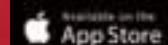


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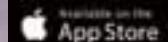
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News Quiz

It's been another week packed full of news, and you know what that means: It's time for HK Magazine's much-loved news quiz! Can you pick the truth from these all too plausible red herrings?

- 1. Ocean Park's giant panda Jia Jia broke a world record this week. She is now:**
 - a) The world's most cherished evolutionary dead end.
 - b) The panda most likely to die alone and unloved.
 - c) Beginning her metamorphosis, from which she will emerge in six weeks as a beautiful koala.
 - d) The oldest ever panda alive in captivity.
- 2. More than 1,500 University of Hong Kong alumni have signed a full-page petition urging that...**
 - a) All HKU alumni should be inducted into their rightful places as members of the Hong Kong elite and rulers of the city. Oh, wait, that's already happened.
 - b) HKU should be rebranded "SAR College, China."
 - c) All English Literature students at the university should switch to medicine, law or architecture, to redeem themselves in the eyes of their parents.
 - d) The university should stop deferring the appointment of pro-democracy scholar Johannes Chan to the post of pro-vice-chancellor.
- 3. The US has ranked the SAR on the same level as Ethiopia and Iraq when it comes to trying to eradicate human trafficking. The SAR government says that...**
 - a) It's just pleased to be in a group it could beat in a soccer tournament.
 - b) Human trafficking is not a concern, as long as you ignore Wan Chai, Mong Kok and the border.
 - c) It's not their fault if human traffickers want to take advantage of Hong Kong's comprehensive business and transport infrastructure.
 - d) There is no evidence that the city is a human trafficking hub.

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These nude magicians are getting their wands out



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OPEN BAR

The Walrus puts oysters back in the shot light



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"Inside Out": colorful existentialism? You bet



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FIRST PERSON

Edward Snowden's lawyer Robert Tibbo



MAILBAG

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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

We all know the influence the West has had on the East.

What influence has the East had on the West?

What about the way Chinese has changed the way we speak English?

It comes down to trade between the British and Chinese empires in the 1700s. At that time it was plainly far too much to expect a proper, God-fearing Englishman to learn to speak "foreign." And so a pidgin English emerged—especially around the trading center of Guangzhou—to facilitate commerce, a kind of syntactically simplified tongue that was mutually intelligible, more or less, to all concerned. And, as languages do, each influenced the other. Words began to slip from pidgin into mainstream English.

That's why thanks to Cantonese, English is home to colloquial phrases such as "long time no see"—it's a straight and literal conversion from the Cantonese *ho loi mo geen* (好耐冇見). When your boss asks for that report by Friday and you say "no can do"—you're actually saying *mm hor yi jo* (唔可以做). And when you want to go have a "look-see" at that new bar in Lan Kwai Fong, then you're going to *tai tai* (睇睇)—or maybe *kan jian* (看見), in Putonghua. When you tell someone to hurry up—"chop chop!"—that's from the Cantonese *gup* (急), meaning "urgently."

Most of these words are what's known as "calques:" a word-for-word translation from another language.

A more recent example of a calque is the word "brainwashing," which comes from Maoist China. *Xi nao* (洗腦), "wash brain," is a pun on the Taoist idea of *xi sin* (洗心), cleansing the heart and mind before conducting ceremonies. Calques are an enduring legacy of when cultures combine, leaving behind traces which we assimilate into our everyday lives.

Chinese pidgin English as a commercial entity gradually died out as English language education became more prevalent in Hong Kong, although you'll still encounter some of the speech patterns in the city today. Take that old joke about the boorish British businessmen who finds himself sat next to an oriental gentleman at dinner one evening. Eager to ingratiate himself he leans over and says, clearly and VERY LOUDLY: "Likee soupee?" The Chinese man nods politely. Later the Briton leans over once again, eager to entertain his inscrutable acquaintance: "Likee steakee?" he demands. The Chinese man nods graciously. Then the Chinese man's name is called and he stands: The guest of honor delivers a hilarious 20-minute speech in flawless Oxford-accented English.

He sits down, leans over to his flabbergasted neighbor, and says, clearly and VERY LOUDLY INDEED:

"Likee speechee?"

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



Early Morning in DB
Photo by Echo Dong



Your complaints, queries... economics:

"You are a depreciating asset"

Snow Day

We talked to Zita Law, the author known as "Deep Snow", about her ideal partner and why she thinks men should pay for dates [First Person, July 17, issue 1105]. The interview went viral, and our readers had plenty to say...

Another princess it seems ☺

Marcin Rutecki

Is this the new feminism?

Marie Witt

And one reader re-posted an ancient viral post from 2007:

Dear Ms.,

I have read your post with great interest. Guess there are lots of girls out there who have similar questions like yours. Please allow me to analyse your situation as a professional investor.

My annual income is more than \$500k, which meets your requirement, so I hope everyone believes that I'm not wasting time here. From the standpoint of a business person, it is a bad decision to marry you. The answer is very simple, so let me explain.

Putting the details aside, what you're trying to do is an exchange of "beauty" and "money":

Person A provides beauty, and Person B pays for it, fair and square.

However, there's a deadly problem here: your beauty will fade, but my money will not disappear without any good reason. The fact is, my income might increase from year to year, but you won't be prettier year after year.

Hence from the viewpoint of economics, I am an appreciating asset, and you are a depreciating asset. It's not just normal depreciation, but exponential depreciation. If that is your only asset, your value will be much worse 10 years later.

By the terms we use in Wall Street, every trading has a position, dating with you is also a "trading position".

If the trade value dropped we will sell it and it is not a good idea to keep it for long term—same goes with the marriage that you wanted. In order to make a wiser decision any assets with great depreciation value will "leased".

Anyone with over \$500k annual income is not a fool; we would only date you, but will not marry you. I would advise that you forget looking for any clues to marry a rich guy.

Hope this reply helps.

Signed,

JP Morgan CEO
via Tony Chu

Get Some Fresh Hair

New-to-town **Milinni Salon** just opened in Sheung Wan last month, offering professional hair coloring, cuts and high-tech treatments—like Brazilian Blow Outs, Air Wave Vita perming and organic hair spa services from Aveda. One lucky reader will win a \$500 coupon to spend at the salon. Best letter wins, so write in at letters@hkmagmedia.com.



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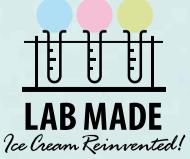
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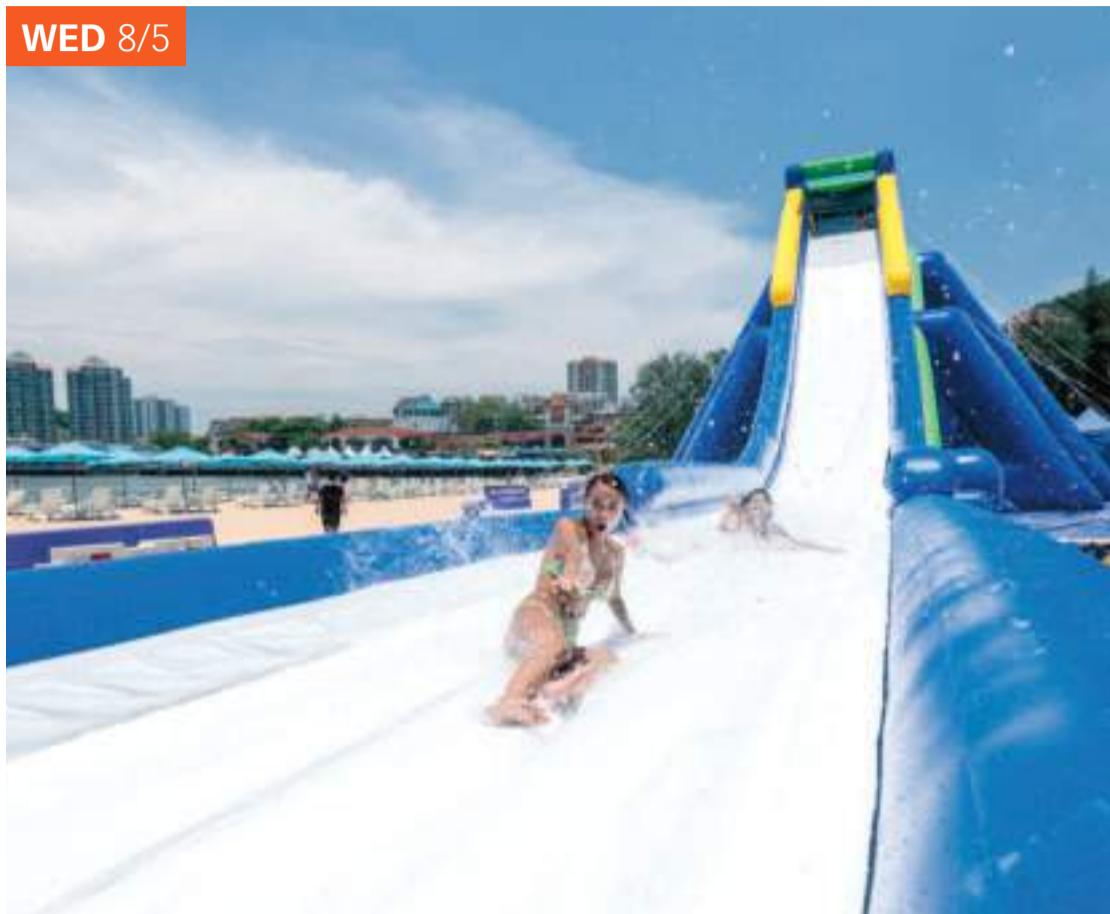
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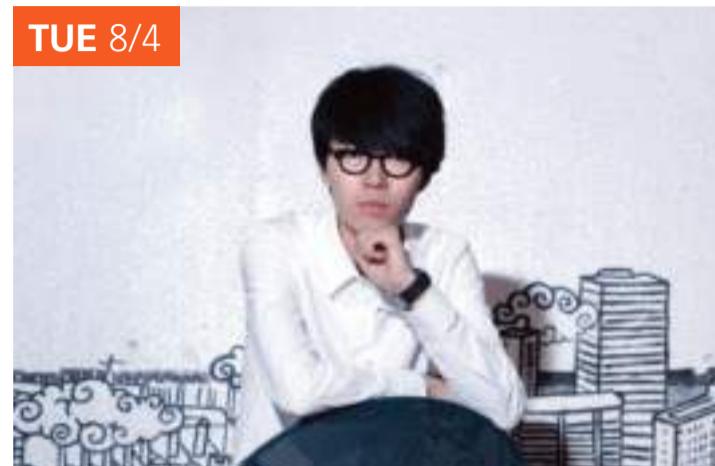
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THE WEEK

WED 8/5



TUE 8/4



FRI 8/7



Photo: Edward Wong/SCMP

Friday 7/31

Water Works

Try something new this Friday and go kayaking and snorkelling at Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, hosted by **Countryside Adventure Tours**. The ticket includes kayak and snorkeling gear, plus a cab ride to Hoi Ha Wan from the meeting point. 9:30am-2pm. Meeting point: University MTR station. \$390 from www.eventbrite.hk.

Saturday 8/1

Market Prospects

Japan has its Ennichi festival days: Hong Kong gets **EnxNichi** at PMQ, with an outdoor market all weekend. Expect Japanese nibbles and folk music performances, plus a lucky draw in which the winner gets return plane tickets to Okinawa. Jul 31, 5-10pm. Aug 1-2, 2-10pm. 35 Aberdeen St., Central. Free entry.

Sunday 8/2

Throw in the Towel

Head to **Studio Fitness HK Presents Beach Burns**, a party in Shek O hosted by the Wyndham Street gym. It'll be a chilled day at the beach with the Studio Fitness team. Who knows—see them with their shirts off and you'll probably feel shamed into actually working out. Noon. Shek O Beach.

Monday 8/3

Tapas Time

Spanish restaurant **Quemo** has a pretty good happy hour on its terrace, offering more than half a dozen tapas and drinks—think olives, patatas bravas, sangria and cava—at just \$50 each. What's more, the promo kicks off at 6pm and lasts until closing time. 6pm-late. 5/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2836-0699.

Tuesday 8/4

Khalil or be Khaliled

Mandopop darling **Khalil Fong** is back in town to perform after a two-year hiatus. A fan of the crooner's love songs? Don't miss this. Aug 4-5, 8:15-11:15pm. Hall 5BC, HKCEC, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai. \$380-1,280 from www.hkticketing.com.

Wednesday 8/5

Get Wet

Discovery Bay's **Tai Pak Beach** will see a huge water slide installed this month—11 meters in height and 56 meters long, to be precise. Best part? It's a free for all! Aug 1-31, 11am-6pm. Tai Pak Beach, Discovery Bay, Lantau. Free.

Thursday 8/6

Life is a Cabaret

Peel Fresco hosts "**Padam!**", a French cabaret show about a young girl who arrives in Paris after World War II, looking for fame... and love. Her story's told via classic French songs by the likes of Edith Piaf and Charles Aznavour. Hope it's a vie en rose... 49 Peel St., Central, 2540-2046. \$200 at the door.

