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that's PRD

《城市漫步》珠江三角洲 英文月刊



主管单位：中华人民共和国国务院新闻办公室
 Supervised by the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China
 主办单位：五洲传播出版社
 地址：北京西城月坛北街 26 号恒华国际商务中心南楼 11 层文化交流中心
 11th Floor South Building, Henghua International Business Center, 26 Yuetan North Street, Xicheng District, Beijing
<http://www.cicc.org.cn>
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广告经营许可证：京海工商广字第 8069 号
 法律大部：大成律师事务所 魏君贤律师
 Legal advisor: Wei Junxian, Dacheng Law Firm
 国际标准刊号：ISSN 1672-8041 国内统一刊号：CN 11-5233/GO
 定价：25.00 元 邮发代号：46-193
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Editor's Note

APRIL 2018



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Matthew Bossons
Editor-in-Chief

In many ways, living in the Pearl River Delta can feel like you've been transported into the plot of a science fiction film, what with all the technological innovations that seem to be occurring on a weekly basis. During my time living in South China, I've witnessed the rise of unmanned aerial vehicles, driverless cars, electric buses and, perhaps most relevant to our day-to-day existence, mobile payment methods.

Alipay and WeChat Pay are increasingly essential tools for those of us living in the People's Republic of China, both locals and expats alike. My platform of choice is WeChat Pay and I use it for almost everything: paying my rent and utility bills, topping up my mobile phone credit, assorted daily purchases and settling the tab when I dine at a restaurant. It's convenient and it beats the hell out of a wallet filled with RMB1 notes and coins that inevitably build up after a few days of corner store purchases.

For this month's cover story (pages 36-45), we examine the cashless revolution currently taking place in China and take a look at the benefits and the risks that come with mobile payment methods.

In our City section, we hear from a *laowai* busker who has traveled the Middle Kingdom to serenade curious crowds with his catchy folk tunes. We hear about the challenges – and rewards – that come with making a living as an artist in public spaces (page 12).

Elsewhere in our April issue, we take a brief look at Shenzhen Fashion Week 2018 (page 22), chat with Beijing duo Nocturnes ahead of their performances in Guangzhou and Shenzhen (page 29) and sample the new (and unquestionably bizarre) spicy Snickers bar (page 57).

Also, with April upon us (which means rain, more rain and hot, hot heat) we've rounded up a selection of trendy raincoats for your consideration (page 26).

Until next month,

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CITY

City Snapshot

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URBAN SHEPHERD

Mutton Chopper

By Adam Robbins

THE DIRTY DETAILS

Monthly income: RMB60,000 for a family of 10

Days per week: 7 (on call)

Hours per day: "If people are buying, we work; if not, we relax."



The green face of the Starbucks mermaid smiles temptingly along a stretch of Shenzhen's northern Longhua District. But cross the street to an almost-hidden alley beside a Muslim restaurant (also in iconic green) to a path through an urban village settled on sandy foothills. Before you've finished sipping your coffee, civilization has fallen away and you're face to face with dozens, even hundreds, of majestically horned rams.

Mr. Ma, a Muslim of the Hui minority, rents this little stretch of forest with his extended family, caring for the land (erosion is a problem) and maintaining a herd of sheep for the slaughter.

"Whoever likes to eat sheep, we sell to them," he explains. They accept orders by WeChat (ID: 13538278651) and serve many regulars. "Restaurants, individuals, stores as well." Sometimes customers walk away with sheep in tow, but often the Ma family butchers the animals on site (a stray head stares up at us blankly to prove the point) and they always follow the halal practices required by Islamic law.



Though China's roughly 23 million practitioners of Islam are concentrated in the northwest, adherents can be found throughout the country. Shenzhen, new city of immigrants, is home to many families like Mr. Ma's. "We wanted to find a better life and more opportunity," he relates. And they've found it here, where each animal fetches RMB2,000 for the family.

Like the sheep, the family hails from Qinghai province. "Our ancestral home is mountainous, poor and underdeveloped," he reports matter-of-factly. "There was no door to education." His own *putonghua* was quite poor when the family moved, but 15 years in Shenzhen fixed that.

Now the whole family is here, occupying a small lot with four white tents adorned in beautiful patterns of black, red and yellow. A canopy covers the kitchen area; a few shacks provide shelter for the home and animal tending. A plump chicken wanders by, pecking the dirt, as a small boy stares quietly. Ma's wife in black lace head scarf adds dates to a cup of tea. Ma's brother eats roasted seeds, lamenting the plight of Pakistan. Here in this wooded glen, that trouble seems a world away.

This little spot of forest, Ma tells us, is owned by the neighboring factory but it's a nationally protected resource. So when redevelopment consumes the rest of the neighborhood, reshaping the old village into towering apartments, the family and the sheep will remain, balancing a new world of steel and silicon with the organics of the old.

THE BUZZ

RANDOM NUMBERS

1,280



... food delivery drivers, close to 10 percent of Shenzhen's entire fleet, were suspended for a week last month. Police also announced that those who break traffic rules three times will be dismissed from their jobs. Additionally, they'll be added to a blacklist and forbidden from food delivery work for an entire year. As public appetite for food delivery has grown in Chinese cities, so has the fleet of couriers – often riding banned e-bikes – hired to bring meals to diners' doorsteps. In the name of reducing the number of accidents resulting from harried deliverymen, Shenzhen traffic police are cracking down on those who violate road regulations.

10

... the number of foreigners allowed (at any given time) inside Beijing's Pyro Pizza and Lush last month, a limit imposed after pressure from local authorities. The news spread quickly online among expats, who greeted it with a mixture of bemusement and worry. Both restaurants are popular among foreigners, particularly international students living in Beijing's Wudaokou neighborhood.

CITY SNAPSHOT

Silent Night

Sky Gidge got into photography while working as a member of the editorial team in *That's PRD's* Shenzhen office. This month's image profiles the Ping An Finance Center at night and was captured by Mr. Gidge somewhere in Shenzhen's central Futian District, in a location – like his Tinder dates – he'd rather keep discreet. His Instagram account as a whole is well worth a casual creep, with images ranging from the experimental to the *Tron*-inspired. See more of his work on Instagram (@cupofkoala).

Tag #thatsprd on Instagram for a chance to be featured on our feed and in the magazine.



BEHIND THE CONCRETE

China's Largest Sports Stadium

In the eastern portion of Guangzhou's Tianhe District lies the neighborhood of Huangcun, home to the colossal Guangdong Olympic Stadium. The name is a tad deceiving, as the massive sporting structure has never held the esteemed Olympic Games.

Instead, it was erected in 2001 for the 9th National Games of China, held soon after Beijing won the bid to host the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, hence the 'Olympic' moniker. Two years later, the stadium was the main venue for the 2010 Asian Games.

Today, Guangdong Olympic Stadium remains the largest stadium in China in terms of seating capacity and is mainly used for football matches (soccer, for all you North Americans). The area surrounding the modern-day mega-coliseum is home to an array of China's finest sports facilities, including world-class swimming pools, an equestrian training center and tennis courts that resemble a Hakka walled village, among others.

Be that as it may, the impressive structure has hosted few important football matches in recent years, largely due to its remote location outside of Guangzhou's city center.

While many newcomers to the city are unaware of the existence of Guangdong Olympic Stadium, even longtime residents



of Guangzhou are likely ignorant to what formerly occupied the land that the stadium now stands upon: Huangcun Airport, built by occupying Japanese forces in 1940.

The now defunct and dismantled airport was completed two years after the Japanese army began their occupation of Canton, and was used as a distraction from their main air force base in Guangzhou: Tianhe Airport. (In a strange twist, the former site of Tianhe Airport is now occupied by Tianhe Stadium). Mock warplanes made from wood and iron were parked at Huangcun Airport in a bid to trick Allied bombers.

The only indication of Huangcun Airport's existence that still remains today is a blockhouse overgrown with foliage a short stroll from Guangdong Olympic Stadium.

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Zihei/zì hēi / 自黑 v. to self-deprecate, to put oneself down

A You have so many friends. Must be nice to be popular.

I'm sure my parents pay them to hang out with me. Haha.

B

A So do my parents, but no one wants to take the payment. Haha.

Is this a *zihei* competition?

B

We're not sure if it's life that's become harder or kids that have gotten weaker, but sarcasm alone is no longer a sufficient coping mechanism. Now we need *zihei* as well.

Literally meaning "to self blacken," *zihei* is the practice of making fun of your own weaknesses before they can be used against you. It is saying "no girl will ever like me" before someone can ask you if you have a girlfriend. It is saying "your car is worth more than my kidney" before someone can ask you how much money you make. Whenever there is a possibility that a conversation will involve one of your vulnerabilities, you must immediately bring it up and expose it in front of everyone, so that no one else can use it against you. Failing this, you risk being teased mercilessly by your group for not declaring it in advance.

Zihei has become an unspoken social rule because it is a fool-proof way to guard against humiliation. When a user on Zhihu.com (China's Quora) asked why people *zihei*, the answer with the most votes was: "because it turns weaknesses into weapons."

Zihei is also an effective way to take criticism. Even Jack Ma, the last person in the world to be called a failure, had to *zihei* to get out of a few pickles. In 2013, Alibaba said it sold two million pairs of underwear on Singles Day, which could cover an area of 3,000 kilometers. When the Internet found out that it meant each pair would have to be 1.5 meters long, Alibaba apologized, saying: "This is why Jack Ma failed math in school."

Zihei is so prevalent nowadays that it's a faux pas if you forget to do it. Next time you post a gorgeous selfie on WeChat Moments, don't forget to add the tagline "took 800 selfies to get one that doesn't suck." Next time you tell your friends about your big job promotion, don't forget to say "can't believe my dumb luck!" If Jack Ma had to do it, you should learn it too. **Mia Li**

Grab it while it's cold

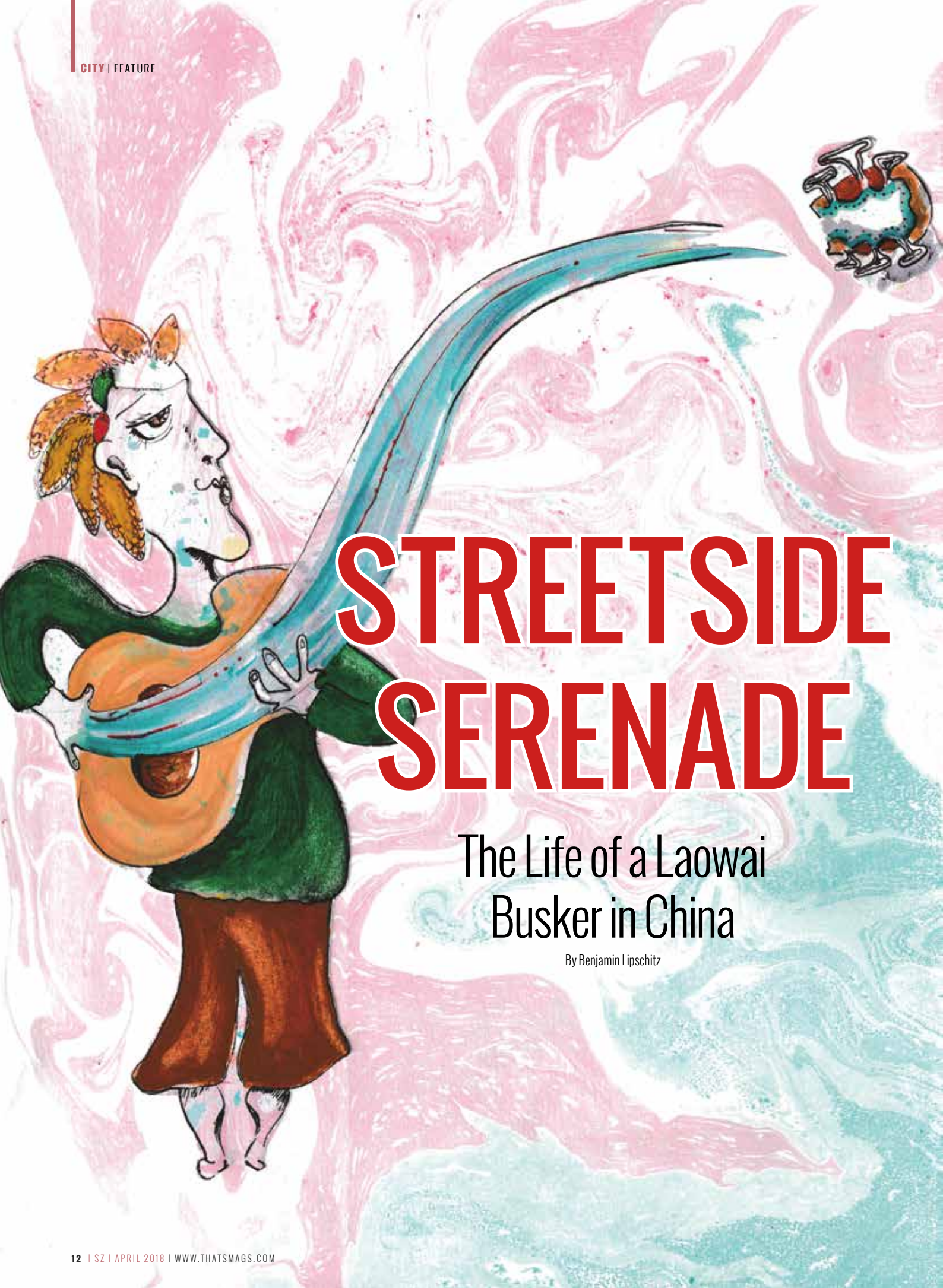
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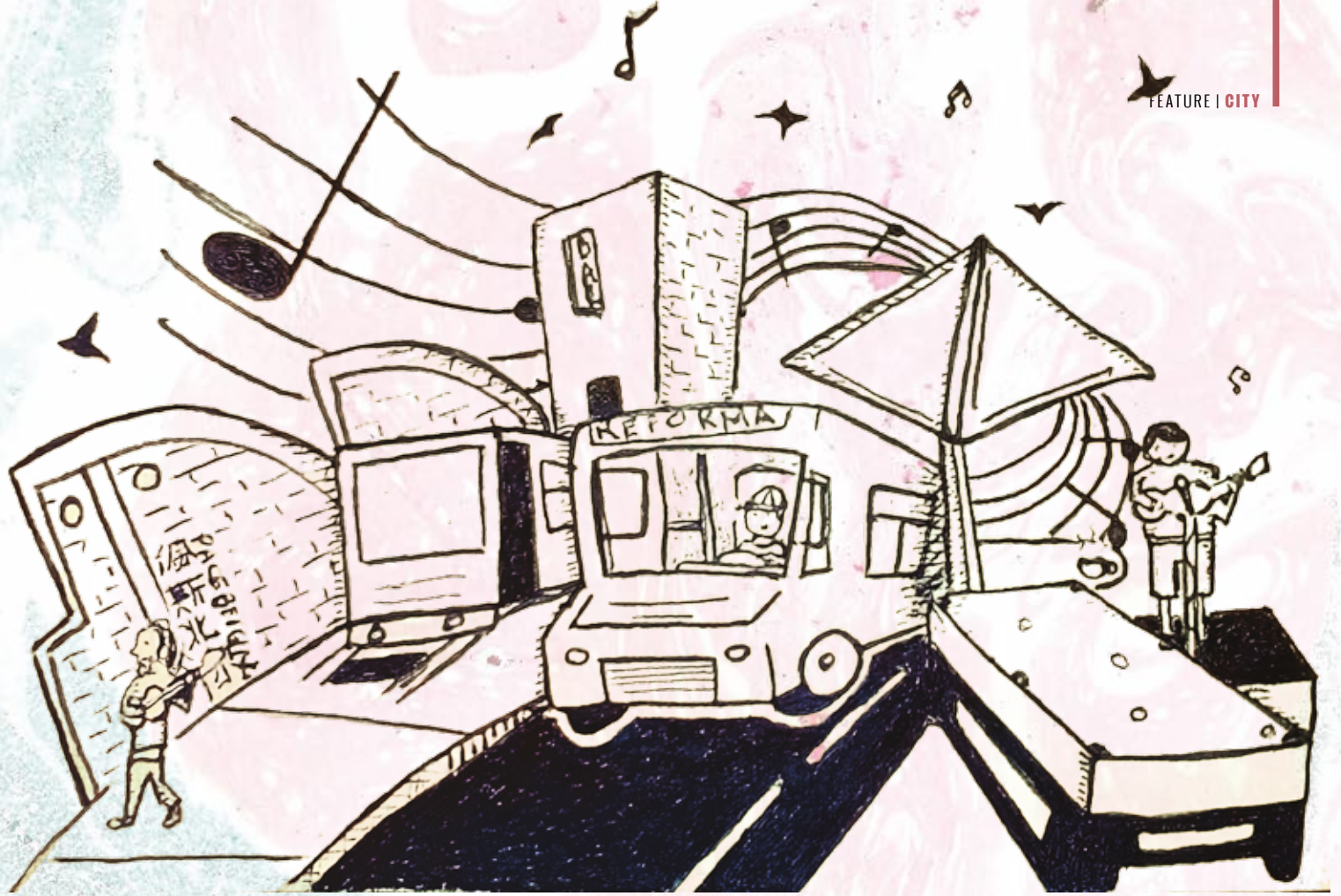
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STREETSIDE SERENADE

The Life of a Laowai
Busker in China

By Benjamin Lipschitz



“Good afternoon, everybody, and thank you for listening to my music. These songs that I have just played you have been, of course, free of charge; I simply wish to deepen the way we interact in public spaces. However, singing on the metro everyday requires one to have an income, so if anyone cares to share one or two RMB with me, it would be a great contribution to my art.”

I then pass through the metro car, accepting whatever support is offered, whether it's money, snacks or hugs. People laugh as I announce that I have a QR code for the 'especially modernized characters' that no longer carry cash.

Years ago, as a teenaged musician, I started making the rounds of Beijing's Sanlitun, Gulou and Wudaokou bars. Late nights in pubs were an exciting way to develop my art, but early mornings running for the school bus were always a rude awakening and eventually it was clear that I needed to make a change.

I had always thought of street performance as a last resort for people with few options for survival, and yet, for me it increasingly seemed like a dignified alternative to serenading the drunken patrons of late-night establishments, a work environment that not only exposed my vocal chords and harmonicas to secondhand smoke, but occasionally had me wondering what song might soothe the tensions of violent billiards-brawls. More than once, I

was threatened by audience members who were angry that I could not fulfill their song requests.

Folk music was my art, but my employers made their money selling booze, and I realized that in their minds my music was essentially the same as the peanuts they put on their clients' tables: just another amenity to keep the drink orders flowing. I wanted something different.

