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A Little Less Conversation

Chief Executive CY Leung said this week that debating Hong Kong's independence is not necessary, because Hongkongers' interests are the government's priority. We're not so sure about that, but we're also pretty sure that debating Hong Kong's independence is not necessary because it's such a silly idea. Still, it's got us thinking about unnecessary debate. Where else could Hong Kong do with a little less discourse?

ATV.

Hong Kong's oldest television station was finally unplugged this week, after years and years of battling the inevitable. Financial and managerial difficulties meant that it never really stood a chance. Still, on the bright side—we never have to hear the phrase "free-to-air TV license" ever again. Ha! As if.

Legco.

Maybe if we just ignore the city's increasingly shrill lawmakers, they'll realize that everyone's stopped listening to them. Then they'll reach out to try and find out what's got society so unhappy. They'll put their differences aside and work together in a spirit of co-operation to get some good work done for the city's struggling people, leaving Hong Kong happier and stronger than ever before. Hey. Hey! Time to wake up and go to work! It was aaalll a dream...

Which International School to Send Your Kids To.

If you don't have kids, any talk of debentures or IBs is excruciatingly boring. If you do have kids and you're talking about international schools, then you're of a sufficiently lofty socioeconomic status that your bitching about it is both irritating and insulting.

The Future.

The film "Ten Years," which envisions a dystopian future for the city, won best picture at the Hong Kong Film Awards. It's a compelling argument that the city is deeply unsettled about the future, and its awards recognition only makes that clearer. We say: Eh, why talk about it so much? It's not like anything's gonna change because of what we say. The government is already looking out for our interests, remember?

The Panama Papers.

The world's biggest-ever leak revealed countless examples of the global ultra-rich and the ways in which they squirrel away their money offshore. People linked to the leak include relatives of the prime ministers of the UK, Iceland and Pakistan, as well as friends of Vladimir Putin. There also appear to be links to the families of Chinese leaders past and present, which we will never talk about ever again. Got it?

The Rugby Sevens.

Reader, you are about to dip into an issue of HK Magazine that's more full of Sevens talk than the South Stand. If this doesn't interest you, skip to page 19. Or better yet, maybe just put down the magazine and come back next week. We'll all be happier for it.

Who's in charge?

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WEBSITE...

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Asia Business Council



HOME



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

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

What's with the streakers at the Sevens? – Naked Ned

Rugby is a British sport—and at heart, there's just nothing more British than getting your bits out and running through public places.

But streaking at the Sevens has a long, hallowed history. The Sevens' first streak happened just before the finals in 1986: Jonathan Titley of the 6th Gurkha Rifles and a fellow officer stripped down to their desert boots and ran the length of the pitch, carrying the flag of Brunei's Pirates Rugby Club. And so history was made, and the Sevens has seen streakers most years ever since.

Hong Kong—and the world's—most famous streaker is Briton Mark Roberts, who started his global streaking career in 1993 at the Hong Kong Sevens, when he streaked not once but twice—including during the final, when he grabbed the ball and scored a try before converting it.

The whole thing started, as all Hong Kong stories do, as a drunken bet: At the now defunct Yelts Inn bar in Lan Kwai Fong, no less. But once Roberts had pulled off his clothesless canter, he discovered that he liked the attention. Really, really liked it, in fact. As of 2013 our home-grown streaker has got his bits out some 518 times at events around the world: Mostly sporting tournaments, but his meat and two veg have also graced such august events as the Turner art prize, the Mr. Universe Competition and the Cannes Film Festival.

In a very entertaining writeup of the streak on his website (thestreaker.org.uk), Roberts writes about being fortified by a couple of pints of beer before he flung his clothes off and himself over the barriers, saying "I would like to thank Carlsberg for helping me start off my career and becoming

'probably the best streaker in the world'." Some truths hold true, even 22 years on...

Sadly, Roberts appears to have hung up his, um, streaking cap. But the city's streakers have carried on, even if they seem to be wearing a few more clothes than they used to. Take 2010's "Furry Streaker," who sprinted across the pitch while dressed in most of an animal costume. He managed to climb the crossbar and even pretended to surrender, before leaping to his feet and skillfully evading three stewards and jumping into the stands, where he was finally apprehended.

Last year saw a streaker on the pitch wearing only a skimpy pair of speedos and running shoes, notable mainly because he was unusually handsome. But pity the poor harried pitch stewards, who have to lead barely clothed flesh past the baying, jeering, cheering South Stands. For the streakers, it's a moment of immortality. For the pitch stewards, it's just another job.



A streaker lets it all hang out at the 2010 Sevens



This week in My Perfect HK:

The Sevens isn't all big balls and boozing. If you're in the South Stand this weekend then wave hi to the box nearest to you, on the east side of the stadium. That's the charity box **Mission Possible**, which uses money raised from ticket sales to support Hong Kong causes. This year the charities are poverty alleviation group Crossroads, housing charity Society for Community Organization, food recycling group Foodlink, and construction worker helpers the Lighthouse Benevolent Fund. Last year they raised close to \$5 million—good luck this year, guys!

missionpossible.org.hk

Letters

"Clearly written by someone who has never had proper cart noodles."

Bussed In

Last week Mr Know-It-All explained to readers the logic behind Hong Kong's complicated bus numbering system [April 1, issue 1139]. Looks like we found a few bus-spotters on Facebook...

The article doesn't mention the more complicated district distinctions for bus routes. Eg. 3x for tsuen wan routes, 6x for yuen long/tuen mun routes, 8x for sha tin district routes, 9x for Sai Kung district routes, etc. So a route of 968 for example would definitely be a bus crossing the western harbor tunnel (9xx), and serving the yuen long/tuen mun districts (6x). As it happens the bus goes to yuen long (west) from tin hau.

Martin Maginn

I always wondered why there are many suffixes like c, d, etc rather than having another number for it. These buses do not even go to the same area :p

Stephan Ortmann

Lol; research helps, get to know your area!! The little transport book that comes with the maps of HK can tell you, if you know what area you want to travel to and from. Only way to find out in the days pre www!!!

Rebecca Holdaway

...and then theres the Green and the Red Mini buses.....just to make it easier.....

Ted Chong

Noodle Debate

Some Facebook readers disagree with our four-star review of Sai Ying Pun noodle joint High Street Cart Noodles [April 1, issue 1139].

Seriously average. The best thing about the place is some of the starters. Clearly written by someone who has never had proper cart noodles. Seriously HK Magazine - you're getting as bad as TimeOut with their food reviews.

Steven Carr

Honestly, the food is not good at all. It's a hipster thing, fake-vintage or whatsoever. If you want good cart noodle, go to the wet market in mongkok

Raphael Marie Cain

I live in that area and will not go there. It's a rip-off.

Dockter Rayment

It's simply not good at all I'm afraid....

Andrew Poon

Wouldn't eat this.

Peter Wong

The chinese noodle place across the street serves excellent beef and cha siu noodles in yummy soup base

Serruria Sans Greenleaf

#PrivateEyeHK

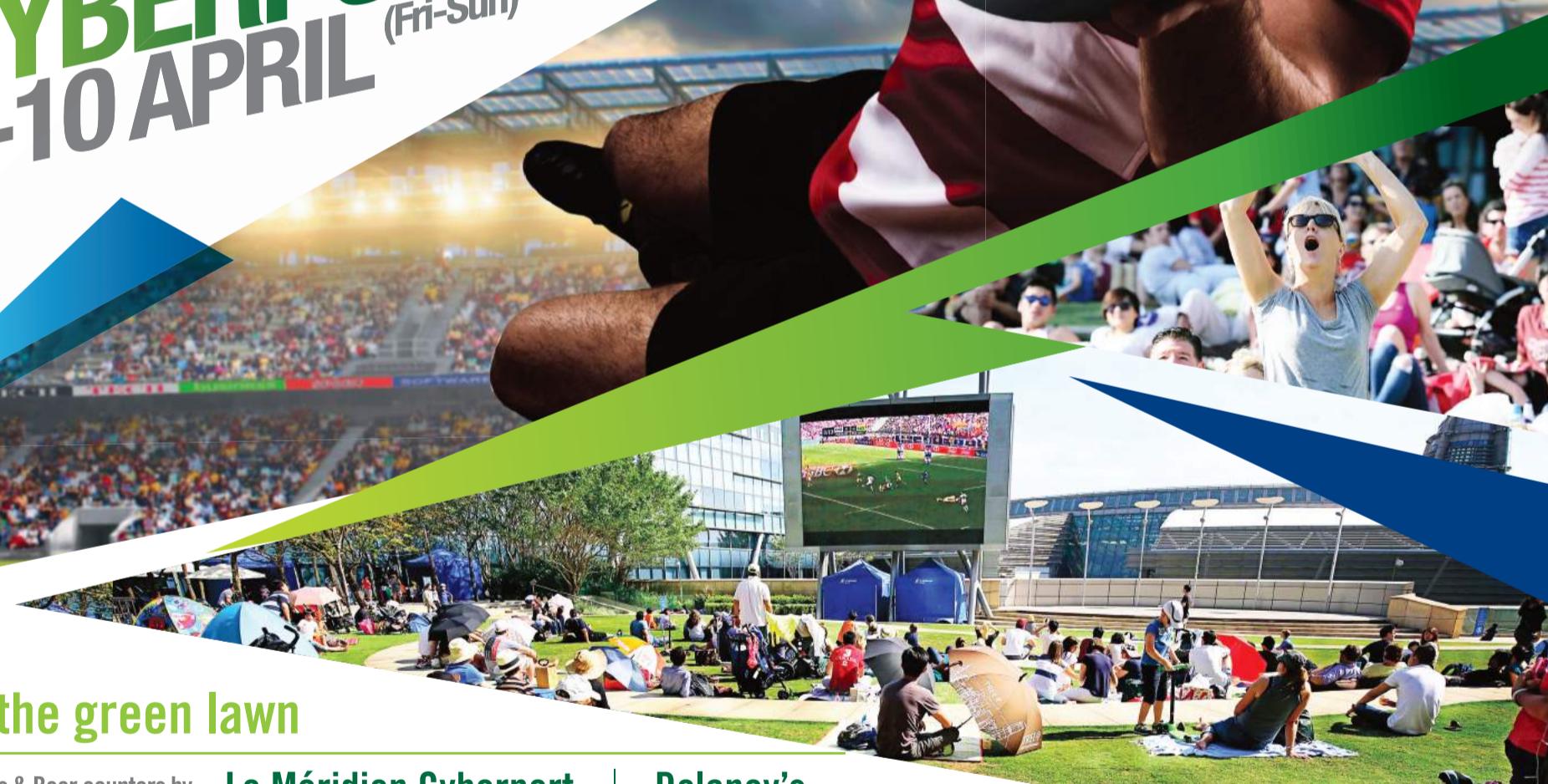


Contrasting Trio

Photo by Kristin Hartono

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THE WEEK



"Mediation" (2014) directed by Francisco Lorite

Friday April 15 Culture Club

The inaugural **Third Culture Film Festival** brings together more than 68 independent films in one three-day-long festival. Their first night features a curated collection of animated shorts from all over the globe, and a look into how our senses see the world.

Apr 15-17, 6:30pm. Loft 22, California Tower, 30-32 D'Aguilar St., Central. \$180 per screening block; \$1,080 for a three-day festival pass including entry to each day's after-party at Cé La Vi from thirdculture.cc/tcff

Friday 4/8

Ruck and Rolls

Who says you have to be stuck in crowded, sweaty Central or some claustrophobic sports stand to fully enjoy the Sevens? For meat-loving rugby fans, The Chop House in Causeway Bay and their brand new branch in Tsim Sha Tsui is offering a "Beast Feast" menu special for Sevens Weekend, which includes huge sharing platters of all kinds of carnivorous delights.

Apr 8-10. Causeway Bay: 3/F, Soundwill Plaza II Midtown, 1 Tang Lung St., 2771-3177; Tsim Sha Tsui: Shop 3013C, 3/F, Miramar Shopping Centre, 132 Nathan Rd., 2295-3200. \$198 per person, minimum two guests.

Saturday 4/9

Sado-Martha Stewartism

Looking to get a little crafty in the boudoir and beyond? **SallyCoco** has teamed up with Brothers Leathercraft for two workshops that teach you how to cut, sew, and make your own leather handcuffs.

2-6:30pm, G/F, 50 Po Hing

Fong, Sheung Wan, \$950 at broleatherxsallycoco2.eventbrite.com

Sunday 4/10

Salsa Sundays

Eat, drink and dance the day away with La Paloma. Their new **Salsa Brunch** series will fill you up with Chef Vito Chiavacci's new weekend brunch menu and free-flow cava, then get you sweating it out on the dance floor with a 60-minute salsa dance masterclass.

From noon, La Paloma. 189 Queen's Rd. West, Sheung Wan. \$400 brunch menu, free-flow cava for \$198.

Monday 4/11

Get SAWsed

Mondays don't have to be a drag when you're getting tipped and tapas'd. The **South African Wine Festival** features 120 wines to taste, as part of a month-long celebration of South African wines. Tickets include goodies such as a wine glass, \$200 discount for wine purchase and a \$200 Hotel Icon dining voucher.

6-10pm. Silverbox Ballroom, Hotel Icon, 17 Science Museum Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$240 for wine pass, \$380 for food pass; use promo code SAWINEHKMAG at ticketflap.com/wosafestival for 15 percent off.

Tuesday 4/12

Party Of The Quarter-Century

Pop your confetti, pop your Pérignon, because this Tuesday your favorite, free-est city mag holds **HK Magazine's 25th Anniversary Party**. For those who have registered, flash your confirmation email at the door. If you weren't lucky enough to land a ticket... Maybe try again for our 50th? hk-magazine.com

Wednesday 4/13

Oyster Fest

What better way to remind your loved ones how much you appreciate them than by taking them out for all-you-can-eat oysters? LIS Café is offering an **Oyster Fiesta Buffet Dinner**, which includes raw goodies and oysters galore from all over the world. Don't have the time to travel this year? You can at least taste oyster offerings from Scotland, Tasmania, Coffin Bay, Iceland and Normandy in one delicious night.

Apr 5-May 31. LIS Café, L'Hotel Island South, 55 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Aberdeen, 3948-8833. \$189-359.



Thursday 4/14

Gluten Freedom

Eating gluten-free doesn't have to be boring or needlessly fussy. **Urban Health Hong Kong Pop-Up Kitchen** is trying to expand the way diners approach their food: Join them on Thursday for dinner and some entertainment care of special guest chef Simon Orviss, otherwise known as The Travelling Chef. They'll be providing a five-course journey through Chef Simon's native South Africa, as well as tunes by DJ Surge.

7:30pm. OpenDoor Cafe + Courtyard, G/F, 120 Connaught Rd. West, Sai Ying Pun. \$400 from eventbrite.com

Saturday 4/16

Spring Street

Support small businesses and chow down on a hot dog or five as you do it. The second annual **Po Tuck Street Market** is upon us, and this year, it's feelin' green: there's a gardening workshop from Teakha, a pop-up plant shop, house-blended artisan coffee and more. Show up early: The first 100 attendees will get free hot dogs from Delicious. From noon. **26 Po Tuck St., Shek Tong Tsui, facebook.com/potuckstreetmarket**

Coming Up

Ambient City

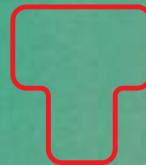
Since their 2011 breakout double album "Hurry Up, We're Dreaming," French electro group **M83** has enjoyed much success lending their sounds to movies such as "Oblivion" and "Divergent." This upcoming international tour marks their first album in five years. Don't miss their space-age dream pop when they hit Hong Kong next month.

May 4, 8pm. Star Hall, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay. \$480 from hkticketing.com





Produced and performed by



Toneelgroep Amsterdam
(Netherlands)

Presented by

Playwright
Jean Cocteau (France)

Director
Ivo van Hove
(Laurence Olivier Award 2015 for Best Director)

Cast
Halina Reijn



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M. Pierre Bergé, président du
Comité Jean Cocteau.



