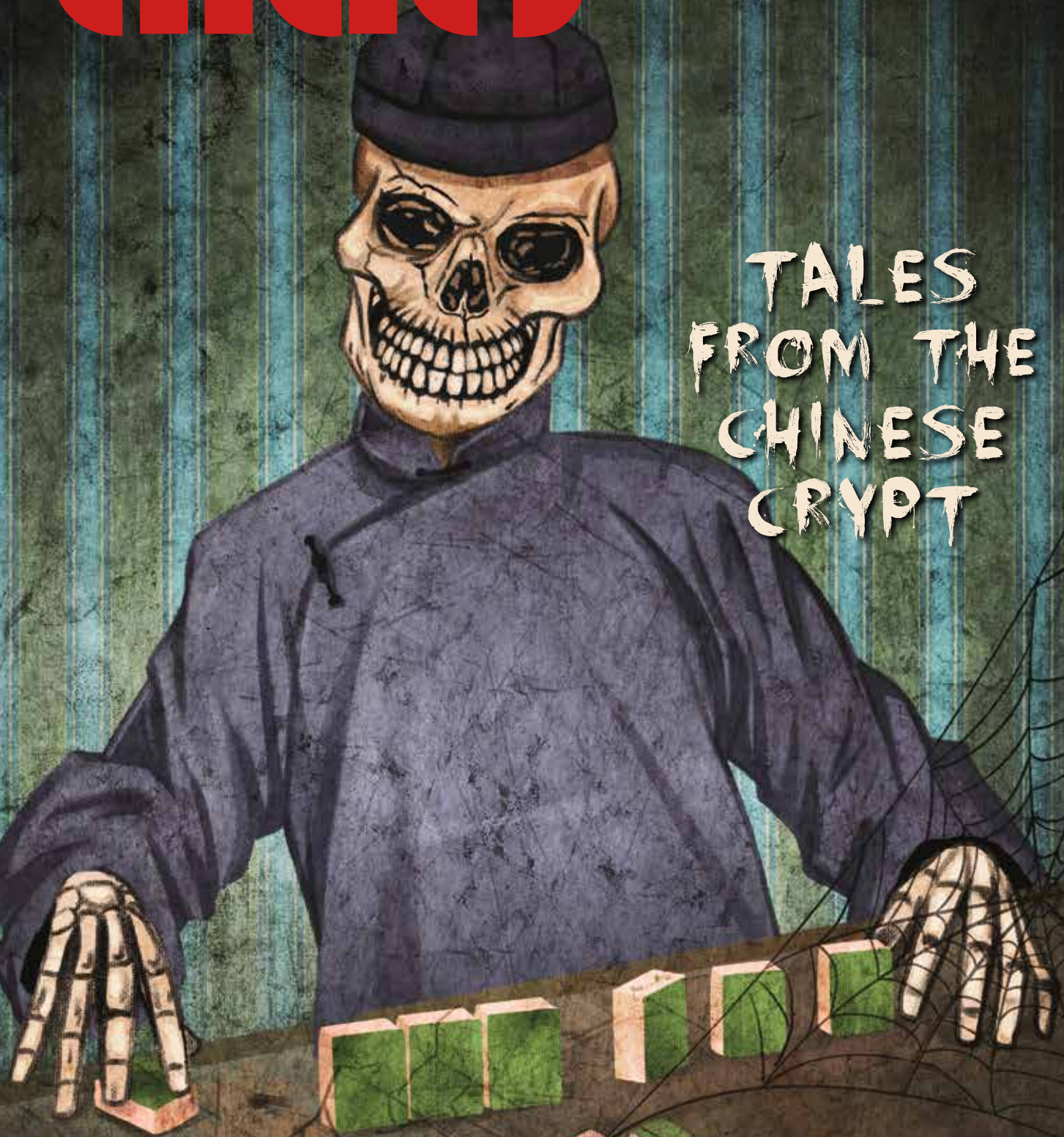


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Editor's Note

OCTOBER 2017

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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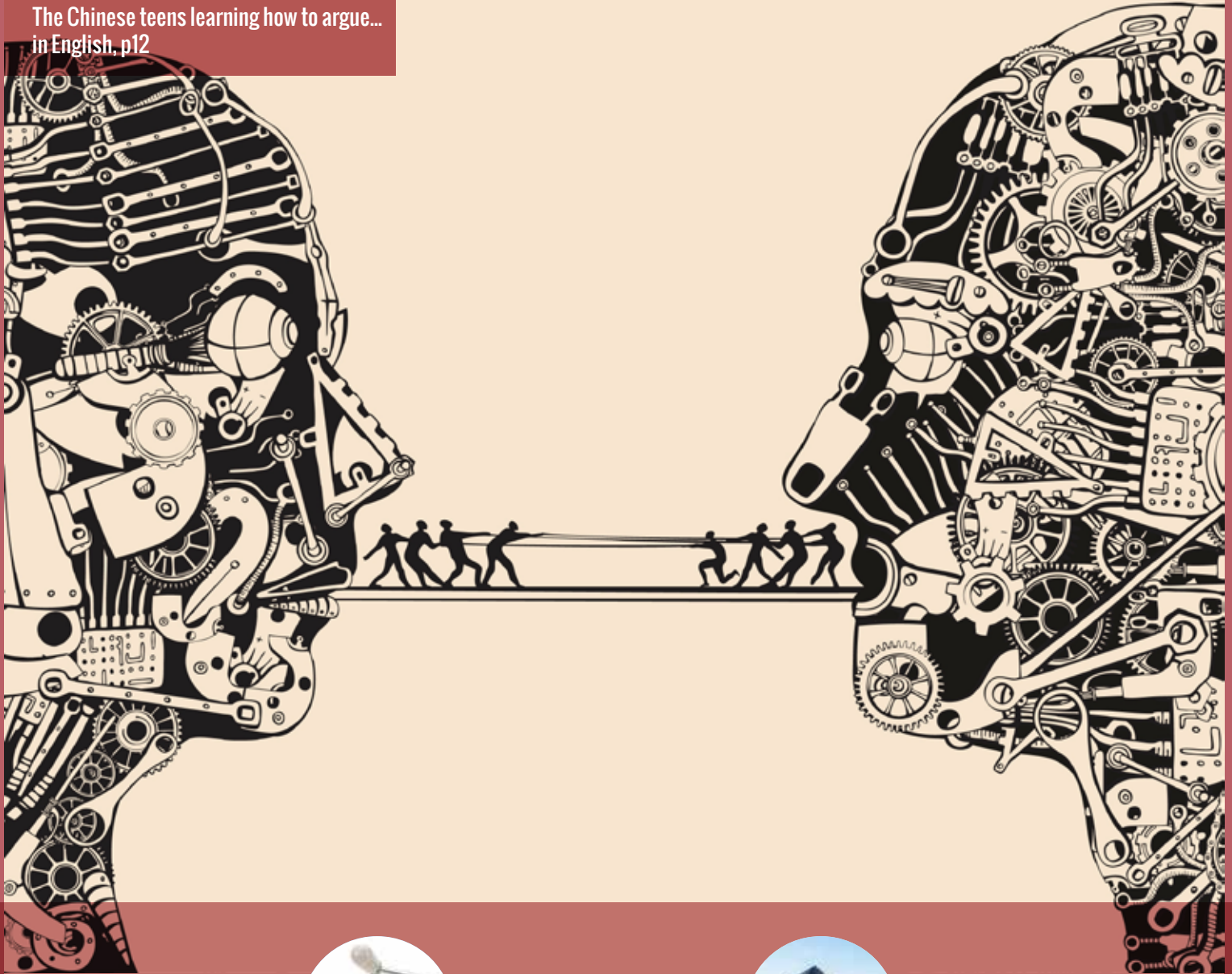
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CITY

The Great Debate

The Chinese teens learning how to argue...
in English. p12



On the Chopping Block
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P10



TOOL TIME

Drilling Technician

Text and photo by Tristin Zhang

On 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.