I started bringing my music to the sidewalks of Beijing's 798 art district, where I could play on sunny afternoons, make as much money as I had in bars and still get my full adolescent's night's sleep. Better yet, whereas in those bars the diversity of my audience was limited by the financial and cultural capital necessary to frequent those fine establishments, on the street my audience was full of people I would never have sung to before: babies, children, elders; rich people, poor people; city folk, rural migrants; people from all over the world.

I can't overemphasize how important this was to my artistic development: the form that art takes is as much determined by its audience as it is by its maker. I did not want to make music that was only for middle class people.

Still though, 798 was just 798, with its own limitations, its own four walls and particular types of people wandering around inside them. I soon discovered the true beauty of sidewalks: all cities had them! I traveled to Shandong, Shaanxi, Fujian, Hong Kong and eventually Taiwan. I got

more ambitious. I went to the United States, and eventually to Mexico, where I lived for a year and a half. Everywhere I went, I found that by seeking sustenance in the streets with my music I could learn more about a place and its culture than by visiting tourist sites.

It became a puzzle: what style of music do people here respond best to? What rhythms? How should I interact with children who are ever-so-curious at the sight of me? How should I interact with people intent on invading my personal space? How should I interact with police?

This last question, in recent years, has been most central in determining how I work. When I returned to Beijing from Mexico in 2017, after a three-year absence, I discovered that my old street corners were no longer available due to increased presence of *chengguan* in 798. Thankfully, in Mexico, I had found a vibrant informal performing arts economy, and I learned some tricks of the trade.

There, I discovered that the sidewalks were the domain of mariachi bands and other more formal acts, who not only played the traditional songs that people wanted to hear, but were also invariably much better dressed than myself. People like me, with more informal acts, whether they were folk musicians with guitars and accordions, rappers with microphones and backing tracks, or clowns with red noses and balloons, made their living performing on city busses and metro cars. In May of

“Sometimes I measure my success by the number of people that I get to put down their phones and look me in the eye.”

2016 I had my first crack at transit performance. The benefits were self-evident: on a street-corner, a busker seeks high foot-traffic. This means people have places to go, and while it is touching when someone takes a break from their journey to listen to a full song, it doesn't happen often, and much like in the bars, people who can't afford the luxury to stop and smell the roses will only ever hear fragments of my music. On the trains I have, for lack of a better word, a captive audience.

But perhaps that is the perfect term to describe people who are stuck spending more and more of their lives in transit. Oftentimes metro-riders are held captive, but it is not by me. The seemingly unstoppable momentum of urbanization and gentrification force people farther and father away – from their jobs, each other and places of social gathering. The time that people spend getting around is as central to the functioning of an urban economy as it is to urbanites' alienation from their surroundings. I see my work as an effort to take back that time for new possibilities, and to open up that space as a social space in and of itself.

While I chose this work over working in bars, it does present its own challenges: my ability to perform depends on the ever-fluctuating state of public security. For example, since returning to China there have been two occasions on which high-profile government meetings have effectively put me out of business for two weeks due to the increased security presence on the trains.

Of course, as a visible foreigner I am subject to very different penalties from my Chinese friends in the same





line of work. The situation changes constantly: in recent years subway performers in Beijing have faced anything from a few hours' detention with a RMB50 fine to multiple-night stays in jail, though these days it tends towards the former. However, when I am caught, station attendants usually just insist that I stop playing and leave. The attendants range from apologetic to mean to nervous at the thought of speaking to a laowai. But they have never fined me and have only rarely attempted to detain me. The fact that I am a foreign passport holder surely would complicate the process of penalizing me, and extra paperwork is always a good deterrent to that kind of action.

Each city I play in has its own dynamics. In Wuhan, authorities are less draconian but much more vigilant: there, not even my Chinese peers get fined, but few workdays end for us without getting booted from the train. In Guangzhou, the attendants seem to really not know what to look for. As long as I stick to the back of the train and get real quiet when the doors open at a station, I have no trouble. However, if the music carries me away and I forget to quiet down, the attendants get much more indignant than in other cities. I'm not sure why that is, but there is a flip side: the audience thinks it's hilarious! The doors close, the attendant radios ahead to the next station, and I have a couple of minutes to apologize to the giggling audience that my performance has been cut short, and make my rounds for tips. I usually make more money when this happens.

That being said, for all of the interactions I've had with police and station guards in my line of work, the busker's most daunting adversaries in China by far are the volunteer retirees who seem to sincerely enjoy the sense of authority that comes with their position. The few times I've dared try to convince one of them to let me play, I have always regretted it. While whole subway cars have thrown in their voice to help me talk down a guard who seems to want to detain me, nobody would dare back me up against an ayi with an arm band. I won't go into details, but I too have learned my lesson.

For the most part though, I can make it through my three songs without interruption, and people are more than happy to support me. While I play, I often hear an echo of myself with a 10 second delay as people review the WeChat Moments they've just posted of me. It feels strange when people right in front of me experience my live music through their cell phone cameras. Sometimes, I measure my success by the number of people that I get to put down their phones and look me in the eye.

Other ways of measuring success, however, are unavoidable. I do need to eat. A friend, whenever he is present when I count up my day's earnings, always tries to decide what denomination of bill is best: "do you prefer one kuai bills or 50 kuai bills"? The answer may seem obvious, and though it is true that I would not be able to survive working this way if nobody ever outdid my request for "one or two RMB" and slipped me a 10, 20 or a 50, I would be equally unable to get by if everyone who can only afford to support me with one or two kuai felt ashamed and thus gave me nothing. And that is my favorite aspect of my work: it is crowd-sourced in the realest sense possible. That is, funded by actual crowds, by all kinds of people.

CHINESE ZODIAC COLOURING

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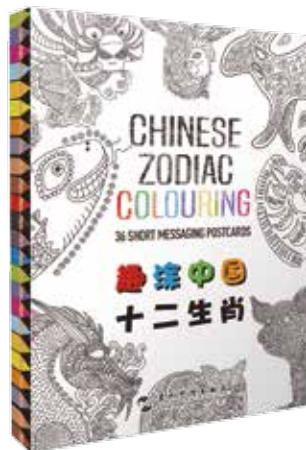
Available in a set of 36, the illustrations are designed in a way that brings out the personalities of each animal, allowing people to get a better understanding of what their signs represent.

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LIFE & STYLE

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FIONA LAU AND KAIN PICKEN

Designers and Founders of
FIXXEDD STUDIOS

Interview by Dominic Ngai

Founded in 2010 by Fiona Lau and Kain Picken, FIXXEDD STUDIOS is part of a new generation of homegrown fashion labels that is changing the world's perception on the concept of 'made in China.' We caught up with the Shenzhen-based duo just before their Shanghai Fashion Week show to find out more about their *kuaidi* parcel-inspired AW 2018 collection, and what it's like to run a fashion label as a couple.

What does the name 'FIXXEDD' mean?

KP: Our collaboration began as an art/fashion project and it wasn't until a bit later that we decided to turn it into a label. We wanted a word that we could build our own meaning into. FIXXEDD references the idea of having no fixed location or meaning, while the play on the spelling means we could change or adapt the brand to make it our own.

Has your creative process evolved since the brand's founding in 2010? Do you each play a certain role?

KP: In the beginning it was really just Fiona and I, and it was really 'DIY' and a bit free form. Now we work with a small team to make our collections and shows, so there are more time and financial constraints. But this has really helped us to articulate our design process more thoroughly, and we still maintain a fairly DIY approach.

FL: We always work together during the creative design process and the development of the collections. But in other aspects of the business, we each focus more on certain tasks. I am generally more involved with production, while Kain handles press relations and other projects.



“FIXXEDD is an extension of our lives”

How has the brand been received in China and internationally over the last eight years?

KP: Japan was always our major market for a long time, but over the last two or three years, our sales and brand presence have become much bigger in China. During the last two seasons, we have been focusing more on European sales. I think that our particular 'laidback' style can fit anywhere.

So what's a typical FIXXEDD fan like?

FL: It varies. In Japan, we have a big following of guys in their early 20s, while our Chinese customer base is less youth oriented. In Europe, they tend to be a little more mature and are often involved in creative industries.

Your design concept is about adapting to the changing conditions for contemporary living. How is this reflected in your most recent collection?

FL: For the AW18 collection, we used parcels that come through our office everyday as our inspiration. We created this adhesive transfer tape that resembles packing tape, and made it look like they're holding pieces of fabric in place. It's about taking a new look at the ma-

terials we use everyday – materials that you don't necessarily associate with fashion.

As a couple, what are the advantages and disadvantages of working with your partner? Do you find it hard to unplug?

FL: FIXXEDD is really an extension of our lives and it's nice to see how we have grown together. The advantage is that you can develop a kind of shorthand working so closely together. The disadvantage is that it can be difficult to separate work from life, which is great when things are going really smoothly, but it can be difficult when the pressure is on.

KP: Yes, for a long time this seemed almost impossible, but we really made an effort to make it happen – taking small vacations during the year where we totally disconnect from work.

What are your plans for the rest of 2018?

KP: After Shanghai Fashion Week, we'll be working on a really fun and interesting project for a new museum in Australia, so we'll also be there later in the year.

See more of Lau and Picken's designs at fixxedd.com

STYLE RADAR

TAP THAT APP

Toilet Sharing 厕所共享

That's right, the whole public toilet network of urban China is now at your finger tips with the arrival of the "Toilet Sharing (厕所共享)" app.

First thing to know: the interface language of the toilet-hunting app is Chinese. That said, using the app is pretty straightforward. When your phone's location services are turned on, it pinpoints every public toilet and restroom at hotels, department stores, KFCs, McDonald's and the like in close proximity. So even if reading Chinese characters is not your forte, you will still be able to locate the facilities at hand.

For instance, around the Taojin Metro Station in Guangzhou's Yuexiu District, a total of 10 lavatories are uncloaked in Toilet Sharing, including five in the Guangzhou Friendship Store.

It's even better if you can read Chinese, in which case the address and distance of pinpointed washrooms from your location are shown when tapped. Tap again on '查看线路' (see route) in the upper right corner, and a suggested route is displayed.

There's also an 'add toilet' function, which requires user registration. For the time being, though, this feature is clearly malfunctioning. Fingers crossed for a future update that will fix this bug.

"Toilet Sharing 厕所共享" is available on iOS and Android devices.



INSPECT-A-GADGET

IMAX on Your Face

At this point, clunky VR headsets are a dime-a-dozen in China and at first glance you could be forgiven for assuming that Cinera is just another chinsy gimmick for trend-chasing gamers. You'd be wrong, of course.

Rather, Cinera is a dual-screen, extra-wide movie-watching console from a Shenzhen startup that wants to change the way you enjoy cinema.

Founder Peter Lin calls it "IMAX on your face," and with an impressive 66-degree field of vision (compared to the paltry 54 degrees of most standard cinema screens), he's not far off.

The product, which is about the size of science textbook, comes with an extendable 'burden-free' mechanical arm to hold the entertainment portal in place. It doesn't go in for flashy gaming features, out-of-the-box convenience or extreme portability – unless you spring for the battery-pack head mount, Cinera is designed for use at home.

Instead, as a product made by and for movie-lovers, Cinera focuses its firepower on video quality and viewing experience. Its dual 2.5k screens can display standard as well as 3D content, its lightweight body effectively blocks outside light and, with a pixels-per-degree count roughly four times that of the competition, Cinera easily leads the pack.



But that image-superiority comes with a hefty price tag. This futuristic piece of video tech will currently set you back RMB5,057 on Cinera.net (though we recommend you wait till mid-April, when the product is rumored to start selling on JD.com at a significant discount).

Solitary cinephiles who are willing to fork over more than most of us spend on movie tickets in five years will not be disappointed with this product – it's strikingly vivid and incredibly immersive. But those of us who still like the social aspect of sitting around the sofa enjoying movies with friends or, God forbid, going out into the world to enjoy popular culture in a public place will probably stick to torrent sites, Netflix and good old Wanda.

RMB3,998 Cinera; available on JD.com starting mid-April

COVET



Converse x MADNESS Chuck '70

Following on the success of their last collaboration in January, Hong Kong-based streetwear label MADNESS and Converse released their second pair of sneakers on March 24. Using the classic low-cut Chuck '70 as a base, the military wear-inspired kicks feature two distinct materials – navy green suede and black canvas – for a contrast in textures. Available on MADNESS' official website or at the Converse iapm outlet for RMB839.

mdnsonline.com



DAYTRIPPER

Guangzhou Bangkok Park

It's no secret that Thailand has become an insanely hot tourism destination for Chinese travelers. Attractive prices and favorable visa policies drew nearly 10 million Chinese visitors to the Southeast Asian country last year, easily outpacing touristic arrivals from the next five countries combined.

But let's face it, not everyone has a passport and the money for the four-hour flight to Pataya. That is where Guangzhou Bangkok Park comes in.



The level of authenticity at this outlandish 4A tourism attraction, located a short moto-taxi ride from Metro Line 9's Huadu Automobile City Station, is on full display.

Visitors to this paragon of Siamese culture will be treated to such true-to-life approximations of its tropical namesake as signs proudly proclaiming the availability of Changsha stinky tofu "personally inscribed by Chairman Mao," costumed security dressed up as Qing imperial guards, gilded Polynesian *mo'ai* statues and stone sculptures depicting T-Rexes and other characteristic Thai fauna.

It's enough to make you feel like you're strolling through the streets of old Bangkok.

Despite taking an eclectic approach and certain artistic liberties in conveying its Thai theme, the one-of-a-kind park – enclosed by the larger Huadu Jewelry Town, a complex of workshops and factories producing gold and silver adornments – does contain some worthwhile gems.

Across a stone bridge and through an elephant-guarded gate lies a visually impressive cluster of Thai-style structures and Buddhist temple-like buildings sporting eye-catching golden roofs. At their center stands an imposing statue of Phra Phrom, the Thai interpretation of the four-faced Hindu god Brahma. Some structures house convenience stores, others jewelry shops.

There's only one restaurant to speak of, and while it does offer some token Thai items, it seems more concerned with catering towards Chinese appetites with dishes from Sichuan, Hunan, Guangdong and the great Northwest, all at fair prices.

Perhaps most notably, the park contains

a museum dedicated to the history of silver use throughout human civilization, displaying handmade silver artworks, ornaments and daily life items fashioned by Thai craftsmen, among a wide variety of other silvery objects. The winding gallery finally leads to – you guessed it – a large jewelry store.

Back outside, amusement facilities seem more or less ignored by visitors, young and old alike, in favor of a giant statue of a Buddha meditating on the back of a three-faced elephant, which serves as a popular backdrop for photos.

A visit to Guangzhou Bangkok Park is a bewildering experience – somewhere between farce and whimsy, not unlike our previous journey to the replicated Austrian town of Hallstatt in Huizhou. On our way out, with the smell of Changsha stinky tofu still hanging heavy on the air, our moto-taxi driver tells us that both the park and jewelry town swarm with visitors on weekends, and until the Guangzhou metro manages to extend direct to Phuket, we imagine this will continue to be the case. **TZ**

How to get there:

Take Guangzhou Metro Line 9 to Huadu Qiche Cheng Station. Taxis are rare here, so opt for a Didi ride to Huadu Zhubao Xiaozhen (Huadu Jewelry Town).

COUTURE CLASH

Inside Shenzhen Fashion Week 2018

By Bailey Hu, photos by Peter Code



This past March, models strutted, swayed, glared, pouted and, every so often, smiled during Shenzhen's annual couture extravaganza.

With over 80 shows and around 200 designers, Fashion Week 2018, as usual, went by in a whirlwind of colorful clothing and frenetic photo-snapping. In a trend-breaking (or perhaps, -making) move, organizers decided to ditch traditional catwalks this time around.

Instead, the site of the shows was Shenzhen's new(ish) Museum of Contemporary Art, with its cavernous, eerie and all-white exhibition halls.

A mere shoe's throw away from the Civic Center, the venue represents a much-anticipated addition to the city's art scene. It strikes quite the figure, too, from sleek gray-latticed exterior to shining blob of a centerpiece inside.

By hosting shows at the museum, organizers hope to bridge the tenuous boundaries between art and couture, watchers and watched.

The result? Models described sinuous routes around spaces where not long before, sculptures had stood. And rather than being relegated to the shadowy space on either side of a brightly-lit catwalk, viewers were brought closer than ever to the action.



While a strong visual statement, the spectacle also had audience members standing and leaning, sometimes perilously close to models, for the perfect shot.

Cameramen, too, were left to jostle with each other for coveted angles from the press box. Between shows, we spotted at least two napping on the carpeted floor of the enclosure, probably exhausted by their labors.

Relaxed boundaries for the runway sometimes resulted in small-scale pandemonium. After one popular show, a group of models and designers found themselves at the center of a thick ring of photojournalists and audience members.

But for all the controlled chaos, the new concept also made possible interesting experiments. One show began with a surprise: models covertly sitting in the audience abruptly stood up as one. Unmoving and stone-faced, they made an unexpected backdrop to those sweeping by in loose, asymmetrical shifts and coats.

Outside the showrooms, attendees also switched things up. We spotted styles ranging from the outrageous – a necklace stringing together fabric fried eggs or a set of white antlers – to the merely eccentric. And of course, there were selfies. Lots of selfies.

Fashion Week is, after all, the most important time of the year to see and be seen. In the spirit of the former, check out our impressions in photo form by scanning the QR code.





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HOMEGROWN BEAUTY

Six Chinese-Inspired Remedies to Improve Your Skin Condition from Within

By Alexandria Williams

Everyone has heard of K-beauty, a trend born out of Korea's ritualistic skincare and beauty regimens that have become massively popular around the world in recent years. But what about 'C-beauty'? With more than 2,500 years of traditional medicine practices, China also has a number of natural beauty secrets that are deeply rooted in TCM theories. Here are six popular tips, some of which were given a slight modern twist, that will help restore your *yin* and *yang* balance while allowing your skin to glow from within.

01 Drink Warm Water

This may sound silly to most Westerners, but almost all Chinese women and their mothers say it is the key to having ageless skin. According to TCM doctors and experts, warm beverages promote the smooth circulation of blood within the body and maintain the balance of one's internal and external body temperature. If you don't follow this key step, the others won't even matter.

Instructions:

Swap cold or room temperature drinks with warm ones (at least 37 degrees Celsius – the average core body temperature of a healthy person).



02 Rice Water Ice Cubes

It's not uncommon in China for people to use rice-soaked water as a face wash, as many believe the cloudy residue is packed with nutrients. In addition, rice water is said to have the ability to eliminate dirt and oil from the skin, and some even use it to treat or prevent acne outbreaks. A perfect skin-toning agent, rice water ice cubes can be easily made at home to give your skin a refreshing boost each morning.

