



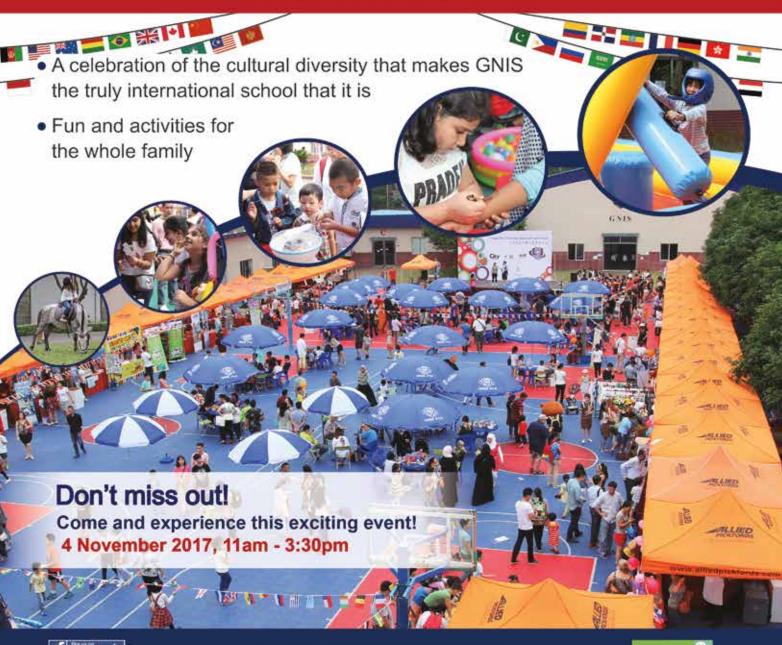
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社长 President: 陈陆军 Chen Lujun

期刊部负责人 **Supervisor of Magazine Department:** 邓锦辉 Deng Jinhui 编辑 Editor: 朱莉莉 Zhu Lili 发行 Circulation: 李若琳 Li Ruolin

> Editor in Chief Jocelyn Richards Shenzhen Editor Sky Thomas Gidge Senior Digital Editor Matthew Bossons Shenzhen Digital Editor Bailey Hu Senior Staff Writer Tristin Zhang National Arts Editor Erica Martin

Contributors Gary Bailer, Frances Chen, Lena Gidwani, Thomas Harvey, Noelle Mateer, Dominic Ngai, Dr. Sandro Rasgado, Adam Robbins, Katrina Shi, Dominique Wong

HK FOCUS MEDIA

Shanghai (Head Office) 上海和舟广告有限公司 上海市蒙自路 169 号智造局 2 号楼 305-306 室 邮政编码: 200023 Room 305-306, Building 2, No.169 Mengzi Lu, Shanghai 200023 电话: 021-8023 2199 传真: 021-8023 2190

Guangzhou 上海和舟广告有限公司广州分公司 广州市麓苑路 42 号大院 2 号楼 610 室 邮政编码: 510095 Rm 610, No. 2 Building, Area 42, Luyuan Lu, Guangzhou 510095 电话: 020-8358 6125 传真: 020-8357 3859 - 816

Shenzhen 深圳联络处

深圳市福田区彩田路星河世纪大厦 C1-1303 C1-1303, Galaxy Century Building, Caitian Lu, Futian District, Shenzhen 电话:0755-8623 3220 传真:0755-6406 8538

Beijing 北京联络处

北京市东城区东直门外大街 48 号东方银座 C 座 G9 室 邮政编码: 100027 9G, Block C, Ginza Mall, No. 48 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District, Beijing, 100027 电话: 010-8447 7002 传真: 010-8447 6455

General Manager Henry Zeng
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Digital Miller Yue, Amanda Bao, Orange Wang, Yu Sun, Elsa yang, Jimmy Mi

General enquiries and switchboard (020) 8358 6125 info.prd@urbanatomy.com
Editorial (020) 8358 9847 ext 808 editor.prd@urbanatomy.com
Sales (Guangzhou) (020) 8358 9847 ext 802 sales.prd@urbanatomy.com
(Shenzhen) (0755) 8623 3210 ext 801

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Listings & Events (Guangzhou) (020) 8358 9847 ext 808. (Shenzhen) (0755) 8623 3220
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Editor's Note OCTOBER 2011

Growing up in a town with an Elm Street *and* a Sleepy Hollow Road, we took Halloween pretty seriously. Ghosts hovering menacingly over our front yard (with the help of some fishing line), a stuffed zombie passed out on our porch swing and a motion-activated witch were just a few of the tricks we had waiting for unsuspecting kids seeking king-size Snickers bars.

Celebrating Halloween in China is... different. For one, everyone's over sweets by the time the 31st rolls around, having devoured box after box of Mid-Autumn Festival mooncakes. And dressing up in creepy costumes – if not already banned on the metro in your city – will only result in blank stares.

To help you celebrate the season, our October cover story features a compilation of the spookiest tales and urban legends from across China. Turn to p38 for gripping accounts of Guangzhou's Liwan 'Corpse' Plaza, Shenzhen's haunted office building and much, much more...

Remember debate team? In our City section this month, Beijing deputy editor Dominique Wong looks at the new wave of young debaters right here in China using English – not Mandarin or Cantonese – to make persuasive arguments (p12). Elsewhere in the magazine, Shanghai chief editor Dominic Ngai explores the fate of Chinese brick-and-mortar malls now that e-commerce is booming (p22), Erica Martin recommends three homegrown albums for music buffs (p34) and our PRD editorial team shares the best in new F&B establishments (p58).

If you're traveling in-country for the National Holiday, remember to veer far, far off the beaten path, and if you're new to South China or visiting for the Canton Fair, welcome to the Pearl River Delta!

Until next month,

Jocelyn Richards Editor-in-Chief

We'd like to thank Shadday Studios (WeChat: shadymonkey) for the incredible art work featured on this month's cover and inside on p40-47.





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CITY

The Great Debate
The Chinese teens learning how to argue...









Instagold P10



TOOL TIME

Drilling Technician

Text and photo by Tristin Zhang

n a Sunday afternoon, we find the sidewalk at a crossroads near Guangzhou Avenue North manned by police. All of a sudden, two officers hasten across the busy intersection, seemingly oblivious to the red traffic light and approaching vehicles. Their prey? A line of electric bicycles, all loaded with heavy-looking drills intended for home renovations.

"We are hole-punching technicians," says one from the motley crew, about 10 minutes after police have left the scene. His name is Liu Tiejin, a 20-something from Jiangxi province. "We don't dare go far now, because of [electric] bike seizing. For areas nearby, [we charge] 100 kuai per hole – and cheaper if we drill more than one," he says, waving away our cigarette offer.

About five feet away, a phalanx of older drill technicians sit on the edge of a sidewalk flower bed, scrutinizing us with narrow eyes. Liu continues: "We haven't earned a cent in the past few days."

His trade has been affected by new regulations on electric vehicles in Guangzhou.

Liu, who hasn't worked for a week, can earn up to RMB400 a day on a rare appointment. Unlike others in the industry, he refuses to double as an e-bike driver when requests for drilling are scarce. So, for a week now, he's been waiting. Waiting for a phone call or personal visit from a client to end the dry spell.

Liu specializes in drilling holes for a number of appliances, but mostly air conditioner tubes and water pipes.

"I've been busted previously," he tells us, though not for reasons we expect. One seizure of an e-bike can cost more than RMB1,000, Liu explains, and he's lost three vehicles throughout his three-year drilling metier. Still, he says saving up to RMB20,000 at the end of each year is his impetus.

An older worker approaches, jokes with Liu for a second, and walks away. It seems safe to assume this squad has never taken interviews before.

Previously employed at a construction site in Jiangxi, Liu says a friend introduced him to the hole-punching trade. He had to invest RMB3,000 to buy a set of drills, though – equivalent to an entire month's salary.

"Our lives aren't as comfortable as you steady wage earners," Liu frowns, delving into his past encounters with slippery contractors.

"Sometimes, these contractors don't even pay you after you work at a site for 10, 20 days. They just run away." His tone turns resentful. "We call them 'black-hearted' contractors."

Before we part ways, Liu says we shouldn't bother looking for him in the same spot next week because "lingdao (leaders) want to inspect the area," and he'll be gone.

THE DIRTY DETAILS

Monthly salary: RMB2,000-3,000

Days per week: varies

Hours per day: 1-2 hours per appointment

Man on the Street is a monthly feature where we talk to someone doing an everyday job to gain insight into the lives of ordinary Chinese people.

THEBUZZ

RANDOM NUMBER

49

... is the number of brands or varieties of imported cheeses that were banned last month as part of a temporary initiative to prevent certain molds from entering China. Brie, Camembert, Roquefort, goat cheese and blue cheese are among those that have been blacklisted, while mozzarella and cheddar have so far escaped the ban's reach. According to the *Financial Times*, "The ban... was launched after health authorities informed quarantine officials that bacteria colonies such as the penicillin found in blue cheese were not on an approved import list."

The un-brielievable announcement is certainly not gouda news – it's a munstrosity – for those who camembert life without their favorite dairy product. We're certainly cheesed off.



CITY SNAPSHOT

"Shake on It"

Retired from the Piscataquis County Sheriff's Department in Dover Foxcroft, Maine, Thomas Harvey came to Shenzhen with his wife in 2014. "I love it here, there is no end of things to see and do with photography," he tells us



over email. "In my three years at a hobby photographer, I have over 210,000 photos."

This particular shot was taken in March 2017, when Harvey volunteered as a photography instructor with a class of students from Quality Schools International (QSI). He describes: "[That day], we went to the Dutch Flower Town here in Shenzhen to practice finding and taking pictures of interesting things. On our way out, I could see the guard at the entrance playing with a cat. I took several shoots and caught this one with the guard's foot and cat's paw out at each other." Find more of Harvey's work on Instagram at @thomaseharvey.

Want your photo in our City Snapshot column? Tag #thatsprd on Instagram for a chance to be featured on our feed and in the magazine.

BEHIND THE CONCRETE

Guangdong Science Center

The Guangdong Science Center sits imposingly at the western tip of the island that holds Guangzhou University Town. Occupying a structural area of 137,500 square meters, it is reportedly the world's largest science and technology museum and cost RMB1.9 billion to build over a period of five years, from 2004 to 2008.



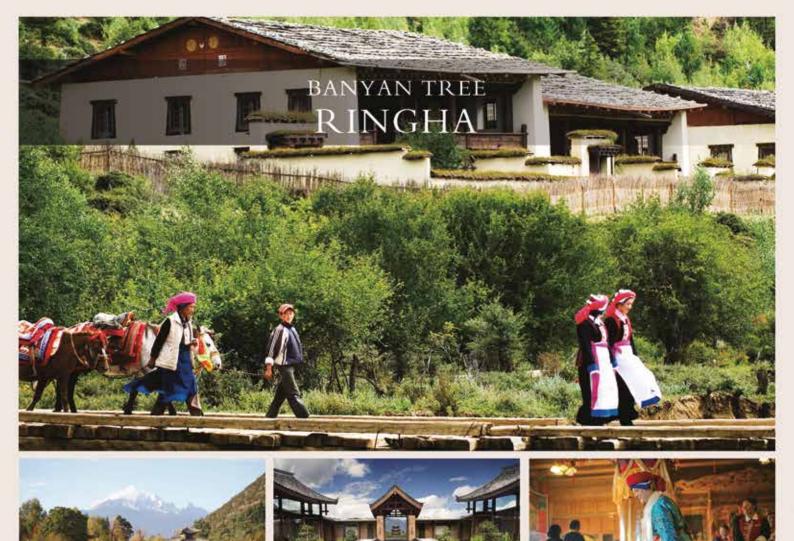
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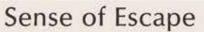
award-winning structure resembles a *bombax ceiba*, which is considered the emblem flower of Guangdong. For that reason – and because it's futuristic as sh*t – the building has inspired many a photo-hungry urban explorer.

Using strips of glass and metal panels over its top level, the design allows natural light to filter through permeable layers, like sunlight passing through the leaves of a forest. Outside, visitors can explore eco-parks, outdoor exhibits and installations that shed light on green initiatives. Inside, eight themed pavilions, four cinemas – including Asia's largest IMAX screen – and an abundance of science education facilities await.

A member of the Asia Pacific Network of Science and Technology Centres, the Guangdong Science Center has hosted countless international conferences and shows. Currently taking place is an exhibition curated by the Canada Science and Technology Museum, which focuses on revealing the facts behind natural phenomena through 18 sets of installations.

Open 9.30am-4.30pm (Tue-Fri), 9.30am-5pm (Sat-Sun), closed Mondays, open during national holidays; RMB60 for adults, RMB30 for children. 168 Kepu Lu, Guangzhou Higher Education Mega Center, Panyu District, Guangzhou 广州市番禺区大学城科普路168号广东科学中心 (020-3934 8080, 020-3934 8123)





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Sanctuary For The Senses





"Where is the money going to come from?" a Chinese teenager shouts.

"The government can print more money!" her opponent replies.

It's day one of the National High School Debate League Competition (NHSDLC) championship finals, and two high school students are arguing over whether the US should implement a Universal Basic Income. In a high school classroom in west Beijing, kids are arguing in English.

They are just two of the nearly 500 students participating in the biggest English debate league competition in China, from places as far-flung as Ningxia and Liaoning. For these young people, it's the culmination of months of research and success in regional tournaments.

The championship is a *long* weekend. Teens cram on seats in between endless debates, their parents waiting anxiously nearby. Almost 100 judges assess eight-odd debates each day, with additional staff tabulating the results. Dressed smartly in shirts and suits, teenagers carry laptops worth thousands of *renminbi* and plastered with stickers reading "I CAN'T KEEP CALM, I'M A DEBATER."

With some of the brightest – and wealthiest – kids in China forming arguments in their non-native language, the finals are mind-boggling. I watch teens far more eloquent and smarter than I ever was at their age – and, in some cases, am now.

Split into two divisions – one for ESL students, the other for both ESL and inter-

national school students – the championship brings together teenagers from every province in China. There are kids from experimental and international schools as well as public high schools. Some speak immaculate English, others less so. But all have invested the time and money into learning how to debate.

Organized debate sees teams taking sides on a topic, conducting research beforehand and arguing their position in front of a judge. It's a well-established hobby in the US and UK. And while Chinese-language debate does exist – although usually in a different format – it's English-language debate that's currently most prestigious among China's elites.

Now, NHSDLC and other debate organizations are exposing Chinese teens to completely new forms of expression. Yet issues of inequality, and clashes with China's traditional educational system, remain.

As recently as five years ago, high school leagues of this scale didn't exist in China, according to NHSDLC president David Weeks. "There wasn't an ecosystem in China. There's a lot of Chinese debate that goes on, but it's run on an ad hoc basis, by schools or municipal governments."

Now, NHSDLC is the largest foreign language debate league in the world. More than 15,000 students compete annually in over 75 NHSDLC tournaments across China, and the group held a one-week summer debate camp prior to the finals.

"We're not teaching kids to shout at

each other. We're trying to teach them a little more nuance than that," says Charles Barton, a visiting judge from a prestigious US college (hint: it rhymes with 'kale'). "A couple of rounds ago, I judged a team that said the [Universal Basic Income] is good because loggers would be able to get an income without working and so they would stop cutting down trees. So, the UBI would stop climate change. That was an [imaginative] one."

Debate is surging in popularity, league president Weeks tells me as results are tallied. In the past, he says, "there were a handful of schools that did [English debate], like Xi Jinping's daughter's high school. It's mostly an elite activity, but it's making its way down to more grassroots levels."

Weeks says the increase in popularity is partly because more wealthy Chinese students are going abroad at younger ages and enrolling in international schools.

But it's not always for prestige. Taijia International Education, a private education consultant institute in Beijing, introduced a debate program last year to boost students' confidence, school founder Julia Zhao says.

"Chinese students are more introverted. They know a lot, but it's hard for them to communicate."

Most of the teens I meet at the national competition hope to attend university overseas and see debate as a good way to differentiate themselves in their college applications. But for others, debate goes



beyond a "resume check box," as Weeks calls it. It offers them the chance to gain critical thinking and creative skills – skills that some say China's education system neglects.

During a break at the NHSDLC finals I chat with Jiangsu public school debaters Wang and Zhang in the school's main foyer. They see debate as an alternative to Jiangsu's – and to a certain extent, China's – harsh education system. The two start dropping truth bombs like: "China's education system is rubbish." Other things are that are "rubbish" include Jiangsu's education system. ("You can write your article about this," Wang says.)

Zhang elaborates on what they mean: "You're just educated on what the teacher says. They give a lecture and you take it all in without even thinking about whether it's right or wrong. And even if you have other thoughts, these won't get you a higher score in the *gaokao* [university entrance exam], so there's no point."

Wang, meanwhile, sees debate as a chance to break out of his bubble. "NHSDLC is awesome because we now have contact with all these people who are going abroad," he says. "Whereas at our high school we wouldn't have had the chance."

Wang explains that many of the students at the championship are either from an international school or an international program at a public school. "But we aren't. Some of these students have studied abroad for years."

This difference gives international students a clear language advantage, which is demonstrated in their presentation and ability to formulate quick replies.

Wang's debate partner Zhang agrees. "I know what I want to say, and it might be a better idea but I can't..." Zhang stumbles.

"Express?" I offer.

"...Express it very clearly. I was thinking about that word. That's why we get stuck in the debate sometimes. But my English has gotten much better since I joined debate," Zhang says. "At our school they only teach you grammar, words or how to write some short sentences."

Biing-biing-biing. A bell rings and the boys head off to their next debate.

Public school students are particularly driven, Weeks says. "To take on extra work on top of their average homework load takes something special. We notice really, really motivated kids from public schools."

But the effects of *gaokao*-style learning are obvious when working with public school students, says former debate coach Aaron Kruse. With more than a decade's worth of debate experience in the US and China, Kruse has coached and judged students from both countries.

"I've found that a lot of Chinese students want to go straight to the bottom of [an argument]. They think that, in the end, one side definitely has it right," Kruse says over a beer one evening. "But I tried to teach them a process about thinking about arguments in general, not just in *this* argument."

Yet there are areas where these Chinese students excel, Kruse says, in particular, research, rewriting and revision.

Ultimately, Kruse is effusive about China's young



debaters. "They're not doing it in their native language and they're also rocking 4.0 or 4.2 [grade point averages]. People who succeed at [debate] in China will go on to do awesome stuff because they're determined.

"I feel bad as a judge, writing 'you could have done this thing better,' when I'm like, Jesus, I couldn't have done any of this."