THE BUZZ

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-brievable announcement is certainly not gouda news – it's a muntrosity – 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.

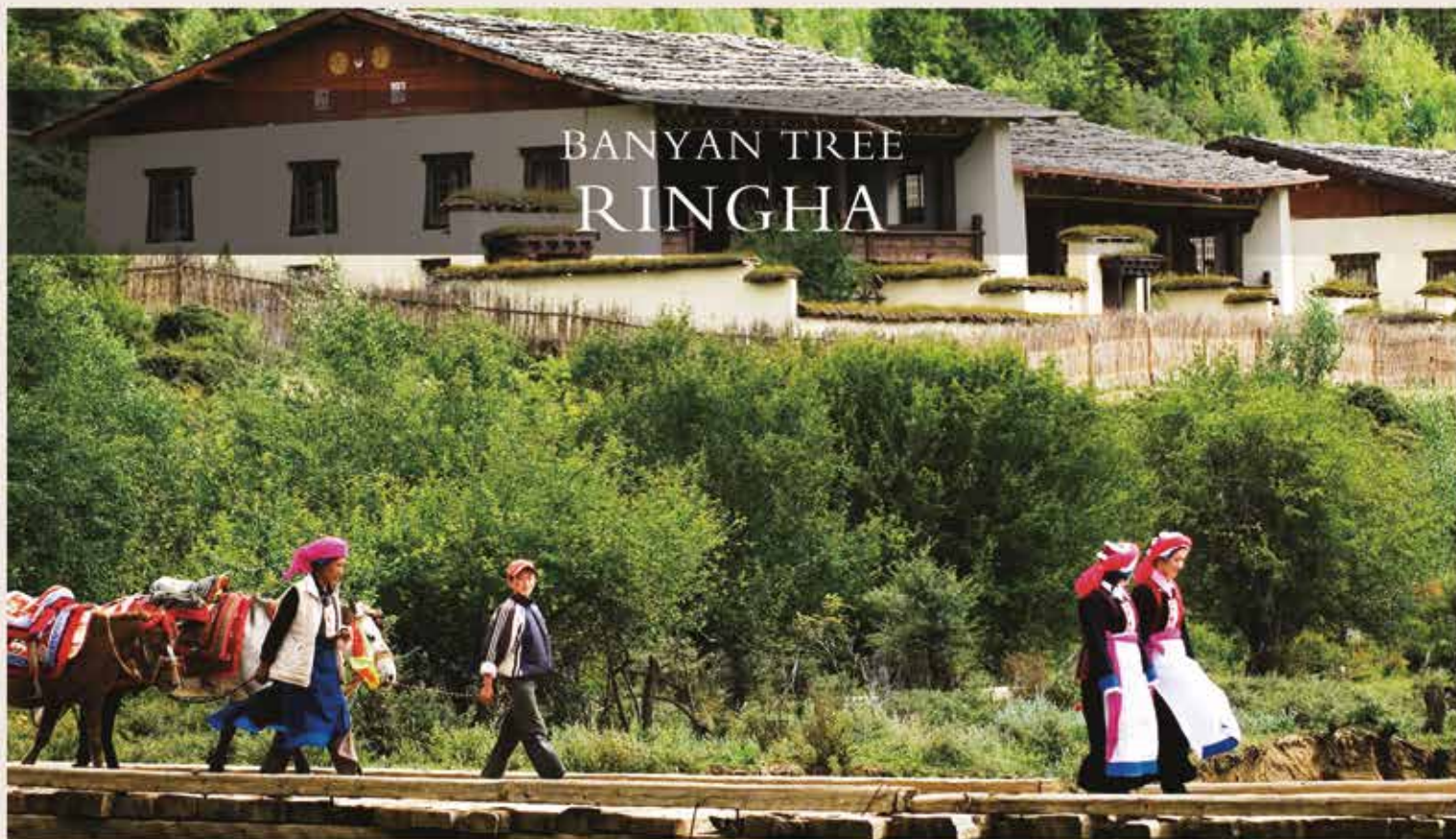
A bird's eye view of the award-winning structure resembles a *bombax ceiba*, which is considered the emblem flower of Guangdong. For that reason – and because it's futuristic as sh*t – the building has inspired many a photo-hungry urban explorer.

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.



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* THE GREAT DEBATE *

By Dominique Wong

The Chinese Teens Learning How to Argue... in English





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"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

"In Asian culture 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?"



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 Weibo*.

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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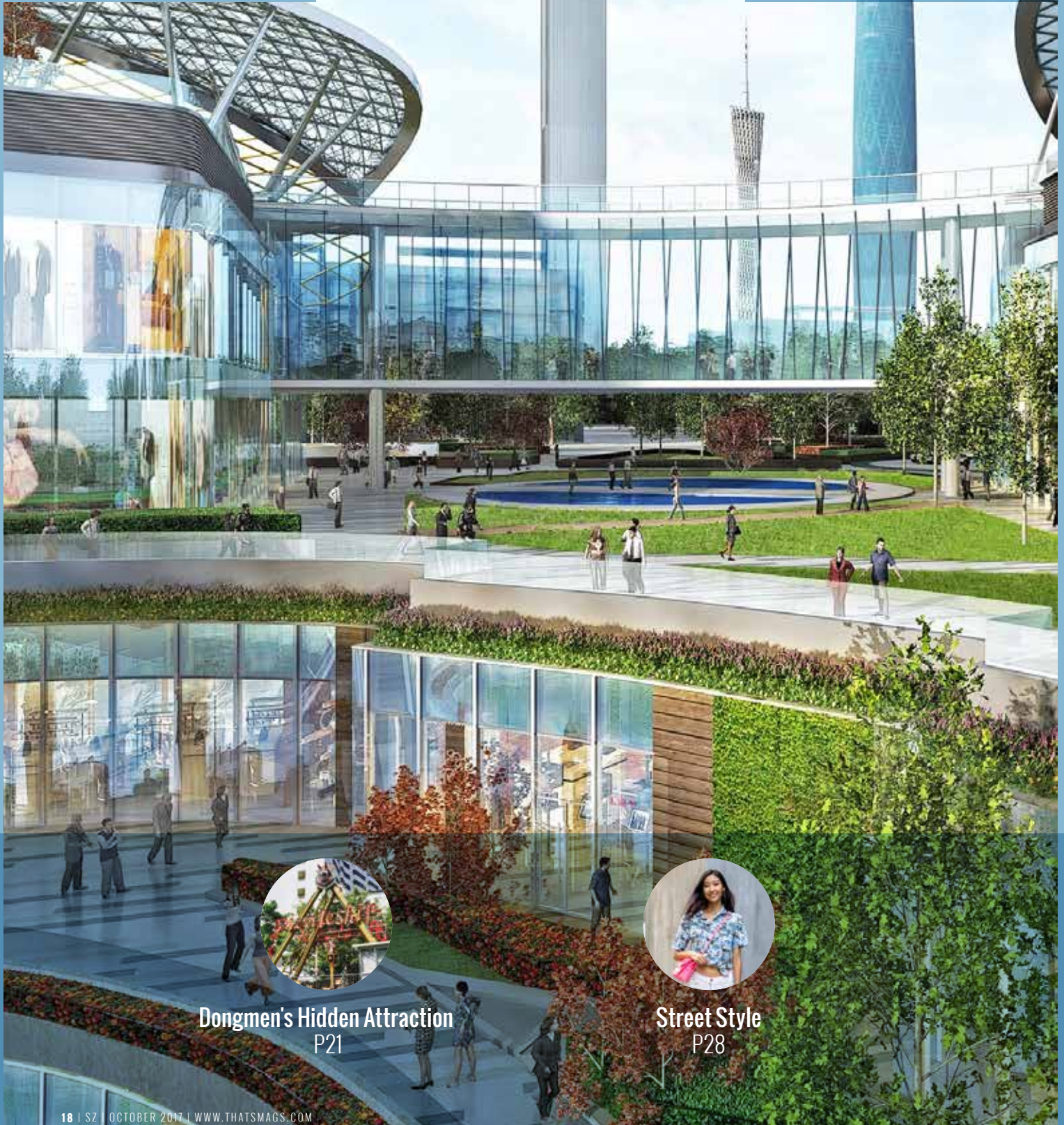
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LIFE & STYLE

The Great Malls of China

The future of China's retail property
market, p22



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Street Style
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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. Visit runpee.com for more info.