Instructions:

Take one cup of dry rice and give it a quick rinse to get rid of any dirt. Put the rice into two cups of room temperature water and let it soak for 15 minutes. Then, drain the rice water into a large container. From there, you can siphon this cloudy beauty elixir into an ice cube tray in even portions and leave it in the freezer. Take out one or two rice water ice cubes in the morning and gently rub them onto your cleansed face.



03 Jade Rollers

Jade has been used for ceremonial purposes in China since the Neolithic Period. In addition to being a beautiful adornment, this precious stone may also have a number of health benefits. In *Compendium of Materia Medica*, Li Shizhen stated that wearing jade close to the body could improve one's vitality. And in recent years, the jade roller, an age-old Chinese beauty tool known for its ability to brighten the complexion and assist lymphatic drainage, has become very popular outside the country.

Instructions:

Place your jade roller in the freezer overnight. After cleaning the face with a water-based cleanser, apply a small amount of eye cream under the eyes. Then, take the smaller end of the jade roller and gently rub the eye cream by rolling from the corner of the eye towards the ears. For other areas of the face, take a small amount of aloe vera serum and lightly coat the larger end of the jade roller. Next, with medium pressure, roll across the face from the nose towards the ears, paying special attention to puffy areas.

06 Green Tea Rinse

One of the most widely consumed beverages in China, green tea is grown throughout the country's mountainous regions. Its importance to Chinese culture and history, as well as its health benefits, were documented in Tang dynasty scholar Lu Yu's book, *Tea Classic*.

With a high level of antioxidants and anti-inflammatory properties, drinking green tea has become an essential part of the diet for many. Not a fan of its grassy flavor? Try a quick and simple green tea facial rinse, which is easily achievable with loose tealeaves or teabags, and allow your skin to absorb all the benefits of the drink through your pores.

Instructions:

Steep two tea bags (or 2.5 grams of loose-leaf green tea) in six ounces of boiling water for 10-15 minutes, and let the tea sit for a bit. While the hot liquid is cooling down, enjoy a hot shower or cover your face with a hot towel, to open up your pores. Take the cooled green tea and use it to give your face a quick rinse, which is said to be able to get rid of dark eye circles.



05 Goji Berry Mask

Often added to teas and soups, goji berries have high levels of antioxidants and are said to be able to help the skin absorb nutrients. In TCM, they are also recognized for their ability to improve and protect one's eyesight. Besides eating them, you can also make masks with these beta-carotene-packed superfruits to help improve the complexion and reduce acne scars.

Instructions:

Take four to five goji berries and soak them in warm water for 15 minutes. Then, mash them and add ¼ tablespoon of honey. Spread onto skin and let the paste sit for 15 minutes, then rinse with warm water.



04 Yakult and Mung Bean Facial Mask

Mung bean facial masks were a favorite of Chinese empresses for centuries thanks to their strong 'cooling properties' making them a great natural remedy against acne outbreaks and scars. Modern Chinese beauty specialists have also combined Yakult to mung bean powder to create a creamy, restorative combo-mask that can brighten skin complexion and facilitate the fading of scars.

Instructions:

Mix two tablespoons of mung bean powder with three tablespoons of Yakult. Stir until the powder takes on the texture of toothpaste. After mixing, massage the paste onto the face and leave for 10 minutes. Repeat daily.



SAVE IT FOR A RAINY DAY

Stay Dry with These Waterproof Jackets

Compiled by Dominic Ngai

April means plenty of rainy days and fluctuating temperatures, but these jackets can help you survive the unpredictable weather ahead.



1



2



3



4



5



6

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Sino Celeb

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The Leftovers
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NOCTURNES

The Beijing Duo on Their First China Tour

By Bryan Grogan

Leslie Liu and Dave Carey of indietronica band Nocturnes made waves on the Beijing scene last year with their EP *Dust into Glory*, which they followed shortly with their debut studio album, *Lines Written in Code*. Carey's previous stint as guitarist in the short-lived Irish band The Empire Lights has given him industry insight, while Liu brings PR knowledge and business acumen from her full-time job in Ruder Finn. Nocturnes will embark on their first major tour of China this month with 11 dates up and down the country. We spoke with the duo before they set off.



How long did it take you guys to make your debut album, *Lines Written in Code*?

DC: We released our previous EP, *Dust Into Glory*, in March 2017, and we had already sketched out a few songs at that point. We finished recording by September and then it was a case of finding a designer and making some videos.

Already you have a nice niche on the indie scene; you guys don't really sound like any other Chinese band out there.

LL: Thanks! I think so too, haha. For now, we really want to play bigger festivals across China, and play in more Asian countries, and then maybe eventually outside of Asia. On a business level, we'd like to collaborate with publishing companies for our music to appear on television shows or movies, because I think our music really suits TV.

DC: We love how in China the concept of selling out doesn't exist. We've played quite a few corporate events so far and people are happy to hear that we've made money with our

music. Back home, it's like this big shameful secret.

Before Nocturnes, what kind of music were you guys making?

DC: I was in some bands before in Ireland, but only one was ever serious – The Empire Lights. It was really good for me in that it taught me exactly how *not* to run a band. The drummer in the band was also the manager and boyfriend of the lead singer, which was just a disastrous recipe, really.

LL: I joined a cover band in college. The guy who took the lead in the band decided what we covered: mostly Gun N' Roses, which I really hated... I can never hit those pitches.

How long have you guys been playing together?

DC: We've been working together for about two-and-a-half years, but it took at least the first year before we were any good!

LL: At the time I met Dave, I really liked the music he came up with, and I had the courage

to be a singer, so I decided to give it a try.

DC: I posted an ad on Douban looking for a singer to help out with my new project. A lot of people got in touch, but Leslie's voice stood out straight away. It was completely different to everyone else's.

What is the plan for the rest of 2018?

LL: We want to focus on promoting this album, finding important people online and contacting local colleges in different cities. Also, we want to collaborate with some remix producers in China, since young people are really into EDM right now. If possible, we want to have more business and branding opportunities, to take us to a new level.

Guangzhou: Apr 20, 8.30pm; RMB60 presale, RMB80 at the 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 (3659 7623). **Shenzhen:** Apr 21, 8.30pm; RMB60 presale, RMB80 at the door. Brown Sugar Jar Public House, 1031 Shangbunan Lu, Futian District 深圳市福田区上步南路1031号 (189-3867 9176).

COLLAGE

SINO CELEB

Huang Xuan

For a long time, Chinese audiences have celebrated 'xiaoxianrou' (小鲜肉) or 'little fresh meat', young men with soft features, who are often criticized for being shallow – all pretty faces but no real acting skills.

Then, Huang Xuan, a man of true talent who draws from a wealth of real life experience, stepped into the fray to challenge the stereotype.

The 33-year-old Gansu-born actor moved to Guangzhou with his divorced mother at the age of 12.

The craze around Michael Jackson at that time led him to pursue formal dance training at Guangdong Dance and Drama College and later, in Beijing, where he got his first ill-fated shot at the big screen.

Huang's would-be breakout role was that of a young Tang Dynasty prince in renowned Chinese director Zhang Yimou's *Curse of the Golden Flower* (2006). Though selected in the audition, Xuan was cut from the casting list at the last moment in favor of another promising actor. Ironically, he was asked to perform as a backup dancer with his classmates on the movie's opening night.

After years of wallowing in the gloom of repeated setbacks, Huang rightfully received his place in the spotlight in 2014 for his portrayal of a blind masseur in *Blind Massage*.

Since then, he's delivered killer performances on every screenplay that he gets his hands on. He's played a faithful ancient politician, a selflessly devoted worker in China's 1960s, a military general in *The Great Wall* (2016) and a sophisticated young emperor in *Tribes and Empires*, the so-called Chinese *Games of Thrones*.

While Huang is a malleable actor who has played many roles, fans love him for the consistent trait he brings to every character: a deep-hidden sense of aggrieved suffering combined with a warrior's heart that will fight like hell to set things right.

Kind of like:
Adrien Brody
Famous for:
melancholic good looks and sad-boy charm
See him in:
Youth (2017)



AGE

TRANSCRIBED

“Most books [about China] are still written by men, and often by Caucasian men.”



Joanna Chiu, a founder of the newly launched editorial collective Nüvoices, dropped this unfortunate truth in an interview last month with SupChina. After years of being frustrated by the gender disparity in writers and journalists who are considered “China experts,” Chiu created the Greater China Female Experts Open Directory – a Google Doc listing female writers knowledgeable about China – in the hopes of seeing more women quoted in articles and featured in discussion panels. Her latest project Nüvoices (the punny name is a play on ‘new’ as well as the Chinese pinyin for ‘woman’) has a similar goal, and launched last month with a party at The Bookworm in Beijing. The collective is currently working on their debut anthology of China-focused writing by female-identifying journalists, writers, translators and artists.

nuvoices.com

HAO BU HAO



Hao

In a moment of cross-cultural female empowerment, celebrated American actress and recent Oscar winner Frances McDormand announced at the Independent Spirit Awards that she signed a contract to collaborate on a film with up-and-coming Chinese director Chloe Zhao. The Beijing-born, US-based auteur (the stepdaughter of actress Song Dandan) won the Art Cinema Award for her second feature film, *The Rider*, at Cannes Film Festival last year.



Bu Hao

Guillermo del Toro's *The Shape of Water* was riding high into Chinese theaters last month after its Oscar win for Best Picture, but made a major gaffe with its China-specific promo material. In a series of posters that counted down the number of days until the China debut, Sally Hawkins is seen holding up three fingers. It's a fairly innocuous picture, but anyone who's either seen the movie or understands American Sign Language would know that in this moment of the film, Sally Hawkins' character is saying “f**k you” to her boss.

THE PLAYLIST



From the James Blunt's legendary crooning to PAELLAS' danceable chill pop, check out the best of artists visiting the PRD this month.

- 🎧 **DVBBS, Shaun Frank, Delaney Jane – La La Land**
- 🎧 **伤心欲绝 – 一整个时代的宿醉**
- 🎧 **Next Door Band 隔壁团 – 再见18岁**
- 🎧 **Warbly Jets – 4th Coming Bomb**
- 🎧 **PAELLAS – Fade**
- 🎧 **Maximilian Hecker – Anaesthesia**
- 🎧 **Daniel Powter – Bad Day**
- 🎧 **James Blunt – OK**
- 🎧 **Vinida – Colorful World**
- 🎧 **Krewella – Alibi**

WHAT'S NEW



Domestic Screenings of *The Shape of Water* Cover Up Nudity, Internet Responds

When Oscar-winning film *The Shape of Water* debuted in domestic theaters last month, audiences who'd seen the original version noticed a few discrepancies. In an important scene between the protagonist Elisa and her aquatic love interest, Elisa's nude body is obscured by shadows, which conveniently cover her in the shape of a one-piece swimsuit. Other scenes were entirely cut from the film, while still more were zoomed in on characters' faces to edit out the nudity below, though both of these tactics have been used in the past and are far less obvious to filmgoers. After film critic Feng Xiaoqiang brought attention to the shadow swimsuit scene online, web users tickled by its lack of subtlety began skewering it on Weibo by posting screenshots of other movies – from a shirtless fight scene in *Black Panther* to *Titanic*'s iconic topless moment – with the characters covered up via Photoshop by similar black shadow swimsuits.

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU



Ready Player One

Ready Player One is a Spielberg-directed adaptation of Ernest Cline's popular sci-fi novel of the same name. Set in a dystopian future, the film follows Wade Watts (Tye Sheridan), a young man who spends his free time jacked into a virtual reality system called OASIS to escape from the miseries of his daily life. When the system's creator reveals that he's hidden an Easter egg in the world that will give whoever finds it complete control of OASIS, a race to discover its whereabouts ensues. Critics have praised the film's visuals, especially its dizzying feast of references from the 1980s, the era in which the OASIS world is set.



Rampage

Rampage is based on a 1986 video game of the same name in which gamers play as one of three giant animals who must destroy cities in order to advance to the next level. For the film adaptation, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson stars as primatologist Davis Okoye, who has a strong bond with an albino gorilla in his care named George. Okoye must save the day after George is affected by a genetic mutation that transforms him into a violent giant. The film has gained a lot of buzz thanks to its cheeky and irreverent promo material, including a trailer in which The Rock speaks directly to the audience via his iPhone.



THE LEFTOVERS

Do Claims of “Erasure” Taint a New Book’s Reputation Beyond Repair?

By Erica Martin

In early February, we interviewed journalist Roseann Lake in the hopes of profiling her before the debut of her new book, *Leftover in China*. Less than three weeks later, Lake was accused of journalistic misconduct, making headlines and raising eyebrows among academics, correspondents and China watchers.

Leftover in China explores through interviews and research the concept of *shengnü*, or leftover women, a term coined in 2007 to describe professional, educated women in their late 20s and early 30s who are not married. Lake, a journalist who lived in Beijing for five years and worked as a television reporter, became interested in the topic after speaking about it with her colleagues – independent, highly successful women who nonetheless fell into this category.

“I decided to write this book because these women really impressed me,” Lake told us. “The fact that they exist is a very good thing.”

On February 19, respected scholar and author of 2014’s groundbreaking *Leftover Women*, Leta Hong-Fincher, published a 21-tweet thread on Twitter accusing Lake and her new book of “erasure.” Despite having corresponded with Lake in the past and being generally considered the English-language expert on *shengnü*, Hong-Fincher is not mentioned or even cited in the bibliography of *Leftover in China*.

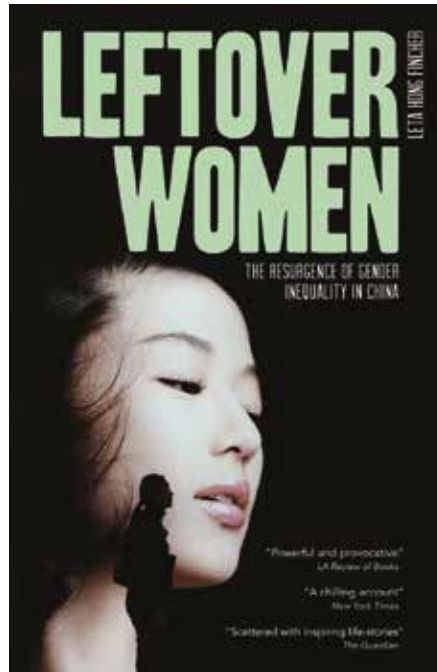
“Someone else is profiting from the ground-work I laid and doesn’t even bother to put me in an obscure footnote,” Hong-Fincher tweeted soon after. Lake responded that she chose not to read Hong-Fincher’s book because she was already working on her own manuscript and “chose to stay focused on the stories of the women whose lives [she] features in it.”

“I am not saying that Lake’s overall argument is the same as mine at all,” Hong-Fincher tells us. “But she drew extensively on my groundbreaking research without acknowledging me anywhere, even though she was the one who reached out to me in 2011 and wanted to exchange thoughts.”

Hong-Fincher has not accused Lake of plagiarism per se, but she is not exactly deterring others from jumping to that conclusion. (“Been following your plagiarism saga BTW,” user @ivanbelic tweeted at her in mid-March. Hong-Fincher retweeted him.) She is also encouraging a line-by-line reading of both books by all reviewers of *Leftover in China*.

“It takes a huge amount of work to compile a comparison chart of similar sentences from both books and I have not yet begun to do so systematically,” Hong-Fincher wrote on Twitter in February. “But reviewers of the book MUST.” (We didn’t, but we read both books closely, annotating them as we went.)

In *Leftover in China*, Lake does not plagiarize



from Hong-Fincher, and their key points are different enough that she could have theoretically written it without drawing upon Hong-Fincher’s work.

Lake’s book, which chronicles in pert and effervescent prose the tribulations of four unmarried women in Beijing, is aimed at readers based in the Western world who may know little about China but are interested in learning more about global feminism. At one point, she translates *meishi* (没事) as “Hakuna Makata,” and she occasionally plays up her role as a “confused foreigner” stand-in for the reader; the book opens with Lake returning to work after Spring Festival wondering why the women in her office are out of sorts, before finding out that they’ve been chided by their families for still being unmarried.

Lake compares China’s current attitudes toward leftover women with American sex and dating in the 50s and 60s, theorizing that tradition will eventually modernize the way it did in the US, as men become more comfortable with the idea of a dual-earning household.

“There’s a quote in the book that I think really summarizes a lot of what’s going on with these growing pains,” Lake told us. “It’s from a demographer who specializes in studying female education rates and marriage trends around the world. He said: ‘Men [in China] are looking for women who no longer exist, and women are looking for men who have yet to exist.’ I think that nails it. It will work itself out.”

Hong-Fincher’s book is bleaker, in part because her impressive research reveals how deep-seated these issues lie within China’s tra-

dition and government. Some critics of Lake’s book have claimed that she is more optimistic because she doesn’t have the big-picture knowledge that Hong-Fincher’s book provides.

Hong-Fincher is meticulous and academic in her approach, summarizing key points at the end of each chapter and relying heavily on hard data. She provides a sobering, groundbreaking look at gender inequality in China, with a specific focus on how patriarchal social relations have caused highly-paid, successful women to lose out on China’s real estate market, and another focus on intimate partner violence. These are two topics that Lake barely touches on.

The major divergence between the two texts is that the bulk of Hong-Fincher’s book zeroes on how women suffer when they get married to avoid becoming leftover women, while Lake’s book focuses on women who are still navigating the dating world.

The books, therefore, are very different – but the claims of erasure are still valid. Though Lake could have theoretically written *Leftover in China* without using Hong-Fincher’s research at all, why would she want to?

In a follow-up interview, Lake sheds some light on this decision. Essentially, Hong-Fincher was not the first person to coin the phrase “leftover women” (though she’s done more original research about the demographic than anyone else), so Lake didn’t need to cite Hong-Fincher just for using the term. Because Lake hadn’t interviewed Hong-Fincher (who actually turned down a request back in 2011) and did not quote her texts, she did not need to include her in the bibliography. This is all valid, strictly speaking.

But as Grace Jackson pointed out in her March review of *Leftover in China* for the *LA Review of Books*, it taints Lake’s purported commitment to feminism that she wouldn’t take the time to reference the most groundbreaking expert on leftover women.

Lake’s exploration is unique and engaging enough that she could have read Hong-Fincher’s book for reference, cite her where appropriate, and then follow her own research where it took her without any fear of publishing a book that’s too similar to *Leftover Women*. But she didn’t.

If there’s any lesson, it’s to always cite your sources. But more importantly, uplift other women in your field, above and beyond what might be required by a publisher or by general journalistic or academic standards. If you don’t, you might not be a plagiarizer, but neither are you working to advance gender parity, the cause that’s at the heart of both of these books.

