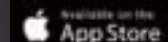


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Behind  
the scenes

HK MAGAZINE NO.1111 FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2015 [www.hk-magazine.com](http://www.hk-magazine.com)

# A Night at the Opera





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## Market Crash Survival Tips

Yes, it's been a pretty bad week for the Chinese (and global) stock market. But these six foolproof tips are sure to get you through the worst of the crash.

### 1) Buy, Buy, Buy.

This is a rare opportunity for the courageous investor. Everyone dumping their stock? Snap it all up again. Borrow money, remortgage the house, visit shady money-lenders... Do what you gotta do to raise the capital. Once you have obtained the Most Stocks In The World, then you will have Won Finance!

### 2) Advertise Your Way To Success.

Buy Google AdWords advertising that's tied to the phrase "China Stock Market." When people Google in desperation, your website will come up: It's a captive audience! Other search strings to invest in: "china market what next", "china market help", "no money how survive"; "mistress upkeep low budget."

### 3) Get Out Now.

If your money's not in the markets, it can't be affected. Right? Simply withdraw all of your savings in \$1,000 notes and use them to line your mattress until a) the market recovers, b) a freak kitchen accident sees your life's work literally go up in flames, or c) inflation makes your money totally meaningless within a decade. The latter is by far the most likely outcome.

### 4) Go on Holiday.

Anyone with an important job or any money at all is bound to be anxiously watching the China markets. That makes this the perfect time to visit Monaco, Luxembourg or other such tax havens which would otherwise be full of insufferable people who own pink trousers and knot their pullovers around their shoulders. Alternatively, you could go visit the city's golf and country clubs instead.

### 5) Diversify Those Revenue Streams.

Head to Macau and put the remainder of your cash on number 25. After all, with a one-in-36 chance of winning big, your odds here are better than they are on a volatile half-state-controlled stock market. Plus at least if you lose in Macau, they put you out of your misery by breaking your face.

### 6) Tighten Your Belts.

If you're a billionaire like Asia's richest man Wang Jianlin, who lost an almighty US\$3.6 billion in a single day, then face facts: it's time to buckle down and rely on that remaining personal fortune of US\$31.2 billion to get you through the lean times ahead. Consider cutting back on spending when it comes to extravagances such as private jets, supercars or 600-square-foot flats in Kennedy Town.

## Who's in charge?

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Senior Associate Editor Adele Wong  
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### COVER STORY

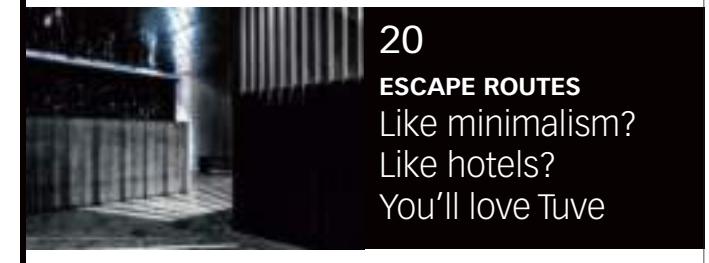
Behind the scenes of a Hong Kong art form



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### ESCAPE ROUTES

Like minimalist?  
Like hotels?  
You'll love Tuve



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### DISH

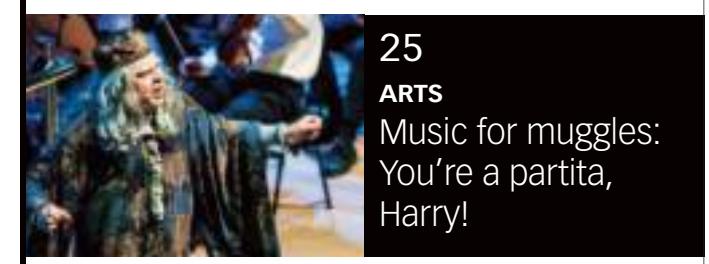
Look out, 007!  
It's mooncaker!



25

### ARTS

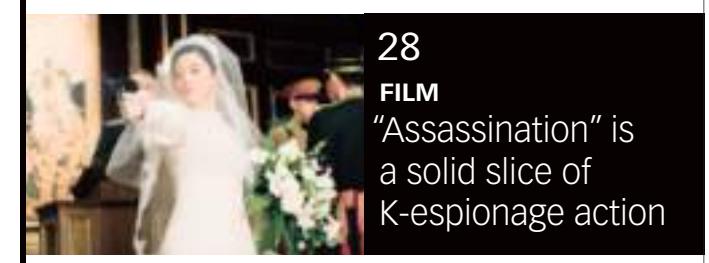
Music for muggles:  
You're a partita,  
Harry!



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### OPEN BAR

Why Mahalo there,  
good looking



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### FILM

"Assassination" is  
a solid slice of  
K-espionage action

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### FIRST PERSON

Chilling out with  
Lab Made founder  
Ronnie Cheng



# MAILBAG

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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

**Happy surprise holiday! What are you doing on our September 3 day off? – Victor Vacation**

This September 3 is a one-off holiday that's been passed down from China. It is officially the "70th anniversary day of the victory of the Chinese people's war of resistance against Japanese aggression."

There's nothing wrong with a holiday. But a day to commemorate victory over a nationality in a 70-year-old war smacks more of politics than celebration, doesn't it? Yes, the "Three Years and Eight Months" of Japanese occupation in World War II were a hard, hard time for Hong Kong. But that's not how we should be thinking of the Japanese influence on Hong Kong. Japan didn't leave its biggest mark with the occupation: It left it in the form of retail therapy.

The Japanese economic miracle after World War II surged its economy forwards, and with the rise of its high-tech export markets Japanese products developed the connotations they still have today: reliable, efficient, affordable. Everything from the pocket calculator to the quartz watch to the rice cooker was a Japanese invention.

In November 1960, the Daimaru Department Store opened in Causeway Bay and changed the way Hongkongers shopped forever. Local stores such as Sincere and Wing On had paved the way, while China-backed department stores sold shonky mainland products. But Japanese stores boomed because they targeted the emerging upper-middle class, selling luxury Japan-made goods. Through the 70s and 80s Hongkongers became increasingly image conscious, and buying Japanese goods was a significant indicator of class and means. Soon Japanese department stores held some 80 percent of the market.

But it wasn't to last. In 1997 two factors combined to push these stores out of Hong Kong. One was the Asian financial crisis,

which hit the stores' parent companies hard. The other was the old story of skyrocketing rents. Speculators cashed in ahead of the Handover and stores just couldn't afford to stay open. Yaohan in New Town Plaza, Matsuzakaya in Causeway Bay and even Daimaru were forced to close between 1997 and 1998. One store after another lost their dominance in the face of ever-increasing numbers of shopping malls.

Of course, there are a few legacies of those Japanese stores that survive to this day. Bargain chain Jusco has become Aeon, its \$12 stores dotted all over the city. Then there's the mighty Sogo. The parent company went bust in 2000 but the store was bought by a group of Hong Kong businessmen and stands proud still, looming above its iconic intersection. Meanwhile Daimaru, the city's first Japanese department store, lives on in the red minibus from Kennedy Town which still displays "Daimaru" on its destination plaque, 17 years after the store closed.

It's all fitting, really. Hong Kong may have risen thanks to its free market, but in many ways Hongkongers' lives improved because they had access to Japanese goods. That's what's worth commemorating.

So what am I doing on September 3? I'll get on the Daimaru minibus to Causeway Bay, where I'll eat a bowl of ramen and go shopping in Sogo, to remember that we shouldn't celebrate victory over others: We should celebrate what they've given our city.



Photo: Babintontar  
via wiki commons

Next stop: Daimaru

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

## #PrivateEyeHK



Foggy Harbor

Photo by Chloe Yuen



## Your opinions of varying validity:

"You Will be Assimilated.  
Resistance is Futile."

### Priced Out the Market

We reported on the demolition of the "priceless" Tung Tak Pawn Shop, which is currently being torn down. [Talking Points, Aug 21, issue 1109]. Facebook fans agreed with our sentiments...



Photo: Franke Tsang / SCMP

right. Also, I was gratified to see your mention of the two taprooms, Coedo and Roundhouse. Hurrah for the craft beer scene in Hong Kong, which should get as much support as we can muster! I would have given The Globe at least an honorable mention since it singlehandedly carried the craft beer banner until the others caught on.

**John Antweiler**

### Temporization Nation

Recently Mr. Know-It-All explained why the Haiphong Road Temporary Market is still temporary, 37 years after it was set up [Aug 14, issue 1109]. Facebook readers had memories... and some forthright opinions.

Still got a shirt and a pair of trousers that have been cut down in to shorts from there, circa 1993!

**David Vassie**

@Andrew Downard omfg I was talking about this with you the other day... if you ever listened to my bullshit

**Priscilla Yu**

Yup lol this market is older than I am!!

**Roxy Lopez Serrano**

it's for legal purposes lol you whites wouldn't know any loopholes 🤦‍♂️ hating like we don't know english, when you're the ones that need to be educated further

**[Redacted]**

[Redacted], you are a racist and a fool. Seems like you are the one who is in need of re-education about a lot of things.

**Felix Hung**

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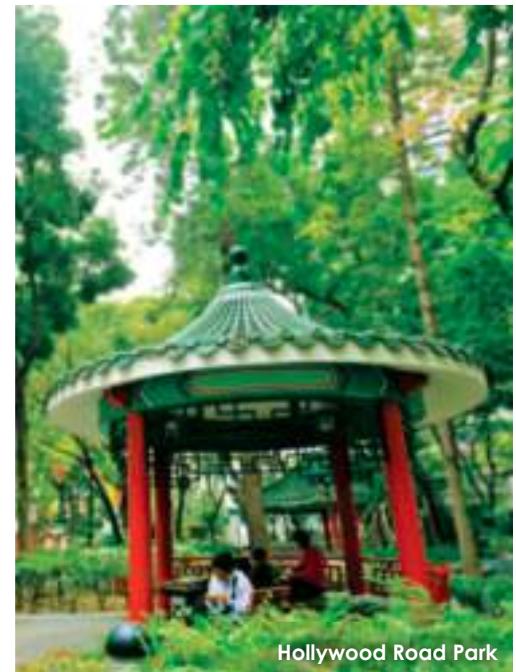
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# HONG KONG INSIDER'S GUIDE

A series of stories, recommendations and tips on Hong Kong from people in the know. Explore our city based on the travel experiences that interest you and get itineraries for off-the-beaten-path neighborhoods.



Central



Hollywood Road Park

## East Meets West

With a remarkable history that moves through Chinese immigration, colonization by the British and subsequent handover into a Special Administrative Region of China, it should come as no surprise that Hong Kong is such a melting pot of Eastern and Western characteristics. From this cultural fusion—these leftovers from the past—emerges a new, modern Hong Kong, offering a fascinating mix of food, fashion, architecture and culture.

### Iconic Architecture

**Statue Square** in the middle of downtown Hong Kong is a fine symbol of the city's architectural richness. Once home to statues of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and Edward VII, the only one still standing is that of Sir Thomas Jackson, a former HSBC chief. Overlooking the square towers the iconic **HSBC Main Building**, boasting an intriguing design representing a modern take on the ancient Chinese concept of feng shui.

### Cultural Stroll

To take a look at some of Hong Kong's older buildings, the **Wan Chai Heritage Trail** is a self-guided architectural and cultural walking tour including some 15 spots that reflect a confluence of design techniques: from early 20th century French windows to Chinese wood carvings. At 60-66 Johnston Road you can see a fine example of four tong lau—old Chinese tenement buildings once seen all over southern China. Many of these tong lau have been preserved and refitted for modern purposes.

