaphor related to Otzi's sperm.

PISCES (Feb 18-Mar 20): Caligula was an eccentric Roman emperor who had a physical resemblance to a goat. He was sensitive about it. That's why he made it illegal for anyone to refer to goats in his company. I mention this, Pisces, because I'd like to propose a list of words you should forbid to be used in your presence during the coming weeks: "money," "cash," "finances," "loot," "savings," or "investments." Why? Because I'm afraid it would be distracting, even confusing or embarrassing, for you to think about these sore subjects right now. APRIL FOOL! I lied. The truth is, now is a perfect time for you to be focused on getting richer quicker.

HOMEWORK: What conditions would you need to feel like you were living in paradise? Testify: Truthrooster@gmail.com.

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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I was honored to speak at JCCSF—Jewish Community Center of San Francisco—last week as a part of their “Uninhibited: About Sex” lecture series. The audience submitted questions on cards, which were ably put to me by Jourdan Abel, who was wearing a wonderful uterus-themed sweater. (Check out my Instagram account—atdansavage—to see Abel’s sweater!) Here are some of the questions submitted by the uninhibited JCCSF audience that Abel and I didn’t manage to get to during our conversation.

I had the best sex of my life with my ex. He fucked me hard, had a huge cock, and made me eat his come with a spoon. I loved it. Needless to say, we were incompatible in other ways. My current BF is vanilla. Very. Vanilla. When I masturbate, I think about my ex and can't help but wish my current guy would make me slurp his come up from a utensil. We are very compatible in other (non-sex) ways. Am I doomed to fantasize about my ex?

You are—unless you open up to your current BF about what’s missing in your sex life and/or get his permission to get your hard-fucking/spoon-feeding needs met elsewhere.

How do you combat homophobic remarks in a culture that condones and promotes homophobic tendencies?

You combat homophobia—and misogyny, its big sister—one terrified middle-schooler at a time. Bearing in mind, of course, that “terrified middle-schooler” is a state of mind, not an age bracket.

Got any advice for a bi girl, formerly submissive, who wants to start dominating men?

Leave the house—get involved in local kink orgs, if you aren’t already involved, check out local sex-positive events, and let people know what you’re looking for. There’s no shortage of submissive guys, and no shortage of dominant women up for mentoring women who are curious about topping.

In gay male relationships, what can you say about the psychological boundary between being Alpha in the world and beta in bed?

The boundary between Alpha In World/Beta In Bed is pretty fucking porous—it’s not studded with guard towers, barbed wire, and death strips, à la the Berlin Wall. (Google it, kids.) That boundary only exists in our heads. And once we get that fact through our thick heads, not only do we discover that the Alpha/beta boundary is easily crossed, we quickly learn that crossing it repeatedly—brutally and joyfully violating it at will—is a total blast.

Is Savage your real last name? It's mine, too! My mother kept her maiden name, I took her name, and she's a sex therapist! We're both huge fans. Could you say hi to Dr. Linda Savage? She'll die!

Hi, Dr. Linda Savage! Please don’t die.

What do you do when you can't make your partner come?

Me? I hand him back his dick and go get myself some ice cream—but you shouldn’t do what I do when you can’t make your partner come. Here’s what you should do: Keep trying, ask your partner what they need, and encourage them, if need be, to “finish themselves off” (without pouting, without laying a guilt trip on them about how they’ve made you feel inadequate, and without treating them like they’re broken). Cheerfully offer to hold ‘em or play with their tits or eat their ass while they finish themselves

off—or, hell, offer to go get ‘em ice cream. Whatever helps!

Porn is so accessible today. How has it affected society?

One positive effect (among many): Porn’s wider accessibility forced us to stop pretending there’s one kind of sex—heterosexual, man-on-top—that absolutely everyone is interested in. Thanks to the Interwebs, we can track what people are actually searching for (it’s not all hetero), where they’re searching for it (a shout-out to the great state of Utah, which has the highest porn consumption rates per capita in the nation!), and how long they’re lingering over it (long enough to finish themselves off).