Leftover in China: The Women Shaping the World’s Next Superpower by Roseann Lake and *Leftover Women: The Resurgence of Gender Inequality in China* by Leta Hong-Fincher are available on Amazon.com

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DESOLATION AND HOMECOMING

Alpine Decline Returns with a New Stripped-Down Sound

By Erica Martin



BENJAMIN MORGAN

Pauline and Jonathan Zeitlin are a self-described ‘guitar and drums duo’ who go by the name Alpine Decline. Having formed in LA in the early 2000s, the pair became essential contributors to Beijing’s rock scene after they left their hometown and moved to Tongzhou, in outer Beijing, in 2010.

“When we moved to Beijing, we needed to go out and put our perspective in the blender or I’m not sure we’d have been able to write compelling music anymore,” says Jonathan, who plays guitar and provides the band’s distinctive vocals. The greatest result of this period was their 19-track noise rock opus and “love/hate letter to their adopted home” of Beijing, 2016’s *Life’s a Gasp*. It is the most focused and intensely realized record tackling Alpine Decline’s long-running theme of “how urban chaos plays out in the intimate moments of real lives and relationships,” according to Jonathan. It’s also one of the best indie rock albums to come out of Beijing in the decade.

After their 2016 tour supporting *Life’s a Gasp*, Alpine Decline up and moved back to LA, which Pauline explains happened “abruptly”—it resembles what they’d done six years prior, when they dropped everything and moved to

Beijing in the first place. “We’d already felt like some changes had come over us, musically-speaking... a new era of something had already dawned on our band,” she says.

The duo are working and producing constantly, and it didn’t take long for a new, post-Beijing era album to begin taking shape, though it wasn’t nearly as specific to LA as *Life’s a Gasp* was to Beijing.

“It feels kind of like one door closed behind us and it took a long time before a new door opened up in front of us,” Jonathan says. “This album is that empty space in between two doors.”

The duo wrote the album’s music and lyrics in LA, but took the work back to Beijing last year to record it, which may have contributed to its feeling of floating in between two places. P.K.14 frontman, Beijing scene builder and longtime Alpine Decline collaborator Yang Haisong played bass and produced the album.

The resulting record, *Return to Desolation Lake*, sounds like it came from a different band than Alpine Decline, at least upon a first listen. The gritty noise rock and synths that have been such a staple for so many of their songs, and served as the sonic manifestation of Beijing’s ‘urban chaos’ on *Life’s A Gasp*, are

largely absent. Instead, the songs on *Return to Desolation Lake* feel spare and elegant, with a focus on Jonathan’s vocals. The opening track and single, ‘Blameless,’ is a crystal clear guitar-led track with haunting lyrics. Tracks like ‘Dispatch from the Guesthouse’ have almost poppy, upbeat melodies, while slower songs like ‘Lies to Protect You’ are stark and lovely.

“Songwriting and melodies have always been at the center of our music, but a lot of people just aren’t going to dig through all the snow and hear the dense soundscapes we’ve had on our previous albums,” says Pauline, referencing the layers of noise that have so defined their previous work. “We hope that the clarity on *Return to Desolation Lake* gives listeners a wider door to get to the songs,” Jonathan chimes in. “Come on in y’all!” Pauline adds with a laugh.

The album’s cover, designed by Shanghai screenprinting duo IdleBeats, has a similarly stark feel, with a washed out color scheme depicting a haggard troupe of boatmen traveling toward a distant island that appears to be on fire. Listening to the album feels very much like traveling toward that island – its hooks and melodies push you along like a current, but its dark themes lie just under the surface.

“We’ve worked with IdleBeats a few times now, and they have a way of grabbing a certain frequency out of the music and spinning it out into something kind of beautiful and threatening at the same time,” says Jonathan. “I think that’s very appropriate for our music.” IdleBeats also created a few screenprinted T-shirts of the album that Alpine Decline will be selling while on a 14-stop tour throughout April.

Despite the album’s new directions sonically, its lyrical themes of finding beauty in bleakness and moments of contentment in their longtime preoccupation of ‘urban chaos’ very much continues to be the connecting thematic factor in all Alpine Decline’s music. *Return to Desolation Lake* feels like a repackaging of these same elements in a different but equally intriguing aesthetic.

“I don’t know if it’s something particular about the current moment or not, but the experience of flickering between beauty and anxiety and hope and fear and chaos and quiet moments of blankness seems very real and relevant to me,” says Jonathan. “If it’s just us, that’s OK, but I think this kind of emotional being-in-two-places-at-once thing is something everyone can connect to right now.”

Listen to *Return to Desolation Lake* at downloads. maybemars.org



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China was the first country in the world to use paper money. Will it be the first to abandon it?

By Dominic Ngai

On almost every street corner and in the ever-expanding e-commerce marketplace, businesses in China have already fully embraced the convenience of mobile payment. But as the nation dashes full speed ahead in the direction of becoming a cashless society, have we fully considered the pros and cons of digitizing our bills and coins?



Carrying a physical wallet in a 'QR code first economy' like China is a hassle. For everyday transactions, a smartphone and an Alipay or WeChat Pay account connected to your local bank account are basically all you need. To pay, you just have to scan the merchants' QR codes with these apps, or have them scan yours. Easy, breezy.

"Maybe about seven out of 10 people scan QR codes to pay. Others use their cards," says Ji, the middle-aged *ayi* from Hunan who manages the corner store next to my apartment while I scan the QR code displayed on the counter with WeChat to pay for some fruit. "I receive cash maybe just a handful of times a week." Moments later, a robotic female voice from her Xiaomi smartphone declares, "Payment is successful, 13 yuan." Ji switches her focus back to a soap opera on her Tudou app.

According to official data, China's mobile payment transactions reached RMB81 trillion over the first 10 months of 2017, an increase of almost 30 percent compared to the total amount recorded in 2016 (RMB58.8 trillion).

Ben Cavender, principal at China Market Research (CMR), believes that in addition to the added convenience for consumers and merchants, timing has played a critical role in propelling the Middle Kingdom and its 1.4 billion citizens ahead of the rest of the world in mobile payment adoption.

"The growth of China's middle-class population coincided with the rising popularity of smartphones," he explains from his Shanghai office. "People who didn't

previously own any electronic goods suddenly have iPhones in their hands. It's their primary tool and initiation point for technology, whereas in the West, a lot of older consumers who grew up with their desktops and laptops still primarily use those for their online activities."

At present, China's two major players in the mobile payment space, Alipay and WeChat Pay, hold about 54 and 40 percent of the market share respectively, according to a 2017 iResearch report. China Channel cofounder Matthew Brennan attributes their dominance to the strengths of their parent companies, ecommerce giant Alibaba, and Tencent, the world's most valuable social network conglomerate.

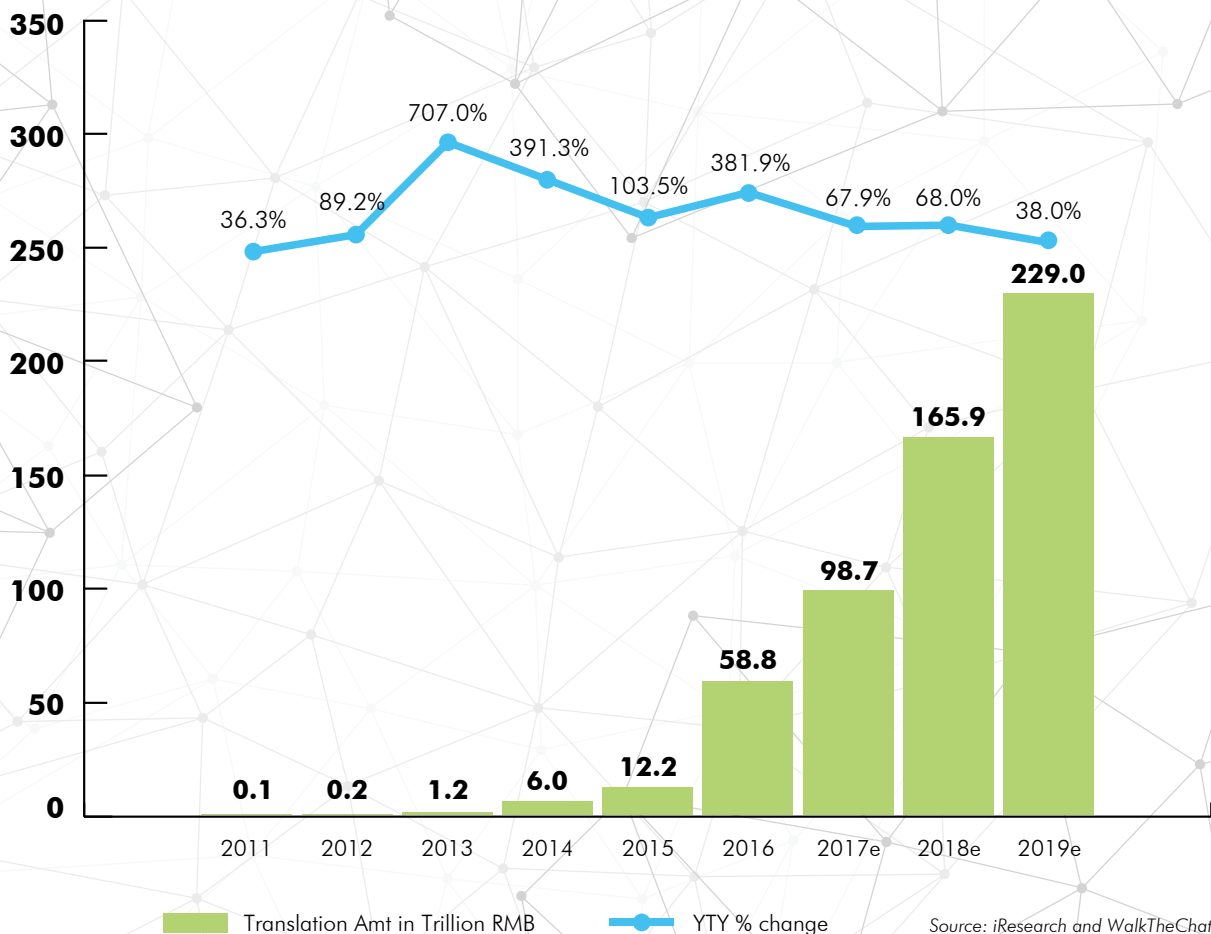
Since its introduction in 2004, Alipay has always been the preferred payment solution for any Taobao or Tmall purchases. For nearly a decade, Alipay enjoyed almost a total monopoly in China's electronic payment game until WeChat Pay came along in 2013.

Competition heated up when Tencent collaborated with the CCTV Spring Festival Gala to launch WeChat Red Envelope on Chinese New Year's Eve of 2015. The infamous publicity stunt resulted in 1 billion *hongbao* transactions across the nation, making the platform a formidable opponent to Alipay.

With WeChat being China's dominant instant messaging platform, Cavender says its offerings resonate with how today's Chinese consumers use the internet and social media, hence its 'stickiness' makes it slightly easier to integrate into people's daily lives.

Brennan adds, "Both platforms, however, have successfully adapted themselves into the virtual world and into the offline economy... at the end of the day, I don't think it's about one winning or losing, as both are well-equipped to thrive in the market."

2011-2019 China Third Party Mobile Payment Transaction Volume (trillion RMB)



TEAM GREEN VS. TEAM BLUE

China's Mobile Payment Development Timeline



Oct 2004

Alipay is launched on Taobao with PayPal-like features

Mar 2008

Alipay launches mobile payment service

Oct 2008

Alipay enables users to pay utility bills

Jun 2013

Alipay launches Yu'e Bao, a money market fund which later becomes the biggest of its kind in China

Dec 2013

Alipay surpasses PayPal to become the world's largest payment company with 300 million verified users and 2.8 billion transactions per year



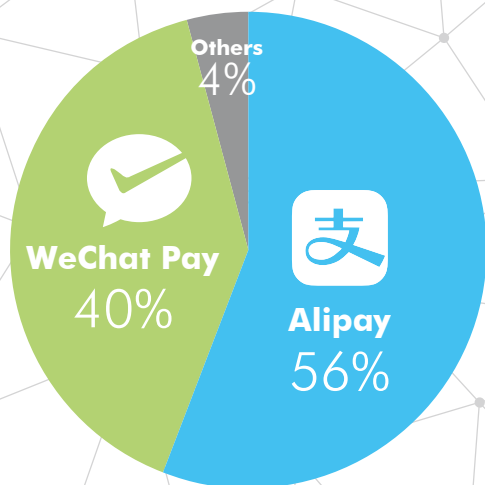
Aug 2013

WeChat launches mobile payment service

Jan 2014

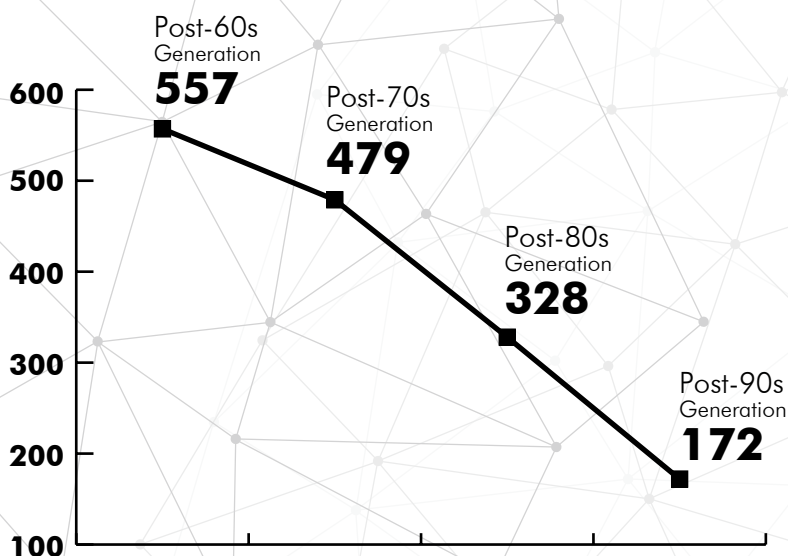
WeChat launches Red Envelope application

2017 Third Party Mobile Payment Market Share



Source: iResearch & WalkTheChat

Average Amount of Cash Carried Daily (RMB)



Source: 2017 Mobile Payment Usage in China Report

- March 2014**
WeChat launches payment application for official accounts
- Aug 2014**
WeChat launches City Services feature, enabling users to pay their utility bills within the app
- Feb 2015**
WeChat collaborates with CCTV Spring Festival Gala over Chinese New Year to promote WeChat Red Envelope, resulting in 1 billion transactions
- May 2015**
Reaches 300 million users on WeChat Pay
- Jan 2016**
WeChat Pay is available in 300,000+ offline retailers
- Jan 2017**
Launches face-to-face Red Envelope

1 billion monthly active users on WeChat (as of 2018)

- Feb 2014**
Yu'e Bao reaches 81 million verified users
- March 2014**
Alipay reaches 25 million daily transactions on mobile
- Dec 2014**
Mobile payment accounts for 49.3% of total transactions
- Jan 2015**
Zhima Credit appears in the Alipay app
- Dec 2015**
Mobile payments account for 65% of total transactions
- Sep 2016**
Alipay starts charging 0.1% fee for withdrawals
- Dec 2016**
Alipay launches AR hongbao
- Sep 2017**
Alipay debuts facial recognition payment service

520 million mobile monthly active users (as of 2017)

THE LEADER

The US might be the world's largest economy, but when it comes to mobile payment, the Chinese are way ahead. China's total mobile payment transaction revenue was 50 times more than their American counterparts in 2016. Meanwhile, 52 percent of Chinese say less than 20 percent of their monthly transactions are conducted with bills and coins, according to the '2017 Mobile Payment Usage in China' study published by China Tech Insights.

Credit card companies and many Westerners' ingrained habit of using cards as their primary payment option have prevented mobile payments from taking off, according to Brennan and Cavender. In a country where Visa, Mastercard and American Express still have yet to fully penetrate through the masses, Chinese consumers were able to easily move on from cash and plug themselves directly into the ecosystem that Alipay and WeChat Pay have created.

The downside of this arrangement, Cavender points out, is that tech companies are not held to the same fiduciary standards that traditional financial institutions follow: "At the end of the day, your money is being handled by companies whose main objective is to sell you all sorts of services. There's definitely a conflict of interest [that works against consumers]."

By signing up for WeChat Pay or Alipay, users are not only giving Tencent and Alibaba instant access to their

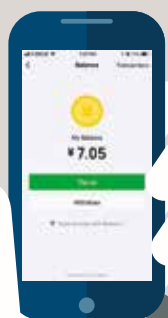
online shopping behaviors, but also their offline spending habits too, not to mention their personal identity information and how much savings they have in their bank accounts.

The government, which was originally quite hands off during the early stages of the development of mobile payment platforms, has another concern. Up until recently, Alipay and WeChat Pay transactions were set up so that they could deal directly with individual banks while bypassing the central bank's clearing system entirely.

By June 30, 2018, however, third-party online payment companies and commercial banks will have to migrate this whole process to a People's Bank of China-backed platform called Wanglian (Non-Bank Internet Payment Union), which essentially allows Chinese mon-

etary authorities to monitor all mobile transactions and data to prevent money laundering, tax evasion or other illegal activities in real time. The migration process began in October 2017, as ordered by the central bank.

Hypothetically, if China were to become 100-percent cashless in the future, this would mean that in addition to having the transaction records between people and businesses, the government would also know the exact amount of money in circulation, and perhaps even be able to monitor the outflow of capital. Yes, Big Brother is watching.



**"AT THE END OF
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MONEY IS BEING
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IS TO SELL YOU ALL
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THERE'S DEFINITELY
A CONFLICT OF
INTEREST"**

- BEN CAVENDER,
CHINA MARKET
RESEARCH

THE FEAR OF LOSING CASH



One of the loudest arguments against a digital-only economy is summed up by the headline of Peter Guy's *South China Morning Post* op-ed published last October: "A cashless society would destroy our privacy and freedom."

For the Chinese-American venture capitalist and former international banker, the way in which Mainlanders have "blindly surrendered their privacy" for the convenience of mobile payment is "gullible and naive." "Think of it this way: Cash is the original cryptocurrency," Guy says. "I don't want the government to have records of everything that I buy, or every place that I go. Cash is private, and I always want to have the option of having banknotes under my pillow."

A firm supporter of the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, Guy even goes as far as equating cash to guns as the last line of defense for one's freedom and privacy. While the analogy might be a bit extreme, economists agree that a 100-percent cashless economy could have some serious underlying consequences.