Friday 8/7

Club Tropicana

Vibes is hosting the **Tropical Haven Party**: Sip on tiki cocktails, watch conga drummers do their thing, and kick back in one of the cabanas to nu-disco beats from Cliché Records DJs. Dress in your tropical finest for the chance to win a cash voucher. Aug 7 & Sep 4, 9pm. 5/F, The Mira, 118 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2315-5999.

Saturday 8/8

Rights and Wrongs

Organized by Amnesty International, the **North Korea Human Rights Film Festival** screens films and documentaries chronicling the lives of defectors. There are also post-screening discussions featuring directors and escapees themselves. Aug 8-11. CUHK, Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong. Pay what you want; donate at www.eventbrite.hk. Visit www.facebook.com/HKNKHRFF for times.



COMING UP

Free Your Mind

Now that West Kowloon is a construction site, the annual **Freespace Fest** is going smaller scale, hosting events every second Sunday of the month. For the first event this August, look out for a mix of sports—think a skateboarding showcase and a street workout jam—gigs by local indie faves Chochukmo (pictured), King Ly Chee and others; a street dance show; a handicrafts market and green workshops. It's the perfect low-key Sunday fun.

Aug 9, 1pm. West Kowloon Cultural District. Free.



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HK

Dive in to the Greatest Show on Earth!

The landmark fifth anniversary of The House of Dancing Water — the world's most spectacular water-based extravaganza — has been recognized with the launch of an exciting celebratory program at City of Dreams Macau.



The show, an epic love story and spectacular journey through time, which has already thrilled more than 3.2 million spectators from around the globe, housed in a purpose-built theater featuring numerous technological breakthroughs, including a massive stage pool, has become must-see entertainment in Asia.

As part of the celebrations, visitors are being offered an exciting opportunity to get behind the scenes and underwater mysteries. Guests can enjoy an exclusive discovery tour to experience first-hand the power of the automated fountains and other groundbreaking marvels of the intricately designed theater. Also available is a two-day diving experience, incorporating an orientation dive guided by the professional divers from the show a day before the show and another dive during the show itself. If you want to join in the fun you can sign up for the Discovery Tour and Underwater Discoveries, an eye-opening backstage experience that gives customers a fly on the wall look at what goes into producing the not-to-be-missed show – The House of Dancing Water.

It opens the door to the lower levels of the stage, allowing participants to stand center stage and feel the thrill of the stage rising and water appearing. Tailor-made costumes add to the ambience, turning the moment into a magical, exclusive photo opportunity that will be remembered for a lifetime.

The Heart of the Action

The backstage pass opens the door to a fountain of secrets. Marvel at the stunning, iconic props that help make the show so special. For a start there's an amazing five-meter tall giraffe that's operated by two stilt-walking artists. You can also see first-hand a special backpack box that measures just 56cm high, 40cm deep and 43cm wide, inside which a 180cm performer somehow manages to squeeze himself.

Among the many tour highlights, participants are granted access to Level 8, the highest point of the theater, which is 45 meters above water level. Not one for the faint-hearted, but this part of the tour gives you a real feel for the height of the stage. It's also a great chance to see the lights in action.

Level 4 offers a splendid 360 degree view of the stage where the artists normally fly out during the show and also provides an interesting look at the changing rooms and preparation area for the busby dance and the straps.

At the end of the journey, participants get to take away a set of limited edition souvenirs as a keepsake of their memorable visit. The Discovery Tour runs every Saturday from 9.30pm to 10.30pm until September 26, 2015. There is a maximum of 15 guests per tour.



Behind the Scenes Access

If you want to find out more about the world of stage makeup and costumes, The Experience Workshop is the ticket for you. For an additional charge, a maximum of five guests can pick up inside knowledge and discover the secrets of what goes on behind the scenes. This workshop is available every Sunday from 11am to noon for the makeup workshop and noon to 1pm for the costume workshop until September 27, 2015.



Exclusive Experience

And for the more adventurous of you there's something very special available. The Underwater Discoveries is an unforgettable experience that offers a unique opportunity to enjoy the magic of The House of Dancing Water from an incredible underwater perspective.

The spectacular stage pool is approximately 9.5 meters deep, holding around 3.7 million gallons of water; that's the equivalent of five Olympic-sized swimming pools. Amazingly, 11 state-of-the-art 10-ton lifts can convert the pool to a solid floor dry stage in just 60 seconds.

Don your diving gear and get up close and personal. You will be in the thick of the action, ideally placed to view the show underwater from close quarters, taking in amazing sets such as the 'The Boat', 'Pagoda', 'Bridge', 'Russian Swing', 'Treasure Box' and more. It's something that truly must be seen to be believed.

At any given time there are up to 30 divers monitoring the underwater activities, while 20 divers operate during the show. You can experience first-hand how to coordinate between the performers and props during different show sequences, while marveling at the awe-inspiring water-based technology.

To maximize your diving experience, the 2 Days 2 Nights Underwater Discoveries Package with 2 dives and a VIP ticket to the show is limited to a maximum of two people at a time. The tour is open to those aged 18 to 65, but this option is only available to people who have a diving license and have passed a PADI test.

So why are you still waiting? Book your once-in-a-lifetime package now and look forward to enjoying what is, quite simply, the greatest show on Earth! You can also take advantage of a special offer of a second ticket at HK\$550, save up to HK\$430!

DISCOVERIES, AN EYE-OPENING BACKSTAGE EXPERIENCE THAT GIVES CUSTOMERS A FLY ON THE WALL LOOK AT WHAT GOES INTO PRODUCING THE NOT-TO-BE-MISSED SHOW – THE HOUSE OF DANCING WATER.



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NEWS

Last Week In Reality

Sat 18

Phone Manners An Oriental Daily reader sends the paper photos of a Cathay Pacific flight attendant using his smartphone during takeoff and landing. The reader says that on her flight from Hong Kong to Bangkok, flight attendants had broadcast a reminder to switch off mobile phones, but several minutes later she noticed that an attendant was using his phone while pretending to be asleep. Cathay Pacific says that they have followed up with the incident.



Sun 19

Pole Dancer At around 7pm, a Nepalese man climbs to the top of a traffic light in Jordan. He sits on top of it, yelling at passersby. Police and firemen arrive at the scene and attempt to calm him down but he only gets more emotional, demanding a phone call. A friend of his wife's arrives on the scene and lends her phone to the man, which is sent up via a fire truck's ladder. The man talks to his wife, and after a few minutes of talking he happily flashes the V sign to onlookers and calmly climbs down. Once he is on the ground he gets emotional again, and it takes six police officers and two paramedics to restrain him. He is sent to the hospital.



Mon 20

99 Problems A 29-year-old man quarrels with his 27-year-old wife. While the husband is out, the woman leaves with \$800,000 in cash and \$60,000 worth of jewelry. She hires a locksmith to jam the lock of their Tsz Wan Shan government housing flat. Upon returning home and discovering the broken lock the man calls the police, who investigate the issue and determine that the culprit is his wife.

Tue 21

Monkey Business A couple driving a van through Piper's Hill at 1am veers off the road in the rain, ploughing through railings and into the trees before flipping onto its side. Firefighters are called to free the pair and the driver is sent to the hospital with neck and arm injuries. The couple was sober and says that they swerved to dodge a pair of monkeys who were crossing the road.

Wed 22

Electric Tragedy At around 3pm, a construction worker is electrocuted at a Wan Chai water pump construction site after touching an electric cable. Seeing that the man is unconscious, another worker tries to rescue him but is also electrocuted, paralyzing his hand. They are both sent to the hospital, but the first man cannot be saved.

Thu 23

Mainland Sandwich At 9am, a bus drops off a group of mainland tourists on a Hung Hom road. One female tourist from another tour group happens to be walking along the outside of the railings by the road. The bus driver does not see her, and when he turns away from the curb and into the road the rear corner of the bus traps the woman between the bus and the railing. Passersby help bend the railings so that the woman can climb out, and she is sent to the hospital with a fractured pelvis, as well as foot and torso injuries.



Fri 24

Costume Change In Fanling at around midnight, a young man robs a 7-Eleven with a knife, leaving with \$1,200. CCTV footage reveals that the man was wearing a black shirt with a face mask and carrying a green bag. Four hours later and 70 meters away, a man wearing a face mask and carrying a green bag robs another 7-Eleven with a knife. The cashier says that he cannot open the store safe, as he does not have the key. Police check CCTV footage of the second 7-Eleven and suspect that both robbers are the same man who simply changed shirts between robberies.

Illustrations: Ryan Chan

Talking Points

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



Lead Water Latest: IQ Tests For Kids

Twenty-three children from the housing estates tainted by the lead water scandal recently underwent IQ tests, following blood exams that revealed higher than normal levels of lead in their blood. **Three of the 23 children tested showed signs of slow development**, though doctors stated that there was **no concrete link between the results and the lead water**. More than 1,300 residents of the affected estates have applied for blood tests, with some samples being sent to the US for testing to cope with the heavy demand. Officials suspect that the **lead in the estates' water supply derives from impurities found in the solder used on water pipes**. Secretary for Transport and Housing Anthony Cheung suggested that it was impossible to have zero impurities in the water, but suggested that they might abandon pipes which needed solder in the future.

Our Take: Water wonderful world...

Cathay Bans Oriental Daily From Planes

On July 21 Cathay Pacific **banned the distribution of that day's issue of the Oriental Daily News** on their planes. Cathay released a written injunction to employees, saying that "Due to management decision, there will be **NO Oriental Daily News** 東方日報 loaded on board today. In case it's loaded, please **DO NOT** serve to passenger [sic]." Staff have lashed out at the orders, saying that **hiding the truth from the passengers is not good**. The Oriental Daily has reported a series of negative stories about Cathay Pacific in recent months. This is the first time that Cathay has issued a media ban.

Our take: Yup, nothing shuts down a paper like ineffectually trying to censor them.

Tuen Mun Hospital Gets 10,000 Tests Wrong

A medical scandal has broken out at Tuen Mun Hospital after incorrect settings on a liver analysis machine may have **delivered incorrect results to almost 10,000 elderly patients over two years**. Purchased in 2013 by the hospital's Department of Pathology, the machine analyzes enzyme levels to assess liver function and bone health. **Results were incorrectly calibrated**, being based on normal levels for the opposite sex. **9,443 patients were affected by the error, including 1,425 who have already died**. The Hospital Authority says it has yet to discover any deaths which were linked to the error. Dr. Tony Ko, chief executive of the New Territories West Cluster hospitals, pointed out that the test was only one of many used to diagnose illness, and said it was unlikely that the error had contributed to incorrect treatment.

Our Take: Public healthcare! Always exciting!

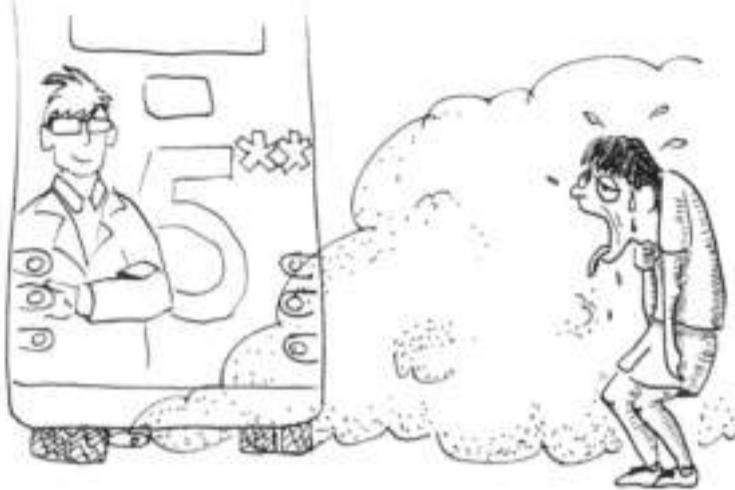
Quote of the Week

"High amounts of lead in blood could be from many different things, including coming into contact with polluted water or with fertilizer, or from chewing on pencils or toys."

Dr Raymond Wong Siu-ming, a haematologist and clinical associate professor at the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics at Chinese University, lists the ways a person could have high lead content in their bodies. Pencil leads are made of graphite.

UPFRONT

HongKabulary



Street Exhaustion

(stri:t eksə:s̩ʃn), n.

Being overwhelmed by warm, dank bus fumes.

"We've got one male, mid-20s, suffering from serious street exhaustion!"

"Hook up an IV drip! And get me 20ccs of air-con, stat!"

Caption This

Hong Kong—Taxi drivers smash a taxi to protest the rise of car-sharing apps.
(Dickson Lee/SCMP)



Fast Facts

Take the Lead

What are we doing with our lead water?

- Sipping it, to really savor that insidious poison taste.
- Chugging it, because contamination builds character.
- Founding The Leadheads, the world's first truly heavy metal band.
- Calling it by Latin name *plumbum*, because it's not deadly if it sounds funny.
- Allowing it to seep into our every pore and cell, like normal.

Street Talk



Lee Tsui-lan is the second-generation owner of Lee Yim Kee Flower Shop, one of the few remaining workshops that produces *fa paa*—giant, handmade flower plaques for festivals and weddings. After 50 years in the industry, she tells Yanis Chan about the importance of this dying craft.