### Taste of History

Dining is another side of Hong Kong where you can see a variety of cultures and flavors at work. Take the old-school Hong Kong diner—the bing sutt—as an example of how the city has put its own spin on Western food. Originating in the 50s and 60s, these canteen-style restaurants are reminiscent of 1950s Western cafes. **Swiss Cafe**, 128-150 Wan Chai Rd., is a great example.

For more insider info on Hong Kong, head to [www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide](http://www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide)

## Spotlight on: Central and Western

Central and Western is an explosion of sky-scraping financial monoliths, luxury stores, streets crammed with restaurants, trams, buses and endless streams of shoppers. Yet there is much more to the beating heart of Hong Kong Island than this, and to understand the city's East-meets-West character—to feel its charm—you have to experience the history that resides in every inch of this fascinating place.

### Head to Hollywood

Hollywood Road connects a large portion of the district, from east to west. The British landed at its western end in 1841 and promptly named it Possession Point. Today, land reclamation means the spot is far from the harbor, but it is marked still on the corner of Hollywood Road and Possession Street by **Hollywood Road Park**, featuring turtle-filled ponds and pagodas. Some of the old tightly packed tenement buildings still exist, although gentrification of the area is underway, with boutiques, galleries and cafés moving in among the old car workshops and rickety cha chaan tengs (tea restaurants).

homely southern French cuisine and organic wines. Right next door you'll find its antithesis—the Chinese herbal tea parlor **Kung Lee**, which has been around since 1948 and feels as if you're stepping back in time. On nearby Wellington Street, **Loyal Dining** serves up "soy sauce Western" cuisine: a concept that mixes colonial-era western-style dishes with Chinese ingredients, such as soy-sauce braised chicken wings or pigeon simmered in sweet soy.

### Walk Through Time

Running down from Hollywood Road are the photo-worthy cobbled steps of **Pottinger Street**. Dating from the 1850s, this is one of the district's oldest streets and is named after Hong Kong's first governor, Sir Henry Eldred Curwen Pottinger. Now it's the place to go if you need a fancy dress outfit, with every style and theme imaginable.

Head online to [www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide](http://www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide) to create your personalized itinerary for Central and Western.

### Eat Your Heart Out

Moving eastwards along Hollywood Road, the blend of Western and Eastern influences continues as you enter the restaurant district. Representing the city's large French community is the bijou bistro **La Cabane**: the all-wooden joint is a converted tong lau and former rice factory. Now it specializes in



Pottinger Street



Tsing Yi Bridge



Tsing Yi Park

## Industrial Revolution

Although Hong Kong is now primarily a service-based economy, it was once one of the foremost manufacturing hubs of Asia and without the city's incredible industrial development which began in the late 1950s, 21st century Hong Kong would look very different today. You can still see evidence of the city's industrial past in its outer districts as a new generation of artistic talent finds inspiration in Hong Kong's industrial past.

### Creative Industries

A living example of the city's industrial heritage can be found in Chai Wan, on the east of Hong Kong Island. Industrial buildings that shot up along the rapidly expanding waterfront in the mid-70s are now home to an interesting collection of galleries, exhibition spaces, workshops and art collaborations. Stop by **YY9 Gallery** for work by emerging and renowned local artists, or **Vertical Art Space**, a funky exhibition of art that occupies 10 floors of a stairwell.

### Artistic Makeovers

Behind Aberdeen marina in the Southern District, **Wong Chuk Hang** is also undergoing a makeover. Spacious warehouse buildings that were once factories are now inhabited by up-and-coming artists, design studios and exhibition spaces. Guide yourself through an artistic tour of the neighborhood, popping in and out of these old factories; ride a large cargo lift to a nondescript floor and you'll emerge into a high-ceilinged, reimaged creative space.

### Transforming Futures

These areas of Hong Kong may have come from humble beginnings, but they have been constantly undergoing transformation since the 1950s. Through an industrial revolution and creative evolution, these unique, mosaicked corners of the city bear witness to Hong Kong's socio-economic past, present and future. **For more insider info on Hong Kong, head to [www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide](http://www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide)**

## Spotlight on: Kwai Tsing

From a buzzing post-war industrial town, Kwai Tsing is adopting a more creative, laidback lifestyle that can offer the visitor a fascinating break from the city. The industrial buildings that once housed textiles and electronics factories have been repurposed as offices, workshops, artist studios, coffee shops and concept stores, with a new and vibrant creative energy to be found.

### Old Meets New

One example of this is **Here Workshop**, where you'll find the traditional handicraft of woodworking in sync with a young, creative spirit, with the result a range of unique gifts such as beautifully carved, customized wooden cutlery. Meanwhile, **Sparkolada DIY Projects** is another unusual concept hidden inside an old industrial building. The studio runs regular workshops teaching you how to transform fresh-cut flowers into a preserved arrangement. Nearby is **Nudite Fashion**, which sells accessories designed and handmade in Hong Kong.

### Wide Open Space

As well as these new creative industries popping up around the district, Kwai Tsing has also been remodeling much of its land into green, open spaces that offer a breath of fresh air. **Tsing Yi Park** is a former hillside cemetery now dotted with pebbled walking trails, scenic lakes and waterfalls and maple trees. Just a short walk away is **Tsing Yi Promenade**, a 2km-long walkway that offers great views of the Rambler Channel. It's an idyllic spot for Hongkongers, who you'll often see practicing Tai Chi here or fishing.

**Head online to [www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide](http://www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide) to create your personalized itinerary for Kwai Tsing.**



### Coffee and Culture

Neighborhood favorite **Soulmate Coffee** is worth a stop on your shopping route. This independent coffee bar incorporates unique flavors such as crème brûlée or rose into your standard cappuccino. For something more substantial that will also satisfy your cultural appetite head to **The Alchemist Café Bistro**—a creative space set up with the traveler in mind: it's well stocked with travel books you're free to sit and read over a platter of antipasti, or you can take part in one of the regular travel-sharing sessions and music shows.



Here Workshop

Get insights and tips on your tablet from **Hong Kong Insider's Guide**



# THE WEEK

TUE 9/1



Friday 8/28

## Hipster Hops

The Globe is hosting **IPA Madness** to celebrate the arrival of the UK's Summer Wine Brewery with tasting platters of five of SWB's most unique beers.

Aug 27-30, 6pm. **The Globe**, 45-53A Graham St., Central, 2543-1941. \$195 for a 5-beer tasting platter.

Saturday 8/29

## The Prawn Pawn

Now with lobster and bubbly: The Pawn is adding fancy new starters and free-flow drinks to their two-course **Weekend Brunch**. It's the perfect place to drink your hangover away. Every Sat 12-2:30pm; Sun 11am-1pm, 1:30-3:30pm. **The Pawn**, 62 Johnston Rd., Wan Chai, 2866-3444. \$598 for free-flow booze; \$498 without.

Sunday 8/30

## Free Market

Get your style on at the **Hollywood Road Market**, where homegrown clothing and accessory designers such as What the Frock and Lorraine Lam will be showcasing and selling their wearables. Beef & Liberty, Sugar Sisters, and Rotspon will be there with food, cookies and wine.

Aug 29-30, 11am-8pm. **The Space**, 210 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, 9180-7716. Free entry.

Monday 8/31

## Closet Time

Liar's League HK is hanging out at XXX Gallery with musical ensemble Western District to host their monthly live storytelling. This month, it's all about LGBTI tales in **Here and Queer**.

8pm. B/F, 363-353 Des Voeux Rd. West, Shek Tong Tsui. Free.

Tuesday 9/1

## A Vagina Monologue

Woofer Ten is hosting **Gender, Genitor, Genitalia**, a tribute exhibition to Japanese artist Rokudenashiko that brings to attention feminist issues from cultural and political perspectives. The artist, who was arrested in Japan for her vagina-themed art, will be in town to give a talk about her works at Para Site (7pm, 22/F, Wing Wah Industrial Building, 677 King's Rd., Quarry Bay). **Exhibition runs through Sep 20. Woofer Ten**, G/F, 404 Shanghai St., Yau Ma Tei, 3485-6499. Free.

Wednesday 9/2

## Hula Are You?

Doubles alert: FuFu is back at Honi Honi this month for its eighth **Hula'la** party. Move your stuff along to live house tunes and see an art exhibition inspired by street art and ghetto lyfe.

8pm. **Honi Honi Tiki Cocktail Lounge**, 3/F, Somptueux Central, 52 Wellington Rd., Central, 2353-0885. Free, RSVP by Sep 2 at [contact@fufucreative.com](mailto:contact@fufucreative.com).

THU 9/3



SAT 8/29



Thursday 9/3

## My Junk's Bigger

**Junkzilla** is hosting what they're calling the largest junk party of the summer: You'll be dancing across six boats with three DJs, swimming in free-flow booze and food, and lubing up with baby oil Twister all day long. If you miss it, you can still go to their afterparty at Staunton's, where your first round of drinks is free.

9:30am, **Central Pier No.9**. \$1,000 from [www.junkzilla.co](http://www.junkzilla.co).

Friday 9/4

## Bloc Boys

Need meat in your mouth? Butcher's Club Wan Chai is hosting a **Block Party** with Peroni in honor of their new happy hour. Live beats and big burgers? We're there.

6pm. **G/F, Rialto Building**, 2 Landale St., Wan Chai, 2528-2083. Free sliders and Peroni before 8pm.

Saturday 9/5

## That's Bazaar

The annual **Kowloon Bazaar** is back at the Regal Kowloon Hotel, with a diverse selection of handicrafts, apparel, household items and jewelry up for grabs. Get some early Christmas shopping done like, really early.

11am-8pm. **2/F, Regal Kowloon Hotel**, 71 Mody Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2722-1818. Free entry.



## COMING UP

### My Fist, Merging with Your Face

It's banker vs. banker at **Hedge Fund Fight Nite**: a black-tie four-course dinner with six bouts of white-collar boxing in the name of charity. You'll get to watch HSBC duke it out with BNY Mellon in person, as opposed to just watching the stock market slide. Proceeds go to charitable foundations that focus on youth in Asia.

Sep 10, 8pm. **Hong Kong Observation Wheel**, Central.

Seats from \$2,000, tables of 12 from \$24,000 from [hedgefundfightnite.com](http://hedgefundfightnite.com). Get an exclusive 20% off with promo code: "HKMAG"



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# NEWS

## Last Week In Reality

Sat 15

**Active Jury** During the murder trial of a man who is alleged to have killed his nightclub hostess mistress, the jury repeatedly hands notes to the judge, challenging the defendant on his claims. When reviewing evidence of the defendant's old texts received on a Nokia mobile phone, the jury queried the defendant's claim that the "3G" icon would appear without a SIM card, prompting police to buy a phone of the same model and test it out in court. The man is found guilty.

Sun 16

**Wheely Silly** A video of a police motorcyclist chasing a bicyclist in Tai Po goes viral. The police officer follows the cyclist, who cycles slowly and repeatedly changes directions, crosses a busy intersection and cycles against the direction of traffic. The policeman is unable to apprehend the cyclist.



Mon 17

**Selfie Rage** A man is walking along Austin Road in Tsim Sha Tsui in the early morning when he is suddenly stopped by three other men. One takes out a selfie stick and strikes the man with it, drawing blood. By the time the police arrive the assailants have fled, leaving behind the broken selfie stick.

Tue 18

**Paint Gun** A man wearing a yellow raincoat and carrying a water gun filled with red paint sprays paint all over the door of celebrity hangout Wo Lee Canteen. This is the third time such an attack has taken place. The owner of the restaurant suspects the same assailant was involved in each incident, saying that he recognizes the rain coat.



Wed 19

**Snaaaaaake!** At around 1pm, a passerby spots a three-meter-long Burmese python snake on Kowloon Peak, near the back door of a grocery store. Police call in a snake wrangler, who uses his bare hands to pull the snake out of the undergrowth and capture it.

