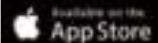


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NO. 1125

HK

HK MAGAZINE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015 HK-MAGAZINE.COM



The Hong Kong Advent Calendar!

So much festive fun, you'll be exhausted by Christmas...



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With 3 floors of extensive workout space, this new fitness centre will be our first location to feature a swimming pool.

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Be the first to enjoy exclusive pre-opening offers

Pure Fitness Citibank Plaza
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3 Garden Road, Central



COVER STORY Something to do every day until Santa comes	12	TRAVEL Follow Bond around the world (babes not provided)	22	UPCLOSE Andrew Yang on his dolled-up decorations	30
					
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	50	FIRST PERSON Director Philip Yung on documenting the city's downtrodden			49
					GIVEAWAYS Win a holiday at Studio City Macau and more!

Railing into the Void

The high-speed rail link to Guangzhou has come up against yet another obstacle, after the MTR and government revealed that the project needs an additional \$19.6 billion to complete. The government stressed that it has no "plan B," meaning that lawmakers will either have to approve the spending increase or let the whole project collapse. In other words, taxpayers will have to bail out the MTR—and the MTR is paying out to its shareholders to keep them sweet. But where's all our hard-earned cash going?

Better Trains.

Our additional money will enable the construction of exclusive "Maotai First" class carriages, reserved exclusively for Guangzhou Communist Party cadres on the way down to Hong Kong for a quick splurge. Otherwise they'd have to ride in the normal trains like everyone else. And let's be honest: No one wants that.

Making Guangzhou Nice.

Truth is, even if you complete a high-speed link to Guangzhou, no Hongkongers are ever going to go there because they all think it's a shithole. So the MTR is going to take all our extra cash and use it to create a little elitist recreation area for Hong Kong tourists, complete with mock boorish mainlanders and pretend parallel traders. That way we can be snobby AND comfortable.

392 Million Big Mac Meals.

A Big Mac meal from McDonald's online delivery (burger, fries, AND an extra!) costs \$50, and the \$19.6 billion bailout would buy 392 million of 'em. It's hungry work, building a railroad. That's what project management is all about: thinking about these things in advance. Isn't it, MTR?

The Make MTR Shareholders Richer Fund.

Across Hong Kong, literally hundreds of rich people are suffering because they can't afford another house on The Peak. Thousands more have to put that bottle of coconut water back on the shelf because they just can't fit any more into their double-sized fridges. But it doesn't have to be this way. You can help. A one-off donation of \$19.6 billion will ensure that no MTR shareholders will ever have to skip a round of dry-cleaning ever again. Act now. It's the right thing to do.

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

Lest we forget, our other great white elephant is also seeking extra money from Legco, to the tune of \$5.46 billion. Part of the Guangzhou cash will probably go straight to the mostly useless bridge, because it's good karma to spread the cash around when you've taken it from the taxpayer.

Just Giant Beds Made of Money.

Apparently, MTR Corporation executives don't sleep well at night unless it's on beds made from huge, pillow stacks of \$1,000 bills. In an example of the trickle-down effect, an employee incentivization scheme will allow MTR employees (supervisor level or higher) to craft small futons out of \$20 notes.

Who's in charge?

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Look us up!



The List

where[®]



HOME



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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

The weather is above 20°C but it feels freezing! What's going on? — Cold Hand Luke

Plenty of people will tell you that it's all down to the humidity. A damp cold is always worse than a dry one, they say. Well—yes and no.

It's counterintuitive, in a way. High humidity is always bad in summer because the water in the air makes it harder for moisture to evaporate from your skin, which is how we cool off. You'd think that in colder weathers, less evaporation means a warmer you.

But studies have shown that humidity doesn't actually greatly affect how cold it feels. Where humidity does play a role is in our clothes. Much of the moisture hanging around in the air, as well as our sweat, is absorbed by the clothes we wear. It's that dampness that is prone to retaining low temperatures, which means our bodies have to work harder to keep warm and we are therefore more likely to feel the cold.

But there are other reasons why Hong Kong's winters feel unfairly cold. A lot of it comes down to wind chill. As a coastal city with a whole bunch of mainland behind it, Hong Kong is the lucky recipient of the cold northeast monsoon winds, which blow down to us all the way from sunny Siberia. In many cases, it's that chill in the wind that leaves us shivering, not the actual temperature.

Then there's the fact that Hong Kong buildings are built to release heat, not retain it. There's little thermal cladding necessary when most of the time you're trying to get rid of sweltering, oppressive heat. With single-glazed windows,

drafty doors and tile floors, you're not going to get the warming effect of thick carpet and snug walls. You're also probably spending a lot of your time inside air-conditioned buildings, which don't discriminate on the time of year and instead treat every day as just another attempt to try to lower the ambient temperature to sub-Arctic conditions.

Which all leads to the fact that you're probably just not wearing enough clothing. Some optimistic part of you is still hoping that the city will change its mind and bring junk season around for some kind of winter renaissance. It's a worthwhile dream, but a dream it must remain. Until then break out the roasted chestnuts and thermal underwear, and happy holidays to us all...



K.Y. Cheng/SCMP

My Perfect HK

This week in My Perfect HK:
Unicef Hong Kong's "Say Yes to Breastfeeding" campaign is underway, and they've persuaded more than 60 restaurants across the city to pledge to welcome breastfeeding mothers into their establishments. Some businesses are setting aside tables or rooms to offer greater privacy, while others are training staff to support moms and hungry babies. With a lack of breastfeeding friendly facilities in the city, we're absolutely behind these restaurants. This is one of those times where you say: Seriously, why are we still having this conversation? Find out more at sayyestobreastfeeding.hk.

Your Clockenpix on Instagram



Skyline Bling by @studiozag



Staging Ground by @tokyorockstar



Clockentower by @twinmum19



Light Show by @timtht



Clockenhaustion by @adamawhite

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).

LONGINES INTERNATIONAL
JOCKEYS' CHAMPIONSHIP

LONGINES INTERNATIONAL JOCKEYS' CHAMPIONSHIP

THE UNITED NATIONS OF RACING

**DEC 9 | HAPPY VALLEY
RACECOURSE**

8 international stars will compete alongside 4 of HK's elite squad of jockeys in the annual 4-race showpiece at the Valley. Let's all join the cheering for our world-leading jockeys at Happy Wednesday, where many more exciting attractions will keep you entertained all night!

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THE WEEK

Wednesday 12/9

In it to Win it

A selection of the world's finest jockeys comes to Happy Valley to battle for supremacy in the 2015 Longines International Jockeys' Championship. And the best part? We're treating you to the whole night! 5:30-9:30pm. Happy Valley Racecourse. Register at promotions.hk-magazine.com/hw-ijc for free admission, beer and a set of fine foods from around the world.



Friday 12/4

Moo-lennium Falcon

To celebrate the opening of a third location (and the upcoming "Star Wars" flick), Butchers Club Burger is hosting **A Trip to the Darkside** at their new Tsim Sha Tsui location. Expect beer, burgers, live music and Darth Vader. 6pm. K11 Courtyard, 18 Hanoi Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. Free.

Saturday 12/5

Noisy Neighbors

Swedish experimental electronic musician Lars Åkerlund performs in **Noise to Signal 0.32: Abstraction** at Focal Fair, a new venue that's all about artsy hipster stuff. He'll be supported by Japanese DJ Sniff, American drummer Shane Aspegren and homegrown electronic artists Nerve and No One Pulse.

8:30pm. Focal Fair, 28/F, Park Avenue Tower, 5 Moreton Terrace, Causeway Bay. Pay what you want.

Winter is Coming

Christmas is just around the corner. Hope you've got your presents all ready! Yeah, right, who are you kidding? Check out p.12 for amazing things to do over the festive period.



Photo: sooperbaby via Flickr

Sunday 12/6

Centered on the Beat

Silent Disco Yoga is back, this time with two one-hour sections, Jivamukti (aka compassionate yoga) with disco, and Yin (aka restorative yoga) without disco, both led by Nora Lim. Bring your own mat!

4-5pm (Jivamukti); 5:15-6:15pm (Yin). Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park, Eastern St. North, Sai Ying Pun. \$150 for one class, \$250 for two classes from eventbrite.hk.

Monday 12/7

Ha-ha-hanukkah

Did you forget to light a candle yesterday for the first day of **Hanukkah**? Do it for the holiday spirit and light one for today, too. Not Jewish? Don't worry, your mother is probably still disappointed in you.

Tuesday 12/8

For My Next Trick...

The end of the year is approaching—what to do with that last bit of annual leave?

Hop on a ferry to Macau, and watch legendary illusionist Franz Harary blow your mind at **The House of Magic**. One ticket gets you three different magic shows, featuring four different magicians.

5pm, 7pm, 9pm daily. Studio City Macau, Estr. Flor de Lotus, Macau, (853) 8868-6767. \$450 from studiocity-macau.com.



Thursday 12/10

Pretty and Witty and Gay

Guerilla is back for the 14th time, turning yet another straight bar gay. This time Casa Tapas Bar is in the pink crosshairs, and there'll be craft beers and tapas from around the world to satiate your ale and meat fix.

6-9pm. Casa Tapas Bar, 14-16 Woo Hop St., Kennedy Town, 2776-6599.

Friday 12/11

Recorded Records

XXX Gallery hosts a book launch party for the release of **"Paul's Records: How a refugee from the Vietnam War found success selling vinyl on the streets of Hong Kong,"** a biography of legendary vinyl shop owner Paul Au Tak-shing. There'll be readings by author Andrew Guthrie and you can meet Paul himself.

7-9 pm. XXX Gallery, B/F, 353-363 Des Voeux Rd. West, Shek Tong Tsui. Free. blacksmithbooks.com.

Saturday 12/12

Fashion Police

Style by Asia is hosting **Style Walk** to expose us to local indie brands and designers. Categories include interior design, art, photography, men's and women's fashion, shoes and bling. The event is hosted all over town, so read up on venues before you go.

Check out stylebyasia.com/directory for participating locations.

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Last Week In Reality

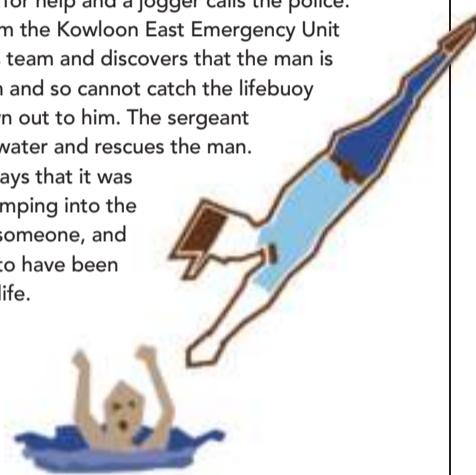
Illustrations: Ryan Chan

SAT 21

Fare Cop A middle-aged man and his wife take a taxi from Causeway Bay home to Mid-Levels. The meter shows a fare of \$42.40. The man gives the driver \$60, and the driver returns \$17 in change. The man insists on his remaining 60 cents, but the driver explains it is customary to round up to the nearest dollar. They argue, and the driver eventually gives the man \$1 in change. The man refuses to accept it and throws it at the driver. The two argue, eventually getting out of the taxi to fight in the street. Police arrest both men.

SUN 22

My Hero A 22-year-old man is walking along Kwun Tong Promenade in the morning after a night out drinking, when he falls into the water. He calls for help and a jogger calls the police. A sergeant from the Kowloon East Emergency Unit arrives with his team and discovers that the man is unable to swim and so cannot catch the lifebuoy that was thrown out to him. The sergeant dives into the water and rescues the man. The sergeant says that it was his first time jumping into the water to save someone, and he was happy to have been able to save a life.



MON 23

A Fine Romance At around 9am, a 41-year-old woman arrives at the Transport Department in Cheung Sha Wan with a large stack of parking tickets. Staff call the police, thinking that she has had her identity stolen for the purposes of registering a vehicle in her name. Police discover that the owner of the vehicle is the woman's ex-boyfriend. She confesses that she had registered her ex's car in her own name: After the pair broke up she kept receiving tickets in the mail, but was unwilling to pay the fine for a car she doesn't drive.

TUE 24

Prodigal Pornographer A 62-year-old man is sentenced to 20 weeks in prison for charges related to selling pirated discs and pornography in the 1990s. The man used to own four shops selling pornography and pirated goods, but fled to the mainland in 1996 after being charged in Hong Kong. Over the years, he developed a successful wine business in China to support his daughter's schooling in the US. He explains that he decided to surrender himself because he wanted to return to Hong Kong to take care of his bedridden 90-year-old mother.



WED 25

Oooh, shiny At around 8:45pm a man is walking along Humphreys Avenue in Tsim Sha Tsui when he hears a woman calling out in Putonghua "Diamonds! Diamonds!" He sees a group of 30 or 40 people squatting down picking up small, shiny stones scattered on the ground outside a jewelry store. Police arrive at the store and explain that the scattered crystals are just plastic fragments.



THU 26

Cop and Balls At midnight, an 18-year-old woman is hanging out with three friends in a staircase of the Aberdeen Centre housing estate. Police on their rounds ask to check their IDs. The woman loses her temper and tries to pour her can of beer on a police officer, who dodges the liquid. The police search her bag and find a plastic bag containing 44 pills. She claims she was prescribed the pills, but they would get you high if you took them. When a policeman asks for an explanation she cries: "Big deal you're a cop, my dad is also a cop." She kicks him in the groin and is arrested.

FRI 27

Holy Orders Police raid a bar in Mong Kok which was operating on a lapsed liquor license while pretending to be under construction. The unit was falsely listed in the building directory as an Indonesian Christian group. Acting on a tip-off, undercover officers enter the bar and detain two members of staff and a customer. They seize 500 cans of beer and more than 30 bottles of wine, worth \$53,000. The bar's liquor license expired in May.



Quote of the Week

"It's a District Council Election, not a beauty pageant."

Lawmaker Priscilla Leung responds to a viral post by celebrity blogger Yip Yat-chee, calling it demeaning to all female candidates and electors. The post, titled "I Betrayed My Wife for Yau Wai-ching," praised the beauty of Youngspiration candidate Yau Wai-ching, who was running against Leung. Leung won the election by 304 votes.

Talking Points

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

Mainland Parents Popping Pills

With the phasing out of China's one-child policy, many mainland couples have started planning for a second child. With boys considered luckier than girls, couples have been looking for **ways to increase their chances of conceiving a boy**. Hong Kong has seen a rise in sales of Chinese medicines not available on the mainland which are known as "**Pregnancy booster**" pills. These pills promise to increase the likelihood of having a boy, and **prices of these pills have risen from less than \$100 to more than \$400**. Pharmacists have explained that many mainland customers buy dozens of packs with each purchase and then re-sell them in China, where **the price can hit up to \$800**. Chinese medicine experts have pointed out that there is no scientific proof that these pills can determine the gender of a fetus.

Our Take: Hey, whatever gets you high, man...