Although past winners of NHSDLC's national championship have come from all over China, from Shenyang and Chongqing to Guangzhou ("Beijing has never won it," Weeks says, amused), certain areas tend to excel at debating more than others.

While cities like Shanghai and Beijing have the numbers, schools in cities like Guangzhou and Tianjin supported debate from its early stages, thus building up a strong community.

Accompanying her daughter at the finals tournament, Tianjin parent Hu Zhijie says: "Debate teaches children to have more points of view. It's a great activity. Besides, [my daughter] likes debating."

Yet, many regions lack adequate resources and funds to even enter the debate arena, let alone compete, thus turning debate into a moneyed pursuit. American debater Kruse says: "There's inequality in the debate community in the US, but nowhere near as large as it is in China. It's extraordinarily unequal."

The gap between regions is apparent at the NHSDLC finals. On the third day, I watch a debate featuring partners Hu and He. Speaking in a measured British accent – an anomaly in a sea of American English – Hu argues that a UBI frees people "from the stigma of poverty. A vote for pro is a vote for progress."

It's eloquent and affecting. It's also the Kunming team's 11th round in the last couple of days, Hu tells me. According to his debate partner, He, the two are the only students from Yunnan province to compete in the finals.





"Kunming isn't a strong debate area. Shanghai is really intimidating because they've got tons of students from the same school. We don't have a coach, so we do all of our own research," Hu says.

NHSDLC's parent company, Sunrise International Education, is trying to correct this imbalance. The company offers free training sessions to any school that asks for them. A former coach at Sunrise, Kruse recalls taking part in the group's outreach program.

"One time I had to take a long distance bus from outside Rizhao in Shandong province to Laizhou, which is a tiny town, near the coast. The bus dropped me off outside [Laizhou] and I had to hitch a ride into town in a suit. I'm the only foreigner within miles of this place, and I was like, this is the smallest place I've ever been.

"[But] the kids turn out in droves to see you. Some of them are playing on their phones and don't give a sh*t, but to reach some kids, for even an hour [is invaluable]," Kruse says.

"Every single student in the middle of Rizhao had the opportunity, once in his or her life, to stand up and use English to argue with somebody about a topic. That might be the extent of their interaction with debate, but it's more than they ever would have had before."

There are other organizations trying to make debate more open. China Debate Association, for instance, targets university students. The recently formed association aims to make events more interesting and accessible by setting lower entry costs, says co-founder and experienced debater Wei Xinyue. "Overall the [university] tournaments in China are becoming really expensive. I don't know where the money goes."

CDA's inaugural competition was the Beijing Women's Debate Challenge. Held at the beginning of July, the one-day event cost a mere RMB100 to enter and included debates and workshops on themes related to women and feminism (as well as a meal and goody bag). The event was a success, and CDA hopes to hold a similar one in Shanghai later this year.

The organization also aims to increase debaters' career opportunities in China. "In other countries, debate is a prestigious activity. But not in China," Wei says. "In Asian cultures, employers don't want their employees to be good at arguing. I've had experiences where [potential employers] were like, are you a very aggressive person and like to fight a lot? This is a misunderstanding about what debate is."

Pop culture may also have a hand in lessening these misunderstandings. Now in its fourth year, iQiyi show *Qi Pa Shuo* (also known as *U Can U Bibi*) sees Chinese celebrities debate a range of topics in a talk-show fashion. The program is a hit with Chinese audiences, racking up more than 300 million views in its second season, according to the blog *What's on Weiho*.

Once you get past the blatant product placement of yogurt cartons atop every desk and the sentimental background music, it is, in essence, individuals speaking about an issue in front of a judge.

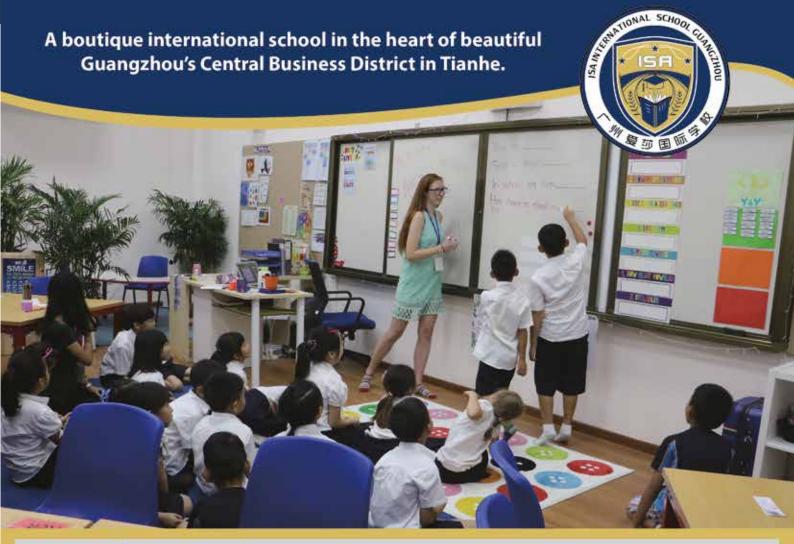
Although Wei laments the show's topics, which skew towards emotional rather than substantial content – like whether people should believe in love at first sight – she admits that the show is helpful in the wider scheme of promoting debate.

"People start to understand more about debating – they see it's not about fighting with each other. It's about understanding key issues."

Back at the NHSDLC finals, the three-day event ends with a ceremony held in the school auditorium. A line of clear, sparkling trophies sits atop a long table on the auditorium stage. Music that sounds like it was ripped from the climax of a Disney film booms triumphantly.

The debaters with the highest speaking scores are announced (mostly boys, until the third-best) and a team from Shanghai wins. The runners up are also from Shanghai. But all the students congratulate each other, taking selfies on stage and shaking each other's hands afterwards.





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CINDI LEUNG

Creating the WeWork Experience in China

Interview by Dominic Ngai

Born in Hong Kong and raised in New York, Cindi Leung worked for WeWork in the US for more than five years before she moved to Shanghai to take up her current role as the Creative Director of the company's Asia Pacific division. An architect by trade, Leung shares with us the design inspirations and stories behind some of the WeWork spaces in Shanghai and Beijing, adjustments in design and layout that were made specifically for China, and why WeWork sees itself as a 'community company' instead of a coworking space.

Tell us a little bit about your role and responsibilities as the Creative Director of WeWork APAC.

As the creative director of the Asia Pacific region, I oversee the interior design from the product quality perspective – working with the designers of each project and providing brand guidance.

How would you describe the overall feel of a WeWork space?

We want to provide a very homey, cozy environment for our members, simply because people spend more time at work than they do at home. While the look of the furniture is very residential, a lot of pieces are customized to have the look and the durability that we need for our operations. It's not just about putting pretty things everywhere; we also pay attention to dimensions of different furniture pieces. For example, we customize our coffee tables to be higher to match the seat height so it's more comfortable for those who are working on their laptops in a lounge setting.

When designing a coworking space, what are some of the most important features that designers must pay attention to?

We actually don't position ourselves as a coworking space, but more as a community company. Besides all the basic needs of an office – meeting rooms, common areas, pantry amenities and printing services – we also want the interior design to help foster a sense of community. The programming, layout and furniture arrangement that we put into our



"We're a global company with a local playbook"

spaces are all designed to inspire and empower our members, in addition to satisfying their functional needs.

Can you walk us through how you guys came up with the design concept of a couple of your spaces in Shanghai and Beijing?

WeWork is a global company with a local playbook, so while some features are rolled out globally, each location starts with a local design concept, drawing inspirations from the building, the neighborhood or the city itself. For Shanghai's Yan'an Lu location, we noticed that one of the streets nearby has a lot of Xinjiang restaurants, and with Xinjiang being a major hub of the Silk Road, we took that idea and used it as the main design concept - so you'll find references to the culture and history of the region in some of the patterns and colors used in the space. The architectural mood of our first two locations in Beijing (Guanghua Lu and Ciyun Si) are based on the way you travel through a Chinese garden and how the scenery is framed by an architectural opening – you'll find these features in the nooks and the artwork of these spaces.

Which design features were tailored specifically for the Chinese market?

The typical back-to-back office layout we use in the US is not desirable in China due

to the culture of respect in the office, so we changed it to a face-to-face layout. For amenities, we've added more hot water machines in the pantry. In other markets, WeWork offers conference rooms ranging from a capacity of three to around 10 people, but we find that larger meetings happen more often in China, so we eliminated the small rooms and created an extra large typology just for this market and added benches and movable seating for these rooms as well.

With more than 160 locations across the globe, what are some of the best design practices that you adopt across all markets?

Working in the in-house design team is so interesting because we've built so many locations worldwide and our R&D team go back into the open buildings to see what the members like and don't like through surveys. Also, they look at the data in our sensor systems to track the activities of our members and analyze which rooms are most frequently used. All of this qualitative and quantitative feedback is rolled back into the design process when we create a new building. It's all about constantly improving ourselves and ensuring that each new building is better than the last one.

Find out more at www.wework.com

STYLE RADAR

TAP THAT APP

RunPee

A lot can happen in a movie in four minutes The famous "I am your father" Star Wars scene unfolded in just three, while Shutter Island's major plot twist concluded in two and a half. So what if you unknowingly picked one of those key moments to run to the loo?

It's a question we've all encountered: whether to relieve ourselves during an action-packed mystery thriller or hold it in and hope a UTI won't strike.

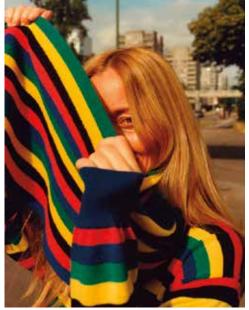
Needless to say, the inner dialogue that stems from this pee-induced pickle can itself be pretty distracting, which is why some genius invented RunPee – an app that tells you the best times to run and pee mid-movie so you can stop thinking and just go.

Inspired in part by Peter Jackson's three-hour remake of *King Kong* (a bladder burster by any standard), RunPee clues users in to four-minute intervals that are suitable for bathroom breaks. You can find any movie currently in theaters (the English app features films playing in the US, while the Chinese app shows films playing here) and see where the best pee breaks are ahead of time. Synopses are available, so you can read about what you missed. You can also set the app to vibrate ahead of WC runs – just be sure to switch your phone to airplane mode so vibrations from other notifications don't send you running at the wrong time.

Additionally, RunPee includes synopses of the first three minutes of each film (in case you arrive late), tells you which films are worth seeing in 3D and whether there are bonus scenes after the credits.

RunPee is available for iPhone and Android devices





COVE

Uniqlo x JW Anderson

For the A/W 2017 season, Uniqlo and UK fashion label IW Anderson are working together on a 33-piece collection that includes outerwear, sweaters and accessories. The collaboration aims to bring together timeless British design with Japanese functionality. Says designer Jonathan Anderson of this partnership, "Working with Uniqlo is probably the most incredible template of democracy in fashion, and it's nice that my design can be accessible to anyone, on all different levels." Highlights include classic heritage pieces like trench coats (RMB1,299), as well as the bright and beautiful JWA PJ stripe scarves (RMB149). Available in Uniqlo stores worldwide.

www.uniglo.cn

INSPECT-A-GADGET

Smartphone Stabilizer

All hail smartphone video! Given good lighting, something slightly bigger than a cassette tape can record crisp, fluid images: a miracle of the modern age.

Except for one problem. Well, two: your shaky hands.

Nothing shatters the illusion of professionalism quite like a poorly timed shake – and though optical stabilization and digital trickery help, if you break into a lope or walk up the stairs, expect that motion to translate onto the screen.

That's where phone stabilizers come in. From contraptions that rely on counterweights to professional equipment rejigged to hold phones, the Snoppa M1 sits squarely in the middle: affordable and travel-friendly.

The three-axis stabilizer includes a single button that doubles as a status light, a clever use of space. But it lacks controls in the thumb area, unlike on competing (and more expensive) stabilizers – walking the line between 'keeping it simple' and constraining the user.

The weight lends a feeling of solidness, but that's detracted by a lower shell that



feels a bit like a toothbrush case – though it held up fine during our testing, which involves the top half of the unit sliding into the bottom when not in use.

But does it stabilize? Yes. Yes it does. With an iPhone 6s Plus, even jumping from a skateboard didn't register a shake on screen.

For anyone that wants to take smooth video, but isn't ready for the prosumer realm offered by companies like DJI, the Snoppa M1 is a great fit.

The Snoppa M1 is available on JD.com within China and Amazon.com in the United States

DAYTRIPPER

Shenzhen's Hidden **Amusement Park**

One of the lesser-known attractions in the Dongmen shopping area, the Shenzhen Workers' Cultural Palace Amusement Park has entertained the masses and their offspring for over a decade now.

It's not nearly as large and well-equipped as, say, Window of the World. But it's free to enter, and what the little park lacks in roller coasters it makes up for in nostalgia-laden charm and a surprisingly robust selection of rides.

A revolving pendulum experience induces swooping sensations in the stomach, and a moderate frisson of fear, as the drops get higher and higher. For the daring, there's a drop tower of decent height. Seekers of lesser thrills can also settle for a pirate ship, bumper cars, carousel or swing ride.

If you're itching to try them all, you're in luck: park prices are generally a steal. Most attractions will set you back only RMB8 or 10, with the most expensive costing 20 yuan. Paying for rides is as easy as taking the subway; simply deposit RMB100 in a card that you can swipe at the gate of each ride. Any remaining cash can be retrieved by turning the



card back in at the ticket booth.

As you explore the hidden gem that is the amusement park, we advise that you walk slowly - even more cool finds are concealed inside.

At the small black magicians' booth next to a row of carnival games, for instance, professionals show off logic-defying sleight-of-hand and offer reasonably-priced classes for the curious. And a dingy green building turns out to house a large arcade with two-person shooters, motorcycle racing, Street-Fighter-style games and all the claw machines you could ever want.

The park offers plenty of options for kiddies as well. A few rides such as the 'little train' are suitable even for the under-three range, and although children 1.5 meters or shorter are barred from the park's more vigorous rides, they can still enjoy most of the attractions.

Outside of rides, an additional family (and couple) friendly pursuit: take a pedal boat out on the park's manmade lake, from which some of Luohu District's most iconic buildings - the pointy-tipped Diwang and curvy KK100 Tower - are visible. At night, the pagoda-topped walkway on the lake becomes a favorite spot for romantic strolls, and a welcome break from the crowds flooding the nearby streets of Dongmen. BH

Shenzhen Workers' Cultural Palace Amusement Park (East Gate), 5 Xinyuan Lu, Luohu District, Shenzhen 深 圳市罗湖区新园路5号 (0755-8218 0619)

How to get there:





EGREA

In 2016, real estate developers completed 12.5 million square meters of shopping centers around the world, and 5.75 million of which are in China. According to an annual report on global retail development by CBRE, seven Chinese cities are on the world's top 10 most active global markets for retail property development. With an oversupply of shopping malls and the rapid growth of online shopping, however, China's physical retailers have received repeated warnings of tough times ahead. In this article, we look at the future of China's shopping malls with industry analysts and developers to see how they are dealing with the influx of competition, as well as the constantly changing market landscape.

ne of my favorite places to write is a restaurant in a shopping center not too far from the *That's Shanghai* office. Besides having comfortable seating and a fast Wi-Fi connection, its main draw is the fact that it's always quiet and empty – just like the rest of the mall.

Enormous signs yelling 'CLOSING SALE' and 'OPENING SOON' are everywhere in this complex. Right next to them are bored shopkeepers, staring into space and occasionally muttering a few words of greeting to passersby in a disinterested manner. It's a scene that's not uncommon in other traditional brick-and-mortar retailers across the country.

Experience Matters

Earlier this year, the closure of Pacific Department Store's 20-year-old branch on Huaihai Zhong Lu – an institution in one of Shanghai's busiest intersections – made headlines across the country. But warning signs for similar retail establishments surfaced as early as 2011, when two Beijing branches of Pacific also shuttered due to poor performance. Halfway across the world, Sears Holdings has already announced the closures of more than 300 stores in the US in 2017 alone, bringing their

store count to around 1,100 – down from more than 2,000 in 2012.

"In China, department stores reigned supreme in the 1990s and early 2000s, but for the past five or six years, they've been on a gradual decline as a result of the rise of e-commerce, overseas shopping and the growing preference for 'experience-based retail.' Department stores are less able to adapt to these trends than shopping malls, so it's no surprise that closures are occurring regularly across China and in markets around the world," says Warner Brown, Associate Director of Research at JLL.

Rebecca Tibbott, CBRE China's Head of Advisory & Transaction Services for the Retail sector, sees the shift towards embracing an experience-based retail – things that involve in-person interactions and can't be purchased online – as a global phenomenon. She says, "We just had a call with the Asia Pacific team, and the situations are quite similar in other markets. The only difference for China is that we're a developing market, things are moving much more quickly than anywhere else."

Malls, according to Brown, are no longer framing themselves as a place for people to buy things, but rather, they need to position themselves as destinations where people can spend an entire day with family and friends. While new properties can incorporate experience-based features right into their original design, existing malls can do so



Beijing, Wuhan, Guangzhou and several other Chinese cities in the next few years. Industry experts see K11's strategy of 'art museum retail' as one of the earliest successful examples of experience-based retail. Back in 2014, its Claude Monet art exhibition attracted more than 350,000 visitors, many of whom would hang around after the show to shop or eat.

"We asked customers about their favorite restaurants, fashion brands, styles, and things like that so we can build the right atmosphere with the tenants we bring in to create a sense of belonging for our target market."

The importance of the science behind retail property management shouldn't be ignored when designing a new shopping mall. CRBE's Tibbott adds, "Landlords who do more research (competitive and consumer analysis) will likely be more successful than those who just lease spaces to whoever approaches them."

Embracing Technology

by adjusting their tenant mix to reflect current market trends. He adds, "Five to eight years ago, retail property developers had a 'build it and they will come' attitude. Now they understand there are risks associated with malls that aren't designed to meet the challenges from e-commerce and to rise above the competition."

The Right Mix

Besides location and easy access via metro or highways, having the 'right' tenant mix is an important variable in the formula of a successful shopping mall. A few years ago, malls were mostly fashion and luxury-driven. Today, however, F&B outlets, lifestyle and entertainment brands, children-friendly features, as well as fitness-related spaces or retailers make up the most crucial components of a mall. Five years ago, malls used to designate around 15 percent of space for F&B outlets; now it's up to anywhere between 30-50 percent.

"We did a lot of research, both before and after we opened, to understand who our customers are and what they want," says a spokesperson of Shanghai K11 Art Mall – the first art-themed shopping mall on the Chinese mainland. The brand also has plans to open up in

Last year's Singles' Day shopping event was a big one for Alibaba. In just 24 hours, the e-commerce giant recorded RMB120.7 billion in sales – a 32 percent increase from the previous year. In April 2018, the company will reportedly be opening 'More Mall,' a 40,000-square-meter shopping complex in Hangzhou.