HK: How did you enter the industry?

Lee Tsui-lan: My father started Lee Yim Kee Flower Shop in 1954. I've always liked art. I was still a student when I started helping him. I did it full-time after primary school. He used to provide the catering service for village banquets but then shifted to the flower plaque business because he thought he could earn much more.

HK: What are they used for?

LTL: Most of the orders are for traditional Chinese festivals like the Tin Hau Festival. We also make plaques for weddings, inaugurations and business openings. The majority of our customers are from the New Territories, where most villages are located. But by word of mouth, we have started to take orders from as far as the island district.

HK: Why are *fa paa* important to Hong Kong culture?

LTL: They are part of a tradition, symbolizing luck, joy and prosperity. They are colorful and bright, and add a hint of happiness to the day. The atmosphere would be different without them during festivals and village feasts.

HK: Why don't you see more of them on the island?

LTL: You rarely find flower plaques on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon because there are too many skyscrapers and too few open spaces. It's impossible to hang up plaques in places that are packed with vehicles, people and neon signboards.

HK: How do you make them?

LTL: We build a bamboo frame then make the decorations—like dragons and phoenixes—with bamboo sticks, wire mesh and reusable metallic foil. People often get confused by the name “flower plaque”—we never actually use real flowers. They are all paper and foil. Some of the decorations were made by my father 60 years ago

and we are still using them. The most complicated part is outlining the dragon and phoenix decorations with metal wires. Normally it takes a few days to complete one plaque.

HK: Do you always hand write the messages?

LTL: Customers love hand-written words because they look livelier. But we can't promise this any more. Calligraphy is not something that can be taught overnight and I have no idea how to teach my successors. My colleagues have scanned my writing for future use and created some new fonts.

HK: What's the largest plaque you've ever made?

LTL: The largest one we've made was 100 feet wide. That was a congratulation plaque for Legislative Council member Lau Wong-fat when he was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal.

HK: How has the industry changed since you started?

LTL: Only a few flower plaque businesses are left and the experts are all over 60 years old. There are very few young adults who are willing to learn. We stopped creating 3D calligraphy after the 60s. The materials these days are less durable too: Paper in the old days could be used for up to 10 years, whereas the paper we have now starts to fade after one use. But if the New Territories doesn't develop too rapidly, flower plaques will still be here for some more years.



Visit Lee Yim Kee Flower Shop,
29 Southern Entrance,
Yuen Long Kau Hui, Yuen Long, 2476-2549.

HELPING HANDS

Foreign domestic workers are an essential part of many Hongkongers' lives.

But are they welcomed by the city? **Adrienne Chum** investigates.

Hong Kong is home to more than 330,000 foreign domestic workers (FDWs). That's 4.6 percent of the population: a significant chunk of the city. But it's a hard life. Even setting aside the domestic abuse cases which have come to light in the past year, three chronic issues have plagued Hong Kong's foreign domestic workers for years: exorbitant agency fees, the compulsory live-in rule, and the two-week rule.

This week, we dig deeper into these issues and explore ways to help our helpers.

MO MONEY MO PROBLEMS

"My agency required me to take a training course, which cost 30,000 pesos (\$5,151), then go for a medical exam for 5,000 pesos (\$858) and pay other fees like the Overseas Employment Certificate and Social Security System: I paid a total of 56,000 pesos (\$9,615) before coming to Hong Kong."

- Arlene, 35, domestic helper for 3 years.

"My monthly salary was \$4,010. My agency fee was about \$7,000. I paid \$3,000 to the agency before coming, and the lending company took \$2,100 a month for three months."

- Redem, mid 30s, domestic helper for 18 years.



THE PROBLEM:

Many agencies charge Foreign Domestic Workers additional, illegal fees to find an employer.

WHY'S IT HAPPENING?

According to The Labour Department, the fee an agency charges to place a worker should not exceed 10 percent of a their monthly salary. The minimum monthly salary for a foreign domestic worker is currently \$4,110, which means that the fee should be no more than \$411 for a minimum-wage worker.

However, many agencies find loopholes by establishing "mandatory" services and facilities that their clients must pay for, including training fees. Take Arlene for example: "I had to pay 5,000 pesos to the clinic, but that clinic is connected to the agency. Everything is connected to the agency; they just don't want to [appear to] receive the money," she says. "When I came to Hong Kong, they gave us a waiver to sign saying that they didn't collect a cent from us."

The Mission for Migrant Workers is a charity which provides help to helpers in distress. It says that the FDWs it works with have reported widespread agency malpractice in Hong Kong, with 50 agencies on record charging more than \$15,000 in fees. Less than 3 percent of MFMW's clients have reported fees at or below the legal limit.

Often agency fees must be paid by both the employer and the FDW, but it's often unfairly skewed. Victoria Cabantac, a volunteer at the Mission for Migrant Workers, gives the example of the "warranty" system which she calls "buy one, get five." Warranties are an easy way for agencies to make money: An employer only needs to pay a one-time agency fee, and if the helper's contract is terminated within a given time period then the agency guarantees a replacement for free. But the replacement still has to pay their agency fees, so the agency is able to collect multiple fees in a short

period of time for a single client.

Arlene's case is a classic example of a "warranty": She was told that she would be the fourth helper in the house, but when she arrived, there was only one other helper living with the family, as the other two helpers' contracts had been terminated. The remaining helper was let go shortly afterwards. Three and a half months later, Arlene's contract was also terminated.

After talking to other domestic helpers in the Bethune House shelter, Arlene realized that she had been overcharged by her agency. She filed a complaint with the Philippine consulate. After some deliberation with both Arlene and the agency, the consulate maintained that her training fee had to be paid, as the certificate she was awarded could be used repeatedly. In the end, the consulate ordered the agency to repay Arlene \$4,300.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Many employers turn a blind eye to these agency issues. But if you want to help, **make sure you read all the contracts involved**. Look out for exorbitant fees that add up to more than 10 percent of your worker's monthly wage. In order to pay these fees, **some helpers resort to taking out loans from high-interest lenders**, or having to give their entire salary to the agency for the first few months. You can also ask your helper directly about her **employment agency and consult the Labour Department if there is a problem**. Not sure where to start? Contact an NGO like those listed on p.17.

FLATMATE DRAMA

"The house of my previous employer was 4,000 square feet, with four stories. I slept in a kitchen cupboard. My madam didn't allow me to use the maid's quarters."

– Arlene

"The live-in arrangement was difficult to adjust to. For the first year, they did not give me a key to the house, and I felt like a prisoner. My curfew was at 9pm on Sundays. It was suffocating; I had no social life."

– Victoria Cabantac, 62, Mission for Migrant Workers

THE PROBLEM:

A compulsory live-in rule, introduced in 2003, decrees that FDWs must live in the same dwelling as their employers.

WHY'S IT HAPPENING?

The compulsory live-in rule was put in place to prevent workers from taking a second job: Working for more than one family is illegal. The standard employment contract for FDWs states that the employer must provide "suitable accommodation with reasonable privacy."

Although employers generally give their helpers a small room to live in, many other helpers are forced to sleep in corridors, kitchens and bathrooms. In Arlene's case, she tried to talk to her then-employer: "I said 'madam, I cannot sleep here.' She scolded me. I called my agency but they didn't do anything to help." After terminating her contract, Arlene brought the issue of her living conditions to court, but her case was denied. "They told me that I don't have enough evidence," says Arlene. "They said living in the kitchen is 'decent' and 'clean'."

Eni Lestari of the Asian Migrants' Coordinating Body recalls her own housing issues. "I had to share a room with a 14-year-old-boy. I could not talk to other people. The agency kept telling me that it was the arrangement for newcomers, and I thought it was legal because a lot of Indonesians had the same arrangement as me. I stayed until I sought help because I could not take it anymore. I ran away."

Lestari says that the introduction of the live-in rule has been detrimental to the relationship between employer and employee. "Why did they force us to live in? Before, it was about 2 percent of helpers who lived out," says Lestari. "[But] the decision to live together is no longer mutual." Now, the Labour Department only allows helpers to live out for health reasons.

Often, all it leads to is mutual discomfort. Employers have to find room for their helper, which is hard in small Hong Kong flats. There can be a lack of privacy for both parties, especially in homes with children. Living together also introduces a conflict of cultures.

Many Indonesian helpers are Muslim and do not eat pork. Hongkongers, of course, use liberal amounts of pork in their meals. "Sometimes helpers tell me that their employers want them to eat what they cook," says Lestari, "but they do not want to eat the pork and they do not want to offend the madam. They don't know what to do."

Lestari says that the five main issues that drive helpers to seek new employment are abuse, difficult sleeping conditions, absurdly long hours, too many demands and limitations on their designated time off. These issues stem from the compulsory live-in rule. If an employer does not have an extra bed for the helper to sleep in, the helper may have to sleep on the floor. Forcing the helper to live in the employer's home also puts them on call at all hours of the day, leading to more demands from the employer due to their easy availability. And because the helper lives with the employer, the employer can coerce the helper into taking a shorter holiday and enforcing a curfew by threatening to fire her.

Lestari suggests that health issues, including anemia, back pain and hypertension, are partly caused by the stress of always being on call. Then there's the fact that when you live with your employer, a compulsory day off essentially means that you have to head outdoors—come rain, come shine.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Ensure that the accommodation you provide to a domestic helper is **a space that you would be willing to stay in**. By law FDWs are entitled to a **full 24-hour rest day**, so don't cut it short. Discuss your expectations with your helper to create a **reasonable, balanced workload**.



EVEN MORE HEINOSHIT

In 2014, the Mission For Migrant Workers reported handling more than 1,200 new dispute cases. Of more than 4,000 ongoing cases, 46 percent reported agency malpractice, 51 percent reported labor-related issues, and 56 percent reported a premature contract termination.

"They took all my documents. My passport, my ID, everything." – Arlene

A common part of agency malpractice includes **confiscation of passports**, visas, certificates, and legal documents. Though illegal, agencies and employers confiscate the documents as a way to hold power over the helpers. Workers can't find new jobs without their passports, so even if a worker is given a one-month termination notice, they cannot begin preparing for their next employer. "It's a common thing," says Eni Lestari. "Out of 10 workers, only one or two have their passports. The two who have them usually have more experience and insist on keeping their passports. But the newcomers, they don't know."

"In the Philippines, I used to be an English teacher."
– Victoria Cabantac

Many helpers have at least a bachelor's degree. But does this give them any advantages? Not necessarily, says Lestari: Wages always start from the bottom, especially if a helper changes employers. Multiple skills may give you more choice of employers, but chances are that **you'll still earn \$4,110 per month**.

"Even if we live here for so long, we cannot stay." – Eni

In 2011, the High Court ruled that the law allowing foreigners to gain residency after seven continuous years of residency should not exclude FDWs. However, in 2013 the Court of Final Appeal reversed the decision, ruling that **domestic workers were not eligible for residency**. This meant that workers who have lived away from family and worked in Hong Kong's homes cannot be Hongkongers, regardless of how many decades they have lived and worked in the SAR.

A Rip-Off Regime

How the agencies make their cash



RESOURCES TO TRUST

ARROW

Arrow was established in 2005 as a bridge between employers and workers. The agency employs a team in the Philippines that evaluates and trains applicants. It offers new employer orientation classes and several other resources.

Room 1603B, Sunbeam Commercial Building, 469-471 Nathan Rd., Yau Ma Tei, 2151-1125, arrowes.hk.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Fair Employment Agency is an NGO that focuses on preventing the abuse and exploitation of Hong Kong's FDWs. The agency does not charge helpers placement fees.

Unit 282, 12/F, Ping Lam Commercial Building, 280-282 Lockhart Rd., Wan Chai, 3568-6858, www.fairagency.org.

HELPER CHOICE

Helper Choice is a website comparable to LinkedIn—but specifically for employing domestic helpers in Hong Kong. Employers post paid ads with what they're looking for and applicants create profiles for free.

www.helperchoice.com.

ENRICH

Enrich holds subsidized training sessions on financial literacy for migrant workers. Taught in the migrants' native languages, these workshops aim to empower and help individuals not only get out of debt, but control their finances and learn about entrepreneurship.

1102 Enterprise Building, 228-238 Queen's Rd. Central, 2386-5811, www.enrichhk.org.

Workers by the Numbers

How the nationalities add up

THAILAND

♀ 2,614

♂ 36

**OTHERS
(NEPAL, SRI LANKA, ETC.)**

♀ 4,612

♂ 772

PHILIPPINES

♀ 168,706

INDONESIA

♀ 149,632

♂ 4,073

♂ 205

**2 WEEKS
2 FAST**

"My last employer terminated my contract early. She was jealous that her daughter loved me. My last day was on the 16th, so I was supposed to be able to stay until the 29th, but she bought me an air ticket back to the Philippines for the 22nd."

- Redem, mid-30s

THE PROBLEM:

The two-week rule: Workers whose contracts are completed or terminated must find work within the next 14 days, or else they are required to leave Hong Kong.

WHY'S IT HAPPENING?