Illustration: Elaine Tang

No One Likes King Arthur

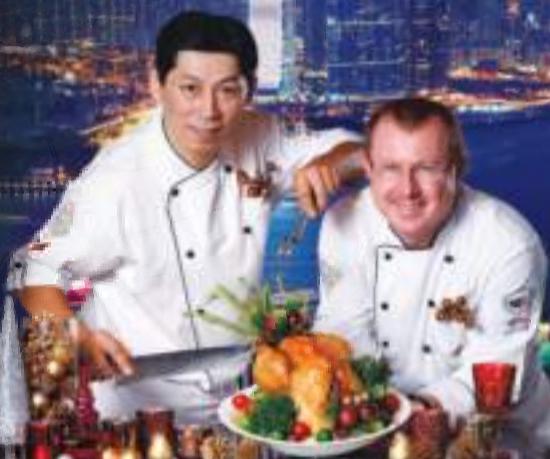
The University of Hong Kong is still embroiled in internal strife after the HKU Council controversially barred Professor Johannes Chan from being appointed to the post of pro-vice-chancellor. Last Sunday the HKU Convocation, a body of 162,000 alumni and staff of the University of Hong Kong, met to **vote on several motions intended to try to sway the Council** in the future. A motion to **oppose the appointment of council member Arthur Li Kwok-cheung to the post of council chair** garnered **97 percent** of all 4,400 votes. "King Arthur" Li is a hardline Beijing loyalist, and critics fear that his appointment to the post would only further exacerbate the ideological divide.

Our Take: The HKU Council is totally nailing it, huh?





LAST *Festive Season* for CAFÉ DECO at the Peak



After standing strong for over 20 years, we are leaving the Peak.
Join us and enjoy our culinary delights!

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

4-Course Dinner
\$700 / person

A la carte menu available with minimum charge of \$600 per adult

CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH BUFFET (11am-3pm)

Have Fun with Father Christmas & Kid's Entertainer

Adult \$688 / person	Kid (Aged 3-11) \$180 / person
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

A la carte menu available with minimum charge of \$600 per adult

BOXING DAY BRUNCH BUFFET (11am-3pm)

Have Fun with Kid's Entertainer

Adult \$588 / person	Kid (Aged 3-11) \$180 / person
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

A la carte menu available with minimum charge of \$500 per adult

NEW YEAR'S EVE

with Live Music Performances by Vocalist,
Pianist and DJ (7:30pm-1am)

5-Course Dinner \$1,488 / person
(Add \$200 for free flow beverages until 1am: Sparkling Wine,
White/ Red Wine, Cocktails and Beers)

Complimentary Shuttle Bus Service
(From the Peak to Admiralty at 12:30am - 2am)

EARLY BIRD OFFER

\$1,300 / person (inclusive of beverages package)
for bookings and deposit made on or before 15 Dec 2015

• Offer cannot be used in conjunction with CDG VIP card and other promotional offers

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH BUFFET (12pm-3pm)

Adult \$688 / person	Kid (Aged 3-11) \$180 / person
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

A la carte menu available with minimum charge of \$600 per adult

Reservations must be made in advance • Credit card guarantee is required and cancellation charge applies
• 10% service charge applies • Please contact our staff for details

CAFÉ DECO
峰 景 餐 廳



Street Talk

What looks like an alien, is older than dinosaurs and lives in Hong Kong? No, not a Legco member. It's horseshoe crabs, of course. **Billy Kwan** (l) and **Joe Cheung** (r) of City University and the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation want to spread awareness of these living fossils through the Juvenile Horseshoe Crab Rearing Programme. They tell Kadijah Watkins about the importance of these animals to the community and why they should be protected.



HK Magazine: Eew. Why horseshoe crabs?

Billy Kwan: My first time seeing one, I thought of a battle tank because it was heavy and looked metallic. I was told that it's a very old creature, it was around before the dinosaurs and it has blue blood.

Joe Cheung: It wasn't love at first sight because it is not really handsome, but I could see the potential of horseshoe crabs as a tool to tell the public about conservation.

HK: What's super cool about horseshoe crabs?

JC: These living "dinosaurs" are still crawling around Hong Kong. It's amazing! We don't know how they have been able to survive, but they're already well designed and they didn't evolve much. They look exactly, or almost exactly, as they did 400 million years ago.

HK: How does the rearing program work?

JC: We convey the conservation message to secondary schools. The horseshoe crab will stay in their school for six to eight months. We really want to create an atmosphere in schools where they talk more about ecology. They look after the crabs and they fall in love with them!

HK: Do people keep these critters as pets?

BK: I do have some friends that keep horseshoe crabs as pets, but we strongly discourage this. On "Goldfish Street"

in Mong Kok they do have some horseshoe crab babies, which sell at a very high price. I hope it won't be popular but there aren't any regulations or laws to protect them.

HK: Why is it important to protect these crabs?

BK: They reflect how healthy beaches are and how healthy our ecosystem is. A lot of shore animals feed on horseshoe crab eggs.

JC: Everything that goes into the human body, like vaccines and medicines, have to be tested on something that is free from bacteria and safe for humans. The test comes from horseshoe crab blood. We really hope that people, after learning about horseshoe crabs, will think about how to be a better member of the ecosystem.

HK: Have you ever eaten a horseshoe crab?

BK: No, but I have some friends that have, because they like to try exotic food. They say it's a cool experience, something different. But some say it's very fishy. And some crabs have a toxin that will attack your nervous system, so you will get paralyzed!

JC: Every time I give a public talk, some older people talk about having it in the past because there wasn't much choice of food. The general comment from people who have eaten it is that it's not as good as you would think.

HK: What do people think of your work?

JC: Most of them think it's cool. The animal is cool, and it's unique.

BK: I have two groups of friends that think very differently. One is very supportive. But it's very difficult to convince the other group why we need to conserve them. I tell them that they are very useful for humans and have ecological importance, but they just say they are not good looking or nutritionally important. They think it is just a weird kind of seafood: not like pandas or dolphins. But conservation is not just about conserving animals with a cute face.

Find out more about the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation and the Juvenile Horseshoe Crab Rearing Programme at opahk.oceanpark.com.hk.



Blowing Water

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

san1 see2 haang1

新屎坑

"NEW SHIT HOLE"

"A passing fad, the next big thing." Part of the saying *san see haang, sam yat heung*—"even a new toilet smells good for three days."

HongKabulary



Light Christmas

Trying to get into the Christmas spirit when it's warm enough to get by with a thin jumper.

*"How am I meant to feel jolly and festive when it's such a light Christmas?"
"You never know your luck. Maybe the pollution will crystallize into snowflakes."*

CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

Celebrate this Christmas at Auberge Discovery Bay Hong Kong with a range of activities and enjoy the festivity in the Christmas Wonderland.

Festive feast

Enjoy tantalising festive buffets with Christmas roasts & desserts, as well as a wide variety of fresh seafood such as snow crab legs, French blue mussels and sea whelks.

Lunch or dinner buffet HK\$408up
Four-course dinner HK\$498



Christmas Staycation

Festive Staycation Package (For two persons)

HK\$2,788 up

Validity : 24 – 26 & 31/ 12

- One night stay in a Mountain View Room
- Breakfast buffet
- Festive dinner buffet (2nd seating) or four-course dinner (24-25/12)



Bring your kid (aged 3-11) along for only an additional HK\$628 to enjoy this package with a free extra bed.

Winter Spa Pampering Two Nights Stay Package (For two persons)

HK\$6,288 up

Validity : 24 – 26, 31/ 12 & 1/1

- Two nights stay in a Mountain View Room
- 90 minutes Italian Organic Candles Body Massage
- Daily breakfast buffet
- Festive dinner buffet (2nd seating on the 1st night)



Celebration Activities

Party on with us to celebrate this festive season!

Christmas Eve Party

8pm – 10pm

Hotel lobby

Live music • Christmas carol • magic show

DECEMBER
24

New Year's Eve Countdown Party

10pm – 1am

Hotel lobby

Live band • dance floor • balloon drop

DECEMBER
31

Spa Botanica brings you a warm revitalising experience this winter with Italian Organic Candle Body Massage.

60 / 90 minutes HK\$990 / HK\$1,290

Spoil your loved ones with Spa Botanica's exclusive gift hamper.

HK\$1,988



For more details , please visit www.aubergediscoverybay.com or call (852) 2295 8288.

* Terms and conditions apply

* All prices are subject to 10% service charge (except spa gift hamper)

* Prices and activities are subject to change without prior notice

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The Hong Kong Christmas Advent Calendar

Feeling too warm for Christmas? Never fear! With something to do every day between now and Dec 25, we're going to fling you into the festive spirit, whether you like it... or not. By **HK Staff**



Grab free mince pies with the Cecilian Singers

Friday, December 4

Music of the Night

Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" provides a festive soundtrack to the holidays as 82-year-old maestro Helmuth Rilling takes his baton to the stage as a finale to the "BACH 330" project, which aims to inspire humanity through music.

Dec 4, 7:30pm. Concert Hall, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, 2584-8500. \$140-340 from [hkticketing.com](#).

Saturday, December 5

Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

In **Sounds Great Movies and Musicals**, West End singers Janet Mooney and John Langley sing Broadway hits and Christmas classics with the HK Sinfonietta. And yes, they'll be singing "Frozen" songs, too. Sorry (not sorry).

Dec 3-5, 8pm; Dec 6, 3pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$150-420 from [urbtix.hk](#).

Ciao Now?

Looking for something Mediterranean? The Italian Women's Association is hosting the 32nd iteration of **Il Mercatino** ("The Market"). This charity bazaar has all kinds of fun Italian products and edibles, and all proceeds are donated to charities and hospitals in Hong Kong. Bring a reusable bag!

Dec 5, 10am-5pm. The Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital, 12 Sandy Bay Rd., Pokfulam. \$20 entrance fee. Parking not provided.

Sunday, December 6

There is Nothing Like a Dame

The Hong Kong Players are running their 55th annual Christmas show as the opening act of the Udderbelly Festival. In **Cinderella: The Panto** they'll be reenacting the classic tale of Cinderella with singing, dancing, jokes, a clown—and Ermintrude the Cow. Where's the ticketing office? It's behind you!

Dec 4-6, 10-13. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$290-438 from [hkticketing.com](#).

Polarized Audiences

Here's a heartwarming tale to warm up your holidays—**The Snowman and the Bear** is a magical animated film accompanied by a live orchestra, narration and singing. It's a multi-dimensional cinematic experience that's the perfect Christmas outing for the family.

Dec 6, 2:30 and 5pm. Sha Tin Hall Auditorium, 1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin, New Territories. From \$120 at [urbtix.hk](#).

Shop 'Til You Drop

It's never too early to check off that Christmas gift list. For one-of-a-kind pressies from artisanal treats to antiques and accessories, head to the **Sai Kung Markets**' annual holiday extravaganza. Shop and feast with over 40 vendors on site offering the best of Hong Kong's gourmet goods.

Dec 6, 11am-5pm. 33 Wai Man Rd., Sai Kung, 2799-9983, [saikungmarkets.com](#). Free.

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

Whether you're celebrating Chanukah, Chrismukkah, or good old-fashioned **Hanukkah**, pick up some decorations and dreidels along with latkes and sufganiyah at your local bakery or kosher corner store—try the **Kosher Mart**. One Robinson Place, 70 Robinson Rd., Mid-Levels, 2801-5440.

Monday, December 7

Olden Times

The Hong Kong Markets Organisation has launched the first month-long vintage market in the SAR. At **Something Old**, there will be 30 vintage enthusiasts introducing their wares, a pop-up darkroom for developing film the old-school way, displays of impressive vintage collections, and a retro-style barber shop perfect for those finishing off their Movember shave.

Through Dec 20, closed Mondays. D2 Place, 9 Cheung Yee St., Lai Chi Kok, [somethingold.hk](#).

The Beer Diaries

It's never too late to pick up a beery advent calendar from the guys at the **Tai-Pan Beer Co.**, who are offering 24 different beers and ciders in a single case, one for each day until Christmas. Buy this today, and you can do a week's worth of catching up in one go...

\$725 from [taipanbeer.com](#).



Strike up a conversation with these Santas at Jingle and Mingle



The AIA Great European Carnival spins on until next Feb



Feel warm and fuzzy with "The Snowman and the Bear"

Help! I need a Tree!

Ikea

As much as we want to avoid Ikea at all costs on the weekends, you might need to cast your claustrophobic fears aside and plan a visit soon to snag one of the remaining Scandinavian firs for a properly Swedish Christmas. Trees 120-150cm tall start at \$599, and trees 180-210cm tall are \$699 each.

Last orders Dec 14, last delivery Dec 19. 310 Gloucester Rd., Causeway Bay, 3125-0888, ikea.com.

Inside

Got cash to splash on an investment tree? Inside's 120cm faux pines are lush and green, and even come in a pot rather than a tacky plastic stand. They also carry a 70cm one in case you can't sacrifice that much precious living room space.

\$890-1,900 from Inside, Shop 2101, 12/F, Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing St., Ap Lei Chau, 2873-1795, inside.com.hk.

City'super

City'super offers a huge selection of artificial Christmas trees. Basic green ones will set you back \$480-1,980, while fancier, sparkly versions are also available from \$1,380 and up.

Shops 1041-1049, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St., Central, 2736-3866, citysuper.com.hk.

Anglo Chinese Florist

This central florist ships in trees from an Oregon state tree farm, starting from \$800 for a 60-120cm tree and up to \$4,490 for a 275-300cm tree.

G/F & Basement, No. 9 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, 2921-2986, enquiry@anglochinese.com.

Tuesday, December 8

Into The Woods

As the weather gets a little colder, skip the North Face jackets and get toasty at The Woods' **Fireside Tuesdays**, where you can sip on some specially crafted hot cocktails next to the fireplace (it's digital; the closest we can get). Every Tuesday. L/G, 17 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2522-0281.

Wednesday, December 9

Songs of Winter

Sing along to all your favorite holiday tunes at the **Winter Wonderland** concert by the Kassia Men's Chorus and Kassia Women's Choir. This annual Christmas show is chock-full of classics, including perennial favorite "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

Dec 9, 8pm. Sheung Wan Civic Centre Theatre, 345 Queen's Rd. Central, katterwall.com. \$180-200 from urbtix.com.

Hey Babes

Featuring music from the 16th century to the present day, the Cecilian Singers' 2015 Christmas concert **A Babe is Born** will be a night filled with good music and the festive spirit. From classical to modern styles and a capella, you'll hear it all—plus free mince pies and mulled wine are served afterwards. Who could say no to mince pies? Dec 9, 7:30pm. St John's Cathedral, Garden Rd., Central. \$200 from ceciliansingers.com.

Thursday, December 10

Murderer Most Festive

Christmas may not seem like the ideal time of year to watch a murder mystery unfold, but amid all the festive cheer and goodwill, we'll welcome a little intrigue into

the mix. **The Christmas Eve Murders** is a play about an ex-naval officer turned private eye who finds himself in the middle of a murder investigation in Stanley.