It's too early to tell whether Alibaba's latest offline expansion plans will be successful or not, but many high-end shopping centers and retail brands have adopted O2O strategies in the last few years, integrating the convenience of online shopping with in-store experience.

"Most malls have realized that the best way to deal with the rapid changes in technology is to embrace it," says Brown at JLL. Besides simple necessities like allowing customers to use mobile payment and running different promotions to encourage social media engagement, he says properties and brands should view the growing usage of smartphones as a great business opportunity. Wi-Fi and Bluetooth integration, he points out, are particularly useful for customer behavioral analysis.

This is something that the folks at HKRI Taikoo Hui are well aware of. "People's lives are integrated with their smartphones," says a spokesperson from the mixed-use development on Shanghai's Nanjing



% Change of Trade Mix in Shanghai's and Nanjing's Shopping Centers



Xi Lu that includes a gigantic shopping mall, two boutique hotels, two premium Grade-A office towers and a serviced apartment building. "Technology can help shopping mall operators gather real-time data and immediate feedback to enhance customer experience. The use of big data can help operators figure out market trends and tailor features that suit the needs of shoppers."

Soft-opened since May 2017, this project is a joint venture between HKR International Limited and Swire Properties Limited, two real estate development giants with dozens of successful commercial, retail and residential properties across China and Asia – including Beijing's Taikoo Li Sanlitun (Swire) and Discovery Bay in Hong Kong (HKRI). Even so, the two shareholders refuse to rest on their laurels. "We never simply copy and paste, not even our own successful models. To us, the retail sector is very market-driven, and there's never a 'finished'

project," the spokesperson explains. "Changes are always happening and staying relevant is key."

"The increasing popularity of online shopping does not obviate the need for shopping malls. Shoppers' preference for [physical retailers] remains strong, as they are demanding an omni-channel shopping experience," says Maureen Fung, director of Sun Hung Kai Properties (China) - which operates Shanghai's iapm, Beijing APM and Parc Central in Guangzhou, among others. She adds, "The future of retail will depend on a harmonious integration of online and offline features; technology and creative experiential elements are the key to attracting shoppers amidst the challenging retail market in China. "

Future Developments

JLL's Brown believes that developers are still "optimistic about the opportunities, but also equally concerned about the competition." While the

number of projects under construction will still remain strong over the next few years, he predicts that it will decline in the long term as a result of saturation in some markets.

He adds, "Local governments may also tweak zoning to reduce the supply of land designated for shopping malls, as it's not in their best interest to have poorly performing malls in their cities. We've also seen some struggling properties being converted to other uses - such as coworking spaces - in places like Beijing and Shanghai. This is also something to watch."

"It'd be overkill to say investors are losing hope in shopping mall development," Brown comments, referring to a report by his company that predicts China's consumer class population will grow by 70 percent over the 2015-2020 period to reach 220 million people. "Income levels are rising, and retail sales still see generally positive results in

most government-released data, while officials have said they want consumption to play a bigger role in economic growth - all of which point to retail being a big part of China's future."

According to another report by CBRE, as of December 2016, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Chongqing, Chengdu and Wuhan are the world's top markets for shopping centers in the construction pipeline. Tibbott says, "There's definitely a concern for oversupply in these cities - especially for the lower tier cities where there aren't as many domestic or international tourists coming in."

She concludes, "Over the next few years, the experience-based retail trend will continue, and more landlords are developing with this in mind. We will, however, see malls that don't change or evolve with this format close down. But there are still heaps of international retailers entering China, which shows signs of a healthy market."









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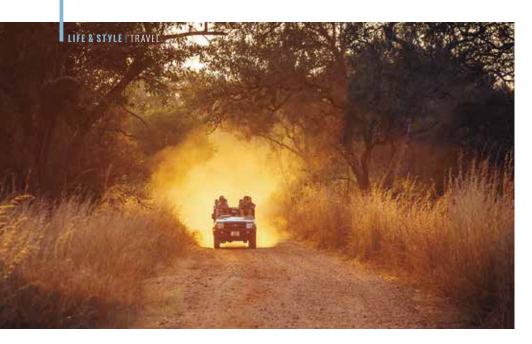
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WHAT'S A MALAWI?

Why You Should Visit this Southeast African Country

By Gary Bailer, photos courtesy of Malawi Style

Most struggle to find Malawi on a map, and the rest only know it as 'where Madonna gets her kids.' Yet, this Pennsylvania-sized African country is quickly earning a name as a new tourism destination, thanks to its returning wildlife, legendary landscapes and the friendliness of its people, which has earned the country the nickname 'the warm heart of Africa.'





Beaches

Lake Malawi runs along most of the country's eastern border and is considered one of the African Great Lakes, being the ninth largest in the world. It also provides landlocked Malawi with legendary freshwater beaches, famed for fish life and warm temperatures.

Those who want to enjoy a few days of sun and swimming – along with a bit of seclusion – will head to Likoma Island, reachable by ferry or regular hour-long flights from Malawi's capital city, Lilongwe.

Award-winning boutique resorts like the Kaya Mawa draw vacationers from all over the world, seeking to 'get away' for a while to the sand, water and island activities ranging from water sports to cultural outings.

Mountains

Despite sharing a name, Lake Malawi isn't the country's only draw. Hikers have long coveted Southern Malawi's Zomba Plateau, an hour-long car ride from the southern city of Blantrye.

There are hiking trails for most skill levels, with many accessible to beginners, who favor the stunning Queen's View, named for England's current monarch after a 1957 visit.

The area is also dotted by waterfalls that attract adventurous swimmers, with Williams Falls perhaps being the most famous and photogenic.

The Parks

Resettlement of animals and help from international NGOs has seen a resurgence in Malawi's wildlife, putting the country on the short list of places where you can see the Big Five: elephants, rhinoceros, buffalo, leopards and lions.





The Nyika National Park, Malawi's largest, was immortalized in the 1951 bestseller Venture to the Interior, which described British efforts to map a largely unknown plateau in the north of the country. The Nyika Plateau remains best accessed by planes, which land in a grass airfield, but the Childenda Lodge provides luxury accommodation, though electricity is usually only available for a few hours each day.

The People

Due to Malawi's historic ties with the British, English is widely spoken across the country, making it possible to chat with locals and even ask for travel advice – something many are eager to provide as Malawi has been rated the sixth kindest country to strangers in the world. Paired with legendary Malawian hospitality, any visit is as much about the stunning natural beauty as the people who live there.







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Photos by Sky Thomas Gidge and Tristin Zhang











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ARTS

For the Record

Three new homegrown albums on our radar this month, p34







THE CANDLE THIEVES

The UK Pop Duo on Past China Tours, Wild West Theme Parties and Letting Go

By Frances Unen

The Candle Thieves are a UK-based duo whose sunny pop aesthetic belies darker, contemplative lyrics about life and its foibles. We caught up with the band before their extensive China tour this month to see what they're about.

What is the story behind your band's name?

I used to play piano at wedding receptions. Toward the end of the night, there would always be half-burned candles lying around. I'd sneak one or two into my bag each week when it was time to go.

I guess this went on for a while without me realizing. One day, [my bandmate] Scott came to my house and asked why there were 50 candles in my lounge... It was a fair question. I said, "Oh yeah, I'm a bit of a candle thief."

Can you tell us a bit about the inspiration behind your new album, *Details*?

I lost my father last year. A lot of the songs are reflective about the world, how we choose to live our lives, trying to keep your mind safe when things get hard and letting go.

We also had very little money when we started *Details*, so the whole album was made in four days. We found that time constraint exciting, as it gave the record some urgency. Most of the recording was made live and in one take. We had to plan, practice and work hard.

What songs from *Details* are most meaningful to you and why?

I guess 'Carry On, Farewell' is the most meaningful, as it's the closest thing I had to say goodbye to my father. It's just saying that you don't have to forget, but it's okay to move on.

Can you tell me a bit about your song 'China on My Mind'? Is it based on your past experiences touring here?

Absolutely! But it's more than

that, too. The Candle Thieves agreed not to make any more music after our third album. Shortly after, we were invited to perform in China. We had such an amazing time that we couldn't give up on the band. China is the reason The Candle Thieves still exist.

Your music is known for being comforting and winsome with whimsical lyrics yet darker undertones. Which musicians would you say influence you the most?

Thank you! Yes we do write about some dark things, but life is about all the different shades of color. However tough things get, there is always a light.

We have lots of inspiration. In the early days we used to love a band called Eels. The singer had a hard life but managed to write about it in a positive way. We also love The Beatles and classic pop music. These days, we're largely inspired by the things we see. The world is in a very weird place. You have performed in many unusual locations, such as in a fan's kitchen, fan's boat and backyard. Could you share some of the most interesting scenarios?

Haha, yes, we have performed in some strange settings. The weirdest was probably a 'Wild West' cowboy themed party. Everybody had their shirts off and dancing around. That was interesting.

The wildest experience was probably coming to China for the first time. We had no idea what to expect. But to travel the other side of the world to people that care about us was amazing and something we're incredibly grateful for.

GZ: Fri Oct 20, 8.30pm; RMB80 presale, RMB120 at door. T:Union, 361-365 Guangzhou Dadao Zhong, Yuexiu District 越秀区广州大道中361-365号东方花范1层 (020-3659 7623); SZ: Sat Oct 21, 8.30pm; RMB80 presale, RMB120 at door. Yi Qu Tang, Bldg. F3, OCT-Loft, En'ping Lu, Nanshan District 南山区华侨城恩平路 OCT-LOFT(华侨城文化创意园)F3栋, 一渡 堂艺术空间 (0755-8609 5352)

COLL AGE

SINO CELEB

Yu Haoming

If scars make a boy a man, Guangzhou singer and actor Yu Haoming is certainly one now. In October 2010, an accidental explosion that occurred while he was shooting a TV series left Yu with third-degree burns on 39 percent of his body – scarring his face, legs and arms. As the media at the time put it, his "whole body was on fire."

After more than two years of treatment and surgery, Yu made his comeback on the stage of the 2012-2013 Chinese New Year Gala broadcast on Hunan TV. While he sang one of his well-known refrains – which literally translates 'I Am Actually Okay' – the camera showed audience members and fellow performers tearing up as they watched.

Yu first rose to fame at age 20, after he participated in a popular singing talent show in 2007. Later on, he not only recorded singles and albums, but also acted and guest-hosted one of the most popular talk shows in China.

Recently, Yu has starred in the popular TV drama Nothing Gold Can Stay (那年花 开月正圆), with thick makeup used in an attempt to cover the scars on his face and neck. Once a classic 'boy next door,' Yu portrays a scheming merchant in the show, drawing negative comments from some viewers and admiration from others impressed by his acting ability.

Kind of like: Dylan O'Brien (*The Maze Runner*)

Famous for: being heavily wounded in an accidental explosion while shooting a TV series

See him next in: the TV drama *You and Me in Time*



CANVASSED

400 Movie Theaters with 4DX Technology Open Across China

At this time last year, China had yet to see the debut of 4DX technology, which was invented in 2009 and is a step above 3D, using everything from smoke machines to perfume to water spray to engage all five senses in a movie-going experience. But thanks to a collaboration between American and South Korean purveyors of the technology with Wanda Cinemas, the nation now has cinemas that can screen films in 4DX in all its major cities – the 400th branch opens this month in Beijing. The technology is best suited for action movies with lots of dramatic fight scenes, and *Spider-Man: Homecoming* is the latest film to be outfitted with 4DX trappings.



HAO BU HAO



Hao

Several of China's most revered auteurs are stepping back behind the lens in the next few months. Chen Kaige, director of acclaimed Palm d'Or winner Farewell My Concubine, announced last month at the Toronto International Film Festival that his newest film, a supernatural mystery story called Legend of the Demon Cat, is hitting domestic theaters this December. Meanwhile, Wong Kar-Wai has announced that he's signed on as the director of an upcoming Amazon TV series called Tong Wars. Few details are known about the project, but it's rumored to be a drama series about gangsters.



Bu Hao

Chinese Film Distribution and Screening Association recently named 26 cinemas around the nation as "egregious offenders" of box office fraud. The report shows that box office fraud, especially doctoring ticket sale figures, is most common in China's smaller cities, as 21 out of the 26 are located in third and fourth tier cities. None of the cinemas are located in first-tier cities like Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou, though a branch of Baoying International Cinema in Shenzhen was named. Authorities haven't yet taken any action against these offenders, but cinemas named in a similar announcement in March of this year received fines and temporary shut-downs.

THE PLAYLIST

From Chris Garneau's whispered folk-pop lyrics to A-mei's legendary power vocals, here are our favorite tunes from artists playing in South China this month.

Chris Garneau - Relief

舟扒皮 - 餘

A-mei-母系社会

Mamamoo - 나로 말할 것 같으면 (Yes I am)

Standing Egg - 내게 기대 (Lean On Me)

Leo Ku- 爱与诚

Eason Chan - 无条件

阿兰 - 凤凰

Cara Dillon - High Tide

Huang Chi Yeul - 너 없이 못살아 (Without You)

WHAT'S NEW

Tencent and Alibaba Team Up to Expand Their Streaming **Catalogues**

Tencent, which owns China's three biggest music-streaming companies QQ, Kugou and Kuwo in addition to WeChat, inked landmark deal



in September to exchange music licensing with its only major competitor in the market, Alibaba. Tencent has a monopoly on music from many Western musicians, from Taylor Swift to Katy Perry, thanks to its exclusive licensing deal with Sony and Universal Music, but Alibaba has a much stronger catalogue of Chinese and Japanese songs, which many of its users prefer. The two conglomerates have agreed to share some of the rights to these songs, with Tencent giving up exclusive rights to Western pop songs in exchange for Alibaba's stronger catalogue of local music. This means that more songs will be available for users to stream on both platforms.



ARTS | MUSIC

CHINA MUSIC CORNER

Three New Homegrown Albums on Our Radar This Month

By Erica Martin

Before the Applause by Re-TROS

Ever since they moved from Nanjing to Beijing in the early 2000s, Re-TROS have been one of the leading post-punk bands working out of the Beijing underground. *Before the Applause* is their first album in eight years, and reveals a completely different sensibility. Less punk and much more electronic, many of the tracks have a techno-inflected sound that would be as at home in a nightclub as at a live show. Frontman and guitarist Hua Dong told *That's* in an April 2017 interview about the then-upcoming album that the band was debuting a "remodeled" sound, and that their biggest influence toward the change had been listening to NYC art rock band Battles, who inspired them to start using loops. This influence is apparent in the vocals and some of the composition, but actually the band has managed a truly unique collection of sounds throughout the album. 'Red Rum Aviv' retains a bit more of Re-TROS' punk past while still incorporating the new electronic sensibility, and the standout closing track 'At Mosp Here' is a freewheeling 12 minutes of techno-inflected krautrock.



Listen here: https://re-tros.bandcamp.com/album/before-the-applause-2



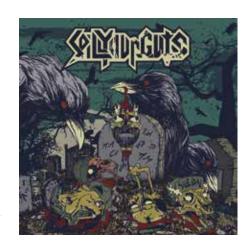
Welcome to the Suck by Ugly Girls

A brand-spanking-new band that has still only played out a few times, Ugly Girls has injected Shanghai's music scene with a much-needed dose of riotgrrrl punk. Formed with several veteran musicians including former Shanghai music blogger Andy Best, Ugly Girls has already released a full-length album recorded live at Yuyintang. *Welcome to the Suck* opens with a bang, displaying vocalist Elsa's wry, deadpan delivery and appealing high-pitched rasp as she repeats the refrain: "You ain't God, you're just a fuck boss." As with all the best riotgrrrl music, the punk melodies take a backseat to the lyrics, which are impeccable throughout: 'Cellulite Riot' is a cheeky feminist anthem, while 'Potato Face' is a truly inspired takedown of mediocre Western expats ("What's it like to play the victim when your family once owned slaves?"), and 'Butch Barbie' is a surprisingly touching love song despite its crass delivery; we could go on. China needs more bands like this.

Listen here: https://uglygirls-shanghai.bandcamp.com/album/welcome-to-the-suck

Hungry Crows by Spill Your Guts

Shanghai-based 'black'n'roll' hardcore band Spill Your Guts released their latest album and first LP last month. The band has come a long way in the last few years, and this first full-length effort reflects the fact that they've expanded their sound a bit beyond just full-throttle aggressive hardcore, with songs that explore more melodic genres like the slower, moodier melodies of black metal and some punk elements. Some of the more interesting tracks include 'Praise the Fire,' which opens in typical rumbling hardcore, but then slows down into a heavy metalesque melody, and the closing song 'Satan 3 (some),' which has a catchy, nostalgic rock guitar riff punctuating the screaming vocals. A few witty track names ('No Visas for the Wicked') and a music video of disaster video smash cuts that recently went viral also add to the appeal, and the album is likely even better performed live with vocalist Dima's wild-eyed grin and onstage charisma.



Listen at: https://spillyourguts.bandcamp.com

ALL THAT JAZZ

The Seventh OCT-Loft Jazz Festival 2017

By Gary Bailer

"When you hear music, after it's over, it's gone, in the air. You can never capture it again," jazz musician Eric Dolphy once said. An obvious solution: play another song.

Perhaps the organizers of the OCT-Loft Jazz Festival had this in mind when they decided to continue the festival for its 7th year.

Starting October 11, musicians from across the world will converge in the OCT-Loft, bringing wildly different styles of jazz.

The first day will see Mathias Heise Quadrillion kick off the festival with their original style of jazzy harmonies spliced with hard-hitting funk.

Lectures, screenings and 'sharing sessions' will also round out the event, with a October 17 event seeing speaker, and event curator, A Fei sharing rare recordings – including audio reels of 1970s avantgarde Japanese jazz.

Fan of the musical style or not, interesting groups will be swinging through town and definitely worth an in-person listen.

The festival ends on the October 29, with a full schedule and tickets available on octloftjazz.com.





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PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Chapterhouse Theatre Company Adapts Jane Austen's Best-loved Novel to the Stage

By Erica Martin

s a follow-up to their acclaimed theatrical adaptations of novels like *The Jungle Book* and *Wuthering Heights*, the UK's Chapterhouse Theatre Company reaches next for one of the most beloved works of British literature, debuting their China tour of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* this month.

Austen's classic novel, which is part romantic drama and part razor-sharp comedy of manners, immortalized the characters of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy as one of the most famous romantic pairings of all time. Chapterhouse Theatre's theatrical adaptation by playwright Laura Turner coincides with the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's passing, commemorating the timelessness of the author's themes two centuries later.