The two-week rule was put in place to prevent migrant workers from "job-hopping": inducing their employers to end contracts early for the purposes of changing jobs and taking advantage of severance pay.

The Asian Migrants' Coordinating Body's Eni Lestari explains that the government's fear of job-hopping is unfounded: Workers want to stay with their employers if possible. Changing employers and terminating a contract prematurely means extra agency fees, and by law helpers are not permitted to search for jobs if they are already employed. In fact, between June 2013 and January 2014, the Immigration

department suspected only 3.4 percent of FDW employment visa applications to be a result of job-hopping.

This issue ties in closely with agency fees: Those who are desperately trying to find work before their two weeks are up are often willing to pay extra money to agencies for employment opportunities, and agencies often charge different fees depending on the helper's work history. If a helper has a history of premature contract termination, many agencies find ways to make the helper pay higher fees.

Shelters like the Bethune House are available for those who are in between jobs, trying to find work during these two weeks, or involved in a court case. However, NGOs are only able to provide food and lodging, and do

not provide funds to cover personal costs.

When Redem was fired, she says that she was not told about her plane ticket until it had already been bought for her. She tried to message her ex-employer about changing the date of her return to the Philippines, but did not get a response. "I didn't complain to the government," says Redem. "I think the consulate and the government are the same: They will say, 'why don't you stay with your employer even if they slap you? If you go back to the Philippines, you won't have work'."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you're having issues with a helper and want to end the contract early, **give two months' notice and help them obtain their passport from the agency**. A new contract takes about **four to six weeks** to process, so the worker will have more time to find a new employer and extend her visa at the Immigration office. If the helper doesn't get her passport back until she finishes her contract, then there is very little chance that she will have time to find new work in Hong Kong.



THE LAZY STATE

"We need to strengthen organizations, have a mass movement, and put pressure on the government."

- Victoria Cabantac

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Volunteer for a local organization.

MISSION FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

MFMW has been fighting for migrant worker rights since 1981. The charitable organization runs "Know Your Rights" seminars geared towards newcomers. Many volunteers for the Mission work as translators for statements, court cases, and employer communication issues.

St. John's Cathedral,
4 Garden Rd., Central,
2522-8264, www.migrants.net.

ASIAN MIGRANT COORDINATING BODY

AMCB brings together migrant organizations with primarily southeast Asian workers and works to defend their human and legislative rights.

C/O Asia Pacific Mission Migrants,
2 Jordan Rd., Jordan, 3156-2447.

OPEN DOOR

Open Door is an association of employers who want to improve the working and living conditions for FDWs. The organization welcomes employers who support workers' efforts to fight against agency fees and discriminatory legislation.

6848-6914, www.opendoor.hk.

HELPERS FOR DOMESTIC HELPERS

HDH was founded by lawyers in 1989, primarily to give helpers free legal counsel and other professional services. Today, HDH continues to provide legal services for free, but also supports workers with basic needs. The organization is always open to volunteers.

St. John's Cathedral,
4 Garden Rd., Central,
2523-4020, www.hdh-sjc.org.

Agency fees, the live-in rule, the two-week rule: Victoria Cabantac of the Mission for Migrant Workers says that all of these issues have deeper roots. She says that employment agencies for Philippine and Indonesian workers are directly collaborating with their respective governments. Domestic worker visas have to be obtained via agencies for them to be endorsed by the consulates. No endorsement, no work. The governments? They profit from license fees that agencies pay the state. "It's all about getting money out of the workers," says Cabantac.

To counteract this, MFMW has been involved in political campaigns in the last two Philippine national elections, and is trying to gather more support for a candidate who has the interests of migrant workers in mind. "A mass movement is very important to make [the government] feel the pressure and listen," says Cabantac, who is also the Vice Chair of the Migrante Sectoral Party's Hong Kong chapter—a party that represents overseas Filipino workers. She says there are enough votes and support from foreign domestic workers, but not enough from people in the Philippines: There are too many candidates representing too many marginalized groups to be an effective force.

"The SAR government has not taken any action because they say it is not their problem," says Eni Lestari. The SAR says that many agency fees are charged in the country of origin, not here in city.

Given that Hong Kong and foreign agencies are linked, it's a false distinction. That said, Hong Kong's Employment Agencies Administration does investigate agencies that overcharge. But the

problem is that the agencies are careful not to let it show up on paper. So far this year, just three agencies have been convicted.

Change has to come directly from the SAR government before the Philippines and Indonesia will take action. And for better or worse, the SAR's influence over the Philippines isn't to be scoffed at: In November 2013, Legco withheld visa-free access for Filipino tourists, to pressure the country into reaching a compensation deal for the 2010 Manila Hostage Crisis. (The same day, Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines, killing 6,300.)

Mabel Au, director of Amnesty International Hong Kong, notes that since the widely publicized Erwiana Sulistyaniingsih abuse case, helpers have become more confident about reporting their issues. "The situation is pretty insane, but there have been relatively more domestic helpers willing to make complaints," she says. But the government has made promises without taking much action. "The very frustrating thing is that we did not find any improvement," says Au. "The Chief Secretary promised to do something, but we've only heard of a few agencies questioned by the government."

But there's some hope: Lestari notes that younger generations are more understanding of their plight: She says that more youth have been volunteering at migrant workers' NGOs. Why? "I think they get more exposure to different cultures now," she says. "They are curious. They want to know."



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EDM festival 'Don't Let Daddy Know Hong Kong' has just revealed its secret headliner today with one of the world's most discussed DJ-producer, 6 Grammy Awards winner - Skrillex! After his last visit in 2012 at a club gig, he is now returning to ROCK in a festival!

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www.djrevolutionhk.com



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Celebrate Belgian National Day at FRITES

The Belgian Beef and Beer special to celebrate the Belgian National Day is very popular, and FRITES will have the special on menu for one more week.

The set includes exclusive real Belgian Beef "Belgian Blue" from De Beef. Cooked to preference, the tenderloin cut is served with stoemp, spinach and brune jus for \$395. Perfectly paired with the dish, a complimentary La Corne Triple Beer will be offered with the dish ordered.

The Wellington, 1/F, 198 Wellington Street, Central, 2217-6671



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Established in Switzerland, 1919, Titoni has been devoted to bringing its first-class watchmaking craft to clients worldwide. The family-owned company proudly presents the all new Impetus Series. Two-tone watchcase and yellow PVD coated bezel, combines with the automatic mechanical movement, the new member of Impetus Series underlines a more luxury-style appearance. The new model not only reflects Titoni's true passion for the fine art of watchmaking, but also a heritage the company has embraced for generations.

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Professionally run, high quality production... Join the 300,000 strong community, follow Facebook / Twitter / Instagram @MusicFestAsia



Prima Donna

It's summertime and the pop-ups keep on popping up. Enter **Anteprima**: the Milan-based brand has joined the club with its Wirebag event at K11 Art Mall in Tsim Sha Tsui. The Italian fusion designer is known for its artistic, contemporary takes on female silhouettes. Look for the new geranium-inspired line of women's clothes, pictured here, in stores next month. In the meantime, pick up your own metallic Wirebag at the pop-up. The bags use hand-knit, colorful materials—so they're as lightweight as they are stylish.

**\$TBC, Silk Fiore top and skirt from Geranium Power collection.
Pop-up til Aug 5. G/F, K11 Mall, 118 Hanoi Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui.**

Mending the Siems

Kate Springer visits the social enterprises getting Siem Reap back on its feet.

While exploring Siem Reap's beautifully crumbling temples, vibrant Old Town and colorful countryside, it's easy to forget that just over 20 years ago the country was emerging from decades of war that virtually left Cambodia starting from scratch. Over two decades have passed since the 1991 Paris Peace Accords, and the country is getting back on its feet with the help of homegrown community projects that aim to educate and elevate the country's most hard-hit families. On a recent trip to check out Siem Reap, I visited a few nonprofit tour companies, shows and restaurants that are invested in rebuilding Cambodia—and showing travelers a good time while they're at it.



Down by the Bayon

Insider itineraries

On my three-day trip, I leaned heavily on **AboutAsia**'s bespoke tour service to design my jam-packed itinerary and help me get around—but it's not just the insider knowledge that drew me to this company. AboutAsia is all about community involvement, celebrating local hidden gems, preserving Cambodia's natural beauty and, most importantly, providing education to underprivileged children. All the profits from its luxury tourism arm go to AboutAsia Schools, which runs 110 schools, provides teacher training and supplies community centers with reading materials.

From US\$145 (\$1,124), including guides and accommodation at a five-star hotel. www.aboutasiatravel.com.

Market magic

You can trawl through Siem Reap's Old Market for a handmade gem amid all the touristy kitsch or you can head straight to the **Well Made in Cambodia Market** for a taste of all the homegrown talent. Put on by the Shinta Mani hotel every Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday, the market celebrates local craftsmanship and artisan creations—think handmade jewelry, homemade rum, candles, textiles, bags, snacks and more. Bring a big shopping bag for your haul—or just buy a new one there.

Free. Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday from 4-9pm.

Sister acts of kindness

Serving up the best coffee and brunch in town, **Sister Srey** has nailed the eclectic-cool decor and friendly atmosphere of your favorite neighborhood cafe. But it's not all style and no substance: Sisters Lauren and Cassie opened up the cafe in 2012 to train and educate young Cambodians juggling studies and supporting their families at the same time. Twenty percent of profits are donated to the Hearts to Harmony Foundation—which supports Khmer people by providing education, healthcare and hygiene services.

200 Pokambor St., Riverside, Old Market Area, Siem Reap, (+855) 97-723-800, www.sistersreycafe.com.



Angkor yourself to the past



Track down a delicious experience at Villa Chandara



Shop for spirits and much more at the Well Made in Cambodia Market



Get a room at the Shinta Mani

Phare, The Wonder Circus

When I first heard about the **Phare** circus, I was a little hesitant—immediately seeing flashbacks of creepy clowns and screaming children. But under its big red tent, Phare has all the personality and passion, with none of the cringe-worthy foibles, of your typical circus. And the mind-bending stunts provide for more than your average acrobatic performance: On my visit I saw the Sokha show, which told the story of Cambodia's rise, fall and resurgence through a mix of charismatic acrobatics, fierce music and powerful paintings. The artists and musicians all graduated from Phare Ponleu Selpak association (www.phareps.org), a non-profit art, music, theater and circus school formed in 1994 following the fall of the Khmer Rouge.

Lot A, Komay Rd., Siem Reap, (+855) 92-225-320. Tickets US\$18-35 (\$140-\$271) from www.PhareCambodianCircus.org.

Rice retreat

Talk about off the beaten path—**Villa Chandara** is a ways away from the city center, down a long pockmarked dirt road in the middle of rice country. Dinner here is all-inclusive, so expect prosecco on arrival, free-flow G&Ts, wine and beer as the sun sets—all while local musicians play traditional Khmer tunes in the background. Dinner consists of a five-course meal of authentic Cambodian cuisine with highlights including a fantastic fish amok and fried bananas for dessert. The villa is owned by a local Cambodian, who lives and works there with his family, but managed by AboutAsia which sends all of the proceeds towards the AboutAsia Schools Foundation as well as the neighborhood's local school.

Pickup from hotel. US\$95 (\$736) per person, inclusive of transport, food and beverage. www.villachandara.com.

Food of Life

Part of the Kaliyan Mith NGO, which works with street children and at-risk families, **Marum Restaurant** is a training café. It's also part of the Tree Alliance of restaurants across Cambodia, where most of the staff members are of high school age, studying while at the same time training to enter the hospitality industry. The kids running the show may be young, but the food is fantastic—think smoked fish and mango salad, Khmer pork salad with fresh mint, taro and chive dumplings, and stir-fried red tree ants (I know, but it's better than it sounds). All profits from the restaurant go towards supporting the trainees' education, social programs and family welfare.

8A, B Phum Slor Kram, Siem Reap, Cambodia, (+855) 17-363-284, www.tree-alliance.org.



Siem Reap But Different

Want to beat the crowds while checking off the must-see sites? Here are a few insider tips.

Angkor Wat: Most of the crowds actually tend to go to 12th-century Angkor Wat first thing in the morning, so a late arrival is surprisingly strategic. Enter through the Eastern gate, rather than the well-trodden main corridor, for a leafy and quiet approach to the architectural marvel.

Ta Prohm: Hit the road by 6:30am in order to get the most out of your visit to famous Ta Prohm, aka the "Tomb Raider"

temple, which was built in the late 12th century. A biking tour is highly encouraged, as it not only enables you to take dirt paths between hidden temples—like nearby Tai Nei and Ta Keo—but also cuts your walking time in half.

Bayon: In the very center of the ancient city of Angkor Thom sits Bayon. The incredibly intricate temple would not look out of place in a "Game of Thrones" episode, with 216 beautifully carved stone Buddha faces, pointing in each of the four cardinal points. The crowds thin out by late afternoon, but leave yourself time to catch the sunset over the nearby moat.

Best New Restaurants of 2015... (so far)

We're seven months into 2015 and we can hardly keep up with all the restaurant openings. To narrow it down, here are our picks of the hottest new tables in town. By **John Robertson**



The perfect Tann?