Dec 10-12, 7:30pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$240 from hkticketing.com.

Friday, December 11

Ho Ho Ho and a Bottle of Rum

Faust International Youth Theatre brings a tale of sailors and sea voyages to the stage just in time for the holidays. It's a theatrical dose of adventure based on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale, **Treasure Island**.

Dec 11-13. Drama Theatre, HKAPA, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. \$270 from hkticketing.com.

How Bazaar

The **Hullett House Christmas Market** makes an appearance once again this year, offering stalls filled with Christmas gifts, toys, gourmet treats, stocking stuffers, clothes, jewelry and much more, as well as mulled wine and live entertainment.

Dec 11-13, 5-9pm. 1881 Heritage, 2A Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui.

Saturday, December 12

Santa Baby

SantaCon is back! Dress up as Santa (or another holiday-themed character) and go on a bar crawl with a multitude of other Santas. Just don't get too drunk, because Father Christmas won't be gifting you bail. As per past events, the full schedule will be kept secret until the day of the event. Oh, and good luck with finding a cab while dressed in a Santa suit...

Dec 12, tiny.cc/hk-santacon2015.

Pop It

Bring the family down for an afternoon of merry eating and entertainment at St. John's Cathedral for **Pop Christmas**. There'll be upbeat Christmas jingles to bop along to, plenty of yummy goods to fill up tummies large and small, and a real live Santa for the little ones. All profits go to Sailability HK, a charity providing the disabled with the opportunity to participate in water-based activities.

Dec 12, 12:30pm. St. John's Cathedral, 2-8 Garden Rd., Central, stjohnscathedral.org.hk. \$100 for entry tickets includes treats and drinks.

Sunday, December 13

Market Day

Taikoo Place and Honest Green have banded together for the **Tong Chong Street Sunday Market**, a place where farmers' markets, culinary entrepreneurs and hungry participants can gather and share food. Come hungry!

Every Sunday through Dec 27, 11am-5pm. Taikoo Place, Tong Chong St., Quarry Bay, tongchongstreetmarket.com.

Santa Strikes

Sitting on Santa's lap is no longer good enough quality time with the jolly red man—it's all about bowling up a storm with several Santas at **Jingle and Mingle** at Tikitiki Bowling Bar. These Santas have graduated from the Santa School Hong Kong Academy and are ready to kick your butt in the lanes—let's hope their fake beards stay on.

Dec 13, 2-5pm. Tikitiki Bowling Bar, 4/F, Centro, 1A Chui Tong Rd., Sai Kung, 2657-8488, tikitiki.hk.





Monday, December 14

Christmas at the Conrad

Want to do all your Christmas shopping indoors? Head to the Conrad's **Christmas Gift Festival** where you can stock up on holiday toys, men's accessories, handmade bags, Japanese kimonos, photo frames, leather and Italian goods.

Dec 14, 10am-8pm, Conrad Hong Kong Grand Ballroom, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, prestigefairs.hk.

Tuesday, December 15

Carol Cases

City Chamber Orchestra is celebrating the festive season with a **Christmas Choral Showcase**, performing with the Warsaw Boys Choir and the Wells Cathedral School Choralia. They'll be singing Baroque works and classic Polish and English carols.

Dec 15-16, 7:30pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$180-480 from urbtix.hk.

Wednesday, December 16

Endless Winter

Visit Hong Kong's greatest Christmas spectacle at **Winterfest**, running until the first day of the new year. Attractions include the sparkling Serpenti centerpiece from Bulgari at Statue Square, the "Happily Ever After" Christmas Avenue at Harbour City, the 1881 Heritage Royal Ice Palace, and of course special theme park celebrations at Ocean Park and Disneyland. It's festive cheer as far as the eye can see.

Visit discoverhongkong.com for more info on attractions around town.

Thursday, December 17

A Long Time Ago...

Forget Christmas, there's only one date in December that actually matters: "**Star Wars: The Force Awakens**" opens in cinemas today. Will it live up to the massive hype and attention? Follow the force to find out... alternatively, buy a lightsaber from Toys "R" Us (\$599) and pretend you're a jedi knight at home.

Friday, December 18

Nuts About You

Is there anything more traditionally Hong Kong than catching **The Nutcracker** at Christmas? Take a journey with the HK Ballet through the land of snowflakes and sugar plum fairies...

Dec 18-27, 2:30 and 7:30pm. Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.

\$180-\$680 from urbtix.hk.



Professor Kusiel Moroz brings the Warsaw Boys' Choir to town

Saturday, December 19

Noho Ho Ho Ho

PoHo hipsters (or those who just can't bear to leave Sheung Wan) will want to hit up **Noho Xmas Mart**. This small indie Christmas fair is brimming with handmade crafts and gifts perfect for the holiday season.

Dec 19, noon-6pm. 17 Shing Wong St., Sheung Wan.



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Elements, Kowloon Station, Kowloon
Tel: (852) 2196 8098

YOHO MALL: Shop G005, G/F, Yoho Mall 1,
9 Yuen Lung Street, Yuen Long
Tel: (852) 2274 1988



Sunday, December 20

Classic Christmas

Presented by the Hong Kong Chorus Society and music director Henry Shek, **A Christmas Party** will feature Christmas classics from, um "The Sound of Music" and "The King and I," plus Beatles hits. Sure, why not? **Dec 20, Sheung Wan Civic Centre (Theatre), 5/F, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Bldg, 345 Queen's Rd. Central, Sheung Wan, 3761-6661. \$190 from urbtix.hk.**

Lots of Bell Ends

Need more Christmas music to put you in that joyous mood? **Ringing by the Candle Lights** is a melody-filled evening featuring instrumental handbell music presented by the Asia International Handbell Association. **Dec 20, Youth Square Y Theatre, 238 Chai Wan Rd., Chai Wan, 3721-8888. \$120-200 from urbtix.hk.**

Weihnachtsgrüße!

Stanley Plaza is recreating a **German Christmas market**, with around 80 booths offering an authentic taste of festive Europe. Along with a German village, there will be handicrafts made in Germany including miniature Christmas trees, giant nutcrackers, wooden toys, music boxes and specialty lights—plus mulled wine and grilled sausages. **Dec 12-13, 19-20, noon-8pm. Stanley Plaza Amphitheatre, 23 Carmel Rd., Stanley, linkhk.com.**

Photo: Roderrick Elmer/Flickr

Chill with thrillseeking elves at the AIA Great European Carnival

Photo: Roderrick Elmer/Flickr

Monday, December 21

Charity Time

More than 40 rides and games—and all for a good cause? Everyone's a winner! In celebration of its 145th anniversary Hong Kong's oldest charity, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, will hold a **charity carnival** at the 5.5-hectare former Kai Tak Airport runway space. Ten percent of ticket sales will go to the charity's services benefiting children, youth and low-income families. Ticket price includes access to all rides and games. **Dec 21-Mar 28, 2016, various times. Former Kai Tak Runway (near Kai Tak Cruise Terminal), Shing Fung Rd., Kowloon City. \$145-180 from twcarnival.hk.**

Tuesday, December 22

Carnivalesque

The **AIA Great European Carnival** is back and better than ever this year, featuring a massive outdoor ice rink to add some winter magic. With exhilarating rides from all over the world, carnival games, celebrity appearances and plenty of other surprises, this is an all-in-one stop for high-flying adventure and family fun over the holidays. **Dec 17-Feb 21, 2016. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 8 Lung Wo Rd., Central, 2524-6433, facebook.com/TGECAsia.**



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Case Study Chris Chan

I have been training and participating in different sports trainings and competitions for a long time. I played basketball for over 40 years and represented Hong Kong in an overseas basketball competition as a teenager. I have started playing badminton in recent years. In 2012, the doctor diagnosed me as a patient with badly worn cartilage in my knees that had to be operated on. After the operation, I had to visit the doctor every six to nine months for injections in my knees and each of them cost over HK\$10,000. The injections allowed me to keep playing sports. Six months ago I was introduced to Flexiseq, which has been very effective. I use it twice per day—once in the morning and once in the evening. In addition to regularly using Flexiseq twice per day, I also use the gel after exercising. Flexiseq has been very useful in maintaining the mobility of my knees, which is the reason why I am able to maintain my habit of playing badminton twice every week, each time for around two to three hours. Flexiseq has also greatly improved the pain in my knees after exercising. I would recommend Flexiseq to anyone who is experiencing pain in their knees.

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1. Conaghan K, Rutherford M. A Randomized, Double-Blind, Phase III Trial in Moderate Osteoarthritis Knee Pain Comparing Topical Ketorolac Gel with Ketorolac-Free Gel. *The Journal of Rheumatology* 2013; 40:10.

2. Conaghan K, Billema J, Rutherford M, White D, Auster T, Rutherford M. Drug-free gel containing ultra-dilute salicylate-phospholipid vesicles (UDS-PV) as topical therapy for the treatment of pain associated with osteoarthritis: a review of clinical efficacy and safety. *Current Medical Research & Opinion*. 2013; 29:17.



Bah, Humbug

Screw Christmas.

It's oppressively jolly and everyone seems to be having a good time. Get far from the shopping crowd with a screening of one of the best movies ever made: Ridley Scott's seminal final cut of cyberpunk classic "Blade Runner." After all: Christmas will soon be a memory of the past, lost like tears in rain...

Dec 19, 2:30pm.
Agnès b. Cinema,
2 Harbour Rd.,
Wan Chai,
hkac.org.hk.



Wednesday, December 23

Music and Magic

The magician and entertainer Harry Wong presents **Music for Kids**. Soon top of an HK Phil program that includes Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, "The Night Before Christmas" and sing-along carols, you can expect a little extra magic—Harry style.

Dec 23-24, 8pm. Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$180-\$480 from urbtix.hk.

Holidays on Ice

With "artfully arranged lighting and music" including a live band, **Holiday Icy Dance** brings together students from the HKAPA School of Dance, Festival Walk Glacier Skating School coaches and students and Red Vocal Academy members under guest curator/director David Liu, a former Winter Olympic Games figure skater and choreographer.

Dec 23, 2:30pm; Dec 24, 3:30pm and 7pm; Jan 14, 2016, 7:30pm. Festival Walk Glacier, Kowloon Tong, 2844-3588. Free.

Icy Tunes

The Udderbelly Festival Hong Kong presents **Sing-a-long-a Frozen**, a screening of Disney's "Frozen" with on-screen lyrics so kids (or you) can belt out all the words.

Best dressed Frozen-themed prizes will be awarded at every screening.

Dec 23-27, 31; Jan 1, 2016. Udderbelly, Central Harbourfront Event Space. \$228-\$316 from hkticketing.com.

Thursday, December 24

The Night Before Christmas

Keep things traditional with a **Midnight Mass** at St. John's Cathedral. Services also take place at Emmanuel Church in Pokfulam, St. Stephen's Chapel in Stanley and Discovery Bay Church. Tickets go quick, so make sure to put your name down well in advance.

Dec 24, 11pm. 4-8 Garden Rd., Central, 2523-4157, stjohnscathedral.org.hk.

See Snoopy

Nothing will beat the classic "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year), but you can still get a bit of Snoopy in your life with "**The Peanuts Movie**," which opens today. In this 3D animated film, Charlie Brown tries once again to impress the red-haired girl and Snoopy takes to the skies.

Dec 24. In theatres citywide.

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Hope you're on the nice list this year...

Sponsored Feature

The Shama Community

What were you doing last Saturday? Chances are, it didn't involve mojitos. On a recent Saturday Shama invited its residents to one of its regular tenant activities at Shama Tsim Sha Tsui's roof garden, where they were introduced to the property's herb garden, home-grown and free for all residents to make use of. The idea? To add a burst of flavor to their busy days. Residents learned all about buying seasonal produce in Hong Kong, harvesting herbs to create their own pesto sauce and fresh drinks.

The event was just one of many that forms part of the Shama ethos, designed to get residents acquainted with the city. Shama's unique "No Boundaries" program is designed specially to help residents feel like locals from the second they set foot in Hong Kong. With fantastic event information, insightful neighborhood guides and the inside track on the city's coolest restaurants and best bars, Shama makes sure that you're living like a local.

What's really thoughtful is that they provide a cookbook in every room that's full of great recipes, eastern and western alike, which can easily be whipped up in the fully equipped kitchenettes—featuring a few herbs taken straight from the roof garden.

From tenant activities to insider knowledge, Shama is all about beautifully designed, effortlessly comfortable living in the middle of Hong Kong. But it's also all about the sense of community that staying here creates. Personalized housekeeping is tailored to exactly fit the individual needs of each resident, and the objective is to provide an extra level of care and bonding with each tenant. By creating well-designed common spaces which include a gym, yoga/meditation space and business center, Shama always goes the extra mile. You'll always feel part of a very special Shama family. You'll always have that unique sense of belonging.



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Brand new Hong Kong label **Holisocks** doesn't believe in a drab ankle. This sock line is all about turning a colorful calf to the world, from funky fresh stripes to urban camouflage to 8-bit retro pixels. Whoever said that socks are boring Christmas gifts? \$120 from holisocks.com with next-day delivery.

FASHION

LOOKBOOK

Edited by Zoe Chan
Blogger & Stylist at normalchic.com | Instagram @zoe_normalchic



Red and Ready

If you're over being sparkled up for the festive season (or just saving the serious bling for NYE) how about a touch of classic, sexy red instead? Keep an eye out for all the online sales around this time for your last chance before Christmas. This dress, for example, is from American online shop Revolve. When it comes to a statement dress like this, ditch your boring go-to clutch and check out one of Kotur's fabulous designs—everyone from Hong Kong to Hollywood is rocking one these days.

Good For Me dress,
US\$170 (\$1,320) from Revolve



Diamond Essentials necklace,
\$2,000 from Links of London



Green Shoots ring with peridot,
citrine and pink topaz,
\$5,499 from Les Amis



Balenciaga studded
textured-leather wrap bracelet,
\$2,000 from Net-A-Porter



Fitzgerald clutch,
\$6,500 from Kotur



Gilda shoes,
\$5,200 from Kotur

Kotur

Shop G-13B, Sogo TST, Sheraton Hotel Shopping Centre,
20 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 3911-1710.

Les Amis

Shop 6B, Union Commercial Building, 12-16 Lyndhurst Terrace,
Central, 3796-3688, lesamisjouel.com.

Links of London

Shop 141, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 2918-9727.

Net-A-Porter

net-a-porter.com.

Revolve

revolveclothing.com.

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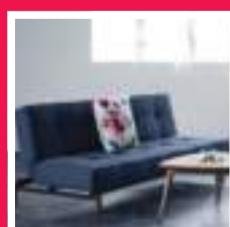
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TRAVEL

Edited by Daniel Creffield

daniel.creffield@hkmagmedia.com

Bond Bound

To mark the release of the latest Bond movie "Spectre," travel search company Skyscanner has compiled a list of 10 amazing 007 film locations, and the cheapest months next year to visit them.