"Austen's popularity is largely due to the fact that [her novels] could have been written yesterday; themes of love, passion, guilt and jealousy all make up the foundations of modern literature," says Chapterhouse's artistic director Richard Main. Turner and Main have collaborated on several other adaptations of Austen novels prior to tackling *Pride and Prejudice*, and this newest show promises all the crackling wit, subtle irony and slow-burning passion as Austen's original work.

Founded in the UK in 1999, Chapterhouse Theatre has expanded from a modest local company to an international touring troupe. They got their start performing intimate plays in unusual venues throughout the English countryside – in castles, country houses and outdoor spaces – before expanding to their tours abroad. Main has no shortage of fond memories from this early period, involving everything from a flock of onlooking sheep to interrupting cows. However, the tours through China have been memorable in their own right for both Chapterhouse's actors and Main himself.

"China is widely considered to be one of the cultural capitals of the planet, so as soon as we were offered the opportunity, there was never any doubt whether we would want to come," he says of their first tour. "People in the United Kingdom are, on the whole, quite reserved in their appreciation of [theater], so



the response from the young people in China has been something that the actors really appreciate."

The popularity of Austen's classic work and Chapterhouse's wealth of experience in adapting Victorian-era British literature ensures that this latest adaptation will be one of Chapterhouse's best, but Main is also looking ahead to the company's future projects. His personal favorite Jane Austen novel is Sense & Sensibility, which the company is touring next summer, and Main also has a long-term goal of one day adapting the classic C.S. Lewis novel The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe for the stage. The company has an extremely prodigious touring schedule, with several stints throughout the country each year, and this work ethic paired with their knack for choosing novels that have a timeless resonance ensures that their profile throughout China will only continue to grow.

"All great literature, no matter what country it is from, touches the heart of the reader," says Main. "I think the resurgence of these works is, in part, due to their reimagining in popular culture. We are part of that and are very lucky to be so. We are, to some extent, adding our own definition of these works with our adaptations, but as with all great novels, their themes are universal."

Fri Oct 29, 8pm; RMB80-300. Children's Palace Theatre, 2002 Fuzhong Yi Lu, Futian District, Shenzhen 深圳市福田区福中一路2002号 (0755-8351 3099)







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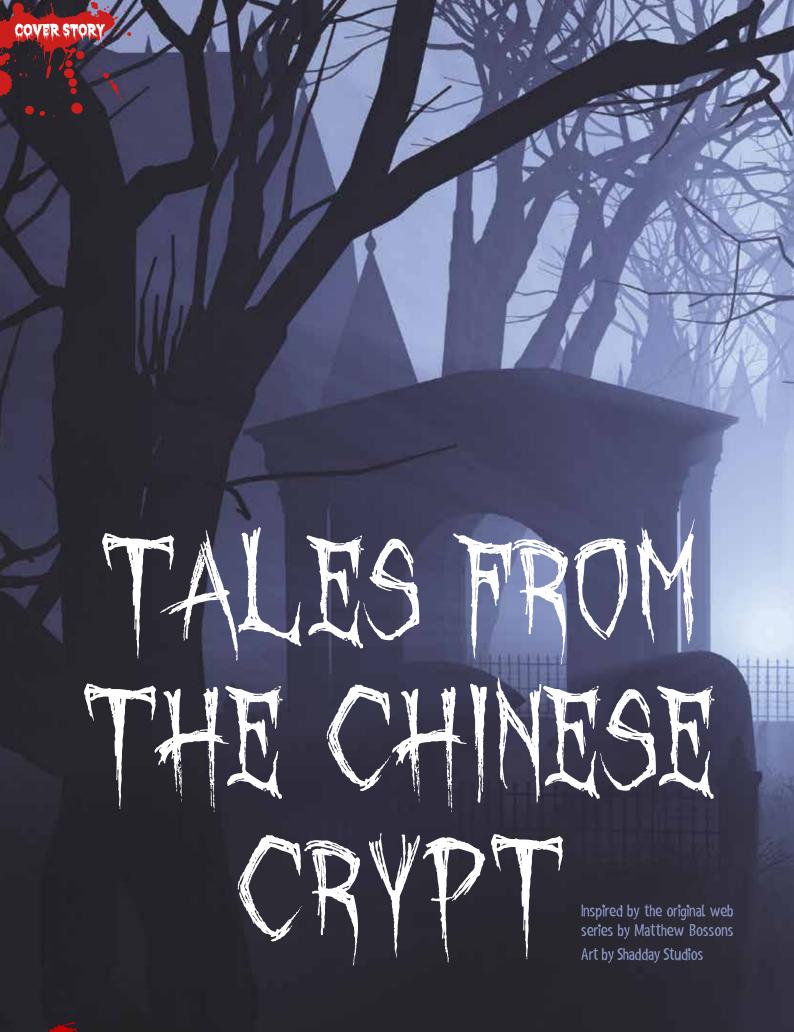








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"It happened to a friend of a friend of mine..." — a phrase commonly uttered before one dives into a (mostly) fictional story, surrounded by captivated friends sitting around a dying campfire.

Sometimes the story takes place in the backwoods of civilization and features a hair-covered bipedal ape. Other times, the account involves a night of heavy drinking, a cute blonde and a missing kidney. Sometimes aliens. Sometimes a hitchhiker, Lovers' Lane or... the list goes on.

Such tales are generally referred to as urban legends: contemporary folklore that usually involve a fictional – though often believable – story sprinkled with macabre elements, and, in the case of many Western urban legends, pop culture.

Many of our expat readers will be familiar with tales of headless horsemen, missing organs and giant Mexican rats that, for some reason, are mistaken by suburban American families as Chihuahuas. What we presume fewer foreigners in China are aware of is China's collection of spooky or coincidental tales and mysterious, undiscovered creatures.

With October being the scariest month of the year, it seems as good a time as any to dive into the Middle Kingdom's eeriest folklore. We've dug up spine-chilling tales of phantom transit commuters, giant sandworms, mass disappearances and haunted plazas, among others, that will hopefully be as entertaining as they are terrifying.

Happy haunting!



THE HELLO KITTY MURDER

By Matthew Bossons

o properly begin this story, we'll turn the clock back to May 1999, when a 13-year-old girl in Hong Kong went to police to complain that a woman her convicted boyfriend helped murder was haunting her. She described to police her vision of a 23-year-old woman being tortured mercilessly while she was bound with electrical wire, unable to escape.

After some convincing, police searched a third-floor flat on Granville Road 31, which turned up some chilling evidence – namely, a large Hello Kitty doll stuffed with a woman's head.

The victim of this heinous crime was a 23-year-old nightclub hostess named Fan Man-yee, who was abducted after she allegedly failed to repay a HKD20,000 debt. Fan had been missing for roughly a year.

According to various media reports, Ms. Fan was held captive for more than a month, during which time she was tortured daily until she died. Once dead, the perpetrators chopped her body into little pieces and disposed of it with the garbage. Some versions of this story claim the men also skinned and boiled her, but this is difficult to confirm. Her severed head was sewn inside a Hello Kitty doll.

When the story hit the press, it horrified Hong Kong residents and earned the strange (but appropriate) moniker 'The Hello Kitty Murder'.

In the months following the killing, images of a shadowy female form, lurking near the Granville Road 31 apartment, were captured on various CCTV cameras from nearby buildings. In some cases, the ghostly woman was spotted inside stores on the ground floor of the apartment, long after closing time.

Residents in the apartment also reported unnerving sounds and even unexplainable 'ghostly flames', which eventually pushed them to move out. The building sat virtually empty until it was demolished in 2012, for reasons still unknown.

The three men convicted for the murder were sentenced to life in prison for their crimes and won't be eligible for parole until 2020.





THE HAUNTED OFFICE BUILDING

By Bailey Hu

engeful, decades-old ghosts
roam the hallways of Zhongyin
Building, located near the
heart of Shenzhen – or so the
rumors say.

They're blamed for the failures of Zhongyin's businesses, said to have a preternaturally short lifespan.

And at least online, an otherworldly influence is cited as the cause for the complex's rock-bottom rent.

The ghosts haunting Zhongyin are said to date back to the bloody days of China's Cultural Revolution, in the 60s and 70s, when the site of the building was used as an execution ground.

After Shenzhen's founding and rapid development, some say developers decided to capitalize on the supposedly cursed plot of land, and hired a specialist for advice on putting the ghosts to rest. That's how the office building ended up with two pointy towers that resemble candles, plastered over with auspicious, rose-tinted windows.

Zhongyin is, undoubtedly, an offensively pink monstrosity. But does it deserve its ghastly reputation?

Naysayers point out that the stories serve the business interests of Zhongyin's competition. The color may just be an unfortunate quirk, and the cheap rent a self-fulfilling prophecy. In short, there's no proof of haunting (is there ever?), just speculation.

The ghost stories may date back to well before the modern rumors, however. According to Shenzhen native Wen Miaozhang, back when the area was still Gangxia Village, the site of Zhongyin was a dumping ground for the bodies of those too poor or young to afford a proper burial.

Local legends circulated about the childish or unhappy spirits said to

reside there. In one story, the ghosts hoodwink a man passing by on his way home from a fishing trip, tricking him into mistaking the worms he'd been using for noodles. He wakes up the next day with mud on his face and the unsettling realization that he ate a bowl of squirming fish bait.

Another superstition says that spirits are to blame for people getting lost in the area. The only way to ward off ghostly interference is to make a metal clanging sound – by hitting a gong with nails, for instance.

Despite her knowledge of local lore, Wen herself remains dubious: after all, if Zhongyin is haunted, why aren't Shenzhen's many coastal properties, which are built on shores where hundreds – if not thousands – perished while trying to swim to Hong Kong from the 50s to the 80s?

Whether you believe in ghosts or not, it's a sobering thought.



umored to exist in the rocky and unforgiving Gobi Desert, the Mongolian death worm is unquestionably one of China's stranger cryptids.

This nightmarish creature is allegedly red in color, somewhere between two and five feet long and as thick as a man's arm. It should be noted that two to five feet is the most commonly stated length, though some sources suggest the animal can grow to much greater sizes. An Animal Planet documentary claims the death worm can reach lengths of up to 10 feet.

Sometimes referred to as the 'intestine worm' because of its ridged, intestine-like appearance, this cryptid is greatly feared by locals due to its highly toxic (or possibly acid-like) venom.

According to local beliefs, the death worm has the ability to spray its venom from a reasonable distance and the substance is powerful enough to kill a camel or horse. Some tales assert the worm can also use electricity on hapless passersby.

There have been numerous expeditions mounted to find the worm, including several that were filmed for television – including the popular mystery show Destination Truth in 2006-2007 – but all returned empty-handed.

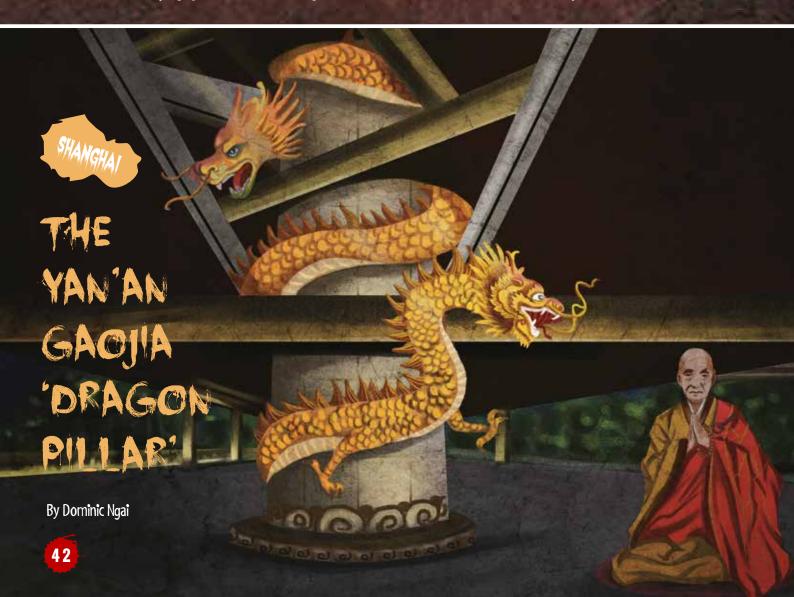
According to believers, this is mainly because many areas near the China-Mongolia border are difficult to access or restricted. They also note that the worm spends most of the year underground, only surfacing when it rains, which typically occurs during just two months per year.

According to Czech cryptozoologist Ivan Mackerle in his 1987 book Altajn Tsaadakh Govd, "It [the Mongolian death worm] travels underground. Its movement can be detected from above via the waves of sand that it displaces."

While most observers conclude that the death worm is simply a beast of legend (including Markerle, who mounted three separate expeditions in 1990, 1992 and 2004), others have suggested it may be an undiscovered species sand-dwelling snake. This suggestion is plausible, as snakes do come in various shades of red and some species have the ability to spit venom up to two meters.

Regardless of the likelihood of its existence, the Mongolian death worm has found considerable attention worldwide, in books, television shows and a 2010 American TV movie titled Mongolian Death Worm (we haven't seen it, but word on the street is it's crap).

So, is a terrifying species of worm lurking beneath the sands of the Gobi Desert? Probably not, but who knows...





illions of people drive past Yan'an Elevated Road (or Yan'an Gaojia) on a daily basis. Getting stuck in traffic on this 15-kilometer-long expressway running from the Bund to the Hongqiao Airport is a daily routine for many Shanghai residents.

Ever since Yan'an Gaojia was open to the public in the mid-1990s, a certain 'legend' focusing on just one specific part of the expressway – the 'dragon pillar' – has been circulating among locals.

Located at the cross-section with Nanbei Gaojia near People's Square, the 'dragon pillar' – unlike all the other regular concrete pillars along the expressway – isn't just larger and thicker; it's also decorated with a metallic finishing, as well as nine large bronze dragons and several smaller ones on its surface.

The most widely known version of the story behind the 'dragon pillar' states that back when construction workers were building this section of the expressway in 1995 and had to install the pilings needed for the foundation, they had trouble drilling to the required depth, and construction came to a grinding halt.

As the story goes, government officials and the construction company wanted to avoid further delays and invited several fengshui masters to take a look at the site, but they all refused to prescribe a solution. In the end, a monk from Jade Buddha Temple (some say Longhua Temple) agreed to perform a religious ceremony. Before he left, the monk also asked for the pillar to be covered with nine dragons because this very spot happens to be the resting place of the city's guardian dragon. After the ceremony was finished, workers were finally able to install not just one, but seven pilings at the spot.

While the construction resumed without any major hitches, the monk who performed the ceremony was said to have died of unknown causes a few days after. Many believed his death was a punishment for 'spilling the secrets' on the dragon's home. While officials have repeatedly dismissed this as pure fiction, when it comes to urban myths in Shanghai, this is one every local has heard of.



LIVAN 'CORPSE' PLAZA

By Lena Gidwani and Jocelyn Richards

any Cantonese see it as no coincidence that the cursive-like character 'guang' () outside of Liwan Plaza in Guangzhou bears an uncanny resemblance to the word for corpse (). Since 2004, about a dozen suicides have occurred on the premises, with some witnesses claiming that a supernatural force seemingly pushed victims over the railings.

The mall's deadly curse, according to local residents, began many years ago, when it was first constructed. If you've ever watched Poltergeist, you'll know never to build on ancient burial grounds, but you wouldn't expect a bunch of real estate developers to know that, would you?

Home to a Qing Dynasty sacrificial

chamber, inspectors failed to notice eight empty coffins when erecting Liwan Plaza, now a large jewelry market near Shangxiajiu Pedestrian Street. Unearthed during construction, some say the coffins were the cradle of strange noises and mysterious deaths that kept storefronts ruinously empty. To counteract the malevolence, architects made the building resemble an octagon, like the bagua.

Eventually, a Taoist priest informed landlords that the empty coffins had originally been buried to thwart evil influences. The catch was that they were not to be disturbed for a thousand years. Whoops.

Since then, several 'accidents' have been reported – many on the fifth floor. At least two of the landlords that managed the plaza have allegedly died suddenly of unknown causes, according to some online bloggers.

Despite Guangzhou's toasty climate, Chinese netizens claim it's always a few degrees cooler in Liwan Plaza. And just walking through the building at night, they say, brings a chilling feeling of despair.

As with most supernatural affairs, however, no concrete evidence exists to prove the plaza is haunted. Skeptics argue the prevalence of suicides there could be due to Liwan Plaza's infamous reputation or insensitive media coverage – both of which may facilitate successive suicidal acts. Regardless, the building's occupants now mostly consist of non-local business owners happy to make a quick buck while the 'silent' run amok.

THE UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCE OF 3,000 CHINESE TROOPS By Matthew Bossons

nexplained disappearances
have always had a chilling effect
on people. The eeriest type,
though, are those that occur en
masse – when a group of people seem to
evaporate into thin air.

So goes the urban legend of the Nanjing soldiers. In 1939, during the horrors of Japanese aggression against the Republic of China in the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-45), almost 3,000 soldiers stationed in the rolling hills around Nanjing are said to have disappeared without leaving a single clue about their fate.

The incident, according to folklore, began in December of 1939 (or 1937, depending on who you talk to), when Colonel Li Fu Sien stationed 2,988 troops amongst Nanjing's hills, a 3.2-kilometer area, with a view to defend a bridge on the Yangtze River against an impending

Japanese attack.

When Colonel Li awoke the following morning, he was told by his assistant that the soldiers at the defensive line were not responding to calls or signals. An investigation team was formed, but found the site completely abandoned upon arrival. There was no sign of struggle: heavy weapons were still in place and ready to be fired, but nobody was there.

Troops stationed at the bridge claimed no one had slipped by in the night. They were unsure of the missing soldiers' fate.

Various theories have since emerged to explain the mass disappearance, although the easiest explanation may be that the whole event never even happened...

A major problem with the various online renditions of the story is

the inconsistencies about when the disappearance took place. Some writers claim suggest the incident happened in December of 1937, in the immediate runup to the battle, while others place the event in 1939 – roughly half a year after the siege ended.

The story has never received any historical mention, and is absent from texts like Basic Facts on the Nanking Massacre and the Tokyo War Crimes Trial.

While a Google search of 'Nanjing soldier disappearance 1939' or 'Colonel Li Fu Sien' turns up a myriad of online conspiracy and pseudoscience blogs, essentially no reputable publications or historians seem to be chiming in with their thoughts on the myth, indicating the story may be just that – a myth.





n November 14, 1995, a dark and possibly stormy night, a young man boarded the last bus heading to Beijing's Fragrant Hills, located in Haidian District. Shortly after the man boarded the route 302 bus, two men tried to wave the bus down.