Best new... Chinese

As the name suggests, you'll need to dig deep into your pockets to enjoy this new offering from the group behind Loyal Dining and The Tonno. But **Tycoon Tann** is well worth the splurge. You'll feel like emperor for a day as you sit between precious antiques and walls decorated with contemporary Chinese artwork and calligraphy, dining on fusion dishes that one can't help but describe as, well, rich: think Peking duck with caviar, baked crab with truffle, and chicken wings with foie gras.

G-2/F, Ming Fat Building, 74 Wellington St., Central, 3125-3228.

Best new... Beach Escape

You might say trying to combine Southeast Asian, South American and Caribbean flavors is just a little bit confusing—and you'd be right—but the barbecue masters at Maximal Concepts' **Limewood** have managed to pull it off with aplomb. Head down south for some grilled seafood and meats, seasoned with exotic flavor combinations and stay for the refreshing cocktails, beachy decor, and open-fronted view of Repulse Bay. But do be warned: these serious vacation vibes might be hard to shake off by Monday.

G/F, The Pulse, 28 Beach Rd., Repulse Bay, 2866-8668.



Best new... Private Dine

If you like your private kitchens extra private, check out the new incarnation of **Yin Yang**. Formerly based in Wan Chai, it's now tucked away on a secluded beach by Ting Kau village out in the western New Territories. You'll have to step out of your city-slicker comfort zone to get there—but that's just part of the fun. Ultra passionate about engaging with local culture and heritage, chef Margaret Xu takes inspiration from Cantonese fishermen in this latest venture. She either uses the freshest catch from the local market or actually goes fishing herself. For an added farm-to-table touch, all the sauces are made from ingredients grown in the restaurant's garden.

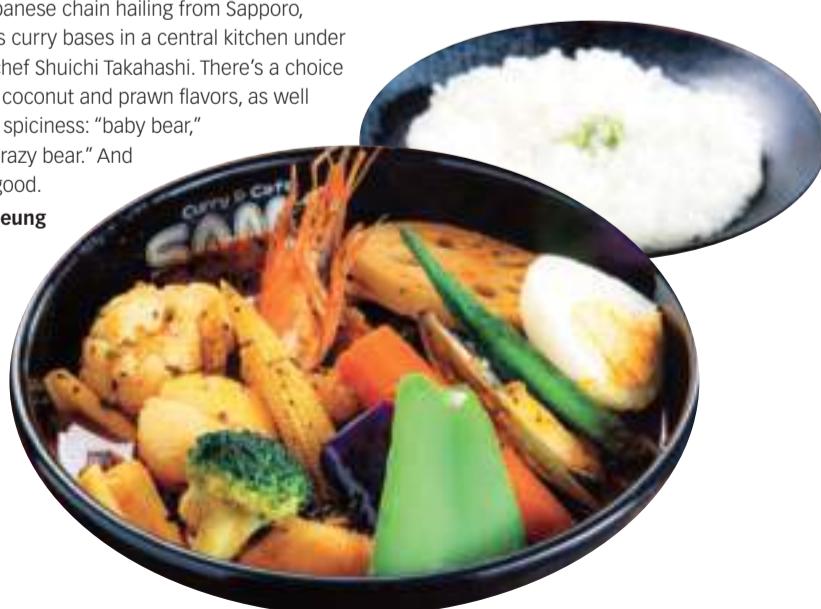
House 117, Ting Kau Village, Tsuen Wan, 2866-0868.



Best new... Japanese

Hokkaido bears and Japanese curry go hand-in-hand, or at least that's what the artwork at **Sama** would have you believe. A Japanese chain hailing from Sapporo, Sama prepares its curry bases in a central kitchen under the eye of head chef Shuichi Takahashi. There's a choice between tomato, coconut and prawn flavors, as well as three levels of spiciness: "baby bear," "adult bear" or "crazy bear." And they're all crazy good.

51 Gough St., Sheung Wan, 2191-8850.



Best new... Tapas

Chef Willy Trullas Moreno's second restaurant in town—he's also behind Fofo by el Willy—brings the Spanish seaside to Sai Ying Pun. Both the décor and the menu at **La Paloma** are inspired by *chiringuito* beach bars that you'll find along the shores of his hometown of Barcelona. The name is Spanish for "the pigeon," and rest assured that the bird makes an appearance on the menu, freshly roasted in an enormous asador clay oven. Don't let the big, delicious dishes like paella and sucking pig distract you from the tapas, Iberico pork, tortilla omelets, and top-notch Spanish wines and beers.

1/F, SoHo 189, 189 Queen's Rd. West,
Sai Ying Pun, 2291-6161.



Have a bit of Paloma faith



Best new... Overall Value

The first restaurant to touch down in Lan Kwai Fong's new California Tower, **Ore-no Kappou** came out swinging with the promise of "Michelin food for the masses." And we're happy to report that it does indeed deliver. Featuring dishes from its sister restaurant, the Michelin two-starred Ginza Okamoto in Tokyo, Ore-no Kappou offers a long list of Japanese flavors that needn't fill the salaryman with despair. Expect traditional kaiseki with a modern twist, as well as ramen, udon, sushi, and top quality meats grilled on a Mount Fuji lava stone. Now that's a hot opening.

6/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central,
2328-3302.

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NEW AND NOTED
with Adele Wong



ENxNichi



Beer & Fish

Something Fishy

Beer & Fish (67 Staunton St., Central, 2540-0888) has opened up on the corner of Staunton and Aberdeen, serving up deep-fried goodness and lots of craft brews on tap. B&F is the brainchild of some of the guys behind TAP-The Ale Project in Mong Kok—and you'll see local brand Young Master Ales featured prominently on the menu. Fish and chips are the order of the day, but you'll also be able to dig into crab cake toast thingies (aka "Crab Ceggs") and other seafood specialties.

Happy Endings

Chewy, dense North American-style cookies and souped-up donuts take center stage at **Munchies** (4 Shin Hing St., Sheung Wan, facebook.com/munchieshk), a new dessert hangout in NoHo. Bonus: You can order the cookies and donuts on their own, OR you can fill them up with ice-cream and turn them into fantabulous ice-cream sandwiches. All of the goodies are supposed to be organic, all-natural, GMO-free etc, etc—I have no idea what this actually means but it does make everything sound marginally healthier and a bit more guilt-free.



Munchies

Way Down South

Make your way down to PMQ this weekend to catch the **ENxNichi** (ennichi roughly means "special holy day" in Japanese) festival, offering quirky eats from the southern Okinawa prefecture. This family-friendly event features game booths for the children, live traditional entertainment, and tons and tons of yummy Okinawan treats, of course. From beers to gyoza to awamori rice spirit cocktails, there'll be plenty to fill your belly. The festival runs from now until August 2.

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

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RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Boomshack ★★★★☆

American. Shop B, 8-12 Wo On Lane, Central, 2660-5977.



Foodtruck-inspired joint Boomshack is one of the newer establishments to infiltrate Wo On Lane. You'll find American burgers and tacos on the menu with Hong Kong-style touches like char siu and bak choi—plus a hipster crowd, natch.

HIT Boomshack's take on classic soul-food chicken and waffles (\$88) was a stand-out. The waffle—sweet and aromatic—cut into the crunch and saltiness of the chicken. Per our server's recommendation, we went with the

cheese and ranch dressing, which made the dish extra rich. Sadly the char siu taco was sold out, so we ordered the "I Am Lamb" taco (\$108) instead. Saddle lamb, pickled cucumber and fennel yogurt wrapped in tortilla made for a super-moreish savory, tangy dish, which we washed down with a classic margarita (\$48).

MISS Despite all the ingredients that went into the Tex Mexican Burger (\$98)—beef, chipotle mayo, quinoa manchego, chile relleno, provolone cheese and salsa verde—it was a bit on the dry side. Prices were steep, although we accept that Central dining never comes cheap these days.

BOTTOM LINE If you're after a guilty pleasure meal, Boomshack is the place to be. Catering to the hungry late-night crowd, it's also open until 3am from Thursdays to Saturdays.

Open Mon-Wed noon-midnight; Thu-Sat noon-3am; Sun noon-10pm. \$

Padang Indonesia Restaurant ★★★★☆

Indonesian. Shop 1-2, JP Plaza, 22-36 Paterson St., Causeway Bay, 2881-5075.



Padang has been around forever, and it's one of those restaurants that will continue to exist because it doesn't try to do anything other than serve no-frills food at no-frills prices. Cantofied Indonesian dishes make up the menu, and there's a colorful snacks and desserts counter out front.

HIT Let's get this out of the way: nothing is "wow" at Padang—but then again, you don't

come here expecting to be blown away. The mie goreng (\$95) came with a weird blotch of pickled vegetables on the side, but the thick noodles themselves were full of wok hei—smoky and flavorful. The nasi campur (\$86) came with lots of tasty goodies, from cured fish to curried vegetables to beef rendang.

MISS We should've known better than to order the mixed vegetables (\$105), which were basically a greasy medley of chop suey bits and pieces. And despite Padang's firm stance on being your average shopping mall restaurant, the interior errs on the gloomy and slightly depressing side.

BOTTOM LINE We've had better Indonesian in Hong Kong, but that hasn't stopped us from going back to Padang time and time again.

Open daily 11am-11pm. \$

Ratings

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

Price Guide

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

Our Policy

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

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WHAT'S ON

CULTURE + NIGHTLIFE + FILM

Gone in 0.013 Seconds

Centered on the Buddhist idea of “ksana”—the smallest possible unit of time—PubArt Gallery’s new exhibition **“0.013 Seconds”** shows off the works of Japanese artist Ayumi Adachi. She creates images that capture the power of fleeting moments: a bubble about to burst, a brief gleam of light, a moment of acceleration.

Through Aug 21. PubArt Gallery, 7B Chancery Lane, Central, 2840-1809, www.pubart-gallery.com.

ARTS

Edited by Evelyn Lok
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com



HK PICKS



The Naked Magicians

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

Classical

HK Sinfonietta Artistree Residency

Embarking on its sixth annual residency at Taikoo Place's Artistree, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta presents recorder virtuoso Stefan Temmingh and harpsichordist Anna Paradiso in five free Baroque concerts. Still got your high school recorder? Bring it along and join Temmingh to play "Estampie" on Jul 31—all levels are welcome. Download the music at www.hksl.org to prepare: tenor and bass recorders preferred. Jul 31-Aug 1, 7:30pm; Aug 2, 3pm; Aug 4, 7:30pm. ArtisTree, 1/F, Cornwall House, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Rd., Quarry Bay, 2844-3888. Free.

The Breaking Winds in Hong Kong

Maybe cover your noses for this one, although not your ears: the four bassoon-playing ladies of The Breaking Winds are about to blow your minds with their classical-meets-pop tunes, performed with a touch of comedy. Expect a whoopee cushion or two thrown in between bars. Aug 6, 8pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$250 in advance from the Fringe Club; \$270 at the door, both include a drink.



Bach 330: Mass in B Minor

Following a preview concert and lecture in May, Bach's colossal Mass in B Minor is to be performed by the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, the SingFest Choral Academy and 2015 Youth Chorus. They're all under the baton of German choral conductor Helmuth Rilling, the father of countless Bach academies worldwide. Aug 8, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$150-360 from www.urbtix.hk.

Bach: The Art of Fugue

Multi-instrumental virtuoso and Bach enthusiast Stephen Hung steps up to the HKAPA stage with a program packed with fugue-ing fun, kicking off with Bach's "The Art of Fugue." Just to mix things up, Hung will also be playing Bach's "Chaconne in D minor" and two recently transcribed organ pieces. Bach geeks, don't miss two pre-concert talks in the HKAPA's Music Lab Education Studio (11/F Mau Lam Commercial Building, 16-18 Mau Lam St., Yau Ma Tei) on Aug 7, 8pm and Aug 15, 7:30pm. It's pay-what-you-want: register for a seat at tiny.cc/hk-fugue. Aug 23, 6:30pm. Concert Hall, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai. \$100 from www.hkticketing.com.

Piano Recital by Francesco Tristano

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

Dance



Dance x Multimedia

The LCSD concludes its series of multimedia dance arts this summer with a heart-thumping cross-genre production by iLuminate, second-runners-up at America's Got Talent 2011, who will perform in fully lit-up costumes. Aug 21-22, 8pm; Aug 23, 3pm. Auditorium, Kwai Tsing Theatre, 12 Hing Ning Rd., Kwai Fong. \$150-350 from www.urbtix.hk.

Need to Know

Theater & Arts

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

Così Fan Tutte

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

Theater

Magic at The Fringe

It's yet another round of theatrical magic at the Fringe Club. Following a series of several successful shows, this month's gig is hosted by Hong Kong sorcery stalwart Harry Wong, featuring magicians Benny Li, Bernard Mariano, Bond Lee and Billy Yuen. In Cantonese. Aug 12, 8:30pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$200 in advance from Fringe Club; \$230 at the door. Includes one drink..