Thu 20

**House Party** Police raid a flat in Sai Wan Ho which they believe was used to store and distribute drugs. In the flat they find 250 grams of ice worth \$110,000, and a hand-drawn poster inviting teenagers to a drug party at the flat. They arrest four men and two women, one of whom is pregnant.



Fri 21

**Costly Meal** A girl goes for dinner with her male friend and the bill comes to \$122. The man is short on coins, so he asks to borrow \$2 from his companion. The girl lends him a \$5 coin. When he has not paid her back by the next day, she posts on Facebook wondering if she needs to ask to get the \$5 back, saying he is stingy. She posts again, tagging the man and saying she is unmasking the real him. The post goes viral online.

Illustrations: Ryan Chan

## Talking Points

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



Photo: May Tse/SCMP

Ashley Madison founder Noel Biderman

### Ashley Madison Users Include Government Officials

Pro-infidelity dating website **Ashley Madison** and its 370,000 users are in trouble as information including **names, addresses, credit card numbers and personal data** of clients appears to have been leaked online. Almost 10 gigabytes of data includes more than 10,000 ".hk" email addresses, including addresses reserved for **Hong Kong government officials and university members**. Those questioned about their emails denied setting up an account on the website. Although the data is still in unprocessed form, experts believe that there will be a more reader-friendly version available in due course.

**Our take:** Cheaters may not prosper, but we don't rate Ashley Madison's chances either...

### Blanket Shortage, Cathay Pacific Passengers Use Newspaper

Cathay Pacific's woes continue, as passengers and flight attendants alike lamented on online forums this week about a **shortage of blankets**. A commenter claiming to be a flight attendant said that **a passenger was forced to cover himself with newspaper to stay warm**, and was embarrassed to have him look like a 'beggar.' Other commenters complained about having to **increase the cabin temperature** to deal with the situation, claiming that it **made the staff sweat heavily**. The Cathay Pacific Airways Flight Attendants Union has said that the **blanket shortage is due to a new company policy in response to the MERS incident**, in which blankets are prohibited from being reused.

**Our take:** Nothing like being reminded that you're flying economy class.

### Post Office Hoarding Our Letters

Apple Daily has reported that around 1,000 letters are **sitting unprocessed in the Eastern District Post Office**. The letters have insufficient postage attached, but there is also a **shortage of "postage due" stamps** used to indicate that the sender must cover the unpaid fee. **Without the postage due stamps, the letters cannot be posted**. Staff have been forced to **wait for the next round of stamps to arrive**. Hongkong Post workers have blamed management for being inflexible, saying that alternative solutions could easily be found.

**Our take:** At least it takes the pressure off sending birthday cards on time...

### Quote of the Week

"So many people from Taiwan and Japan care about Kwai Tsing, it's unbelievable."

Hong Kong Economic Times columnist Sham Shui-ching points out that the government has budgeted \$630,000 to build up Kwai Tsing district's Facebook fan page, but it appears that only 0.3 percent of the nearly 16,000 likes generated actually originate from Hong Kong. He suggested that the government should earn more likes instead of paying for them.

# UPFRONT

## HongKabulary



### Tsui Wah Test (*tʃœr wa: tɛst*), n

Taking the person you met clubbing to Tsui Wah before you take them home, so you can check them out under the harsh fluorescent light.

*"Hey, you disappeared last night! Did you get lucky?"  
"I thought I would, until he failed the Tsui Wah Test."*

## Caption This

Legislator Raymond Wong Yuk-man outside Eastern Court after being charged with assault for throwing a cup at CY Leung. (Edward Wong/SCMP)



Raymond Wong Insists He's "Sorry," Betrayed By Sarcastic Air Quotes

LEGISLATOR DEMONSTRATES GIANT CRAB PINCERS OF JUSTICE

Gang Signs Getting Friendlier, Say Police

## Fast Facts

### Cheaters Anonymous

Now that Ashley Madison has been hacked, how are we doing our cheating?

- Going to Wan Chai and sleeping with a stranger, as has been done since time immemorial.
- Installing mistresses in Shenzhen flats, like any self-respecting businessman.
- Not calling our parents, because we have to violate the trust placed in us somehow.
- Eating Infideliloops, the cheater's breakfast cereal of choice.
- Still using Ashley Madison, 'cause anyone left on the site must be REALLY up for it.

## Street Talk



**Ren Wan** is one of the founders of JupYeah, a swapping platform where people can share and take home otherwise unwanted items. She tells Yanis Chan about finding joy in consuming less in a consumer-driven world.

**HK Magazine:** Why did you start JupYeah?

**Ren Wan:** I have always been interested in sustainable development, but a couple of my friends and I learned about the idea from foreign magazines when we were still in school. Back then, we just swapped clothes after dinner at one of our homes. We thought it was a great idea because you didn't have to pay for things you wanted. Then later when we became older, we realized it is indeed environmentally, socially and economically ideal. We wanted to celebrate the idea of "consume less, share better." That's JupYeah's motto.

**HK:** What does "JupYeah" mean?

**RW:** We wanted to host object swap events for locals. We decided to use "JupYeah" because we felt like it can represent us as a Hong Kong Chinese culture. It has a dual meaning to it—"picking stuff up" and "tidying stuff" in Cantonese.

**HK:** How does it work? Is it free?

**RW:** JupYeah works in two ways: Swap parties and an online platform. Swap parties are pretty self-explanatory—you just come and drop off your unwanted things and grab things you find value in. For the online platform, it's the same but you upload pictures of the unwanted things. Then you can get a token that you can spend on our database. The website is completely free.

**HK:** What items do you normally find on JupYeah?

**RW:** We do have some basic rules: we don't take commercial souvenirs that are for promotion purposes and things that are too personal. In past events, we did receive some old underwear which I think is not so hygienic. We also have received a bunch of empty disposable water bottles. I guess those people might have mistakenly thought that we were doing recycling. We've also received unexpected things such as bicycles, ancient Chinese musical instruments and furniture—which are more on the expensive side.

**HK:** Do Hongkongers hesitate at the idea of swapping secondhand items?

**RW:** People used to hesitate towards secondhand stuff. I once heard one of the participants complain, "I put down a Gucci and now I take back a Uniqlo?" People too often equate price with value. To me, if something is useless to you, it has no value to you, no matter how much it cost. People are more open to it now.

**HK:** Have you bought fewer things after starting JupYeah?

**RW:** This month, I've only spent \$28 on shopping. I was aware of the problem of over-consumption ever since I was young. I guess most young people, including myself, have gone through a period where you'd just shop insane amounts, especially after you first start earning money. But JupYeah has made me reflect on my consumption patterns. I just wouldn't have the desire to buy more stuff after dealing with some 500 to 600 things that people put down in a swapping event. After all, consumption is just a mental comfort call.

**HK:** What's the next step for JupYeah?

**RW:** Object swaps are getting hip now. But we have important messages to spread. That's why we also do talks, workshops and documentary screenings. Earlier this year, we started a new campaign, "Shareables," which is a charity collaboration. The upcoming one is about providing office wear for underprivileged fresh graduates. I have an actor friend who has donated so many of his shirts. My goal is that when people need something, they will immediately think of us or look around to see if someone has it, instead of buying a new one.

Register an account on [jupyeah.com](http://jupyeah.com) and start swapping stuff for a good cause. JupYeah also holds swap parties every Sundays throughout August at Teakha, 18 Tai Ping Shan St., Sheung Wan, 2858-9185.

# A Night at the Opera

The Hungry Ghost Festival falls on this Friday, but it's not just spirits who will be walking the streets. This month will see Cantonese opera performances all over the city. **Adrienne Chum** and **Jonathan Wong** go behind the scenes of this Hong Kong art form. Backstage photos by **Kirk Kenny**



Sun Kim-long prepares for his act

Cantonese opera holds close to its traditions: This centuries-old art form encompasses singing, dancing, acting, drama, poetry, martial arts and acrobatics into a thrilling whole. It's said to have originated from Foshan, in Guangdong province, before coming to Hong Kong. But while many operas in China were modified to fit with the political doctrines of the Cultural Revolution—or banned outright—British-controlled Hong Kong allowed classic Cantonese opera to thrive. While attendance may be down, a select group is keeping this slice of heritage alive—and even evolving it for our modern age.

## The Opera Veteran

A prominent figure in Cantonese opera since the 80s, Mo Yu-tin, better known by stage name **Sun Kim-long** (above and right), is a veteran dedicated to promoting the time-honored art of Cantonese opera to the public. He regularly performs on stages all over Hong Kong with the Bright Sing Cantonese Opera Troupe.

**HK Magazine:** How did you get into Cantonese opera?

**Sun Kim-long:** Just like kids nowadays! I first joined summer interest courses. Back in the 60s it wasn't piano and violin that were all the rage, but Cantonese opera. I used to accompany my parents to watch a lot of those performances, and back home I would use a broomstick to imitate the way they swung their weapons, and wear my father's *tong jong* [traditional Chinese outfit], just like the actors did in the play. I started out treating it as a hobby, but the more I did it the more I liked it, so I decided to pursue it professionally.

**HK:** How has Cantonese Opera changed over the years?

**SK:** I have seen its ups and downs. The industry was still prominent when I joined years ago, during the 60s. After the 1967 riots, it all started going downhill. The government did try to revive it but to no avail. Everyone's minds were set on other things. In the 70s the scene gradually turned quiet, and the difference between opera in the 60s and the 70s was like the difference between heaven and earth. Then in the 80s, everything slowly got better again. Cantonese opera now seems to be doing quite well.

**HK:** What do you like about being a performer?

**SK:** Every performance has a different atmosphere, and different chemistry arises between the actors. I feel very fulfilled when audiences respond positively. A good response might not necessarily be applause or cheers, though: For instance, when you are singing an aria and everybody is dead quiet, listening intently to your performance, you know you are doing a good job. Sometimes the audience only claps because they are being polite, but on stage you can feel their actual reaction.

“Back in the 60s it wasn’t piano and violin that were all the rage, but Cantonese opera.”

elements with Cantonese opera performance, I even played Jesus! It was something unique, truly innovative. I enjoy every minute on stage; you have to relish every moment to be a successful actor.

**HK:** What advice would you give to young people who want to get into opera?

**SK:** If you want to go pro, remember this: Take it slowly, step by step. That is the essence of Cantonese opera.

**HK:** What do you think of the future of Cantonese opera?

**SK:** I have always been optimistic. As long as youngsters tread the right path and don't wander aimlessly, it will be all right. There's no free lunch in this world: How much effort you put in is how much you'll get. This is especially true in Cantonese Opera.



## The Playwright

Playwright and performer **Man Wah** (below right) was one of the first to graduate from the Academy of Performing Arts's Cantonese opera program in 1999. The founder and director of Tin Ma Music and Opera Association, she specializes in singing male roles and has written plays and operas including "The Beauty of Lion Rock Mountain's Hung Mui Kuk."

**HK Magazine:** How did you get into Cantonese Opera?

**Man Wah:** My parents were Cantonese opera artists, so I guess it runs in the family. But even they were not supportive of my decision to become an actress back then, so I had to secretly learn the craft until I finished my university degree to fulfill their expectations. I was a Chinese teacher and then a firewoman, until I returned to school for the full-time Cantonese opera diploma course at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts when it first launched. But when I graduated in 1999 the economy was still in turmoil and there were barely any opportunities for Cantonese opera performers. I wanted to pursue my true passion, so I formed an opera troupe with a few friends shortly after.

**HK:** Why do you play the male role?

**MW:** My mother played the male role, so it all occurred naturally to me. It was pretty difficult: The way you walk, your every motion, has to be different from how a woman is played. You have to wear bulky accessories and costumes, and even need to do the martial arts moves. On one especially memorable occasion I had to play the role of a male character pretending to be a woman. This makes the role twice as hard: How am I supposed to change my gender twice?