According to a 2013 Global Times article written by Wang Yu, the bus driver, a college student at the time, was initially reluctant to pick up the men because they weren't waiting at a bus stop. However, the driver eventually decided to stop after the conductor reminded him that it was the last bus.

Once the mysterious roadside men were on board, passengers were surprised to see they were wearing some pretty badass Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) robes and that there were actually three men – the third sporting long messy hair, supported by the two roadside creepers.

As the story goes, the men's faces were white as snow and they didn't interact with any other passengers on the bus.

Gradually, the bus began to empty, according to the tale, until only an old lady and the young man remained

inside with the mystery trio. All was quiet until the old woman abruptly accused the young man of stealing her wallet – a claim that resulted in an intense argument. The quarrel was resolved when the old lady insisted the two get off the bus and go to the nearest police station.

Once off the bus, the young man grew enraged with the old woman, realizing he had just exited the last bus and there was no police station in sight.

Fortunately for the young man, the elderly woman picked up on something he had missed: she said the three robed men did not have legs and, by default, must have been ghosts.

"The wind blowing through the window raised their robes and I saw they didn't have feet!" The old lady allegedly told the man. The story doesn't divulge much about what happened to the pair after leaving the bus, but if what happens next is true, then the young man owes his life to the woman.

The following morning, as the fable goes, the 302 bus was reported missing and, according to some variations of the story, was found three days later.



It was discovered in a reservoir miles away from its final destination at Fragrant Hills. Inside were three heavily decomposed bodies: the driver, the conductor and one unidentified figure with lengthy, unkempt hair.

In some versions of this tale, police found that the gas tank was filled with blood instead of petrol.

According to Atrocitas, an online paranormal and horror blog, there are a number of mysteries that surround this case, including the fact that the bus didn't have enough petrol to get to the reservoir and that the bodies were too heavily decomposed for the relatively short time they were missing. The blog also claims that police officers scoured the security footage retrieved from cameras around the reservoir and found nothing out of the ordinary.

CHINA'S VII GREATEST SUPERSTITIONS

The number four (it sounds like the Mandarin word for 'death')

Wearing another's jewelry, especially jade (it's thought that possessing any secondhand item means inheriting the misfortune of the previous owner)

Gifting a clock (in Mandarin, 'gifting a clock' sounds like the phrase 'attending a funeral ritual')

Hitting another with a broom (the perpetrator will ruin his or her own life)

Cleaning the house on the first day of the Chinese New Year (good fortune will be swept away along with the dust)

Walking directly under others' hanging pants (spirits reside there)

Sticking chopsticks straight down in rice (they resemble incense sticks used to mourn the dead)





GLOBAL FRIENDSHIPGuangzhou's Diverse GF Community Embarks on a New Chapter By Jocelyn Richards



"It's a charity group." "It's inspired by art." "They hold events at bars..." Everyone seems to think they know what Global Friendship is, and yet few have actually heard the whole story. First inspired in 2014 by the TED Talk 'Can Art Change the World?', Global Friendship has, in the last year, transitioned from being a parttime portrait and charity project to a full-time, comprehensive business, providing support for expats in areas like housing, jobs, legal consulting, medical expertise and more.

To learn just what the GF community which has recently grown to include more than 2.000 followers on WeChat - is about. we caught up with cofounder Fabiola Benitez and co-manager Patrick Feng.

the idea 'can art change the world?', but it seems GF does more diverse activities

FB: During the first two years of Global Friendship, Rochelle and I - who share backgrounds in social work - were mainly working part-time taking black-and-white portraits of our diverse community, inspired by the TED Talk we saw. We also launched the T-shirt project, the proceeds of which went to our charity 'Educate a Child' founded in 2015 to help students in Guizhou. But once we finally held an exhibition last November at Party Pier, it felt kind of like an end of GF - and we were almost ready to move on. I was even thinking of leaving China.

FB: Patrick spoke to us and said. 'You've created something great that can be continued'... and we were like, 'Really?! How? We're broke and we have no energy!' (Laughs). But with his support, we've been able to step it up and establish a more sustainable platform. The membership started in February 2017, and since then, we can definitely see a future with this.

What other activities or services do you offer since launching the membership

FB: With membership, we want people to actually feel support here, for housing, jobs, medical, legal, etc. So, the idea is people come to GF like 'I need help' and we connect them with those who can help. We meet with the third parties to be sure they are people who share our values, and who we can confidently recommend.

PF: Our service account is like 'GF 911' (laughs). As a member, you can message our WeChat with your request and we have tailor-made services to help foreign members – like providing a *shifu* to come fix your cracked phone screen or doctors who can recommend medicine in Chinese for you to buy. Visa help, medical advice, legal consulting - basic questions in areas like these are free.

FB: Yeah, so for example, we also have passion workshops once a month where members can host an event and share their skills or passion.

We see many people are here ESL teaching or doing business because those are the options. But we have so much more to us - the lives we led back home – so we want to offer a platform for people to pursue their real interests. We believe that when people are happy doing what they're doing, they become better people, and that affects those around them and the whole community.

PF: We hope to hold one workshop every night. Who knows who will walk into a bar when someone is presenting - maybe on photography, for example - and offer them a job on the spot? Or at least a part-time gig. We want to give foreigners an opportunity to settle down in China with their passions – not just earning some money, but doing what they love.

What is your vision for the future?

PF: We want to expand to cities like Shanghai, Beijing and Chengdu, to build a service platform for foreigners and establish an international community.

FB: We also want people to take advantage of being part of Global Friendship to further themselves and grow within our community. That's our aim, and we will keep working towards that and planning events that allow our platform to flourish.

Want to get involved? Contact Fabiola on WeChat (Fabi_Fabs).





COMM UNITY

DEAR JAMIE

Missing Missy

Dear Jamie,

I'm seeing a woman and things are great. I love her personality and the way she knows how to party. The problem is, we've been dating for about a month and she'll often just go out of contact for several hours or even days at a time.

I want to ask her exactly what is going on, but her English isn't that good and my Chinese is terrible.

Do I have reason to worry? -Distressed in Shanghai

Dear distress(ed),

Yes. A partier with a winning personality who goes missing for days? After a month, surely you've asked what's going on, right?

Oh, wait. You two can't speak to each other!

Look, communication is important. You need to be able to communicate things like 'I enjoy long walks,' or 'it was only one time, I don't love him' or even 'I have a job and family, get off my case, *laowai*.'

You get the point. You've been together a short time and she seems to have other things going on, so figure out a way to tell her your concerns and be ready to let the ship sail.

And for future's sake, brush up on your Chinese. I can recommend a great tutor – nice woman, English is a bit rusty, but she knows how to make class fun.

-Jamie

You can run your mouth on Facebook, or you can message me directly. Jamieinchina@outlook.com.

AROUND TOWN



SOCIAL SKILLS

International Choir of Guangzhou

If you've ever had the opportunity to perform in a chorus, you know what a wonderful feeling it is to be a part of an ensemble. If you haven't, it's never too late to try, and Guangzhou has just the right group.

Comprised of about 40 singers of varying skill levels, cultures and ages, the International Choir of Guangzhou is glued together by a shared passion for music and singing. "Anyone is welcome," says Dominic Dalida, manager and conductor of the group.

First inspired by an open-invite online from a professional musician currently teaching at South China Agricultural University, the chorus now holds regular rehearsals every Tuesday. Music genres swing from classical and jazz to musical tunes and pop.

Staging regular performances at international schools, hotels and charities (often

during the Christmas season), the choir has been gearing up to join international competitions for some time. Last year, on top of hosting two mini concerts, they recorded their first album, which was gifted to all retiring members.

"We see ourselves as part of an international community, growing and changing both as individual vocalists and as a group," adds Dalida. "We hope to expand and welcome new people all the time. We were set up to help members enjoy singing, so it's important to us not to lose that focus."

The International Choir of Guangzhou meets every Tuesday from 7-9pm at South China Agricultural University. For more information, contact Dominic Dalida on WeChat (ID: domdalida) or follow the official WeChat: ICGZ2014.

TAKE FIVE

Renee Zhang

When we asked around to find a woman who's selfless, humble, down-to-earth and just generally awesome, Renee Zhang's name came up a few times. An English trainer, restaurant consultant and modeling agent by day and leader of a volunteer group in Guangzhou helping the homeless by night, Zhang is to many a pillar of the PRD community. She also nailed this five-question interview, setting the bar almost as high as her tolerance for weird/revolting Cantonese food (see question three).

What's the most memorable experience

Oh, that's a difficult one. I remember once I was out of the country for a while and when I got back, one of the homeless guys jumped up in surprise and shouted, "I was looking for you! You were missing for weeks!" I was so happy.



yes or their wrinkles?

Their eyes, it has to be the eyes. I believe eye contact is a powerful thing.

What's the weirdest thing you've tried in

I'm a proud Cantonese so my bar is pretty high. Sheep placenta is definitely one of them though.

The actual taste was masked by the Chinese herb medicine in the soup so I couldn't really tell. But Chinese believe eating sheep placenta helps improve women's health, just like eating tiger/deer penis helps men...

While we're on a somewhat nauseating subject, would you rather drink Pearl River water for a week or eat those huge

Ewww... if I must choose, it would be drinking the Pearl River water for a week, not that I'll survive that long anyway!



BABY BOTTLE TOOTH DECAY

What is this Dental Disease and How Can It Be Prevented?

By Dr. Sandro Rasgado

Baby bottle tooth decay, also known as early childhood caries, is a disease that affects children's primary dentition between six and 71 months. This type of caries, or the decay and crumbling of a tooth or bone, usually has long term sequelae and if not treated leads to both functional and aesthetical consequences.

The main causal factor behind decay in baby teeth is bacteria (Lactobacillus and Streptococcus Mutans). However, their presence and harmful effect is exacerbated by poor diet and lack of oral hygiene.

Bottle tooth decay, if left untreated, may cause complete tooth destruction, severe discomfort and infections in the bone. Often, the affected teeth require extensive reconstruction or, in extreme cases, extractions.

The dietary habits are crucially implicated in the way this illness progresses. Many parents or carers provide their children with certain carbohydrate drinks such as milk, formula or juices. When fermented by bacteria, these drinks form harmful acidity in the mouth, which causes the loss of minerals from the teeth enamel and dentin.

The bacteria become even more aggressive when carbohydrate drinks are in contact with the teeth for long periods. Unfortunately, some parents have a habit of giving these drinks as a way to comfort babies or toddlers before bedtime. Yet it is precisely during sleep that the secretion of saliva decreases significantly. This is notable because saliva not only aids in digestion, it also helps protect the teeth by reducing acidity in the mouth and re-mineralizing the surface of the teeth.

Prevention is ultimately the best way to avoid this type of caries. From an early age, children should have annual visits to a dentist, regular teeth cleaning and topical administration of fluoride.

During check-ups, a dentist will carry out a thorough examination of the teeth and gums, provide oral care advice and hygiene demonstrations. It is also important for children to get used to the dentist environment to prevent them from developing phobia or anxiety during visits.

Often, parents ask from what age children can have their teeth cleaned. In fact, from the moment teeth are erupted and there's an accumulation of tartar or pigmentation, parents should bring their children to the dentist.

At this stage, if there are any signs or evidence of early caries, the dentist should be able to immediately detect them. In fact, minor caries is easier to treat and the fillings



Prevention

- ·Development of an optimal dietary habit
- ·Daily oral hygiene
- ·Annual visits to the dentist
- ·Regular teeth cleaning
- ·Administration of topical fluoride

Treatment

Early caries (white, yellow or brown patches):

- ·Topical fluoride
- ·Diet and oral hygiene advice

Advanced caries (cavities, black teeth, total destruction of dentin and enamel, abscess or swelling):

- ·Diet and oral hygiene advice
- ·Restorative treatment (i.e. white fillings)
- ·Root canal treatment
- ·Steel crowns (molars)
- ·Tooth extraction

also have better long term results. Advanced caries, on the other hand, causes teeth to be become discolored, decayed, broken and painful. The bacteria may eventually cause infections and swellings. Consequently, teeth may require being built up with white fillings or metals crowns (molar teeth). If children have significant infections and complain of severe pain, affected teeth may need root canal treatment or even need to be extracted.

If you recognize that your child has discolored teeth or loss of enamel, contact your family dentist for an examination as soon as

possible. Prevention and readiness are key to

help maintain and preserve your child's primary teeth.

Dr. Sandro Rasgado is a chief physician at Deron Dental, 11/F, Ice Flower Hotel, 2 Tianhe Bei Lu, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 广州市天河区天河北路2号冰花酒店11层 (3886 4821)



OH, BABY

Look Who's Smarter (than You Think)

By Lena Gidwani

ace it, folks, we all have needs. And chances are, once you've welcomed the stork's gift of parenthood with open arms and gotten over the novelty of making peek-a-boo and gugugaga motions, it'll hit you. You'll desperately crave quiet nights and whisky sours, leisurely meals with actual cutlery and s...

Uh oh. We said the 'S' word.

Yes, indeed. We're talking about sleep. What we take for granted pre-child may become a luxury post-child, as your sweet bundle of joy and drool engages in an incessant chorus of wails and howls in the wee hours of the night even after innumerable diaper changes, colic medication, constant nursing, cooing, cradling and rocking, quashing any plans you might have had for sleep - or for that matter, love making.

Three years ago, an attention-grabbing hypothesis published in a Harvard University journal named Evolution, Medicine and Public Health nefariously speculated that babies

cry to ensure their parents are so knackered, the very thought of getting down and dirty is thrown out the window.

In other words, these little manipulative buggers are ensuring that Mom and Dad suffer from extreme fatigue, crankiness and unwarranted anxiety, hence delaying (or simply eliminating) the deed to procreate and preventing the imminent arrival of a younger sibling.

It's survival of the fittest so to speak; instead of fighting for attention and dealing with sibling rivalry, they'd rather just make sure the mood is killed so sex is completely off the agenda.

Now, if you're a new mother (or father, no one's judging) whose wee one simply cannot stop sobbing once the sun sets, you may agree with this far-fetched theory. You might also say that your baby's relentlessness is adding to the baby blues - aka mood swings and post-partum depression (or paternal postnatal depression, we're really not judging). Fertilization is already a 1-in-100-million affair, and the odds are even slighter lower following childbirth, since nighttime nursing has been shown to delay a woman's fertility and can cause hormonal changes that curb ovulation. Ouch for Mama.

Evolutionary biologists and experts aren't exactly sold on this theory, but don't



deny that it's a stimulating perspective, and perhaps the most interesting (and sinister) to date since it was discovered that babies cry in the womb. That's right: babies are known to cry silently whilst floating around in a sea of amniotic fluid because, you know, life's so hard when you're a fetus.

So, in case you haven't yet grasped the point, here's the gist: we're spawning baby Einsteins, and they're a lot more intelligent than we believe. Interesting that it took a bunch of enthusiastic scientists from some of the best universities in the world to tell us what talkative tot Mikey knew all along... in a 1989 rom-com.



CITY SCENES

Vista-SK Welcomes Shenzhen Newcomers (Supported by **that**) and **urban**family)

Moving to Shenzhen isn't always easy, with many resources hidden in plain sight. To remedy this, Vista-SK held an event introducing city resources for newcomers where many topics were discussed. A variety of organizations joined the events, such as Abnet and SWIC, and gave out information about expat community activities. Co-Talk offered basic language information, while *That's PRD* provided a useful map for attendees. A lucky draw saw cash vouchers, cosmetics, photo sessions and more as gifts. Supporting the event was also *Urban Family*, Nogogo Online Groceries and food and drink support came from Simply Raw and HH Gourmet. Other sponsors included Taps Nanshan, Sims Bakery, UU Korean Cosmetics, Anna's Lounge and PhotoTalk by Catherine LeComte.











HarMoniCare's Shenzhen international department combined Chinese traditions with Shenzhen history at its Chinese Traditional Medicine event at Nantou Ancient City on September 16. Expatriates learned about Chinese medicine, wines, delicacies and receiving essential oil massages. Grand prize winner Kyla Neuhalfen, from Shekou's QSI International School, was awarded a medical checkup package worth RMB13,800. The event was graciously organized by HarMoniCare, Internations and doTERRA, with support from *Urban Family*, Shenzhenparty.com, Indian Cottage, Samking Pizza, Silconn Wines and the Natural Mandarin Center.















Talent Trophy China 2017 (Supported by that')

The French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China (CCI France Chine), in partnership with French Embassy in China, ESSEC Business School and Valeo China, held the fifth edition of the Talents Trophy in Canton on September 19 at Sofitel Guangzhou Sunrich Hotel. The awards ceremony was attended by 170 guests, including all laureates, the official partners and decision-makers of French and Chinese member companies of the French Chamber of Commerce. The Talents Trophy is a competition dedicated to Chinese students following Sino-French majors, in order to make those younger generations aware of tomorrow's challenges. The aim is to evaluate the business, technical and linguistic skills of the best students regarding actual topics, selected by our official partners, and to reward the most innovative and most talented among them.



Oakwood Color Splash Pool Party (Supported by that) and urbanfamily)

The Oakwood Color Splash Pool Party was held on August 26 at the Gold Arch swimming pool to welcome their residents back with exciting games, a wide range of snacks, delicious food and drinks. Prizes were given away too. It was a wonderful way to enjoy the summer and end their holiday.



Guangzhou International Outdoor Performance Festival (Supported by that')

The Guangzhou International Outdoor Performance Festival kicked off in September and will last till November at the Mall of the World. With dances, musical performances, singing, magic and more by overseas and local art lovers, the Mall of the World truly will be immersed in the arts this autumn.



PRD FOCUS



n September 19, the launch ceremony and press conference of the charity musical *The Diary of Family* from Taiwan, sponsored by Grandview Theatre, Guangdong Performing Arts Co Ltd and Guangdong TV, was held at the Grandview Theatre. Twenty yuan out of each sold ticket was donated to help elderly suffering from Alzheimer's disease.



In the presence of the Deputy Prime
Minister of Nepal, "Investment
Opportunities in Nepal," a one-hour interactive program followed by a reception on the formal opening of the Consulate of Nepal, took place on September 10 at the Four Seasons
Hotel Guangzhou. The Consul General of Nepal in Guangzhou Ravi Bhattarai also presided over the event.



uring the fourth edition of the Franco-Chinese Month of the Environment from September 16 to October 13, more than 30 programs are scheduled in more than 15 cities across China, with a devoted theme of urban change. Visitors will have the chance to consider the transformations on offer to the urban dwellers of tomorrow in ecoresponsible cities.



n September, The British School of Guangzhou welcomed universities ranked in the world's top 100 to the school to speak with parents and students. Representatives traveled from the US and UK, and six came from Scotland.



n September 2, in the grand Crystal Ballroom at China Hotel, A Marriott Hotel, respectable invitees were handsomely dressed for the hotel's magnificent black-tie dinner. Adding a sense of ritual to the party, a red carpet stretched from the lobby to the entrance of the Crystal Ballroom.



he first-ever Italian Festival in Guangzhou was a composite of lifestyle, culinary culture and a range of entertainment, hosted at the Feng Lake Imperial Territory by Huangbiao Group on September 16. Italian food, handmade ice cream, motorcycle shows, singing, fashion shows, cooking demonstrations and rollerblading performances delighted more than 800 attendees.