Le Dieu Du Carnage

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

Hamlet

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



La Soirée

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

ARTS

Exhibitions



Imagine There's No Country, Above Us Only Our Cities

Kicking off a series of exhibitions by emerging Hong Kong curators, Para Site's latest show is helmed by its Associate Curator Jims Lam Chi-hang. It presents new works by 12 local artists, from the likes of Chris Huen Sin-kan, Morgan Wong and Elvis Yip Kin-bon. Exploring the theme of nationality, each artist uses their own stories to reinterpret Hong Kong's social frameworks. You'll find works in all types of mediums: closed circuit videos, paintings, large-scale installations, newspaper clippings, scents, and even the social results of using a dating app. Aug 1-Sep 6. Para Site Art Space, 22/F, Wing Wah Industrial Building, 677 King's Rd., Quarry Bay, 2517-4620.

Masters of Myanmar: New Works by Aung Myint and Min Wae Aung

Having always worked closely with Burmese artists, Karin Weber brings us brand new works by two notable artists in the local art scene. Aung Myint creates abstract, cubist works while exploring social themes, while Min Wae Aung is considered a "traditionalist" who paints contemporary portraits of Burmese monks and nuns. Through Aug 15. Karin Weber Gallery, G/F, 20 Aberdeen St., Central, 2544-5004.



A Postcard From Persia

Galerie Huit hosts its first exhibition of Middle Eastern artists, titled "A Postcard From Persia." It's a survey of four Iranian artists currently based all across the globe, each expressing their own views on religion, tradition and national identity. Through Aug 5. Galerie Huit, Shop 2, G/F & 1/F, SoHo 189, 189 Queen's Rd. West, Sheung Wan, 2803-2089.

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Exhibition offers insight into Dr Sun's family life

An interesting and diverse exhibition depicting the everyday life of the family of one of China's most important modern leaders is open to the public in Hong Kong.

Dr Sun Yat-sen is regarded as the Father of Modern China. He devoted his entire life to the revolutionary cause, sacrificing precious time at home along the way.

Family members gave unwavering support to his revolutionary career, but it meant he did miss out on a lot of family life. Indeed, not only was he not present at the birth of his second daughter, but he only saw her for the first time five years later.

After stops in Shenzhen and Guangzhou in 2013 and 2014 respectively, the 2015 exhibition in Hong Kong "With the Passage of Time – Artefacts of Sun Wan, Dr Sun Yat-sen's Second Daughter, and her Husband, Tai Ensai", showcases the couple's lives as ordinary people and reviews their young years and married lives.

The exhibition, which brings together the collections from five museums in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, namely Shenzhen Museum, the Hong Kong Museum of History, the Macau Museum, the Guangdong Museum of Revolutionary History and the Memorial

Museum of Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen's Mansion, sets out to show the everyday life of members of Dr Sun's family.

Jointly presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macau Special Administrative Region Government, the Shenzhen Museum, the Guangdong Museum of Revolutionary History and the Memorial Museum of Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen's Mansion, the exhibition is organised by the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum and the Macau Museum.

Sun Wan, the second daughter of Dr Sun and his first wife Lu Muzhen, met her father for the first time when she was five, owing to Dr Sun's long participation in revolutionary activities.

She lived abroad with her mother from a young age, and later pursued her studies in the United States and finally settled down in Macau with her husband, Tai Ensai. Having completed his studies in Columbia University in the United States, Tai returned to China and served in the government.

The couple had a very close relationship with Dr Sun and played an important role in Dr Sun's revolutionary career. After Tai Ensai and Sun Wan passed away, their belongings, including highly diverse and priceless artefacts characteristic of their time, went into the collections of

various cultural institutes and museums in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau.

Featuring more than 100 precious artefacts and images from the five aforesaid museums in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, this exhibition is divided into four parts, namely "Young Years", "Career in the Government", "Settling in Macau" and "The Golden Years", to introduce the ordinary lives of Sun Wan and Tai Ensai.

The exhibition allows visitors to share the couple's joy, anger, sorrow and happiness as ordinary people, while simultaneously experiencing the unique Chinese-Western charm of the republican era and their extraordinary roles in it.

With the Passage of Time-Artefacts of Sun Wan, Dr Sun Yat-sen's Second Daughter, and her Husband, Tai Ensai

Exhibition period: Until August 26, 2015

Address: Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum (7 Castle Road, Mid-Levels, Central)

Opening Hours: 10 am-6 pm on weekdays / 10 am-7 pm on weekends & public holidays / closed on Thursdays (except public holidays)

Admission Fee: Standard HK\$10 / Group HK\$7 / Concession HK\$5 / free admission on Wednesdays

For more exhibition details, please call 2367 6373 or visit the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum's website at http://hk.drsunyatson.museum/en_US/web/sysm/exhibition/special_exh_sun_wan.html

Spectacles and case ▶ of Sun Wan

Collection of the Hong Kong Museum of History



Porcelain milk jar and ▶ tea pot of the Tai family

Collection of the Hong Kong Museum of History



▼ **Tai Ensai and Sun Wan**

Collection of the Hong Kong Museum of History

Photograph of Dr Sun ▶ Yat-sen with his daughter Sun Yan (left) and Sun Wan (right) in 1912. Sun Wan was 16 years old.

Collection of the Hong Kong Museum of History



Family portrait of Tai Ensai, ▶ taken in Hong Kong in 1923.

Collection of the Hong Kong Museum of History

◀ **A travel wine set of Tai Ensai, including a case, a cocktail shaker, wine bottles, cups, a spoon and a bottle opener. The set is easy to carry around.**

Collection of the Guangdong Museum of Revolutionary History



NIGHTLIFE

Edited by **Andrea Lo**

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Twitter: @andreas_lo



Open Bar The Walrus



The buzz: The three Chow sisters behind cocktail bar The Woods have come up with a new venture: The Walrus, named after Lewis Carroll's poem "The Walrus and the Carpenter." Creatively presented oysters take center stage here, with a selection of oyster shooters on offer. The Walrus gets its oysters fresh from all over the world, based on seasonality and freshness. Purists might be offended by just

how creatively the briny creatures are served—with everything from miso sauce and kale to a Caesar dressing with parmesan—but the place is fun and free of pretension. Don't like seafood? Don't bother.

The décor: The small venue is decked out with a maritime theme. Rope lights custom-made in Brooklyn hang from the ceiling.

and there are nautical touches all around. It's thoughtfully designed, too—the tables come with a receptacle in the middle so you can easily dispose of your oyster shells.

The drinks: There are three oyster-accompanied shooters available: Our favorite was the Bloody Mary (\$48), which has a fiery kick that's enhanced by the briny oyster. The "clear" shot (\$68) is also worth your time: a sumptuous mouthful of sake, quail's egg, shiso leaf and caviar. Feeling generous? Ring the bell hanging from the ceiling and buy a round for the whole bar. After those shots, sit back and sample other oysters washed down with white wines, bubbles and craft beers.

Why you'll be back: If you're an oyster fan, you'll love The Walrus' imaginative spins on the bivalve. The raw platter (\$258 for six), for example, features the "Lady Gaga" oyster, served with pink pickle jello, baby radish and chrysanthemum. Try the range of seafood snacks such as nori crisps and moreish (and adorable) fried baby crabs.

Andrea Lo

64 Staunton St., Central,
www.thewalrus.hk.



HK PICKS



Mouse On the Keys

Tokyo-based instrumental trio Mouse On the Keys isn't just your average post-rock indie band. The band's two keyboardists and one drummer craft unique, multi-genre sounds. Aug 12, 9pm. Musiczone, KITEC, 1 Trademark Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$330 from whitenoiserecords.org; \$360 at the door.

Clubs



Gregor Tresher

Gregor Tresher is known for techno-driven and electronica tracks that please clubbers who are looking for something more than the Top 40 to dance to. Prefer Iggy Iggs? Stay at home. Jul 31, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-1510. \$300 at the door before 12:30am and \$350 thereafter, both include two drinks.

O.T. Genasis

His song "Coco" has been blasting in nightclubs for the past few months—now's your chance to see American-Belizean rapper O.T. Genasis live at Dragon-i. The lyrics? "Baking soda, I got baking soda." Hint: it's not

actually baking soda. Can't get enough of the coco? He's also heading to Club Cubic in Macau to perform a few days later. Aug 5, 10:30pm. Dragon-i, U/G, The Centrium, 60 Wyndham St., Central, 3110-1222. \$500 at the door. Aug 8, 11:30pm. Club Cubic, 2/F, Hard Rock Hotel, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau. (+853) 6638-4999. \$380 at the door.



Play Presents:

The Ultimate Glow Paint Party Vol 4

Play is hosting another Glow Paint Party with all the glowy things you'd expect: paint palettes, bubbles, rings and even a "glow paint gun show." Maybe leave that designer gown at home. Aug 6, 10pm. Play, 1/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, 2525-1318. \$300 at the door, including a drink and a glow paint T-shirt.

Music Festivals



Outlook Festival Hong Kong Launch Party 2015

Don't have tickets to Croatia's bass music festival Outlook in September? Go to this party, set at a BBQ pit in Ma On Shan. Local mainstays like DJ Saiyan and Muggsy are behind the decks and it's not all about the DJ beats either—10-piece ska extraordinaire the Red Stripes and Cantonese reggae band Sensi Lion will also take to the stage. This party has been taking place in Hong Kong for the last two years and for some reason, it's still called a "launch party." But hey—it's an outdoor music festival right here in Hong Kong. So just go with it. Aug 8, 4pm. Whitehead BBQ, No. 1950, Ma On Shan. \$380 before Aug 7, from www.ticketflap.com; \$450 at the door.



OpenSesame!

This August Yuen Long plays host to OpenSesame!, a two-day music festival boasting a lineup of over 30 of Hong Kong's best indie acts including Ni.ne.mo, ANWIYCTI (pictured) and Shepherds the Weak. Best part? You can set up camp and stay the night. Organizers stumbled on the space and begged villagers to let them host the shindig, which will also offer games, food and drinks, and lots of greenery. Aug 15, noon; Aug 16, 11am. 1 Chi Ma Leng, Pat Heung, Kam Tin Road, Yuen Long. \$280-380; \$150 extra for camping. Tickets from www.ticketflap.com.

Concerts



Imagine Dragons

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



Maroon 5

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



Muse

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

HK PICKS



Lan Kwai Fong Beer & Music Fest

LKF's annual Beer and Music Fest is inevitably back. You know the drill: more than 100 beers flowing liberally from street booths, restaurants and bars. This year, the festival's theme is "Wild West"—so expect wagons, cactuses, plus a cowgirl dance show. Remember: Drink to excess, responsibly. Aug 8-9, 1pm. Lan Kwai Fong, near D'Aguilar Street, Central. Free.

Gigs



New Youth Barbershop

Indie three-piece New Youth Barbershop is known for holding gigs at surprising locations, and this time the band is doing two morning shows at Jyut Wan Go Zo, an old-school karaoke venue on Temple Street. To book, email the organizers with your name and number of tickets required—and your last will and testament. No, seriously. Aug 1-2, 11am. 53-57 Temple St., Yau Ma Tei. \$120 in advance; email nybsconcert@gmail.com.

The Scop

Taiwanese metalcore and post-hardcore band The Scop hits Hidden Agenda to launch their first EP. They're supported by local bands King Zhi, Underknot and The Priceless Boat. Aug 1, 7pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$180 from www.ticketflap.com.

The Used

US rock band The Used comes to town for one night only at KITEC. Fun fact: frontman Bert McCracken was featured on reality show "The Osbournes" when he was dating Kelly Osbourne. Kinda metal drama! Aug 10, 8pm. Musiczone, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$450-550 from www.ticketflap.com; \$650 at the door.

Summer Parties

W Hotel Shock Wave:

#PoseWhenever Pool Party

There are only two sessions left of the W's notorious pool parties. Splash around on the 76th floor pool and gawk at the half-naked beautiful people all around you. Aug 1 and 22, 8pm. W Hotel, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2222. \$400 in advance or \$500 at the door, including one drink at the pool and one at the after-party. \$950 for "WIP" tickets in advance or \$1,100 at the door, including free-flow drinks and champagne until 1am. Tickets from www.w-hongkong.com/en/shockwave.

Annual Hawaiian Party

Head to Geronimo Shot Bar in your finest grass skirt for this Hawaiian party. Remember: if you ring the bell, you have to buy everyone in the bar a round of shots. If your grass skirt rings the bell, GET OFF THE BAR. Aug 1, 8pm. Geronimo Shot Bar, 2/F, Winner Building, 27-39 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2833-9951. Price TBA.

Heineken Green Room

This year's Heineken Green Room—a party held by the beer brand featuring fist-pump-happy DJ beats—is being held at the W, featuring DJs Alvaro, Hard Rock Sofa, Scarnite and Rana, plus Hong Kong-based Beccareful. Aug 7, 10pm. W Hotel, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 3717-2222. \$388 from payroll.hk; \$588 at the door.

Waves—The New Beach Party Series

Hosted By Rewind

Rewind's rooftop parties have become go-to events this summer, and this time the promoter is bringing us a beach party. Taking place somewhere on Hong Kong Island, the location hasn't been announced yet—watch this space. Aug 8, 4pm. Location TBA.