One negative effect (among many): The ubiquity of porn coupled with the general lousiness of sex education—in the United States and Canada—has resulted in porn doing something it isn’t designed to do and consequently does not do well. And that would be, of course, educating young people about sex. If we don’t want porn doing that, and we don’t, we need to create comprehensive sex ed programs that cover everything—hetero sex, queer sex, partnered sex, solo sex, gender identity, consent, kinks, and how to be a thoughtful, informed and critical consumer of porn.

What is the one thing that concerns you most about the current political climate/election cycle?

Donald Trump getting the Republican nomination. I’m not at all concerned about the potential destruction/explosion of the GOP—those fuckers have it coming—but with the likelihood of political violence. I’m concerned that black and brown people—Mexicans, Muslims, African Americans—will be subjected to more political/social/economic violence than they already are. People will die as a direct result of Trump getting the GOP nomination. This is a terrifying moment.

What kind of sexual fluid or act would you name after Donald Trump?

Trump, as I pointed out in a previous column, already has an alternate/more accurate meaning. There is no authority higher than the Oxford English Dictionary, and here’s what you’ll find under “trump” at oed.com: “in reference to a sound like a trumpet... the act of breaking wind audibly.” So remember, kids, when you see Donald Trump standing in front of a microphone... Trump isn’t talking. He’s trumping.

What is the etiquette when it comes to social media and open relationships?

It all depends on the preferences of the couple/throuple/quad/squad in question. If a particular couple, etc., wants to maintain the appearance of being monogamous, if they want to avoid stigma, judgment, freaked out parents, etc., then they’re not going to want evidence of their open relationship popping up all over Facebook and/or Instagram. If there’s internal disagreement in a particular couple/throuple/quad/squad about keeping things quiet on social media, not outing the person(s) who want to keep things discreet may be the price of admission their other partners have to pay.

What was your favorite aspect of the orgy held in honor of your 50th birthday?

The fact that I wasn’t invited. #NotAnOrgyFan

On the Lovecast, power poly kinkster Allena Gabosch on poly complications: savagecast.com

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

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The Peak Lookout Restaurant

ADMIRALTY

Brick Lane
Dan Ryan's
Gourmet Coffee
Grappa's Ristorante
Great
Island Shangri-La
Lab Concept
Metropolitan Café
Ruth Chris
Starbucks - Pacific Place
The British Council Library
UFC Group

WANCHAI

151 Gloucester Road Property Management Company Ltd
Academy for the Performing Arts
Agave
Amour Salon
Alliance Francaise
Arts Centre
Asian Tiger Mobility
Assaggio Trattoria Italiana
Bar 109
Berliner
Big Apple
Castello del Vino
Classified (Wan Chai)
Cosmos Book Ltd.
Coyote Bar & Grill
Divino Patio
DRAGONFLY @ Novotel
Ebeneezer's
Grand Hyatt Hotel
Harbour road café
Hotel Indigo
IAFT
Island Property
Joe's Billiards & Bar
Loplus @ Hennessy Serviced Apartment
Marriott Properties (International) Ltd.
Maya
Moon Izakaya
Mr. Taco Truck
Oliver's Super Sandwiches
Outback Grill
OVO
OVO Limited
Paisano's Wan Chai
Pizza Express - Wing Fung St.
Pizza Express - Ship St.
Pomme
Quemo
SIP Sun Hung Kai Centre
Slim's
Spring Learning
StarCrest
Starbucks - 4346 Queen's Road East
Starbucks - Gloucester Rd
Starbucks - Great Eagle Centre
Starbucks - Hopewell Centre
Starbucks - Sun Hung Kai Centre
Starbucks - WanChai Tower
Starbucks - Wsqaure

Thai Delight Restaurant & Bar
Tamarind
The Charterhouse Causeway Bay
The Doghouse
The Flying Pan
The Hive
The Queen Victoria
The Tonno
The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club
The Wanch
The White Stag
VIM Pilates Studio
Xperience
Yo mama