Back in 2014 and 2016, central banks of several European nations and Japan had imposed negative interest rates as a desperate economic recovery

measure to increase spending and spur inflation. In a hypothetical total cashless world, having all of your savings locked in a computerized system and without the option of cash withdrawal means there's no way to avoid getting penalized for simply leaving your savings in the bank.

Moreover, natural disasters and blackouts could cause mass panic if people wouldn't be able to access their money. Last but not least, a fully digitized economy would leave those who cannot afford a smartphone or seniors who are technologically challenged worse off.

But for many countries, an entirely cashless economy is still a long ways away. In China, for instance, cash still makes up a significant chunk of the Chinese economy — 66 trillion *yuan* in 2016, according to a central bank payments report. Though the number has been decreasing in recent years, completely eliminating cash will be difficult in practice, CMR's Cavender says. "Realistically, I don't think cash will go away entirely, but it will certainly be relegated to a less important role."

That, however, might be a different story for one Scandinavian country.



Niklas Arvidsson had to think for a moment before he could recall the last time he used cash when we spoke via Skype (a Swedish invention, he points out). The economics professor at Stockholm's KTH Royal Institute of Technology has been following the diminishing usage of cash in his country for some time. In a 2017 study, Arvidsson and his team point to the exact date when Swedish merchants will stop accepting cash completely – March 24, 2023.

While China might be leaps and bounds ahead of the rest of the world in mobile payment usage, Sweden is leading the pack in terms of having the lowest value of cash in circulation in the world. As of 2016, just 1.4 percent of its gross domestic product is cash-based, which is significantly lower than the global average of 9 percent, according to a 2016 Bank of International Settlements report.

In its major cities, 'no cash' signs are becoming common decor at the entrances of shops, cafes and restaurants. Unlike many countries though, it's completely legal for Swedish merchants to refuse cash.

Weeks ago, *Bloomberg* reported that remote parts of the country are now at risk of losing access to banknotes, prompting distressed cash-handling industry lobbyists and officials from

the Swedish central bank, Riksbank, to call for new legislation to safeguard the existence of cash. Later this summer, Riksbank will also be publishing a special report outlining the systemic risks the country could potentially face if banknotes and coins were to disappear completely.

"The cost of cash transactions is always higher than electronic. Through our survey with some of the country's most cash-intensive merchants, we found that while 97 percent of them still accept cash, only 18 percent of all transactions are carried out via banknotes and coins," explains Arvidsson.

Through extrapolating other data points, the survey suggests that when the total cash transactions drop below 7 percent, then the cost of processing them will exceed its profits, rendering it an economically unviable option for businesses to receive cash. After analyzing the projections of the country's rising non-cash payments, Arvidsson's estimate is that Sweden could potentially enter into an era of total cashlessness in less than five years.

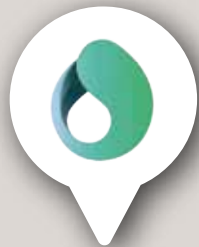
This estimate, the professor stresses, is a pure economic theory. "To become [an entirely cashless economy], a lot of political and legal factors need to come into play," he says. This would include a complete overhaul of banking laws – a

process that's likely to take much longer than five years.

But like many Western countries, the Swedes still rely heavily on plastic – 71 percent of retail transactions are paid via debit or credit card. At the moment, there's no Swedish equivalent of Alipay or WeChat Pay in place. There is Swish, a popular mobile payment app currently used by around half of the country's population, but its functions are currently limited to peer-to-peer transactions.

CMR's Cavender thinks China's willingness to embrace technological innovations could allow the country to beat Sweden in the race to become fully cashless. "QR codes are a much more powerful tool that allows people like a small *baozi* vendor to operate with very low overhead costs, whereas businesses in Sweden still have to invest in old school card payment processing systems," he comments. "From a technology standpoint, what the Chinese are doing with mobile payment solutions is definitely way more interesting."

Though when asked whether the Swedes are concerned with the security of their personal information and privacy, Arvidsson's answer gives us a lot to think about: "Swedish people believe in the legal system and the government's data protection directives. A majority of people here aren't overly concerned."



OPEN SEASIDE

On January 19, a text message from an unknown number tells me I'm eligible for a RMB50,000 loan ("low interest! quick approval process!"). Another message a few days later from an associate of 'Daimler Investments' (unrelated to the German automobile manufacturer) reads, "We help our clients make more money with money, 10,000 becomes 30,000, earning 100,000 a month isn't a dream anymore!"

And it seems like these random investment pitches are running wild. Chinese consumers have been receiving more and more loan offers via WeChat and SMS in recent years, causing the country's short-term credit rate to jump by 160 percent in the first eight months of 2017, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Up until recently, the Middle Kingdom lacked a functioning credit rating system. In June 2014, the Chinese government announced a Social Credit System initiative that will assign a rating to each citizen based on one's financial records and social behaviors. While basic structures of this nationwide system are expected to be in place by 2020, private companies have already been running trial programs over the past few years. According to China Tech Insight's report, improving financial credit ratings through the consumer data collected is a major initiative for mobile payment platforms over the next few years.

Seen as the first prototype of the official system to be launched in two years, Zhima Credit (or Sesame Credit) – a product of Ant Financial Services, the Alibaba affiliate that operates Alipay – appeared on the Alipay app homescreen alongside taxi booking and food delivery functions months after the government's 2014 announcement. Once registered, users are given a score from 350 to 950 based on information in five categories that the mobile payment app already has on its 520 million users: identity (occupation, education level), assets (savings, properties, cars), history (timeliness of credit card payments), network (the number and quality of

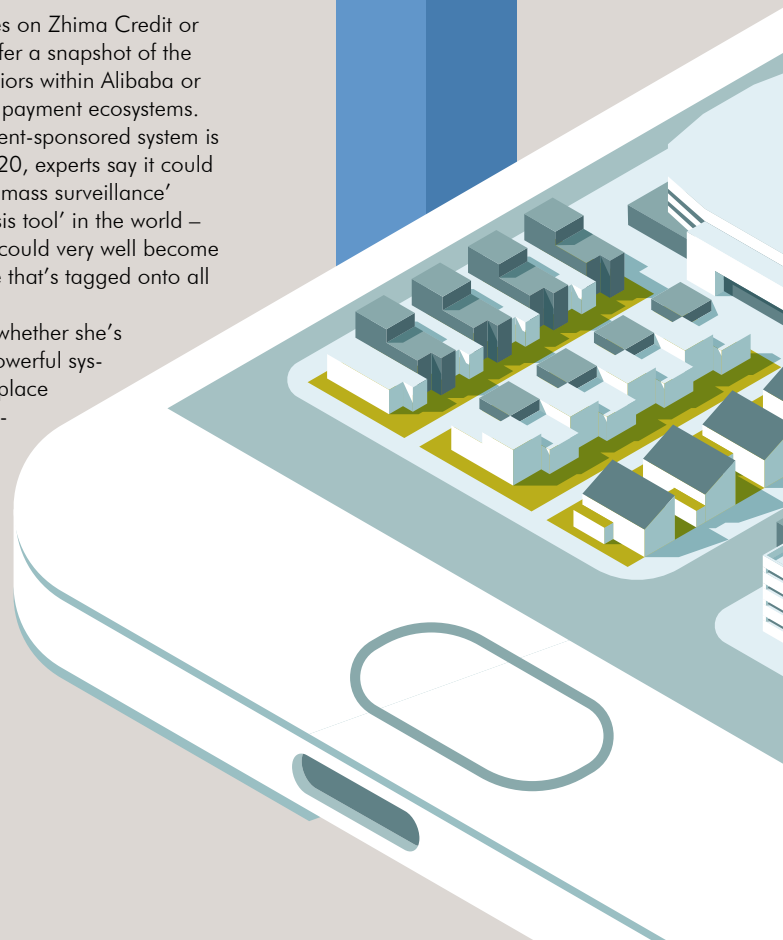
Alipay contacts) and behavior (transactions made with Alipay). Tencent Credit, a similar rating system created by the eponymous parent company of WeChat, was also rolled out in mid-2017.

At the beginning of this year, thousands of Alipay users were furious after finding out their Zhima Credit scores appeared on an animated Alipay annual usage report without their prior consent, prompting the credit rating service provider to issue an official apology on its Weibo account.

Zhou Min, a 20-something grad who works in advertising, was one of the victims of the privacy invasion snafu, though her attitude is relatively more chill than some. "I'm pretty sure they probably already have my spending data because I've been using Alipay regularly for a few years," she says. "That wouldn't surprise me at all."

At this point, scores on Zhima Credit or Tencent Credit only offer a snapshot of the users' spending behaviors within Alibaba or Tencent's own mobile payment ecosystems. But once the government-sponsored system is up and running by 2020, experts say it could be the most powerful 'mass surveillance' meets 'big data analysis tool' in the world – and our smartphones could very well become the surveillance device that's tagged onto all of us.

When I ask Zhou whether she's concerned if such a powerful system were to be put in place two years later, her answer, while similar to Arvidsson's, strikes a different tone. "I'm not worried... It's not like we can opt out or anything."



While 2020 is still two years away, our addiction to the convenience of mobile payment apps most likely won't go away anytime soon. At the corner store near my apartment, Ji's not in a good mood. A young security guard is paying for a RMB10 pack of Zhong Nan Hai with a 100 kuai bill. As the ayi counts the change, she mutters some words in her local dialect, and then asks loudly in Mandarin, "People don't use these anymore," pointing to the crumpled notes on the counter, "why are you still paying with these?"

As the guard walks out, Ji gives him one last death stare as if he's violated some sort of unspoken etiquette rule for payment procedures on her turf. She returns to her smartphone, presses play, and the loud characters from her favorite soap opera carry on their conversation mid-sentence. Not wanting to interrupt her show, I silently pay for my water with WeChat. Voices of the actors dim for a moment, in exchange for the robotic WeChat Pay lady: "Payment is successful, 20 yuan." Her eyes are still glued to the screen as I walk out.



COMMUNITY

Naomi Wu: SexyCyborg

Ms. Wu on gadgets, women in tech and her newfound fame, p48



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FAT BIRD THEATER

Freedom to Experiment

By Adam Robbins



“The representative play from Beijing is *Teahouse*,” Yang Qian, artistic director for Fat Bird Theater, tells us. “But in Shenzhen it’s about AI, not teahouses.”

Shenzhen’s only long-term, professional experimental theater started with that electric pulse in its veins. At least half their early shows were original works of science fiction, typically written by Yang and workshopped with director Song Jie (co-founder of the theater with Yang, Ren Zihui and Zhang Yang), along with a rotating company of actors.

“The city is so young, people aren’t interested in questions about the past. They’re interested in the future, and science fiction is very helpful for describing the mood. But later we gave up sci-fi plays – even the smallest one is so expensive!”

Funding for the arts is always tight – especially for Fat Bird, operating outside the state-supported National Theater. Yang reports that six months of savings would be eaten up in a single science fiction play, between paying actors, set design and other necessities. And even then, they “only had enough money to alienate the audience, but not enough for any big bangs.”

Now Yang, author of roughly 20 works staged and published in China and cities like Berlin, turns his attention to contemplations that are easier to stage. Half are now written for venues outside the theater and a quarter are works of physical theater. The

Shenzhen people maybe only care about earning money – people won’t get in your way as you search for your dream. Nobody cares about you. That can be good.

latest is last year’s narrated, choreographed *Fox Tales*, depicting the fruitless quest for immortality.

“It points to two contemporary challenges: one, the trap of individualism or absolute freedom – that’s not going to get you where you want to go – and two, what people thought was socialism turned out to be fake. Historically, everyone has been tricked by both of them. And Shenzhen has some of the worst of both.”

Though relatively few have seen the experimental plays of Fat Bird Theater since its 2004 inception, it’s earned a reputation for thought-provoking works ... and for its endurance, in a city without any professional, resident theater troupe. So Yang is often tapped to serve as ambassador for the city’s cultural scene, even as his plays call into question the Shenzhen project.

“What is Shenzhen culture?” Yang wonders. “A lot of Fat Bird plays confront that. A lot of Shenzhen people accept that they don’t have the answer to that question... Shenzhen people maybe only care about earning money – people won’t get in your way as you search for your dream. Nobody cares about you. That can be good.”

“It’s a very tolerant city, but it’s an indifferent city... People are immigrating to achieve life dreams, so they’re interested in stories of lives, not master narratives. They each have stories about how they’ve adapted to the city. Fat Bird offers small stories where you get to learn the stories of people and their lives.”

With 2019 marking its 15th anniversary, Fat Bird is set to offer up a retrospective of their major works – primarily in film, since it’s so much cheaper than live performances. But even that (and a new theater camp planned for Lijia, Yunnan Province) will cost the theater RMB1.5 million. “So 2018’s performance will be: begging,” Yang jokes with a wry laugh.

Getting more serious, he reflects on how difficult it is to sustain independent theater here, even with the higher wages Fat Bird pays its actors. “The [founders’] generation are all now in their 50s – when we came here, we had housing and jobs. There was less competition. Today, young people – if they want to buy a house, get married – they can’t make the same choices that the people of Fat Bird did.

“I think it is the first one, and the last one. It’s fate.”

You can find your way to Fat Bird’s experimental stories of Shenzhen lives by following their WeChat account (ID ‘胖鸟剧团’).



COMMUNITY

DEAR JAMIE

Diddlin' Ayi

Dear Jamie,

After a recent move to Foshan from Shenzhen and a modest rise in salary, I've been delighted to discover the comforts and convenience of a live-in *ayi*. Domestic helpers are an inconceivable luxury in my home country and the lady in question, a matronly Hunanese woman in her late-40s, is a phenomenal cook and compassionate caretaker to my wife's elderly mother.

The problem? Her room is right next to ours and on a twice-weekly basis I consistently lay down to the belabored sounds of vigorous self-stimulation together with what can only be highly audible video accompaniment. Don't get me wrong, she does a bang-up job and the last thing I want to do is deny her some off-the-clock R&R but, needless to say, I find this bedtime ritual highly distracting.

How do I bring this up? I'm sure she'd be mortified if she knew I could hear her – my wife often travels and my mother-in-law sleeps soundly at the far end of the hall, so really it's just me that's affected. Nonetheless, there are certain things that cannot be unheard and her evening exertions are starting to seriously color our rapport.

-Distracted in Foshan

Dear Distracted,

Easy: tell her that on a nightly basis you can hear her 'exercise' routine, as well as the *Sweatin' to the Oldies* video she may or may not be watching. Be sure to stress that you understand how important it is to remain 'physically fit,' but remind her that your drifting off to sleep peacefully takes precedent over her evening 'workouts.'

-Jamie

Tossing-and-turning while passions are burning? Email Jamieinchina@outlook.com.

AROUND TOWN

TAKE FIVE

Naomi Wu, aka SexyCyborg

In case you hadn't heard, Naomi Wu is kind of internet-famous. *Forbes* and *Newsweek* have-profiled this eye-catching Shenzhen hacker, who uses 3D printers, LED tiles and more to construct flickering bikini tops and sky-high platform heels with secret compartments. We chatted with Ms. Wu about gadgets, women in tech and her newfound fame.

Many of your projects have been closely intertwined with fashion. Why the focus on wearables?

I describe myself as a 'Maker'... The idea behind the Maker movement is aside from being a fun hobby you are cultivating attributes – creativity and problem-solving skills.

I can go to any public place in Shenzhen – Huaqiangbei, Seaworld, etc. – wearing my Blinkini, Infinity Skirt or Wearable 3D Printer and instantly get a polite circle of people with a nice three meters of space waiting for the 'show' to begin... [It] makes for better advocacy because average people on the street really enjoy this kind of thing so much more because it's outside their usual experience.

You put a lot of emphasis on publishing videos and blueprints so that others can follow in your footsteps. Has the hard work paid off?

As a Maker, open source is a powerful tool for quickly improving your skills. How many people download and make their own version of my designs gives me amazing feedback [about] how good it is and how I could have done it better.

I made a 3D-printed choker out of a soft plastic... Since the code was open source, someone improved it within days and I was able to see how code could be added to automatically include text written on the choker. This kind of thing happens all the time.

Did a lot of effort go into shaping the public image of SexyCyborg?

Oh no, I dressed and looked like this long before I started posting tech projects online.

In nearly every country an eccentric appearance is normal for creative professionals. Clothing is one of the easiest things to start experimenting with so I guess a lot of us start there. My appearance helps in some ways, hurts



in others. People are more used to women dressing a bit more boyish in tech – sort of protective camouflage to blend in. I don't want to blend in, I want to represent.

Of course, as a woman looking the way I do people will try and test my knowledge, which is fine. I'm used to it. I have basic skills but I know what I know and I'm confident.

When did you first realize you were getting internet-famous?

Haha, I still don't know that I am. It's fun to be recognized, though. I'm just a local girl – one of 12 million, so someone stopping to say "Hey, you're Naomi Wu!" is still quite flattering.

What's the biggest strength of Shenzhen's tech scene right now?

Hardware development is very accessible, you can get off the plane with a good working idea and there are dozens of design houses and contract manufacturers that can walk you through the entire process. It's easier than ever to get high-quality hardware made here, at almost any scale.

Anyone can make a prototype good enough for a small run on Kickstarter – even on an English teacher's salary. Be prolific: design, build, test, crowdfund, manufacture. That is the power of Shenzhen, use it.

Follow Wu via Youtube (Naomi 'SexyCyborg' Wu) and Twitter (@RealSexyCyborg). This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Cryptocurrency Meetup

Your mother might stare blankly when you utter the word 'cryptocurrency,' but for millions around the world – and especially the PRD – it's a lucrative part of daily life.

The decentralized virtual money is mostly discussed in forums like Reddit, but their real-world counterparts show up in Meetup groups around the world. Shenzhen, tech capital of China, has one. Of course it does.

The meetup, started by Bionic Brew's Joe Finkenbinder, has only met for a year – well after Bitcoin was on its skyrocket from USD1,000 to 20 times that price. "It wasn't a thought-out plan," Finkenbinder tells us. "I didn't understand that meetups were foundational elements of the crypto community. I have this bar... I got lucky and found out [about Bitcoin] in 2009. Years later when I came across it again, I picked some up. 'I'm not gonna make that same mistake twice,' I thought.

"I didn't have any friends that are into it. [I thought,] I'll start my community."

The people who meet up, 10 to 30 to 50 at a time, from China and abroad, are a mix of cryptocurrency traders, miners or FOMO-driven newbies looking for the next coin or token that's about to explode.

"A lot of guys are interested in ICOs [initial coin offerings]," Joe tells us. "They're not early adopters – most people still are, but a USD10,000 bitcoin is pretty steep – so they're trying to make quick cash on ICOs. Which I don't recommend."