COVET

Uniqlo x JW Anderson

For the A/W 2017 season, Uniqlo and UK fashion label JW 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.uniqlo.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 solidity, 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:

In Shenzhen, take Metro Line 1 or 3 to Laojie Station. After emerging from Exit F walk straight ahead, past the underground shoe wholesale market, and take the first left. The park is open from 9am to 11pm daily.



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THE GREAT MALLS OF CHINA

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.

One 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

INDUSTRY ANALYSTS AND DEVELOPERS ON THE FUTURE OF CHINA'S RETAIL PROPERTY MARKET

By Dominic Ngai



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

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

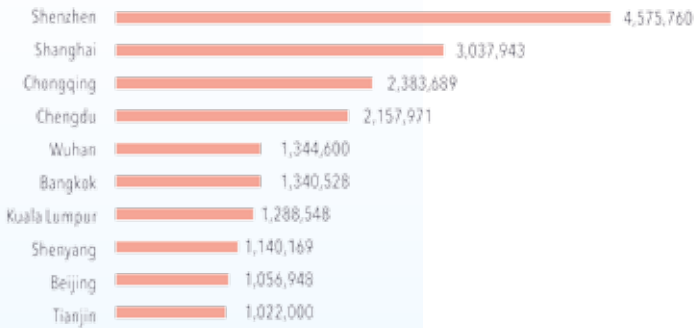
Last year's Singles' Day shopping event was a big one for Alibaba. In just 24 hours, the e-commerce giant recorded RMB120.7 billion in sales – a 32 percent increase from the previous year. In April 2018, the company will reportedly be opening 'More Mall,' a 40,000-square-meter shopping complex in Hangzhou.

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.

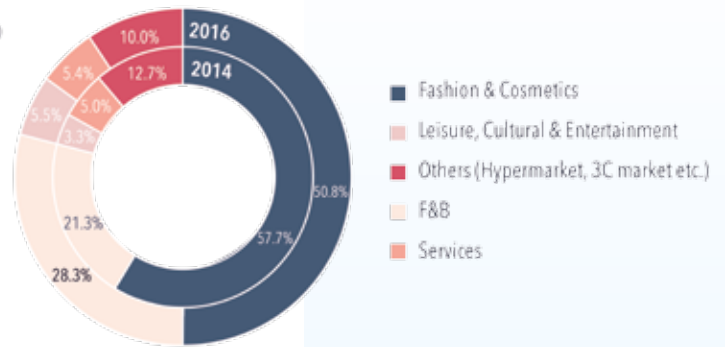
"Most malls have realized that the best way to deal with the rapid changes in technology is to embrace it," says Brown at JLL. Besides simple necessities like allowing customers to use mobile payment and running different promotions to encourage social media engagement, he says properties and brands 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

Top Markets for Shopping Center Pipeline Under Construction as of December 2016 (sqm)



% 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 co-working 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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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.’



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 Blantyre.

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.



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



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PRD Wearabouts

Each month, we scour the streets of Shenzhen and Guangzhou to find some of the most stylish people in town and see what they're wearing.

Photos by Sky Thomas Gidge and Tristin Zhang

May

Shirt: Taobao store
Jeans: Zara
Bag: Mermies
Shoes: Converse
Earrings: Bershka



Maggie

T-shirt: Zara
Pants: Taobao store
Watch: Seiko
Shoes: H&M



Whitey

Shirt: Rong Side
Sunglasses: Ray-ban
Watch: Daniel Wellington
Necklace: Unsolved
Ring: Scrap Metal
Trousers: BJHG
Shoes: Opus



Neko

Jacket, dress and purse: "Taobao"
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ARTS

For the Record

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P35



THE CANDLE THIEVES

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

By Frances Chen

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号东方花苑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)

COLLAGE

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*



AGE

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 a 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.

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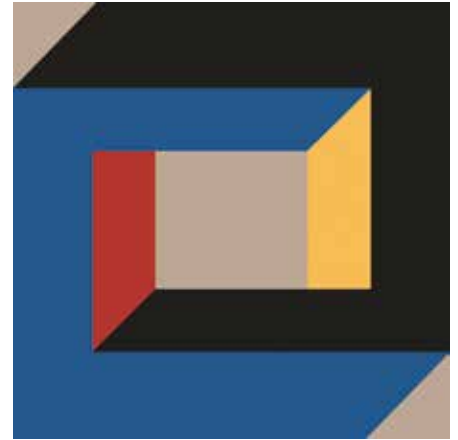
Three New Homegrown Albums on Our Radar This Month

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 metal-esque 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 avant-garde 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

As 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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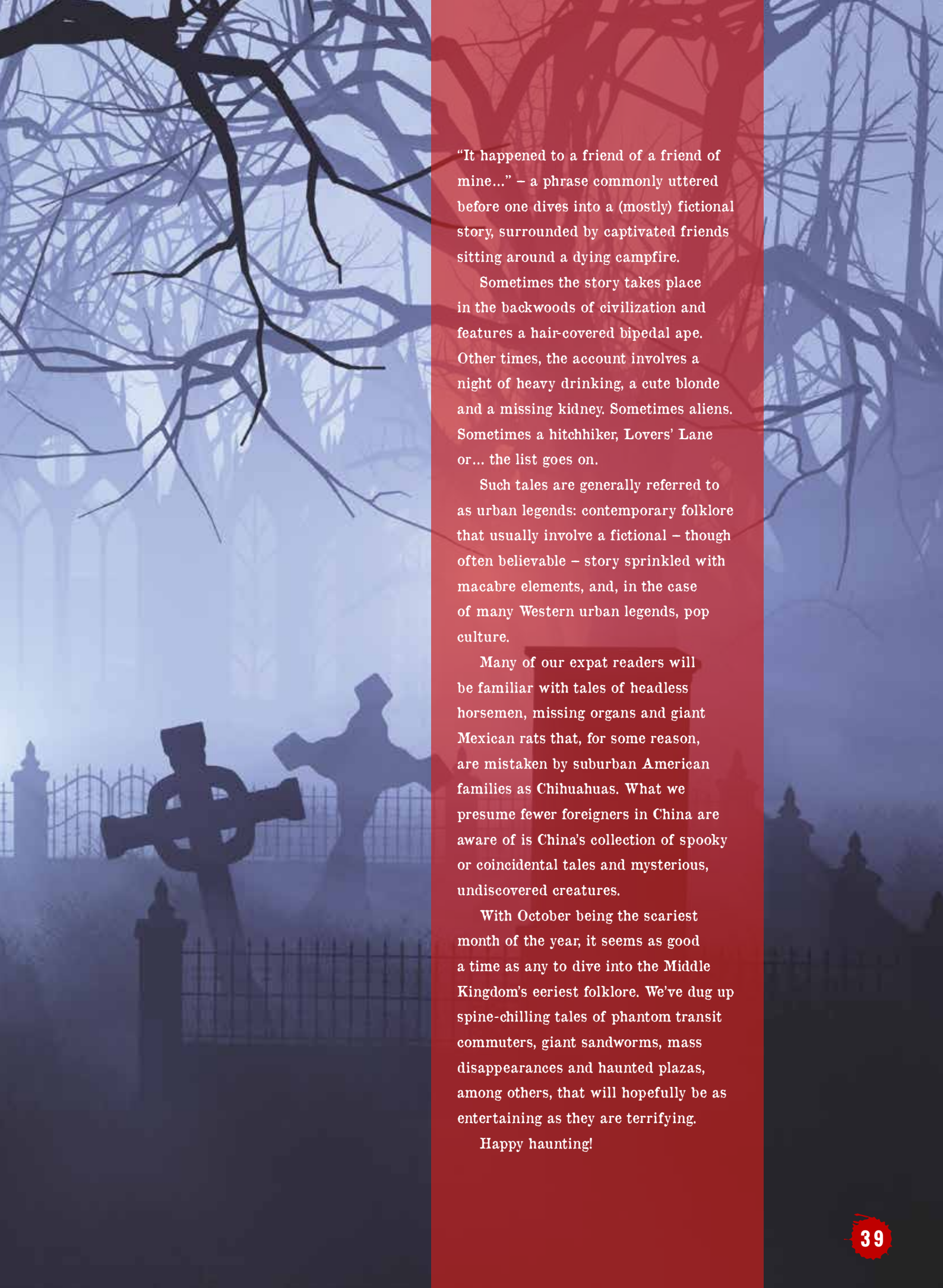


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TALES FROM THE CHINESE CRYPT

Inspired by the original web
series by Matthew Bossons
Art by Shadday Studios



“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!