CAUSEWAY BAY

18 Grams
A La Maison
Aluminium
Brechts Circle
Brookfield Global Relocation Services HK Ltd.
Brunch Club & Supper
Buddy Bar & Café
Café Corridor
Café Rivoli
CitySuper
Classified (Tai Hang)
Crowne Plaza Hong Kong
Causeway Bay - Connections
Dickens Bar
Englishtown
Fleur de Sel
Hotel Pennington
Inn Side Out
Isabella Bistro & Bar
Island Seafood & Oyster
Jrink
Lanson Place
Little Burro
Mackie Kitchen
Madame Foster Deli
Mau I Business Centre Ltd - Eton Tower
Mau I Business Centre Ltd - Radio City
Mini Hotel Causeway Bay
Mr. Steak
Otto Restaurant & Bar
Outback Steakhouse
Page One
Roof Bar
Rouge
Starbucks - 50 Leighton Rd.
Starbucks - Causeway Bay Plaza 2
Starbucks - Hysan Place
Starbucks - Lee Garden 1
Starbucks - Tin Hau
Starbucks - Tiung Lo Wan Rd.
Starbucks - Windsor House
The Herbivores
The Sky Bar
The Warren
Watson Wine Cellar
Wired Café
W's Entrecote
Yo mama

HAPPY VALLEY

Classified
El Grande - Happy Valley Bar & Grill
Hong Kong Cricket Club
Hong Kong Football Club
Il Bel Paese
Jaspas
Movieland (3) - Happy Valley
Park N Shop - Happy Valley
Saint Germain
Starbucks - Le Cacet
The Jockey

QUARRY BAY/ TAIKOOSHING

East Hotel
Park N Shop - Kornhill Plaza
Pizza Express
Ruby Tuesday
Starbucks - Cityplaza
Starbucks - Hoi Kwong St.
Starbucks - Kornhill Plaza
Starbucks - Taikoo Shing
The News Room
Yo bago
Yo mama

NORTH POINT/ FORTRESS HILL

Cheung Chuk Shan College
Harbour Plaza North Point - Lobby
Fitness First - Fortress Hill
Para Site
Starbucks - AIA Tower
Starbucks - Fortress Hill
Starbucks - Kerry Centre

SAI WAN HO

Berliner Soho East
Chaiwanese
Jack's Terrazza Ristorante
Madera Café
Starbucks - Eastern Hospital

POK FU LAM

Delaney's Pub
HKUSU Student Union
Lee Hysan Hall Students' Association, HKUSU
Patisserie Les Amis
Prompt
Starbucks - Cyberport
Starbucks - Cyberport 3
Starbucks - HKU Library
Starbucks - HKUSU
T Hotel

AP LEI CHAU/ ABERDEEN

Aberdeen Marina Club
Alisan Fine Arts Limited
Bowls Café Limited
Flex HK
GCX
K Academy (English Language Learning Centre)
Movie Express
Tequila Kola
TREE
Mau I Business Centre Ltd - Eton Tower
Mau I Business Centre Ltd - Radio City
Mini Hotel Causeway Bay
Mr. Steak
Otto Restaurant & Bar
Outback Steakhouse
Page One
Roof Bar
Rouge
Starbucks - 50 Leighton Rd.
Starbucks - Causeway Bay Plaza 2
Starbucks - Hysan Place
Starbucks - Lee Garden 1
Starbucks - Tin Hau
Starbucks - Tiung Lo Wan Rd.
Starbucks - Windsor House
The Herbivores
The Sky Bar
The Warren
Watson Wine Cellar
Wired Café
W's Entrecote
Yo mama

REPULSE BAY/ TAI TAM/ STANLEY

Beachside Bookstore
Classified (Stanley)
Chez Patrick Deli - Stanley
El Cid Caramar
Hong Kong International School
King Ludwig Beer Hall
Lucy's
Mini Hotel Stanley
Ocean Bay
Park N Shop - Parkview
Pickled Pelican Stanley
Pizza Express
Seafront
Smuggler's Inn, Stanley
Spices
Starbucks - Stanley Plaza
Taste
The American Club
The Boat House
Victoria Recreation Club

TSIM SHA TSUI

Agnes b Café Harbour City
Agnes'B Café SG
Assembly
Barista Caffe
Bistro on the Mile
Bombay Dreams
Bricklane - 2 Blenheim Avenue
Bricklane - 17-23 Minden Avenue
Brotzeit
Burger Republic
Carpaccio Pasta Pizza Vino
Castros Bar
CitySuper
Crema
Cucina - The Marco Polo HK Hotel
Delaney's
Eastside Tavern
Eaton Hotel
El Cid
Fatt's Place
Finds
Grand Central Bar and Grill