1. Jamaica—"Dr. No" (1962)

One of the most iconic 007 scenes is set on Crab Key Beach, where Connery's Bond meets Honey Ryder, played by Ursula Andress. The beach is actually called Laughing Waters, near the port town of Ocho Rios on the north coast of Jamaica. Travel in **April**, with airfares starting at \$8,400.

2. Istanbul, Turkey—"From Russia with Love" (1963)

Clearly one of his favorite city break destinations, Bond returned to Istanbul in "Skyfall," after first visiting it in "From Russia with Love" some 50 years earlier when he took the ferry across the Bosphorus with Russian agent Tatiana Romanova. Airfares to Istanbul start at \$3,900 in **February**.

3. St. Andrews, Scotland—"Goldfinger" (1965)

All the golf greats have played the hallowed turf of the Old Course at St. Andrews—including Bond himself, who was almost sliced open by the diminutive Oddjob with a killer bowler hat. **February** is the most economical time of year to visit the east coast of Fife in Scotland, with airfares from \$4,775—but it's probably not the friendliest weather-wise.

4. Tokyo, Japan—"You Only Live Twice" (1967)

Sean Connery tracks big baddie Ernst Stavro Blofeld, played by Donald Pleasence, down to Tokyo. Fly to Japan's bustling capital from just \$1,250 in **February**.

5. Khao Phing Kan, Thailand—"The Man With the Golden Gun" (1974)

Better known as "James Bond Island," Khao Phing Kan in Thailand's Andaman Sea is a stunning location, which is probably why it was chosen for Roger Moore's epic battle with Christopher Lee's Scaramanga. The cheapest flights to Phuket start at \$922 in **September**.

6. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—"Moonraker" (1979)

Notable for one of Bond's most thrilling fight scenes with steel-toothed henchman Jaws on the cable car up to Sugarloaf Mountain in Rio, **March** offers the best airfares, starting at around \$8,400.

7. San Francisco, USA—"A View to a Kill" (1985)

The skies over San Francisco's iconic Golden Gate Bridge provided another amazing Bond location for a pitched final fight on board an airship. Tickets around \$4,400 in **February**.

8. Key West, Florida, USA—"Licence to Kill" (1989)

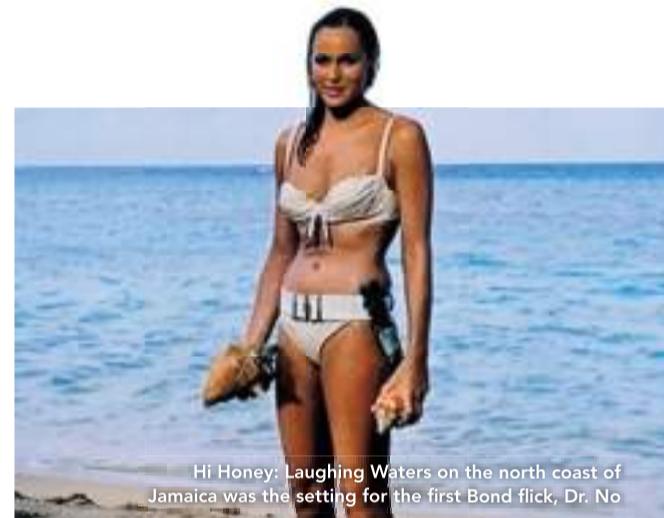
The tropical Florida Keys and Key West are the exotic settings for this darker Bond outing. Flights to Miami International airport start from \$7,200 in **February**.

9. Shanghai, China—"Skyfall" (2012)

"Skyfall" shows off the Shanghai skyline at its most futuristic. Fly to the city for just \$900 in **January** next year. Just try not to have a showdown with an assassin in a neon-lit skyscraper.

10. Mexico City, Mexico—"Spectre" (2015)

The amazing opening scenes of the latest 007 offering have increased interest in the many attractions of Mexico City. **May** is the cheapest month of the year to go to see the ruins of the ancient Aztec Templo Mayor, the baroque Catedral Metropolitana and the Palacio Nacional, all based around the Plaza de la Constitución, the massive main square where scenes in the middle of the Day of the Dead were shot. Airfares from \$7,330.



Hi Honey: Laughing Waters on the north coast of Jamaica was the setting for the first Bond flick, Dr. No

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ESCAPE ROUTES



Pistols and pad Thai—Roger Moore and Christopher Lee's Scaramanga fight it out at Khao Phing Kan. Visit in September for the best airfares



Now you're wheely in trouble—Daniel Craig in Istanbul for "Skyfall"—airfares start at \$3,900 in February

Bonus: Hong Kong Bond

Prefer to stay right here in the SAR, but still want to soak up some Bond location action? Easy. Shantung Street in Mong Kok is featured in "You Only Live Twice," while in "The Man with the Golden Gun" you can see Western Market in Sheung Wan. Also check out Hankow Road in Tsim Sha Tsui near the Peninsula for scenes of Bottoms Up Bar (now closed).

You might struggle though to track down exactly where 007 is in the 2002 film, "Die Another Day." Bond apparently lands at the Yacht Club in Causeway Bay, but across the water you can clearly see the Bank of China Tower in Central. The lesson? Don't look to 007 for geographical authenticity... skyscanner.com.hk.

Guilty Gulps

As a jet-setting aficionado of the good life, Bond was partial to a martini or two. But even big-spending 007 would have balked at the \$50,600 price tag on a cocktail recently conceived by **Vela Private Island** resort in the Maldives.

Part of its new vintage cocktail menu, the upmarket getaway destination is offering well-heeled guests six extravagant cocktails comprising some extremely rare liquors. In an attempt to create history in a glass, the cocktails celebrate vintages from bygone years, using the finest vintage ports, Cognacs and Armagnacs.

With eye-popping prices starting from \$9,500, the unique concoctions are made with ingredients including Guy Lheraud Vieil-Armagnac Baron Gaston Legrand 1888, which alone costs \$8,400 for a 40ml shot. The most premium cocktail? That's the "Lucky & Al" (\$50,600), created using Salon Champagne 1988, which can cost more than \$12,500 per bottle, and rare 1930's Guy Lheraud Vieil Armagnac. What a bargain! velaprivateisland.com.

Anti-Dithering Deal

If you're still hoping to get away over the festive season but are yet to commit, **Banyan Tree** is offering some sweet looking last-minute deals to lots of its properties, including China, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Thailand, the UAE and Vietnam. But you'll have to move fast—the offer expires December 6.

"The 11th Hour Decision" add-on package includes meals and celebratory drinks throughout your stay for an extra US\$50 (\$390) excluding tax and service charge, valid through December.

To take advantage of the offer, you'll need to book the "best available rate" and then add on the "11th Hour Decision" package. banyantree.com.



The \$50,600 "Lucky & Al"—try not to knock it over

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The W Hong Kong's
Christmas dessert tower

▼ Best... Chinese Christmas

Barely a year old, Cantonese fine dining restaurant **Lai Bun Fu** is toasting the festive season and a new year of prosperity with a Winter Solstice banquet, free-flow champagne on Christmas Day or a special Boxing Day brunch. The "Dazzling Christmas in Hong Kong" menu is a decadent feast of roast turkey with plum sauce, baked crab meat and bird's nest, and lobster rolls with Jinhua ham. Alternatively book the 10-course Winter Solstice banquet, full of abalone and other luxurious treats.

Winter Solstice banquets start from \$3,888 for a table of six on Dec 22; "Dazzling Christmas" menu is \$638 per person on Dec 24-26, Boxing Day Brunch with free-flow bubbly starts at \$518. 5/F, 18 On Lan St., Central, 2564-3868, laibunfu.com.

▼ Best... Family-Style Meal

Spanish cuisine lends itself to family-style dining, and if you're rolling with a big group, **Ham & Sherry's Feasting Table** is the way to go. Seating up to 12 people, the table is an onslaught of the resto's signature tapas combined with centerpiece showstoppers, including a whole suckling pig with peppers and pineapple, and a whole sea bass dressed in lemon, olive oil and parsley. Expect an endless supply of cava and sangria to fuel the festive merriment all night long.

\$10,000 for up to 12 people. G/F, 1-7 Ship St., Wan Chai, 2555-0628.

Best... Dinner for Two

There's something romantic about the holidays, and with the Christmas lights twinkling and carolers singing, love is in the air. Grab a corner table for two at **Cocotte** and pretend you're dining on the *rive gauche* with a classic seven-course meal featuring poached lobster, duck breast with blackcurrant sauce and braised Kobe beef, and of course a festive Christmas yule log. Make like the French and give your honey a wine-tainted kiss before the clock hits midnight.

Dec 24-25, \$988 per person. 9 Shin Hing St., Central, 2568-8857, cocotte.hk.

▼ Best... Home-Cooked Meal

Christmas is about spending time with family and friends—not laboring over the stove. If you can't stand the thought of missing out on a home-cooked meal, but don't want to bother with all the prepping and stuffing, **Le Port Parfumé** has you covered. Classic Christmas dishes are delivered to your doorstep, with simple three-step instructions to get you to the finish line before guests arrive. With dishes including pork terrine, asparagus and escargot in herb butter, beef wellington and beef bouillabaisse materializing like magic on the table, we won't blame you for wanting to take all the credit.

Shop C, 6-10 Kau U Fong, Central, 2824-3898.



Stewed prawn & pork belly at Le Port Parfumé

ONom, All Ye Fair

Jingle bells, kitchen smells, feasting all the way... the season of eating is upon us and our mouths are watering in anticipation. We've handpicked the best Yuletide meals for every occasion. By **Leslie Yeh**

◀ Best... Hotel Feast

Head to the Mandarin Oriental or Four Seasons if you're after elegant holiday fine dining, but for festive fun nothing beats the winter wonderland at the W Hong Kong. Brimming with over-the-top cake towers, strawberry-chocolate fountains and snow-dusted seafood platters, the all-day restaurant **Kitchen** is the place to indulge your Christmas fantasies. Catering to all from meat to seafood lovers and those just looking to overload on anything made with sugar, Kitchen's myriad offerings are all you need for a full festive feast.

Book group holiday dinners from \$408 plus 10 percent per diner. W Hong Kong, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2222.

► Best... Splurge-Worthy Holiday

If you've been saving up all your pennies this year for something special, an extravagant holiday meal at **La Saison** is money well spent. Michelin-starred chef Jacques Barnachon offers up a Christmas tasting menu designed to whisk you away to the French countryside. Savor delicate scallop carpaccio topped with Oscietre caviar, crab ravioli and black shrimp consommé, roasted French blue lobster and premium A4 wagyu beef with artichoke cream. It may cost you most of your savings—but it's Christmas!

The six-course degustation menu is \$1,688 per head on Dec 24 and \$1,488 on Dec 25-26 and 31. Additional \$688 for wine pairing. 2/F, The Cameron, 33 Cameron Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2789-8000, lasaisonbyjb.com.





thful

French blue lobster
at La Saison

Best... Value for Money

Feel the warmth and generosity of a true Italian Christmas at pasta palace **Linguini Fini**. The four-course family-style menu running through Dec 31 is priced at just \$308 per head, which is an arm and a leg cheaper than other Christmas tasting menus in town. Expect a carb-heavy feast with Chef Vinny Lauria's home cooking that never fails to disappoint. **Book for lunch or dinner 48 hours in advance.** 49 Elgin St., Central, 2387-6338.

▼ Best... Festive Treat

Popsy Modern Kitchen is all sugar plum fairies and tin soldiers this Christmas, with a whimsical menu inspired by Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker." Expect to eat with your eyes first, from the "Toy Maker," a crispy chicken roulade on pumpkin purée with eggplant tempura, to "The Red Flutes," succulent chunks of lobster swimming in a 36-hour-cooked bisque. Dessert takes you on a journey through the Land of the Sweets, where you'll be won over by raspberry mouse with cinnamon crumble, chocolate tuile and peanut butter dust.

Lunch on Dec 25-26 is \$488 per person (four courses); dinner on Dec 24-25 is \$880 (six courses) or \$1,280 (eight courses). 5/F, The Wellington, 184-198 Wellington St., Central, 2907-8188.

Hungry for more? Check out our full list of Christmas dining specials at [hk-magazine.com!](http://hk-magazine.com/)



The Nutcracker afternoon tea
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More Info

Edited by Leslie Yeh
leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com



Ocean-to-Plate Dining

With a handful of too-cool-for-school eateries popping up around LKF, at least one restaurant still retains its old-world charm. Perpetually bathed in candlelight and with live musicians setting the mood, **Casa Lisboa** (8/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 2905-1168) remains one of the more enchanting dining rooms in Central, and their new seafood tower (\$1,880 full, \$950 half portion) is ever more reason to plan a visit. This is the only place

in Hong Kong you'll get the real deal flown in from Portugal — and you can believe it's good, from spider crabs to over-sized scampi to the elusive goose barnacles, painstakingly sourced (the process can be quite hazardous, we hear) and prepared with a deft hand by Chef Edgar Alves. Picking leisurely over the ocean gems with a bottle of Portuguese Vinho Verde sounds like the ideal date night to us—just make sure you're in good company.

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Tartine

French/Sandwiches. 2-3/F, 38 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, 2808-0752.



With light blue interiors and an airy garden terrace, Tartine should satisfy Francophiles who love sipping on spritzers, dainty sandwiches and people-watching—the window looks straight out over the Mid-Levels escalators.

HIT The posh eatery serves up nine different tartines (open-faced sandwiches) starting at a reasonable \$68. Despite being on the small side they're all made with top-notch ingredients, including fresh burrata, seasonal garden vegetables, lobster and premium duck from Maison Samaran in Toulouse, France. Of the three tartines we tried,

our favorite was the duck confit (\$98), beautifully paired with caramelized onions, mint and citrus. The high quality of the ingredients shone through in the tomato and burrata (\$88), while the goat cheese and figs (\$98) would have been a definite winner had the figs been roasted further to tease out their sweetness.

MISS Despite being charmed right away by the cozy French-themed décor, we had a few issues with Tartine. First, it bills itself as all-day dining but in fact closes from 2:30-6pm. Second, portions are small, but you might blame this on their premium location. Last, presentation was a bit lackluster compared to the gorgeous promo shots on their site.

BOTTOM LINE Reasonable prices and quality ingredients could make this a popular spot with the chic lunch crowd—although if you're hungry you may need to order two or three.