HONG KONG

THE HELLO KITTY MURDER

By Matthew Bossons

To 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-ye, 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

Vengeful, 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.



Rumored 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 Mackerle, 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...

SHANGHAI

THE YAN'AN GAOJIA 'DRAGON PILLAR'

By Dominic Ngai



INNER MONGOLIA

THE MONGOLIAN DEATH WORM

By Matthew Bossons



Millions 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.



GUANGZHOU

LIWAN 'CORPSE' PLAZA

By Lena Gidwani and Jocelyn Richards

any Cantonese see it as no coincidence that the cursive-like character 'guang' (光) outside of Liwan Plaza in Guangzhou bears an uncanny resemblance to the word for corpse (尸). 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.

NANJING THE UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCE OF 3,000 CHINESE TROOPS

By Matthew Bossons

Unexplained 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 run-up 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.



BEIJING

THE LAST BUS TO FRAGRANT HILLS

By Matthew Bossons

 On 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.



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)



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.

COMMUNITY



Can Art Change the World?

The simple question that led to the creation of Global Friendship, p49



Dear Jamie
P51



Oh, Baby
P53



GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP

Guangzhou'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 part-time 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.

Global Friendship was first inspired by the idea 'can art change the world?', but it seems GF does more diverse activities now. Can you talk about the transition?

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.

So what happened?

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 program?

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.

Can you talk about the meet-and-greet events you hold?

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).



COMMUNITY

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

The Board Game Guild

By now we've covered an exhaustive list of sports clubs in the PRD, from rugby to rowing to frisbee to Gaelic football. But lest our non-athletic readers be left in the dust, this month we're introducing a sedentary sport: tabletop gaming.

The 'Nanshan board game guild' WeChat group is free to join, and offers access to multiple groups around the city as well as their resources.

Scott Triplett, organizer of a weekly meetup in Xili, estimates that the WeChat group owns "100 or more games between all of us." His personal stockpile alone contains 40 titles, like the sardonic, Kickstarter-funded phenomenon Exploding Kittens as well as multiple expansions of the more strategic Settlers of Catan.

Games range from the casual – sometimes as short as 10 minutes – all the way to the expert.

A Shekou group run by Danish native Jesper Nielsen, for instance, is targeted at gamers who enjoy hunkering down over head-scratchers for hours on end. Weekly sessions can last three to six hours as players work their way through "heavy strategy" games with weighty names like Civilization.

No matter the difficulty level, Nielsen notes, board gaming is a good way to "spend time offline" with friends. If you're interested in swapping your gadgets for game pieces, at least for a couple hours, you'll be in good company.

To join the group, add Nielsen on WeChat at ID 'jesperglar' and ask about the board game guild.



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 you've had while working with the homeless?

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.



What tells you more about a person: their eyes or their wrinkles?

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

Cantonese are said to eat everything. What's the weirdest thing you've tried in Guangdong?

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

Whoa! How was it?

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 South China snails raw for a week?

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

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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 aesthetic 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 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

Face 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

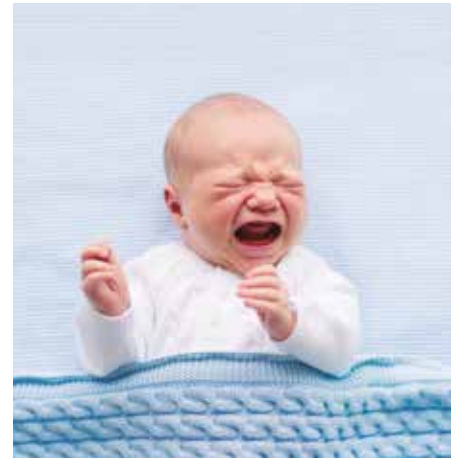
cry to ensure their parents are so knackered, the very thought of getting down and dirty is thrown out the window.

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.

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CITY SCENES

Vista-SK Welcomes Shenzhen Newcomers

(Supported by **that's** and **urbanfamily**)

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 TMC Tour at Nantou Ancient City

(Supported by **urbanfamily**)

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 Neuhalphen, 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's**)

The French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China (CCI France China), 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's** 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's**)

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



On 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.



During 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 eco-responsible cities.



In 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.



On 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.



The 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.



Shenzhen reviews,
events and information

10-11
/
10-29



THE SEVENTH OCT-LOFT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Drums, horns and all that...

See p68

THIS MONTH

- 60 The Grapevine
- 62 New Restaurants
- 65 New Bars

EAT & DRINK

Autumn Awesome

Chill out at Shenzhen's best new hot spots, p62



King Again
P64



Hot Date
P65

I'M BLUE DABADEE DABADAA...

Pepsi Blue's Mysterious Appearance in China

By Matthew Bossons



If 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:



Hammock's (p62) entering the fray for Shenzhen's best burger bragging rights; a 'second-to-none' weekday party place at **M2** (p66); a place for a peaceful pizza pie at **San Marco's** Coastal City outlet; finally, shared bikes beat buses in war for Shenzhen commuters.

We're Done with:



An F&B outrage (emphasis on the beverage) as an in the buff drunken man got rough with innocent bystanders; noise complaints shutting down some much needed aping around; a Foshan role reversal seeing a snake-meat eatery proprietress bitten by a severed cobra head; the motion of the ocean inside the kegs and behind the...



OLDIE BUT GOODIE

Simida Korean Fried Chicken and Beer

Korean fried chicken is like cheating. The double-frying technique yields a crispy, light crust compared to its American counterpart, yet the meat inside stays juicy and tender.

Shenzhen's Simida doesn't disappoint in either respect, serving up flavorful chicken with a minimum of grease. Plus, at least two stores in Luohu and Futian Districts cook with olive oil, making the pleasure feel slightly less guilty.

A snack-size order of four wings and drumsticks will set you back RMB20 while an eight-piece platter, or an entire small chicken, both cost RMB38.

The meat is first fried, then coated with a sauce of your choice before serving. We're fans of the mouth-tingling, runny-nose-inducing spicy flavor ('BT辣'), but there are plenty of other options, from sweet and sour, butter garlic and cheese to normal hot sauce.

For sides, it's hard to go wrong with either savory sweet potato fries or crispy potato wedges, both costing RMB15 for a small portion.

Beverage options vary depend on the

store: a branch south of Huaqiangbei serves fruit and milk cap teas but no soju, for instance, while others are the opposite. True to the name, however, every store stocks Korean Cass beer (RMB12 a can), a light lager.

Simida runs a booming delivery business, meaning physical stores are sometimes deserted at mealtimes. If you're a true chicken connoisseur, though, that won't hold you back, especially when it means less wait time for your freshly fried fowl.

Open daily, 12pm-3am; #30, Bldg 70, Shazui Yifang, Futian District 福田区沙嘴路沙嘴一坊70栋30号 (0755-8320 0510, 180 9890 9917)



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.
2. Add lots of ice and stir.
3. Add more scotch if it is too sweet.