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Photo: © Jan Versweyvel | Design: Terrenz Chang @ aiVis

Last Week In Reality

SAT 26

Occupy Parking A man drives up to a parking space in the street but discovers a woman standing in the spot, blocking his way. The woman insists that parking space is hers and that a car is on its way. She sits down in the parking space and calls the police, telling them that she has just been hit by a car. Fearing trouble, the man leaves. He later returns to find the woman speaking to the police, and protests his innocence to the officers. The woman demands to have her "injuries" examined, but then flees the scene. The police lose her in the chase. Some netizens compare her actions to the Occupy Central protests.



SUN 27

Balloon Brawl In Tsuen Wan at 10pm, two couples are waiting in line to buy balloon animals when an argument escalates into a fight. One woman grabs the other by her hair and drags her along the pavement, kicking her. The first woman's boyfriend emerges from a nearby restaurant and joins the assault on the couple, yelling that he is the area's triad boss. By the time police arrive, both couples have fled.

MON 28

Balls Up A photo of a sign at the entrance of a North Point basketball court goes viral. On the list of banned activities, one line reads "No ball games." Netizens mock the sign, although others point out that the icon on the sign is a soccer ball, implying that no ball games other than basketball are permitted. The sign has since been replaced.



TUE 29

Pervert Alert An unemployed 21-year-old man appears in court on suspicion of taking more than 2,000 upskirt videos and pouring semen onto the hair of two teenage schoolgirls. The man is also suspected of installing CCTV cameras and following the two girls around his Ngau Tau Kok residential building, where the girls also live. The alleged crimes were discovered when the man was caught filming one of the schoolgirls in an elevator. While under police caution, he admitted to watching the schoolgirls and filming the upskirt videos for sexual gratification.

WED 30

Lost In Translation A photo of an out-of-order notice on an ATM at a local branch of an American bank goes viral. In English, the sign reads "cash withdrawal service suspended," while in Chinese it reads "cash deposit service suspended." Netizens criticize the English standards of the American bank, although others speculate if this simply means that only transfer services are available.



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THU 31

Porn Prohibition A photo of a section of the Owners' Covenant of DAN6, an industrial building in Tsuen Wan, is posted to Facebook. The covenant appears to contain a clause that bans individuals from viewing pornographic materials within the building. A Facebook user suggests this could mean the police Special Duties Unit would come for you the moment your pants came off. DAN6 made headlines on Tuesday when a corpse was found buried in concrete in one of its units.

FRI 1

Loosen Up, Fools "The police has successfully invited Michael Jackson to join the Police Tactical Unit, which will in future deal with rowdy public processions with singing and dancing," reads the caption on a photo which appears to show the late Michael Jackson running in formation with the police on the Hong Kong Police's Facebook page. Netizens condemn police for exploiting the dead pop star for an April Fool's gag.



Quote of the Week

"Amid a hot political atmosphere in Hong Kong, young people compete to be 'democratic' radicals. This may be attributed to a lack of exciting career prospects."

An editorial in Chinese state tabloid Global Times rails against the newly established Hong Kong National Party, blaming the city's youth for taking the easy path of politics instead of technology or business.

Talking Points

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

Defend CY, Make Millions

The government's top spin doctor has had a salary bump to some **\$3.8 million a year**—more than twice the amount he made when he started the job in 2012. Information Coordinator Andrew Fung has been ridiculed for **comparing his job to that of the White House press secretary**, despite numerous PR disasters under his watch. During 2014's Occupy protests he posted a photo of what appeared to be an injured policeman to Facebook—but which turned out to be **an actor starring in a TV show about zombie policemen**.

Our take: Let's face it—no amount of money could buy CY good PR.

MTR Increases Fares, AGAIN

For the seventh year in a row, the MTR Corporation will increase its fares, **despite earning a profit of some \$13 billion last year**. Before the MTR made the announcement, the government had asked the company to conduct a fare review a year early, amid **calls to control fare hikes**. The price rise, which will take place in June, means journeys will cost 20 cents more on average, and **fares for cross-harbor journeys will cost 30 to 40 percent more than public buses**. Compared with last year, the MTR will also be scaling back the amount of money they have set aside for fare discounts.

Our take: Why is it that we're not even remotely surprised?



Illustration: Elaine Tang



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Street Talk

Hung Hin-kong is the owner of Yau On Pawn Shop in Tai Po, and he's worked in the industry for more than three decades. His grandson, 23 year-old **Jeffrey Hung Ling-yu**, started his pawnbroking career at the shop when he was only 17. They tell Sophia Lam how they deal with gangsters, tricksters, and increasing competition from behind those bars.



HK Magazine: Why a pawn shop? Isn't the pawn industry on the decline?

Hung Hin-kong: When I was 40, I opened a pawn shop in Yuen Long with a few friends and worked there for five years. Then I quit and became a taxi driver for 10 years. A chance meeting with my old friends brought me back into the pawn business: I sold my car and started Yau On Pawn Shop in the 80s, during the golden age of pawn shops. We earned five times of what we do now. Now, we have an average of 20 customers each day. In the past, it was 80 a day. But the number of pawnbrokers has been increasing too. There are two to three hundred of us now. Competition is getting fiercer by the minute.

HK: It's rare to see a young man working at a pawn shop. What's it like?

Jeffrey Hung: The biggest downside of working here is not being able to meet new friends. The people I see the most are my grandfather and uncle. I once felt like I was working in a cage, but not anymore—every job imprisons you in some way. Now, the job is starting to grow on me. I've learned more about jewelry and watches. It's not something you learn in the classroom.

HK: You must have had some interesting encounters working here.

HH: Lots of parents come to us with valuables like gold and other precious stones, to scrape together an education fund for their kids. Customers are also getting younger these days. Some parents can't afford to give their kids lunch money, so it's not uncommon to see 12-year-olds trying to pawn their phones. About 20 years ago, a man tried to rob us. He charged into our store with a hammer and tried to break the display cabinet where we put our jewelry. He went at it for a while but he just couldn't break it. He ran away, but came back a minute later for a second attempt. He didn't stop until we threatened to call the police. In the end, we had to buy a new cabinet because he'd cracked the surface.

HK: Wow! What are some other customers like?

JH: Some customers pop in because they're in urgent need of cash. But then there are those who want to rip us off. They try to distract us by flooding us with unrelated questions, so we cannot focus on judging the authenticity of what they're pawning. One time, I was tricked into pawning a fake diamond for thousands of dollars: It turned out to be

crystal. We also get lots of gangsters and druggies. Maybe that has something to do with this district.

Sometimes, they'll try our patience with badly made fake watches. We pretend to examine them before sending them away. One time, a triad member who didn't seem to be doing well framed us for damaging his bracelet. We knew it wasn't our fault, but we helped him repair it anyway just to stay out of trouble. In this business, we try our best to steer clear of complications.

HK: There must be some good news too!

JH: A few weeks ago, an ex-drugie who had been a customer came in and started telling us the story of how he had quit drugs and how supportive his family was. He just wanted to update us on his condition, because he was glad that we never looked down on him.

HK: Are you going to inherit the shop, Jeffrey?

JH: If I can, yes. After all, with all the effort I've put into this business, it's only natural that I want to stay here. It's hard to make big bucks, but it's a stable job.

Yau On Pawn Shop, Shop 14, G/F, Jade Plaza, On Cheung Rd., Tai Po, 2665-1876.

Blowing Water

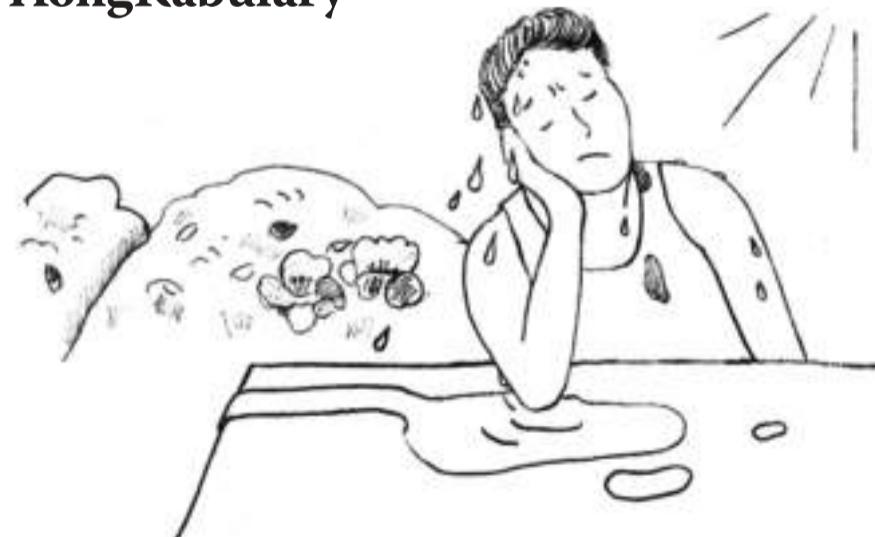
吹水 (*chui sui*), v. Cantonese slang. To chat, bullshit.

se6 bo1
射波

"SHOOT BALL"

"Pull a sickie." People who pull sickies pass off their responsibilities to others like someone passing a football.

HongKabulary



April Pools (əprɪlz pu:lz), n.

That first day of warm weather after a long winter, when you're suddenly reminded of how you're about to be immersed in a pool of sweat for the next six months.

"Help me pull off this sweat-drenched leather jacket. I just fell into an April Pools."

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HK

HOW TO BE A SEVENS SUPERHERO

Superpower your way to the perfect Sevens weekend with HK Magazine's indispensable guide to the game, the matches—and the South Stand. By **Adam White**

The Day-by-Day

The day by day rundown of how to win the Sevens.

Friday

A chilled-out start. The afternoon is quiet, and people start sneaking out of work early to hit the stadium at around 5pm. After 6pm the Sevens World Series matches begin in earnest, and then it's a matter of a steady build until 9pm, which the stadium pours out into Lan Kwai Fong and Wan Chai. Don't go too hard today, or you'll be left wondering what hit you on Saturday. (This is also an ideal time to try and hook up with someone who can get you into a corporate box.)

Saturday

Go early and go hard, along with everyone else in the Stadium. Remember 1) what happens at the Sevens stays at the Sevens 2) Yes, that probably is urine which just fell out of the sky 3) Everyone's here to have a good time, especially the middle-aged cross-dressing nuns.

Sunday

Hangovers rule the first half of Sunday, which also makes it a great day to snag a great seat before the groaning masses. But by lunchtime the crowd's up and ready to go again, and they'll power through to the 7:30pm final. Hope you took Monday off work...



What to Watch (and When)

What's worth paying attention to on the pitch...

Friday

11am	Youth rugby showcase
1-5pm	Qualifier matches
2:50pm	Hong Kong v Cayman Islands
5:02pm	Hong Kong v Germany
5:24pm	Women's Rugby Sevens Final
5:46pm	Opening Ceremony
6:10-9pm	Sevens matches
9:12pm	End of Day One

Saturday

7am	Gates open
9-11am	Qualifier matches
10:50am	Hong Kong v Zimbabwe
11:18am-2pm	Sevens Matches
2:14pm	Team March Past/David Hasselhoff concert
3:18-6pm	Sevens Matches
6:16-7:30pm	Qualifier matches
7:44pm	End of Day Two

Sunday

7am	Gates open
9:30am-1pm	Sevens World Series Matches
1:30-4:18pm	Sevens semifinals
4:30pm	Qualifier finals
5pm	Shield final
5:30pm	Bowl final
6pm	Plate final
7pm	Cup final
7:30pm	End of Day Three

The North Stand

The North Stand is the South Stand's **relaxed, easy-going, older brother**. While there are pockets or rowdiness, this is a great and much calmer place to check out the action without the risk of someone throwing a beer at you because you looked at his Hodor-from-Game-of-Thrones costume funny.

• Scalpers

Haven't been able to land a ticket through official channels? Scalpers line the route to the stadium **selling tickets**, most of which have been bought from the overseas ticket allocation. That explains why they're almost all large, bald, slightly threatening middle-aged British blokes.



Hong Kong Stadium

The stadium was built in 1982 as the 28,000-seat Government Stadium, but as a result of the Sevens' popularity it was expanded into the current 40,000-seat Hong Kong Stadium in 1994. And yes, it's still way too small for all the people who want to go. This year there were just 9,000 individual daily tickets up for grabs, or 3,000 per day—the bulk of the tickets go to the city's rugby clubs.

The East and West Stands

The logical place for any sane person to watch the Sevens: there's good access to drinks and food, seats are fairly easy to come by and the toilets are relatively clean. How boring.

The Corporate Boxes

Not for the likes of mere mortals, the Corporate Boxes are a whole other Sevens experience. Free-flow drinks and food, air-conditioning, and the only people behaving badly are your boss and your company's CEO.

The East and West Stands (Upper Levels)

The upper levels of the stadium offer commanding views of the pitch and all the action: It's worth scaling the steps just for a look from **the bird's eye perspective**, although you might have to wade through the large groups of international schoolkids who tend to camp out in the upper reaches. The main problem with the upper levels is that there's no alcohol allowed, which limits enjoyment for many.

Mission Possible Box

Say hi to charity box **Mission Possible** at the far southeast of the stadium. Thanks for making it about more than just booze, guys!

What to Pay Attention To On the Pitch

All Hong Kong matches. Have some pride! Any matches with Fiji or New Zealand. The two top-ranked teams are always worth tearing your attention away from your beer for.

The Haka. The New Zealand All Blacks are legendary for their Haka, the Maori war dance. In 2014 the All Blacks won the Hong Kong Sevens and then stripped off their shirts in the pouring rain to perform the Haka, in a move that turned every eye and straight man in the stadium.

David Hasselhoff. The Hoff is this year's star guest, and he'll be wandering the stadium as well as masterminding Saturday's lunchtime concert.

The South Stand

This is where it all goes down. The South Stand is **part-bacchanal, part-public exhibition and all fun.** It's a costumed, riotous mess of booze, jokes and some occasional passing attention paid to the rugby. It's the party to end all parties in Hong Kong, and you have to be there.

Problem is, the South Stand is a victim of its own popularity. Especially on Saturday, you'll have to get there early to get in. Last year the gates opened at 7am and the **South Stand was full by 8:30am:** after that a one-in-one-out policy applies, which means long surreal queues sandwiched between the group of sexy LCSD street sweepers and the group of sexy localists. Show up by 7:30 at the latest to avoid this.

Meet and Greet Area

Grab an autograph and **meet the hometown heroes** between the North and West Stands, or try your best to melt into the arms of the inevitably good-looking Fijian and Australian sides.

Kely Support Group

The teenagers' support group provides a chill-out area for teenagers who've taken the Sevens as an opportunity to discover that yes, indeed, they should have limits. Although it's not like the adults are setting much of a good example.

Upper West Stand next to the escalator, Upper West Concourse, Main Concourse.



So What the Hell Is the Rugby Sevens, Anyway?

Rugby Sevens is a lightning-quick, seven-a-side game of rugby. Each half lasts just seven minutes, with a two-minute-long half time. The only exception is a final, which has 10-minute halves.

Players form into a "scrum" and attempt to drive the other team away from the ball, so that it can be picked up and put into play. **The ball can be kicked or carried forwards, but it can only be passed backwards.** The goal is to touch the rugby ball behind the other side's goal line," scoring a "try," worth five points. You can then "convert" the try by kicking it between the posts for an extra two points.

There are so few people on the pitch that the game is **more about deftness and agility than brute strength.** At its best a Sevens game is spellbinding as a player ducks, dodges and leaps their way past the other side, chaining passes into a final, exhilarating try. And with each game lasting just 16 minutes, the energy never goes away.

What to Wear in the South Stand

Are you going costumed or uncostumed?

I don't need no stinkin' costume. Wear clothes that you don't mind burning afterwards. Cheap slip-on shoes are always a good idea. High-heels are a major no-no.

Costumes all the way, baby. Costumes are always appreciated and you've got a good chance of making the front page of the papers if you're original/sexy enough.

Alternatively, pick costume components that can be easily swappable with the hot guy/girl next to you.

Head to Central's Pottinger Street, which has been the city's costume mecca for years. It'll be full of other last-minute Sevens shoppers.