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Inside Out *****

(USA) Animation. Directed by Pete Docter. Starring Amy Poehler, Mindy Kaling, Lewis Black, Phyllis Smith, Bill Hader. Category I. 98 minutes. Opened July 23.

We all know this: Pixar Studios makes it a life mission to emotionally ruin you with inanimate objects that have feelings. In "Inside Out" they've brought out the big guns: feelings themselves that have feelings. And with the creators of "Up" behind this latest offering, you know your tear ducts are about to get destroyed.

At the heart of "Inside Out" are muppet-esque sprites/feeling fairies that represent emotions and that work together to control the actions of humans. The story takes place in the brain of 11-year-old Riley, a happy hockey-loving Minnesota girl who must face a devastating family move to San Francisco—leaving her big suburban house, her backyard ice-skating memories and her best friends behind. Up in "Headquarters," Riley's emotions—Anger, Disgust, Joy, Sadness, and Fear—have to help her deal with the switch. Responsible for helping Riley make as many happy memories as possible, Joy (Amy Poehler, who flexes excellent voice-acting chops here) is more determined than ever to help her human cope with the changes. But soon her pessimistic opposite, Sadness (Phyllis Smith, "The Office") gets more and more involved with the day-to-day running of Riley's brain, and Riley's memories get washed over by the blues. Mistake after mistake eventually leaves Joy and Sadness trapped in the endless maze of Riley's long-term memory, robbing her of those emotions. As Riley numbly goes about her day, Sadness and Joy try to get back to HQ, even if it means risking a journey through the treacherous limbo where all memories are forgotten.

One of the best things about "Inside Out" is that it triggers so much food for thought. Even while Joy is bouncing off the walls in overbearing excitement, it raises poignant questions about how our whole worldview is constructed; how our emotions dictate our conversations and relationships; how the way we perceive events and remember things affects our personality. How it's best sometimes that some memories get left behind as we move on. How you can't have emotional stability unless you experience both the bitter and sweet in life.

There are a lot of worthwhile adult life lessons in "Inside Out," but at the same time a lot of silliness and jokes come into play, many of which look back fondly at childhood games—like pretending the floor is lava, or creating angst imaginary boyfriends. And sometimes the nostalgia takes us well beyond the realm of jokes, revving up the tear factor.

Speaking of tears and imagination, those two combine to make this possibly the most life-ruining movie of the year, thanks to a cotton-candy monster named Bing Bong. Pixar movies of late famously have a cry point, and one particular scene involving Bing Bong arguably surpasses the "Toy Story 3" incinerator scene or even the opening sequence of "Up" when it comes to throwing a big ole' fist into your childhood memories. In a good way.

"Inside Out" successfully condenses the turbulent emotions of growing up into one big ball of catharsis. You won't be disappointed—just remember to bring tissues. **Evelyn Lok**

Coming Soon:



Fantastic Four

(USA) The reboot to the Marvel franchise sees a decidedly younger foursome: Miles Teller ("Whiplash") plays Mr. Fantastic, Kate Mara is the Invisible Woman, Michael B. Jordan is the Human Torch, and Jamie Bell ("Billy Elliott," "Snowpiercer") plays The Thing. Sorry fanboys: no naked Jessica Alba in this one. Opens Aug 6.



I Kissed a Girl

(France) Leading up to his wedding with his boyfriend of 10 years, Jeremie (Pio Marmai) wakes up in the bed of a beautiful blonde woman. What does it mean for his relationship? Cue stock dodgy rom-com gags. Opens Aug 6.

To the Fore

(Taiwan/Korea/Hong Kong/China)

Wong Kam-po, eat your heart out. If you took Dante Lam's trademark brooding drama and slapped it right on the Tour de France, you'd get "To the Fore." It's a coming-of-age cycling drama starring Taiwanese heartthrobs Eddie Peng and Ethan Juan, about the camaraderie between four budding cyclists and their individual romances. Opens Aug 6.

Vacation

(USA) The fifth and latest National Lampoon Vacation film sees young Rusty Griswold now as a middle-aged dad (Ed Helms, "The Hangover").

Attempting to relive fond childhood memories of wacky family holidays, he takes his wife and kids on a cross-country drive back to his beloved theme park Walley World before it closes down for good. Buckle up for plenty of silly shenanigans and gross-out humor. Opens Aug 6.

What We Do in the Shadows

(New Zealand) Jemaine Clement of comedy rockers Flight of the Conchords directs and stars in this mockumentary about three age-old vampire flatmates who try to cope with the woes of modern day life. When a freshly turned fledgling vampire joins the house, the three try to show him that being undead ain't so bad after all. Opened Jul 30.

Continuing



Ant-Man

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

Entourage

(USA) Picking up where the show left off in 2011, Hollywood's favorite bad boy Vincent Chase is back with manager/best friend E, former gofer-turned-tequila-entrepreneur Turtle, half-brother and failed actor Johnny Drama, and of course agent-from-hell Ari Gold. Making a comeback as the head of a studio, Ari calls Vinnie and the crew to star in their first feature film. Expect lots of name-dropping, celebrity cameos... and boobs. ★★★

Far From the Madding Crowd

(UK/USA) One of Thomas Hardy's classics comes to life on screen once again, this time with Carey Mulligan ("An Education") as the independent Bathsheba Everdene. In the timeless tale, Bathsheba attracts three suitors and must choose between them—while also inheriting her uncle's farm and showing the male workers who's boss. An admirable performance from Mulligan seals the deal for a solid movie. ★★



Infinitely Polar Bear

(USA) Screened at the Sundance Film Festival in Hong Kong last year, this is a whimsical drama that sees Mark Ruffalo as a father coping with manic depression and recovering from a recent breakdown. Hoping to make a better life for their two precocious daughters, his wife (Zoe Saldana) takes on an MBA at Columbia, leaving Ruffalo to take care of the kids—and himself. Equal parts whimsy and heart-tugging drama, anchored by the wonderful Ruffalo. ★★★

Inside Out

(USA) See review, left.

Insidious: Chapter 3

(USA) Ah, the curse of the third movie. Gone are Rose Byrne and Patrick Wilson playing the couple trying to save their possessed, comatose son. The third chapter is written and directed by first-time director Leigh Whannell and focuses on the predicament of a teenager grieving for her late mother. Spookiness awaits...

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Love is Strange

(USA) This isn't your average love story: John Lithgow and Alfred Molina play an older couple who have just gotten married after spending 40 years together. But when one of them loses his job, they're forced to sell their apartment and temporarily live apart. As George (Molina) moves in with neighbors, Ben (Lithgow) shares a bunk bed with his nephew in Brooklyn. With audiences singing high praises for the lead performances, this is not one to miss.



Magic Mike XXL

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

Minions

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



Monster Hunt

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



Paris Holiday

(Hong Kong) A Louis Koo summer rom-com! A freshly jilted Lee Chun-kit (Koo) runs away to Paris to start a new life. In his new apartment, he meets his new roommate, a manic pixie dream girl budding artist (Amber Kuo) who has also recently had her heart broken. Sparks inevitably fly, but is it really the best idea to pine after your roommate?

Poltergeist

(USA) A retelling of the 1982 classic, this time round the spooky tale appears (of course) in brand spankin' new 3D. Eric Bowen (Sam Rockwell), his wife Amy (Rosemarie DeWitt) and their three kids move into a new suburban home in Illinois. But when youngest daughter Maddy begins talking to an imaginary friend—and one day goes missing—the parents consult a team of parapsychologists to save her before it's too late. Kids with imaginary friends: usually a bad sign.

Terminator: Genisys

(USA) Arnie returns as the Terminator in the fifth movie of the series—in all steel ab CGI glory. In this rebooted timeline, the future of the past is once again in question. Resistance leader John Connor (Jason Clarke) sends Kyle Reese (Jai Courtney) back in time to protect his mother, Sarah Connor (Emilia Clarke, "mother of dragons" herself)—who this time around is a skilled fighter with a Terminator on her team. The movie franchise may be old, but the story and magnetic performances make it far from obsolete. ★★★★

The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet

(USA) This good ol' fashioned adventure story is based on Reif Larsen's 2009 novel. A 10-year-old science prodigy and budding cartographer wins an award for inventing a perpetual motion machine. He secretly embarks on a cross country trek from his family's ranch in Montana to Washington D.C. to receive the prestigious prize—with a dark secret in tow. Thanks to director Jean-Pierre Jeunet ("Amélie") and frequent collab partner Guillaume Laurent, you've got fantastic, dreamy cinematography and a script that makes your heart swell. ★★★★

Special Screenings



BC Sundays: Hipster Couple Edition

This month's Sunday specials at Broadway Cinematheque seem to have taken on the theme of painfully cool couples dealing with a whole lot of indie-tinged angst.

"**Liberal Arts**" (Aug 2) stars Josh Radnor of "How I Met Your Mother" as a jaded New York postgrad who falls for a younger student, the beautiful Elizabeth Olsen.

"**Celeste and Jesse Forever**" (Aug 9) sees Andy Samberg and Rashida Jones as a couple who married young but are growing apart. Inexplicably, mid-August we get "**Chef**" (Aug 16)—a food truck romp as Jon Favreau finds himself through selling Cubano sandwiches—a budding relationship with food, perhaps? August finishes off with "**Greetings From Tim Buckley**" (Aug 23)—starring Penn Badgley as a young Jeff Buckley under the shadow of his famous father; and "**What If**" (Aug 30)—a Daniel Radcliffe rom-com about fighting the dreaded friend zone. Aug 2-30. Screenings are around noon. Broadway Cinematheque, Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square St., Yau Ma Tei. \$65.

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY



Leo (Jul 23-Aug 22): I expect you to be in a state of constant birth for the next three weeks. Awakening and activation will come naturally. Your drive to blossom and create may be irresistible, bordering on unruly. Does that sound overwhelming? I don't think it will be a problem as long as you cultivate a mood of amazed amusement about it. (P.S. This upsurge is a healthy response to the dissolution that preceded it.)

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): Expiration dates loom. Fond adieus and last laughs and final hurrahs are on tap. Unfinished business is begging you to give it your smartest attention while there's still time to finish it with elegance and grace. So here's my advice for you, my on-the-verge friend: Don't save any of your tricks, ingenuity, or enthusiasm for later. This is the later you've been saving them for. You are more ready than you realize to try what has always seemed improbable or inconceivable before now. Here's my promise: If you handle these endings with righteous decisiveness, you will ensure bright beginnings in the weeks after your birthday.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): A company called Evil Supply sells a satirical poster that contains the following quote: "Be the villain you were born to be. Stop waiting for someone to come along and corrupt you. Succumb to the darkness yourself." The text in the advertisement for this product adds, "Follow your nightmares... Plot your own nefarious path." Although this counsel is slightly funny to me, I'm too moral and upright to recommend it to you—even now, when I think there would be value in you being less nice and polite and agreeable than you usually are. So I'll tinker with Evil Supply's message to create more suitable advice: "For the greater good, follow your naughty bliss. Be a leader with a wild imagination. Nudge everyone out of their numbing routines. Sow benevolent mischief that energizes your team."

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): "Every time you resist acting on your anger and instead restore yourself to calm, it gets easier," writes psychologist Laura Markham in *Psychology Today*. In fact, neurologists claim that by using your willpower in this way, "you're actually rewiring your brain." And so the more you practice, the less likely it is that you will be addled by rage in the future. I see the coming weeks as an especially favorable time for you to do this work, Scorpio. Keeping a part of your anger alive is good, of course—sometimes you need its energy to motivate constructive change. But you would benefit from culling the excess.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): Much of the action in the world's novels takes place inside buildings, according to author Robert Bringhurst. But characters in older Russian literature are an exception, he says. They are always out in the forests, traveling and rambling. In accordance with astrological omens, I suggest that you draw inspiration from the Russians' example in the coming days. As often and as long as you can, put yourself in locations where the sky is overhead. Nature is the preferred setting, but even urban spots are good. Your luck, wisdom, and courage are likely to increase in direct proportion to how much time you spend outdoors.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): Has a beloved teacher disappointed you? Are there inspirational figures about whom you feel conflicted because they don't live up to all of your high standards? Have you become alienated from a person who gave you a blessing but later expressed a flaw you find hard to overlook? Now would be an excellent time to seek healing for rifts like these. Outright forgiveness is one option. You could also work on deepening your appreciation for how complicated and paradoxical everyone is. One more suggestion: Meditate on how your longing for what's perfect might be an enemy of your ability to benefit from what's merely good.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): French and Italian readers may have no problem with this horoscope. But Americans, Canadians, Brits, and Aussies might be offended, even grossed out. Why? Because my analysis of the astrological omens compels me to conclude that "moist" is a central theme for you right now. And research has shown that