JORDAN/YAU MA TEI/MONG KOK

18 Grams
Berliner Olympian City 3
Broadway Cinematheque
Colour Brown Coffee
Englishtown
Hotel Stage
Kadoorie Hill
Langham Hotel
Langham Place Hotel Coffee Shop
Madera Hotel
Park N Shop - Olympian City
Pink Coffee
Royal Plaza Hotel
Starbucks - 3 Jordan Rd.
Starbucks - Bank Centre Mall
Starbucks - Liberte Place
Starbucks - Nathan Hotel
Starbucks - New Kowloon Plaza
Starbucks - Olympian City 2
Take Two Brunch Coffee
The Olympian Hong Kong
White Noise
Zoo Records

SHATIN

Baptist University
Citysuper
Courtyard by Marriott Sha Tin
Crown Relocations
Starbucks - Fortune City One
Starbucks - New Town Plaza L1

SAI KUNG

Bacco
CC Café
Chez les Copains
Classified
Duke of York Pub
Firenze
HEBE ONE o ONE
Italiano's
Park N Shop - Clear Water Bay
Pepperoni's
Piccolos
Pizzeria La Gondola
Starbucks - Sai Kung Chan Man St.
Starbucks - The HKUST
The Bottle Shop

OTHER NEW TERRITORIES

Discovery Park
Englishtown
King's Belly
Mr Steak
Park N Shop - Hong Lok Yuen
Red Alert Airsoft Sports
Starbucks - Citywalk
Starbucks - Luk Yeung Galleria
Starbucks - Metropiazza
Starbucks - Tai Po Market MTR Station
Starbucks - Trend Plaza

LANTAU

Berliner German Bar & Restaurant
Café Duvet
Dymocks
Marriott Skycity
Park N Shop - Discovery Bay
Regal Airport Hotel Zentro Garden
Starbucks - Airport T2
Starbucks - Airport T1
Starbucks - Citygate
Zentro Garden

KOWLOON TONG

Amaroni's
Baptist University
Baptist University Student Union
City University Student Union
Dan Ryan's
Page One
Park N Shop
Park N Shop
Pizza Express
Starbucks - Festival Walk
Starbucks - HKBU

HUNG HOM

Open University Student Union
Sav Hotel
Starbucks - MTR Hung Hom
Starbucks - The Laguna Mall
Starbucks - Whampoa Site 5
Waterfront Bar & Terrace

KOWLOON BAY/ KWUN TONG/ KOWLOON CITY

Bespoke
Englishtown
Forfar
Happy Corner Cakes Cookies Gallery
Headstart Group Limited
Kubrick
Oliver's Super Sandwiches
Pentahotel Kowloon
Starbucks - EMax
Starbucks - Megabox L6
Starbucks - Millennium City 1
Starbucks - One Kowloon
Starbucks - Telford Plaza 1

HK GIVEAWAYS

We're celebrating the arrival of spring with even more prizes to give away! This month we've got an ass-kicking staycation at Ovolo Southside, delectable hampers from A La Bakery and treatment vouchers plus cosmetic gift sets from Oracle Skinland. Get entering NOW!

WIN 3 NIGHTS
AT OVolo
SOUTHSIDE,
WORTH \$10,500!



Win a three-night staycation at Ovolo Southside!

Wanna get away from all the craziness of the city, but you're too lazy to book a ticket to somewhere else? **Ovolo Southside** is here for you. Situated in the up-and-coming South Island Cultural District, this artistic and edgy hotel is the hottest place in town right now.

Thanks to their hospitality, you now have a chance to win an awesome staycation at this hip and stylish hotel. We've got a **stay for two in a Long Loft Suite** for not one, not two, but **three nights!** The staycation also comes with a \$1,000 food & beverage allowance that can be used at the hotel's restaurant Cirque or rooftop bar Above, as well as two tickets to Ocean Park and pick-up & drop-off service to and from the hotel within Hong Kong. The entire prize is valued at a whopping \$10,500. How great is that?