Don't black up! Seriously. Every year there's always a few people who have donned black face paint as part of some unfathomable "banter." Don't do this. Why are we even having to say it?

The More You Know...

Learn some facts about the Sevens that you can educate bore your seatmates with during the lulls. Some examples:

When was the first Sevens held? "1976. Actually, it was the first rugby tournament to take on commercial sponsorship in a big way—Rothman's and Cathay Pacific, which sponsors the tournament to this day."

Who's won the most trophies? "I think you'll find that defending champions Fiji have won the tournament more times than any other team—a total of 15 trophies."

Who's playing for the first time? "Trivia bite! The Cayman Islands is debuting for the first time, making it the 60th nation to compete in the tournament."

Did you know that—"Yes, yes I did. The Rugby Sevens makes its Olympic debut at the Rio Olympics later this year. All of the teams that qualified for the Olympics will be playing in the Sevens, which makes it a pretty good barometer of the summer's medal tally—and saves you the airfare to Rio, too."

Why are the beer cups so huge in the South Stand?

"As a matter of fact, the one-liter cups of beer were introduced when pitchers were banned in 2006, after lairy South Standers started flinging the heavy plastic jugs back and forth."

Getting There...

Hong Kong Stadium is about a 15 minute walk from Causeway Bay MTR, Exits A or F1.

55 Eastern Hospital Rd., So Kon Po, 2895-7926.

By all means share a cab to the stadium, as long as your friends are not useless and flaky, like 90 percent of all Hong Kong friends. Taxi drivers tend to know where you're headed as soon as you get in. It's probably because you're dressed like a slutty Doraemon.

...and Leaving

Taxis leaving the stadium are a nightmare: They all hike their fares. But this year the Rugby Union has put on a bunch of free shuttle buses to alleviate the load. Buses run every six minutes to Lan Kwai Fong and Admiralty MTR, from Cotton Path to the north of the stadium. Bus times are Friday 9:30-10:30pm, Saturday 7:30-9:30pm and Sunday 7:30-8:30pm.

Gearing Up

Obtain and bring the following items:

Hand sanitizer and tissues. Even if you don't think they're necessary, you'll reach a point when they can be bargained for drinks or food.

Plastic raincoats. They're horrible, sticky and you won't look cool, but they're also the best way to survive the sudden thunderstorms that inevitably hit the Sevens. Also, when someone throws a cup of what you are really, really hoping is just warm beer at you—it'll slough right off.

Painkillers. You'll be day-drinking for HOURS. Ward off that early onset hangover however you can.

Sunblock. You'll be everyone's best friend.

Prep The Music

No one ever accused the Sevens DJs of being original. Expect 20-second blasts, alternating, of the following:

"Hey Baby (If You'll be My Girl)"

by DJ Otzi

"Sweet Caroline"

by Neil Diamond

"It's Like That" by Run-D.M.C.

"I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)"

by the Proclaimers

"Who Let the Dogs Out?"

by Baha Men

"Mambo No.5"

by Lou Bega

Yeah, that's pretty much it.

Sevens Safety Advice

Pace Yourself. If you got to the South Stand nice and early, you'll probably be cracking into the big liter cups of Carlsberg pretty sharpish. All well and good, but remember that it's 8am and by noon there's a good chance that you will have consumed literally four liters of beer. A liter of Carlsberg contains 3.8 units of alcohol, so that's **15.2 units of alcohol before lunchtime.** So take it easy in the afternoon, yeah?

Be Wary of Weird Suntans. The Sevens sun is subtle and lethal. If you're wearing a neckband, beer holder or you're just in an inventive costume, prep for the kind of tan that people will be asking about at work for the next week.

Plan Your Nap. If it all gets a bit too much, you're going to need a quick midday nap. But there's no worse idea than just nodding off in a boozy haze in the middle of the South Stand. Retreat to somewhere out of the way—we suggest the upper levels of the East and West Stands—or you WILL wake up with a pair of gonads resting on your shoulder. This has literally happened. More than once.

Keep Your Valuables Safe. Not from thieves. At the Sevens, the greatest risk to your valuables comes from liquids of all kinds. If the rain doesn't get you, then the beer—or way worse—will.



Meet the Players

We meet three members of the Hong Kong Sevens Squad.



Ben Rimene | Scrum half

Ben, who grew up in New Zealand, is a long-time member of the Hong Kong Sevens squad.



Natasha Olson-Thorne | Winger

Hongkonger Natasha is the Captain of the Hong Kong Women's Rugby Sevens team. This is her debut as captain of the senior team.

James Cunningham | Prop

Hong Kong-born Aussie James makes his Hong Kong Sevens debut this year.

HK Magazine: What's the best and worst part of the Sevens?

James Cunningham: It will be my first Hong Kong Sevens so you'll have to ask me on April 11! It's really different to fifteen-a-side and I'm learning heaps. At this stage there are absolutely no negatives.

Natasha Olson-Thorne: Best part—it's an exciting weekend and great chance to watch good quality international rugby. Worst part—Trying to get transport home on Sunday evening after the finals.

Ben Rimene: The best is playing in front of a home crowd, which is always a good buzz and something I never thought would happen growing up in New Zealand. The worst part is people asking for tickets to the Sevens when you never hear from them any other time of year. The South Stand could fit into both the best and worst categories.

HK: What do you think of the stereotypes about rugby players?

BR: We don't just travel and play rugby—like every profession there are lots of hard yards and behind-the-scenes work that no one sees.

NOT: One of the good things about rugby, especially for women, is that it defies a lot of stereotypes. For example, that you have to be a certain physique to play rugby, which is not true. It's a sport that's open for anyone to join.

HK: What does playing on the Sevens squad mean to you?

NOT: The Hong Kong Women's Rugby Sevens is important for me because it was the first Sevens tournament where I represented Hong Kong. It's also a chance for us to play in front of our home crowd, in front of our family and friends, and against world-class international teams.

JC: It's such a well-respected competition with some great players. It's been my dream to play international rugby and I'm extremely lucky to be involved in such a great program with a good bunch of guys and coaches.

BR: Speaking for all of the squad, we know we are privileged to be in the position we are in. The Sevens is really special. You are competing against the best Sevens athletes in the world so it's a good challenge, both personally and as a squad, to compete at that level. Playing for my adopted country as part of the home team is something I'll always remember.



Photo: PSI for HKRU



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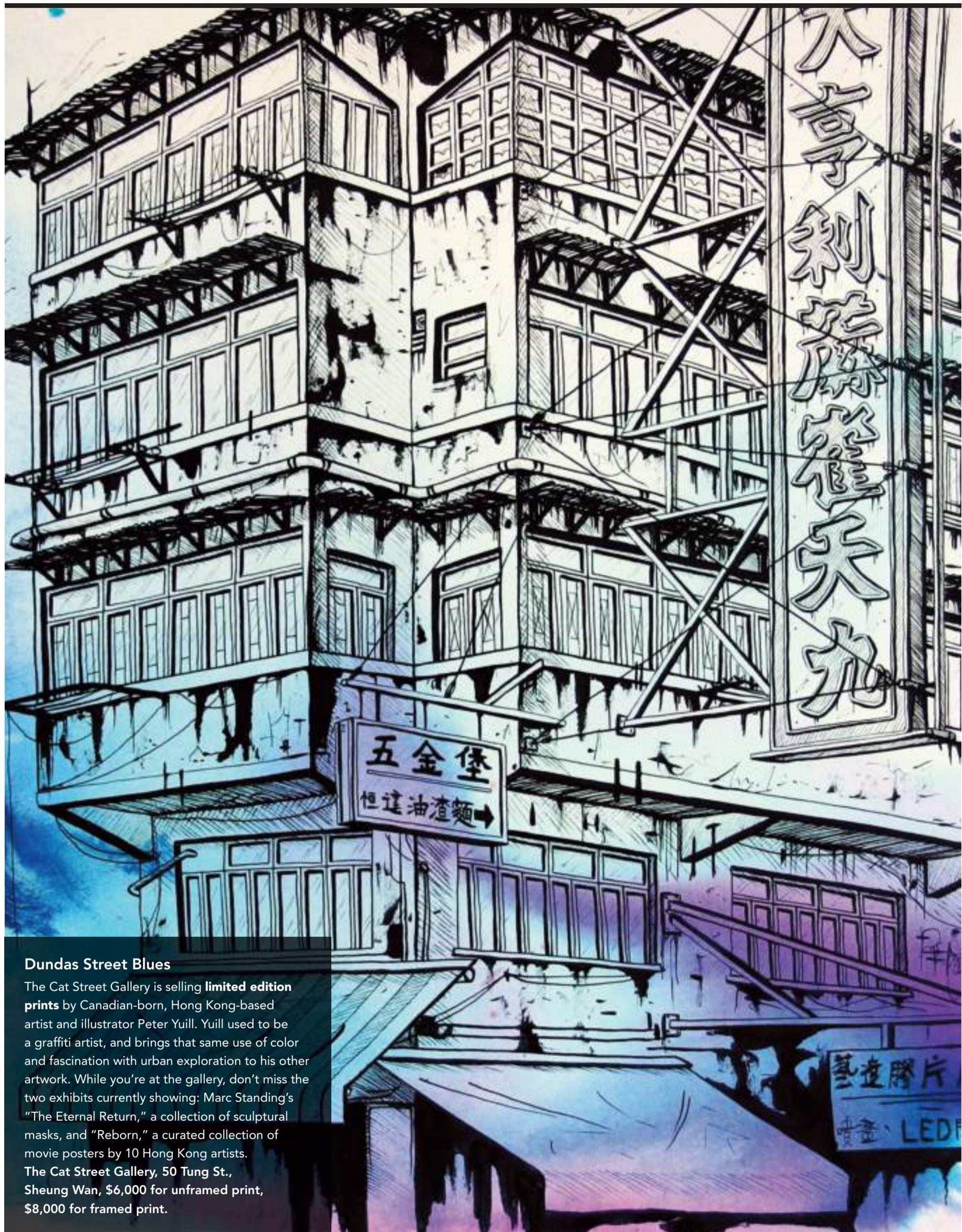
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Dundas Street Blues

The Cat Street Gallery is selling **limited edition prints** by Canadian-born, Hong Kong-based artist and illustrator Peter Yuill. Yuill used to be a graffiti artist, and brings that same use of color and fascination with urban exploration to his other artwork. While you're at the gallery, don't miss the two exhibits currently showing: Marc Standing's "The Eternal Return," a collection of sculptural masks, and "Reborn," a curated collection of movie posters by 10 Hong Kong artists. The Cat Street Gallery, 50 Tung St., Sheung Wan, \$6,000 for unframed print, \$8,000 for framed print.

GOOD LOOKS

Edited and styled by Rafael Raya Cano

Instagram @RafaelRayaCano | rcano.co



The Sevens Style Guide

Not going to the Rugby Sevens in costume? You can still dress well without looking out of place among all the crazy people. I've enlisted a bit of help from ex-Hong Kong rugby squadmember Jen Mackay (who currently plays for Valley RFC), to show how you can don a simple sporty outfit for the day—and just add accessories and essentials to get the perfect nighttime look for your post-Sevens clubbing.



Sevens Essentials

Make a statement with some cool sunnies. Get a pair of shades at the Ladies Market in Mong Kok, where there are thousands of pairs with different styles, colors and shapes. You can easily get a pair for \$30. Bargain!

Pack everything in a light bag with separate zipped pockets for wallets, phones and valuables to make sure your things are kept safe! This bright bag from **G.O.D.** is ideal for the Sevens—you won't lose it in the crowd of costumes, plus it can double as a clutch.

Cross-body bag, \$580 from G.O.D., 48 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2805-1876, god.com.hk

If the sun is out, you'll be standing in the stadium for the whole day. Often, that means you'll get sunburned, not tanned. A good sunblock or sunscreen is essential.

Body mineral sunscreen with SPF 30, \$215 from Suntegrity @ gourmetskinbar.com

Glam Jam

For nighttime, don't forget to put on a sexy bold lip to glam up your sporty day look, but you'll want to keep your expensive makeup at home. Here, Jen's wearing a magenta shade from the inexpensive **Kiko Milano**—an Italian make-up brand that launched here last year.



Endless Love lipstick (limited edition), \$79 from Kiko Milano, 3/F, LCX, Ocean Terminal, 3-27 Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2405-1388.

Pop and Ruck It

Choose a sexy top that will keep you feeling fresh and stylish. Blue, pink, orange or yellow—it doesn't matter what color it is, as long as it pops. This yellow silk top from **Grana** is a perfect example.

Silk tank top, \$226 from The Fitting Room by Grana, 108 Hollywood Rd., Sheung Wan, grana.com

For the Guys

The same rules apply for men! If you want to look fresh and go out after the games make sure to wear a cool statement t-shirt, and opt for some comfy and stylish shorts, preferably colorful—but remember, no tank tops or swim shorts: You're not at the beach. Throw in a cool cap to protect you from the sun and up the look.

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

Get Frocked

To match the atmosphere of the Sevens, you'll want to make your outfit colorful and fun. Throw on some crazy neon accessories like this beaded set from Hong Kong-based jewelry brand **What the Frock!**

Wooden necklace with tassel, \$199; Pink agate bracelet, \$199 from What the Frock!, whatthefrock.net

Feet First

Wear comfy shoes—you'll be on your feet the whole weekend. If you're afraid your kicks will get damaged, get a pair of cheap white *baak fan yu* sneakers: They're just \$25 and you can get them from most markets and stores. When you're ready to hit the bar or club after, break out these shiny fold-up flats from Spanish brand **Golondrinas**, which are also easily washable.

Flats, \$950 from Golondrinas, Unit 205, Wing Fu Building, 22-24 Wing Kut St., Central, spanishshoes.hk



Short Work

Standing outdoors in the stadium all day can get hot. Make sure you're ready for that with a pair of nicely fitted shorts. These beautiful and chic silk crepe shorts from **S.Nine** are ideal for a day-to-night look.

Jackie silk crepe shorts, \$2,800 from S.Nine by Susanna Soo, 17/F, C Wisdom Centre, 37 Hollywood Rd., Central, 9779-2445.

ESCAPE ROUTES

Edited by Sophia Lam
sophia.lam@hkmagmedia.com



A private pool villa makes for the perfect party house at Angsana Lang Co.

Looking to spend a weekend away from the 'Kong? Head to one of these hot tropical destinations and settle down in a private villa with a group of your best buds.

For the Action Seekers

Angsana Lang Co, Vietnam

Does an itinerary loaded with outdoor activities sound good to you and your thrill-seeking buddies? Then the **Angsana Lang Co** in Da Nang might be just what you're looking for.

We recommend the double-story lofts if you're traveling with a group: Enclosed in glass walls, you can enjoy an unbroken view of the forest surrounds—even from the bathtub. The package also includes a timber sundeck and an outdoor pavilion for you to perfect your tan.

The Laguna Water Sports Center is heaven for those who are hot on adventure—from kayaks to water skis, the center has it all. Round up your friends for a banana boat ride and hold tight as the motorboat hauls you across the bay. When you're tired of gliding across the cobalt sea, hop onto an all-terrain vehicle to trace the nature trails.

After an action-packed day, get a kick out of your own infinity pool while you drink in a spectacular view of the open sea. Barbecue al fresco on the 3km stretch of beach, or if the weather looks gloomy, challenge your friends to foosball or head to the award-winning Angsana Spa for a signature hydro-treatment.

How much? \$4,815 per night for a six-person loft.

How much per person? \$805.50 per night

Cu Du Village, Loc Vinh Commune, Phu Loc District, Thua Thien Hue Province, Vietnam, (+84) 54-3695-800, angsana.com/en/ap-vietnam-lang-co

For the Luxe Loungers

Iniala Beach House, Thailand

If you can't be bothered to move a muscle on holiday, here's the perfect destination to fulfill your life's purpose as a couch potato (with friends, of course): the all-inclusive **Iniala Beach House** on sun-drenched Natai Beach in Phang Nga, Thailand.