Open Mon-Sun, 12:30-2:30pm for lunch; 6-10:30pm for dinner. \$

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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NEW AND NOTED



Bindaas' version of Keema Pau with minced goat

Yaas to Bindaas

A new month, a new spate of restaurant openings. Taking a breather from European and Spanish cuisine, **Bindaas Bar + Kitchen** (33 Aberdeen St., Central, 2447-9998) is a welcome newcomer—an Indian eatery serving up street snacks and "Indian tapas" alongside well-executed curries and of course, homemade naan. The trendy kitchen takes inspiration from all parts of India, with a family-style vibe that lets you order plate after plate without racking up a staggering bill. While the fusion-leaning "Naanza" pizza mash-up came out a bit rubbery, the tried-and-true combinations do not disappoint, from pork vindaloo to prawn ghee roast and the paneer shashlik skewers. Don't miss an inventive cocktail list as well as the excellent "paan" cotta flavored with the traditional Indian digestives.

What's in Your Basket?

Chef Philippe Orrico has had a busy year—gaining a Michelin star at ON Dining, subsequently losing one at Upper Modern, consulting on the menu at Tartine and now launching a "casual weekend" concept, **Picnic on Forbes** (38 Forbes St., Kennedy Town, 2855-0810). After the lofty fine-dining heights of his other ventures, we're pretty excited to see Chef Orrico's culinary genius at work in a more accessible menu, inspired by the laissez-faire essence of French culture. Despite the premise of sunshine and picnics, expect to find the same scrupulous standards across food, wines and cheeses (ON's resident cheese guru Jeremy Evrard is back) in a menu dominated by hearty roast chickens, "Macaroni Cupcakes" and goodie-laden baskets which you can take away for a real picnic in the park.

Wing Kee (榮記) ★★★★☆

Cantonese. Shop 4, Bowrington Road Cooked Food Center, 21 Bowrington Rd., Wan Chai, 2574-3870.



Bowrington Road Cooked Food Center is one of the best of its kind in Hong Kong: pink plastic on all the tables covered with great, cheap food.

HIT We rocked up in a large group and ordered until our waitress said we'd ordered too much, and then we ordered some more. Zhenjiang spare ribs (\$78) were tender, sweet and tart, and immediately scarfed up by the first three people who could get their hands on them at the table. Ma po tofu (\$48) was prepared Cantonese-style, well-cooked but not spicy. Claypot-cooked gai laan (\$50) was tender and

crunchy, and the deep-fried crispy chicken (\$108 for a half-chicken) was some of the best we've had in Hong Kong—beautifully crisp on the outside, but juicy and tender inside. It only needed one thing: to be washed down with plentiful bottles of Blue Girl (yeah, we know, but they were out of Tsingtao).

MISS Steamed razor clams with vermicelli and garlic (\$88) is a classic dish, but our plate was lackluster, full of small rubbery clams. Lemon chicken (\$65) divided the table, with some finding it tender, but too sweet. The beef ribs with fried onion was about 90 percent onion (why!), but the beef wasn't bad.

BOTTOM LINE Cheap and cheerful bites in a cheap and cheerful atmosphere: Wing Kee's always a winner.

Open daily, 6pm-2am. \$

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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MORE INFO:



CITY STROLL

Hung Hom

The residential area and transport nexus of Hung Hom has a few tricks up its sleeve that no one saw coming. From awesome shops tucked in side streets to stores hidden in plain sight, there's a lot more to Hung Hom than meets the eye. This month, we're exploring these streets and having fun doing it.



Need to Know

"Hung Hom" means "red cliff." Various origins of the name have been suggested, from the color of the earth in Hung Hom Bay, to a more fanciful story of deep red water which emerged when construction workers built a well—feng shui experts called it "dragon's blood." Since the earliest days of Kowloon, Hung Hom has been an industrial area of docks, concrete works and a power station. The Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Company, later Hutchison Whampoa, had its dockyards here, where the Star Ferries were built. After the demise of the industry in the 1970s the dockyards were developed into the Whampoa Garden housing estate.

1 American Pool

Before game consoles, there were arcades. This old-school amusement arcade hub will take you back to your childhood and remind you of how old you are, all in one sitting. On top of video games, there's also a true rarity: actual pinball machines. Warning: You may spend all day in here.

G/F, 13 Man Tai St., Hung Hom, 2333-2081.



2 Miniso

Need to kit out your new flat? This Japanese shop is packed full of home goods, electronic accessories, beauty supplies and much more, all at great prices. Be prepared to force yourself out of the store, before you buy everything.

Shop 2, B/F, 2-34E Tak Man St., Hung Hom, minisohome.com.



3 Syster

Combining vintage and modern fashion trends, Syster is the perfect spot for some retail therapy. Quaint and cute, you won't be disappointed by a selection ranging from cozy knit sweaters to pleated skirts.

Shop 28C, G/F, Site 2, Whampoa Garden, Hung Hom, 2333-1373.



4 Eyescream & Churros

What better way to end (or start) the day than with delicious, freshly made churros and soft serve ice cream? (There isn't a better way.) Tucked into the side streets of Hung Hom, this haven will make you forget your worries and send you straight to dessert heaven.

Shop B1, G/F, Tak Man Building, 29 Tak Man St., Hung Hom, facebook.com/eyescreamandchurros.



Check back next week for more awesome things to do in Hung Hom!

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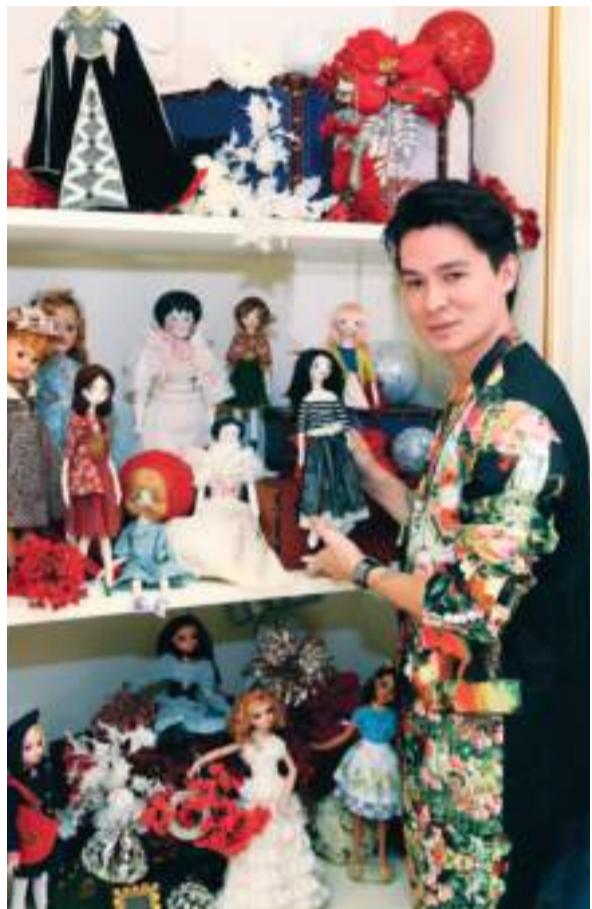
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UPCLOSE: ANDREW YANG



Andrew Yang started off as a fashion designer before switching to designing costumes for dolls instead, including iconic representations of Vogue's Anna Wintour and Grace Coddington in doll form. An exhibition of his miniature designs will span the whole of Elements Mall during the festive season. Yang tells Adrienne Chum about his favorite dolls... and their personalities.

HK Magazine: So, why dolls?

Andrew Yang: My mother loved [American collectible] Madame Alexander dolls, so they were always around in my childhood. I have always loved playing with dolls with my younger brothers since I was young—Barbie, My Little Pony, and lots of fabric dolls from the local craft store that were meant to be used as holiday decorations. Dolls give me creative expression. I always wanted to make a doll, but never had the patience for sculpting—it takes a lot of time and practice to be a great sculptor—but one of the things I did learn in fashion was the basics of how to sculpt with fabric. I chose that as my medium and then it was quite easy!

HK: Which of your dolls on display at Elements is your favorite?

AY: I really love the character of "Earth Wright" (pictured, right). She is a hard working lawyer, a young professional as we would call her in the States—with a flair for fashion and extremely good taste. Like me, she always looks good while traveling, so this made me think that I understand her well. Her style elements usually involve Swarovski crystals and all things that sparkle—so I intentionally designed her look to be quite simple with a short bob haircut and clean makeup. I fell in love with the dolls I made of her!

HK: Where do the dolls' personalities come from?

AY: I am really inspired by the personality of the modern Hong Kong woman, who is very international these days—but also incorporates fun, fancy things. For this project, I studied Hong Kong a lot and tried to find iconic elements which truly represent Hong Kong. I got inspiration by reviewing Hong Kong movies and magazines, to represent the beauty of modern Hong Kong ladies.

HK: How long does it take to make one doll?

AY: If I was working on each one at a time and they were over-the-top crazy looks, then three days to a week. But it's easier to work on many at the same time, which cuts down time. This project took about 3,000 hours and three months of work.

HK: Do you ever make male dolls?

AY: There are lots in the new display! I made various male characters, including kings dancing at Christmas balls, musicians, porters, grooms and more.

HK: Do you keep any dolls at home?

AY: Many of them sell or go on to exhibitions, and I like to send them out in the world—but I collect many of my own. I have over 100! For this exhibition I have various vintage fashion doll collections on display. [My dolls take viewers] on a journey back in time with fashion dolls from around the world.

Check out Andrew Yang's dolls through Dec 31 at Elements Mall, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon.



HK PICKS

Udderbelly Festival Hong Kong

From Edinburgh Festival Fringe comes the very first Udderbelly Festival Hong Kong, a crazy cool two-month stage festival. There will be music and dance, circus and comedy, cabaret and family shows, and even a sing-along cinema. It'll all take place inside Violet, a ginormous upside-down purple cow, and there will of course be food and drinks. Oh, and the Christmas event is with Thomas the Tank Engine. Choo choo! Dec 4-Feb 14, 2016. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. Find out more at udderbelly.asia.

Classical

Happy Go Lucky Big Band

Kenny Matsuura of The Flying Machine Revival Quartet and the HGL Big Band take over the Fringe Dairy for a night of slick classical jazz. Expect all things Duke Ellington. Take it as read that this gig means a whole lot. After all, it don't mean a thing if you ain't got that swing. Dec 19, 10pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$150 in advance; \$180 at the door.

Music Amaze Green Concert

Youth Square hosts a concert to promote green living and environmentalism, with choirs and singers performing 21 songs all about green activism. Most of the songs are original and new. Plant songs! Dec 12, 7:30pm. Y-Theatre, Youth Square, 238 Chai Wan Rd., Chai Wan.

Opera

Il Trovatore

Verdi's four-act opera, Il Trovatore, sends us back to medieval Spain to watch troubadour Manrico and his rival Count di Luna fight over their love for Leonora. As tension rises in the love triangle, the two men duel and blood is shed... In Italian with Chinese and English surtitles. Dec 11-12, 7:45pm; Dec 12-13, 2:45pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$150-630 from urbtix.hk.

Theater

Cirque Adrenaline

It's time for some festive circus fun! The Cirque Adrenaline's upcoming show will have 15 choreographed acts with high-risk stunts that include acrobatics, humor, and lots of spinning. Woo! Dec 22-Jan 3 2016. AsiaWorld-Arena, Sky Plaza Rd., Chek Lap Kok, 3606-8828. \$295-895 from hkticketing.com.

ID

Canadian circus troupe Cirque Éloize performs in the SAR with their unique fusion of circus acts and urban dance. Oh boy, breakdancing on stilts! Dec 30-Jan 3, 2016. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$120-380 from urbtix.hk.

Farfalle

From Italy comes the Teatro di Piazza O d'Occasione, a theatre company that's all about interactive theatre and the use of space. Their show, "Farfalle," reinterprets the metamorphosis of a caterpillar from cocoon to butterfly through a pair of dancers, colorful lights and some butterfly wings. And we thought farfalle was just pasta... Jan 8-10, 2016. Studio Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$260 from urbtix.hk.

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Edited by Adrienne Chum
adrienne.chum@hkmagmedia.com

Exhibitions



Event Horizon

British artist Antony Gormley has installed sculptures of naked dudes standing on buildings in 31 locations around Central and Western districts, including the tops of St George's Building and City Hall, and at ground level at LKF Plaza. As the largest public art project ever in the SAR, "Event Horizon" aims to make art accessible to the public, and examine the relationship between humans and their environments. Maybe it'll even get Hongkongers to stop looking down at their phones... Through May 18, 2016.



Concealed Spaces: New Works by Tina Buchholtz

Karin Weber Gallery and the German consulate are hosting a collection of new pieces by German artist Tina Buchholtz this holiday season. Her works explore the way society balances its forward and backward movements: The forward movement of exploration and adventure, and the backward movement of withdrawal and rest. Five percent of the proceeds during the exhibition will go to the Society for Community Organization. Dec 1-Jan 16 2016. Karin Weber Gallery, G/F, 20 Aberdeen St., Central, 2544-5004.

Arts Festival

Detour 2015: "Connection"

PMQ's hosts the annual Detour art and design festival, and this year's theme is "connection." The artists connect with design and technology projects to create innovative pieces, including sculptures, paintings and perishables... and Lego too. Interactive activities are also available for visitors to play with. Hopefully, that means Lego for everyone! Nov 27-Dec 6. PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central, 2870-2335.



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NIGHTLIFE

OPEN BAR ARENA

The buzz: The folks from Causeway Bay's Zerve billiards bar have descended on Kowloon side with the newest contender for Knutsford Terrace's coolest watering hole. Tired of the smoke-stained, sticky pool bars that you're used to? Arena's got the breathing room and the bright, casual vibe for punters looking for a new spot to partake in a few drinking games on a relaxed night out.

The décor: Claiming to be a New York-style sports and gaming bar, Arena's certainly got the space to match its American inspirations. Pool and beer pong tables take center stage in the warmly lit space, while long sofa seating lines the walls alongside signed sports memorabilia. If you're a Premier League fan you're in luck, because massive HD screens over the bar and in the center of the room play all the live sports available on NowTV. On other nights, it's reruns of all major North American sports. In the corner, a line of darts machines are also at the ready for those looking to hit a few bulls eyes.

The drinks: Unfussy beer is tops here (it's a sports bar, after all), with a choice of draft brews, even featuring the fruity Hoegaarden Rosé. But those looking to ease slower into the

sports bro mentality can grab a classic cocktail (\$78) ranging from old fashioned to caipirinhas. Alternatively, give the signatures (\$88) a spin: The Arena is made of gin, lemon juice and thyme syrup, topped off with bubbly, and the Bee's Knees is sweeter, a honey-based drink with vanilla- and chrysanthemum-infused gin. Feeling athletically inspired by the setting? Oil up those elbows and practice those 90-degree throws at a beer pong table (from \$136 per game). Bigger groups looking to get in on the action can also try a game of slap cup (\$270). If you're celebrating your birthday at Arena, the Grenade (\$298) is apt: A stacked franken-bomb of booze, consisting of tequila and jager shots, Redbull and beer. It's usually on the house for the birthday boy or girl, but also available normally if you're looking to kick off a big night...

