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that's PRD

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Editor's Note

MARCH 2018

When you picked up this month's edition of *That's PRD*, which you are now presumably holding in your sweaty hands (#southchinaheat), you'd be forgiven for thinking you accidentally snagged an issue of *Thrasher Magazine*. That's because, this month, we decided to 'take it to the streets.'

Guangzhou Editor Daniel Plafker spent last month cruising around the Pearl River Delta, linking up with some of the region's best-known skaters at 'dope' street spots, skate parks and public squares – where riders kick, push and coast alongside China's ubiquitous dancing grannies. Read his in-depth profile of the PRD's skate culture on pages 34-43.

In our City section, *That's Shanghai* Editor-in-Chief Dominic Ngai chats with scholar and filmmaker Hodan Osman Abdi about her six-part documentary *Africans in Yiwu*. Abdi's video project tells the unique and largely untold stories of Africans living in the largest small commodity market in the world: Yiwu, Zhejiang province. Learn more about the doc on pages 12-15.

To celebrate Women's Day on March 8, we decided to profile seven influential women who are making a mark on China's music industry (page 28) and take a look at the troubling education disparity between girls and boys (page 49).

Elsewhere in this issue, we share a vertigo-inducing hike in Hong Kong (page 19), profile three rockin' new albums from South China-based artists (page 32) and, as per usual, share the latest and juiciest F&B news.

Before I wrap this up, I want to take this opportunity to thank Jason Guadalajara and Sergey Sidey for fantastic images that grace the pages of our cover story this month. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

And now, folks, I bid you *adieu*.



Matthew Bossons



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CITY

African Voices with an
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DUMPLING MAKER

From Big Rig to Jiaozi Gig

By Daniel Plafker

Making dumplings is a delicate art. It requires a certain finesse and sureness of spirit; nimble, tireless fingers; resiliency, heart and indomitable culinary grace. Mr. Wang, who together with his wife runs a dumpling shop on Haizhu District's Baoye Lu, no doubt possesses these qualities in spades.

But let's face it – there are harder jobs out there. Driving a big rig loaded with ore through the Siberian borderlands in mid-winter, for one, or camping on a desert road while hauling petroleum products out of Karamay. Though, of course, Wang has done these things too.

For 13 years, the Heilongjiang native drove trucks from his hometown near the Russian border to nearly every corner of the PRC. The oilfields of Xinjiang, the grasslands of Inner Mongolia, the iron mines of Liaoning; Wang recounts the conquests of his road warrior past with a glint in his eye. "Tibet was the most beautiful," he remembers wistfully. At one point, like so many of his fellow *Dongbeiren*, he even spent a sojourn in the tropical climes of Hainan Island.

But life on the road can wear on a man. "I saw so little of my family in those years. At

a certain point, it was just time to stop driving." His wife looks over with a smile. If there's anyone who's happier than Wang with his new-found dumpling-house domesticity, complete with its apron and pink kitchen sleeves, it's her.

With savings from his career as a trucker, the pair started a small dumpling business in Baiyun District, later moving to the current Haizhu location on Baoye Lu.

They arrive at work at 8am each morning to start preparing for the lunchtime rush, working side by side to prepare fillings, roll skins and wrap dumplings. The small shop stays busy late into the night and it's easy to see why – the two make a damn good product. Wang's pan-fried dumplings especially draw a loyal following of return customers and over the course of our short visit he turned no small number of hungry regulars away for lack of stock. "Sold out again," he shrugs, with a not-so-faint note of pride.

There's no doubt that the workaday streets of Guangzhou are a far cry from Himalayan peaks and balmy Hainan beachsides, but Wang seems to like it here. "Wrapping dumplings isn't nearly as hard as driving trucks," Wang tells us.

"I make far less money doing it but the income is more reliable and the hours are steady. Most importantly I'm able to spend time with my family."

We ask him why it is that in Guangzhou, Manchurian transplants like himself seem to have a near monopoly on the dumpling trade, whereas in other cities a greater diversity of northern provinces are represented. Wang waves a floury hand dismissively. "None of those other dumpling styles are orthodox. You want authentic? Stick to the three provinces of Dongbei."

THE DIRTY DETAILS

Monthly income: RMB16,000

Days per week: 7

Hours per day: 12

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

THE BUZZ

RANDOM NUMBERS

80,000



... the approximate number of foreigners living in Guangzhou, according to an estimate released by city police last month. Authorities said more than half of foreign residents in the city hail from Europe, Japan or South Korea, while 15,000 come from the African continent. Given that this number doesn't account for visa overstayers, informal entries, or traders without official residency, it's likely the true count is higher. Police also said that while foreign residency in the city is on the rise, the number of criminal cases involving foreigners has dropped.

900



... kilograms. That's the combined weight of two unexploded WWII-era bombs that were unearthed within days of each other at a construction site in Hong Kong. The discoveries prompted back-to-back evacuations of thousands of nearby residents while authorities worked to disarm the explosives. The ordnance were relics from American airstrikes during the Japanese occupation of the city.