Revel in the three-bedroom Collector's Villa that can accommodate up to eight at a time. The villa features plushy starfish sofas and anemone chairs for an under-the-sea feeling without having to move from your relaxing roost. Take your pick of an eclectic collection of bedrooms to suit your mood, each created by a different designer—the Owner's Suite offers a blend of tropical elegance, while the Boudoir is a playful space decorated with silk and crystal.

Spend the day lazing around your beautiful villa and take pleasure in the sparkling water of the Andaman Sea from the courtyard view. If your squad feels like a pampering sesh, call on the personal spa therapist for a refreshing beauty treatment. Your group will be spoiled with an attentive staff including a driver, butler, chef, spa therapist and housekeeper. Opt for the all-inclusive package for three meals a day, in-room movies, airport transfers and more. It's not cheap, but share the price with a bunch of friends for a luxurious holiday. As the saying goes—the more the merrier.

How much? \$25,710 per night for the Collector's Villa (sleeps eight), \$29,084 for the all-inclusive package.

How much per person? \$3,213 per night, or \$3,635 for the all-inclusive package.

40/14 Moo 6 Baan Natai, T. Khokkloi A. Takuathung, Phang-nga 82140, Thailand, (+66) (0)7645-1456, iniala.com

For the Oddball Group

Kaliandra Eco Resort and Organic Farm, Indonesia

It's a well-known fact that traveling with a group can be hard: one person may want to hit the beach while another wants to shop, while you just feel like lounging around the resort. Take your odd bunch of friends to **Kaliandra Eco Resort and Organic Farm** where you can look for adventure or laze around at your leisure.

The 40-hectare site offers an excellent playing field for an array of activities: Those who are constantly bubbling with vigor can join a half-day horse-riding excursion to tour nearby villages, or ride off to catch the sunrise at the active volcano Mount Bromo. Those seeking serenity can take a shot at longevity with their enzyme detox therapy where you soak in a bath of enzymes, or take a gamelan class to master the traditional Javanese musical instrument.

All the produce Kaliandra grows on the organic farm goes directly to their kitchens, so no matter what you do during the day, you can be assured of a fresh and bountiful dinner back at the resort. At night, head for a massage at the Kaliandra Wellness Retreat and feel good from the inside out with, all profits going to fund the Kaliandra Sejati Foundation which works to develop the local community.

For a group of six to 10, Kaliandra's wooden two-story bungalows come at a dirt-cheap price for the perfect party pad. The bungalows are located on the upper grounds so you can let loose without disturbing the other tenants. Better still, there's a plunge pool just below. Ready to dive in?

How much? \$1,463 per night for a two-story bungalow (for six people, \$1,800 for 10), includes breakfast.

How much per person? From \$180 per night. **Dusun Gamoh, Desa Dayurejo, Kecamatan Prigen, Pasuruan, East Java, Indonesia, (+62) 31-568-2912, kaliandrasejati.org**



Lounge all day at Iniala Beach House

Mister Lava Lava . . .

In need of some lava cake lovin'? We scope out the best fondants in town that put a twist on one of our all-time favorite desserts. By **Leslie Yeh**



◀ Hot Chili Peppers

Brickhouse's chili-spiked chocolate cake (\$75) is like everything at the rough-and-tumble, uber-trendy Mexican joint: rustic, unrefined, and bearing a spicy, tongue-tingling kick. The free-form cake barely holds together a luscious flow of melted chocolate, which spills out on the colorfully patterned plate, engulfing everything in its path. The chili note adds a subtle savory undertone to the dessert, best paired with one of Brickhouse's equally tongue-tingling cocktails such as the Cubano (\$115), a potent mix of grilled pineapple, reposado tequila and mezcal.

20 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-0560, brickhouse.com.hk

Caramel Bomb

If there's one thing to keep in mind when planning a meal at **Gaucho**, it's to come on an empty stomach. Between the moreish cheesy bread puffs and juicy spiral cut ribeye, you'll be wishing you had another stomach for dessert. Thankfully, we all do! The calorific meal at Gaucho can only end with caramel-laden mouthfuls of the dulce de leche fondant (\$78), with a boozy amaretto curd, chocolate crumble, vanilla ice cream and fresh fruit to top off the devilish dessert.

5/F, LHT Tower, 31 Queen's Rd. Central, 2386-8090, gauchorestaurants.com.hk

Matcha Made in Heaven ▶

Smooth and creamy, white chocolate makes the perfect blank canvas for a matcha dessert. Its sweeter characteristics contrast with the slightly bitter green tea, while matcha powder colors the melted white chocolate a vibrant green shade. At French bistro **Comptoir**, chef Hoi-kit Chan masters the balance of these two flavors, with a white chocolate green tea fondant (\$60) that's rich, creamy and robust with a herbal green tea flavor. Paired with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, it's the perfect post-meal sweet to round off a decadent French dinner.

42 Forbes St., Kennedy Town, 2453-9873, french-creations.com/comptoir

▼ When All's Bread and Done

What's better than sitting in a cute, Parisian-themed café surrounded by flora and fauna? Eating cute Parisian-themed pastries and desserts while you're there. If you can't decide between a croissant and a cake, opt for **Bread n Butter**'s signature fondant pudding, which features the two in a beautiful bready, cakey mash-up: a tower of toasted breadcrumbs drenched in a butter and egg mixture, with a liquid core of melted chocolate. It goes best with a café au lait and a dose of people-watching from your perch in PMQ.

Shop HG01-05, G/F, Block B, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central, 2110-3668.

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Follow us on Instagram @hk_magazine and tag your best foodie shot with #HKMagDish for a chance to win a \$300 dining voucher from 208 Duecento Otto! Winner will be announced next Friday via Instagram.





▲ Duck, That's Good

A new modern Cantonese joint in Wan Chai, **Kasa** is all about quirky and creative Cantonese dishes that blend Chinese and Western influences. The savory dishes will win you over, from Scotch eggs made with steamed minced pork and preserved vegetables, to a Japanese char siu burger with ginger mayonnaise—but when it comes to dessert, nothing impresses more than the duck yolk lava cake. A bright yellow, perfectly formed lava cake with just a tinge of golden browning, the dessert bursts open with a melted buttery, eggy core, with the salty hints of duck egg offsetting the sweet cake. It's a sensational dessert, and all for just \$38.

Suite 103, 1/F, Shui On Centre, 6-8 Harbour Rd., Wan Chai, 2659-9189.



▼ Seasons of Cake

If you're lucky enough to snag a table at **Tenku Ryugin**, one of Hong Kong's top kaiseki restaurants, you'll want to save a little room for their signature fondants, which rotate with the seasons and ingredients on hand—but mainly chef Hidemichi Seki's culinary whims. The last wintry creation boasted a glossy, silky green tea liquid core oozing from a chocolate crust, with sake ice cream and fresh berries on the side. The fall version had a chocolate core dusted with matcha powder with pumpkin seed ice cream... we can only dream of what chef Hidemichi will come up with for spring. 12-course set menu is \$2,180 + 10 percent. 101/F, ICC, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, 2302-0222.



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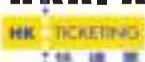
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Edited by Leslie Yeh

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The foie gras trio from Chez Patrick

The Tasty 10

If you've been a fan of chef Patrick Goubier (Chez Patrick, La Table de Patrick) for years, you won't want to miss the commemoration of **La Table de Patrick's 10th anniversary** (6/F, Cheung Hing Commercial Building, 37-43 Cochrane St., Central, 2541-1401) with 10 of Chef Patrick's all-time favorite dishes, bringing back favorites such as lobster bisque with black truffle foam, foie gras trio, smoked baby eel with fennel mousse and warm crab fritters. The five-course anniversary menu lets diners choose between one of two dishes for each course, so there's really only one logical way to attack this: grab your BF (or BFF) and book a table for two to share all 10 dishes, culminating in mains of black angus beef fillet with smoked foie gras, and salmon trout fillet with asparagus and red bell peppers. For an extra \$98, you'll get a selection of matured artisan cheeses after dessert; and for \$300 more, enjoy expert wine pairings with each course.

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Playa de Papagayo ★★★★★

Shop N3, G/F, Podium Plaza, 5 Hanoi Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui 2739-1808



The culinary scene in East TST is a chaotic contrast of upscale hotel eateries and gritty, alley-way dining. You never quite know what you're going to get—most of the time, it's just a gamble. Unfortunately, we got the short end of the stick at Playa de Papagayo.

HIT While the slow-cooked octopus (\$88) was overcooked and chewy, the mashed potatoes underneath were fantastic and we couldn't get enough.

MISS We ordered the deluxe "toasty" platter (\$118), a chef-recommended tapas plate. When they said "toasty," we assumed it meant the tapas would be

served hot—but no, they were served on literal pieces of stale toast. The first thing we tried was the foie gras terrine toasty: It tasted like the musty smell of a wet dog in the summer, with a salty rush attacking your tongue after it was chewed. Next came the shrimp and mango toasty: The shrimp was old and tasteless, and we didn't like the mix with spicy mango. After these catastrophes, we went for the assorted cheese platter (\$108), thinking it was a safe option. The cheeses were hard, old and served with stale pita chips. We finally tried the sautéed calamari with chorizo (\$78): The calamari was overcooked and chewy and we had difficulty cutting it, while the tomato sauce was overpowering and there was barely any chorizo to be found.

BOTTOM LINE Go to Papagayo for the drinks. They served them quick and strong—and we all left to enjoy our weekend boozed up and ready to party.

**Open Sun-Thu noon-3am;
Fri-Sat noon-3am. \$\$**

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

NEW AND NOTED



Tuna tartare with charcoal-grilled bread at the InterCon

Argentinian After Party

After all the Sevens revelry this weekend, you might be in need of a pick-me-up to get you over that massive hangover with, yep you guessed it, more booze. **Gaucho's bottomless brunch** (5/F, LHT Tower, 31 Queen's Rd., Central, 2386-8090) is one of our favorite new deals to hit Hong Kong's bubbly brunch scene, with a live DJ, unlimited cold and hot starters and beefy hunks of steak. The meal begins with a zesty trio of tuna tiraditos, salmon ceviche and shrimp chicharron, followed by baby back ribs, juicy chorizo sausage and fresh empanadas. For mains, you'll each get three 100g cuts of beef fillet, rump and Gaucho's signature—the "Tira de Ancho" ribeye slow-grilled with chimichurri sauce. Dig into the salted dulce de leche and hazelnut cheesecake to top off the meal. There are three packages to choose from (from \$400) but we recommend "The Virtuoso" (\$600) for the full deal: free-flow wine, beer, cocktails, spirits and sparkling.

Follow the Lamb

So you've been working 12-hour shifts and didn't make it out of Hong Kong for the Easter holidays... time to take a break and treat yourself (and we really mean treat, because it's going to cost a pretty penny) to a fabulous meal at the InterContinental Hong Kong's **Steak House Winebar + Grill** (18 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2721-1211). A haven for meat lovers, the InterCon has introduced a new seasonal menu to entice diners, starting with fresh Spanish-imported seafood such as the jumbo prawn cocktail (\$380), air-dried salmon with Siberian caviar (\$450), and tuna tartare with charcoal-grilled bread (\$368). For meats, it's all about the lamb—a USDA Colorado T-bone chop (\$790) that's thick and juicy, cooked to a pink blush. If you're more of a beef eater, the dry-aged porterhouse and Australian wagyu can't be beat, served with 12 types of mustard and eight exotic rock salts. If that won't get you off your holiday blues, we don't know what will.

For more in-depth reviews,
visit [hk-magazine.com!](http://hk-magazine.com/)

Satay Inn ★★★★☆

Singaporean. Shop 3, Tower 1, Podium Level, The Royal Pacific Hotel & Towers, China Hong Kong City, 33 Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2738-2368.



Singaporean eatery Satay Inn has had a recent revamp and reshuffled its menu with help from The Fullerton Hotel Singapore's Asian sous-chef Kelvin Wong—so we expected things to be pretty legit.

■ **HIT** The Bah Kut Teh (\$88) came first: a solid, peppery, beefy, but not too medicinal broth served with fried dough sticks and other condiments. However, for \$88 it was a fairly small portion. Our large order of chicken, pork and beef satay sticks (\$198 one dozen) was the highlight of our lunch (it is named Satay Inn after all)—well-seasoned

and chargrilled until just tender, accompanied by a fresh hot satay sauce packing plenty of peanut flavor. Another favorite was the fried turnip cake (\$108)—full of wok hei and aromatic from the sweet, dark soy sauce, spring onions and chilies, but not overtly spicy.

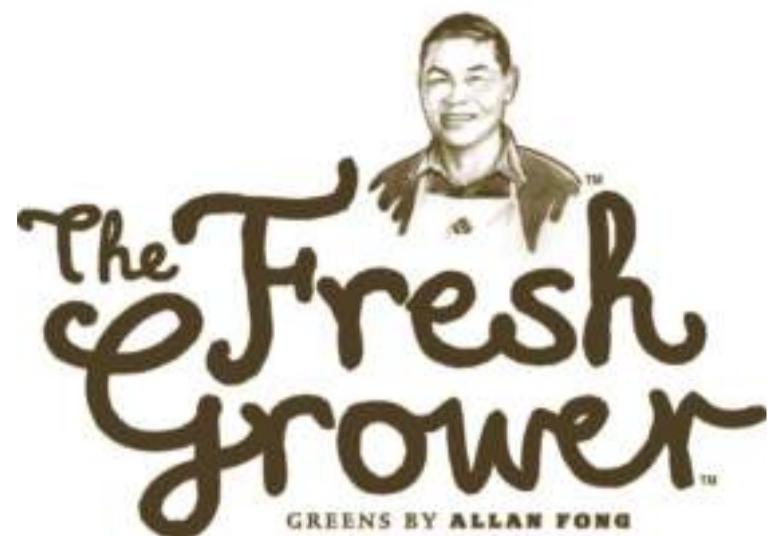
■ **MISS** The Hainan chicken rice set was disappointingly mediocre, especially for its price (\$142). It came in largely boneless pieces with some cartilage, with flavorless, rubbery skin, and too-lean meat. Even the chicken taste in the chicken stock rice was minimal. There are definitely much heartier and more exciting Hainan chicken rice sets to be had in town for half the price.

■ **BOTTOM LINE** The clean, comfy surrounds and attentive service here deserve plus points. With the hotel atmosphere (and prices to match), it's more of a joint for a fancy weekend lunch.

Open Daily noon-11pm. \$\$

Our Policy

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



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Tel: 2185 7825

CITY STROLL

Tin Hau

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



7 Hong Kong Central Library

The city's main library was considered a notorious eyesore when it opened in 2001, but it's grown on us over the years. It holds a huge collection of books, periodicals and documents, and regular talks and exhibitions keep us coming back.

66 Causeway Rd., Causeway Bay,
3150-1234.



9 Lung Fung Café

Another celebrity owned café—this time it's actor Alex "Jazz" Lam and director Tony Tang—Lung Fung is famous for its soft, creamy scrambled eggs. Old-school décor mixes with more modern fare, like spam and eggs topped with caviar, at this cha chaan teng.

G/F, 108 Electric Rd., Tin Hau, 2618-3003.



11 La Belle Epoque

This studio welcomes everyone from knitting newbies to the darn skillful, with tutorials held on occasional Saturdays so you can raise your yarn game. They also sell knitted toys and trinkets if you're in the market for unusual gifts.

Flat 1605, 16/F, Corn Yan Centre,
3 Jupiter St., Tin Hau, 6769-4655.



8 Auntie Sweet

Co-owned by TV star Moses Chan and TV producer Jonathan Chik, this dessert shop serves traditional desserts with a twist, such as chocolate tofu fa pudding with a slice of chocolate that melts on top. Mango fan? try their "mango orchestra" dish.

G/F, 13 Tsing Fung St., Tin Hau,
2508-6962.



10 Cameo's Kitchen

Good news, healthy foodies: The made-to-order egg waffles and puffs at Cameo's kitchen are made with Japanese rice flour to a low-sugar, low-oil recipe. But the taste and texture are both still there, with a light vanilla note and a spongy mouthfeel.

Shop 16, G/F, Golden Court, 2-8 Yacht St.,
Tin Hau, 2608-2109.