**HK:** What do you love about Cantonese opera?

**MW:** I love Hong Kong; therefore, I love Cantonese opera. It is, in my opinion, the purest embodiment of local culture. The art of Cantonese opera in Hong Kong was unblemished by the Cultural Revolution, so it is still highly authentic. But the content, besides the context, is also why I am so mesmerized with the art: It is all about the idea of "wholeness." You always get to see some kind of happy ending, where even in tragic stories the protagonists can seek solace in death. Cantonese opera is all about striving to realize the ideal of "humanity"—loyalty, benevolence, filialness and justice. Happiness stems from seeing characters with all these wonderful traits come to life.

**HK:** What are people missing out on when they tell you they're not into Cantonese opera?

**MW:** Those people really don't understand Cantonese opera. It is much trendier than they think: Even [filmmaker] Stephen Chow's inspiration comes from Cantonese opera. The way he speaks and his style of black comedy—you can see a bit of Cantonese opera in there. The styles of other renowned film directors, such as the elegance and grandness of Ann Hui On-wah's work, as well as the artistic and fathomless nature of Wong Kar-wai's films, all take their aesthetic values from Cantonese opera. Cantonese opera is simply our everyday lives. Everyone keeps ranting about losing their local culture, but it has always been there.

**HK:** Do you modernize your interpretations of operas?

**MW:** Cantonese opera is a romantic art form. In the past, people considered committing suicide for "true love" a very idealistic notion, and therefore audiences are totally fine with the protagonist killing himself off after failing to marry his dream girl. I know what you're thinking—there's plenty of fish out there, so just find a new one! This is where innovation comes in, as we revamp the story and give it a bit of a modern flair. Audiences are more sophisticated now and demand more. So now we explain to them: social oppression was actually what killed the protagonist.

**HK:** What is the most valuable lesson you've learned from opera?

**MW:** Life is like a drama, and being an actress means you get to experience all of its feelings within a mere three-hour play. From the prince who feels like he's on top of the world, with everything in his possession, to losing his wife-to-be and the throne to his brother all in a few hours. It's like the ups and downs in life condensed! I have learned to let it all wash over me, and not dwell on past troubles. At least I'm not taking it as hard as the characters in the play!

**HK:** Where do you see the future of Cantonese opera?

**MW:** If Hong Kong has the resources and demand to support official orchestras and ballet companies, then why not a Cantonese opera troupe as well? There are many opera troupes in Hong Kong, but we each cater to our niche group of audiences—and often really, really small audiences. If Cantonese opera is to thrive and prosper again, then we definitely need an official opera group with regular productions, where actors and producers can be guaranteed prospects and security. At least give them a monthly salary!



# Behind the Scenes at Ko Shan Theatre

"If newcomers are interested in watching Cantonese opera, they first need to understand the inspiration and philosophy behind it," says **Patrick Tang**, owner of the Bright Sing Cantonese Opera Troupe, which regularly performs at Hung Hom's Ko Shan Theatre. There are three basic kinds of opera:

**Love Stories** aka "talented scholars and lovely ladies"—the guy has talents and the girl has looks. One of the characters falls in love with another, and it generally ends in either a marriage or a death.

**Martial Stories** in which performers dress as generals and warlords and perform action sequences, which include stylized martial arts and acrobatics.

**Comedies** which are often performed during Chinese New Year, and are all about creating a happy ambiance. Comically exaggerated costumes that emphasize physical imperfections are commonly used.

"A good place to start would be the love stories, which are relatively easier to understand," says Tang. "But if they crave more details and insight into the timelessly refined art, then they should opt for the plays with more action and observe every movement of the performers."



It's a full house at Ko Shan

Actors get a **literal facelift**: They use tape to pull back the skin from their faces, enlarging their eyes and smoothing out wrinkles.

Actors use **symbolic movements** to convey meaning. Someone travelling long distances would take long, swift steps.

Sideburns, wigs and beards are all made with **real hair**. This allows them to be straightened with a clothes iron. People grow their hair for years to sell, so the longer and better kept the hair, the more money it is worth.



Musicians strongly value their **independence and creativity**. The more traditional the musician, the more he will improvise. The percussion section is always improvised.

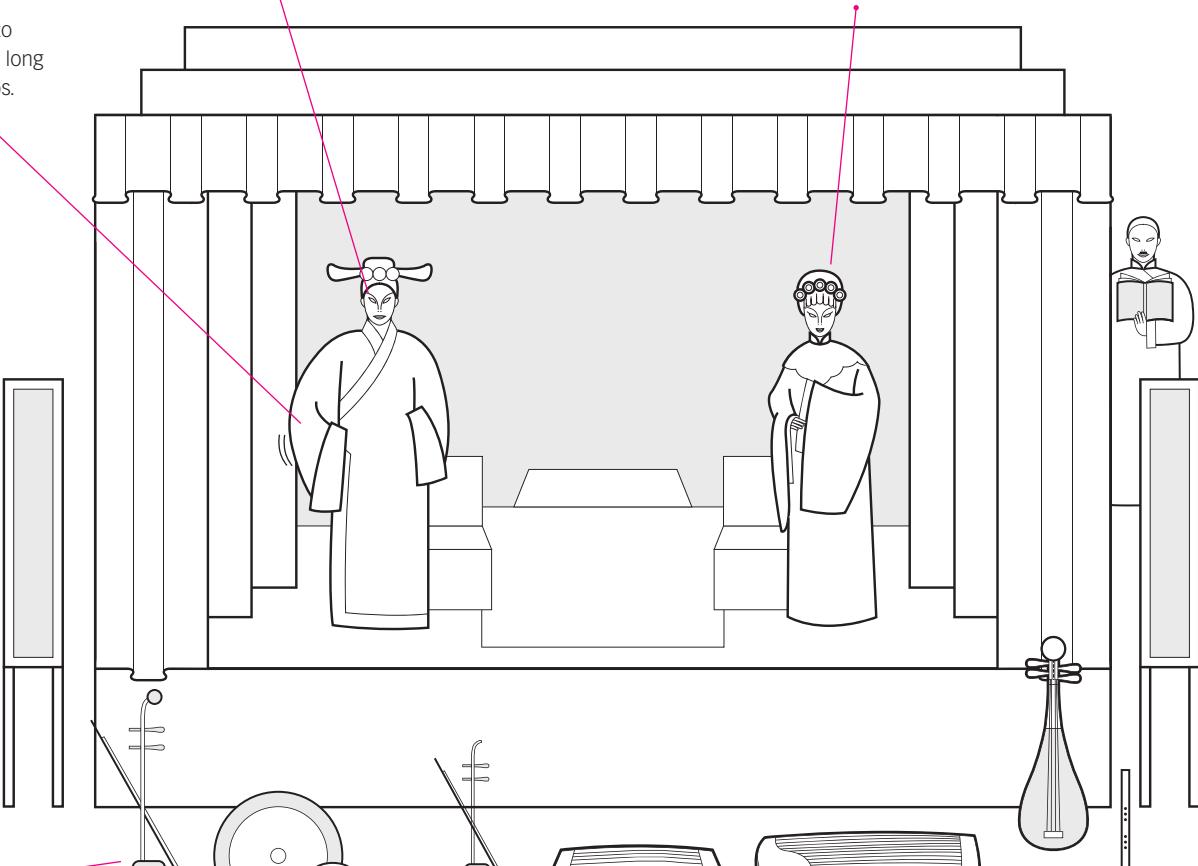
The **number of musicians** is flexible, with seven to 20 instrumentalists depending on the troupe's budget.

The **stage of an opera** is generally fairly sparse: Typical sets include some chairs, a table, and occasionally a raised platform.



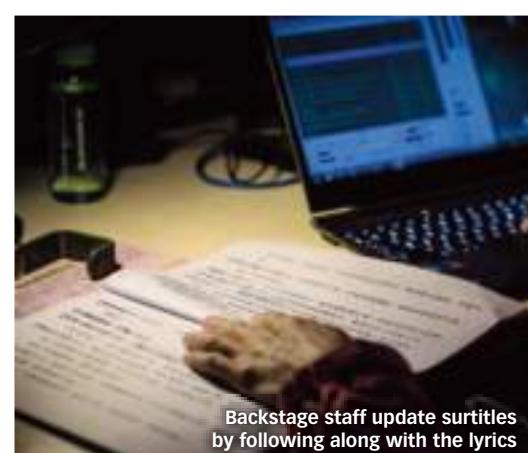
A set change at Ko Shan Theatre

Traditionally all actors were male, so **female characters** are portrayed with heavy use of a nasal falsetto. This is difficult to do well: The singer must force his or her voice through the nose while maintaining a smooth and sonorous texture.



**Western instruments** are sometimes used in place of or in addition to Chinese ones. The gaoхu (a higher-pitched version of the erhu) might be replaced by the violin, for example, or a pipa with the guitar. Many ensembles include cellos for a thicker harmonic texture.

In between arias and dialogues, the ensemble often **improvises a tune** based on the songs sung in the opera.



Backstage staff update surtitles by following along with the lyrics

There is **no conductor**—the orchestra simply follows the performers' actions and singing. The scripts and music scores are typically just lyrics and song titles.

An **extensive set of melodies** is used across the operas. Different lyrics are paired with different melodies depending on the particular performance.



Different **costume colors** have different meanings. A large amount of blue on a character's costume indicates they are cruel or arrogant.

## The New Blood

The 28-year-old performer **Yuen Tak-man** (below) has been involved in Cantonese opera since he was 15 years old. Born to a family of Cantonese opera performers, he studied Chinese opera at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts and joined the Bright Sing Troupe two years ago as a full-time performer.

### HK Magazine: How should Cantonese opera be revitalized?

**Yuen Tak-man:** The first step is to learn more about the philosophy and inspiration behind Cantonese opera. We used to hold workshops and classes for primary and secondary students during my time at the Academy of Performing Arts. More children are starting to learn this art, and gradually more audiences are coming. Even some housewives are learning as well. It is all about taking the first step, to do some research and learn more about the art.

### HK: How do you see your part in this?

**YT:** As an actor, I think the most important thing is to play my role and keep honing my skills. If I am good enough, then people will appreciate my performance. Besides rehearsing I also watch a lot of other plays, and take from them what I believe will help myself improve. For instance, I take the aesthetics of Shanghai Yue opera, the strong presence of Peking opera and the lingering charm of Kunqu opera [from Suzhou], and I fuse them with my own performance.

### HK: What's the most valuable lesson you've learned?

**YT:** Actors like to say that "life is a stage." I try to exercise self-discipline and humility both on and off the stage. I am learning by doing as well, and I will keep on learning until I am too old for this. I guess I have learnt the importance of learning!

"I will keep on learning until I am too old for this."



"Wispelwey's playing is at once supremely lyrical and furiously intense."

*The Guardian*

"His playing is flawless."

*Gramophone*

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Cello

**Pieter Wispelwey**

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**Prokofiev**

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## The Teacher

**Stella Ma** is the director of Cha Duk Chang Children's Cantonese Opera Association, which has taught Cantonese opera classes to children aged 4-12 since 1997. A firm believer in the positive effect of Cantonese opera on child development, she shares her passion with children through teaching the craft.

### HK Magazine: Why teach kids about Cantonese opera?

**Stella Ma:** I have always considered Cantonese opera the perfect platform for children to learn about the values and knowledge that can make them a wholesome person. Studying Cantonese opera requires learning Chinese music, physical education, art and history. For the scene to grow healthily, we have to teach people to appreciate the art, starting when they are young.