Nor does the Chinese government, which banned ICOs last September.



The meetups are pretty casual – the bar isn't set up for presentations – and mostly center on conversations about new pools to join, price speculation, Mongolian bitcoin mines to invest in or how new tech will finally break crypto into everyday transactions. Bionic Brew accepts bitcoin for their beer and NYPD pizzas, but that's surprisingly rare in China's Silicon Bay. Clearly, the revolution is still in early days.

Meetings take place once a month at Bionic Brew. Admission is free and provides happy hour discounts at the bar. Learn more at www.meetup.com/Shenzhen-Cryptocurrency-Meetup.

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CODING THE FUTURE

Preparing Kids for a Tech-y Tomorrow

By Lena Gidwani



Move over, violin and Mandarin lessons. There's a new activity in town with the power to completely shape future careers: coding.

With fundamental shifts and disruption expected for current models of business, our world as we know it (and, more specifically, our classrooms) is evolving dramatically. One of the most highly prized skill sets that anyone can have in the global economy appears to be coding. Deemed 'the new literacy' by some, it's conspicuously made its way into most well-established mainstream classrooms and is seen as a must-have skill for those as young as 5 to be able to compete in our tech-filled future.

In fact, the World Economic Forum predicts that 65 percent of young primary students will be employed in job types that don't yet exist.

So what exactly is coding? In short: writing code tells a computer what to do. From apps and websites to browsers and operating systems, just about everything is made with code. As machines cannot code, it is up to humans to create the framework of the digital world we are all increasingly reliant on.

Today's trends in educational technology

should not be new to us all. More than half a century ago, the late Seymour Papert, a South African-born American mathematician, educator and computer scientist, talked about children using computers as a tool for enriching innovation, creativity and learning.

Papert was definitely on to something, albeit early. Mitch Resnick, a professor at MIT, author of *Lifelong Kindergarten: Cultivating Creativity Through Projects, Passion, Peers and Play* and a huge Papert follower, notes that coding is akin to writing. He says that both are ways to communicate with others; coding just happens to use a newer medium to do so.

It's no wonder then that schools in the Pearl River Delta are moving quick to get in on the action. Suzanne Brown, teacher and tech enthusiast at an international school in Guangzhou, teaches coding to students 6 years old and above as part of her school's STEAM program. She says that through coding, students quickly pick up vital skills in analytical reasoning and problem-solving, fostering a learning spirit of inquisition, engagement and inquiry.

"Integrating new skills in the curriculum to support learning ensures that students are engaged. It also breaks down barriers

and fear of the unknown, often bringing out the passion students may have for these topics," says Brown. "As a school, we also try to partake in an initiative called Hour of Code, whereby students undertake basic webinars designed to demystify coding. It allows our students to develop an appreciation of basic computing processes and have fun at the same time. Education is not about teaching them for today; it's about preparing them for tomorrow."

Technologist and founder/CEO of Shopify Inc. Tobi Lütke wholeheartedly agrees, saying that "whoever figures out how to teach computer literacy first will have, by far, the most prepared work force for the future."

Intrigued? We'll leave you with some food for thought by none other than Salman Khan, founder of the Khan Academy, a non-profit educational organization with a goal of creating free online tools for students anywhere: "To prepare humanity for the next 100 years, we need more of our children to learn computer programming skills, regardless of their future profession. Along with reading and writing, the ability to program is going to define what an educated person is."



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CITY SCENES

St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Canton Tower (Supported by **that's**)

This past St. Patrick's Day, the world's most notable landmarks were lit up in green and the Canton Tower in Guangzhou was no exception. With support from the Irish consulate and Tourism Ireland, the seventh edition of St. Patrick's Day at the Canton Tower, hosted by Canton Tower and co-hosted by *That's PRD*, celebrated Irish cultural heritage with a little help from the city's Irish diaspora. This year, the festival featured Irish bands and bagpipe players, as well as performances by Chinese Yao and Zhuang ethnic dancers. Other highlights included snacks, soft drinks, Irish whisky and a camping experience, all while the Canton Tower was illuminated in green.



Body Pump at CaptainV Room (Supported by **that's**)

On March 11, readers showed up from across the PRD to lift, lunge, squat and flex their way through the first CaptainV Room fitness event with *That's PRD*. Trainers Lawrence and BM guided the class through a demanding set of exercises that worked nearly every muscle of the body. Sponsor Maik's Gourmet provided the perfect cure for exhaustion in wholesome, delicious snacks, while SZUMMER PRIDE brought supporters of LGBTQI equality to the event in preparation for the June beach party that kicks off this year's Pride.



BOA Lounge Soft Open (Supported by **that's**)

BOA Lounge & Club added their particular shine to the Sea World nightlife scene with a soft opening party and concept introduction on March 3. Beautiful people, beautiful food and beautiful music set the standard for what guests can expect at this "perfect blend of Japanese dietary culture and French service art." Look for some amazing nights of music, seafood and the finer luxuries of life in this gorgeous new concept.



Ecuador Consulate and China Southern Airlines Celebrate Women's Day (Supported by **that's**)

To honor women on International Women's Day, the Consulate General of Ecuador in Guangzhou, along with Proecuador, the consulate's commercial office, and China Southern Airlines, launched a campaign called 'Let the Aromas of Ecuador Engage You to a Memorable Flight.' As part of the promotion, more than 5,000 roses and fresh gypsophila were arranged inside Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport. What's more, China Southern passengers were treated to coffee varieties from the Andes and Galapagos regions. The 2016 and 2017 editions of this campaign received wide recognition and acclaim, thus creating stronger commercial and cultural ties between Ecuador and China.



Shark Celebrates Three Years (Supported by **that's**)

On Saturday, March 10, Shark hosted its three-year anniversary with a party climaxing in the awarding of generous lucky draw prizes. Miss Li was duly honored with the award for Best Mask of the Night, off to enjoy a night's stay in a Club Junior Suite with Exclusive Club Level Access in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Even more exciting was the prize awarded to Anastasia, as the first prize winner of the lucky draw: a pair of round-trip tickets to Venice! We wish Shark many more years of serving some of the finest seafood in Shenzhen's Futian District.



She's Mercedes at GCross (Supported by **that's**)

March is a time of rebirth, with new warmth and grace as the creatures of the earth and sky emerge into a sunny spring. In this hospitable time, Peng Feng Benz held a special event at GCross on March 10 celebrating women's versatility, tenacity and charm under the theme of 'She's Mercedes.' Attitude prepared exquisite afternoon tea for all participants attending the event, held in the GCross fitness center.



PRD FOCUS



From March 6-8, students at The British School of Guangzhou performed the popular musical *Grease*. Audiences were dazzled as the students sang, danced and generated roars of laughter for what turned out to be a very successful show.



Since 2015, the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing of Dubai (DTCM) has been devoted to creating romantic travel packages. On March 14, or the so-called 'White Valentine's Day,' DTCM debuted a series of thematic tours during a media conference at LN Hotel Five, Guangzhou. Visit dubaitourism.cn for more information.



Bupa brought world-class healthcare services to customers in Guangdong this past March. The leading international healthcare group intends to set high standards of health and care for local customers accessing its first integrated medical center in China. Bupa's wholly-owned medical center is located on the third floor of GT Land Autumn Plaza in Guangzhou's CBD.



Over 3,000 restaurants in 150 countries participated in the *Goût de/Good France* event to celebrate French gastronomy. This event, orchestrated by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and Chef Alain Ducasse, is inspired by Auguste Escoffier, who launched the 'Dîners d'Épiculture' (Epicurean Dinners) initiative in 1912: the same menu, on the same day, in several world cities, for as many guests as possible.



A brand new luxury resort – LN Dongfang Hotel, Shaoguan – opened on February 7 in the town of Daqiao, a part of Ruyuan Yao Autonomous County in northern Guangdong's Shaoguan city. Owned by Guangzhou Lingnan International Hotel Management Co., it boasts natural hot springs and beautiful views of the scenic Blue Mountain.



The *Portrait of Francophone Women* is an exhibition featuring photographs of some of the most renowned female figures from the French-speaking world, including actresses, singers, sportswomen and writers. Captured by Studio Harcourt, the images went on display last month at Guangzhou Museum of Contemporary Art.

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FOOD, DRINK & EVENTS IN SHENZHEN

Taco Patio

A taco wrapped in an enigma, p65



Kitchen Confidential
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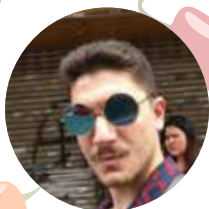


Pints of the PRD
P60

SPICY SNICKERS

By Matthew Bossons

We first heard murmurings of a spicy variety of Snickers chocolate bar several months ago from colleagues in Shanghai. Last month, we came across the bizarre snack at a Guangzhou convenience store and purchased one to taste-test at *That's PRD's* Guangzhou office. Four members of our editorial team sampled the peppery Snickers and below, they share their thoughts on the chocolate snack. Each staffer has provided a rating from one to five chillies, with one chili being the worst possible score.



Daniel Plafker

Guangzhou Editor

"All the chewy nougat goodness you'd expect from a corner store candy bar with the broad-spectrum spice of a dark, classy import. Satisfies our mid-afternoon sweet tooth and late-night cravings for *malatang* fire, all in a single bite."



Matthew Bossons

Editor-in-Chief

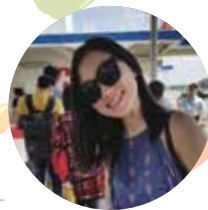
"On first bite, the chocolate stick tastes the exact same as a normal Snickers bar, but as you chew, a fiery, numbing sensation works its way to the back of your throat. It's a strange combo, but it works. Think of it as the corner store candy equivalent of McDonald's French fries dipped in soft-serve ice cream."



Tristin Zhang

Senior Staff Writer

"With just one bite of the spicy Snickers, the taste of Sichuan pepper is apparent. The quirky ingredient doesn't appall my taste buds, but rather offers an enjoyable, tangy aftertaste."



Katrina Shi

Digital Editor

"It tastes like they put fennel, star anise and pepper into a chocolate bar. Over the course of my life thus far, this is the second worst thing I have ever eaten, after five-kernel mooncake."



GRAPE VINE

THE SCANDALOUS SCOOP

We're Digging:



Swanky, spanking-new **BOA** in Sea World blending Japanese cuisine with French service and high-end clubbing; **Órale** (see page 63) spicing up the local Mexican food scene one taquito at a time; Snicker's new(ish) spicy chocolate bar; and another swell Shenzhen speakeasy – this one in a massage parlor – from the folks who brought us **Barber Shop**.

We're Done with:



Saying goodbye to nightlife destinations we both loved (**Sector**, **Viva Shekou**) and kinda liked – looking at you, **Lili Marleen**; an end to Starbucks' short-lived BOGO promotion last month; and food delivery drivers feeling the burn with Shenzhen's strictest traffic crack-down yet.



OLDIE BUT GOODIE

Kong

Inside megacities like Shenzhen, views, like sunlight, come at a premium. Therein lies the appeal of Kong. With an entire westward-facing wall lined in glass, this 38th-story cafe gives a rare feeling of spaciousness in the crowded city.

From uncomfortably low window seats, we spot two children pulling a flimsy white kite in the shadowed space between two apartment buildings. In another direction, grade school students, still in their uniforms, are visible dribbling and shooting on a fenced-in court.

The view is so good it's almost voyeuristic. But basketball games and kite-flying aren't what we're here for. Instead we take in the sky greedily as the sun, a coppery disc, sinks slowly towards a distant shoreline.

It turns a deep red before being abruptly swallowed by a thick bank of smog. Phone-wielding watchers lining the window turn away, disappointed. There will be no sunset snaps today.

Luckily, Kong offers comfort during these dark times in the form of slightly over-priced refreshments.

The Earl Grey mousse (RMB35) is a delicate gray mass concealing milk tea-soaked cake within, while a showy Totoro roll cake (RMB35) filled with grapefruit-flavored cream

bears the face of everyone's favorite cuddly cat creature.

Cold brew coffee (RMB38) and lattes (RMB36) are available, but instead we choose a pour-over brew of Volcano beans, priced at RMB38.

It's as strong and smooth as advertised ("Preferred by men," a staff member said), a welcome pick-me-up after a long day spent indoors.

Open daily 9am-10.30pm; Rm. 3801, Bldg A, Xintiandi Century Business Center, Shixiabei Er Jie, Futian District 福田区石厦北二街新天世纪商务中心A座 3801室 (2361 8807)



KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL

The Drunk Drummer

Tony Avila was a longtime Guangzhou expat that formerly worked with The Brew, Hooley's, the Panyu Tavern and the now-defunct Tomatoes. He is currently bumming around Thailand.



On outrageous bar behavior...

"I once saw a group of 20 men with weapons arrive at a Panyu bar to fight with another group of roughly 20 men. They had returned to the bar after an earlier scuffle and the two ringleaders were in each other's faces. Out of nowhere comes the foreign manager and he begins berating them in Cantonese. To this day, I have no idea what he said to them, but he defused the situation and there was no fight."

On live music...

"One time, we purposely got a drummer completely sloshed before he had to go play a last-minute gig. I didn't see the performance, but from what I heard it was an epic night. At one point, the guy was apparently standing on his drum set."

On bar names...

"I often joke that if I owned a bar or restaurant it would be called 'No Discounts.'"

WHAT'S ON WAIMAI

Kowloon Cafe

Considered the forerunner of present-day Hong Kong 'tea restaurants', *bing sutt*, 'ice rooms' in English, started in Canton and proliferated in Hong Kong in the 1960s. Traditionally, a *bing sutt* is a bistro that serves cold beverages like milk tea and Western snacks like sandwiches. For a home-delivered taste of this unique mid-century phenomenon, try ordering from Kowloon Cafe.

A popular order is the cube-shaped, bite-sized French toast. The baked rice with cheese, prunes and pork steak (RMB38) also makes for an appetizing meal. Feeling like an afternoon snack? Can't go wrong with the good ol' pineapple bun (RMB15). For something to drink, why not try the 'netizen-recommended' light bulb milk tea (RMB17), which, as you've probably guessed, is milk tea

served in a light bulb-shaped container.

The popular restaurant has over seven branches across the city, so rest assured that you'll find one in your hood.

Price: RMB30-50

Good for: Western food with a Hong Kong twist

Search for: 九龙冰室 *jiulong bingshi*

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PINTS OF THE PRD

A Look at Our Region's Diverse Craft Beers

Paulaner Weissbier

Paulaner is known around the world for its premium quality wheat beer. In its Shenzhen brewery, brew masters from the venerable German brand use wheat malt in a unique yeast suspension process. The result is a slightly cloudy, consistent brew with abundant notes of banana and golden malt.

ABV: 5.6%

Bitterness: 12IBU

Cost: RMB48 per 300-milliliter glass

Where to purchase: Paulaner Brauhaus (Shenzhen and Guangzhou)



Rich Kat Sesame Milk Stout

The Shenzhen-based brewers offer up a comforting dessert beer with this mild sud. It's filling and not too boozy (4.0ABV), perfect for sipping at the end of a long day or after a light meal. The sesame flavor is not strongly pronounced, but produces a little sparkle on the tongue that balances the stout's heaviness.

ABV: 4.0%

Bitterness: 17IBU

Cost: RMB40 per pint (American) 473 millimeters

Where to purchase: Evil Duck (Shenzhen)

Blueberry Chocolate Milkshake Baltic Porter

A smooth and strong porter, the Blueberry Chocolate Milkshake Baltic Porter at Bravo is brewed with oats and lactose sugar and conditioned atop heaps of blueberry puree, Madagascar vanilla beans and cocoa nibs. This beer is the perfect post-meal drink and we reckon it would pair decidedly well with a slice of cheese cake.

ABV: 8%

Bitterness: 30IBU

Cost: RMB55 per 473-milliliter glass

Where to purchase: Bravo Brewing (Guangzhou)



Bionic Ale

Bionic Brew's namesake ale is the Shenzhen brewery's first and favorite American pale ale. It's lighter than an IPA, with a low bitterness (28IBU), the full flavor of its Belgian malt and a mild sweetness that reminds Bionic's founder of the muscadine berries of his Alabama youth.

ABV: 5.6%

Bitterness: 28IBU

Cost: RMB40 per 473-millimeter glass

Where to purchase: Bionic Brew, Dolores Park, Chills, Monkey Bar and (soon) The Evil Duck (Shenzhen)



Sassy Lassy

Brewer Leo Luo takes inspiration from the seasons when crafting new beers, and gave this light, fragrant brew a Chinese name meaning "flowers blooming in summer." His American assistant found that a bit too poetic for the beer-drinking crowd and rechristened it with a name that's proven as popular as this moderately balanced (45IBU) IPA.

ABV: 6.5%

Bitterness: 45IBU

Cost: RMB40 per 500-milliliter glass

Where to purchase: Cheer Bar (Dongguan)

Angry Alien Double IPA

Riffing off the alien that shares initials with E.T.'s Eriq and Terry, this potent double IPA is out-of-this-world on the bitter spectrum (110IBU). But tart citrus notes around the edge and a full-frontal spice profile help make this brew really enjoyable. The eponymous alien may have been angry at all the flavorless brews he found, but in this, he found a beer to phone home about.

ABV: 8.6%

Bitterness: 110IBU

Cost: RMB50 per 473-millimeter glass

Where to purchase: E.T., The Evil Duck and (soon) NBeer (Shenzhen); Rozz-Tox and Topsy (Guangzhou); Kapok (Foshan); Alien (Hong Kong)



JUICY SQUARED

Almost Home Again

By Adam Robbins

The Place

Having a bad day? Alienated in the suburbs and despairing of your China project? Juicy Squared, now available in Longhua's ICO Mall, is the familiar Western refuge you need.

With only one rice dish on the menu (a cheesy gratin, RMB48) the entrees of the cafe are decidedly foreign-facing, with the sandwiches, steaks, pasta and breakfast starches that expats often miss. Especially in the northern reaches of the city, that's a welcome change. Leather-style booths, walls of artificial plants and a books-and-deer interior scheme complete the feeling of (almost) home.

The Food

We were genuinely surprised that the combo of black tea and "cheese cover" (RMB30)

actually work well together. The touch of salt in the cream cheese topping balances well with the sweetened tea.

The grilled sirloin steak (RMB69) is acceptable, especially if you're craving red meat. It's tender and carries the taste of the mildly sweet pepper sauce. It's not the quality you'll find at the new steakhouses of the CBD, but it's served with a respectable medley of onions, peppers, corn, potatoes and even some al dente pasta, if you feel like carb-loading.

French fries (RMB26) are the thick kind you'll find elsewhere – but like the other dishes we tried, average ingredients are handled here with admirable care and skill. The honey-mustard sauce is a nice option, keeping with the sweet theme of most dishes.