12 Ice Puff

Wish there was more to life than boring old egg puffs? Ice Puff specializes in more unusual tastes, such as Belgian 60 percent dark chocolate or cheddar cheese and truffle. But there's more: it's all wrapped around a scoop of gelato. Wish granted.

G/F, 78 Electric Rd., Tin Hau. 6718-3342.



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



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An average junk charter can't meet all your expectations? Breakaway offers one of a kind junk trip. Hire our all-inclusive motor yacht for your boat trip. We customize your junk trip around beautiful islands, from Lamma Island to Sai Kung beaches, with one-stop worry-free service.

Contact details: 6180-5059
www.breakawayhk.com



Natural Black Angus at \$88 only

Cafe Deco Group has launched an affordable bistro item, Black Angus Beef (\$88 only), which is only available in this April! This Australian 100% Natural Black Angus is 100% grass-fed and 100% guarantee on hormone and chemical free. Handled with a simple yet delicate grilling technique, the Angus beef is definitely a healthy choice for diners.

For more details, please visit our website http://www.cafedecogroup.com/images/flyer_88steak_promotion.jpg

Horn master Radovan Vlatkovic Plays Richard Strauss

One of the leading instrumentalists of his generation, horn master Radovan Vlatkovic will collaborate with Hong Kong Sinfonietta on 23 April, performing Richard Strauss' Horn Concerto No 1 under the baton of Principal Guest Conductor Christoph Poppen. Programme also includes Haydn's "Military" Symphony and Brahms' Symphony No 1.

Ticketing enquiries & booking:

2111 5999(URBTIX)

Programme enquiries:

www.HKSL.org / 2836-3336



Critics' Choice 2016

Plays and films are unique in their own way, what about the crossover of the two? Six film adaptations of plays selected by film critics will be screened from April to September, namely Grigori Kozintsev's "Hamlet" (1964), David Lean's "Brief Encounter" (1945), Volker Schlöndorff's "Baal" (1970), Richard Brooks' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1958), Shinoda Masahiro's "Double Suicide" (1969) and William Wyler's "The Little Foxes" (1941).

Tickets: \$55 at URBTIX

(HK Film Archive/ HK Science Museum)

Enquiries: 2734-2900 / www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp



Savour the authentic taste of Beijing

Guest chefs from the renowned Dong Lai Shun restaurant in Beijing will take Dong Lai Shun (Causeway Bay) patrons on a culinary tour of their classic cuisine from April 5 - 18, as they present a menu that showcases the traditional recipe of their historical city. Highlights included Mashed Yam with Blueberry Sauce and Fried Mutton Slices with Apricot in Sweet and Sour Sauce.

26/F, Soundwill Plaza 2 – Midtown, 1 Tang Lung Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong



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2016 Sundance Hong Kong Short Film Showcase

Sundance Institute and The Metroplex are bringing Hong Kong film lovers an exciting event celebrating short films - the 2016 Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong Short Film Showcase. From April 20 to June 26, 2016, A selection of three short film programs featuring a variety of Sundance Film Festival shorts between April 20 to June 26, 2016 at The Metroplex.

Screening and ticketing details are available at hk.sundance.org and www.metroplex.com.hk



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CULTURE

UPCLOSE: DANIEL LO

Composer Daniel Lo Ting-cheung debuts his new piece "Efflorescence" this Saturday at the Hong Kong Sinfonietta's season opening concert. He tells Jessica Wei about his compositions, life as a contemporary music composer, and taking inspiration from Mother Nature.



HK Magazine: You call your new piece a "quasi-concerto for orchestra." How does that work?

Daniel Lo: I wanted to play on a few of the characteristics of the traditional concerto, so I put in the word "quasi" to avoid the expectations of a full range of features commonly associated with this musical form. A concerto is usually a piece of music for one or more solo instruments accompanied by the full orchestra. But since the 20th century, there have been composers who have worked with apparently contradictorily-titled "concertos for orchestras." In my case, I wanted to emphasize the soloistic, virtuosic treatment of various individual instruments or sections in the orchestra. That's why I chose this

title. When I first knew that I had to write a piece for the Hong Kong Sinfonietta's season opening, I wanted to write a piece that was festive, vibrant and energetic, and then I came up with the idea of doing a concerto for orchestra to emphasize the different characteristics of different players.

HK: A lot of your pieces tend to be themed around nature. What appeals to you about nature and the seasons?

DL: One of my recent compositional interests is focused on the generation of music as an interactive process, including different kinds of spontaneity within the performers, or even audience involvement. This resembles the systems of nature, which actually include a lot of spontaneity. Back in the classical period, a lot of composers wrote pieces about nature, but the way they were doing it was often trying to mimic or reproduce the atmosphere of nature, a lot like classical paintings. But to me, the most interesting thing about nature is its spontaneity.

HK: Are there many opportunities for new Hong Kong composers in the city or do you have to go overseas?

DL: In Hong Kong, honestly, there aren't so many opportunities. But it's the same case all over the world. As a composer, you have to travel all over. But the good thing is, nowadays, there are a lot of different festivals and competitions that you can participate in. To me, the most important part of being a composer is that the compositions are being performed. In Hong Kong, there's only the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, or perhaps the New Music Ensemble, who commission work from new composers. It's not easy. So I guess the good way is just to fly around the world and get different opportunities from all over.

HK: That doesn't sound so bad.

What's your favorite city, musically?

DL: I would say Berlin. I've been to Berlin four times now, and each time I stay for about two weeks. There's a contemporary music festival in Berlin in March every year, and it's one of the most prestigious contemporary music festivals in the world. The good thing about Berlin is that the living standard is not very high, so it's cheaper than London or New York.

HK: You've composed for soloists, chamber orchestras and larger orchestras. Do you have a preference?

DL: I like big sounds, so I love composing for orchestras and large ensembles. I'm interested in doing performances combining mixed media and vocal music, so the next thing I would like to do is a chamber opera, or a voice ensemble. More recently, I have watched a lot of contemporary operas and I'm very interested in that. So that would be my next thing, I guess.

HK: How does the process of creation vary?

DL: I think it's quite different. I like collaborating with different artists. I just did a performance at the Cattle Depot Artist Village, and it's a site-specific performance for amplified string quartet, field recordings and interactive speakers. The audience can move around the space and the speakers can interact with the movement of the audience as well as the musicians. In this generation, you can't really only do acoustic music.

Hear "Efflorescence" by the Hong Kong Sinfonietta on Apr 9 at 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, \$140-340 from urbtix.hk. Catch his new piece "Encounter," a commission by the Szymanowski String Quartet on Apr 23 at 7:30pm. Grand Hall, University of Hong Kong, \$150 from cityline.com.hk

Classical



The Philadelphia Orchestra

From Philly to Hong Kong, the renowned Philadelphia Orchestra is in town for two nights. The program includes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 and Beethoven's String Quartet in F minor "Serioso." We're hoping for a teamup with the HK Phil, so it'll be an HK-Philly-HK-Phil gig. May 19-20, 8pm. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, \$300-1,250 from urbtix.hk.

Mostly Debussy III: Humour in Late Debussy

Kick off the Le French May arts festival with a study of one of France's most beloved composers. In preparation for the 100th anniversary of Claude Debussy's death in 2018, HKU has organized a series of Debussy-themed lecture/recitals. In the third instalment Lucas Wong, assistant professor of piano at Soochow University School of Music, traces the humorous side of the great man. What do you call a French maritime composer? A Debusea! May 5, 6:30pm. Grand Hall, LG/F, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong, Bonham Rd., Pok Fu Lam, muse.hku.hk, free.

Dance



I, Carmen

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

La Partida

Flamenco dancer Adrian Santana returns to Hong Kong for a one-night performance of his new show, "La Partida" ("departure"). Santana depicts his personal experiences of both Spain and Asia, through the medium of dance. Performing in collaboration with both Spanish and Hong Kong dancers and musicians, this is looking like one multicultural passion-fest.

May 14, 8pm. Youth Square Y-Studio, 2/F, 238 Chai Wan Rd., Chai Wan. \$280-450 at ticketflap.com/lapartida.



Beethoven "Emperor" Concerto with Saleem Ashkar

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

Musical

Gypsy! A Musical Fable

The musical that launched Stephen Sondheim's career and turned the stage mother into a theater trope is coming to Hong Kong. "Gypsy" tells the story of a stubborn mother who will do anything to get her two daughters into show business—even if the business is striptease. Don't miss this performance by The Hong Kong Singers. May 4-7, 7:30pm. Studio Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2111-5999. \$300-320 from urbtix.hk.

Theater



The Illusionists

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

Swan Lake on Ice

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

A Tale of Two Cities: Blood for Blood

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



Tiddler And Other Terrific Tales

Kids will love this rollicking journey through farm, sea and jungle, which brings to life colorful characters from Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's best-selling books "Tiddler," "Monkey Puzzle," "The Smartest Giant in Town" and "A Squash and a Squeeze." Presented by the award-winning Scamp Theatre, "Tiddler and Other Terrific Tales" should bring a grin to the faces of audience members young and old. May 6-8. Performances at 11am, 2pm and 4:30pm. Drama Theatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, 3128-8288. \$195-435 from hkticketing.com.



4.48 Psychosis

The play "4.48 Psychosis" was completed just months before its British playwright Sarah Kane's suicide, and was performed for the first time shortly thereafter. Her suffering resulted in a true-to-life interpretation of clinical depression that's now performed globally. Don't miss Bonnie Chan's self-directed performance at Theatre du Pif. May 12-15, 8:30pm. Studio Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2111-5999. thtdupif.com. \$160-240 through urbtix.hk.

Exhibitions



Claude Monet: The Spirit of Place

Need some Monet in your life? Go check out the French impressionist's masterpieces at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum's Claude Monet: The Spirit of Place. This exhibition will feature over 16 of Monet's most emblematic artworks including the famous water lilies of "Nympheas." May 4-Jun 11. Hong Kong Heritage Museum, 1 Man Lam Rd., Sha Tin, heritagemuseum.gov.hk. \$10-20 at the door.



Wyng Masters Award Exhibition

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

Arts Festivals



Affordable Art Fair

Didn't get enough of art madness this month? You won't have to wait long to get your art fix again as the Affordable Art Fair returns in May, featuring paintings for sale that are slightly less damaging to your bank account. Best for those who are new to collecting, this art fair offers an easy and fun introduction to the city's art scene. May 13-15. Grand Hall, HKCEC, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai, affordableartfair.com. \$80-150.



Ocean Art Walk

When we save the oceans, we'll save the planet. Ocean Art Walk is an artistic and educational festival and installation that drives this point home through visual art and live performances. There's a large-scale "walk-in" aquarium with hundreds of fish made by over 1,000 professional artists and young people, a theater performance presented by performers of the Youth Art Foundation with music composed by Violaine Corradi and Rose Winebrenner from Cirque du Soleil, and more. Apr 1-24. Stanley Plaza, 23 Carmel Rd., Stanley, hkyaf.com.

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NIGHTLIFE

UPCLOSE: OUISSAM MOKRETAR



Ouissam Mokretar is the co-founder of party promoter, booking agency and production label Cliché Records. Four years after creating the label, Cliché is celebrating its birthday. Evelyn Lok sat down with him to talk Hong Kong's changing music scene, the matured sound of Cliché and their new club which launches in Hanoi this summer.

HK Magazine: What was the Hong Kong underground music scene like when you first started Cliché?

Ouissam Mokretar: When I arrived here five years ago, the underground music scene wasn't that good for me. There was a little bit of a techno scene, but I was frustrated with staying in the city that I liked, but wanting to leave because of the non-existent music underground scene. That's why Cliché was

created. It was trying to connect people who were into groove, house and disco music. The goal was not to fill a club, it was getting the right people for a night and just having some fun.

HK: Has it been hard establishing and maintaining the label for the past four years?

OM: Today, we're celebrating four years and I'm so far from my old daytime job—I'm in my little world and I do what I love—but socially, it's different. You feel a bit disconnected from the real world, from daytime jobs and holidays—Tuesdays are our days off. It's hard to handle the career as well as relationships, because it's mostly nightlife. I can make a living but I can't plan too much and I don't know where I'm going. But I still love it. I feel alive every day and it's so good to do what you love, meeting others who share the same passion as you.

HK: Has the direction of Cliché's music changed?

OM: We've still got the same roots, which is disco groove, but the sound has become mature. In the past we've booked acts that were good for us four years ago, but looking back, it would be weird to book them again. We found ourselves, we feel complete and we definitely know what we want and where we're going, so we're also taking more risks to do what we want to do.

HK: What is the Cliché image today?

OM: If you think about Cliché or the Cliché parties, it's more an afternoon, evening vibe. It's a lot of smiles and happiness, people dancing and get-togethers. It's cozy, intimate.

HK: What's the idea behind your music label
Fragrant Harbour and the sub-label HomeSick?

OM: Fragrant Harbour Soundsystem is mostly house and

techno, all electronic sounds, which is more 2016. HomeSick is older, 80s and 90s, house, disco and groovy tracks—we call it HomeSick because we take old tracks and we play them again, in our own music. For Fragrant Harbour, we make it so that when you buy the vinyl it's all in Chinese. There's no English information on it, to show the local scene that they can be proud of this label. We really want to push Hong Kong on the [international] music scene, because Hong Kong has huge significance for our team. People in Europe or Asia who discover the label will know that it's from Hong Kong and they won't think it's done by four expats. It's not the expats who build the scene. The vinyl has to represent Hong Kong, and the people who work with us have to understand what Hong Kong is.

HK: You're working on a Cliché-owned club in Hanoi—what's the deal?

OM: We've had an idea for a club for several years: We ended up with Hanoi because the rent is cheap and it's close to Hong Kong. It's our venue where we can share our experiences from Europe, especially from Berlin, and we'll be throwing two parties a week. The opening will be in June. It would be amazing to open a venue here, but it's always the same problem: rent. I don't want to be in this situation. It's a tough decision but I don't feel ready yet. Maybe in two or three years.

Celebrate with Cliché Records' at their two-day anniversary party on Apr 22-23: a Friday gig at Kee Club (10pm, \$150 from ticketflap.com/clicheanniversary; \$250 at the door), followed by a Saturday after-party at Bassment (11pm, \$150 at the door).

Clubs

Play Presents:

Art Department

Underground House buffs (can we call them bassment dwellers?) will be psyched to catch Canadian electronic artist Jonny White of Art Department at Play. He'll bring his newest house, techno and electronica beats to the club. Apr 14, 10pm. Play, 1/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, RSVP at ArtDepartment.pelago.events.



Studio Presents:

Ryan Hemsworth

Sadly he's not another of the hunky Aussie Hemsworth brothers, but Canadian DJ Ryan Hemsworth will still be blowing your minds when he takes over the decks at Studio. Known for his remixes of Grimes, Frank Ocean, Tinashe and Cat Power, it's sure to be a hipstertastic night. Apr 22, 11pm. Studio, 1/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, RSVP through pelago.events.



Red Rack'em

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



Push x Volar Present: François X

A resident at Parisian label Concrete (label buddies with the likes of Shlomo and Ben Vedren) and a big player in the Paris techno scene,

François X makes his way to Volar this April. Apr 15, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2810-1510. \$250 from ticketflap.com/francoisx, includes two drinks before 12:30am and one drink thereafter; \$300 at the door before 12:30, \$350 thereafter, both include two drinks.

Paul Oakenfold at Pacha Macau

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

Jason Derulo at Club Cubic

Wiggle wiggle wiggle to Cubic's 5th birthday with Jason Derulo. Apr 9, 10pm-midnight (invite only), open to the public after midnight. Club Cubic, 2/F, Hard Rock Hotel, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, 2828 6696. \$450 from cubiccod.com, \$600 at the door.



Concerts

M83

If the promoters at YourMum haven't already burned a hole in your savings account with the exceptional lineups of the past few months, they certainly have now. Space-age hipster pop crew M83 is set to hit Hong Kong stage this May, touring their first studio album in five years. May 4, 8pm. Star Hall, KITEC, 1 Trademark Drive, Kowloon Bay, \$480 from hkticketing.com.