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BILLVIOLA

An exhibition of selected works (1977-2014) p68





I'M BLUE DABADEE DABADAA...

Pepsi Blue's Mysterious Appearance in China

By Matthew Bossons



f you've visited a Chinese convenience store in the past month, you may have noticed a new soft drink nestled alongside the bottles of Pepsi and Pepsi Twist: Pepsi Blue.

While technically not new, as the drink was originally released in mid-2002 in Canada and the United States, the soft drink is now making its China debut, after two shipments arrived in the country from Indonesia, according to *Xinhua*.

A commercial flop in North America (the drink was pulled from shelves in Canada and the US in 2004), Pepsi Blue is still sold in Indonesia and the Philippines, reported *GB Times*.

That's can confirm the drink has currently been rolled out in Guangzhou and Shanghai, though finding a convenience store that stocks Pepsi Blue can prove easier said than done.

So far, 7/11 seems to be the best place to snag a bottle. In keeping with our self-assigned duty to analyze all of the Middle Kingdom's offbeat F&B offerings, we've sampled the beverage so you don't have to. This is what we found.

It tastes similar to the original North American beverage.

In all fairness, the last time we had the beverage was probably around the same time *The Matrix Reloaded* was in theaters, but as best we can





recall, it tastes similar to the North American Pepsi Blue, which is to say it tastes like a hybrid of blue Kool-Aid and regular Pepsi.

The Chinese version seems less syrupy than the original (which has often been compared to a melted Slurpee), but again, it's been a decade, so it's difficult to make that statement with certainty.

Pepsi Blue is billed as a berry-flavored soft drink and transitions from tasting like normal Pepsi to an artificial berry flavor, with the aftertaste of a typical diet soda. It's okay, if uninspiring.

It looks like it might kill you.

Antifreeze is blue. Drinking antifreeze will kill you. We'd forgive anyone for looking twice if they saw a child – or adult, for that matter – downing a glass of blue liquid.

It's nostalgic.

If you were an American adolescent in the early- to mid-2000s, you will likely remember Pepsi Blue. The drink was endorsed by the then (kinda) popular band Papa Roach, appeared in *The Italian Job* and *Garfield: The Movie* and was regularly advertised during professional sporting events. Pop princess Britney Spears even appeared in an ad for the drink.

Basically, if you had cable, a dial-up Internet connection and/or enjoyed sports and Hollywood films in 2003, you likely witnessed Pepsi's rabid – but ultimately fruitless – promotion of the beverage.

It mixes well with white rum.

Mix two ounces of white rum, a liberal splash of Smurf tears – er, Pepsi Blue – a handful of ice cubes and garnish with a maraschino cherry and voila: you've just made the 'lazy man's blue Hawaiian.'

The drink is experiencing a price hike in some places.

Possibly due to the fact the drink is extremely difficult to find, some stores have taken it upon themselves to jack up the price of Pepsi Blue. We visited eight 7/11 stores across Guangzhou, as well as several locally-owned shops and a Family Mart, and only two locations had the beverage stocked. While Pepsi Blue should be priced somewhere around RMB6-10 per bottle, one convenience store in Haizhu District was selling the drink for a whopping RMB36 per bottle.

For more outrageous 'We Tried It' reviews, visit thatsmags.com.

GRAPE VINE

THE SCANDALOUS SCOOP

We're digging:



the inventive salads at **September Handmade** near Taigucang Wharf; greeting the wee hours of the night at **SoFit Club** (p66); and the nostalgic novelty of **Pepsi Blue's** reappearance.

We're done with:



the (temporary?) ban on our favorite **imported cheeses** and (temporary?) closing of **Gail's American Cuisine & Bar**; waiting to see what becomes of **Somewhere Else**, now that the 'pun'nily-named eatery is in someone else's hands (will they even appreciate the joke?!); **Oreo**'s recent attempt at mooncakes (find our scathing review on thatsmags.com); **Canton Fair** crowds – we say that every year, but really: are we honestly expected to cook at home while avoiding the traffic jams and jacked-up prices? We'd rather eat 7/11 fish balls.

OLDIE BUT GOODIE

Concerto Bistro

Since its inception last July, the bijou, European-style garden of the white establishment that houses Concerto Bistro has drawn many young ladies' attention, earning a spot on their list of top destinations for photoops. It was there, amongst a small crowd of iPhone-thumbing patrons, that we found ourselves one Saturday afternoon.

Set in Panyu District's Shiqiao neighborhood, Concerto Bistro has a certain charm not often found in downtown Guangzhou, and serves an array of light Western food and well-selected craft beers. One of the tastier eats is the spicy chicken wings (RMB42), roasted with crispa, a beefsteak plant that gives the wings their distinct taste.

Founded by several photography aficionados, Concerto Bistro feels small but homey. Several metal chairs and tables dot its well-received garden, while the second floor serves as a photography studio.

Other than craft beers, cocktails and wine, the menu also offers homemade plum liqueur and lemon liqueur (RMB38). Popular mains include the grilled prawns with herbs and garlic (RMB48) and pan-fried pork chop



with black pepper sauce (RMB52). If you're ready to break out of the Zhujiang New Town bubble or meet up with friends in Panyu for a change, Concerto Bistro is the place.

Price: RMB80

Nearest metro: Shiqiao (Exit A), 10 minutes

Open daily, 11am-10pm (Mon-Thu), 11am-11pm (Fri-Sun); Behind Jiejing Building, 2 Jiejing Zhong Lu, Shiqiao, Panyu District 番禺区市桥捷进中路2号捷进大楼附属楼 (2816 9296)



COCKTAIL

The Rusty Nail

Winter is coming, meaning the weather and black nights will see the imbibers among us switching to dark, strong spirits.

When the cold keeps you at home – and away from the fine purveyors of craft cocktails – the rusty nail is an easy, if slightly swanky, way to get hammered.

This slow sipper requires no shaking, no straining and only three ingredients, one of which is ice.

Based on scotch and mixed with Drambuie – itself made from whisky, honey and herbs – the rusty nail might not be the most elegant of drinks but it certainly gets the job done.

Ingredients

50ml Scotch 15ml Drambuie

Directions

- 1. Combine the scotch and Drambuie in an old fashioned glass.
- Add lots of ice and stir.
- 3. Add more scotch if it is too sweet

WHAT'S ON WAIMAI

Mr. Sau

Italian cheese hot dog, Mexican spicy, German Nuremberg and Swiss veal – these are just a few of the appetizing hot dogs Mr. Sau has to offer.

A humble, small eatery on Jianshe Liu Malu, the shop is capable of catering to your every hot dog whim with a dozen or so select flavors. It's available to order through most food delivery platforms, but only to your home or office in Yuexiu District (it's not yet available in other districts).

On top of delicious hot dogs, Mr. Sau offers side dishes like creamy mashed potatoes (RMB8) and sweet corn salad (RMB8). Remember to indicate which sauces you want before placing an order. Although the photos on waimai apps show each hot dog with a particular sauce atop, "it's just to beautify the menu," according to staff (after we called to complain).





Price: RMB30-60 Good for: custom salads, pasta Search for: 松子意面, Songzi Pasta Available on: Dianping, E Le Me, Koubei, Meituan, Shenzhen Eat



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EAT & DRINK | NEW CAFE





NAGI TEA HOUSE

Love You Matcha

Text and photos by Jocelyn Richards

The Place

'Not for all the tea in China' – a phrase that presumes there's a lot of tea in China. And there is, obviously. But classic teahouses? Not so much anymore (Hey Tea doesn't count, by the way).

In a country where Starbucks has brazenly attempted to turn the traditional beverage order on its head, Chinese tea – at least among trendseeking youth – has largely been replaced by its bitterer, more caffeinated and generally hipper cousin.

That's where NAGI comes in. A boutique tea and dessert cafe, its mission is to revive China's traditional tea culture by repackaging it as a chic, refined concept. You know, to make tea #Instacool again.

"We want to be a model of this industry,"
Trista Sun tells us at a grand re-opening following
NAGI's recent renovations. "To make tea trendy
and modern."

Nagi is actually a Japanese word meaning 'calm,' but Sun says their brand name stands for 'nature' (referring to the source of all ingredients), 'artisan' (desserts are handmade in-house), 'grace' (staff practice good etiquette) and 'ingenuity.'

The Food

When we heard NAGI wasn't interested in attracting wanghong – those Internet stars who come solely to snap pics with the decor and leave their drinks unfinished – we knew this was a shop that took its beverages seriously. The sale alone is not enough – NAGI hopes patrons will genuinely enjoy the tea and return for more.

So did we?

It's worth mentioning that tea naturally helps counteract the effects of oily foods, so we found the combination of light desserts and pour-over tea even more satisfying than the popular coffee-and-donuts pairing.

NAGI has done the legwork for you and matched its baked goods with specific teas in sets, but you're also free to order whatever combo you wish.

Sun suggested we try the Rose Aroma made with NAGI's black tea, one of the shop's classic pour-overs (all priced at RMB38, which includes two refills of hot water). Though consuming rose-flavored anything reminds us of eating potpourri, the potent black tea succeeded in masking some of the floral sweetness.

If you think you like green tea, try *tieguanyin* instead, a type of Oolong tea



that is more aromatic and harder to find fresh outside of China.

On sultry days, NAGI's cold teas are enticing, and we highly recommend the new iced white tea (RMB35). It's kind of like cold brew coffee, in that it has been steeped and chilled ahead of time to seal in the flavor. Remember, this isn't Hey Tea – no sugar is added to the beverages and any cheese in NAGI's kitchen is reserved for the cakes alone.

Desserts are just as much the highlight here as tea, so indulge in a couple guiltlessly knowing they're all low in sugar. Our picks? The heavenly coconut pineapple mousse (RMB38), daily cream-filled puff (RMB25) and Earl Grey (RMB25) or matcha (RMB20) cupcakes.

The Vibe

NAGI is a laid-back, quiet little haven on Huale Lu, a few doors down from The Paddy Field. There's no need to dress up or know anything about Chinese tea culture – Sun and the staff will happily fill you in. Just stop by with a friend (or even better, a copy of *That's*) and settle in.

Price: RMB50

Who's going: trendy youth, people who know how to *pao cha*

Good for: classic Chinese tea paired with handmade desserts

Nearest metro: Taojin (Exit A), 3 minutes

Open Mon-Thu 11am-9pm, Fri-Sun 11am-10pm; Shop D, 1/F, 32 Huale Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区华乐路32号首 层D铺, NAGI凪居茶室 (188 1840 6194)



The Place

Isolated and embellished by a garden of verdure, Xintian Botanic Life Restaurant is a vegetarian eatery tucked away behind the Liuhua Expo Center across the road from the China Hotel. Finding it isn't difficult: after entering from Gate No. 1, look for the green plants on your left – its front door is adorned with scores of them. At the far end of a dark corridor, a refreshing scene unfolds before our eyes: a two-story glass and cement structure resembling a greenhouse sits in a garden with a spacious, open patio to its right, vines overhead and fresh dew on leaves left from a recent sprinkle.

An oil painting workshop occurs on Thursday afternoons in one corner of the first floor that mainly serves as a cafe. The second floor, or dining area, is partitioned with raw, concrete pillars and plants. Glass walls fill the space with natural light. Everything seems flawless. But how is the food?

The Food

Rather than providing a physical paper menu, Xintian's laoban decided to apply an electronic substitute that's accessible via scanning a QR code on the tables, because "it's trendy and environmentally friendly."

The waiters are warm and helpful in elaborating on the ordering procedure as well as dishes. Kung Pao lion's mane mushroom (RMB68), one of the most ordered dishes, is a slightly spicy, sweet and sour treat with 'lion's mane mushrooms,' cashews and bell papers.

Cooking skill is demonstrated with another

popular dish: Wanwu Shengzhang Shala 万物生 长沙拉 (literally 'all things grow salad,' RMB56). Presented as a potted plant, it is made of mustard-flavored Cocoa Krispies and Rice Krispies as the base and poached okras, mushrooms and carrots as the plants. The taste? If mustard is to your liking, this is a satisfying dish.

Recommended by the waiter (who is wearing a leafy plant adornment atop his head), is the wheatgrass detox drink (RMB40), made from wheatgrass grown on the premises.

Price: RMB120

Who's going: vegetarians, in-the-know

Chinese

Good for: spicy vegetarian dishes, green din-

ing environment

Nearest metro: Yuexiu Park (Exit C), 3 min-

All week, 10am-10pm; Hall No. 3, Liuhua Expo Center, 119 Liuhua Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区流花路119号流花 展贸中心3号馆,心田植物生活餐厅(8352 1202)

The Vibe

Eating here feels more or less like an Enya video, with birds singing in the background. It is quiet and undisturbed. And, of course, there are Chinese girls taking selfies, as tends to be the case in every well-designed eatery in town.







f you love ingenious techniques and quirky miscellanies, come to Mg in Zhujiang New Town. Pronounced 'Meg,' this self-styled, white-collar after-hours bar is decked out and dressed to impress, with views and a quaint patio.

Its focus, however, is around the ultrachic bar. A bronze theme runs throughout, obvious in the reflective metal bars that span the breadth of the ceiling and continue down towards the carpeted floor. It's definitely female- and business-friendly, so expect swish bachelorette parties, after-work deal-signing meetings and fashionable summer soirees.

These days, drink menus appear to be attractively geeky, bringing science and creativity to the shakers to yield new textures, flavors

and unexpected presentations.

At the same time, the drinker (no pressure) is meant to relish (and understand) these fancy compendium of molecular libations, whilst trying to appear

cool (and sober). Egg white? Dry ice? Liquid nitrogen? Oak smoke? Floating jellies? When did drinking become so darn complicated?

At Mg, there's something for everyone in its elemental drinks, but you must tread lightly, as these are not your tried-and tested pub flavors.

Want something attractive, experimental and sweet? The namesake Mg (RMB98) uses rum, fresh lime juice, blackcurrant syrup, peach syrup, bitters and a secret ingredient, and arrives blushing like a bride in a tall crystal glass. It's sweet, refreshing and goes down smoothly (like all brides, eh?).

'N' (RMB98) combines chili-infused tequila, smoked whiskey, orange bitters and sugar, and comes with a show: theatrical blow-torching, pouring and smoke. The drink itself, however, tastes exactly like old libraries smell.

Perhaps you prefer a classic: the old fashioned (RMB78) is priced well and comes with a large ball of ice and orange peel that tastes just like autumn on your tongue.

Sloe gin varieties such as Monkey 47 (RMB138/glass, RMB1,680/ bottle) also feature, and anyone with a palate for these hard-to-locate bottles will be pleased.

We're also mighty impressed by the wine

menu: there's vintage and new world, and select bottles from places like Lebanon, Ningxia and Yunnan. There is something wonderfully surprising about bottles from these latter areas, and frankly, we're fascinated by a menu that offers more than just the usual suspects.

In the evening, a live band plays melodic tunes, and the music can be described as chillout lounge meets pop R&B, with a bit of soul and jazz thrown in.

Wait staff speak English, but you're best finding the bar manager so you can rev up a conversation and get exactly what you need, when you need it.

Because it's the kind of bar you may end up staying late in, pace yourself and eat too: Mg has chefs cooking up some snacks that are worth a try. Order the grilled Iberico pork slathered in a Korean-style BBQ sauce (RMB118) and the French oysters with chardonnay vinegar and lemon mustard dressing (RMB228).

For snap-happy moments, bring a bunch of sassy drinkers so you can all order different concoctions and 'ooh' and 'aah' as they arrive. We're guessing it's not often you have liquids poured from clear conical flasks or ones that smoke before your very eyes...

Price: RMB200

Who's going: those who have read the Periodic Table of Cocktails by Emma Stokes Good for: molecularity, chill-outs on the patio, splurging (aka Dan Bilzerian and his brood of brides)

Nearest metro: Liede (Exit B), 5 minutes

Open daily 6pm-2am; 222 Xingmin Lu, next to IGC Mall West Entrance, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城兴民路222号天汇广场西门旁(3739 2222)





Te've been meaning to try Hideaway and Oi! Craft Beer & Vintage for some time now, so when Huang Xiaolei, cofounder of The South 12, told us her new establishment combines the best of both (which she and a good friend also happen to own), it felt like we were killing three birds with one stone.

Viewed from the street on a rainy Sunday night, the bar isn't what you would call inviting; its patio is damp and disheveled, and there are no signs to indicate you've made it to the right spot.

It's not until we enter and meet Huang that we begin to warm up to the place. Standing to greet us, she introduces South 12 as a bar that prides itself on stocking real craft beer, bottled and tap.

A hostel-style room extends to the right, while a three-door refrigerator packed with rare bottles like Dogfish Head 120 Minute IPA (set at the ungodly price of RMB385 for a 12-ouncer) sits opposite the main entrance. Overhead, a flat-screen TV broadcasts football to patrons sitting at a rustic, woodtopped bar.

Of the 16 total taps, 14 are available when we visit, less than a month after South 12's opening. Huang says varieties on tap will remain consistent, whereas imported craft bottles will fluctuate to keep the selection

interesting for regulars.

"We do craft beer, not just imported beer," Huang emphasizes, "Of course, sometimes it's hard to say if a brand is truly craft or not, since it can be bought out. We don't stock Goose Island, for example..."

She recommends we start with shengpi, or draft beer, and since we can't decide between Jing A's Flying Fist IPA (RMB45/330ml, RMB55/pint) and Koji Red Ale (out of stock at the time this article was written), she serves us a flight of four samples (RMB88).

All of Jing A's varieties on tap are exceptional. For those with a bolder palate, the Mocha Porter by Rogue, brewed with Kiln Coffee Malt and chocolate (RMB45-55), is a fine choice. And if you dislike all beer (is that even possible?), wine is available too, along with basic pub food (RMB15-48).

Minutes pass quickly - perhaps the sign of a good time - and the lighting seems to grow warmer the longer we stay. Maybe it's just the flight going to our heads. Or maybe, South 12 is really onto something. We'll have to wait and see.