Why you'll be back: The buy one get one happy hour (daily, 4:30-9pm) certainly makes a gaming night particularly wallet-friendly, no matter if you're here to get some balls wet or you're just keen to cheer on the sidelines. Evelyn Lok
1/F, 10 Knutsford Terrace, Tsim Sha Tsui, 9683-7083.



Clubs

Marcel Fengler: Push 6th Anniversary

Electronic music advocates Push are all grown up. All the way from legendary Berlin techno club Berghain, Marcel Fengler makes his way to Hong Kong to celebrate Push's 6th birthday with a night of mindblowing beats. Free Push anniversary T-shirts for those who get there early. Dec 4, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-1510. \$250 from ticketflap.com, with two drinks before 12:30am and one drink thereafter. \$300 at the door before 12:30am, \$350 thereafter; both include two drinks.



Zimmer ▲

Like feel-good slow house? Parisian DJ Zimmer, of French label Roche Musique (with label bros including Darius, FKJ and Kartell), hits up Kee Club with his signature tropical take on house and disco, making sure it feels like a 31-degree summer all night long. As opposed to a 25-degree Hong Kong winter, but whatever. Dec 4, 10pm. Kee Club, 6/F, 32 Wellington St., Central, 2810-9000. \$200 from ticketflap.com, \$250 at the door, both include a drink.

DJ Yella

Straight outta Compton and into Cé La Vi's club lounge, DJ Yella, aka a founding member of rap group NWA along with Dr. Dre, Ice Cube, MC Ren and Eazy-E, will be spinning the best of his new album, "West Coastin'." Dec 5, 10pm. Cé La Vi, 24-26/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3700-2300. \$300 from hk.celavi.com, \$400 at the door.

Moresounds

Get pumped up for a heavy bass-filled night thanks to a live set by Parisian DJ Moresounds, who'll play a trippy spin on old school jungle, hip hop and drum 'n' bass. More sounds! MORE! Dec 5, 11pm. XXX Gallery, B/F, 353-363 Des Voeux Rd. West, Sai Ying Pun. \$100-140 from www.ticketflap.com, \$180 at the door.

Prism

A multitalented multitasker if there ever was one, music producer Prism is based between Boston and Detroit, belongs to four separate labels, and also designs artwork, writes and directs music videos, and makes music that crosses genres and tempos. See him take over the turntable in December, probably while also swiping through Tinder and solving world hunger. Dec 11, 11pm. XXX Gallery, B/F, 353-363 Des Voeux Rd. West, Shek Tong Tsui. \$100-120 from ticketflap.com, \$150 at the door.



Cliché Presents: Boogie Time

Lily & Bloom is launching the first edition of Boogie Time, a brand new, vinyl-only old school session. For the concept's debut, Aussie sound curator Graz will bring the electro beats while DJ trio Sweet Talk grooves with an eclectic mix of ska, hip hop and jazz. Dec 12, 10pm. Lily and Bloom, 6/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 2810-6166. Free entry.

Jamie Jones

DJ, Hot Creations label boss and leader of cross-genre band Hot Natured, Jamie Jones, will be bringing his brand of Ibiza-friendly techno and house grooves to Volar. Dec 17, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-1510. \$300 from ticketflap.com, with two drinks before 12:30am and one drink thereafter; \$400 at the door with two drinks.



Music Festivals



Belgium Beer Festival

If you're jonesing for a fix of waffles and Leffe with a side of live tunes, Grappa's Cellar is hosting a two-day fete featuring Belgian eats and booze, with two acts straight from the country of waffles and Poirot. Playing on both days is blues star Boogie Boy (pictured), and on Sunday you'll catch the young soul/funk singer N8N. Dec 5, 7:30pm; Dec 6, 3pm. Grappa's Cellar, B/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, 2521-2322. \$400-500 from ticketflap.com, includes two beers, one pack of fries and a waffle; VIP tickets \$500-600, includes extra choice of waterzooi or carbonade flamande stews.

Concerts

The Vamps

Not to be confused with the 60s Aussie all-girl rock band of the same name, boyband The Vamps first started off as a YouTube sensation and further exploded on the UK pop scene when they supported a McFly show in 2013. The foursome are playing Hong Kong in early 2016, and are accompanied by The Tide, an American teen group that they've just signed to their own record label. Teen-tastic! Jan 28, 2016, 8pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$488-888 from hkticketing.com.

Gigs

Galneryus: The Time Before Dawn Asia Tour

If power metal, fierce melodies and classical music trivia is what you're looking for, this gig is yours. Named after the legendary Guarneri family of violin makers, the Japanese neo-classical metal band takes to the stage this December. Dec 5, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$360 from ticketflap.com, \$460 at the door; \$660 VIP tickets include access to autograph and photo session.

Envy Asia Tour

Japanese indie hardcore band Envy is hitting up Hidden Agenda this December. Since forming in 1992, the group has toured all over Japan with acts such as Mogwai and post-metal group Isis. They're supported by local bands Life Was All Silence and Dandelion Mound. Dec 15, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$350 from ticketflap.com, \$400 at the door.



Hungry Ghosts: Farewell Concert

Local indie heroes Hungry Ghosts are set to launch their third full length record, but it'll also sadly be their last, ending a 9-year-long band career. They've opened for top international rockers from Coheed and Cambria to Silverstein. The new album, "Hold Dear Forever," sees influences from post rock and pop. Their album launch farewell gig is supported by local indie four-piece Ponyboy—who have emerged from a hiatus just to play the show. Dec 19, 8:30pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$180 from ticketflap.com, \$200 at the door, both include a CD.

Edited by Evelyn Lok
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com



Nightlife Events

Toro y Moi: What For? Asia Tour

All the cool kids better sit down for this: American producer Chaz Bundick, better known as Toro y Moi, is hitting up Hidden Agenda in early 2016. From bedroom musician to chillwave master to R'n'B and dance mix pro, the artist has recently returned to more guitar-based sounds (think Todd Rundgren meets Death Cab For Cutie), touring Asia for his latest album "What For?". The show will be opened by Boston duo Arms and Sleepers and Hong Kong's own Ni.ne.mo. Jan 12, 2016, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$220-260 from ticketflap.com, \$320 at the door.

Death Cab For Cutie

Indie heroes Ben Gibbard et al. are playing in Hong Kong. Are you going to be the type of smug fan who says you knew them before "Transatlanticism," and you're still following them up to their latest album "Kintsugi"? Or maybe you're just an MK jai who's stumbled on the show at Macpherson Stadium... Mar 1, 2016, 8pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St., Mong Kok. \$490 from ticketflap.com.

Bon Iver

Strap on your hipster beanies, because indie folk act Bon Iver is touring Asia. Haven't heard mountain man Justin Vernon's stuff beyond his bit in Kanye's "Lost in the World"? Start listening to first album "For Emma, Forever Ago" on loop now, written while hibernating for three months in a cabin in Wisconsin—it's the perfect winter playlist. Mar 8, 2016, 8pm. MacPherson Stadium, 38 Nelson St., Mong Kok. \$590 from ticketflap.com, \$690 at the door.

Four Fox Saké launches in Hong Kong

Foxes have been popping up everywhere in the city recently, and a newly launched homegrown premium sake label brings four of them to town. Four Fox Saké, a top-grade Junmai Daiginjo (that's the purest stuff) created by four Hong Kong-based founders, aims to remove sake from the confines of Japanese restos and bring it straight to the SAR's bar and club scene. You're now able to sip Fox sake cocktails at establishments including Boujis, Play and Quinary, and you can also buy one of their shiny bottles from Liquor & Liqueur (97 Wellington St., Central, liquorandliqueur.com; \$550). fourfoxsake.com.



Glamorous Beauty Bubble Martini

Azure and Sense of Touch have just teamed up to bring ladies a special pampering session every Thursday from 4-9pm on Azure's rooftop: Round up the girlfriends for a mani or hair styling treatment, and with your free hands you can clink glasses of fruit martini or bubbly while nibbling on canapés. There'll be live DJ tunes and you can Instagram your new look afterwards at the on-site photo booth. Azure, 29/F, LKF Hotel, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 3518-9330. \$368 in advance, \$468 at the door; includes two martinis and one hair/nail treatment.

Guest Mixologist Patrick Greco at Ozone
The Bulgari Hotel Milan's venerable mixologist Patrick Greco, named one of the top 10 best bartenders in Europe last year, makes a short guest appearance at the highest bar in the world this month. Hope you're ready for some next level garnishing and presentation: Greco's got eight of his favorite cocktails on rotation, including his signature "Bulgari" from his home turf, a refreshing blend of pineapple, orange, gin and aperol. Through Dec 5, 5pm. Ozone, 118/F, The Ritz-Carlton, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon; call 2263-2270 for reservations and more info.

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Day

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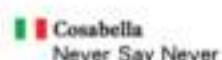
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To choose a Christmas gift from heart is not enough but should take into account the practicality. Want a special gift to your beloved one, the most respectful mother, dearest daughter, sister, or give "him" a surprise in Christmas Eve? Lingerie is definitely an ideal choice! All answers are in Private Shop.



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Port of Call ★★★☆

(Hong Kong) Directed by Philip Yung. Starring Aaron Kwok, Michael Ning, Jessie Li, Elaine Jin. Category III. 126 minutes. Opened Dec 3.

Director Philip Yung is no newcomer to exposing Hong Kong's dark underbelly. His two previous films, 2009's "Glamorous Youth" and last year's expletive-laden "May We Chat," both captured a bleak alienation across all levels of Hong Kong society despite the city's vaunted "Lion Rock spirit."

In his third time in the director's seat, Yung was inspired by a famous and grisly 2008 murder case: A teenage girl was butchered, her flesh flushed down the toilet and scattered around a wet market, her head weighed down and dropped off Kowloon City pier, never to be found. A recent immigrant from Dongguan, the girl had quit school to help support her family income, allegedly by working as a prostitute. "Port of Call" is an imagining of this victim's story.

"Port of Call" doesn't unfold linearly, instead converging on the killer's reveal right in the middle of the film. That's because getting to the bottom of the truth is hardly the movie's main concern. Under the mysterious circumstances of the victim's death—she had apparently asked the killer to end her life for her—we wonder about the reasons she wanted to die, but more importantly, why would a complete stranger oblige?

This is where Yung's curiosity for human connection kicks in. Police detective Chong (Aaron Kwok) is a practical yet optimistic man, who shines a light on the case even after the murderer turns himself in. The victim Wang Jiamei (a false name, and played by newcomer Jessie Li) is full of natural innocence, the naïve selfishness of a teenager who leaves school to pursue her dream of becoming a model—but who inadvertently gets roped into the seedy underworld in an attempt to earn fast cash, and even the desire to be loved by one of her clients. She's soon let down by false intimacy and is left wondering: What is the purpose of sex—and what is her own purpose?

"Port of Call" is barely a detective whodunnit, playing out instead like a horrific drama. There are many moments of blood and gore, and disgusting scenes that unfold painfully slowly. But look beyond that, and it's an illustration of the way of life

Coming Soon



Before We Go

(USA) "Before Sunrise" meets Captain America on his day off: Chris Evans plays a busking trumpet-player who meets a woman by chance in the Grand Central terminal, and a random encounter turns into an overnight whirlwind romance across New York City. Opens Dec 10.

Burnt

(USA) Bradley Cooper is Adam Jones, a former top chef in Paris whose substance abuse has led his career to collapse. Getting a second shot at life, he's hired as the head chef of a new fine-dine in London. Will he get that third Michelin star? Either way, get ready for the food porn... Opens Dec 10.

Freeheld

(USA) Recently playing at the Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, "Freeheld" stars Julianne Moore in the real-life story of New Jersey detective Laurel Hester, who was diagnosed with terminal cancer and fought for the right to leave her life partner (Ellen Page) her pension benefits after her death. Opens Dec 10.

Initiation Love

(Japan) Final year uni student Suzuki begins to date dental hygienist Mayu, but soon leaves for Tokyo for his first job. At first it works out, but their relationship soon breaks down due to circumstances out of their control. Based on a novel of the same name by Kurumi Inui, this film might hit home for anyone who's ever felt the pain of long-distance, or a relationship caught in between the stages of growing up. And if so: Catharsis! Opens Dec 10.

Legend

(UK) "Legend" tells the true story of London's most infamous twin gangsters: Reggie and Ronnie Kray, who reign over the city in the 60s... until an internal power struggle and sheer madness breaks their brotherly bond. The twins are both played by Tom Hardy. Double Tom Hardy! Opens Dec 10.

Opening



The Crow's Egg

(India) Here's to the next "Slumdog": Indian director-cinematographer M. Manikandan brings us a heartwarming Bollywood tale about two street children in the slums of Chennai, who hustle their way into buying a pizza. Opened Dec 3.

In the Heart of the Sea

(USA) Beefy Chris Hemsworth saved Asgard and Earth as Thor, but he conquers the ocean this winter as first mate Owen Chase in a 3D-tastic reimagining of the tale which inspired "Moby Dick." It's gonna get real wet... Opened Dec 3.

Edited by Evelyn Lok
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com



for those at the bottom rungs of Hong Kong society: From Jiamei's mother (Elaine Jin), a nightclub singer with harsh words yet even more heartbreaking tears; to the sweaty, overweight truck driver and killer (Michael Ning, whose sensational performance as the sociopathic loner won him the Best Supporting Actor gong at the recent Golden Horse Awards).

This kind of storytelling is what Yung excels at—certainly helped by the gorgeous cinematography by Christopher Doyle, which allows even the grimmest tong lau windows to shine in his careful camera pans.

Of course, it's not all doom and gloom in "Port of Call." Thanks to Kwok's character, we get a bit of humor from police camaraderie, and a light-hearted optimism towards the case. We even get a peek into Chong's personal life, no doubt also playing its part in the spectrum of Hong Kong life. Inevitably, Yung's story is a little overambitious and it feels like there are plenty more layers to this tale that the film couldn't quite capture in its final cut. But for Yung's third round at the rodeo, the subject's not getting old anytime soon. We're looking forward to the next one. **Evelyn Lok**

Check out our First Person interview with director Philip Yung on p.50.

Continuing



Point Break
(USA) The silly 1991 cop thriller which starred Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze as cop and surfer-slash-crook gets a shiny 2015 remake. This year sees undercover FBI agent Johnny Utah (this time played by Luke Bracey) return to save the day, when he suspects that a team of extreme athletes is behind a series of international crimes. Opened Dec 3.



By the Sea
(USA) It's the first Brangelina collab since "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" brought them together. Penned and directed by Angelina, it's about a couple trying to revive their marriage at a seaside French resort in the 70s. Part channeling French New Wave cinema, part perfume commercial, be prepared to sit through two hours before any real exposition comes through. Numbly exhausting, like the marriage itself. ★★

Port of Call
(Hong Kong) See review, above.
Opened Dec 3.



Go Away Mr. Tumor
(Hong Kong) Despite sounding like a terrible children's book, "Go Away Mr. Tumor" sees Daniel Wu and Bai Baihe in a light-hearted romantic comedy based on the popular comic by Xiong Dun, all about how the illustrator fought her malignant tumor.