WHAT'S ON WAIMAI

Pine Nut Pasta

These days, when even sketchy, hole-in-the-wall joints have listings on multiple apps, how can you tell the delivery food treasures from the – for lack of a better word – trash? We're here to help, one convenient option at a time.

Our inaugural What's on Waimai pick is Pine Nut Pasta (松子意面), which offers solid Western lunch options for office workers in Futian and Nanshan districts. Pine Nut's menu focuses on classic salads, but you can also build your own blend. The restaurant really shines with its pastas, though, especially the classic spaghetti dish (RMB36).

Another favorite of ours is the panini (RMB32), which makes a convenient, one-handed light meal or snack with its generous chunks of chicken and thick layer of cheese. The bread is a little sweet and the splash of marinara-like sauce unconventional-



al, but where else in Shenzhen can you order a panini to be delivered to your doorstep?

On that note, there are some misses on the Pine Nut menu. The 'bighug' sandwich, held together by multiple slices of limp sliced bread, falls short of expectations, while the 'grain salad' is a mixed-up blend of quinoa, corn, cucumber, croutons and more.

But overall, if you're looking for a cheap, healthy delivery lunch option, you could do a lot worse than Pine Nut Pasta.

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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HAMMOCK

Burger, Burger

By Gary Bailer



The Place

If you've been watching the WeChat Moments of a certain Shekou set, you've already seen pictures of Hammock – a restaurant that has created a bit of burger buzz despite swinging open its doors only a few weeks ago.

The man in the driver's seat – or at least keeping watch over the kitchen – is a one Chef Rambo Mai. Though a Guangdong native, he spent 12 years in New Zealand involved in the restaurant industry, including a stint running a popular Auckland eatery – some recipes of which have been imported to Shenzhen in the form of light, saucy burgers.

The Food

It's about the burgers at Hammock, and they're apparently taken very seriously. That includes the foie gras slider (RMB48), which ostensibly makes use of a marinade bought

in eastern Guangdong that is stewed over more than a decade. Pair that with coriander and bean sprout and you have a tangy, double-bite mini burger, though nothing exactly screams the 'Chaoshan-style' described on the menu.

The most expensive burger – and most photogenic – is the New Zealand All Blacks (RMB78). Based around a beef patty and with cheese, bacon and 'black truffle eggs,' we're told this stack is one of the bestsellers in New Zealand. The inclusion of kale is sure to raise some eyebrows among Shenzhen's burger aficionados.

Most combos are quite 'light,' not by skimping on the good stuff, but by relying on ingredients to fill out the palate, like the white-wine-stewed apple in the Texas Pork Burger (RMB58), which is also the hardest of the three we sample.

The Vibe

Hammock's ceilinged balcony juts into an open-air mall, which recently started operation a short strut from the Sea World subway stop. When the area's stores fill up, it will be great for people watching and likely popular with the family-oriented. Sporting a surprising amount of open space between solidly built chairs, along with a view of the sky, Hammock proves itself much more than a shopping afterthought.

Price: RMB80

Who's going: locals and expats

Good for: meat, buns and all in between

Nearest metro: Sea World (Exit C), 5 minutes

Open daily 10am-10pm; 3/F, 1 Gongye San Lu, Huigang Shopping Center, Nanshan District 南山区工业三路1号汇港购物中心三楼3/F (2165 0156)



SAN MARCO

Pizz'a Mind

By Bailey Hu

The Place

The original San Marco, located in historic Venice, is about as far from its Shenzhen namesake as you can get. Still, the new restaurant at the end of Coastal City does its best to look the part, with glass walls shedding light on small tables and comfy seating.

The restaurant is half-empty when we visit during a weekday lunch hour, though more customers filter in gradually. But compared to the bustle of the massive complex of food, shopping and entertainment just beyond its doors, it's an oasis of calm.



The Food

Salmon carpaccio (RMB68) makes an excellent starter, seasoned lightly with dill, olive oil and finely diced onion and served alongside soft homemade breadsticks.

A large Palermo pizza (RMB108) topped with blobs of mascarpone cheese is a popular pick for a reason. The mild cheese balances salty pepperoni slices atop a thin, chewy crust.

The lasagna (RMB72) is less memorable to our American palate, with crumbly ground beef that reminds us of childhood cafeterias.

Luckily, it's followed by a generous chunk of tiramisu (RMB48), saturated with rich espresso flavor and creamy with a hint of sweetness.

The drink menu sports some novelties: one whole page is dedicated to beverages with names like Window of the World and Convention and Exhibition Center. A Xiasha iced fruit tea (RMB42) tastes of citrus, and is refreshing rather than sugary.

The Vibe

Dishes are served up fairly quickly during our visit, although the lack of a large lunch-time crowd probably helps.

With its sunlit, cozy interior and reasonable prices, San Marco is neither fine dining nor completely casual. Instead, it strikes us as the kind of place where we'd invite a friend or business associate to enjoy, possibly over slices of tiramisu, some much-needed peace and quiet.

Price: RMB60-100

Who's going: pizza lovers, office workers

Good for: lunch dates, Italian staples

Nearest metro: Houhai (Exit D1), 14 minutes

Open daily, 10am-11pm Sun-Thu; 10am-12am Fri-Sat; 2A, Zhongzhou International Building B, Coastal City, 98-100 Haide Er Dao, Nanshan District 南山区海德二道98-100号海岸城中洲国际B座2A (8670 7796)



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SAMKING BISTRO

Raising the Steaks

By Adam Robbins

The Place

Xunmei Science and Technology Square just opened, but you can already find fast and friendly Western treats in the city's fourth and largest Samking.

No longer just a pizza joint, the larger kitchen means a larger menu, with steaks and burgers of Angus beef alongside indulgent milkshakes with ice cream from Shanghai.

The interior is trim as an IKEA, with attentive staff clearing tables and directing customers to a bathroom a short distance down the hall.



The Food

The snacks, salads, pizzas, paninis, burgers, steaks and desserts fill two large-format menus, plus a third with deals for parties of two to six.

Pizza is king, with a dozen offerings from Parma ham to durian, pepperoni to prawn (RMB68 for nine inches, RMB88 for twelve). The golden crackling crust might be enough to overcome any bias against Chinese-owned Western restaurants.

Salads (RMB38-68) are large enough to share, with the hot spring egg delivering mild quinoa, flaky pumpkin, delicate soft-boiled eggs and attractive greens. Do yourself a favor: savor the dew-dappled Chinese ice plant without the bold dressings.

Finely ground meat in the Angus burger remains moist, if dolloped with ketchup, mustard and BBQ sauce. As a full-sized burger (RMB58-68) or in a mini-burger set (RMB58), it's good value for the money. Fried fish is thin but sustaining, clad in crispy breading and hints of superior oil.



The Vibe

Samking works hard to go beyond the student-and-family set, offering substance to the office workers who want a reliable Western bite. The menu is point-and-go simple and turn-around is pretty fast, considering how much is prepared in-house. Though not fine dining, it's a very fine option for the neighborhood.

Price: RMB60

Who's going: Xunmei office workers, coders

Good for: budget-friendly Western food, milkshakes

Nearest metro: Shenzhen University (Exit A4), 18 minutes

Open daily, 10.30am-9.30pm; 1/F, Bldg. 3, Xunmei Keji Square, High Tech Park, 8 Yuan Lu, Nanshan District 南山区科技园科苑路8号讯美科技广场3栋一楼萨姆王披萨屋 (2665 9426)



SIX SENSUALITY

Numbers Game

By Sky Thomas Gidge

Hunky bartenders, decorative drinks and bumping tunes: could you want more? Apparently not, if you're a young woman with a penchant for pouty selfies – that's the impression we get after entering Six Sensuality on a recent weekend evening.

Set behind Futian's Nine Square shopping mall, the bar hovers between cocktail lounge and discotheque, though you won't catch anyone dancing next to the high, black and white pleather chairs.