Untried but intriguing is a menu of all-day breakfast, with pancakes (RMB46),

bacon, eggs and sausages that promise to cheer up any homesick heart. We did indulge in a waffle with bananas and walnuts (RMB53). It's adorable and certainly big enough to share, with fresh fruit, candied walnuts (of course) and quite respectable vanilla ice cream. If the waffle isn't as crisp as homemade, the batter has a clean bite that serves as an excellent base.

The Vibe

There's a certain place in our heart for a cafe that plays The Ditty Bops, a sweet-voiced female duo who – no joke – released an album about a cat running for president. If Juicy Squared lacks an actual cat theme, the spirit is there in the (sometimes) mellow music, sweet drinks, and Western-friendly dishes that invite friends to set down their shopping bags and reconnect.



Price: RMB100

Who's going: Longhua shoppers, homesick expats

Good for: Familiar Western favorites

Nearest metro: Qinghu Station (Exit D) 16 minutes

Open daily 10am-10pm. ICO Shopping Mall, Yuechang Center, East Central Second Road Cultural Plaza, Longhua New District 东环二路文化广场粤商中心ico商场 (2377 4945)

ÓRALE

Flaut-ing Norms

By Bailey Hu

Flautas: crispy and crunchy with a chipotle tang, the taquito-like treats – along with an array of other North Mexican dishes – have found their way to Shenzhen.

They're currently being served up in a corner of Huaqiangbei so thickly clustered with retail it'd put a strip mall to shame. Hemmed in on either side by a semi-posh Chinese eatery and a portal to dozens of tiny clothing stalls, Órale dishes out authentic (also, halal) Latin cuisine in Shenzhen's tech district.

Flautas (RMB54) are a signature dish, as the restaurant sign proclaims. Stuffed with beef, the rolled-up tortillas are served underneath a salad of shredded lettuce, carrots, beets and... surely that's not mayonnaise?

"Garlic sauce," Órale co-owner Luis Arguello clarifies. The sauce turns out flavorful, an acidic counterpoint to a side of

hearty refried beans.

A compact burrito (RMB44) – peppery chicken and veggies inside a lightly toasted tortilla – puts its bland, rice-stuffed Tex-Mex cousins to shame, while the house special quesadilla (RMB57) offers satisfying slices of beef and caramelized onion.

We try a dish due to be released at Órale's grand opening in mid-April. Arguello informs us that the 'wire taco' – a more palatable



English name is in the works – requires scooping glistening cubes of beef and mushrooms into a warm tortilla.

Throughout the meal, he excuses himself several times to offer clarifications and instructions to customers. Employees are also trained to explain; on one visit, a server delivers, unprompted, a short spiel on quesadilla anatomy.

Which begs the question: can a menu that requires footnotes really catch on here?

Arguello, of course, thinks so. During Órale's short lifespan, he's seen groups of experienced diners draw in curious custom-

ers with a taste for the new.

The time may be ripe, in other words, for flautas, 'wire tacos' and more to catch on – but until then, Órale serves as a rare taste of Mexico in Huaqiangbei.

Price: RMB45-65

Who's going: Latin food lovers, office workers

Good for: authentic Mexican food, flautas

Nearest Metro: Huaqiangbei (Exit C) one minute

Open daily 11am-9pm; No. 1026, Zhonghang Beiyuan V Shangjie, Zhenhua Lu, Huaqiangbei, Futian District 福田区华强北振华路中航北苑V尚街1026号铺 (2396 4990)

YUPPIES BREWERY

All About the Beer

By Winnie Jin

Shenzhen's got craft beer fever and it shows no signs of stopping – lately, it seems like a new taproom is opening its doors almost every month. Recently, local brewer Yuppies Brewery has thrown its hat in the ring with their new location in Nanshan, right next to Raffles City.

The vibe inside is cozy and intimate, with some smooth jazz playing softly and dim, warm lighting. While the decor is modern and clean, it also has some idiosyncrasies, including two coats of arms and a wooden eagle mounted on the wall.

While Yuppies does serve food, the focal point of the brewpub is, without a doubt, the beer. The selection is robust, with five beers brewed in-house and nine more from other Chinese and foreign brewers. We tried Yuppies' own Peony Pavilion IPA (RMB 45), which was pleasantly flavorful and easy to drink due to its low IBU (that's bitterness for our readers who aren't craft beer nerds).

Prices per pint run from RMB35-60, which is comparable to most other brewpubs and taprooms around Shenzhen. Adventurous drinkers can take advantage of



a decent flight deal – Yuppies offers two different “tasting sets” for just RMB70 each.

Sometimes, when you're knocking back a few beers, you just need some good old-fashioned bar food to chase them down with. Luckily, Yuppies has that angle covered with a smorgasbord of appetizers, burgers, steak, pastas, pizzas and salads.

We kicked off our meal with the snack platter (RMB68), which included fries, chicken wings, butterfly shrimp and “nachos” (which might be more accurately described as deep-fried puff pastry). All was well besides the wings – the pinkness in the center triggered slight worries of salmonella, which thankfully proved unfounded.

The brewpub's namesake Yuppies burger (RMB55), a Big Mac-sized cheeseburger with all the usual fixings, was served with crispy crinkle-cut fries. The patty, while slightly thin, was well-seasoned and juicy, and the sesame seed bun was nicely toasted. The crinkle-cut fries, being crinkle-cut fries, were delicious.

Yuppies' vegetable pizza (RMB58) was also a solid choice. The pizza's crust was crispy and quite thick, providing a nice vehicle for the generous variety of cheesy veggies on



top. Nothing groundbreaking, but definitely a satisfying pairing with a pint or two of craft beer.

Overall, the brewpub's comfortable atmosphere and respectable beer selection make it a decent spot to bring a friend for happy hour if you're in the area.

Price: RMB90-120

Who's going: Craft beer enthusiasts, Shenzhen University students, high tech/software industry park professionals

Good for: Solid beers and the usual snacks
Nearest metro: Nanshan Station (Exit D) 16 minutes

Open daily 12pm-2am. No. 3022 Chuangye Road, Nanshan District, 南山区创业路3022号. (180-2766 9897)





TACO PATIO

A Taco Wrapped in an Enigma

By Paul Barresi



The Place

Adored the world over, Mexican cuisine is loved for its flavors, spices, aromas and diversity. Sharing some important characteristics with Chinese gastronomy, it's slowly making waves here as well. Riding that wave is Taco Patio. From humble but brief origins as a stand in Baishizhou, Taco Patio now offers outdoor dining as part of Sea World Plaza's Enigma Bar. With decorations showing pride in the chef's Mexican culture, there is definitely something warm, inviting and authentic about eating here.

The Food

We started the night with chips & guacamole (RMB65). The chips were crunchy, the guac was thick, and best of all, it had a delicious tang and a fiery undercurrent. For even more heat, the beef enchiladas (RMB90) were served in a creamy pepper-infused sauce, though beware: they are particularly fragile. The vegetable quesadillas (RMB70) were composed of a blend of diced pineapple, onions, cilantro and red pepper bedded on flour tortillas and a rather generous helping of cheese.

The highlight was the taco *al pastor* (RMB68 for four; RMB25 for one). Unlike their hard shell Tex-Mex counterpart, these were served on softer corn tortillas. With a tart *salsa verde* to compliment the pineapple tucked inside, the *pastor* taco was completed by spit-roasted pork cooked with an original spice blend.

The Vibe

Typically packed on weekends, we found the middle of the week to be relatively quiet. Adding atmosphere, patrons can listen to a live band, though when they are not on, the typical hits of the day play. What makes this authentic *restaurante mexicano* further stand out are its two distinct sides: by day, hungry diners can treat themselves to unpretentious cooking in a family-friendly environment. Partiers, arriving long after the sun has come down, will find salvation in the all-night kitchen – the perfect way to end one of those “only in China” nights.

Price: RMB25-150

Who's going: festive families, boys on a bender

Good for: Latin lovers, satisfying your “drunchies”

Nearest metro: Sea World Station (Exit A) three minutes

Open Mon-Thu 6pm-2am, Fri 6pm-3am, Sat 12pm-3am, Sun 12pm-2am;
Shop 6, 1/F, Haibin Commercial Center, Haibin Garden, 9 Xinghua Lu, Shekou Industrial Area, Nanshan 南山区蛇口工业区兴华路9号海滨花园海滨商业中心一层6商铺 (2667 7744)



WRECKING BALL BY XPATS

Wreck Room

By Bailey Hu



Built on the ashes of the former New Orleans Kitchen in Futian, Wrecking Ball's name seems thematically appropriate.

Inside, while trumpet chandeliers have been swapped out for fashion-forward Edison bulbs, the plain black booths and tables remain.

The menu will look familiar to anyone who frequents Xpats establishments in the CBD and by Honey Lake. As with its predecessors, Wrecking Ball offers Western drinks and dishes for reasonable prices.

Asahi and Budweiser are available on draft for RMB25 and 20 a serving, respectively. A more upscale option comes in the form of four Brewdog craft beers, all canned.

The Elvis Juice (RMB25) adds grapefruit

to IPA for a bitter yet refreshing mix that goes down easy. The Dead Pony Club (RMB20) is lighter in alcohol but still tastes bright and hoppy, while the palatable Kingpin lager (RMB20) and Punk IPA (RMB25) round out the quartet.

Cocktails are slightly more expensive, with martinis going for RMB45 each. We sip on an uninspired chocolate one while eyeing the glass of Grey Goose on the menu, which sells for the same price.

For food, we heartily enjoy saucy smoke-house ribs (RMB85 per half rack), which are worth the wait: they achieve fall-off-the-bone status without being too soft. The accompanying steak fries are well-seasoned, as are two florets of broccoli.

A veggie lovers pizza (RMB68) featuring more broccoli, carrots and olives atop a tor-

tilla crust tastes both fresh and light, making it more snack than sustenance.

By contrast, the Korean fried chicken (RMB48 per half chicken) is a letdown, the heavy crust defying our expectations of a thin, crispy bite.

Still, at this price range we'd gladly visit again – unless, that is, the wall-sized mural of a wrecking ball next to Shenzhen's skyline proves prescient.

Price: RMB20-50 per drink
Who's going: Xpats fans, budget drinkers
Good for: cheap craft beer, American classics
Nearest metro: Huanggang Village (Exit E), six minutes

Open daily, 11am-11pm Mon-Sat, 11am-10pm Sun; No. 17, Huanggang Liu Jie, Huanggang Village, Futian District 福田区皇岗村皇岗六街17号商铺 (2266 4508)



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● BAT Electronic Music Festival Rave



The first BAT Electronic Music Festival comes to northeast Shenzhen on April 14 and 15. The two-day music extravaganza brings two big stages, three themes, 600 stage lighting devices, 16 laser light fixtures, 15 pyrotechnic devices and 15 multicolored paper cannons. The lineup includes many guys from the top of scene like Oliver Heldens, DVBS, Borgeous, Bassjackers, Datsik and Tomorrowland DJs Yves V and KIIDA. The organizers promise it will be the finest electronic music festival of 2018.

Apr 14-15, 2.30pm; RMB380-1,180. Shenzhen Universiade Center, 3001 Longxiang Dadao, Longgang District, 龙岗区龙翔大道3001号 (www.247tickets.com)

● Daniel Powter Concert



Daniel Powter, the Canadian who stormed the European charts in 2005 with his single 'Bad Day' (from his self-titled release) tours China to recapture the magic. His latest album, the melodic and poppy *Turn on the Lights* may have been more than five years past, but the crooner is showing his spunk with a recent single ('Delicious') that brings fans back for another taste.

Sun Apr 22, 8pm; RMB480 presale RMB580 door RMB880 VIP. A8 Live, 2/F, A8 Music Mansion, 1002 Keyuan Lu, Nanshan District, 南山区科园路1002号A8音乐大厦2层 (135-0281 2815)

● OVUM Set

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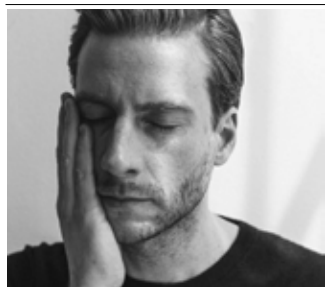
Tokyo's four-piece instrumental rock band has toured the world since 2006, but their European tour of 2014 launched them in a new direction. The rockers took a radical change toward more expressive "metal-oriented instrumental rock," with a heavier and more aggressive approach built onto their core sound. The result is a hard-driving performance that's reinvigorating old fans and gathering new ones as they launch their China tour.

Sat Apr 21, 8.30pm; RMB100 presale RMB120 door. B10 Live, Building C2, North Area, 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 (b10live.taobao.com)

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We're giving away tickets for both featured B10 Live concerts! Message our official WeChat account (ThatsShenzhen) three days before the show and tell us why you should win!

● Maximilian Hecker: Sea of Silence Concert



The German singer returns to Shenzhen, delivering airy and poetic pop that's been compared to Radiohead, Sigur Ros, The Verve and Nick Drake. Since his 2001 debut with *Infinite Love Songs*, the Berlin-born artist has become an East Asian favorite, with 15 concerts across the region to the melancholy delight of his many fans. Catch him on his 15-city tour of China before he drowns in his own sea of silence.

Fri Apr 27, 8pm; RMB100-380. Nanshan Cultural and Sports Center, 62 Nantou Jie, by Nanshan Da Dao, Nanshan District, 南山区南山大道南头街62号(en.damai.cn)

● Koochewsen Concert

B10



win!

Complicated, extended music in the legacy of King Crimson and Pink Floyd are the mainstay of Koochewsen. But singer/guitarist Riyo also professes a love of '70s Japanese folk artists, covering older hits like 'Yume no Naka e' (Into the Dreams). The combination is a sometimes-nostalgic, often-psychedelic sound that will launch you out of your everyday world and into somewhere – or somewhen – far away.

Sun Apr 8, 8.30pm; RMB80 presale RMB100 door. B10 Live, Building C2, North Area, 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 (b10live.taobao.com)

Pulse

● Show Lo Crazy World Tour Concert



Show Luo – "Asia's Dance King," according to Taiwanese media – brings his skills to the Shenzhen stage for a blow-out performance. Now just as famous for his charity as for his moves, Show has won fans across the Chinese-speaking world. Come see what all the fuss is about.

Sat Apr 28, 8pm; RMB 280-1,280. Shenzhen Bay Sports Center, 3001 Binhai Dadao, Nanshan District 南山区滨海大道3001号 (en.damai.cn)

● Piazzolla's Tango on Guitar and Accordion Concert



Slovakian guitarist Miriam Rodriguez Brullova collaborates with accordionist Michal Cervienka to present *neuvo tango* and other works from Argentina's Piazzolla. The composition used extended harmonies, dissonance and counterpoint in his revolutionary tunes, venturing into extended compositional forms that fused the popular form with jazz and classical traditions.

Tue May 1, 8pm; RMB 80-280. Shenzhen Concert Hall, 2016 Fuzhong Yi Lu, Futian 福田区福中一路2016号 (8284 1888)

● Fall Out Boy: Mania Tour Concert



Hailing from Chicago, the American alt-rockers have cemented their position as one of rock's biggest-selling bands, backed by their arsenal of top-ranked hits and albums. Now the group is back, bigger and better than ever with their latest album, *Mania*. It marks the band's fourth chart-topping album and their sixth consecutive top 10 on Billboard.

Fri May 4, 8pm; RMB380-1,280. Shenzhen Bay Sports Center, 3001 Binhai Dadao, Nanshan District, 南山区滨海大道3001号 (www.247tickets.com)



Pulse

● That's PRD X Wine & Etc Wine Party



The party is back! Guests will enjoy a delicious dinner buffet and free-flow red and white wine while networking with their peers. *That's PRD* teams up with the experts at Wine & Etc for a night of great music, great lucky draw prizes and great conversations. RSVP by scanning the QR code for RMB380 (early bird), or RMB450 at the door... if any spots remain.

Sat Apr 14, 7-10pm; RMB380 prepay RMB450 door. Blue, 3/F, The Venice Hotel, 9026 Shennan Lu, by Qiaocheng Xi Jie, 南山区华侨城深南路9026号威尼斯酒店二楼3楼(136-0264 0769)

● Westwood Meat Platter



It's time to savor the carnivore's life. Fire & Smoke applies their magic to an assortment of the best of Westwood's meat. Enjoy a selection of smoked chicken, beef short rib, pork ribs, and prime rib. It's a feast for the sharing at RMB1,380. Ongoing; RMB1,380. Westwood Fire&Smoke, NL119, Block 2, Nanshan Mix City, Shennan Road, Nanshan District 大道9668号华润万象天地NL119铺2栋 (8668 7399)

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● Little Wizards Puppet Show



Award-winning puppeteers of Bulgaria's State Puppet Theatre Varna arrive for two endearing shows. With a mix of actors both human and fabric, they tell the tale of that strange old man down the lane, the one who never smiles, who dismisses all the joys of the world. Why is he so grumpy and what can change his ways? Bring out the little ones to find out why this family-friendly spectacle won awards for its acting, direction and set design.

Fri Apr 6, 10:30am & 3pm; RMB80-200. Nanshan Cultural and Sports Center, 62 Nantou Jie, by Nanshan Da Dao, Nanshan District, 南山区南山大道南头街62号 (en.damai.cn)

● MimiRichi: Paper World Clown Theater



The clowns of MimiRichi have perfected the art of "plastic comedy," molding their faces and bodies into a cutting, hilarious humor that appeals to young and old. After tours of the world and enough awards to fill a barrel, the troupe visits Shenzhen with a deceptively simple premise: a massive sheet of white paper. But as with all great forms of art, the incredible freedom of that blank page becomes the stuff of wonders. Take the whole family to enjoy the improvisation and comedy of this delightful trio.

Sat Apr 14, 10:30am; RMB60-200. Shenzhen Children's Palace, 2002 Fuzhong Yi Lu, Futian District, 福田区福中一路2002号 (en.damai.cn)

Pulse

● Reggae Beachfest #4 Party



Shenzhen's biggest reggae tradition – yes, we have one – is back at a new beachside location. Shenzhen's top curators of the Jamaican beat have a massive sound system to play with, out in the open air of Xichong Beach. Loney Bar might offer a second stage indoors, and there may even be a special guest coming down from Shanghai. Follow WeChat account 'muzikbox' for more details.