Want to explore the Southside for an awesome long weekend? Here's how.

In this and the next two issues, you'll find an *italicized* word in the main Spotlight page article. Once you've got all three, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about what you'd do with a staycation at Ovolo Southside. Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before 10am on April 18, 2016.

Good luck! The winner will be announced on April 22.

Win a Delectable Hamper from A La Bakery!

Got your spring appetite up? Gourmet French bakery A La Bakery is giving out **three sets of their hampers** (each valued at \$1,639) to you hungry lucky readers.

These lovely hampers are filled with treats freshly made with the finest ingredients directly imported from France, including their artisan A La Cookies, palmiers and macarons, as well as adorable paper mâché dolls for the little ones (and the inner child in you).

Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways and let us know who you'd share the hamper with **before 10am on April 11, 2016**. Winners will be announced on April 15.



WIN HAMPERS WORTH \$1,639!



WIN VOUCHERS AND COSMETIC SETS WORTH \$2,700 EACH!

Win Treatment Vouchers and Cosmetic Gift Sets from Oracle Skinland!

Need flawless skin for all your spring break photos? Oracle Skinland is here to help you achieve that picture perfect complexion. Plus they're nice enough to offer our readers **five treatment vouchers and cosmetic gift sets** (each valued at \$2,700)!

Want to win? Tell us your bad skincare story in one sentence (gruesome acne photos unnecessary).

Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry **before 10am on April 11, 2016**. Winners will be announced on April 15.

FIRST PERSON



“I could succeed even if I were selling wonton noodles.”

Ken Ng, better known as “Ken Sir,” built an education empire from scratch.

The founder and former chairman of “cram school” franchise Modern Education stepped down from his position three years ago. He tells Xavier Ng about how he set up his business, why he left and what he thinks of the city’s education system.

I went to Canada for university. I studied at the University of Alberta, majoring in fine arts.

When I got back to Hong Kong, I started teaching English in a school. I also tutored on the side, and it made me a lot more money than my day job.

But it wasn't just about the money—I wanted to help the students.

There was a great demand for tutors, as at that time many school teachers weren't good at teaching English.

Hong Kong's education system is still exam-oriented. If people say that's not true, they are lying.

If you're one point below the threshold, you won't be able to get into university.

Of course, I do appreciate and respect teachers in schools, as they need to handle many more duties, including moral education and other all-round development of students.

But the most important thing for a student under this system is still getting good grades.

I really appreciate how they teach in international schools. They have a more holistic approach.

Grades are important, but they're not everything.

Being surgeon or being postman: Both are still respected occupations in society.

Teaching English exam skills is different from teaching English, and I think it's easier to teach exam skills.

You can't really learn to speak good English at a cram school.

We can teach you the skills for exams, but for good English you need interactions with native speakers.

I wanted to be innovative, to be the forerunner. That's always been what drives me.

I wasn't trying to be the “King of Cram Schools.” I think I could succeed even if I were selling wonton noodles.

The most important thing is to be creative in solving big problems. Being hard-working is not enough.

I think my biggest breakthrough is that I broke the segregation between good schools and bad schools.

For students who got sorted into not-so-good schools, there wouldn't be any great teachers to train them to take exams.

And the student's fate, of whether they could get into university, relied on that.

So I hired the best teachers from the best schools like Queen's College and La Salle College, and now you could be taught by them, no matter what school you went to.

The whole trend of packaging tutors into “stars” or “kings” was actually started by me.

I was the first to come up with this idea, and of course it made a lot of money.

I liberated the very feudal education system.

You might not be able to learn the great culture of those elite schools, but you can learn their exam skills.

I helped many of those from the grassroots who originally couldn't get into universities.

In this industry, it's very easy to quantify your success—it's how many As you can help your students get.

And the school I established had the most students with 10 As [in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination].

You could say I'm showing off, but it's really not that easy to achieve and I am quite proud of it.

Of course they needed good teachers at school, but we were able to help with the subjects that their school couldn't.

I think my proudest moment was when my niece got accepted into Harvard Business School.

I think nothing's better than the people closest to you getting good grades.

I think another success in my life was when Modern Education had its IPO on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

It was all about good timing and capturing the right business opportunities. There was a chance to grab it and so I did.