Instead, customers can enjoy the best alcohol in the city, or so says professional hype man and manager Carlos Zhou. Though the ingredients of some drinks elude him, he says the high-ish price of RMB95 per glass is justified – and to be fair, they taste the part.

The Moscow Mules – yes, in a copper mug – and Mint Juleps, in ice-encrusted vessels, don't skimp on the booze, though they both skewer towards the sweet side, as does the plum-wine-based Snow White.

This drink may have a fairy tale appearance, but imbibing is a napkin-intensive affair as



a white powder decorates the glass (a furtive lick suggests powdered sugar).

Popular with 'bosses' is a drink dubbed the NASDAQ, which arrives in a puff of wood-chip smoke and requires you use a small hammer to smash a rum-filled ice ball, mixing booze with black pepper. A bit much? Yeah. Enjoyable? Enough to be worth RMB95.

Outside seating offers a place to smoke and an escape from the top 40 soundtrack, and, on our visit, is favored by several groups of women – a normal occurrence according to Zhou, who says 70 percent of clientele are female, drawn by the bar's proximity to a fashionable mall and male wait staff selected for looks.

Finally, how do we say this? Even if this particular bar doesn't sound like your preferred late-night go-to, there's a good chance you'll meet someone who is.

Price: RMB95

Who's going: single women, recent shoppers

Good for: making friends, strong drinks

Nearest metro: Huaqiang Lu (Exit B), 9 minutes

Open daily, 6pm-2am; 1/F, Shop 15, Nine Square Shopping Center 1018 Hua Fu Lu (across from H&M), Futian District 福田区华富路1018号华强北九方一楼购物中心15号铺

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M2 CLUB

Welcome to the Weekend

By Bailey Hu



M2 is not your average Chinese club. For one thing, the music – pop hits with heavy bass beats mixed in – is eminently danceable, even on a Wednesday night.

The bar, hidden at the back of the club, also serves up decent cocktails, priced at RMB70 across the board. A respectable whiskey sour delivers flavor along with the expected buzz, while the Passion Fruit Fizz is tangy and crunchy with seeds.

The Sakura Lover doesn't live up to its poetic description: 'a strong vodka like gentle man with radical violent radical sakura wine.' It does taste like cherry candy, though, while a less-saccharine Piano Songbirds is fruity with a hint of bitters.

Despite the decent sips, drinkers can't help but remember they're in a club: the music is so loud that it's hard to hail bartenders standing ten feet away.

There's also the air: if you're the kind of person who can't stand secondhand smoke, be warned.

When we visit, the first floor is packed from wall to wall with roomy booths, which, unlike seats at the bar, require a RMB800 minimum purchase to book on weekday nights (RMB3,800 for weekends).

During weekly parties, though, chairs and tables are cleared away so that dancing clubbers can crowd near whichever guest DJ is laying down the beat.

For those intent on splurging – think RMB20,000 and up – private rooms upstairs allow partiers to sing to karaoke, douse themselves in a la carte champagne and look down on the crowd through layers of soundproof glass.

Most people, however, choose to stay on the ground floor. And while M2 may not be everyone's shot of tequila, they're clearly doing

something right: as midnight approaches on a weekday night, the tables on the ground floor are almost full.

A few move to the music while most chat or check their phones as attentive, well-groomed waiters weave and bob holding menus and the occasional bottle with sparkler attached.

It lends a mood of celebration, and why not? It may be Wednesday in the rest of China but at M2, the weekend has already started.

Price: RMB70-150

Who's going: EDM fans, businessmen

Good for: dancing on the weekend, decent drinks

Nearest metro: Chegongmiao (Exit C), 8 minutes

Open daily, 9pm-5am; M2 Club, Crown Science and Technology Park, 21 Tairan Jiu Lu, Futian District 福田区泰然九路21号皇冠科技园二栋 (0755-6190 3674, 0755-8886 0987)





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● Lang Lang Recital



Lang Lang is a popular Chinese concert pianist who has performed with leading orchestras in Europe, the United States and China. Originally rejected from music school over a lack of talent, he went on to study in the United States and play at the White House. Join him for this special anniversary celebration of Shenzhen's prettiest music venue.

Thu Oct 12, 8pm; RMB280-1,280.
Shenzhen Concert Hall, 2016 Fuzhong Yi Lu, Futian District 福田区福中一路 2016号 (8306 0346)

● Secret Garden Concert



Led by a male-female duo, this large band of accomplish musicians hails from Europe where the group won the Eurovision Song Contest. Expect smooth, soothing new-age soundscapes painted with an artistry that only experienced musicians can provide.

Sat Oct 14, 8pm; RMB280-1280.
Shenzhen Concert Hall, 2016 Fuzhong Yi Lu, Futian District 福田区福中一路 2016号 (8306 0346)

● OCT Jazzfest Festival

B10



Expect the best jazz musicians Shenzhen has even seen along with lectures, screenings and 'sharing sessions.' Musicians ranging from the avant-garde to the widely recognized will play. Fan of the musical style or not, the artistry on show is worth an in-person listen.

Oct 11-29, 8pm-9:20pm; RMB60-150 tickets or RMB800 for 100 sets. B10 Live, Bldg C2, OCT-Loft, Xiangshan Dong Jie, Nanshan District 南山区香山东街华侨城创意文化园北区C2栋北侧 (8633 7602, b10live.taobao.com)

win!

We're giving away tickets for sets on October 13, 14, 19, 20 and 22. Message our official WeChat account (ThatsShenzhen) three days before the show and tell us why you should win!

● Mathias Heise Quadrillion Gig

B10



Rocking a jazz harmonica, Heise in 2012 founded his fusion band, Mathias Heise Quadrillion, with equally talented musicians manning the electric guitar, bass and drums. The band's original sound has given way to a new genre of music called FuRoJazz, mixing hard-hitting funk with primal beats along with jazz harmonies.

Wed Oct 11, 9:20pm; RMB60 presale, RMB80 at door. B10 Live, Bldg C2, OCT-Loft, Xiangshan Dong Jie, Nanshan District 南山区香山东街华侨城创意文化园北区C2栋北侧 (8633 7602, b10live.taobao.com)

● Vienna Philharmonic Concert



The Vienna Philharmonic members are selected from the orchestra of the Vienna State Opera after a lengthy process, ensuring only top musicians enter this world-class institution. They will bring their unique and practiced sound to Shenzhen this October.

Thu Oct 19, 8pm; RMB680-2,280.
Shenzhen Concert Hall, 2016 Fuzhong Yi Lu, Futian District 福田区福中一路 2016号 (8306 0346)

● Cara Elizabeth Dillon Concert



Dillon is an Irish folk singer who has written music rated as some of the best to come out of Ireland for generations. In 2001, she released her first solo album, an unexpected folk hit. From member of a folk super group to a mature, independent artist – her experience comes out in her skilled vocal performances infused with the spirit of Ireland.

Mon Oct 2, 8pm; RMB120-280.
Nanshan Cultural and Sports Center, 2106 Nanshan Boulevard, Nanshan District 南山区南山大道2106号南山文体中心 (400 185 8666)

● Chris Garneau Concert



Garneau's music walks the line between Americana, folk and pop – creating a sound that is also infused with a bit of humor, earning him a place on TV's *Grey's Anatomy*, *Black and Blue* and other television shows. He has toured extensively and is coming to Shenzhen with his unique sound.

Thu Oct 26, 8pm; RMB180. Nanshan Sports Center Theater, 62 Nantou Jie, Nanshan District 南山区南山大道南头街 62号 (228.com.cn)

● Alan Concert



Alan is a Tibetan singer who has found success in Japan. She is notable for using a singing style dubbed the 'Tibetan wail,' a specialty of her tribe. In addition to singing in Mandarin and Japanese, she is also known to belt tunes in Tibetan while playing the *erhu*. Don't miss this one of a kind performance.