Nightlife Events

The Great Hong Kong Bar Race

It's boozy Amazing Race! In teams of four, you'll be tasked with solving riddles to decipher the names of five watering holes across Hong Kong Island, where you'll meet further challenges—the first seven teams to win get fabulous prizes, from bottles of bubbly to restaurant vouchers. All money raised will be donated to the Love 21 Foundation, which supports those with Down syndrome and autism in Hong Kong. Contestants must wear mismatched socks, a symbol for the Down syndrome community. Best sock game wins a dinner for two at Kinsale! Apr 23, 3pm. The White Stag, 52 Lockhart Rd., Wan Chai. \$1,200 for teams of four (\$1,000 early bird) from active.com.

Rosé Revolution

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



Gigs

Ladybeard Returns to Hong Kong

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



Jamie Lawson

The first artist to sign to Ed Sheeran's own label Gingerbread Man Records, Jamie Lawson is set to play the cozy KGV stage. The British singer-songwriter's best known for his chart-topping, YouTube-famous single "Wasn't Expecting That." Was anyone? Apr 29, 8pm. King George V School, 2 Tin Kwong Rd., Ho Man Tin, \$380-680 from ticketflap.com/jamielawson.

Charlie Lim & the Mothership

Don't let this unassuming Singaporean dude fool you. Indie singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Charlie Lim has been building up a name for himself ever since last year's double EP release, "Time/Space." He was even seen jamming with Hong Kong star Khalil Fong back in January. Don't miss his eclectic blend of indie pop, folk, R'n'B, electronic and acoustic tunes when he plays Hong Kong in May. May 22, 7pm. Hang Out, 1/F, Youth Outreach Jockey Club, 2 Holy Cross Path, Sai Wan Ho, \$280 from charlielim.pelago.events; \$300 at the door.



Edited by Evelyn Lok
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Mods vs Rockers 2016

May 16, 1964: Brighton, England. More than 1,000 teenagers faced off on the beach as rival sub-cultures the Mods and the Rockers came together in violent clashes. Grappa's Cellar pays homage to the historical meeting/general punch-up by bringing us alternate double sets of ska/reggae/soul and rock'n'roll all night. Hong Kong's best bands from each factions, The Red Stripes and The Boogie Playboys, will face off. Era Barbers will be onsite to provide free Mod or Rocker haircuts as part of the best-dressed competition, so get that hair greased or that suit sharp and come on down. May 14, 8:30pm. Grappa's Cellar, B/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, free.

Happy Hours



Free Flow Beers at Le Garçon Saigon

Vietnamese restaurant Le Garçon Saigon is extending its opening hours and offering a \$98 deal for free flow beers between 5-7pm. From hipster local Young Master Ales to French La Parisienne brews, you'll also be able to soak up that booze with a range of complimentary bar bites. Mon-Sun, 5-7pm. Le Garçon Saigon, 12-18 Wing Fung St., Wan Chai, \$98.



Moon Thai \$7 Happy Hour

Bring all your iron-livered pals: Michelin-recommended resto Moon Thai's happy hour gets you selected spirits for \$7 each in the first seven minutes of the hour, then a buy-one-get-one-free deal for the remainder of the hour. At each visit, you can also draw a card that decides what you pay for free-flow night market-style Thai snacks, from \$8 up to \$48. OUR BODIES ARE READY! Be sure to reserve a table in advance. Mon-Sun, 4-7pm. Moon Thai, 2/F, Holiday Inn Express Hong Kong, 83 Jervois St., Sheung Wan, 2851-1288.

Club Primo Thursday Ladies Night

Ladies can get in on a special cocktail free flow deal after 10:30pm every Thursday, where you can also bounce to old school hip hop and R'n'B jams by local DJ KitLi, aka iTiK. Every Thursday, 10:30pm til late. Club Primo, 7/F, 18 On Lan St., Central, free.



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BloomMe Girl's Night Out at Mahalo Tiki Lounge

Hong Kong spa booking app BloomMe is hosting a girls' night at Mahalo, where ladies can sip a BloomMe cocktail while getting complimentary onsite manis, blow-drys, temporary lash extensions and hand massages. Tickets also include a \$150 BloomMe cash voucher and a goodie bag, plus you get the chance to win prizes such as a spa retreat, jewelry or a cocktail class for five. Apr 19, 7pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, \$200 from GirlsNightOut.pelago.events; \$280 at the door.



Trivisa ★★★★

(Hong Kong) Drama. Directed by Frank Hui, Vicky Wong, Jeffons Au. Starring Richie Jen, Lam Ka-tung, Jordan Chan Siu-chun. Category IIB. 96 minutes. Opened Apr 7.

A gangster noir set in the late 90s with the Handover imminent, about three of Hong Kong's most notorious criminal masterminds: "Trivisa" couldn't be more of a Hong Kong film. But it gets even better: Filmed by three young directors who got a shot at their first feature thanks to Johnnie To, who's also producing the movie, "Trivisa" is a spotlight on up-and-coming local talent, but it's also a spotlight on the dreams and woes of today's Hongkongers, reflecting on the last major turning point in our city's history.

The title refers to the Sanskrit word for the three poisons in Buddhist teachings—delusion, desire and fury—and "Trivisa" makes good use of the magic number three, having its three Fresh Wave alumni directors each focus on telling the story of one of these three wanted felons from the 90s: Cheung Tze-keung (Jordan Chan), who famously kidnapped Li Ka-shing's son; Yip Kai-foon (Richie Jen, who packs on the extra rugged smolder here), a gangster who robbed jewelry stores wielding his signature AK-47; and Kwai Bing-hong (Gordon Lam Ka-tung), the legendary cross-border armed robber.

It's the spring of 1997. Desire consumes Kwai, who ultimately preys on a jewelry store in Kowloon City while trying to keep his identity under wraps. Fury represents Yip's pent up rage at his new life, pawning smuggled electronics across the border and appeasing corrupt Chinese officials, as he looks back on his former gun-toting glory days. Delusion colors serial kidnapper Cheung's motives as he tries to reach out to the



other two criminal kings, dreaming of one last job to seal an epic legacy.

It feels like the film should be an allegory for today's politically uncertain atmosphere, and "Trivisa" does make us look back at where it all started, when the city returned to Chinese sovereignty and how that affected the spirit of Hong Kong. But despite setting up the connection the film doesn't quite deliver enough of this parallel. It focuses on the characters, but you can't help but feel that perhaps a larger point is being lost.

With three storylines told by three different directors and screenwriters, there are noticeably distinct styles. Of all of them, Jordan Chan's is the most colorful—literally, you see an uplift in set and costume design—and the most fun, with a particularly

tightly shot opening scene in which Chan belts out a Jacky Cheung golden oldie on karaoke as he sneaks in glimpses of a sinister agenda under a cheery veneer. The weakest story is Lam Ka-tung's: you can appreciate the actor's effort in creating the hermit-like Kwai, but the writing is thin, and we never really discover his true motives on screen.

If the three stories were told in a segregated triptych rather than a trilinear story, the distinct styles of each director and writer could be better appreciated—plus we're not left hanging for the whole film waiting for them to meet. But the finale ties it all nicely in a bow, despite such a prolonged setup. "Trivisa" is an impressive first feature effort for these three newcomers and a hopeful sign for times to come. Hong Kong cinema, at least, has a future. **Evelyn Lok**

Coming Soon

10 Cloverfield Lane

(USA) In a loose sequel to 2008's "Cloverfield", first-time director Dan Trachtenberg herds Mary Elizabeth Winstead ("Scott Pilgrim vs. The World"), John Goodman, and John Gallagher Jr. ("The Newsroom") in a post-apocalyptic bunker and dares them to consider an outside world where everyone is dead. Opens Apr 14.

45 Years

(UK) After 45 years of marriage, it's hard to imagine that anything could chip away at the integrity of such a long union. But when Kate and Geoff Mercer (Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay) get a letter in the mail reminding them of a long-ignored fact from the past, their relationship begins to take on a different tone. Opens Apr 14.

Demolition ▾

(USA) Director Jean-Marc Valée (last year's runaway success "Wild"), tells the story of an investment banker (Jake Gyllenhaal) who is grappling with the death of his wife. In unlikely circumstances, he befriends a customer service rep (Naomi Watts) and her son. Opens Apr 14.



Life

(Canada/USA) Months before James Dean's sudden death at the wheel, he was the subject of a Life Magazine spread, shot by Dennis Stock, including the now iconic photo of Dean with an upturned collar, smoking a cigarette on a rainy day in Times Square. This film by Anton Corbijn ("A Most Wanted Man"), centers on Dean (Dane DeHaan), Stock (Robert Pattinson) and their unexpected friendship. Opens Apr 14.

Louder Than Bombs

(USA) In Norwegian director Joachim Trier's English-language feature debut, Gabriel Byrne ("The Usual Suspects"), Jesse Eisenberg and Devin Druid play a family trying to piece together what they know of their war photographer mother in the light of her growing, posthumous fame. Opens Apr 14.

Robbery

(Hong Kong) What can go wrong in one evening at a convenience store? Depending on who walks in, a lot. This gory comedy is the debut film of Hong Kong director Fire Lee, and centers around a useless clerk who finds himself caught in the middle of a hold-up, at the mercy of a few customers with a penchant for blood. Opens Apr 14.

Opening



Anomalisa

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

Continuing

The Bodyguard

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

Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice

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

Creed

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



Eddie the Eagle

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

Galaxy Turnpike

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



The Huntsman: Winter's War

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



Macbeth

(UK/France/USA) One of Shakespeare's darkest plays gets a star-studded retelling. Michael Fassbender ("Steve Jobs", "Frank") and Marion Cotillard ("Inception") star as the eponymous couple, who would kill for power—and do, at the urging of three witches. Opened Apr 7.

Miracles From Heaven

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

Trivisa

(Hong Kong) See review, above. Opened Apr 7.



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Need to Know

AMC Cinema, 2265-8933
amccinemas.com.hk

Broadway Circuit,
2388-3188
cinema.com.hk

Golden Harvest Cinema,
2622-6688
goldenharvest.com

MCL Cinema, 3413-6688
mclcinema.com

UA Cinema,
3516-8811
uacinemas.com.hk

The Metroplex, 2620-2200
metroplex.com.hk

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

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

Heaven in the Dark
(Hong Kong) Jacky Cheung's getting seduced by Karena Lam all over again after Ann Hui's 2001 "July Rhapsody." Adapted from Hong Kong theater stalwart Candace Chong's play "French Kiss," "Heaven in the Dark" portrays a scandal between Pastor To (Cheung) and Michelle (Lam) after they share a kiss and she files for sexual harassment.

Kung Fu Panda 3

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

The Mobfathers

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

Truth

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

Zootopia

(USA) In "Zootopia," anthropomorphic mammals reign. Judy Hopps (voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin) is the first rabbit to join the Zootopia police department, and to prove her worth she attempts to crack a mysterious case—but she needs the help of a sneaky fox (Jason Bateman) to do it. Through snappy humour and rich landscapes, Zootopia teaches us that perceptions can be deceiving, but hearts are genuine. ★★★★



Akira Kurosawa's "Throne of Blood"

Film Festivals and Screenings

Hong Kong Film Archives: The Wit and Wisdom of Cinema City

Through the 80s, the Cinema City studio produced 65 films, spread across the genres of horror, comedy, the supernatural and drama. Those films, from the zany "Aces Go Places" trilogy to the massive hit drama "Papa, Can You Hear me Sing" are unforgettable relics of a golden era of Hong Kong cinema. The Hong Kong Film Archive is holding a retrospective in honor of Cinema City, with screenings of 28 selections as well as seminars with the original founders. Highlights include Ringo Lam's "City on Fire" (Apr 16, 2:30pm), Tsui Hark masterwork "A Chinese Ghost Story" (May 8, 5pm) and a fully restored 4K version of John Woo classic "A Better Tomorrow" (Apr 17, 7:30pm). Apr 8-May 15. Hong Kong Film Archive, 1/F, 50 Lei King Rd., Sai Wan Ho, 2111-5999. lcsd.gov.hk. \$45 from urbtix.hk.

CineFan: Shakespeare Lives in Film and Hachimiri Madness

CineFan is where cinephiles go to deep-dive into a substantial curated history of, well, all sorts of stuff. From April to May, cinemas across Hong Kong are screening film interpretations of Shakespeare plays. Don't miss Kurosawa's "Throne of Blood," (May 20, 7:30pm) based on Macbeth, and Laurence Olivier's legendary "Hamlet" (Apr 23, 2pm; May 28, 8pm). Feeling a little more anti-establishment? HKIFF has curated 11 8mm (*hachimiri*) films by Japanese filmmakers from the late '70s to '80s centered around one format: the Single 8, Fujifilm's answer to the Super 8. Apr 5-May 29. 2111-5999. cinefan.com.hk. \$65-105.

Already Tomorrow in Hong Kong

After a recent premiere at the Reel Women Film Festival, "Already Tomorrow in Hong Kong" is finally getting an expanded cinema release at AMC Pacific Place. Filmed in Hong Kong in the summer of 2014, Jamie Chung and Bryan Greenberg play a Chinese American visitor new to town, and an American expat who shows her the city over one night. If you've ever wondered how a "Before Sunrise"-esque romance could play out in a town of rowdy LKF punters, now's your chance. Apr 14-15, 8-9:20pm; Apr 16-17, 6-7:20pm. AMC Cinema, 1/F, Pacific Place, 1801, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, \$110 from amccinemas.com.hk.



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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): French artist Henri Matisse (1869-1954) is regarded as one of the greats, in the same league as Picasso and Kandinsky. Even in his eighties, he was still creating marvels that one critic said seemed "to come from the springtime of the world." As unique as his work was, he was happy to acknowledge the fact that he thrived on the influence of other artists. And yet he also treasured the primal power of his innocence. He trusted his childlike wonder. "You study, you learn, but you guard the original naiveté," he said. "It has to be within you, as desire for drink is within the drunkard or love is within the lover." These are good, sweet thoughts for you to keep in mind right now, Aries.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): Taurus-born Kurt Gödel (1906-1978) was among history's greatest logicians. His mastery of rational thought enabled him to exert a major influence on scientific thinking in the 20th century. Yet he also had an irrational fear of being poisoned, which made him avoid food unless his wife cooked it. One of the morals of his story is that reason and delusion may get all mixed up in the same location. Sound analysis and crazy superstition can get so tangled they're hard to unravel. The coming week will be an excellent time to meditate on how this phenomenon might be at work in you. You now have an extraordinary power to figure out which is which, and then take steps to banish the crazy, superstitious, fearful stuff.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): For a time, pioneer physicist Albert Einstein served as a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. On one occasion, a student complained to him, "The questions on this year's exam are the same as last year's." Einstein agreed that they were, then added, "but this year all the answers are different." I'm seeing a similar situation in your life, Gemini. For you, too, the questions on this year's final exam are virtually identical to last year's final exam—and yet every one of the answers has changed. Enjoy the riddle.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): Your personal oracle for the coming weeks is a fable from 2600 years ago. It was originally written by the Greek storyteller Aesop, and later translated by Joseph Jacobs. As the tale begins, a dog has discovered a hunk of raw meat lying on the ground. He's clenching his treasure in his mouth as he scurries home to enjoy it in peace. On the way, he trots along a wooden plank that crosses a rapidly-flowing stream. Gazing down, he sees his reflection in the water below. What? He imagines it's another dog with another slab of meat. He tries to snatch away this bonus treat, but in doing so, drops his own meat. It falls into the stream and is whisked away. The moral of the fable: "Beware lest you lose the substance by grasping at the shadow."

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): "I never get lost because I don't know where I am going," said the Japanese poet known as Ikkyu. I stop short of endorsing this perspective for full-time, long-term use, but I think it suits you fine for right now. According to my astrological projections, you can gather the exact lessons you need simply

by wandering around playfully, driven by cheerful curiosity about the sparkly sights—and not too concerned with what they mean. P.S. Don't worry if the map you're consulting doesn't seem to match the territory you're exploring.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): "If literally every action a human can perform was an Olympic sport," Reddit.com asked its users, "which events would you win medals in?" A man named Hajimoto said his champion-level skill was daydreaming. "I can zone out and fantasize for hours at a time," he testified. "This is helpful when I am waiting in line." You Virgos are not typically Olympic-class daydreamers, but I encourage you to increase your skills in the coming weeks. It'll be a favorable time for your imagination to run wild and free. How exuberantly can you fantasize? Find out!