### HK: How do you get such young children to understand this complex art?

**SM:** Cantonese opera can be all about perfecting the craft, that's true. People spend years trying to become the best of the best, and the dialogues themselves can be almost poetry-like. Yet, if we want everyone to enjoy the art, why not simplify it to a level that even children can enjoy? Opera can be actually a very inclusive art; it can accommodate different kinds of music, even pop songs! We were able to change the lyrics of some well-known nursery rhymes and fit them back into the story. This doesn't make it any less opera-like, though: Even early as the 1960s, Cantonese opera actors incorporated western songs like "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" into their shows. This is not innovation, but the way Cantonese opera has always been: versatile and inclusive.

### HK: What can kids learn from Cantonese opera?

**SM:** On stage, they are not merely sons or daughters: They are given the opportunity to let their personalities shine through the stage. Children are always boisterous, full of energy and mischievous—they can be just like that even when performing. That is what the audiences enjoy the most. We always tell the children that those who study Cantonese opera are capable of enduring pain. They have to wear bulky clothes, and tie a tight knot around the forehead to keep the headpieces and accessories stable. They have to endure hours of training as well, but they all overcome it with iron resolution.



Photo: Cha Duk Chang

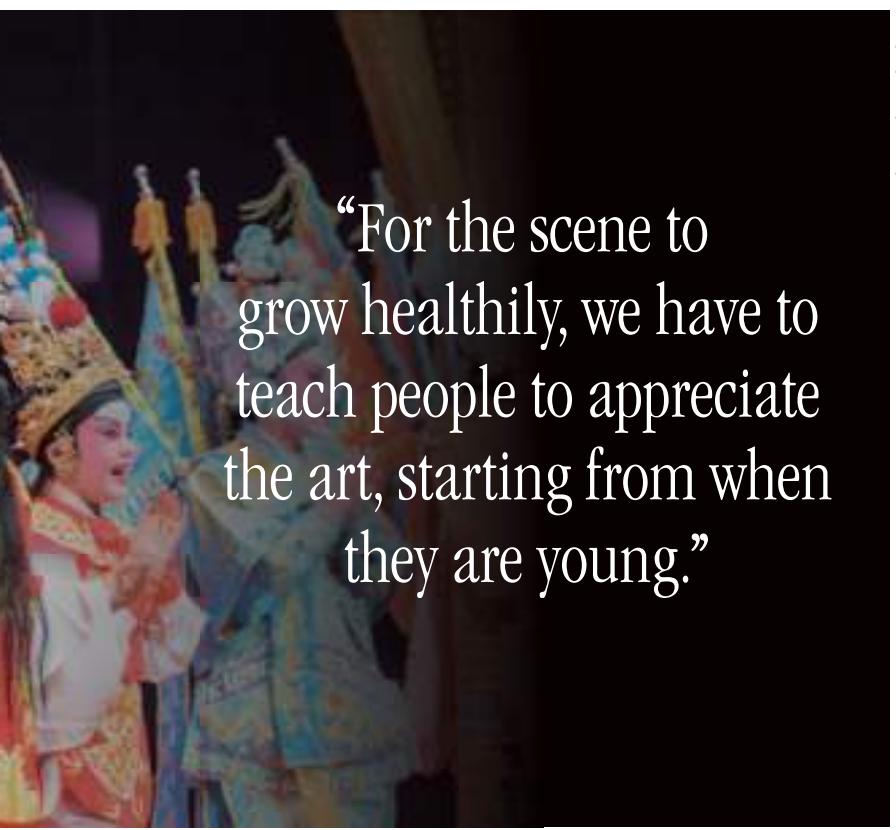


Photo: Cha Duk Chang

“For the scene to grow healthily, we have to teach people to appreciate the art, starting from when they are young.”

## OK, I want to watch some opera!

### Where to Go

#### Ko Shan Theatre

Located at the top of Ko Shan Road Park, this theatre was originally designed as a 3,000-seat semi-open air theatre, but was renovated in 1994 to be a fully indoor venue with over 1,000 seats. There's also a new wing with a smaller auditorium. Ko Shan Road Park is decorated with stone engravings of opera-related art, such as painted faces.

**77 Ko Shan Rd., Hung Hom, 2740-9222.**

#### Sha Tin Town Hall

This venue hosts all sorts of performances and exhibitions year-round. It is partnered with the Cantonese Opera Advancement Association, which brings in nearly 20 opera troupes to perform in its multiple halls and facilities. Studios and rooms are also available for public use.

**1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin, 2694-2509.**

### What to Watch

#### A Showcase of Role Types in Cantonese Opera:

##### Xusheng, Laodan, Hualian

An effort to promote Cantonese Opera and educate audiences to appreciate the art form, this showcase includes four plays that feature unlikely candidates as protagonists: the bearded old man (*xusheng*), aged women (*laodan*) and characters with painted faces (*hualian*). **Sep 6-9, 7:30pm. Auditorium, Ko Shan Theatre New Wing, 77 Ko Shan Rd., Hung Hom. \$100-220 from www.urbtix.hk.**

#### Chivalry and Valiance in Chinese Opera Series: Beauty in Disguise

A strong, independent woman seeking revenge for her father's death ends up finding love instead. **Oct 4, 7:30pm. Auditorium, Tsuen Wan Town Hall, 72 Tai Ho Rd., Tsuen Wan. \$100-260 from www.urbtix.hk.**

#### The Tragedy of the Butterfly Lovers

Dubbed China's take on "Romeo and Juliet," This is a famous tragedy of star-

#### Sunbeam Theatre

"Hong Kong's Grand Palace for Cantonese Opera" was opened by Shanghai emigrants in 1972. Cantonese operas are performed at this venue almost every day, and films and other performances also are shown from time to time.

**423 King's Rd., North Point, 2856-0158.**

#### Yau Ma Tei Theatre

This Grade II historic building is the last remaining pre-war theater in Hong Kong. Once the largest in Kowloon, Yau Ma Tei Theatre completed its renovation into a 300-seat Cantonese opera venue in 2012. It is partnered with the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong, which works to preserve and celebrate Cantonese opera. **6 Waterloo Rd., Yau Ma Tei, 2264-8108.**

crossed lovers who struggle to recognize each other's affection, only to be reunited in death. **Oct 18, 7:30pm. Auditorium, Tuen Mun Town Hall, 3 Tuen Hi Rd., Tuen Mun. \$100-240 from www.urbtix.hk.**

#### Princess Changping—Cantonese Opera Young Talent Showcase

The tragedy of the death of Princess Changping and her fiancé on their wedding night, who fall alongside the once great Ming Dynasty. Features one of the best-known numbers in Cantonese Opera—"Fragrant Sacrifice." **Oct 3-4, 7:30pm. Yau Ma Tei Theatre, 6 Waterloo Rd., Yau Ma Tei. \$70-120 from www.urbtix.hk.**

#### The Magnificently Cloaked General Saves His Country

A tale of reconciliation between two warriors, Huaiyu and Yuchi, as they go from zero to hero and stand together to defend their country. **Oct 12, 7:30pm. Theatre, Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre, 11 Clear Water Bay Rd., \$100-180 from www.urbtix.hk.**



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Bring a little still life into your home with some warm wooden containers from Hong Kong furniture makers **Tree**. These cylindrical acacia wood boxes are topped with chalky ceramic cherry blossoms, lending a burst of muted contrast that's perfect for the modern home.

**Cherry blossom storage boxes.** \$395 to \$595 from Tree, various locations including 28/F, Horizon Plaza, Ap Lei Chau, 2870-1582.



## ESCAPE ROUTES with Dan Creffield



### Tuve to Tango

A new boutique hotel has cropped up in Tin Hau to offer an alternative to glitzy five-star glam. TUVE is a 66-room property with an edgy, minimalist industrial look: think concrete, oxidised metal, marble and wood. Pauline Tsang, Managing Director of TUVE, tells us more about the hotel.

### HK Magazine: What's the thinking behind TUVE?

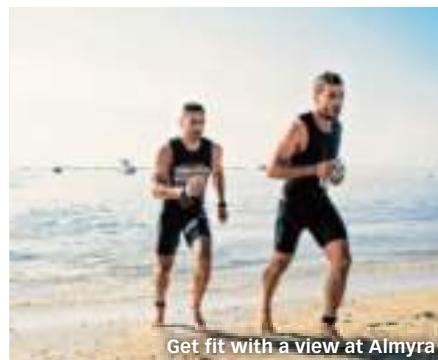
**Pauline Tsang:** We wanted to create a sense of mystery, a sensuous feeling, and calmness in the design concept, philosophy and story. We want our guests to explore the space and unveil its hidden beauty. We used various commonly

found materials but when combined together, they form something uncommon and unique.

### HK: Hong Kong is seeing more boutique hotels. What's so special about them?

**PT:** Boutique hotels offer a story, a specific design aesthetic and experience that is carefully curated. But it is not solely the design that attracts customers, but also the privacy and exclusivity they offer, allowing guests to enter into an alternative reality and space. The aim is to create something that is out of the ordinary so that any individual can appreciate it.

**16 Tsing Fung St., Tin Hau, 3995-8899,  
www.tuve.hk. Rooms \$1,200-1880.**



### Sun, Sea and Sweat

If you like the idea of shaping up under the watchful eye of some of the fittest people on the planet, all within earshot of the crashing Mediterranean waves, **Almyra Elite Training Camps** might be for you.

Striking a balance between boutique hotel and fitness boot camp, Almyra, a family-run resort located on the idyllic Cypriot coast of Paphos, is hosting a year-round series of triathlon camps and swimming clinics. Each session is led by world-class coaches and athletes. They're an ideal way to combine a luxurious holiday with an ass-kicking training program. The camps have been designed to build upon and refine technique with personalized training sessions: Daily activities include open water swims, extensive road cycle routes and running on Cyprus' breathtaking coastal paths and trails.

**Various dates between Nov 2015-Apr 2016,  
www.designhotels.com/almyra.**

### Amari Havodda

Sports and fitness is also on the menu at the **Amari Havodda** in the Maldives. Alongside the regulation gym, pool, tennis and beach volleyball courts, it'll also boast a water sports center and dive center when it opens on February 1 next year. Boat excursions, offering island hopping, snorkeling, sailing and night fishing, are also available.

Located on one of the best-preserved atolls in the archipelago, the resort will boast 120 over-water and beach villas. All-inclusive pre-opening packages include a short four-night getaway, with prices starting at US\$625 per night for two in a beach villa. Alternatively there's a seven-night deal for those with a little more time to soak in the sun, starting at US\$520 per night for two. Both offers are available for booking from now until Sep 30 2015, for stays between Feb 1 and Apr 30 2016.  
[www.amari.com/havodda-maldives](http://www.amari.com/havodda-maldives).



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# When the Moon Hits Your Thighs

Mid-Autumn festival falls on September 27, and you know what that means: Mooncake season is upon us. Can't decide which or what of these traditional calorie bombs to send to your pals, parents or partner? **Jianne Soriano** narrows it down.



Keep it old-school at Fook Lam Moon



From Frog King to handsome prince at Duddell's



"Mooncarons." Innovation... or abomination?



Tycoon Tann's got a nice package

## For... Health Freak Parentals

Got parents watching their diet? They'll love **K11**'s Mooncake gift set (\$398 per box), which are traditional varieties with egg yolk and white lotus paste, made with low sugar. Collaborating with historic moon cake masters at Tai Tung Bakery—which has 70 years' experience under its belt—the mooncake set is packed in a decorative box with designs painted by Paula Ng, a budding artist from the HKAPA.

**18 Hanoi Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 3118-8070.**

## For... That Hipster Chick You're Trying to Woo

Pining after that artsy chick at work? Bring in a box of the highly coveted mooncakes from **Duddell's**, which has collaborated with artist Frog King for his signature "frogy stamp" designs. Each box (\$328) comes with six cream custard mooncakes and an autographed artwork, which should make for some above-average water cooler flirtation...