Sun Oct 15, 7:30pm; RMB280-880. Shekou Fenghua Theater, 49 Gongyuan Lu, Nanshan District 南山区公园路49号 (228.com.cn)

● Animenz Concert



Born of Chinese immigrants to Germany, pianist 'Animenz' has steadily gained an online following by translating anime soundtracks to his beloved Yamaha piano. Any fans of anime will recognize the songs Animenz plays and appreciate the unique twist he adds. His popular YouTube channel has even earned him time in Japan where he played for local audiences.

Sat Oct 8, RMB280; 8pm. Shenzhen Concert Hall, 2016 Fuzhong Yi Lu, Futian District 福田区福中一路2016号 (8306 0346, szyyt.com)

● The Cube Guys DJ



Back in 2005, two Italian stallions with unbeatable producing skills combined their talent to create The Cube Guys. Since the, Roberto and Luca have ridden the wave of popularity to the most important parties and premier festivals, gaining props of industry bigwigs like Bob Sinclar on the way.

Fri Oct 20, 9pm; free entry. Pepper Club, 2/F, Shopping Park, 138 Mintian Lu, Futian District 福田区民田路138号购物公园2楼



● Artsy Party Party



Jardin Orange is opening its roof for an artsy, sunset party hosted by one of the city's best suppliers of set lunches: French Touch Kitchen. Expect French wine and fresh DJs as you rub elbows with up-and-coming resident artists, while checking out some of their artwork on display. Unlimited food and drink included in ticket price. No sales at the door and only 130 spots available online through WeChat.

Sat Oct 28, 5pm-10pm; RMB350 before Oct 22, RMB390 before OCT 28. B22, SoFun Land, 133 Tangxing Lu, Nanshan District 南山区塘兴路133号集悦城B区22栋 (151 1250 0312, Official WeChat: FTKITCHEN)

● The Red Detachment of Women Play



A tale of glory featuring skilled ballet dancers in Bermuda shorts, it's the *Red Detachment of Women* – one of eight plays that had official approval in China's recent history. Performed for President Richard Nixon on his visit to China, the play will be familiar to anyone who came of age in the 1960s. Watch as the detachment battles a wicked landlord and strikes down counterrevolutionaries.

Sat Oct 28-29, 8pm; Shenzhen Grand Theater, 5018 Shennan Dong Lu, Luohu District 罗湖区深南东路5018号 (2590 6000, 228.com.cn)



● **Crafty Beer Fest** Festival



Crafty Events is striking again with a beer festival. Love beer? Love cider? Then come to the Crafty Beer Fest to enjoy all that and more. There will be four local breweries from Shenzhen, Dongguan and international breweries, such as Boulevard and Firestone. Expect carny games, bands and DJs as you look at the mountains of Shenzhen with a pint in hand. Tickets purchased before October 1 get one liter of tasters. Tickets purchased after October 1 get 400 milliliters of tasters. Tickets at door get entrance. Call or email for tickets and inquiry. Sat Oct 14, 12pm-10pm; RMB70. SoFunLand, 133 Tangxing Lu, Nanshan District 南山区塘兴路133号集悦城B区22栋 (131 3818 0544, craftybeerfest@craftymarketing.cn)

● **Captivating Event** Charity Auction



The Shenzhen Charity Federation 9th Annual Captivating Charity Auction will be held in the Futian Shangri-La, Shenzhen. Captivating's mission is to help disadvantaged, impoverished children find a better tomorrow. With your support, more than 1,000 children in China will see their lives transformed this year. Visit website for ticket purchase.

Sat Oct 14, 6pm; RMB700 before Sep 30, RMB800 after Sep 30. Futian Shangri-La, Shenzhen, 4088 Yitian Lu by Fuhua Yi Lu, Futian District 福田区益田路4088号福田香格里拉大酒店 (captivatingevents.org)

● **Cross Border Matchmaker** Mixer



This event aims to bring together Western and Chinese manufacturers, suppliers and platform runners together to create new business opportunities. The event will see a speaker room and matchmaking room, where businesses display products or services and look to make the connections that will help them go global from China. Different price packages range from access to the matchmaking rooms to event access plus a Shenzhen tour, including room and board. Contact via email or WeChat for tickets. Fri Oct 27, 9am-6pm; RMB50-3,200. Huaqiang Plaza Hotel, 1019 Huaqiang Lu, Futian District 福田区华强北路1019号 (blog@globalfromasia.com, WeChat: globalfromasia)

● **Dancing for Birth** Event



The goal: 400 dancing pregnant women. The reason? Advocating healthy, natural delivery while breaking a Guinness World Record. Pregnant women are welcome to register before Oct 10 to participate in this health-conscious event and will even receive a certificate after directly paying Guinness World Records. Register via WeChat.

Sun Oct 15; RMB265. Window of the World, 9037 Shennan Da Dao, Nanshan District 南山区深南大道9037号世界之窗 (WeChat: 13809699279)

● **2017 Shenzhen British Day** Festival



British Day is a celebration of British culture, showcasing music, tradition, style and culinary delights for some family fun. Since 2010, British Day has been a key event on the Guangdong social calendar. The 2017 Shenzhen British Day is co-organized by the British Chamber of Commerce Guangdong and the Shen Wai International School. All nationalities are invited to attend what promises to be a very special day. Groups of 10 or more receive a discount.

Sat Oct 21, 11am-4:30pm; RMB30, free for kids below 1.2 meters tall. Shen Wai International School, No.29 Baishi San Lu, Nanshan District 南山区白石三道29号 (020-8331 5013, britchamteam@britchamgd.com)



● Terami Sushi Deal



A pet project of one of Shenzhen's top chefs, the Shizuku Japanese Restaurant is introducing a Sunday lunch that will see nine different terami sushi served up – including ingredients like salmon and foie gras. Careful attention has been paid to the colorful presentation, making this a camera-friendly event.

Every Sun until Oct 31, 11.30am-2.30pm; RMB138. JW Marriot Hotel Shenzhen, 6005 Shennan Da Dao, Futian District 福田区深南大道6005号

● Oktoberfest Party



The tents and traditional table cloths are coming out for the 12th annual Oktoberfest. Expect imported German beer, live music and 'pleasant' lucky draws. Served will be traditional German food. Break out the lederhosen and use WeChat or call for tickets – or just pay on arrival.

Oct 26-Nov 4, 6-10.30pm; Sun-Thu RMB418, Fri-Sat RMB458. Venice Raytour Hotel, 9026 Shennan Dadao, Nanshan District 南山区深南大道9026号 (WeChat: szvenice, 2693 6888)

● Carrefour Autumn Wine and International Food Fair Tasting

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Guangzhou Wangguo Store Ceremony Period: Oct 13th, 2017 Friday

中山远洋城店庆典时间: 2017年10月14日 周六
Zhongshan Yuanyangcheng Store Ceremony Period: Oct 14th, 2017 Saturday

深圳保利店庆典时间: 2017年10月20日 周五
Shenzhen Poly Store Ceremony Period: Oct 20th, 2017 Friday

东莞宏伟店庆典时间: 2017年10月21日 周六
Dongguan Hongwei Store Ceremony Period: Oct 21st, 2017 Saturday

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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 South China.

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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 works from the Hall of Mental Cultivation to showcase 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 heart-warming, 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.

HK

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
TUE



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 that 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
FRI-SUN

"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
SAT

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 the duo.

OCT 20-22
FRI-SUN



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
SAT

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

MO



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 (That'sGuangzhou) three days before the show and tell us why you should win!

OCT 27-29
FRI-SUN

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
ALL WEEK



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.

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HOTEL NEWS

HARD ROCK HOTEL SHENZHEN

Becomes First Mainland Hard Rock Hotel

Hard Rock International recently announced the opening of its first hotel in mainland China, Hard Rock Hotel Shenzhen. Blending pop culture and premium hospitality, Hard Rock Hotel Shenzhen promises a host of world-class leisure, dining and entertainment options.

Travelers are invited to experience the brand's signature music amenity program: 'The Sound of Your Stay.' They will channel their inner star, whether it's nailing power chords on a Fender guitar, setting the mood with complimentary vinyl or listening to tunes from the professionally-curated, exclusive playlists.