It would be a lot more difficult now, with the new Diploma of Secondary Education system and skyrocketing rent.

I stepped down at the height of my career. I think it was a very wise decision.

I have been in this industry for more than 20 years, and I really wanted to do something else and see more of the world.

I studied fine arts but I'd never been to an

art auction before. So these few years I've been very active in art auctions and collecting—devoting more time to myself.

I think the Hong Kong market is quite stable already and so I want to explore the mainland market.

I can't reveal too much but in half a year's time, this project in China will be a major breakthrough.

I saw that the potential for the tutorial business had capped, so I moved on. But my passion is still there and I think I can still pursue a few more goals.

As long as the system remains unchanged with grades determining so much of a student's future, there will still be a need for cram schools.



NEED TO KNOW...

“Ken Sir” founded cram school Modern Education in 1988. The school was the first of its kind to go public in 2011, when it raised \$130 million in an IPO. He introduced the city to celebrity tutors K. Oten, Stella Cheng and Patrick Chan.

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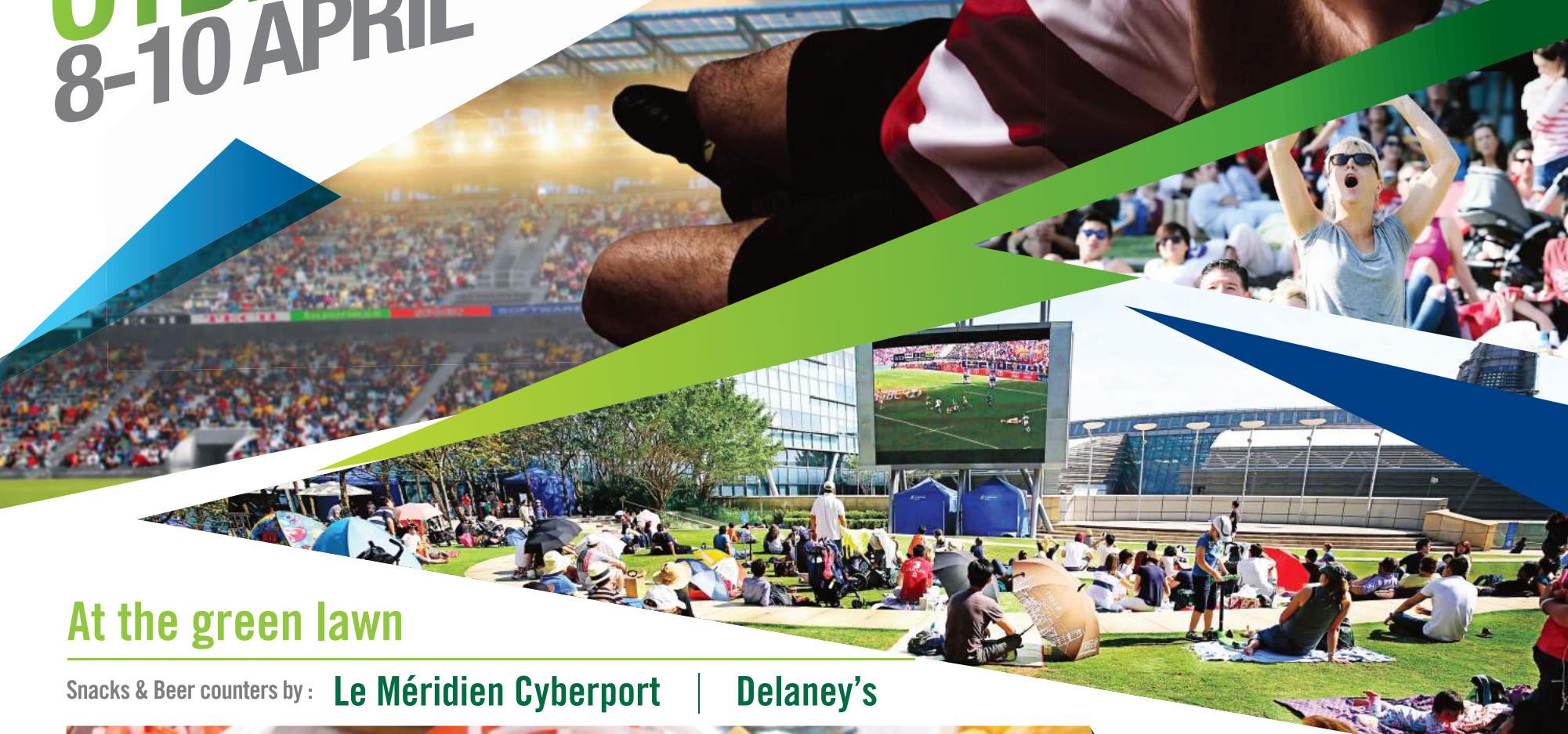
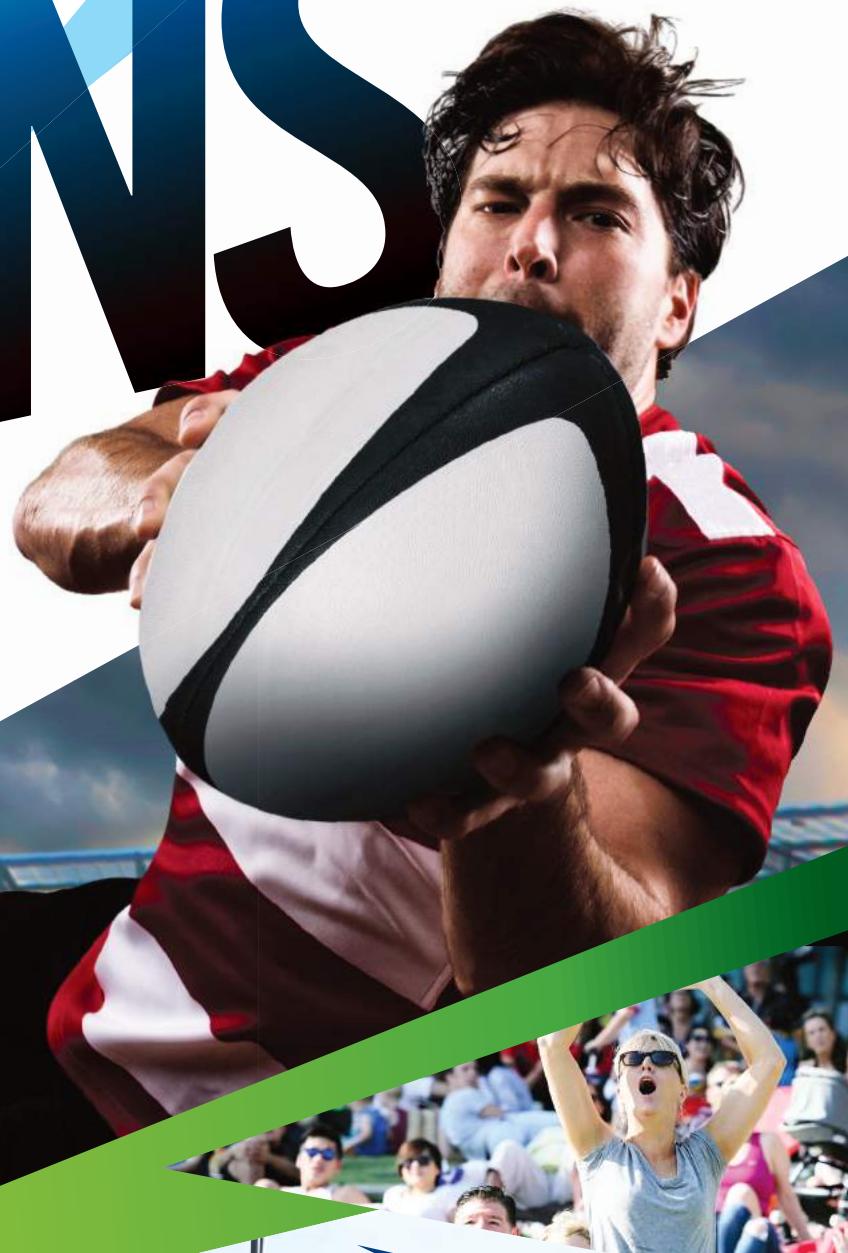
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