Price: RMB60

Who's going: craft beer enthusiasts **Good for:** rare imported bottles, tasty flights Nearest metro: Wuyangcun (Exit A), 3 min-



Open daily, 4pm-1am; 12 Siyou Nan Er Jie (next to Jincheng Chaozhou Hotel), Yuexiu District 越秀区寺 右南二街12号(金城潮州酒家旁) (186 2005 0258, 186 6502 9266)





SOFIT CLUB

Impressive Pandemonium

By Lena Gidwani

t's 8.15pm. WeChat buzzes. "Babe, I'm tipsy. I've had a few pints."
1.45am. Another buzz: "I'm totally hammered!"

You could argue we should have seen this coming hours ago. It's what happens when someone's having fun at a club – or in this case, surrendering to the rapturous vibes of SoFit.

Given how touchy people are these days, it's sheer luck that this new club, housed in one of the finest five-star hotels in Guangzhou, hasn't been protested, picketed or petitioned yet. There may be snotty types who take objection to the fact that it's named after a famous hospitality brand or situated in such an elegant locale, but we say, if it doesn't sound like your cup of tea, just don't go. And if you're looking for hook-ups or titilation, head elsewhere: this is a club to drink, drink and drink until you leave your comfy



drinking spot and dance like it's your last day on earth.

Music runs the gamut from house and trap to electronic, and the venue is large enough so you're not claustrophobic. The dance floor, DJ booth and bar are in the main room on the first floor, and the second floor sports a large KTV room for private events and a smaller space for hip-hop afterparties.

There's a decent mix of people from around the globe, coming in not because they've noticed the Bentley showroom next to the entrance, but because the drinks are reasonable enough to keep them sated and cool. Cocktails are RMB60, bottles like Johnny Walker Black Label run for RMB780, and that's about all you need to know – you won't be remembering too much anyway.

If you're a tad weary upon entering, you'll end up feeling even more ancient and



unwholesome at the sight of all that effortless exuberance. Some people make it all look so easy, especially those hot stage dancers that could outlast energizer bunnies. But hey, this is a club, and booze and dance is a bandage for the soul.

What can we say about the vibe? It's fun! In truth, everyone – including the wait staff and team – looks to be having an absolute riot: they have the exhilaration and energy levels of people either paid in 24/7 gym memberships or bags of the good stuff. We're kidding. It's good times.

For anyone looking to venture out to SoFit, expect simple, down-to-earth, no-thinking fun built for long Friday and Saturday nights that spin out of control. Take it easy. Let your long hair down. Do some B52 shots. And the next morning, keep 'em paracetamol companies and brunch places in business. C'est magnifique.

Price: RMB120 and upwards (or however much it takes you to get tipsy)

Who's going: those who know how to let their hair down

Good for: painting Tianhe red, late night pandemonium

Nearest metro: Linhe Xi (Exit B), 10 minutes

Daily 5pm-2am; 3/F, Top East Kwan Yu Bldg, 6 Xingsheng Lu, Tianhe District 天河区兴盛路6号尚东君御 3楼 (189 2245 8231)



2017 that's FOOD & DRINK ANARDS

2017 THAT'S PRD FOOD & DRINK AWARDS

The Knives Come Out this November...

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• Bill Viola: Selected Work 1977-2014 Exhibition



• Sumeru Modern



Guangzhou-based choreographer Liuqi's elaborate work *Sumeru* focuses on body movement. Gravity, energy and temperature are used to guide body motions and create a dynamic stage effect

Sat Oct 14, 8pm; RMB80-580. Guangdong Performing Arts Center Theater, 1229 Guangzhou Dadao Zhong, Tianhe District 天河区广州大 道中1229号广东演艺中心剧院 (www. damai.cn, 3720 6282)

(win!)

We have a pair of tickets to this show to give away! Message our official WeChat account (ThatsGuangzhou) before October 11 with the subject 'Sumeru' and why you should win. Please include your full name and contact number.

• Glory World Series Free Combat



The Glory World Series is undoubtedly the world's biggest free combat stage, where martial arts athletes highly skilled in a wide range of combat disciplines compete with each other, including Muay Thai, kickboxing, boxing, karate, kung fu, tae kwon do and capoeira. This month, top fighters on the planet will gather in Guangzhou, its first stop in China this year.

Sat Oct 14, 5pm; RMB180-2,080. Guangzhou Gymnasium, 783 Baiyun Dadao Nan, Baiyun District 白云区白 云大道南广州体育馆 (www.damai.cn, 3663 9159) A real maverick in the world's contemporary art scene, New York-based artist Bill Viola conveys his artist expression via electronic sound and imagery, focusing on fundamental human experience such as birth, death and consciousness. Famous works by Viola include Martyrs (Earth, Air, Fire, Water), Fire Woman, Tristan's Ascension and Quintet of the Astonished. At the Redtory Museum of Contemporary Art, Viola's works from 1977-2014 will be showcased in a large space modeled on the artist's Long Beach studio. Meanwhile, public lectures and panels will run throughout the exhibition.

Tue-Sun ongoing, 11am-6pm (Tue-Fri), 9.30am-7pm (Sat-Sun); RMB60. Redtory Museum of Contemporary Art, 128 Yuancun Si Henglu, Tianhe District 天河区员村四横路128号红专厂当代艺术馆 (8557 4417)



Titanic Dance Tap Dance



Remember the scene from the *Titanic* where Jack and Rose were twirling and tap dancing on a table? Well, it will be staged in Guangzhou this month. Titled the *Titanic Dance*, this performance will narrate the story behind the 'unsinkable,' through traditional Irish dance. Passion, not sorrow, is at the heart of the show, which is presented by some of the top tap dancers in the world, including those from the renowned show *Riverdance*.

Sat-Sun Oct 28-29, 7.30-10pm; RMB80-880. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, 259 Dongfeng Zhong Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区东风中路259号中山纪 念堂 (www.damai.cn, 8356 1631)

win!

We have a pair of tickets to this show to give away! Message our official WeChat account (ThatsGuangzhou) before October 25 with the subject 'Titanic' and why you should win. Please include your full name and contact number.

Golden Age – The Treasure of the Russian Empire Exhibition



A total of 302 items from the Russian State Historic Museum will be showcased in this exhibition, which remembers the glory of the Russian Empire. From portraits of emperors, statues, attires, royal china, silverware, glassware and top-of-the-line Faberge jewels, this exhibition is a visually attractive window into royalty living during the Russian Empire. Tue-Sun ongoing, 9am-5pm; free. Guangdong Museum, 2 Zhujiang Dong Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城珠江东路2号 广东博物馆 (www.gdmuseum.com, 3804 6886)



Danny Ayer Pop



American musician Danny Ayer's work has appeared in popular TV shows like The Vampire Diaries and Hunting Season. Fans rave about his unique musical style and sexy voice. Some of his singles, such as 'Seventeen,' 'My Hand' and 'Black Diamond,' are particularly popular among Chinese listeners.

Fri Oct 13, 8.30-10pm; RMB60 presale, RMB80 at the door, SD Livehouse, Building No. 7, Huacheng Wangshi Creative Area, 132 Gongye Dadao Bei, Haizhu District 海珠区工 业大道北132号"花城往事"创意园7号 楼SD现场 (www.showstart.com)

The Candle Thieves Indie Pop



This British duo known as The Candle Thieves has been called "wonderful, funny and whimsical" by music critics abroad. Starting their band as teenagers, the two boast a unique optimism and lightheartedness that runs through their music, which is inspired by bands like the Eels, Sufjan Stevens and The Lucksmiths. This month, they will bring music from their latest album, Details - a lifeinspired collection of songs.

Fri Oct 20, 8.30-10pm; RMB80. T:union, 361-365 Guangzhou Dadao Zhona, Yuexiu District 越秀区广州 大道中361-365号东方花苑1层凸空间 (www.showstart.com, 3659 7623)

Diana Panton Jazz



Quietly rising on the jazz scene today, Canadian jazz songstress Diana Panton has touched the heartstrings of both listeners and music critics with her ethereal vocals. outstanding song selection and emotional intensity. Her latest album I Believe in Little Things went to Number 1 on iTunes and Amazon in Canada and the US. But this is just the beginning for Panton – some believe she's onto something big.

Fri Oct 13, 8pm; RMB180-580. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城珠江西路1号广州大剧院 (www.gzdjy.org, 3839 2888)

We have a pair of tickets to this show to give away! Message **our official**Orthography the subject 'Panton' an WeChat account (ThatsGuangzhou) before October 10 with the subject 'Panton' and why you should win. Please include your full name and contact number.

Yves Rousseau Wanderer Septet Jazz



The time-tested French jazz band Wanderer Septet was founded by bass player Yves Rousseau, and has toured more than a thousand times around the world. Their neo-classical sound combines jazz and classical music. At their Guangzhou concert, Wanderer Septet will perform their adaptation of Schubert's classic pieces. Fri Oct 27, 8pm; RMB180-580. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城珠江西路1号广州大剧院 (www.gzdjy.org, 3839 2888)

We have a pair of tickets to this show to give away! Message our official WeChat account (ThatsGuangzhou) before October 24 with the subject 'Wanderer' and why you should win. Please include your full name and contact number.

Cécile Corbel World Music

Pulse



Her red hair and Gealic carnation attests her belonging to the Celtic world. French singer-songwriter Cécile Corbel picked up the harp at 15 years old, and later developed a fondness for all kinds of mythologies. both of which has impacted her music. What's more, Corbel can sing in English, Italian, Spanish, Breton and Gaelic, among others. Performing in three Chinese cities, Corbel will bring her angelic songs to the PRD this month

Sat Oct 28, 8.30-10pm; RMB150 presale, RMB200 at the door. T:union, 361-365 Guanazhou Dadao Zhona. Yuexiu District 越秀区广州大道中 361-365号东方花苑1层凸空间 (www. showstart.com, 3659 7623)

Les Petits Chanteurs de Saint-Marc Choir



The French film Les Choristes has made them famous worldwide - or rather, they've made the film worldrenowned. They are the Little Singers of Saint Marc, who provided vocals for the film's soundtrack. From church choir to movie scores, the Little Singers' performances have been applauded by audiences in churches. concert halls and music festivals around the world.

Sun Nov 5, 8pm; RMB100-680. Xinghai Concert Hall, 33 Qingbo Lu, Ersha Island, Yuexiu District 越秀区 二沙岛晴波路33号星海音乐厅 (www. concerthall.com.cn, 8735 3869)

White Collar Charity Fight Night Boxing

<u>Pulse</u>

Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal Guitar Clinic



The newly-opened Music Factory in Guangzhou, associated with Vigier Guitars, is delighted to lead Guangzhou's professional or amateur guitarists through a guitar clinic, master class, interview, jam session and performance by former Guns N' Roses lead guitarist Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal on October 28 and 29.

Sat-Sun Oct 28-29, 10m; 4/F, Lee Garden, 1502 Xihuan Lu, Shawan Town, Panyu District 番禺区沙湾镇西 环路1502号荔园新天地商业广场四层 402号 (3460 0700)

2017 Global Future Technology Conference Conference



In its past editions, the Global Future Technology Conference has been attended by prominent speakers such as Tencent's CEO Ma Huateng and Silicon Valley entrepreneur Steve Hoffman. The two-day event will enlighten tech-savvy attendees with insights into the trends and future of modern Internet technology.

Wed-Thu Nov 1-2, 9am/5pm; free (limited to 500 applicants). Hall 5&6, Poly World Trade Center, 1000 Xin'gang Dong Lu, Haizhu District 海珠区新港东路1000号保利世贸中心 (www.huodongxing.com)



The White Collar Fight Night, which sees everyday employees trade cubicles for the boxing ring, was started by John Graham, founder of a string of fitness-related businesses including host of the boxing night Project 01. This will be the first time the event is held twice in one year in Guangzhou. It's described as "a way the business elite of the city can be together and have a friendly scrap at and at the same time network and promote their businesses in the city and most importantly, support a meaningful charity."

Doors open at 6pm, the first fight is at 7pm. There will be eight fights for the night, all supporting GIVES charity with a live auction before each bout. Please contact Jewel (jewel.li@fitshike.com) for table booking.

Sat Oct 21, 6-11.30pm; Crowne Plaza Guangzhou City Center, 339 Huanshi Dong Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区环市东路339号广州中心皇冠假日酒店 (8363 8888)



Real Life Hip Hop Flea Market Flea Market



On the theme of 'hip hop,' this flea market, taking place during the Chinese National Holiday at Party Pier, is worth a visit from those planning a staycation. A total of nearly 70 stalls will sell a collection of worldwide ethnic handicrafts, personal collectibles, Western vintage jewelries, clothes and items from local independent brands. Stalls dedicated to music and art will entertain visitors with performances from folk musicians, djembe club, harmonica club and street artists from Hong Kong, while offering Henna tattoos, portrait painting, body marbling, face painting and more.

All week Oct 1-8, 10am-10pm (Oct 1-3), 2-10pm (Oct 4-8). Party Pier, 118 Modiesha Dajie, Haizhu District 海珠区磨碟沙大街118号珠江琶醍啤酒文化创意艺术区

Kendo Class Martial Art



Kendo is a Japanese martial art practice that utilizes bamboo swords. With over 6 million practitioners worldwide, it is deemed a way to discipline the human character, to "mold the mind and body, cultivate a vigorous spirit," among other spiritual purposes. Try it out on Sunday afternoons in Tianhe.

Every Sunday, ongoing, 1-3pm; RMB400 per month. 6/F, Tianhe Business Building, 8 Zhongshan Dadao Xi, Tianhe District 天河区中 山大道西8号天河商贸大厦6楼 (155 2133 5505)



Pulse

Carrefour Autumn Wine and International Food Fair Tasting



Love wine? How about pairing wine with delicious international cuisine? Then stop by the fair at Carrefour stores this October, where a selection of imported wine will be up to 50 percent off the original selling price. The event will last through the end of the month and be carried out in various locations, with ceremonies at specific stores. Get a special cash coupon from Alipay (by scanning QR code above) from Sep 21 to Oct 31. See the poster above for details. Sep 28-Oct 31, all day. Carrefour stores across China.

Gluten-Free Meet-Up Tasting



For people with gluten intolerance or Celiac disease, ordering food in China can be a daunting task, often leaving diners with only dry rice and vegetables to eat. For these folks, Gluten-Free China makes eating in China easier by providing dining and shopping guides as well as day-to-day networking and support. On November 5, Gluten-Free Guangzhou (of Gluten-Free China) is hosting a casual Meet-Up and Tasting at 13 Factories. All are welcome to come taste a variety of foods made with gluten-free ingredients and chat with others who are GF in Guangzhou. Please RSVP via email at: contact@gluten-freechina.com by November 2 to reserve your spot!

Sun Nov 5, 3-5pm; RMB100 at the door. 13 Factories, 121 Huasui Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城华穗路121号 (3884 9230)

Wonderful Autumn Afternoon Tea



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. It is the perfect time to savor nature's bounty and fruity foods. Talented chefs at The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou utilize seasonal ingredients to craft a delicious array of goodies. Sweets and savory snacks are creatively displayed in a unique twig cage, where everything bursts in its last beauty.

Daily all month, 2-5.30pm; RMB428 for two, RMB298 per set, price subject to 15 percent service charge. Pearl Lounge, The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou, 3 Xing'an Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城兴安路3号广州富力丽思卡尔顿酒店 (3813 6888)

Yuxi Restaurant at Hilton Foshan Chinese Cuisine



The skilled Chinese chefs at the brand new Hilton Foshan's elegant Yuxi Restaurant recommends some specials dishes for the fall. Clam with beef marrow in sour soup (RMB98) is a perfect mix of clam and beef marrow with uniquely sour soup and konjac noodle. Braised boneless duck feet with golden rice (RMB68) boasts soft golden rice at the bottom, with the rich sauce and braised boneless duck feet to satisfy your hunger.

Daily all month; price subject to 15 percent service charge. Yuxi Restaurant, Hilton Foshan, 127 Lingnan Dadao Bei, Chancheng District, Foshan 佛山市禅城区岭南大道北127号佛山希尔顿酒店 (0757-8306 9938)

Tender Beef Paired with Fine Wine Buffet



A chilly feeling creeps in upon the arrival of the autumn and winter. As such, chefs at the White Tiger Restaurant have created a beef-themed buffet that's paired with select wines from around the globe to warm you up.

Daily all month, 11.30am-2.30pm, RMB218 for adults, RMB148 for children; 5.30-9pm, RMB278 for adults, RMB168 for children; Prices differ during public holidays. White Tiger Restaurant, Chimelong Hotel, Panyu Dadao, Panyu District 番禺区番禺大道广州长隆酒店白虎自助餐厅 (8478 6838)

\ HONG KONG & MACAU CALENDAR

OCT 1-8 SUN-SUN



Urban Mid-Autumn Lantern

Carnival, 6.30-11pm, 6.30pm-midnight on Oct 4; free. Victoria Park (www.lcsd.gov.hk/eo)

Part of a citywide cultural event, the spectacular Mid-Autumn Festival celebration at beautiful Victoria Park welcomes everyone. Enjoy singing, dance and acrobatic performances from Jiangsu province and live music performances by local musicians, traditional lantern making demonstrations, thematic lantern displays, lantern riddles, folk crafts and more.

OCT 1-15 SUN-SUN

Hall of Mental Cultivation of The

Palace Museum, 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat-Sun, closed Tue; various prices. Hong Kong Heritage Museum (hk.art.museum)

This exhibition features over 200 representative exhibits from the Hall of Mental Cultivation to show-case its political, historical and cultural importance in the history of the Qing dynasty. The hall was the living place of Qing emperors and the political center of the Qing dynasty. It is one of the most visited places in The Palace Museum.

OCT 1-15 SUN-SUN



Priscilla Queen of the Desert,

7.45pm Tue-Fri, 2pm and 7.45pm Sat, 1pm and 6pm Sun; HKD445-995. Lyric Theatre (www.priscillahk.com) Based on the Oscar-winning hit movie, this musical is the heartwarming, uplifting story of three friends who hop aboard a battered old bus named Priscilla and search for love and friendship. They end up on a journey of self-discovery and the road trip of a lifetime across outback Australia. In English with Chinese subtitles.

OCT 7-15 SAT-SUN



Hong Kong Tennis Open 2017, various times; free admission Oct 7-9, HKD160-880 Oct 10-15. Victoria Park Tennis Stadium (www.hktennisopen. hk)

The Hong Kong Tennis Open is a WTA-sanctioned International Series Event and the eighth stop on the WTA Asian Swing, returning for its fourth year in 2017. More than 50 of the world's best female players will compete in singles and doubles for prizes worth USD500,000 at the iconic Victoria Park Stadium in the heart of the city.