**Level 3, Shanghai Tang Mansion, 1 Duddell St., Central, 2525-9191.**

## For... Your Picky In-laws

Couldn't score the Rolls Royce of mooncakes—the egg custard variety from The Peninsula's Spring Moon? Keep up the subterfuge that you are a classy candidate for their daughter/son's affections by presenting the egg custard mooncake set from **Tycoon Tann** (\$338 per box). Drawing from Chinese tradition, the box has three sections symbolizing the natural elements of heaven, earth and humans.

**\$298 per box if ordered before Sep 1, \$338 thereafter.  
74 Wellington St., Central, 3125-3228.**

## For... The Confused Expat

If your mooncake recipient is likely to ask "what in hell is a lotus seed?" they too can keep up with tradition (kinda) with some newfangled French-style pastries: Mooncarons (\$388) from **Chope and Food Lab**—the debut product of their newly launched e-commerce platform. A cross between a French canelé and a macaron, there are six flavors available: strawberry, chocolate, lemon, vanilla, toffee and pistachio.

**Order online at [shophk.chope.co](http://shophk.chope.co), 3568-8455.**

## For... Snooty Purists

**Fook Lam Moon**'s classic moon cake (\$680 per box) offers a taste of an old favorite—traditional and loyal to the craft of mooncake making. There's also mini custard mooncakes available, as well as FLM Signature mooncakes: a healthier alternative made with a natural seaweed sugar.

**Various locations including 53-59 Kimberley Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2366-0286.**

## For... The Chocoholic

If your recipient would rather waste calories on a decadent square of fudge than a mushy hunk of lotus seed paste, **La Maison du Chocolat**'s got you covered with their Moonchocolate (\$450) box set. Indulge in bite-sized chocolates filled with silky ganache, inspired by elements of the moon and moon festival lore.

**Various locations including Shop LG2-21, Festival Walk, 80 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong, 2363-9211.**

**It doesn't even LOOK like a mooncake!**



## NEW AND NOTED

with Adele Wong



Shunde non-believer at One Harbour Road

### The China Club

Shunde (or Shun Tak) cuisine will be showcased at **One Harbour Road** (7-8/F, Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, 1 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, 2584-7722) until September 4, so remember on your next visit to dig into these skillfully crafted Southern Chinese dishes created by resident chef Li Shu-tim, who has partnered up with visiting Chinese chef

Luo Funan. One highlight is the stewed mud carp with conpoy, which is presented as a whole fish on the table, with skin intact but with the flesh replaced by a boneless fish paste combo made with pork, dried scallops, cabbage—and of course, mud carp. Also on the menu is a rice wine-marinated steamed pork dish that's full of flavor... and calories.



Get your luxe buffet on at Clipper Lounge



What you sea is what you get at JW Café

### A Sea of Food

Newly renovated **JW Café** (5/F, JW Marriott Hotel, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 2810-8366) is back with a bang, offering a new-and-improved buffet spread that spans the continents and includes a fishball noodle station, a roast meats table, a raw bar, a salad section, and a tantalizing desserts display right at the front of the restaurant. From now until the end of the month (which is this week!), there's a Sai Kung seafood special going on, so you'll be able to sample typhoon-shelter-style crab, deep-fried crispy squid, and a whole lot of other goodies besides signatures like braised fish maw and steamed grouper. The Sai Kung special is available for dinner starting from \$698 per adult, not including service.

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

## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

### Woo Lung Yuen ★★★★☆

Taiwanese. G/F, 6A Whitfield Rd., Tin Hau, 2508-1740.



This cute little shop in Tin Hau specializes in Taiwanese-style noodles cooked and served in a small metal pot. On the menu are dozens and dozens of varieties: get them with pork balls, beef slices, seafood, mushrooms, topped with squid ink, or cooked in spicy mala broth, just to name a few.

**HIT** Our Taiwanese beef slice noodles (\$40 including a drink) were intense and savory, with the yellow strands mellowing out the dark, soy sauce-based broth. The marbled beef shin was well marinated, and the deep fried squid balls we ordered as sides were bouncy and addictive. We also had a tasty, saucy pork and eggplant rice (\$30) that came with heaps of ingredients piled on top of steaming white kernels.

**MISS** Our standard bubble tea that came with the meal was nothing to write home about. And despite the awesomely cheap prices, the noodle portions were tiny and not quite enough as a standalone lunch for one.

**BOTTOM LINE** A neighborhood joint with great-tasting dishes and affordable prices? Sold.

**Open Mon-Sat 8am-8pm. \$**

All of our reviews are independent and anonymous!

### Lo Dim ★★★★☆

Dim Sum. Shop A, G/F, Lisa House, 12-14A Yim Po Fong St., Mong Kok, 2398-9992.



Lo Dim—a tongue-in-cheek slang term meaning "you're fooling me" is a nifty fusion-ish dim sum joint covered in magazine clippings and boasting a perennial queue.

**HIT** A playful menu suits the restaurant's playful name, featuring mostly inventive takes on dim sum classics, steamed in square bamboo boxes. The cheese-filled fried prawn balls (\$28)—for those who like it—had the

ooze factor down pat, while the shrimp provided a nice bite. Hefty chunks of prawn also made an appearance in cheung fun (\$26) filled with deep fried bean curd (a Hangzhou specialty literally named "fried crunchies"), which was a nice alternative to your usual *zha leung* donut-stuffed cheung fun. Our favorite item was a plate of teeny-tiny sliders (\$22 for two), with a deep fried prawn patty with wasabi mayo clamped between lettuce and buttery toasted buns. We had no idea what it was doing on the menu, but it was fantastic.

**MISS** For a spot supposedly known for their bamboo rice, we weren't so sure. Our order of chicken steamed rice (\$26) had a slight dishwasher aroma to it, and was largely unremarkable.

**BOTTOM LINE** Lo Dim has some interesting offerings for a bargain—but we'd still order a classic har gau any day. **Open Mon-Sun 11am-2am. \$**

#### 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.

# WHAT'S ON

CULTURE + NIGHTLIFE + FILM

Image Courtesy of the Artist and Hanart TZ Gallery



**Silence Speaks Volumes**

Chow Chun-fai's solo exhibition at Hanart TZ Gallery is all about the artist's frustration with how hard it is to talk directly about the issues affecting Hong Kong. "**I Have Nothing To Say**" is divided into three sections which discuss deceptive or false information in social media, ambiguity and deception in films, and the idolatry of Kim Jong-il. Seems chatty enough to us.

Through Sep 12. Hanart TZ Gallery, Room 401, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder St., Central, 2526-9019.

## Need to Know

**Theater & Arts**  
 Urbitix (credit cards) 2111-5999  
 Urbitix (enquiries) 2734-9009  
 HK Ticketing 3128-8288  
 HK Arts Centre 2582-0200  
 Fringe Club 2521-7251  
 HK Cultural Centre 2734-2009

HK City Hall 2921-2840  
 HK Academy for Performing Arts 2584-8500  
 Kwai Tsing Theatre 2408-0128  
 LCSD Music Programme Office 2268-7321  
 LCSD Dance/Multi-Arts Office 2268-7323  
 LCSD Theatre Office 2268-7323

## Exhibitions



### HKForeword15

For its fourth annual iteration of this show, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery exhibits the work of seven recent Hong Kong art graduates. Photographs, installations, paintings and sculptures will be presented by graduates from Hong Kong Art School, Baptist University, Chinese University, and SCAD Hong Kong. Aug 27-Sep 9. 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, G/F, 10 Chancery Lane, Central, 2810-0065.



## Classical

### All That Swing

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



### Masterworks: Season Opening – Tan Dun's Nu Shu

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



### Cirque de la Symphonie

The HK Phil combines circus and classical at this concert. Expect juggling, acrobatics, contortionists and more, all accompanied by a live orchestra. We're hoping to see the woodwind section hanging from a trapeze while the double bassists balance in a pyramid on top of an elephant wearing a tuxedo. Right? Sep 11-12, 8pm. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$280-680 from www.urbitix.hk.



### Symphonic Sorcery: Harry Potter in Concert

Need a little magic in your life, muggle? Take a trip to Hogwarts with the HK Philharmonic. Your guide will be an old, long-haired wizard who will teach you about spells, Quidditch and potions, and play the music of the "Harry Potter" movies along the way. Ten points to Slytherin! Sep 18-19, 8pm. Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium, 72 Tai Ho Rd., Tsuen Wan. \$120-380 from www.urbitix.hk.

## Comedy



### 9th Annual HK International Comedy Festival

The HK International Comedy Festival is back for a ninth round, featuring comedians from the US, Australia, the UK, and more. Local comedians Vivek Mahubani and the People's Liberation Improv will also be performing for some good giggles. Don't forget to check out the comedy competition for up-and-comers. The festival begins with American comedian Roy Wood Jr. Sep 3-26. Various locations, check www.hkcomedyfestival.com for more info. \$150-300 from www.hkticketing.com.

## Dance

### Pinocchio

The Hong Kong Ballet kicks off its 2015-2016 season with none other than the ultimate coming-of-age fairytale, "Pinocchio." Reimagined into ballet form, the production is put together by choreographer Pär Isberg and tells the adventures of the young puppet from his creation by Geppetto to the chaos that ensues as a result of his lies. Will the Blue Fairy come along and save the day and reconcile the boy with his father? Or is that just a Disney thing? Aug 28-Sep 6. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$140-1,000 from www.urbitix.hk.

## Opera

### Così Fan Tutte

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

### Opera Passion III

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

## Theater

### Hamlet

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

# NIGHTLIFE

Edited by Evelyn Lok  
evelyn.lok@hkmagmedia.com

## Open Bar Mahalo Tiki Lounge



**The buzz:** Brought to you by the team behind Honi Honi Tiki Lounge on Wellington Street, Mahalo is a new venture in the classier end of Wan Chai—or “Admiralty East,” as the area wants to be known. While Honi Honi has a more laidback vibe with live music and a cosy outdoor seating area, Mahalo is a much bigger, more upscale take on the Polynesian theme.

**The décor:** Mahalo’s décor has the “tropical paradise” thing down pat, what with bamboo, botanical-inspired wallpapers and even palm trees dotted around the place. The huge outdoor terrace affords views all the way from the mountainous backdrop of the Mid-Levels to skyscrapers in Admiralty.

**The drinks:** The menu is chock-full of Tiki delights that go above and beyond your standard piña colada—although that’s also excellently done here. Try the Chinese Delight (\$130), a sweet cocktail made with Grey Goose vodka, passion fruit purée, grapefruit juice, pineapple juice and hibiscus syrup—jazzed up with five-spice syrup for an extra kick. Another top pick is the Polynesian Love (\$120), which consists of Pampero Especial rum, amaretto and crème de violette—an aromatic, velvety liqueur—plus blackberry purée, raspberry purée and lime juice.

**Why you’ll be back:** The terrace alone is enough reason to return, especially come fall when things chill out a bit. Who knows—maybe Mahalo will make tiki cool again. **Andrea Lo**

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



**Bon Jovi in Macau**

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



**Big Bang Made World Tour**

K-fans must already be gearing up for the big event: Go see T.O.P., G-Dragon, Daesung, Seungri and Taeyang oppas celebrate their comeback as a group this year, following the new release of their latest singles compilation, “Made.” Oct 23-24, 8pm. Cotai Arena, The Venetian. Tickets TBC.

## Gigs

### A Place to Bury Strangers

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

### Next 2 Me EP Release Party

Hong Kong’s own electronic R’n’B duo The Anello is launching their highly anticipated EP, “Next 2 Me” at with a party at Hidden Agenda. They’re supported by GDJYB, DJ Re:Flex, and Delf. Aug 29, 6pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$100-250 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com), includes EP and one drink.