Sat Apr 21, 4pm-4am; RMB68 early bird RMB88 presale RMB120 regular. Loney Bar, Xichong Beach, Xichong Tourist Area, Longgang District 龙岗区西涌旅游区西涌海滨浴场 (WeChat ID: muzikbox)

● Tarde Caliente Dance/Party



Reserve one of 15 spots for a 4pm Zumba class with a dancer from Russia ranked among the nation's Top 100. Or just arrive at 5pm for the open party, with drinks and more of those infectious Latin beats. This is the first event hosted by Longhua Boys, organizing get-togethers that don't require folks up north to travel across the city for some fun. If you're anywhere near Longhua New District, this is your best chance to enjoy some local hospitality.

Sat Apr 14, 4-5pm (Zumba), 5-10pm (party); RMB50 Zumba class (includes one drink), RMB30 drink. Battle Monster, 101-102 Happy Town Phase II Clubhouse, Qingquan Road 清泉路幸福城二期会所地铺101-102 (tryclearcut.com)



● CATS Musical



Tickets are almost sold out for Andrew Lloyd Webber's feline musical, one of the most celebrated and record-breaking shows in the world. Songs like 'Memory' are deeply imprinted on many of us and characters like Rum Tum Tugger, Mr Mistoffelees, Macavity, Jennyanydots, Old Deuteronomy, Grizabella and Skimbleshanks run through our imagination. Savor the larger-than-life spectacle once again, or discover the magic for the first time.

Apr 5-21, 7:30pm; RMB380-1,180. Nanshan Cultural and Sports Center, 62 Nantou Jie, by Nanshan Da Dao, Nanshan District, 南山区南山大道南头街62号 (en.damai.cn)

● Mi Carmen Flamenca Dance



With *Mi Carmen Flamenca*, Antonio Andrade and his Andalusian Flamenco Company present an adaptation of Bizet's *Carmen* in a production that incorporates elements of jazz, Arabic music, salsa and flamenco. After all, *Carmen* takes place in Sevilla, the cradle of Flamenco. *Mi Carmen Flamenca* reshapes the classic opera, both in music and dance, recreating some traditional flamenco moments and exploring the spirit of a new flamenco.

Sat Apr 28, 8pm; RMB180-680. Shenzhen Children's Palace, 2002 Fuzhong Yi Lu, 福田区福中一路2002号 (247tickets.com)

HOTEL NEWS

THE ST. REGIS SHENZHEN

Introduces a New Executive Sous Chef

Mauro Zanusso has been appointed Executive Sous Chef of The St. Regis Shenzhen. Originally from Biella, in the Alpine foothills of northern Italy, Chef Mauro boasts over 20 years experience in cooking. His early days were spent in London's first Italian Michelin star restaurant, learning the art of risotto and building on the recipes of Gualtiero Marchesi, the founder of modern Italian cuisine. His career has since brought him across the Mediterranean, to Brazil and to the Four Seasons. After a time with La Veduta at St. Regis Osaka, his China debut now brings Chef Mauro's distinctive Italian cuisine to the PRD.



CROWNE PLAZA

Charms with Café 2011 Catering

This April and May, look to Crowne Plaza Shenzhen Longgang City Centre for a fresh new catering experience from Café 2011. With an extensive a la carte menu, international buffets, fair prices and choice delicacies, you can enjoy a lunchtime retreat to break up your busy day or a relaxing dinner with friends after a hard day's work. The performance of the chefs in the open kitchen will delight, as will the themed Weekend Buffet Dinner offering new surprises every week.



PRD
that's

×

WINE & ETC.

The party is back! Guests will enjoy a delicious dinner buffet and free-flow red and white wine, while networking with their peers. That's PRD teams up with the experts at Wine & Etc to bring you a night of great music, great prizes and great conversations. RSVP for only RMB380, or RMB450 at the door ... if any spots remain.



Scan the QR code above for your ticket, for more questions you may contact Maggie at 13602640769 or Shumin at 13902581631.

This event will SELL OUT, so book early!

**Time: 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm,
Saturday April 14, 2018**

Venue:

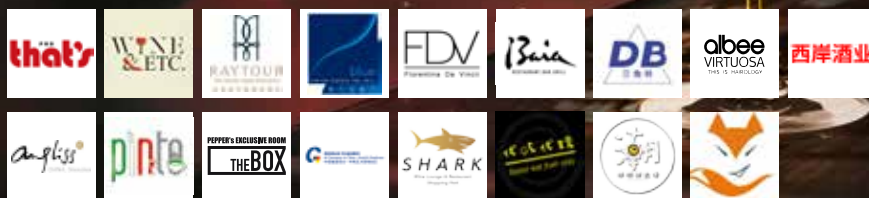
Blue Italian Seafood & Grill Restaurant, 3/F, The Venice Raytour Hotel Shenzhen 南山区深南大道 9026 号, 深圳威尼斯睿途酒店 3 楼意大利餐厅

Dinner buffet, Free flow of red and white wine, Live DJ, Endless lucky draw prizes, for only **RMB380***

*Prepay. Cost at the door is RMB450

Dress code:

White shirt and red lips



HONG KONG & MACAU CALENDAR

APR 6-8
FRI-SUN



HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series, 10am; HKD797-16,699. Hong Kong Stadium (hksevns.com)
The three-day extravaganza of international rugby revelry kicks off with a range of new activities. Beyond the dozens of teams competing in the 40,000-seat stadium, there are e-sports to play, a fanwalk of food, drinks and street performances, a junior ninja warrior obstacle course and more. UB40 performs at the kickoff concert on Thursday, April 5, at 8pm.

APR 10-12
TUE-THU



Asia-Pacific Business Forum, 9am-5pm; HKD300
The Asia-Pacific Business Forum is kicking off this month in Hong Kong at Pok Fu Lam's Cyberport. Bringing together luminaries from the fields of business, development, economics, governance and tech, the gathering will focus on how private sector-led innovation can drive sustainable development in the region. Those interested can register to attend at apbf.cyberport.hk.

APR 16
MON



HK

WMC I-1 World Muaythai Grand Extreme, 7pm; HKD50-1,000. KITEC Star Hall (hkticketing.com)
Hong Kong's trusted purveyors of "the art of eight limbs" delivers a fight night with some of the world's finest champions. Fighters from Russia, Romania, USA, Brazil, Hong Kong and beyond all pit their best against one another. Expect more than 10 heart-pounding bouts over the course of three-and-a-half hours.

APR 21
SAT



Electric Wonderland: Paul Oakenfold – Spectrum World Tour, 10pm. W Hong Kong (852-3717 2222)
Witness the 'No. 1 DJ in the World' (twice so acclaimed) and three-time Grammy-nominated pillar of the EDM community. Oakenfold's legacy has endured for decades, his music-making revolutionizing dance music time and again. This is your chance to see the legend, live.

APR 24
TUE



The Script, 8pm; HKD580-1,280. KITEC Star Hall (hkticketing.com)
Ireland's hit trio are back in Hong Kong after a six year absence, this time with the catchy, sardonic single 'Rain' from their latest album, *Freedom Child*. With sales topping 29 million, four platinum singles and three multi-platinum albums, The Script is officially a phenomenon. Get your tickets now before they're sold out.

MO

APR 17-18
TUE-WED



Bruno Mars 24k Magic World Tour 2018, 8pm/8.30pm; MOP688-1,988. The Venetian Macao (macauticket.com)

The megastar has taken the world by storm since he first appeared on the scene in late 2009, crooning out the choruses on B.O.B.'s 'Nothing on You' and Travie McCoy's 'Billionaire' before becoming a successful solo artist the following year with the chart-topping single 'Just the Way You Are.' Mars will be in Macau this month as part of his 24K Magic World Tour, which has been ongoing for nearly a year and earned him the title of 'Stubhub's Touring Act of 2017'.

APR 18
WED



Feast of Pak Tai, all day. Pak Tai Temple, Taipa Village
Pak Tai's birthday is on the third day of the third lunar month, which falls on April 18 this year. In Chinese folk religion, Pak Tai defeated the Demon King, who was terrorizing the universe. As a reward, he was given the title 'Superior Divinity of the Deep Dark Heaven' and 'True Soldier of the North.' A feast for Pak Tai will be offered on this day and Cantonese opera will be performed in a bamboo theater outside the temple.

APR 25
WED



Special Percussion Concert with Eriko Daimo, 8pm; MOP120. Dom Pedro V Theatre (macauticket.com)
One of the world's best marimba (a xylophone-like instrument) artists, Daimo has excelled in numerous prestigious competitions. The Japanese musician has performed in more than 20 countries with some of the world's most renowned orchestras. As an educator, she has given concerts and masterclasses at music institutions such as the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and the Paris Conservatory.

APR 27-MAY 31



The 29th Macao Art Festival, for specific programs, please visit www.icm.gov.mo
The 29th edition of Macao Arts Festival (MAF), themed 'origin', will launch this month with a wide range of topics to broaden perspectives and encourage viewers to think deeply about life. With 26 captivating programs that fall into seven categories (thematic highlights, groundbreakers, cross-disciplinary creations, family entertainment, quintessence of tradition, concerts and exhibitions), the MAF is the perfect occasion for audiences to appreciate classics refined through time.

UNTIL MAY 13
TUE-SUN



Women Artists 1st International Biennial of Macao, 10am-7pm; free. Macao Museum of Art
Art works by a total of 28 female artists from Macao and Lusophone countries and regions are exhibited at this international biennale of arts dedicated to women artists. Pieces on display will include paintings, engravings, drawings, ceramics and more.

LAN TING Unveils Dim Sum Treats

Throughout April, Lan Ting offers traditional dim sum from the beautiful vantage of the Hilton Shenzhen Futian's 23rd floor. Savor steamed and hand-crafted delicacies a la carte weekdays 11.30am to 2pm, or enjoy all you can for RMB168 during weekends and holidays, 9.30am to 2pm. Creative versions of favorites await, like fresh abalone and shrimp dumplings, deep-fried glutinous dumplings with shrimp, pork buns in pumpkin broth, steamed beef tripe with bean paste. Enjoy discounts when you prepay through their official WeChat shop (ID: 'hiltonshenzhenfutian') or call 8435 6555.

23/F, Hilton Shenzhen Futian, 1003 Shennan Da Dao, Futian District 福田区深南大道1003号深圳大中华希尔顿酒店23楼 (2130 8888)



THE TERRACE Offers Tasty, Crispy Prawns

One of the joys of living by the ocean is the bounty of seafood that arrives fresh to our shore. The chef at The Terrace Restaurant & Bar, a native of Thailand, draws on this abundance for a hand-made treat. Fresh prawns are smothered then deep fried to achieve a crisp golden bite that preserves the tenderness within. With a serving of sweet plum sauce, it's a delicious way to whet your appetite.

No. 201, Sea World Square, 32 Taizi Lu, Shekou, Nanshan District 南山区蛇口太子路32号海上世界广场商铺(2682 9105, 2683 2775)

HARD ROCK HOTEL Invites You on a Trip Around the World

Jump on a world tour with iconic regional music and special cocktails. The international rock and roll hotel covers seven time zones each week in the level five GMT+8 Lobby Bar. Monday is dedicated to Brazil, Tuesday to Thailand and other parts of Asia, Wednesday is for old Canton, Thursday swings to African beats, Friday gets the flavor of New York jazz, and the weekend goes Latin with the flavors of Spain and Mexico on Saturday and Sunday. Get into the groove with drink specials and music to take you away from it all.

5/F, Hard Rock Hotel, 9 Mission Hills Dadao, Guanlan, Longhua New District 龙华新区观澜高尔夫大道9号(3395 2888)



T'ANG COURT AT THE LANGHAM, SHENZHEN Presents an All-New Menu

Spring is in the air as The Langham, Shenzhen's Executive Chinese Chef Tsang Chiu King presents an all-new menu at T'ang Court. After months of exploration and preparation, Chef Tsang is introducing new iterations of traditional Cantonese delicacies, while bringing back signature dishes like fried rice with Silkie chicken, which won a gold award from the Hong Kong Tourism Board in 2011. Guests looking for an intimate dining experience can choose one of T'ang Court's six private dining rooms. Elegant and exclusive, these discreet havens are the ideal venues for business dinners, a romantic rendezvous or family gatherings.

3/F, The Langham, Shenzhen, 7888 Shennan Dadao 福田区深南大道7888号深圳东海朗廷酒店3层 (8828 9888 8923)

FEATURED LISTINGS



Scan for complete listings

Want to see all restaurants, hotels and more in Shenzhen? Check out www.thatsmags.com or download our app by scanning the QR code.

EDUCATION

American International School, No. 82, Gongyuan Lu, Shekou, Nanshan District (8619 4750)
南山区蛇口公园路82号青少年活动中心

Green Oasis School
No 4030, Shennan Middle Road, Tianmian, Futian District. (8399 6712) admission@greenoasis.org.cn www.greenoasis.org.cn
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. 11 Longyuan Lu, Taiyuan Sub-District, Nanshan District (2666 1000, 2606 6968). admission@isnsz.com www.isnsz.com
南山区龙园路11号

Merchiston International School, Shenzhen
No. 12 Shilongzai Road, Daliang Sub-District, Longhua District. (400 867 0177) admissions@merchiston.cn, www.merchiston.cn
深圳市龙华区大浪街道新石社区石龙仔路12号

Peninsula Montessori Kindergarten
The Peninsula one, Jin Shiji Lu, Shekou Nanshan District (2685 1266)
半岛城邦国际幼儿园 南山区蛇口东角头金世纪路1号半岛城邦一期

Quality Schools International
2/F Bitao Center, 8 Taizi Lu, Shekou, Nanshan District (2667 6031). www.shk.qsi.org
南山区蛇口太子路8号碧涛中心2楼

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 科学园区A1栋

Shekou International School
Jingshan Villas, Gongye Er Lu, Shekou, Nanshan District (2669 3669). www.sis.org.cn
南山区蛇口工业一路鲸山别墅内

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

Futian Shangri-La Hotel Shenzhen No.4088 Yitian Lu, Futian District (8628 4088).
福田区益田路4088号福田香格里拉大酒店

Four Seasons Hotel Shenzhen 138 Fuhua San Lu, Futian District (8626 8888)
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

Hardrock Hotel Shenzhen Hard Rock Cafe Shenzhen, No.9 Misson Hills Road, Shenzhen, 0755-3395 2888 深圳硬石酒店 深圳观澜高尔夫大道9号

Hilton Shenzhen Shekou Nanhai 1177, Wanghai Lu, Nanshan District
深圳蛇口希尔顿南海酒店 南山区望海路1177号 (2162 8888)

Hilton Shenzhen Futian Town B, Great China International Finance Centre, 1003 Shennan Dadao, Futian District (2130 8888)
福田区深南大道1003号大中华国际金融中心B座

JW Marriott Shenzhen No.6005 Shennan Dadao, Futian District. (2269 8888)
福田区深南大道6005号

JW Marriott Shenzhen Bao'an 8 Baoxing Lu, Baoan District (2323 8888)
深圳前海华侨城 JW 万豪酒店, 宝安区宝兴路8号

Marco Polo Shenzhen Fuhua Yi Lu, CBD, Futian District (8298 9888). www.cn.marccopolohotels.com
福田中心区福华一路

Shangri-La Hotel East of the Luohu Train Station, Jianshe Lu, Luohu District (8233 0888). www.shangri-la.com
罗湖区建设路火车站东侧

Sheraton Dameisha Resort 9 Yankui Lu, Dameisha, Yantian District (8888 6688)
盐田大梅沙盐葵路(大梅沙段)9号

St. Regis Shenzhen No.5016 Shennan Dong Lu, Luohu District (8308 8888)
深圳瑞吉酒店 罗湖区深南东路5016号

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)
福田区福华三路116号

The Venice Raytour Hotel Shenzhen No.9026, Shennan Dadao, Overseas Chinese Town, Nanshan District (2693 6888)
深圳威尼斯奢途酒店 南山区华侨城深南大道9026号

The Westin Shenzhen 9028-2 Shennan Dadao, Nanshan District (2698 8888)
www.westin.com/shenzhen 南山区深南大道9028号-2

HEALTH

HarmoniCare Women & Children's Hospital 12018 Shennan Dadao, by Nanshan Dadao (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) 南山区学府路软件产业基地4栋C座裙楼4层

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 盛唐大厦1-2层

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Medical Centre, The University of Hong Kong - Shenzhen Hospital, 1, Haiyuan 1st Road, Futian District, Shenzhen (0755-86913388)

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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 217 Chinese Overseas Scholars Venture Building, Hi-Tech Industrial Park, Nanshan District. (8635 0487) www.china.ahk.de
南山区高新科技园南区留学生创业大厦217

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

Morefoods No.1,1F, Building A, OCEAN city Garden, Shekou New Street, Nanshan District, Shenzhen (0755-8827 9078) 深圳市南山区蛇口新街澳城花园A栋一楼1号铺

SERVICED RESIDENCE

Savills Residence Daxin Shenzhen Bay 1168 Houhaijin Road, Nanshan District, Shenzhen (2685 6688) 南山区后海滨海路1168号 www.savillsresidence.com

Somerset Grandview Shenzhen No.5 Xinsha Road, Futian District, Shenzhen (400 820 1028) 福田区新沙路5号 www.ascottchina.com

FOOD & DRINK



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La Maison is a genuine French restaurant in Shekou. It has a casual but elegant family style ambience. We serve authentic home made French cuisine which we'll help you to pair with a selection of wines, beers & spirits. Come on in and enjoy whether you are a gourmet or total new to French food. Shop 108, Nantian Rose Garden, 91 Wangjia Lu, by Fuwan Lu 南山区望海路91号南海

MAN HO Restaurant-introduces Special Cantonese Dish Shenzhen Marriott Hotel Golden Bay, 33 zonglu Dadao, Peng District 2839 8888 深圳佳兆业万豪酒店 大鹏新区棕榈大道33号玫瑰花园108号 (2685 7030)

The Terrace Above Starbucks, Seaworld Plaza, Shekou, Nanshan District (2682 9105) 南山区蛇口海上世界广场2楼星巴克楼上

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS OFFERED

Shenzhen Longrun Investment Co., Ltd.

a fast-growing restaurant enterprise is looking for two foreign hostesses to join the team to greet and show hospitality to guests on behalf of the company.

Requirements

1. Ability to understand and speak basic Chinese.
2. A minimum height of 168cm.
3. A passion for communications, with a presentable image.

Monthly payments ranges from RMB 12,000 to 15,000

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For inquiries and application, please contact Ms. Hu at 13631593166 or 075522909515.

Mobile Game company business development position.

A NASDAQ listed Shenzhen based mobile game company iDreamSky is looking for an expat for one business development position, native English speaker and fluent in Mandarin a must, well versed with mobile games or business negotiation experience a plus. Responsible for looking for Western games suitable for the Chinese market and contacting the game developers. Our office is located in NanShan district, Shenzhen. If interested, please send resume to Evan at email: evan.liang@idreamsky.com

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