Ryuzo and the Seven Henchmen
(Japan) Phone scams targeting the elderly meet pumping action in this Beat Takeshi flick about Ryuzo, an ex-Yakuza boss who's pushing 70. While his family is away on holiday, he receives a call from an anonymous caller claiming to be his son and pleading for money. It soon spins into a quest for revenge, glory and maybe a few osteoporosis gags. Opened Dec 3.

The Vanished Murderer
(Hong Kong) The always dapper Sean Lau Ching-wan is transported to 1930s northern China as a mustachioed inspector tracking down an escaped female prisoner... who begins to leave clues relating to a spate of suicides in an increasingly politically treacherous landscape. Opened Dec 3.

The Green Inferno
(USA) Eli Roth comments on slacktivism with a new cult horror flick. A group of college students venture deep into the Amazon on a mission to stop deforestation. But when their plane crashes, they are taken captive by a cannibalistic tribe. Sounds like bloody fun...

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2
(USA) The final segment of The Hunger Games franchise is here, in which the resistance against Panem's dystopian dictatorship finally reaches a conclusion. If you were hoping for some delicious popcorn action and juicy J-Law romance, you'll have to sit through most of the movie before we get there: too little, too late. ★★

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Keeper of Darkness

(Hong Kong) Nick Cheung Ka-fai returns for his second stab at directing with this frankly insane horror flick, starring as a hip-looking, silver-haired exorcist who rids the city of vengeful spirits with his uncanny way with words. But when videos of his exorcisms go viral, he attracts the energy of a serial-killing spirit.

Lost in Hong Kong

(Hong Kong/China) Xu Zheng directs and stars as a former artist turned bra designer, who vacations in Hong Kong with his wife and her family, at the same time getting looped into a murder investigation. Rapidly jumping from wicked stunts and car chases to sentimental monologues, it's a little disjointed and insane—but in the most fun way possible. ★★★



She Remembers, He Forgets

(Hong Kong) Award-winning director Adam Wong Sau-ping's latest release is a nostalgic romance starring Miriam Yeung and Jan Lamb. Caught in a mid-life crisis, a woman looks back at the choices she made in her youth after attending a high school reunion.

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl ▼

(USA) Awkward high school senior Greg Gaines (Thomas Mann) shuns other high school kids—save for his classmate Earl. Meanwhile, Greg's mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl who's just been diagnosed with leukemia. In a world where teens combatting deadly diseases seems a frequent trope, "Me and Earl" combats this without being overly sentimental, yet has the potential to pulverize even the most hardened of hearts. ★★★★

Need to Know

AMC Cinema, 2265-8933
amccinemas.com.hk

Broadway Circuit,
2388-3188
cinema.com.hk

Golden Harvest Cinema,
2622-6688
goldenharvest.com

MCL Cinema, 3413-6688
mclcinema.com

UA Cinema,
3516-8811
uacinemas.com.hk

The Metroplex, 2620-2200
metroplex.com.hk

The Grand Cinema,
2196-8170
thegrandcinema.com.hk

"Standing Tall" is a peek into the French juvenile justice system through the story of Malony, from his mother's abandonment through 10 years of his life as social workers refuse to give up on him.

Victor Frankenstein

(UK) The latest adaptation of Shelley's classic sees the tale told from the eyes of Igor (played by Daniel Radcliffe), assistant to mad scientist Victor Frankenstein (James McAvoy), as they uncover the secrets of creating life from death. It's Harry Potter with Professor X!

The Virgin Psychics

(Japan) Based on Kiminori Wakasugi's manga "All Esper Dayo!," a high school kid suddenly gains supernatural powers and uses it for the most trivial reasons... presumably losing his V-card? It's every otaku's dream...

Zinnia Flower

(Taiwan) Starring Karen Lam and Shih Chin-hang, "Zinnia Flower" is about dealing with loss. A man deals with a devastating car crash that took the life of his pregnant wife, while on the same day, Ming (Lam) loses her fiancé. Having made its rounds in the festival circuit, Tom Lin Shu-yu's latest film is a direct and grieving response to the death of his wife in 2012.



Spectre

(UK) Bond is back. The legendary British secret agent goes rogue (again) after receiving a coded message that takes him through Mexico City and Rome to investigate a shadowy organization known as Spectre. Daniel Craig gives a fitting send-off to his last round as the superspy. ★★★★

Standing Tall

(France) A strangely harsh film to have opened the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year,

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All prices are in HK Dollars and subject to 10% service charge on original prices. All buffet prices (child & elderly) are applicable for child aged from 3-11 and elderly aged over 65. Photos are for reference only. Relevant terms & conditions apply. In case of disputes, the decisions of the Hotels shall final.

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Patch Theatre Company from Australia will stage the children's theatre production "The Moon's a Balloon". The programme celebrates balloons in a highly visual performance without language, beautifully complemented by stunning soundscapes, digital imagery and magical lighting which will delight and inspire children. Two performers use white balloons of all sizes and configurations to see what images they can make.

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Enquiries: 2268-7323



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Zentral presents you Tomorrowland DJ duo - JETFIRE

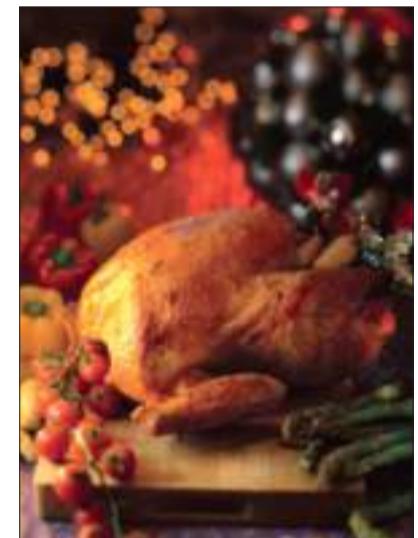
The 10th anniversary of the Tomorrowland festival also marks the world premiere of JETFIRE, founded late 2013 when dj-producers Itay and Zohar met Nicolaz. 10/12 in Zentral' Reserve the date!



Dining Indulgence at Harbour Grand Kowloon

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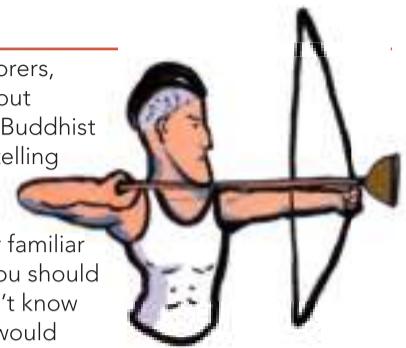
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SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): "Like all explorers, we are drawn to discover what's out there without knowing yet if we have the courage to face it." Buddhist teacher Pema Chödrön said that, and now I'm telling you. According to my divinations, a new frontier is calling to you. An unprecedented question has awakened. The urge to leave your familiar circle is increasingly tempting. I don't know if you should surrender to this brewing fascination. I don't know if you will be able to gather the resources you would require to carry out your quest. What do you think? Will you be able to summon the necessary audacity? Maybe the better inquiry is this: Do you vow to use all your soulful ingenuity to summon the necessary audacity?



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): "Once I witnessed a windstorm so severe that two 100-year-old trees were uprooted on the spot," Mary Ruefle wrote in her book "Madness, Rack, and Honey." "The next day, walking among the wreckage, I found the friable nests of birds, completely intact and unharmed on the ground." I think that's a paradox you'd be wise to keep in mind, Capricorn. In the coming weeks, what's most delicate and vulnerable about you will have more staying power than what's massive and fixed. Trust your grace and tenderness more than your fierceness and forcefulness. They will make you as smart as you need to be.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): Aztec king Montezuma II quenched his daily thirst with one specific beverage. He rarely drank anything else. It was ground cocoa beans mixed with chili peppers, water, vanilla, and annatto. Spiced chocolate? You could call it that. The frothy brew was often served to him in golden goblets, each of which he used once and then hurled from his royal balcony into the lake below. He regarded this elixir as an aphrodisiac, and liked to quaff a few flagons before heading off to his harem. I bring this up, Aquarius, because the coming weeks will be one of those exceptional times when you have a poetic license to be almost Montezuma-like. What's your personal equivalent of his primal chocolate, golden goblets, and harem?

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): "Unfortunately, I'm pretty lucky," my friend Rico said to me recently. He meant that his relentless good fortune constantly threatens to undermine his ambition. How can he be motivated to try harder and grow smarter and get stronger if life is always showering him with blessings? He almost wishes he could suffer more so that he would have more angst to push against. I hope you won't fall under the spell of that twisted logic in the coming weeks, Pisces. This is a phase of your cycle when you're likely to be the beneficiary of an extra-strong flow of help and serendipity. Please say this affirmation as often as necessary: "Fortunately, I'm pretty lucky."

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): "Charm is a way of getting the answer 'yes' without having asked any clear question," wrote French author Albert Camus. I have rarely seen you better poised than you are now to embody and capitalize on this definition of "charm," Aries. That's good news, right? Well, mostly. But there are two caveats. First, wield your mojo as responsibly as you can. Infuse your bewitching allure with integrity. Second, be precise about what it is you want to achieve—even if you don't come right out and tell everyone what it is. Resist the temptation to throw your charm around haphazardly.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): I suspect that in the coming days you will have an uncanny power to make at least one of your resurrection fantasies come true. Here are some of the possibilities. 1. If you're brave enough to change your mind and shed some pride, you could retrieve an expired dream from limbo. 2. By stirring up a bit more chutzpah that you usually have at your disposal, you might be able to revive and even restore a forsaken promise. 3. Through an act of grace, it's possible you will reanimate an ideal that was damaged or abandoned.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): To the other eleven signs of the zodiac, the Way of the Gemini sometimes seems rife with paradox and contradiction. Many non-Geminis would feel paralyzed if they had to live in the midst of so much hubbub. But when you are at your best, you thrive

in the web of riddles. In fact, your willingness to abide there is often what generates your special magic. Your breakthroughs are made possible by your high tolerance for uncertainty. How many times have I seen a Gemini who has been lost in indecision but then suddenly erupts with a burst of crackling insights? This is the kind of subtle miracle I expect to happen soon.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): In September of 1715, a band of Jacobite rebels gathered for a guerrilla attack on Edinburgh Castle in Scotland. Their plan was to scale the walls with rope ladders, aided by a double agent who was disguised as a castle sentry. But the scheme failed before it began. The rope ladders turned out to be too short to serve their intended purpose. The rebels retreated in disarray. Please make sure you're not like them in the coming weeks, Cancerian. If you want to engage in a strenuous action, an innovative experiment, or a bold stroke, be meticulous in your preparations. Don't scrimp on your props, accoutrements, and resources.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): If you give children the option of choosing between food that's mushy and food that's crunchy, a majority will choose the crunchy stuff. It's more exciting to their mouths, a more lively texture for their teeth and tongues to play with. This has nothing to do with nutritional value, of course. Soggy oatmeal may foster a kid's well-being better than crispy potato chips. Let's apply this lesson to the way you feed your inner child in the coming weeks. Metaphorically speaking, I suggest you serve that precious part of you the kind of sustenance that's both crunchy and healthy. In other words, make sure that what's wholesome is also fun, and vice versa.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): Your mascot is a famous white oak in Athens, Georgia. It's called the Tree That Owns Itself. According to legend, it belongs to no person or institution, but only to itself. The earth in which it's planted and the land around it are also its sole possession. With this icon as your inspiration, I invite you to enhance and celebrate your sovereignty during the next seven months. What actions will enable you to own yourself more thoroughly? How can you boost your autonomy and become, more than ever before, the boss of you? It's prime time to expedite this effort.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 21): Police in Los Angeles conducted an experiment on a ten-mile span of freeway. Drivers in three unmarked cars raced along as fast as they could while remaining in the same lane. The driver of the fourth car not only moved at top speed, but also changed lanes and jockeyed for position. Can you guess the results? The car that weaved in and out of the traffic flow arrived just slightly ahead of the other three. Apply this lesson to your activities in the coming week, please. There will be virtually no advantage to indulging in frenetic, erratic, breakneck exertion. Be steady and smooth and straightforward.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): You will generate lucky anomalies and helpful flukes if you use shortcuts, flee from boredom, and work smarter rather than harder. On the other hand, you'll drum up wearisome weirdness and fruitless flukes if you meander all over the place, lose yourself in far-off fantasies, and act as if you have all the time in the world. Be brisk and concise, Scorpio. Avoid loafing and vacillating. Associate with bubbly activators who make you laugh and loosen your iron grip. It's a favorable time to polish off a lot of practical details with a light touch.

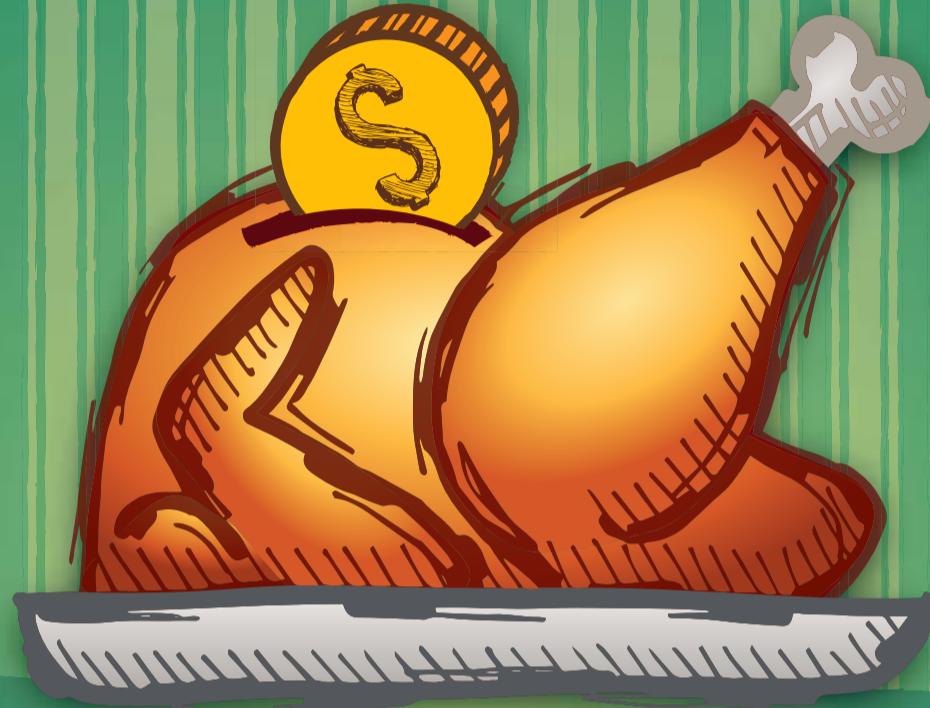
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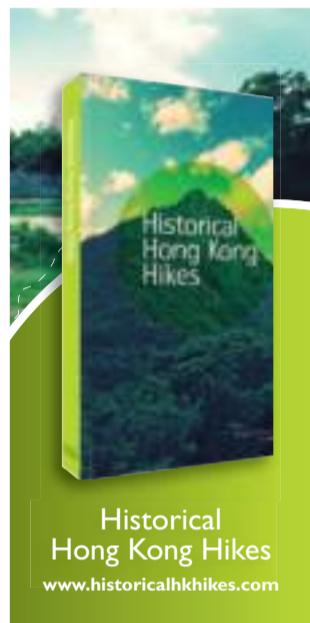
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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I'm a straight female in my mid 20s. I've been dating a wonderful guy for two years—but I recently found something that has put me on edge. Before we met, he was in a relationship with a terrible, alcoholic, and mentally unstable woman. They got pregnant early in the relationship and stayed together for about five years. We met a year after they broke up. I felt like I'd come to terms with the ugliness of his past, with his trying to stay in a bad relationship for the sake of his child and the rest of it. But recently, thanks to the vastness of the internet, I came across a suggestive photo of my boyfriend with his ex's sister. I asked him about it, and he admitted to sleeping with her while he was with his ex. He says it was during a particularly bad period, he was very drunk, she made the first move, etc., but I'm just so grossed out. Cheating is one thing, but fucking your girlfriend's sister? And it's not like this was a 19-year-old's mistake; he was near 30 and the father of a child. He also fudged a little about whether it was just one time or a few times. I feel like now I'm questioning his integrity. This is something that I wouldn't have thought him capable of doing. What do I do?