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): In his book "Strange Medicine," Nathan Belofsky tells us about unusual healing practices of the past. In ancient Egypt, for example, the solution for a toothache was to have a dead mouse shoved down one's throat. If someone had cataracts, the physician might dribble hot broken glass into their eyes. I think these strategies qualify as being antidotes that were worse than the conditions they were supposed to treat. I caution you against getting sucked into "cures" like those in the coming days. The near future will be a favorable time for you to seek healing, but you must be very discerning as you evaluate the healing agents.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): In his poem "The Snowmass Cycle," Stephen Dunn declares that everyone "should experience the double fire, of what he wants and shouldn't have." I foresee a rich opportunity coming up for you to do just that, Scorpio. And yes, I do regard it as rich, even marvelous, despite the fact that it may initially evoke some intense poignance. Be glad for this crisp revelation about a strong longing whose fulfillment would be no damn good for you!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): "When I look at my life I realize that the mistakes I have made, the things I really regret, were not errors of judgment but failures of feeling." Writer Jeanette Winterson said that, and I'm passing it on to you at the exact moment you need to hear it. Right now, you are brave enough and strong enough to deal with the possibility that maybe you're not doing all you can to cultivate maximum emotional intelligence. You are primed to take



action and make big changes if you discover that you're not feeling as much as you can about the important things in your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): Psychotherapist Jennifer Welwood says that sadness is often at the root of anger. Feelings of loss and disappointment and heartache are the more primary emotions, and rage is a reflexive response to them. But sadness often makes us feel vulnerable, while rage gives us at least the illusion of being strong, and so most of us prefer the latter. But Welwood suggests that tuning in to the sadness almost always leads to a more expansive understanding of your predicament; and it often provides the opportunity for a more profound self-transformation. I invite you to apply these meditations to your own life, Capricorn. The time is right.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 19): "The causes of human actions are usually immeasurably more complex and varied than our subsequent explanations of them." Fyodor Dostoyevsky said that in his novel "The Idiot," and now I'm passing it on to you just in the nick of time. In the coming weeks, it's especially important for you to not oversimplify your assessments of what motivates people—both those you respect and those you don't fully trust. For your own sake, you can't afford to naively assume either the best or the worst about anyone. If you hope to further your own agendas, your nuanced empathy must be turned up all the way.

PISCES (Feb 18-Mar 20): "Believing love is work is certainly better than believing it's effortless, ceaseless bliss," says author Eric LeMay. That's advice I hope you'll keep close at hand in the coming weeks, Pisces. The time will be right for you to exert tremendous effort in behalf of everything you love dearly—to sweat and struggle and strain as you create higher, deeper versions of your most essential relationships. Please remember this, though: The hard labor you engage in should be fueled by your ingenuity and your creative imagination. Play and experiment and enjoy yourself as you sweat and struggle and strain!

HOMEWORK: Comment on Bertrand Russell's statement, "The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper." Freewillastrology.com.

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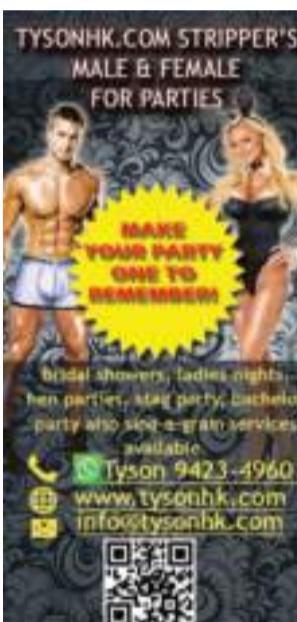
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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I am a twentysomething, straight, cis-female expat. How long do I have to wait to ask my German lover, who is überSensitive about the Holocaust, to indulge me in my greatest—and, until now, unrealized—fantasy: Nazi role-play? He is very delicate around me because I am a secular Jew and the descendant of Holocaust survivors. (Even though I've instructed him to watch "The Believer," starring Ryan Gosling as a Jewish neo-Nazi, to get a better grasp on my relationship with Judaism. To be clear, I am not actually a neo-Nazi—just your garden-variety self-hating Jew.) This persists even though we've spoken about my anti-Zionist politics. Evidently he was indoctrinated from a young age with a hyperapologetic history curriculum. I appreciate that he thinks it was wrong for the SS to slaughter my family, but it's not like he did it himself. I know it sounds really fucked up, but I promise this isn't coming from a place of deep-seated self-loathing. Even if it were, it's not like we'd be hurting anybody. We're both in good psychological working condition, and neither of us is an actual bigot. I would try to get to know him better, but we are so different (there's a big age difference) and I don't really see our relationship being much more than ze sex.

— National Socialist Pretend Party

"Sex writers get all the really good religion questions," said Mark Oppenheimer. "Can we trade mailboxes sometime soon? I'm tired of dealing with all the questions about why evangelicals support a thrice-married misogynist reality-TV star who never goes to church."

Oppenheimer writes the Beliefs column for the *New York Times* and is cohost of *Unorthodox*, an "irreverent podcast about Jews and other people" (tabletmag.com/unorthodox). I invited Oppenheimer to weigh in because I am, sadly, not Jewish myself. Jewishness is conferred through matrilineal descent, your mom—or, if you're Reform, either parent—has to be Jewish for you to be Jewish, so all those blowjobs I gave to my first Jewish boyfriend were for nothing. No birthright trip for me.)

"First off, I think that Die Fraulein should make her kinky proposal ASAP," said Oppenheimer. "Given the 'hyperapologetic' curriculum that her Teutonic stud has absorbed, he is probably going to freak out no matter when she asks him to incinerate—er, tie her up and fuck her. On the other hand, if he's open and kink-positive, he'll probably be down for whatever. But it's all or nothing in a case like this. She can't win him over by persuading him that she's not one of those uptight, unforgiving Jewesses who is still hung up on the destruction of European Jewry."

While your kink didn't really faze Oppenheimer (it's not exactly unheard of), NSPP, your discomfort with your own Judaism did.

"In her letter, she assures us that she is 'secular,' 'anti-Zionist,' and 'garden-variety self-hating'—then jokingly compares herself to the Jewish white supremacist (played by Ryan Gosling in that movie) who in real life killed himself after the *New York Times* outed him as a Jew," said Oppenheimer. "Now, all of us (especially homos and Yids) know something about self-loathing, and I think Jews are entitled to any and all views on Israel, and—again—I am not troubled by her kink. *That said*, I do think she needs to get to a happier place about her own heritage. Just as it's not good for black people to be uncomfortable with being black, or for queer people to wish they weren't queer, it's not healthy, or attractive, for Jews or Jewesses (we are taking back the term) to have such obvious discomfort with their Jewish heritage."

And finally, NSPP, I shared your letter with a German friend of mine, just to see how it might play with someone who benefited from a hyperapologetic history curriculum. Would he do something like this?

"Not in six million years."

I am fresh out of a gay relationship, which started monogamous, opened up, dabbled with polyamory, but ran out of steam. I'm heartbroken and I need you to weigh in on a disagreement we had about polyamory, which is one of the things that led to our expiration. I believe polyamory to be a small group of people all in love with each other, all sleeping together. He believes polyamory to be different pairings, where a relationship between two people would be lived and enjoyed separately from that couple's pairings with other people. He thinks my definition would be impossible to find and sustain. I think his definition sounds like child custody in a divorce dispute. Who is right?

— Reexamining Relationship Remnants

"They're both right," said Allena Gabosch, a poly activist, educator, and podcaster (*The Relationship Anarchy Show*). "What the letter writer describes—a small group of people who love each other and all sleep together—is sometimes called 'polyfidelity.' It's less common, and yet I've seen it work. His ex's definition is more common: a primary couple with secondary and sometimes even tertiary partners. There is no 'one true way' to do poly, no matter what anyone says."

I've been in a fantastic monogamous relationship for almost eight years, but I used to be like a lot of your other readers. I had what I would consider an adventurous sex life, with lots of partners who were GGG, and I enjoyed continually pushing my sexual boundaries as long as everything was consensual and honest. Fast-forward to my current life: I'm now married to a wonderful vanilla woman. The transition to monogamous and vanilla was difficult at first, and I had fears about not being sexually content. As it turns out, it was a great move and I'm a better man for it. My desire to have every kind of sex under the sun has settled down considerably, and the benefit is that I have much more energy and mental focus for other areas of my life. I want your readers to know that the answer to their happiness may not be the pursuit of more outlandish sex—for some, it just might be less.

— Monogamous In Montana

Your letter reminded me of Saint Augustine's prayer as a young man: "Lord, make me pure—but not yet!"

You're pure now, MIM, but first, like Augustine of Hippo (354–430), you had yourself some impure fun. Perhaps you would be just as satisfied, happy, and smug if you'd been in a monogamous/vanilla relationship all along. But it's possible you wouldn't be satisfied and happy now if it weren't for the adventures and experiences you had then. To paraphrase St. Agnes Gooch of "Mame" (1966): You lived! You lived! You lived! You see all that living as time wasted, MIM, but it's possible—it may even rise to the level of probable—that the perspective and self-awareness you gained during the fuck-anything-that-moves stage of your life made you the man you are today, i.e., a guy who was ready to make a monogamous commitment and capable (so far) of honoring it.

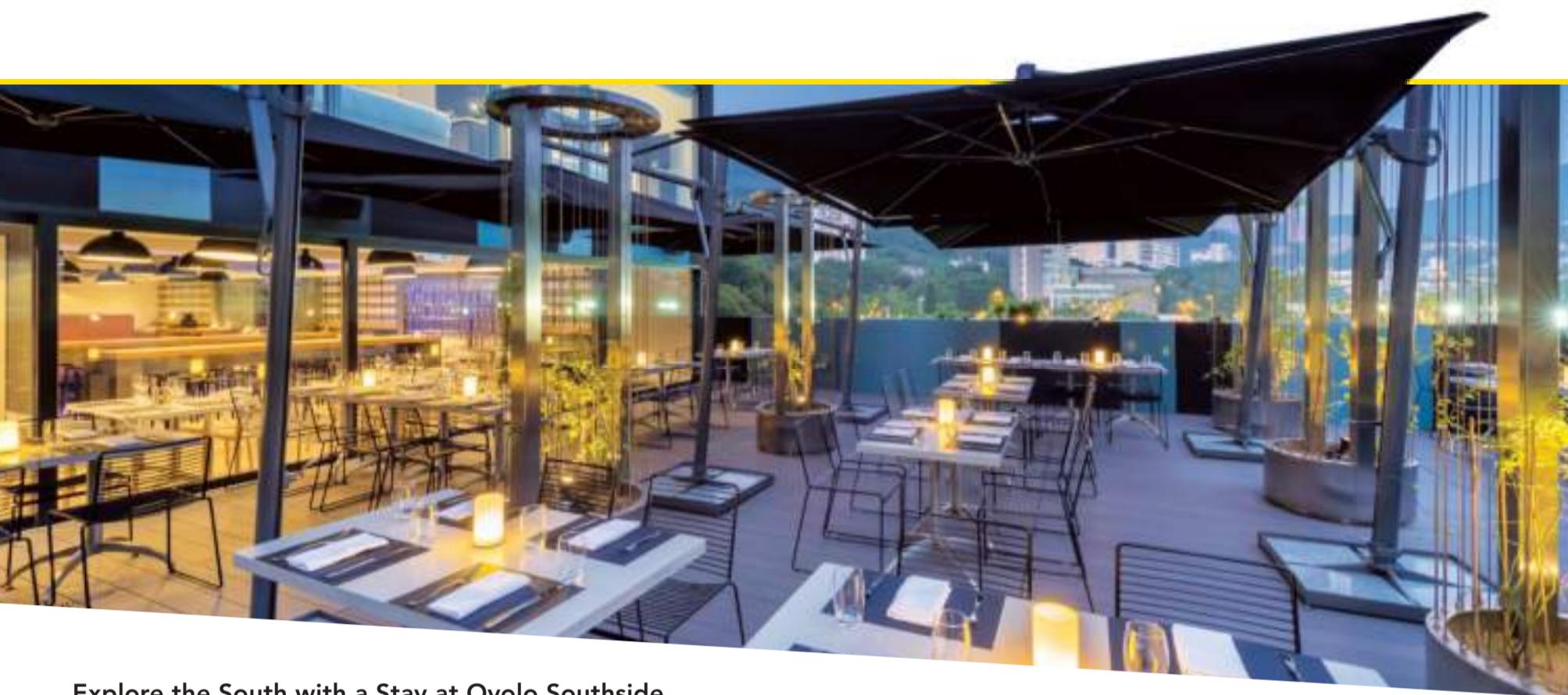
Finally, monogamous/vanilla types routinely cross over into the ranks of the sexually adventurous/nonmonogamous and vice versa. (And monogamous/vanilla and sexually adventurous aren't necessarily mutually exclusive categories.) Instead of disparaging the choices others make—or disparaging the choices we once made—we're better off encouraging people to make the choices that are right for them. And choices that are right for someone now may not be right for them always—and that goes for you too, MIM, even now.

On the Lovecast, Dan chats with the filmmakers of the documentary *Give Me Sex Jesus*: savagecast.com.

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

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After the booming success of its first outlet in Tai Hang, Pop It has opened up another branch in Wan Chai to whet the city's appetite with mouth-watering hot dogs, bratwursts, beef franks and heart-warming New England lobster rolls: It's 100 percent American and 100 percent delicious.

Made from only the best, guilt-free sausages, free from nasty artificial flavors and fillers, Pop It offers 14 delicious varieties of hot dogs made with the best savory tastes and toppings.

Start your day with an all-day breakfast dog, the New Yorker or the Hong Kong classic. Or go for funky fusion items inspired by Southeast Asian flavors, such as the peppery Sichuan dog, topped with a fiery Sichuan sauce, coriander, scallions, shallots and garlic, or the Vietnamese-inspired banh mi dog, heaped with pickled daikon, carrots, coriander, fried garlic, shallots and a spicy sauce full of Vietnamese flavors.

Hot dogs come served with a side of fresh fries (upgrade to truffle fries or onion rings for a little extra) and a massive selection of specially selected salivating sauces to complement each dog.

Another famed American favorite, the lobster roll, is available at Pop It through April 30. The "Double Attack" is an indulgent and oversized toasted, buttered roll packed with two whole fresh Boston lobsters with a side of a signature lobster bisque (\$516).

If you need something to wash it all down, Pop It recommends quenching your thirst with a rich and creamy milkshake (shot of booze optional), an ice cream soda or a refreshing craft beer. The Oreo milkshake doused in a shot of Hennessy cognac is a customer favorite, but you can also choose from vanilla, chocolate or strawberry.

tiny.cc/hk-popit



CAN'T FIND HK MAGAZINE?