**DragonForce Maximum Overload World Tour**

Get some exhausting casual Sunday night moshing in courtesy of British power metal band DragonForce—best known for their retro game-influenced sounds and their totally insane shredding. They’re touring their latest and sixth album, “Maximum Overload.” Aug 30, 8:30pm. Musiczone, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$480 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).

## HK PICKS



### Tuxedo at Ovolo Southside

Grammy-nominated music men Mayer Hawthorne and Jake One (who’s produced for the likes of Drake and J.Cole) of Tuxedo are the current gods of modern disco funk. Don’t miss ‘em at Ovolo Southside: Tickets are bound to go quick. Sep 11, 10pm. Ovolo Southside, 64 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., 2165-1000. \$388-488 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).

## Clubs

### End of Summer All Dayer: Optimo

Twitch and Jonnie Wilkes make up DJ duo Optimo, the founders of legendary Glaswegian (and global) clubnight of the same name, which spins unconventional sounds that navigate between electro and funk, post-punk and 50s swing, plus anything else that suits their mood. Catch them over a tiki cocktail at Mahalo in this send-off to the summer. Aug 29, 4pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen’s Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2488-8750. \$150-200 from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com), \$250 at the door.

### Tiesto at Club Cubic

Dutch deck master Tiesto needs no introduction: He’s one of the best, most sought-after DJs in the world. He’s back for round two at Club Cubic—it’s looking like the hottest party of the fall, if only because of the sheer heat generated by a club full of people jumping up and down. Oct 2, 10pm. Club Cubic, 2/F, Hard Rock Hotel, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, (+853) 6638-4999. \$580-980 from [www.cubic-cod.com](http://www.cubic-cod.com).



## Music Festivals



### Don’t Let Daddy Know

Throwing the whole concept of filial piety to the wind, the curiously named music festival Don’t Let Daddy Know hits Asia for the first time in September, boasting a super star DJ lineup and Ibiza-style party effects. Get ready to twerk like there’s no tomorrow to the likes of Skrillex, The Chainsmokers, Laidback Luke, Sander van Doorn and Sem Vox. Sep 30, 5pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$580-980 from [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com), \$22,000 for VIP table with 10 tickets, including two bottles of bubbly, VIP bar and lounge access, priority entry and giftpack.

### Secret Island Party

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

## Concerts

### Maroon 5

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

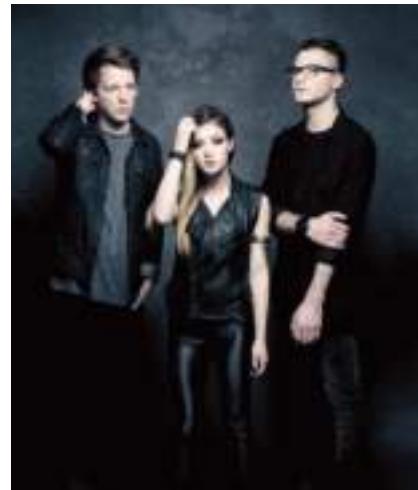
Photo: Akbar Nuseepian/Flickr

## HK PICKS



### Shock Wave Summer Series 2015: Encore

Back by popular demand, the W Hotel's Shock Wave Summer Series hosts one more of its notorious pool parties before summer cools down for good (although in Hong Kong, it really doesn't). Casey Anderson of Typhoon8 Records and W Music's Arun R will be spinning the summer's top hits as well as house beats—all alongside antics from flame-throwers, dancers and a live LED light show. The night continues at Woobar, where DJ Re:Flex will be playing upbeat house and electro as you slather your inebriated selves with UV paint. Sep 10, 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 "VIP" 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](http://www.w-hongkong.com/en/shockwave).



### Against the Current: Gravity World Tour

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

### How to Count One to Ten

Time for some low-key good vibes: Japanese instrumental five-piece How to Count One to Ten brings their boppy math rock and post-rock tunes to Hidden Agenda. Whether they will actually teach you how to count remains unclear. Hong Kong alt-rockers Loveface supports. Sep 3, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$180 in advance from [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).

## Nightlife Events

### IPA Madness:

#### Summer Wine Craft Beer Launch

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



### Beertopia

The boozy craft beer fest returns—bigger and better than before and the grand slam end to this year's Hong Kong Beer Week. It's hosted in Central this time around, so Islanders can quit yer whining for once. There'll be more than 500 featured beers from 23 different countries, plus 33 Hong Kong brews. An ample selection of ciders, porters and stouts will also be available. Apart from all the beer, expect standard booze fest food vendors, live music, beer games and even a family-friendly market. Oct 9-10. Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central, 3929-9500. Early bird tickets start from \$280-500 from [www.beerweek.hk](http://www.beerweek.hk).

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## Assassination ★★★★

(South Korea) Espionage thriller. Directed by Choi Dong-hoon. Starring Jun Ji-hyun, Lee Jung-jae, Ha Jung-woo. Category IIB. 140 minutes. Opened Aug 27.

The 1930s espionage action flick "Assassination" has been doing damn well for itself back on its home turf, becoming the biggest film of the year in Korea—surpassing even "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" in terms of getting bums on seats. It's no surprise, thanks to its star Jun Ji-hyun, the original manic pixie crazy-bitch-dream-girl of 2002's "My Sassy Girl" (and in more recent history, cool-girl TV goddess from "My Love From the Stars"), and to director Choi Dong-hoon, who's earned a reputation for "Ocean's 11"-esque heist/crime thrillers like 2012's "The Thieves."

The same kind of heated welcome is surely on the way for its opening this weekend in Hong Kong—based on sheer K-celebrity drawing power and its topic and timing (a Sino-Korean-Japanese pre-war espionage tale, just in time for the 70th anniversary of Imperial Japanese surrender) alone. But despite all that firepower behind it, "Assassination" disregards its potential to invoke any deeper thought or contemplation beyond how much popcorn you want to stuff into your mouth at once.

So who's assassinating whom? Set in Japan-occupied Korea in the 30s, Yeok Seok-jin (Lee Jung-jae) is a Korean officer in the interim government. He recruits three trained killers to eliminate a heinous Japanese general and a Korean, Japanese-ass-kissing businessman—all in the name of Korean independence. These three national heroes include An Ouk-yoon (Jun), who's a bespectacled but fantastically talented sniper, leading two Korean petty criminals who are basically only there for comic relief. But double-crossers are everywhere and moral ambiguities are high during this confusing era. Expert bounty hunter "Hawaii Pistol"—is quickly hired to take out the crew... but will he?

Sure, the lead-up to the Second World War in the Asian arena was convoluted as hell, but "Assassination" struggles to succinctly set up the context, especially in the crucial first 10 minutes of the movie. It expects its audiences to align with the film's one-sided nationalistic viewpoint—portraying all Japanese people as monsters, for one—and forgets that viewers who don't understand Korean, Japanese, Japanese-sounding Korean and vice versa, or atonal Putonghua, won't be able to instinctively tell the double-crossers from the heroic freedom-fighters—and at certain points, the plot relies on it. (Protip: if they speak Japanese, they're probably bad guys. And they're going to die at some point). Luckily, questions are answered just swiftly enough along the way before everything is tied up neatly with a bow at the end of the war.

But interesting plot twists and heart-pumping action scenes abound, enough to keep you sated when you're not ogling at the Korean A-listers. Jun Ji-hyun gets all the screen time, but her performance is a little complacent as the cool and reticent gunwoman, and it's not a hundred miles from all her previous cool and reticent roles. On the other end of the spectrum, Lee Jung-jae is awesomely hateful in his role as a survivalist caught up between the warring sides.

If you're looking for two hours of shooty Korean espionage intrigue with beautiful faces, this is your ticket. Just be sure to brush up on your east Asian languages, and remember the popcorn.

**Evelyn Lok**

## Coming Soon



### Everything Will Be Fine

(USA) An intimate winter drama from Wim Wenders centers on the repercussions of a road accident caused by novelist Tomas (James Franco), who escapes unblamed and unscathed. As he fails to come to terms with his actions, his relationships with everyone around him crumbles, yet his career takes a turn towards success. Can you smell the angst? Opens Sep 3.



### The Gunman

(USA) Pierre Morel ("Taken") is behind this high octane action with Sean Penn playing former assassin Jim Terrier. Having fled his last hit in Congo and suffering from PTSD, he comes across a mysterious faction in London that wants him dead. His snooping leads him right back to Africa, where it all began... Opens Sep 3.



### How to Make Love Like an Englishman

(USA) Inane rom-com coming through: Playboy, hedonist, and Cambridge poetry professor (?) Richard (Pierce Brosnan) has his eye on Olivia (Salma Hayek), but marries Kate (Jessica Alba) once he finds out he got her pregnant—but the two are step-sisters. Years later, Olivia returns in his life, and makes him reevaluate his life choices. A little too late, don't cha think? Opens Sep 3.



### Kidnapping Freddy Heineken

(USA) Daniel Alfredson, who's known for "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and "The Girl Who Played With Fire" (The better, Swedish versions), is no stranger to bringing crime stories to the screen. He takes on the real-life story of the kidnapping of Dutch beer tycoon Alfred "Freddy" Heineken (played here by Anthony Hopkins), which resulted in the highest ransom ever paid. Opens Sep 3.

### No Escape

(USA) Who thought it was okay to put Owen Wilson in an action thriller? Starring across Pierce Brosnan, Wilson is an American businessman who relocates his family to Southeast Asia... but is met with life-threatening peril as a violent political uprising kicks off. Bring all your expat friends to this one. Opens Sep 3.



### P.K.

(India) Rajkumar Hirani, who was behind the tear-inducing box office hit "3 Idiots," brings us a brand new Bollywood sci-fi flick. It's a lofty comedy of ideas disguised as a benign alien's wacky adventure on earth, in which the search for a lost gadget becomes a hopeful pilgrimage in search for God. Opens Sep 3.



### A Tale of Three Cities

(China/Hong Kong) Award-winning director duo Mabel Cheung and Alex Law ("Echoes of the Rainbow") base their latest sweeping period romance on a true story. A war-torn couple (Sean Lau Ching-wan and Tang Wei) struggle to stay alive in Anhui, Shanghai, and Hong Kong in the midst of the turbulent 40s. Opens Sep 3.

## Words and Pictures

(USA) At an expensive East Coast prep school, an art teacher (Juliette Binoche) and disillusioned English teacher (Clive Owen) spark up a light rivalry and flirtation... while hatching a plan to arouse student interest in their respective subjects. Opens Sep 3.

## Opening

### The Assassin

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

### Assassination

(South Korea) See review, left. Opened Aug 27.