—All Twisted Up

What do you do? You ask yourself if you believe your boyfriend when he says fucking his then-girlfriend's sister was a mistake, ATU, one he deeply regrets, and one he never intends to repeat. If you can't be romantically involved with someone capable of doing such a terrible sister-fucking thing, the question is a rhetorical one. You'll have to end the relationship regardless of the answer. But if you could stay with someone capable of doing such a terrible sister-fucking thing, and if you believe your boyfriend when he says it was a mistake, one he regrets, and won't happen again, then you stay in the relationship.

And when you find yourself feeling squicked out by the knowledge that your boyfriend fucked around on his previous girlfriend with her own sister, you remind yourself that good and decent people sometimes do shitty, indecent, sister-fucking-ish things—and then you pause to consider all the shitty and/or indecent things you've done in your life, ATU, some, most, or all of which your boyfriend presumably remains blissfully unaware.

It's too bad that suggestive/incriminating photo is rattling around out there in the vastness of the internet, ATU, but I'm curious about how exactly you "came across" it in the first place. If you went looking for dirt—if you were snooping—you found it. Congrats. I'm not against snooping in all instances. People often find out shit they had both a right and an urgent need to know: the BF/GF/NBF*/fiancé/spouse is cheating in a way that puts you at risk, they're running up ruinous debts, they're hiding a secret second family, they're attending Donald Trump rallies, etc. But just as often, we find out shit we didn't need to know—something in the BF/GF/NBF's past, something they regret, something they'll never do again (do you even have a sister?)—and can never unknow.

You learned that your boyfriend did something pretty fucked up. Whether you decide to stay or go, ATU, remember that you snoop at your own risk—sorry, remember that you explore "the vastness of the internet" at your own risk.

I'm a 37-year-old straight male in a relationship with a slightly older woman. I have a GGG girlfriend, and I am completely GGG—until we talk about having a MMF threesome. We have great sex and have experimented together. We tried playing with a couple to give her the "two-dick experience" she wanted, but the other man

was of "average" size and she was not into it. I'm of average stature, and she made such a fuss of having someone extra large join in that it threw my hang-up about my size into overdrive. It's paralyzed me sexually. I'm afraid she'll leave me or run off looking to fulfill her need on her own.

—Average Nerdy Guy Shunning Threesomes

If leaving you is the only way this woman can ever experience an above-average cock again, ANGST, then she might leave you. Depending on how important sitting on an above-average cock now and then is to her, your insecurities may create an incentive for her to leave you or cheat on you. But if she can have you and all the good times and the great GGG sex you two have together—if she can continue to enjoy your cock and the things it and you can do for her along with the occasional ride on an above-average cock—then you've created a massive incentive for her to stay.

How bad is chlamydia? My gynecologist left me a voice mail, and I am absolutely terrified. A quick Google search told me that it can cause infertility if left untreated—what it didn't tell me is how long when left untreated before it causes infertility? I told my boyfriend of 10 months, and he seems very sane about it. But I am terrified that he'll leave me. HELP!

—Seriously Terrified Damsel

Some time has passed between your letter arriving and my response appearing in print—so here's hoping you called your gynecologist back, STD, and got the download and the treatment you needed.

Quickly: Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI), men and women are equally at risk, it can be contracted through vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse. Your Google search was accurate: Left untreated, chlamydia can cause infertility in women. But you're not going to leave it untreated, right? Fortunately, chlamydia is easily cured. Unfortunately, most people who have chlamydia aren't aware they're infected, as most infected people have no symptoms. That's why it's extremely important for all sexually active people—adults and adolescents—to get regular STI screenings.

Is your reproductive system already harmed? You'll have to discuss that with your gynecologist, STD, who is in a far better position than I am to have a look inside you. As for your boyfriend: He needs to get tested and treated too, and if his last STI screening was more than a year ago, it's possible he infected you and not the other way around. If your boyfriend leaves you over this—if he blames you for something he may be responsible for—then he's not someone you want in your life or in your twat.

My younger brother outed me to our parents, our siblings, and our only living grandparent. I'm a straight woman and into bondage, SM, and kinky swinging—nothing outrageous—and I tried to keep this aspect of my sexuality (and my marriage) hidden. Things are fine now: Mom and Dad are mad at my brother, not me, and my siblings (save the fundamentalist) are over it. But I wanted to share my grandmother's reaction: She called to tell me that my late grandfather liked to be tied up and spanked too and that their marriage (47 years!) was more fun for it.

—Kink Isn't New, Kiddo

That's wonderful—and so true! Thanks for sharing.

* Nonbinary friend.

On the Lovecast, Dan chats with writer Parker Molloy about relationships with trans folks: savagecast.com.

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

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Studio City puts Macau on the map

Macau is ready to make its play to become an international tourist destination following the opening of the innovative Studio City complex.

Studio City, the US\$3.2 billion Hollywood-inspired leisure resort on the Cotai Strip, is Macau's freshest and most exciting entertainment destination. It's the magnificent jewel in the crown of a truly imaginative concept.

The Hollywood-themed movie development provides all the essentials needed to become the city's next big entertainment destination.

Studio City, which is located close to the Lotus Bridge and already earmarked as a future station point for the planned Macau Light Rapid Transit System, delivers more quality entertainment options than any other integrated resort.

Among the many thrilling attractions available at Studio City is the stunning figure-of-eight Golden Reel,

Asia's highest of its kind, which forms part of the stunning, eye-catching Art Deco facade.

The integrated resort also offers the Studio City Event Center, a 5,000-seat multipurpose venue designed to host everything from live concerts to sports events and Studio 8, a live TV studio purpose-built to host reality and game show productions.

A specialist magic theater, a Batman-themed ride, a 40,000-square-foot family entertainment center, a fun zone for children featuring Warner Brothers and DC Comics characters and play rides are complemented by Pacha Macau, which will bring Ibiza-style nightlife to Macau.

With something for everyone, Studio City strengthens Macau's depth and diversity as a leisure, business and tourist destination as the enclave moves towards becoming Asia's leading holiday destination.

studiodcity-macau.com



Capturing the Perfect Moment

Looking and feeling good is important whatever you are doing. But when you want to stand out in the beach crowd you really need that little bit extra to make you special. That's why Perfect Moment is who you should turn to for help.

The adventure started more than 10 years ago when extreme sports filmmaker and professional skier Thierry Donard decided the time was right to add a touch of style and performance to ski wear. His designs exploded onto the scene, building an unrivalled reputation in the fashion industry.

But snow wasn't enough and Donard has taken up a new challenge: the world of sand, sea and surf in the form of a vibrant surf and swimwear collection.

PM's surf collection combines the two sides of the brand's vision, capturing an unbridled love of fashion with a driving passion for adventure. In every piece the iconic patterns and motifs shine through.

The Perfect Moment logo is inspired by the North Star. Used since time immemorial to guide explorers safely home, the North Star is nature's compass, a key tool for every adventurer. Let it guide you to fashion perfection too.

Perfect Moment is holding a two-day pop-up ski shop on December 10-11 at The Space, 210 Hollywood Rd., Sheung Wan, perfectmoment.com.



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Win a holiday package at Studio City Macau, worth more than \$11,000!

Macau's newest entertainment destination is finally here: **Studio City Macau**, the resort built around that most glamorous of things, showbiz itself.

The new resort is home to a panorama of attractions, from the figure-of-eight ferris wheel built into the very structure of the building, to an exclusive Batman-themed ride, a full TV production studio, Pacha nightclub and the House of Magic extravaganza, created by master illusionist Franz Harary himself.

Sounds good, right? One lucky person will win a complete holiday package for two at Studio City Macau, worth more than \$11,000.

The winner will get two return ferry tickets to Macau, where you'll be treated to a night's stay in a **Star Premier King Suite** at Studio City Macau. But that's not all. You'll also get F&B vouchers for your stay, plus two VIP tickets to the House of Magic show—that's a pretty full evening's entertainment.

Want to win? It's easy. All you have to do is read the articles on the Spotlight page in this and the next issue carefully.

In each story find the word that's been *italicized* in one of those articles. Once you've got both words, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about the perfect Macau Christmas getaway. Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before 10am on December 14, 2015. The best entry will win the top prize.

Good luck! The winner will be announced on December 18.

Win stylish swimwear for your next getaway!

Winter's drawing in, and it's about to get cold. Well, any day now, at least. So it's time to start thinking about a sunny getaway to somewhere balmy, sunny and beautiful, like Thailand or Bali.

But if you're going to skip town, you don't want to do it wearing some ratty old bikini. That's why we've got two sets of swimwear to give away, courtesy of ski and surf brand **Perfect Moment**. The brand, created by French adventurer and filmmaker Thierry Donard, is all about stylish, functional ski and swimwear.

We've got **two sets of swimwear**, altogether worth \$4,000, to give away—one for the fellas and one for the ladies. Want a chance to win? Tell us where you'd take your new swimwear—and why. Submit your entry to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways by 10am on December 14, 2015. The winners will be announced on December 18.

perfectmoment.com.

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FIRST PERSON



"Hongkongers have lost the ability to think for themselves. We are the city of taking sides."

Film critic-turned-director **Philip Yung Tsz-kwong's** movies explore the desperation of Hong Kong's lower classes, from his sensual 2009 directorial debut "Glamorous Youth" to 2014's probe into the world of compensated dating, "May We Chat." His latest crime thriller "Port of Call" is based on the real-life tale of a murdered prostitute, and has been nominated for nine Golden Horse awards. He tells Evelyn Lok about capturing the city's social dilemmas and finding humanity in murder.

I grew up in a very lower-class environment. Even now, I'm still a lower-class man.

My family life was very full and happy. I still live with my mom and dad.

People are always surprised that I focus on these "dark side stories."

I can't stand blood and violence. But growing up in such a safe environment, that kind of thing to me is just a scholarly investigation.

In my graphic scenes, it's all full-on nudity, or a full view of a corpse. Why? Because I never want the audience to feel hands-off, like they're safe as a bystander.

Perhaps for myself too, I want to be breaking through that fear.

There was a 1982 film "Lonely Fifteen," about so-called bad girls in that era who took up prostitution. I loved that movie.

Someone got me to film a remake ["May We Chat"] about the next generation of bad girls.

People meet each other through WeChat and start talking, and spark up relationships that way.

It's an interesting phenomenon—in this generation there's just no clear-cut line between compensated dating or just promiscuity anymore.

I actually struggled to find financing [for "Port of Call"]. They wanted me to film it in the very exploitative, 90s mystery-horror style of "The Untold Story" [aka "Human Flesh Char Siu Bao"].

Hong Kong was shaken by the 2008 case [that inspired "Port of Call"]: the bones of the victim were scattered at the Shek Kip Mei wet market, and people were afraid that when they were buying pork bones it would be human remains.

The killer told the police that the girl had told him that she really wanted to die, so he helped her.

This was what piqued my interest: On their first meeting, how did they suddenly establish this commitment to kill?

She was only 16. She had previously moved from Hunan to Dongguan to be closer to the border.

Her mother had remarried in Hong Kong and had only brought her older sister over.

Can you imagine? A girl alone in Dongguan between the ages of 9 and 13.

This was the prime of her puberty, growing up completely alone.

This case represents a lot of problems in Hong Kong. For instance, why is the previous generation so obsessed with immigrating here—why even now?

The kids from the mainland are dragged here because it's the mothers who still want to find their dreams.

It's so tough living in Hong Kong. We are a pressure cooker as a city.

Even compensated dating is just a type of emptiness. Can the money help them achieve anything? It doesn't provide warmth or a full stomach.

In modern society, a lot of very poor people have iPhones. All we have are symbols. There's always a comparison to make.

There's so much inequality in Hong Kong, but the biggest problem is constitutional.

From being established as a British colony to the kind of society we have now—everything people in power do becomes part of a gray area.

What we get is an atmosphere of mutual mistrust between the people and the government.

I believe Hongkongers nowadays have lost the ability to think for themselves.

We are the city of taking sides. People will ask you, "Do you like CY Leung? Or Joshua Wong?"

I really appreciate the youngsters who step out with these revolutionary ideas.

But the issue is not the few who step out as symbols. It depends on all the people below who are watching. It depends on how they are reacting.

Hong Kong's past social movements are absolutely worth filming.

People like [veteran campaigners] Long Hair, Szeto Wah and Leung Yiu-chung, these guys organized social movements for a very long time.

They have a lot of dignity. They love and protect Hong Kong. It's just that they express it through tough love.

On the other hand, I'd also want to film very layman things, such as the lives of new immigrants, underprivileged minorities, Filipino domestic workers...

Hong Kong has many large, visible groups but nobody seems to care about them.

Hongkongers don't really want to tell Hong Kong stories anymore.

Movies like "Lan Kwai Fong 3" are great, people like them because there's a lot of leng mos [wannabe models] and they drink and party. That's the selling point.

But for a good movie, you shouldn't have to think of the selling point.

You should be thinking of who will care about the story you're telling, even telling audiences why they should care.

There's an increasing segregation in film between what's pure entertainment value and what's considered art house cinema.

We need movies that will stimulate people. It can be something entertaining and accessible, but still observing and reacting to our homegrown sentiments.

Awards are of course important to me. It's an acknowledgement that gives me confidence, and encourages me to continue making films.

I hope one day I can be more cavalier about it and say "oh, they don't matter" and I'll still continue making whatever I want.

But I'm not there yet.

"Port of Call" opened in theaters Dec 3. Read our review on p.34.

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