many speakers of the English language find the sound of the word "moist" equivalent to hearing fingernails scratching a chalkboard. If you are one of those people, I apologize. But the fact is, you will go astray unless you stay metaphorically moist. You need to cultivate an attitude that is damp but not sodden; dewy but not soggy; sensitive and responsive and lyrical, but not overwrought or weepy or histrionic.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): Which signs of the zodiac are the most expert sleepers? Who best appreciates the healing power of slumber and feels the least shame about taking naps? Which of the twelve astrological tribes are most inclined to study the art of snoozing and use their knowledge to get the highest quality renewal from their time in bed? My usual answer to these questions would be Taurus and Cancer, but I'm hoping you Pisceans will vie for the top spot in the coming weeks. It's a very favorable time for you to increase your mastery of this supreme form of self-care.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): "I am very much in love with no one in particular," says actor Ezra Miller. His statement would make sense coming out of your mouth right about now. So would this one: "I am very much in love with almost everyone I encounter." Or this one: "I am very much in love with the wind and moon and hills and rain and rivers." Is this going to be a problem? How will you deal with your overwhelming urge to overflow? Will you break people's hearts and provoke uproars everywhere you go, or will you rouse delight and bestow blessings? As long as you take yourself lightly, I foresee delight and blessings.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): In her io9.com article on untranslatable words, Esther Inglis-Arkell defines the Chinese term *wei-wu-wei* as "conscious non-action... a deliberate, and principled, decision to do nothing whatsoever, and to do it for a particular reason." In my astrological opinion, the coming days would be a favorable time to explore and experiment with this approach. I think you will reap wondrous benefits if you slow down and rest in the embrace of a pregnant pause. The mysteries of silence and emptiness will be rich resources.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): "I always liked side-paths, little dark back-alleys behind the main road—there one finds adventures and surprises, and precious metal in the dirt." The character named Dmitri Karamazov makes that statement in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel *The Brothers Karamazov*. And now I'm thinking that you might like to claim his attitude as your own. Just for a while, you understand. Not forever. The magic of the side paths and back-alleys may last for no more than a few weeks, and then gradually fade. But in the meantime, the experiences you uncover there could be fun and educational. I do have one question for you, though: What do you think Dmitri meant by "precious metal in the dirt"? Money? Gold? Jewelry? Was he speaking metaphorically? I'm sure you'll find out.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): "Sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason," says comedian Jerry Seinfeld. His implication is that rejecting traditional strategies and conventional wisdom doesn't always lead to success. As a professional rebel myself, I find it painful to agree even a little bit with that idea. But I do think it's applicable to your life right now. For the foreseeable future, compulsive nonconformity is likely to yield mediocrity. Putting too much emphasis on being unique rather than on being right might distract you from the truth. My advice: Stick to the road more traveled.

HOMEWORK: Express gratitude for the enemy who has taught you the most. FreeWillAstrology.com.

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The image features a vertical advertisement for Homevet. At the top is a small square logo containing a stylized house with a red roof and a green base, with a white stethoscope wrapped around its middle. Below the logo is a close-up photograph of a silver tabby cat's face, showing its green eyes and pink nose. The main title 'VETERINARY HOUSE-CALLS' is centered in large, bold, red capital letters. Below the title, the company's services are described in black text: 'Homevet is HK's dedicated mobile veterinary service providing pet owners with personalised, professional, compassionate care in the comfort and relaxed convenience of their home'. The contact information is listed as follows: website 'www.homevet.com.hk', telephone 'tel: 9860-5522', and email 'pets@homevet.com.hk'.

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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I have always wanted to have a girls-only sex party, but I'm not sure how I feel about actually organizing one. What's the etiquette if I do organize one myself? Do I need to provide the dildos for people's harnesses? Or just the condoms and lube? And how do I find people who want to attend? Do I just tweet out an invite? Is there a better way that makes me seem less sketchy?

- No Snappy Acronym

What I know about hosting girls-only sex parties could fit inside what I know about the Marvel universe with room left over for what I know about the Higgs boson—and all of that could fit inside Lindsey Graham's chances of being president with room left over for Donald Trump's humanity.

But luckily for you, NSA, I know someone who knows quite a lot about both girl sex and sex parties.

"Hosting a play party is much like hosting any other party," said Allison Moon, a San Francisco-based writer and sex educator. "You want guests to feel welcome and comfortable—this means you provide lube, safer sex supplies, refreshments, and towels and/or puppy pads."

Moon is the author of two popular lesbian werewolf novels—more are hopefully on their way—and the really terrific memoir *Bad Dyke: Salacious Stories from a Queer Life*. Her most recent book is *Girl Sex 101*, a terrific sex-ed book "for ladies and lady-lovers of all genders and identities" that features girl-sex wisdom from an array of sex-positive superstars.

Moon has also hosted numerous sex parties, and says hosting a girls-only sex party does not obligate you to break open a piñata full of dildos as your guests arrive.

"Toys are the responsibility of guests," said Moon. "If NSA has a few sparkling-clean vibes and dildos that she doesn't mind using as party favors, by all means put them out. I have a couple of Magic Wands that are great for getting the party started, because there's always someone who's wanted to try one. But she doesn't have to spend a ton of cash outfitting her friends' crotches."

As for finding people who might want to attend your sex party, Moon and I both agree that putting an invite on Twitter—or Facebook or Instagram or Farmers Only or Yik Yak—is a very, very bad idea.

"NSA should stay away from social media to start," said Moon. "Instead, she should make a list of friends who might be down and give them a call to see if they have friends they'd want to bring. Bonus points if she has friends who are up for being used as 'ringers.' Lady parties are notorious for taking hours to warm up—someone has to be the first one in the pool, and a ringer can help get the party started. Or she could consider some ice-breaking games, like spin the bottle, as a goofy way to get the girls ready to grind on each other."

But let's say you don't have any friends who might want to come to your girls-only sex party—or you're too chicken to ask your friends—is there another way?

"If her slutty-friend pool is small, she could look at sites devoted to sex-positive folks, like FetLife or her local chapter of a leather women's group. But she should be super explicit about her women-only policy if she does post anywhere online, and she should also consider screening guests with a phone call. And I strongly recommend a closed-door policy, i.e., folks must arrive by a certain time or they can't come in. This keeps you from having to monitor the door all night so you can enjoy your own damn party."

You can follow Moon on Twitter @TheAllisonMoon—and you should listen to a really moving story she shared recently on RISK!, Kevin Allison's amazing podcast, about her friend Hans ("Four Orgies and a Funeral"). You can find RISK! on iTunes or at Risk-Show.com.

I'm an early-30s gay man who's never had much success with relationships. However, I'm writing about a female friend of mine. We've known each other since college, and she's generally wonderful but frequently pesters me with some variant of "So, when are you gonna settle down with a nice fella?" I try to deflect these comments without being too confrontational because I realize she wants me to be happy, but she never seems to get how annoying this is. I'd like some way to indicate, "You know relationships are not my forte and you're hurting my feelings," without having to risk hurting hers.

- Friend's Annoying Question

So you've allowed a friend to hurt your feelings over and over again because you're worried that telling her to knock it the fuck off might hurt her feelings? Speak the fuck up already, FAQ: "I have no idea if I'm ever going to settle down with a fella, nice or otherwise, and it hurts my feelings when you ask about it. So stop asking." If she persists, then either your friend doesn't care that she's hurting your feelings (malice!) or she's too dense to realize this question hurts your feelings despite having been told it hurts your feelings (stupidity!). Then you'll have to ask yourself why you're wasting your time on someone who's malicious, stupid, or both.

I've been with my boyfriend for two years. We recently graduated high school and are heading off to different colleges in the fall. Is it stupid for us to stay together? We're in love, he's my best friend, and he's my family. But we haven't had sex yet. We've made some progress (oral, hand stuff, etc.), but we've never had penis-in-vagina sex. I asked for it once, and he informed me that he had a moral conflict with sex. That hardly seems plausible: We've done so much else, and he's not religious at all. Is he just not attracted to me? Is he gay? Sometimes I wonder if the difference we have libido-wise is a deal-breaker. I can picture a sexless yet emotionally happy marriage with him, but I'm not sure how to feel about that.

- Confused, Unsexed, Naive Teen

Okay, it's entirely possible that your boyfriend is gay. Speaking from experience: It's easier for a closeted gay boy to pretend his girlfriend is his boyfriend during (non-recip) oral and hand stuff than it is during vaginal intercourse. He could be claiming to have a moral conflict with PIV (penis-in-vagina intercourse) when what he actually has is a strong preference for PIG (penis-in-guy intercourse).

It's also possible that your boyfriend isn't that into you, or he's terrified by the thought of impregnating you, or he actually does have some sort of moral qualm about vaginal penetration. Only your boyfriend knows what's up with him, but here's what we know for sure about you: You're 18 years old, you're headed to college, and you and your boyfriend don't click sexually. Break up. You can get back together in a few years if you're both still single, you're both still straight, and you're both still into each other.

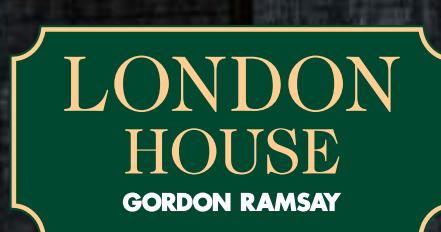
But don't settle for someone whose libido and/or sexual interests don't come close to matching your own, because a sexless marriage is only happy when sexless works for both spouses.

On the *Lovecast*, Dan chats with Matt Baume about heroes of the gay marriage fight: savagecast.com.

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

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FIRST PERSON

“The government operates on the philosophy of projecting its authority over the population without listening.”

Canadian barrister **Robert Tibbo** took on Edward Snowden’s case pro bono in 2013 and played a key role in securing the whistleblower’s rights and subsequent safe passage out of Hong Kong. He tells Dan Creffield about a decade of fighting criminal and human rights cases, learning Mandarin and Thai, and why Occupy was fundamentally the government’s fault.



At university I hadn’t decided on whether to study law or medicine. So I got a degree in chemical engineering, which would mean either of these options would be open later.

Chemical engineering is the same as law, in that for both disciplines you work on solving problems—in law using English, in engineering using mathematics.

I took my law degree in New Zealand and a post-grad in private and public international law in Australia.

I first recognized the Asia-Pacific’s potential while backpacking in the region.

People were going to Latin America, or Europe. But things were really happening in Japan, South Korea and Southeast Asia.

So I made the move. During this time I traveled to Tianjin to study Mandarin. I also learned Thai at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.

It was a big investment of time and effort, but if you want to be in Asia it’s prudent to learn the local language.

It paid off—I now use Mandarin daily.

I arrived in Hong Kong in late 1990. Why here? I looked at the Asia-Pacific jurisdictions which bring in talent and don’t discriminate on nationality, and it boiled down to here and Singapore.

Most other [countries] have strict immigration policies and other barriers.

Drawing in talent from all over the world has allowed Hong Kong and Singapore to thrive.

Edward Snowden was under my care for the majority of the time he was here. I had done a lot of pro bono work before and around that time.

My instructing solicitor Jonathan Man and I had successfully secured the release of dozens of asylum seekers from immigration detention, many being held illegally.

Those efforts brought a lot of attention from vulnerable people to my law practice.

I also have a strong background in public, administrative and criminal law and extradition—areas relevant to Snowden’s legal challenges.

At that time everyone was trying to find out where he was, but they were looking in the wrong places and we were able to avoid detection.

I simply focused on doing my job as a barrister and treated him as any other vulnerable client.

And he was highly vulnerable; he had made a decision of conscience to make those disclosures, exposing the US government’s conduct.

As a consequence his safety, security and even life were at risk.

The Snowden case was clear-cut in that public interest in the disclosure of

the US government’s egregious conduct far outweighed any public interest in concealment or non-disclosure.

Whether you’re up against the government with all its machinery and resources, or a similarly large corporation, people are entitled to legal protection. The role of the barrister is to create a level playing field.

Laws and policies should assist people. It is not just about control. These are factors that are fundamental to creating democracy and a harmonious society.

The Hong Kong government operates on the philosophy and strategy of projecting its authority over the population without listening, and thus fails to understand the needs, wants and goals of the people.

This is a top-down approach that is at odds with the whole concept of a democracy.

The devastating effects of such a top-down and undemocratic approach by government are numerous. These include the authoritarian policies and legislation that govern foreign domestic helpers, asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups.

These groups have been severely marginalized, heavily discriminated against and subjected to a multitude of criminal laws that do not apply to ordinary residents of Hong Kong.

Controlling, as opposed to empowering people, is inconsistent with democracy

and ultimately is the root cause of discord and disharmony in society. It is also the cause of the abuse of vulnerable groups in Hong Kong.

Civil disobedience is part of the democratic process and typically occurs when the government fails to act in the interests of its constituency and fails or refuses to be accountable for its acts.

Fundamentally the government is at fault when the public feels it is necessary to take to the streets.

The Occupy protests are an example of this civil disobedience, where stakeholders in society took non-violent, conscientious steps in exercising their right to freedom of expression in seeking actual universal suffrage in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is my home and it has become a part of me and my family.

At this stage of my life I look forward to continuing to participate in and contribute to this truly unique society.

NEED TO KNOW...

In addition to his career as one of the SAR’s leading barristers, Robert Tibbo has made a name for himself as a champion of torture claimants, refugees and asylum seekers. He is active in a number of NGOs such as Vision First and the Hong Kong Helpers Campaign.

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