### The Emperor in August

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

### Hero

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



### Hollywood Adventures

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

### Knock Knock Who's There

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

### She's Funny That Way

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

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## Continuing

### C'est Si Bon

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

### Fantastic Four

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



### Hitman: Agent 47

**(USA)** A remake of the 2007 film based on the stealth video game series, "Hitman: Agent 47" stars Rupert Friend as the titular protagonist. The premise? Agent 47 is a genetically enhanced assassin who must fight a major corporation that wants to steal his secret to engineer an army of killers. Nothing groundbreaking, but a solid action affair. ★★★

### Hungry Hearts

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

### Inside Out

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

### Jimmy's Hall

**(UK/France)** Kitchen sink drama specialist Ken Loach takes a thoughtful, sympathetic look at the true story of Jimmy Gralton, a political activist who became the only Irishman ever to be deported from his own country. Set in 1932, when Ireland was on the cusp of civil war, Jimmy reopens a village hall to serve for dance nights and general good times. However, it comes under scrutiny of the local church, who suspects the hall is also being used to brew political intrigue. ★★★★

### Paper Towns

**(USA)** Quentin (Nat Wolff) and his free-spirited crush neighbor Margo (Cara Delevingne) go on an overnight adventure to exact revenge on her cheating boyfriend—after which she disappears, seemingly for good. But Margo's left some breadcrumbs for Quentin to follow... John Green's second book-to-screen adaptation may be yet another coming of age adventure, but surprises with its balanced, likeable characterization and refreshing take on the pains of growing up. ★★★★

### Pixels

**(USA)** When space aliens begin attacking Earth after misinterpreting a video feed of 8-bit arcade games, four seasoned old-school gamers (Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Josh Gad, Peter Dinklage) band together to save the world. 80s nerds might appreciate the nostalgic appearances of Pac-man et al, but are the cheap Sandler jokes worth it? The answer is: no. ★

### HK PICKS



### The Man from U.N.C.L.E.

**(USA)** Guy Ritchie's sleek take on the 60s spy series stars the beautiful Henry Cavill as CIA Agent Napoleon Solo. When he discovers that a covert criminal organization with access to nuclear weapons has plans to upset the balance of the Cold War, Napoleon is forced to team up with a KGB agent (Armie Hammer) to stop the global threat. A fun, flashy movie that scrapes through on style alone. ★★★★

### While We're Young

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

### Wild City

**(Hong Kong)** Veteran director Ringo Lam (best known for "City On Fire," 1987, which won him Best Director at the Hong Kong Film Awards and also influenced Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs") is back on the scene with a full feature after more than a decade. The premise: a former cop/bar owner (Louis Koo), his half-brother (Shawn Yue), a woman, her triad boss old flame, all vying for a suitcase full of black money. The lackluster spark in Lam's latest offering proves that maybe his talent was probably best left in the 80s. ★★★★

## Film Festival



### Life is Art Film Festival

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

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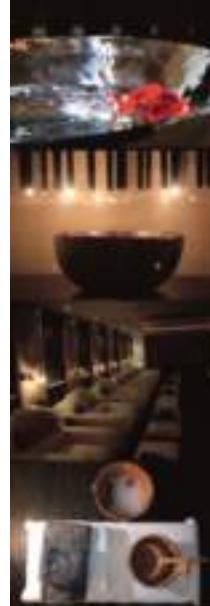
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## SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

Please do a public-service announcement about the Ashley Madison hack, and request that NO ONE look up information on ANYONE other than their own spouse. I'm a former AM user. I've been married to my wife for 20 years. We met when we were both 20 years old. Seven years ago, I made a selfish decision to have an affair, and five years ago, my wife found out. She hated me for a while, but we worked things out. I have been faithful since then, and our marriage is better than ever. Since my wife already knows everything, I have no worries about her finding out. But what about every other person I know? It is mortifying to think about my colleagues or my wife's family poring through my profile information. I'm going to assume the best—most people have the decency not to snoop into their neighbors' bedroom habits—but it would be great if you could ask people to respect others' privacy.

– Really Enraged Guy Requesting Everyone's Tactful Silence

I'm happy to back you up, REGRETS, but I don't share your faith in humanity. Most people are only too delighted to snoop into their neighbors' bedroom habits—particularly when doing so induces feelings of moral superiority. And I like to think the kind of puritanical busybodies who would go looking for names in the Ashley Madison dump are unlikely to be readers of mine, so they wouldn't see my Ashley Madison PSA anyway.

But I have to disagree with your suggestion that people should look for their spouses' names in the AM data. If someone in a shitty, high-conflict marriage needs an excuse to get out—because no-fault divorce isn't good enough for them—okay, sure, that person might wanna search for their spouse's name. But people who are in loving, functional, low-conflict, happy-ish marriages might want to think twice. Finding out that your spouse cheated—or fantasized about cheating—is impossible to unknow, and it's something many people can't get over. Caveat coniunx.

I'm one of those morons who had an Ashley Madison account. But for me, and probably for many others, AM has been a strong antidote to the urge to cheat. Spending some time on AM taught me the following:  
(1) I'm nothing special—there are millions of other men looking for the same thing, and most of them are younger and better-looking.  
(2) The women on AM are nothing special—the few who even bother chatting with you are often looking for money, and your wife starts looking damn good by comparison.  
(3) The whole thing is basically a scam to separate horny middle-aged guys from our wallets. And it doesn't even have the relatively honest sleaze of a strip club.

– Ashley Madison Mark

There's no way to tell the difference between an Ashley Madison member who came to his (or her) senses before cheating, like AMM here, and a member who fucked a dozen other people—or, for that matter, a member who had a good reason for being on the site...

I'm one of the men caught in the Ashley Madison hacker net. But as pissed as I am about the bullshit—the company's lies about the security of its site, the hackers' self-righteous moralizing—I can attest to the fact that one can get what one is looking for on that site. Yes, there were a lot of fake profiles. Yes, there were a lot of pros. Yes, there were women looking to steal your identity. Seriously. But once you figured out the game, you could find a lot of real women on that site who were looking for someone to spend time with. I'll be pissed if I get busted as a result of all of this, but joining that site helped me reclaim my sanity after a sexless 25-year marriage.

– Don't Attack This Adulterer

Slogging through the Savage Love mail for the last 25 years has convinced me of this: Some married people have grounds to cheat. Men and women trapped in sexless or loveless marriages, men and women who have been abandoned sexually and/or emotionally by spouses they aren't able to leave—either because their spouses are economically dependent on them (or vice versa) or because they may have children who are dependent on both partners. It would be wonderful if everyone who felt compelled to cheat could either negotiate an open relationship or end the one they're in now, but there are cases where cheating is the least worst option for all involved.

Now, I don't know the particulars of DATA's marriage—why it's been sexless for so long, what the damage is—but if seeking sex elsewhere allowed DATA to stay sane and stay married, and if the marriage is otherwise affectionate and low-conflict, and if DATA's wife didn't want to see her marriage end, DATA may have done her a favor by getting on Ashley Madison. Loyalty isn't something we can demonstrate only with our genitals.

I'm an Ashley Madison user in an open relationship with a bi woman. I can assure you that a large number of AM users—hundreds of thousands—are also in open relationships. The hackers made no effort to distinguish between adulterers and people in consensual, honest relationships. They are smearing thousands of people as adulterers who are much more honest in their relationships than the average person.

– Healthy Openness Not Egregious Sexual Trysts

The hackers also made no effort to protect Ashley Madison members living in countries where adultery is punishable by death. Along with all the cheaters, wannabe cheaters, and people in honest open relationships, HONEST, the hackers exposed hundreds of people living in Saudi Arabia—some of them gay. Do the people out there saying AM members are getting what they deserve realize that some are going to get their heads cut off?

I am a data-security attorney. One important point that seems to be missed by those celebrating the Ashley Madison hack is that while cheating is not illegal, unauthorized hacking is. While some may find cheating morally reprehensible, it is not so morally reprehensible in this country that there are laws prohibiting it (anymore)—it's not even a misdemeanor. On the other hand, hacking into someone's system and accessing data without authorization is considered so morally reprehensible that we have state and federal laws against it. Also, there are state and federal laws that apply to sites like Ashley Madison around properly securing their data and not making promises about security or handling of data (such as whether data is deleted). It will be interesting to see what actions, if any, may be taken against the site. I predict this is just the start of attacks against sex-oriented sites

– Who Is Next?

Almost everyone has posted stuff online anonymously, has privately shared pictures and fantasies, and has a browser history that could screw up their lives if that info were dumped into a searchable database that named names. The people celebrating the Ashley Madison hack might have more sympathy for the victims—the fantasizers and the cheaters—if they contemplated their own vulnerability. We are all one malicious hack, one lost cell phone, or one vindictive ex away from the kind of exposure and humiliation and, in some cases, the kind of ruin that the AM members are facing today.

On the Lovecast, you are COMMANDED to listen to Dan and Mistress Matisse: savagelovest.com.

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





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# FIRST PERSON

Photo: Joannes Wong

“Once something gets popular people queue up for it like crazy. But they can just as suddenly queue up at other shops.”



**Ronnie Cheng** is the co-founder of Lab Made, Hong Kong's first liquid nitrogen ice cream parlor. He tells John Robertson about being an entrepreneur, going from pharmacist to ice cream maker, and turning officially classified "dangerous goods" into a Hong Kong sensation.

**I grew up** in Kowloon Tong, where I live now.

**I attempted my first** small business when I was just 6. I tried to rent out parts of an encyclopedia set to people on my school bus, for \$1 a day.

**I was naughty** at school. I was bad academically too.

**It looked like** I would fail the HKCEE [secondary school exams], so my parents sent me to boarding school in the UK.

**I only realized** when I got there that I could barely speak English.

**I had a hard time.** I would go to the phone box at night and call my mum and cry, saying how much I wanted to go back. But slowly I was able to fit in, and did really well.

**I started a small business** while in the upper sixth. With a cooker I brought from Hong Kong, I bought cheap eggs, sausages and burgers from the supermarket and sold them in sandwiches.

**It was modeled** on the cart noodle business here, where you get to choose your toppings. I ended up not having to ask for money that year.

**I applied** to do medicine at university, but I did badly in the interviews. My backup was pharmacy, which I chose because I didn't want to spend time in the lab.

**At the University of Manchester** I met my girlfriend Jenny, who is now my business partner.

**In my second year** I found myself having spent all my money at the casinos in town. I needed cash quickly, so I came up with a new business idea: I created hoodies for the pharmacy faculty.

**I had a friend** design them and we came up with a tagline: "Licensed drug dealer." In the first week we netted 600 orders.

**When I had to do a year's training** in pharmacy, I acted strategically. I went down to Weymouth, a place I knew I could get promoted quickly because of little competition.

**I worked** for Boots there and worked hard, trying to learn everything and do more than what was required of me. I looked at ways to boost sales for the company.

**I became** a pharmacy manager at the same time I qualified as a pharmacist. When I returned to Manchester, I was a few levels above my former classmates.

**I first encountered** liquid nitrogen ice cream in 2011. I was in London with my girlfriend and a friend told me about this hip new ice cream parlor in Camden.

**When we got there** the smoke was coming out and it all looked so cool. It also tasted better.

**I'd always wanted** to start my own business, but I'd never found the right opportunity. When I saw liquid nitrogen ice cream, I thought, "This may well be it."

**We went home**, did our research, and saw that there was nothing like this in Hong Kong.

**We bought a big tank** of liquid nitrogen in Manchester, put it in the garden, and started learning how to make ice cream with it. We downloaded many recipes online, and we mastered it after six months.

**There were many challenges** when we started out. Liquid nitrogen is a Category 2 Dangerous Good here and we were told we weren't allowed to do it. But after consulting lawyers, the fire department, and researching online, we found the right gap in the law.

**My girlfriend Jenny** is in charge of making the ice cream. She grew up in England and like a lot of Chinese parents hers owned a chippy, where she developed an interest in cooking.

**A clear-cut division** of our responsibilities prevents us from having many arguments. She looks after the ice cream-making, the development and design of flavors. I look after the management.

**Once something gets popular** in Hong Kong, people queue up for it like crazy. That can make it both a good and a difficult place to do business. While you may see sudden success early on, people can just as suddenly start queuing up at other shops if you don't have something strong to bring them back.

**In the beginning** I wanted to build Lab Made up big and have it go on the stock market. I wanted to be in the spotlight as an entrepreneur. But now what motivates me is making sure my girlfriend and family are healthy and happy.

**I suffered a lot** by starting a business in Hong Kong without having worked as an employee here. There are things I didn't know about, like the particular ways people deal with each other in business here.

**My advice to young people** wanting to start their own business is this: Take your time.

## NEED TO KNOW...

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