CENTRAL

Ages b Café
Al Diner
Aluminium
American Club
Angel's Share
Anglo Chinese Florist Ltd. - Landmark Atrium
Appellation Wine Cellar
Baby Buddha
Beautique Int'l Ltd
Beruit
Beyrouth Bistro
Bit Point
Bridges Executive Centre Ltd
Brunch Club
Bumps to Babes
Bungalow
Byrne Hickman and Partners
Café O
Café Queen
California Beach Club
C'est La Vie
Chachawan
CitySuper Ltd
Classified - Exchange Square Podium
Classified - New World Tower Club 71
Cochrane's
Coco Espresso
Daz
DiVino Italian Wine Bar & Restaurant
Dot Cod
DROP
Escapade Sports
El Grande - Hong Kong Brew House
Epic MMA
ESSENSUALS (CENTRAL) LIMITED
Feel Good Factor
Flawless
Flow Bookshop - 29 Lyndhurst Terrace
FoFo by el willy
Foreign Correspondents Club
Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong
Frey & Ford
Fringe Club
G7 Private Dining
Garage Society
Gateway
Geronomo
Grappa's Cellar
Grey Hound
Hazel & Hershey
Helena May Library
Holly Brown
Holy Crab Bar & Restaurant
Hong Kong Book Centre
Hotel LKF
HYPOXIII Bel Paese
Impakt Academy
Infusion
Indulgence
Isola
Ivan the Kozak
Jeeves of Belgravia
Knight on Wyndham
La Belle Salon
La Piola
Le Gouter Bernaduad
LKF Group - Tokio Joe
Liberty Exchange Kitchen & Bar
Little Burro
Lumiere/Cuisine Cuisine
Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong
Maya Café
Mini Hotel Central
Natural Path
Nature's Village
O2 Hair Salon
Oolaa
Orange Peel
Orange Tree Restaurant
Ovo
Paisano's Central
Parentheses Continental Books Ltd.
Paul Gerrard Hair & Beauty
Peel Fresco Music Lounge/ Caravan Serai
Pier 7
Pizza Express
Propaganda
Red
Red Rock/Annexx
Rockabilly
Roundhouse Taproom

Sidewalk - LKF
Starbucks - 254 Des Voeux Rd
Starbucks - Alexandra House
Starbucks - Century Square
Starbucks - Duddell Street
Starbucks - Exchange Square 2
Starbucks - IFC Mall
Starbucks - Jardine House
Starbucks - Mainland Centre
Starbucks - Man Yee Arcade
Starbucks - MTR Station
Stormy Weather
Tandoor Indian Restaurant
Ten Feet Tall
The Globe
The Landmark Mandarin Oriental
The Putman
Tivo
Toni & Guy - 15 Wyndham St
Tranquil Touches
Uncle Russ Coffee
UP Health
Veggie SF
Wagyu
Yo mama
Yu Yuet Lai

Zentro - 66 Stanley Street
Zentro - IFC

SOHO
Bizou
Café' d'I
Club 1911
Culture ClubDaddyo's
Enoteca Soho
Flaming Frango
Flutes
Flying Pan
Gourmet Burger Union
Gweilo Bar and Grill
Hair Craft
Jaspas
Libertine
Life Café
Mimi2Go
Mostaccioli Brothers
PMQ
Portobello's
Taco Loco
The Herbivores
The Pierre
The Tavern
Toni & Guy
Wagyu Lounge
Watson's Wine
Yorkshire Pudding Soho 8

SHEUNG WAN/ KENNEDY TOWN

208 Duccento Otto
99 Bonham
A&M U.S Groceries
Above Second
American Women's Association Office
Barista Jam
Boulangerie Bistronomique
Café Deco Pizzeria
Café O
Classified (Sheung Wan)
Corner Kitchen
Crispy Bistro
Fish N Chick
Forbes 36
Ho Mei
Holiday Inn Express Soho
Hotel Jen
Ibis HK - Central
Jaspas' - Kennedy Town
Kinsale
La Cantoche
La Viola
Little Burro
Living Art Café
Metropolitain
Monsieur Chatte
Ola
Park N Shop - Kennedy Town
Pizzeria Jacomax
Quintessentially
Shelter Lounge
Starbucks - 50 Connaught Road
Starbucks - Golden Phoenix Court
Starbucks - Hotel Ibis
Starbucks - Kwong Fat Hong Building
Starbucks - Shun Tak Centre
Tacobocha

Teakha
The Press Room
The Beautywave Skin Care
The Lot
Three Monkeys
Waffling Beans

MID-LEVELS

Blessing Garden Phase I
Chicken on the Run
Coffee Book
Dymocks - Bonham Rd.
Il Bel Paese
Ladies' Recreation Club
Lime @ Soho 38
Lof10
Mier Serviced Apartments
Peak Café Bar
Seymour
The Phoenix
YWCA English Speaking Members Department

PEAK

Bubba Gump
Cafe Deco
Starbucks
The Peak Lookout Restaurant

ADMIRALTY

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

WANCHAI

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

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

CAUSEWAY BAY

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

HAPPY VALLEY

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

QUARRY BAY/ TAIKOOSHING

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

NORTH POINT/ FORTRESS HILL

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

SAI WAN HO

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

POK FU LAM

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

AP LEI CHAU/ ABERDEEN

Aberdeen Marina Club
Alisan Fine Arts Limited
Bowls Café Limited
Flex HK
GCX
K Academy (English Language Learning Centre)
Movie Express
Tequila Kola
TREE
Shambala/ Café Piatti
Sift
Spring Workshop
Starbucks - Marina Square
Starbucks - One Island South
Y. Art Education

REPULSE BAY/ TAI TAM/ STANLEY

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

TSIM SHA TSUI

Agnes b Café Harbour City
Agnes'B Café SG
Assembly
Barista Caffe

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

JORDAN/YAU MA TEI/MONG KOK

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

SHATIN

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

SAI KUNG

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

OTHER NEW TERRITORIES

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

LANTAU

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

GATEWAY/ KOWLOON TONG

Gateway Apartments
Gaylord Indian Restaurant
Greyhound Café
Harbourside Restaurant
Hotel Icon
Jimmy's Kitchen
Joia Ristorante
K11 Art Mall
Kowloon Cricket Club
Kowloon Shangri-la Hotel & Deli Kool
La Villa Restaurant & Bar
Langham Hotel Main Street Deli
Lobby Cafe - Sheraton Hotel
Mega Hospitality Intl
Morgan Stanley
Namo
Ned Kelly's Last Stand
Nomads
Outback Steakhouse - TST Centre
Pacific Club
Page One
Papi
Pierside Bar, The Royal Pacific Hotel and Towers
Pizza Express - 35 Ashley Rd.
RA Restaurant & Lounge
Regal Kowloon Hotel
Ritz Carlton - Concierge
Ruth's Chris
Starbucks - 102 Austin Rd.
Starbucks - Albion Plaza
Starbucks - China HK City
Starbucks - Elements
Starbucks - Empire Centre
Starbucks - Gateway Arcade
Starbucks - Harbour Crystal Crtr.
Starbucks - I Square
Starbucks - K11
Starbucks - Knutsford
Starbucks - Mirror Tower
Starbucks - Ocean Terminal
Starbucks - STAR HOUSE B/F
Starbucks - The Sun Arcade
Stormies
Swindon Books
Tequila Jack's
The Doghouse
The Grand
The Swiss Chalet
Tiffany's New York Bar
Triple O
W Hotel
Weinstube
Wired Café
Wooloo Mooloo

KOWLOON TONG

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

HUNG HOM

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

KOWLOON BAY/ KWUN TONG/ KOWLOON CITY

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

HK GIVEAWAYS

It's week two of our April giveaways and all these prizes are still waiting for you to win! You've got the chance to win a fabulous staycation at Ovolo Southside, tasty hampers from A La Bakery and vouchers plus gift sets from Oracle Skinland. Read on to know how!

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



Win a three-night staycation at Ovolo Southside!

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

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

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

If you're reading last week, you should've already found an *italicized* word in the main Spotlight page article of that issue. Now you have to do the same with this and the next issue! Once you've got all three, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about what you'd do with a staycation at Ovolo Southside. Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before 10am on April 18, 2016.

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

Win a Delectable Hamper from A La Bakery!

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

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

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

WIN
HAMPER
WORTH
\$1,639!



Win Treatment Vouchers and Cosmetic Gift Sets from Oracle Skinland!

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

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

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

FIRST PERSON

“Just like television, to me food is a public service.”

Robert Chua is one of the founding fathers of Hong Kong’s television industry, creating the legendary live variety show “Enjoy Yourself Tonight” in 1967 at the age of just 21. He talks to Xavier Ng about his career as a broadcaster—and why he switched from TV to baked goods.



I started [my career] in 1964 in Australia, at a television station. I worked there for nearly two years.

It was all by chance. When I left for Australia to study, in those days people tried to become professionals, like doctors or lawyers.

I somehow went for television because Singapore was about to start its own TV channel.

TV got my attention—I started watching in boarding school and I liked it.

I started from the rock bottom.

I swept the studio floor, I moved props, I was a cameraman, a floor manager—I did everything. I was doing what I liked best.

Then I went back to Singapore to work for a TV station. After seven months, in May 1967 I left for Hong Kong to help start up TVB, six months before it opened.

They gave me a job offer before I turned 21. I started two days after my 21st birthday. Now I've been in the business for 52 years.

I helped to train the staff, and I created “Enjoy Yourself Tonight.”

The Australian general manager [of TVB] had the idea to do a live variety show based on Australia’s “In Melbourne Tonight.”

The idea was there, but I changed the format and concept to make it a family show, rather than a talk show.

I made it more entertainment, less talk, and got a great cast of talent, movie stars and new stars. It became a great success.

It was the first-ever live show in Hong Kong. The rest were all pre-taped.

Inspiration comes from oneself. I don't understand how I managed it—but I loved it. I left TVB and became an entrepreneur all by chance. I never plan.

At one point I wasn't too happy. I'd just got married and I wanted to change my life.

So I resigned and started my own business, a production company.

Later I started [satellite TV channel] China Entertainment Television—and nearly went bust. There were a lot of problems but I got through it.

It was a suicidal move for anybody who didn't have the “corporate” money for it. I still went ahead and did it because of my passion.

I started in the food & beverage industry again by chance.

The credit goes to my brother. I took him to [Michelin-starred dim sum restaurant] Tim Ho Wan to eat. He loved it and said, “let's start one in Singapore.”

I talked to the chef and owner: He's got a Michelin star and there were more than a hundred people from the industry who had approached him already.

He turned everybody down and I, with no F&B experience at all, landed it.

I'm glad he gave me the opportunity to start in F&B, and it became a big success.

It's [rare that] a Hong Kong F&B brand goes overseas so successfully.

Tim Ho Wan's success got me into the industry, and that's why I created A La Bakery.

I've been going to Cannes [in France] for 30 or 40 years, twice a year to the Cannes TV Festival.

There at breakfast, people would get all the beautiful items, but I'd choose the baguette with butter.

People would say “this Chinese guy is crazy, eating the cheapest thing.” But cheap doesn't mean it's bad.

I want to popularize French bakery culture.

What pleases me most is that sometimes, people with low incomes come in once a fortnight for a coffee and a croissant.

They may be poor but they still have a chance to enjoy a real taste of France.

Some people come to me and tell me: “You're selling your things too cheap.”

But like television, to me this is a public service. I want to do something socially responsible.

Everything in this bakery is 100 percent imported from France.

People say I'm crazy, the cost of it is too high.

I have a much lower profit margin—you sell one and I may have to sell three to make the profit you made.

But it doesn't matter. I'll work harder, I don't mind. I do it better.

Now I'm losing money, but it's OK. I believe that, sooner or later, we'll make money, because good products will always win.

People may think I'm not that smart of a businessman. When I do business, I don't look at money as my motivation. Money will come later.

I find television and F&B very similar.

The food is the TV programs, the location is the airtime, and the chef is the producer. It's all quite relevant.

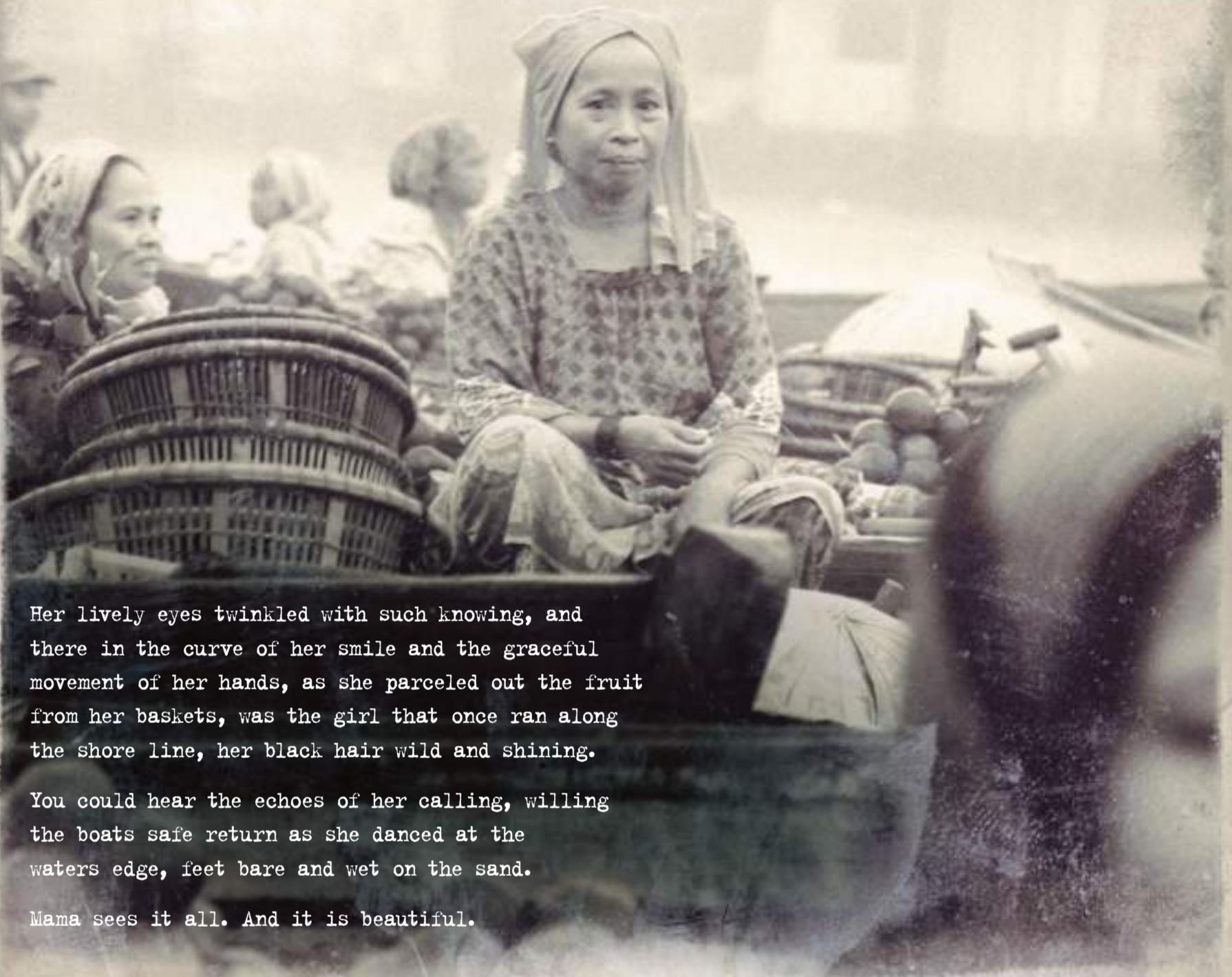
Luckily I didn't have to choose between television and F&B, but both are equally good, equally exciting and equally gratifying. I do them to see people respond to my products.

Seeing people enjoy them gives me pleasure and I like to make people happy. This is something I truly enjoy.



NEED TO KNOW...

Robert Chua grew up in Singapore and created TVB's “Enjoy Yourself Tonight” in 1967. The show stayed on air for 26 years until 1994, and made stars of actors including Lydia Shum and Liza Wang. Visit A La Bakery at various locations including G/F, Two Chinachem Plaza, 68 Connaught Rd. Central, 2121-1118.



Her lively eyes twinkled with such knowing, and
there in the curve of her smile and the graceful
movement of her hands, as she parceled out the fruit
from her baskets, was the girl that once ran along
the shore line, her black hair wild and shining.

You could hear the echoes of her calling, willing
the boats safe return as she danced at the
waters edge, feet bare and wet on the sand.

Mama sees it all. And it is beautiful.

The dish: Grilled King Prawn Padang Style.

Succulent King Prawns are peeled to reveal their
firm flesh and grilled to perfection.

Served with the simple flavors of chilies, coriander
and red vinegar the appeal is fresh, the result fully
satisfying, a gift from the bounty of the Indian Ocean.

Escape the grind and head to Mama San.
Open from 12 noon.



1/F, 46 Wyndham Street
Central, Hong Kong
T 2881 8901
www.diningconcepts.com
f Mama San Restaurant & Bar

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