OCT 1-31 **SUN-TUE**

Madame Tussauds Hong Kong

Fashion Zone, 10am-10pm; HK199-305. Madame Tussauds Hong Kong (www.madametussauds.com)
Designed to be photo friendly and selfie ready, this exhibit will make you look like a fashion icon that rubs elbows with stars such as Johnny Depp and Fan Bingbing. Dress your best, bring a camera and prepare to look like you belong on the catwalk.

OCT 31



Lan Kwai Fong Halloween Street

Party 2017, 7pm; free admission. Lan Kwai Fong (www.lankwaifong.com) This part of the city is so famous for late-night fun, say only three letters, LKF, and every Hong Konger knows it. The Halloween party has grown to legendary status over the years and is the largest street celebration in Hong Kong. Expect drink deals in participating bars and plenty of costumed ghosts and goblins visiting their favorite haunts.

OCT 6-8

"De-corps-struction" Series, 8pm; MOP150/180. Hiu Kok Experimental Theatre, Old Court Building (www. macauticketing.com)

De-corps-struction Series presents works, exchanges and events that explore the possibilities of the body. The performance is a collage of dance, movements, performance art, soundscape, improvised experimental music and installation art.

OCT 7

The Magical Teeter Totter, 8pm; MOP280-1,280. Cotai Arena, The Venetian Macao (www.macauticketing.com)

A conceptual concert featuring two singers Hins Cheung and Ivana Wong, *The Magical Teeter Totter* is a celebration of successful musical relationship. Fans will experience the wacky and humorous chemistry and profound friendship between

OCT 20-22



The 20th Lusofonia Festival, all day; free. Taipa Houses Museum

First held in 1998, the Lusofonia Festival is a fun-filled carnival that celebrates the Portuguese heritage of the town, with participation from both the Portuguese-speaking and Chinese communities. Featuring music, gastronomy, handicraft works and more from Portuguese-speaking countries like Cape Verde, Brazil, Mozambique, Angola, Goa and Timor Leste, this festive occasion will make a fantastic family day out, as surrounding streets and lanes at Taipa village will be decked out in Portuguese style.

OCT 21

Pakho Chou Concert, 8pm; MOP280-1,080. Cotai Arena, The Venetian Macao (www.cotaiticketing.com) Cantopop singer and songwriter

Pakho Chau used to be a recording studio engineer and thus produces many of his own songs. He made a name for himself in Hong Kong with his popular single 'Same Sky.' Fans will be able to see him performing hit songs from his 10-year career at Cotai Arena this month.

win!

We're giving away 2 pairs of tickets to this concert. Message our official WeChat account (ThatsGuangzhou) three days before the show and tell us why you should win!

OCT 27-29

A-Ma Cultural and Tourism Festival,

all day; free. A-Ma Cultural Village, Mt. Coloane (www.macautourism. gov.mo)

The 20th edition of Macau's characteristic A-Ma Cultural and Tourism Festival, one of the city's many UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritages, will see a parade of the Golden Statue of A-Ma with folk dances performing on the streets near A-Ma Cultural Village and Lao Hon park

NOV 1-12



Crazy Horse Paris, 8pm/11pm; MOP180-680. The Parisian Macao (www.cotaiticketing.com)

Showcasing music, dance and sensuality in true Parisian style, one of the most famous erotic adult cabarets *Crazy Horse Paris* will run for a limited season at the Parisian Macao. It is performed by a cast of 10 stunningly beautiful dancers clad only in textured lighting and projection. It is hard to determine where skin ends and the reflections begin.

URBAN MOMENTS

Do you have party pictures to contribute? Send them to us at editor.prd@urbanatomy.com and we'll run the best.





HOTEL NEWS

HOTEL NEWS

Grand Hyatt Changsha Launched

Grand Hyatt Changsha, the first Grand Hyatt hotel in China's Hunan province, celebrated its grand opening last month. The 354-room hotel crowns a 61-story tower on Xiangjiang Lu, offering breathtaking views of Xiang River and the city skyline. A riverfront landmark just steps away from Changsha's historic sites, Grand Hyatt Changsha is expected to be the destination for impressive views and unforgettable dining experiences in the heart of this cosmopolitan city.



LN Hotel Five Celebrates Its 2nd Anniversary

On August 28, Guangzhou's LN Hotel Five, Lingnan Hotel Group's fifth boutique brand, celebrated its two-year anniversary. The hotel is situated on Yanjiang Road along the Pearl River, known as the 'Bund of Guangzhou.' Adjacent to the Haizhu Bridge and with Beijing Lu shopping district and the city's former financial street nearby, guests can experience the city's 2,000-year-old history.



The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou Presents 2017 Autumn Wedding Showcase

In its 1,209-square-meter grand ballroom, The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou launched a wedding show for the season of autumn in trendy Chinese vintage style, cooperating with Loveniwed and I Promise on August 27. More than 300 guests enjoyed the bridal fashion show featuring an elegant, handcrafted cheongsam collection by designer Hong Ying Xiu Zhuang and wedding shoes by Glamour Bella.



Hampton by Hilton Beijing Fangshan Celebrates Its Grand Opening

On August 25, the first Hampton hotel in Beijing, Hampton by Hilton Beijing Fangshan, celebrated its grand opening. As the 18th Hampton hotel to open in China, the Hampton by Hilton Beijing Fangshan is evidence of the rapid expansion of the Hampton Group in China.



Ralph Tang Appointed as General Manager at Regal Financial Center Hotel, Foshan

In August, Ralph Tang was officially appointed as general manager of the Regal Financial Center Hotel, Foshan. Tang possesses a rich operation experience in Marriott and IHG's hotel. With over 30 years of working experience with world-renowned hotel chains, he boasts strong international hotel operation and management knowledge.



PROMOTIONS

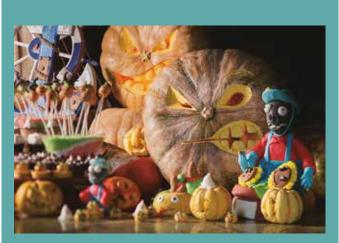
Grand Super Buffet Package for Chinese National Day

Discover Guangzhou's best cuisines with the Grand Super Buffet Package (RMB1,588) from Grand Hyatt Guangzhou at the beautifully adorned Market Café. You will also enjoy complimentary upgrade to Grand Club access, a special rate in O Spa and other perks. For more information, call 8396 1234. The package is available until October 13.

Grand Hyatt Guangzhou, 12 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城珠江西路12号广州富力君悦大酒店 (8396 1234)



TRAVEL DEALS



Join the Ghost Revelry Halloween Party at Chimelong Ocean Kingdom

With four Halloween-themed zones and a virtual reality experiential haunted mansion, this party on Friday, October 13 promises to be a thrill. Celebrate Halloween early by taking advantage of the hotel's room packages, which start from RMB1,698. The price includes a one-night stay in a themed room and Ocean Kingdom and Hengqin Bay Water World multientry tickets for two. For more information, call 0756-299 8888 or visit

www.chimelong.com. Zhuhai Hengqin Bay Hotel, Fuxiang Bay, Hengqin New District, Zhuhai 珠 海市横琴新区富祥湾 (www.chimelong.com, 0756-299 8888)



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FOOD & DRINK

1920 Restaurant 1) 4/F, 1 Jianshe Liu Malu, Yuexiu District; 2) Shops 67, 69, 72 & 76, The Canton Place, Qingfeng Jie, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (8388 1142); Shop MW01–03, 05, Central Zone, Mall of the World, 89 Huacheng Dadao, Tianhe District

World, 89 Huacheng Dadao, Hanne District (8709 6033) 1920 咖啡厅 1) 建设六马路—号前幢 4楼; 2) 天河区珠江新城清风街 48 号广粤天地 67, 69, 72, 76 号铺; 3) 天河区花城大道 89 号花城汇 MW01-03, 05 商铺

Aroma Bistro Shop 117, 1/F, Voka Street, 460 Tianhe Bei Lu, Tianhe District (185 0200 1416) 天河区天河北路460号沃凯街首层

Bravo Shop 114-115, 6 Huajiu Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江

The Brew Sports Bar & Grill 1) Unit 9-11, Huanan Country Garden, Panyu Dadao (across the road from Chimelong Theme Park), Panyu District (3482 0401); 2) West Section, Bao Lin Yuan, Huaxun lie, Zhuijang Xincheng, Tjanhe District (3408 9549); 3) Shop 11-13, Yuhai Food Street, 1 Jianshe Liu Malu, Yuexiu District (8382 8299)

1) 番禺区番禺大道华南碧桂园碧华南业2街9-11号;2) 天司 医珠江新城华讯街保林苑西区加拿大布鲁咖啡馆,近发展中心;3) 越秀区建设六马路誉海食街11-13号铺



The Eating Table With seats for more than 200 diners to explore gastronomy at a less frenetic pace, The Eating Table's warm, alluring design enlivens the senses. The owner, who spent years in Melbourne, has ensured that the food delivers to both local and foreign palates. Enjoy a gratifying meal, with a menu that boasts a wide range of appetizers, soups, pastas and both meaty and marine-filled mains.

Shop 401, 4/F, GTLand Winter Plaza, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城高德置地冬广场4楼401室 (8398 0860) Buongiorno 1) 3/F, Yi An Plaza, 33 Jianshe Liu Malu, Yuexiu District (8363 3587); 2) A7, Xinshijie Haoyuan Diyi Ju, 168 Dongcheng Nan Lu, Dongguan (0769 2339 6499) 取初音大利繁庆 1 越季区建设大马路官会员 邦奴息人利養几 17越旁区建设八与岭且安广场。 2) 东莞市东城南路 168 号新世界豪圆第一居 A7

Element Fresh 1) Shop L302, TaiKoo Hui, 383 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District (3808 8506); 2) G/F, 42 Qingfeng Jie, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3828 8482) · 2) 于河区珠江新城清风街 42 号首目

Happy Monk 1) Back of Yi' an Plaza lianshe Wu Malu, Yuexiu District (8376 5597) ; 2) No. 109, 7Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3877 8679); 3) Outdoor Plaza, Happy Valley Mall, 36 Machang Lu, Tianhe District (3832 5317) · 報果於建设有以股份安广场后门: 2) 天河区珠江 7) 险系区建设立当时直至7 30月 17,27 大河区外江 新城兴盛路 7 号 109 号铺;3) 天河区珠江新城马场 路 36 号太阳新天地户外广场

Hooley's Irish Pub and Restaurant 1)101, 8 Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3886 2675); 2) Section 2, Yijia Yuan, 7 Xingzhongdao, Zhongshan

リタバニ四餐酒吧, 天河区珠江新城兴盛路8号101; 2)中山市兴中道7号颐嘉苑2卡

In · Side · Out By Threedrops 3/F, 10 Xi-etianli, Lingnan Tiandi, Chancheng District, Foshan (0757-8203 1400, 189 885 25470)

M9 Restaurant Lounge Shop 112, 9 Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3802 0171)

McCawley's Bar & Grill Shop 101, 16 Huacheng Dadao, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3801,7000) 天河区珠江新城花城大道 16号 101 铺

Oggi Pizzeria 1) Shop 119, 8 Xingsheng Lu, Tianhe District (3805 1282); 4) 1 Tianlun Garden, Jianshe 4 Lu, Yuexiu District (8356 1196) www.oggirestaurant.com

卡布里西餐厅 1) 天河区兴盛路 8 号 119 铺; 2) 越秀区建设四马路天伦花园首层

Paulaner Bräuhaus L307, 3/F, TaiKoo Hui, 383 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District (2808 6333) 宝莱纳,天河区天河路 383 号太古汇广场 L307

Rebel Rebel 42 Tivu Dong Lu. Tianhe District (8520 1579) 天河区体育东路42号

Ricci Creative Eats Shop 015B, G/F, Popark Mall, No.63 Linhe Zhong Road, Tianhe District, Guangzhou, China (Across the street from IKEA) (3809 6330) 天河区林和中路 63 号东方宝泰购物广场首层(宜 **Shami House** 2/F, Zhao Qing Da Sha, 304 Huanshi Zhong Lu, Yuexiu District (8355 Huansni 211013 = -, 3012 / 8355 3091) 并业局 越秦区环市中路 304 号肇庆大厦 2 楼



Slow Life An organic, health-conscious Western restaurant that excels in Spanish cuisine. Slow Life aims to be a place where guests can take a break from their busy schedules to visit with friends and family over a feast of delicious fusion dishes. Shop 107, 1/F, Gaozhi Dasha, 120 Huangpu Shop 107, 17F, Gaozin 2 2 Dadao Xi, Tianhe District 平河区苗庙大道西120号高志大厦首层107铺 (3788



Summer House Directly behind the Marriage House, Xietian Li, Lingnan Tiandi, Chancheng District, Foshan (133 9223 6374, www.summerhouse.com.cn) 佛山市禅成区岭南天地协天里(嫁娶屋正后面)粤天地112-116号铺

Sultan Restaurant Turkish BBQ

1) 1-3/F, 367 Huanshi Dong Lu, between Baiyun Hotel and Friendship Store, Yuexiu District (8349 4170, 8349 4171); 2) Shop 102 & 114, Zhonghai Jinghui Huating, 31 Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, TianHe District(3801 5002) 1) 位处); 2)广州市天河区珠江新城兴盛路31号中海璟 晖华庭二期商铺102 & 114

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2) 番禺区迎宾路华南碧桂园大门右侧

HEALTH

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Lu(3051 00.1.) laireclinic.com _{们利尔诊所,天河区珠江新城马场路富力公园28}

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Eur Am Int'l Medical Center 1/F, North Tower, Ocean Pearl Bldg, 19 Huali Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng (3758 5328, 24– hr urgent care: 137 1041 3347, www.

eurammedicalcenter.com) 康辰国际医疗,珠江新城华利路19号远洋明珠大厦

Guangzhou I Born Women's Hospital No.6 Longkou Dong Lu, Tianhe District (2811 6375/185 2018 8335) 广州爱博恩妇产医院, 天河区龙口东路 6 号

H&H Dental Center 1/F, Mingmen Building, 4 Huacheng Dadao, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3808 0700, 3808 0729; 24-hour hotline: 139 2516 2826; E-mail: hnhdental@163.com) H&H牙科中心(嘉茜医疗门诊),天河区珠江新城花 城大道 4 号名门大厦正门首层



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1) 3 Yanyu Nan Lu, Ersha Island (8735 3393); 2) 19,Kexiang Road Luogang District,Science Park, Guangzhou (3213

55555) 1)广州美国人,二沙岛烟雨南路 3 号; 2)广州罗 岗区科翔路 19 号

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(180 2401 1757) 广州寰宇外籍人员子女学校,广州市白云区金沙洲

Clifford School International International Building, Clifford School, Clifford Estates, Shiguang Lu, Panyu District (8471 8273; Shiguang Lu, Fariya —— 8471 1441; 8471 1694) 平海ボ海空岭学校,番禺区市广路

Eclipse English Education 18D,

(Tel:38780382.18922769713)

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ISA International School Guangzhou Block C2-2, 128 Yuancun Siheng Lu, Tianhe District (8890 0909, info@isaschool.com) 校. 天河区员村四横路128号红专

The British School of Guangzhou 983-3 Tonghe Lu, Baiyun District (8709 4788) 广州

Trinity International Kindergarten 663 Huacheng Dadao, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District (8558 3287) 圣心国际幼稚园 天河区珠江新城花城大道663号

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Chimelong Hotel Panyu Dadao, Panyu District (8478 6838, gz.chimelong.com)

Chimelong Hengqin Bay Hotel Hengqin New District, Zhuhai (0756–299 8888, www. chimelong.com) 长隆横琴湾酒店,珠海市横琴新区

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Park Hyatt Guangzhou 16 Huaxia Lu, Zhuijang New Town, Tianhe District, Guangjiang New 10****, ... zhou (3769 1234) - 山台柏海店 天河区珠江新城华夏路 16 号

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Guangdong Int'l Volunteer Expatriate Contact Rosaline Yam (8778 2778: givescn@yahoo.com) www.gives.cn

Guangzhou Women's Int'l Club (GWIC) For contact information, visit www.gwic.org

Brazil Rm 1403, 10 Huaxia Lu, R&F Center, Zhujiang New Town, Tjanhe District (020-83652236; cg. cantao.itamaraty.gov.br) 巴西驻广州总领事馆, 珠江新城华夏路10号富力

Australia 12/F, Zhujiang New City, Development Centre, 3 Linjiang Lu (Tel: 3814 0111; Fax: 3814 0112) www.guangzhou.

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Finally, a horoscope that understands your life in Guangzhou.

BY NOFILE MATEER



Libra 9.24~10.23

Invest in a pair of those big scooterriding gloves that look like oven mitts, but do not wear one on your left hand. Honk at all red cars.



Scorpio 10,24~11,22

A *kuadi* will arrive at your door unexpectedly. Open the package what's inside will change your life. Eat cabbage on the 19th.



Sagittarius 11.23~12.21

You will be challenged to a duel outside Suns. Your opponent will be swathed in tattered scarves. You will ultimately win by spitting Zhujiang draft into his eyes and temporarily blinding him as you run inside to safety.



Capricor 12.22~1.20

Join a local fitness club, but beware of any group of legging-clad exercisers referring to themselves as a 'fit fam.' Small, smelly gyms in the basements of malls and apartment complexes are your best best.



Aquarius 1.21~2.19

Buy dumpling wrappers in bulk. Store them in a cool, dry place. Plan a dumpling-making party, and then cancel it. Forget about the dumpling wrappers forever. A *xiguan* weasel will find them and eat them.



Pisces 2.20~3.20

You will slip on an escaped fish at your local wet market and sprain your ankle. One day you will look back on this fondly, as the man who will help you up is your future husband. He's gonna be great for your Chinese.



Aries 3.21~4.20

For Halloween, go as a parking bao'an and make your boyfriend be a Cantonese grannie.



Taurus 4.21~5.21

Buy red fruits to show your patriotism this Golden Week or misfortune will befall you. Only drink local IPAs.



Gemini 5.22~6.21

Befriend an old person in your neighborhood this month. Do not give your WeChat to anyone who lives in Haizhu District.



Cancer 6.22~7.22

Your lover will drop your favorite tiny replica of a Terracotta Warrior into the Pearl River. Make them dive in to find it. If they succeed, buy them three virgin mojitos at the nearest bar. If they don't, break up with them.



Leo 7.23~8.23

A series of unfortunate events will lead you Xingsheng Lu, where you will get food poisoning or alcohol poisoning or both. Avoid young men in basketball jerseys.



Virgo 8.24~9.23

Virgo, go, go, leave town. Just because you missed Golden Week travel rush doesn't mean can't go somewhere. There are still weekends in October, and you keep saying you're "dying to visit Dalian" - now prove it.



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