Throughout the property, guests may explore an impressive selection of over 160 rare and valuable memorabilia on display.

"Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos offer a one-of-a-kind experience that combines a first-class luxury stay with the Hard Rock brand's signature music-inspired fun," said Peter Wynne, area vice president of operations, Asia Pacific Hotels, Hard Rock Hotels.



MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL HOTELS

Launches Taste with Marriott

Four Marriott International Hotels in Hong Kong are joining hands with Link REIT Management Ltd. to launch the 'Taste With Marriott' themed room package. Guests staying at one of the four Marriott International hotels in Hong Kong for two nights during the weekend will enjoy a complimentary exclusive guided tour to foodie hotspots. During this tour, they will try a range of signature Hong Kong cuisine and get involved in the food making process.

"We are delighted to collaborate with Link REIT Management Ltd. as our hospitality operator in offering the most exclusive traditional food resources to be found in local dining, in a venture that will give new meaning to Hong Kong travel," said Mr. Stephen Ho, chief executive officer, Greater China, Marriott International.





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Green Oasis School
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福田区田面村深南中路 4030号

International School of Nanshan Shenzhen
A Canadian school accepting application for Pre-Grade 1 through Grade 12. 166 Nanguang Lu, Nanshan District (2666 1000, 2606 6968). admission@isnsz.com www.isnsz.com
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Peninsula Montessori Kindergarten the Peninsula one, Jin Shiji Lu, Shekou Nanshan District (2685 1266)
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www.shk.qsi.org
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QSI International School of Shenzhen (Futian) A1, TCL Science Park, No. 1001 Zhongshan Yuan, Nanshan District (8371 7108) 中山园路1001号TCL 科学园A1栋

Shekou International School
Jingshan Villas, Gongye Er Lu, Shekou, Nanshan District (2669 3669). www.sis.org.cn
南山区蛇口工业二路景山别墅内

Shen Wai International School 29 Baishi San Lu, Nanshan (8654 1200, www.swis.cn)
深圳外国语学校国际部南山区白石道 29号

HOTEL

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深圳市福田区福华三路 138 号

Grand Hyatt Shenzhen No.1881 Baoan Nan Lu, Luohu District (8266 1234) www.shenzhen.grand.hyatt.com 罗湖区宝安南路1881号

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Hilton Shenzhen Futian Town B, Great China International Finance Centre, 1003 Shennan Dadao, Futian District (2130 8888)
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Shangri-La Hotel East of the Luohu Train Station, Jianshe Lu, Luohu District (8233 0888). www.shangri-la.com
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St. Regis Shenzhen No.5016 Shennan Dong Lu, Luohu District (8308 8888)
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The Langham, Shenzhen, No. 7888, Shennan Dadao, Futian District (8828 9888).
深圳朗廷酒店, 福田区深南大道 7888 号

The Ritz-Carlton, Shenzhen 116 Fuhua San Lu, Futian District (2222 2222)
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The Venice Rayout Hotel Shenzhen
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HarmoniCare Women & Children's Hospital 12018 Shennan Dadao, Futian District (2698 8888)
(3339 1333) 深圳和美妇儿专科医院 南山区深南大道12018号

Vista-SK International Medical Center Lvl 4, Bldg 4C, Shenzhen Software Industry Base, Xuefu Lu, Nanshan District (3689 9833)
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C-MER (Shenzhen) Dennis Lam Eye Hospital 1-2/F, Shengtang Bldg, 1 Tairan Jiu Lu, Chegongmiao, Futian District (4001 666 120, 3322 7188) 福田区车公庙泰然九路一号 盛康大厦1-2层

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China-Italy Chamber of Commerce
Rm220, 2/F, International Chamber Of Commerce, Fuhua San Lu, Futian District (Tel: 8632 9518; Fax: 8632 9528). www.cameraitacina.com
福田区福华三路国际商会中心 2 楼 220 室

European Union Chamber of Commerce
Rm 308, 3/F Overseas Chinese Scholars Venture Building, southern section of High-Tech Industrial Park, Nanshan District (Tel: 8635 0920; fax: 8632 9785).
南山高新科技园南区留学生创业大厦 3 楼 308 室

French Chamber of Commerce in South China (CCIFC) Room 318, 3/F Chinese Overseas Scholars Venture Building, South section of Hi-tech Industry Park, Nanshan District (Tel: 8632 9602; fax: 8632 9736)
www.ccifc.org 南山区科技园南区留学生创业大厦3楼318室

German Chamber of Commerce
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The American Chamber of Commerce in South China Rm 208, 2/F Overseas Chinese Scholars Venture Building, southern section of High-Tech Industrial Park, Nanshan District (Tel: 0755-2658 8342; fax: 0755-2658 8341). www.amcham-southchina.org

The British Chamber of Commerce, Shenzhen Sub-Chamber Rm 314, 3/F Overseas Chinese Scholars Venture Building, southern section of High-Tech Industrial Park, Nanshan District (Tel: 2658 8350). 深圳市南山区高新科技园南区留学生创业大厦3楼314室

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FOOD & DRINK



pho nam 1 Shop B26C, Link City Passage (near Coco Park), Futian District; 2) B1 floor, B1-04, Zhuoyue Plaza, Shangmeilin, Futian District
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Introduces Tom Yum King Soup

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HAXNBAUER GERMAN RESTAURANT AND BAR

Celebrates Oktoberfest

Famous German festival Oktoberfest has spread across the world, including arriving on the shores of Shenzhen. Oktoberfest is a time for eating, drinking laughing and dancing with family and friends. This year marks Haxnbauer's sixth Oktoberfest, or 'Haxn-oktoberfest', as our regulars call it. Come and enjoy the festive atmosphere at Haxnbauer.

1/F, Coco Park, Fuhua San Lu, Futian District 福田区福华三路星河Coco Park一楼 (8359 2080)

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VENICE RAYTOUR HOTEL

Holds Fifth Oktoberfest Celebration

The tents and traditional tablecloth are coming out for the 12th Oktoberfest. Expect imported German beer, live music and awesome lucky draws. Served will be traditional German food. Break out the lederhosen and use WeChat or call for tickets, or just pay on arrival. The fun begins at 6pm Monday to Saturday starting October 26 until November 4!

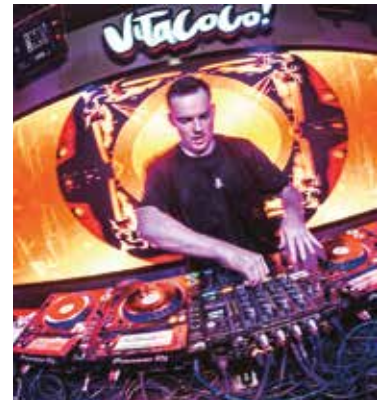
Venice Raytour Hotel, 9026 Shennan Dadao, Nanshan District 南山区深南大道9026号 (WeChat: szvenice, 2693 6888)



URBAN MOMENTS

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

RAPPER AL ROCCO, RAPPER BLOW FEVER & DJ LUCE @ DAZZLE CLUB, SEP 15



DJ CARTA @ DAZZLE CLUB, SEP 16



That's Shenzhen

Horoscopes

Finally, a horoscope that understands your life in Shenzhen.

BY NOELLE MATEER



Libra

9.24-10.23

Invest in a pair of those big scooter-riding 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 Sea World. Your opponent will be swathed in tattered scarves. You will ultimately win by spitting Yanjing draft into his eyes and temporarily blinding him as you run inside to the safety of Enigma.



Capricorn

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 bet.



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. An urban-village 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 urban village 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 outside of Nanshan or Futian.



Cancer

6.22-7.22

Your lover will drop your favorite tiny replica of a Terracotta Warrior into OCT Bay. 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 to a Luohu club, 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 you can't go somewhere. There are still weekends in October, and you keep saying you're 'dying to visit Dalian' - now prove it.



pink
ribbon
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* Appointments must be made in advance as availability is limited. Cannot be used with insurance.

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