CITY SNAPSHOT

City Lights

Captured after dark along Shangxiajiu, a pedestrian street in Guangzhou's Liwan District, this month's featured image comes to us from Simon Haywood. Currently working as an English-language news editor and teacher at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Haywood has lived in Guangzhou for nearly four years. On the inspiration that launched his Instagram account, Haywood told *That's*: "After a day of exploring Taipei I realized I'd taken three photos all with a similar color palette, inspiring me to post photos on Instagram in groups of three, connected through color and theme. I've kept this up for three years now." See more of his work on Instagram (@sihaywood).



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

DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua

Scientists in Shanghai recently conducted the world's first ever successful monkey cloning using non-reproductive cells. The two cloned female crab-eating macaques, named Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua (after the word *zhonghua*, meaning 'Chinese nation'), were born at the Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in late December. More monkeys are also due later this year. Scan the code to see more photos of the cloned monkeys.





Baokuan / bào kuǎn / 爆款 noun. product that has been bought by many people and can be seen everywhere; something ubiquitous

A Look, I just got the new iPhone!

You're still buying iPhones? How pedestrian. They are the baokuan of phones.

A Well what phone do you use?

I don't use one. People have to fax me.

B

B

water bottle on the bus and in your office. Your friends living in Beijing and in Hainan all have the same shirt, despite never having met one another. Every Airbnb you stay in has the same dining table or couch, despite being cities apart. Both teenagers and grandmas in your neighborhood have the same pair of headphones.

Libraries' worth of material has been written on just how to design a *baokuan*. It has to be simple enough that anyone can use, practical enough to appeal to the widest range of customers and appealing enough that many would buy them. Once you have one, you can sell warehouses of the same thing to humans all over the globe.

There is no escaping *baokuan* in the age of Taobao. At any given time, there is always one *baokuan* that you see everywhere – remember selfie sticks and fidget spinners? When you feel really fed up, you can use *baokuan* disparagingly to describe something that's cheap and ubiquitous – something that everyone has and therefore is completely unremarkable.

Next time you meet a fashion blogger you hate, try calling their jacket *baokuan* and see them fly off the handle. Just don't tell them you learned it here.

Mia Li

BEHIND THE CONCRETE

Ping An IFC

When it was written of Babel that, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan will be impossible for them," that language might as well have been *putonghua*.

Ping An International Finance Centre, disappearing into the clouds of Shenzhen's stormy heavens, is just the latest, (almost) greatest in the Middle Kingdom's super-tall skyline. The second tallest tower in China serves the country's second largest insurance company, rising 115 floors and 599 meters into the sky. A needle would have put it above the Shanghai Tower, but that would have pierced the paths of passing planes and was wisely scrapped. Now a gleaming pyramid crowns the tower.

Started in late 2009 (and delayed one year when inspectors found corrosive sea sand in the concrete), in 2014 it shot up at an astonishing rate of one story every four days. Construction finished in 2016, but the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat waited until 2017 to certify it as fourth tallest in the world.

It was the second year in a row that Shenzhen had the tallest new building (and the most super-talls), in a building boom that sees China with over half the world's new

skyscrapers. Along with the Shanghai Tower, Guangzhou CTF Finance Center, Shanghai World Financial Center and Hong Kong's International Commerce Center, five of the world's 10 tallest buildings are Chinese.

But though its American architects, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, designed it to retain its sheen in the face of sea-born storms – thanks to a streamlined shape deflecting winds by 35 percent and a 1,700-ton stainless steel frame (the world's heaviest) that resists corrosion and disperses lightning strikes – it may be China's hunger for height that knocks Ping An off its pedestal. Already there are plans for a Suzhou Zhongnan Center (729 meters) and an unnamed super-tall in Shenzhen's Luohu District (739 meters) that will dwarf our giant.

So speed up the Ping An's elevators at 10 meters per second to reach the observation deck (reportedly opening on the top floor sometime in 2018) for an unobstructed view of the city before the competition arrives.

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Hodan Osman Abdi recording the theme song of *Africans in Yiwu*

Scholar and Filmmaker Hodan Osman Abdi on the Stories of Africans Living in the World's Largest Small Commodity Market

Interview by Dominic Ngai

From refrigerator magnets to Christmas tree ornaments, the city of Yiwu, Zhejiang is famous for its small commodity trade that sees billions of RMB worth of merchandise shipped to the farthest corners of the world each year. African nations are some of the city's largest trading partners, and in 2015 alone, Yiwu exported more than 48 billion *yuan* of goods to the continent.

As a result of the ever-growing trading ties between China and the region, Yiwu has for years been home to one of China's largest African communities. Local authorities estimate some 3,000

people from 50 African nations have settled in the city – though experts say the number could be 10 times as many.

Born and raised in Saudi Arabia to Somali parents, Hodan Osman Abdi first arrived here more than 12 years ago after her high school graduation. What was originally a brief visit prompted by her uncle, a longtime Yiwu resident, turned into a decade-long journey of academic pursuit that allowed her to acquire her bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees, along with a mouthful of fluent Mandarin.

Since 2016, the researcher and lecturer at Zhejiang Normal University's

Institute of African Studies (IASZNU) and her colleague Zhang Yong have been working on *Africans in Yiwu*, a six-part documentary film that features the intimate stories of 19 African residents in their home away from home.

Speaking to us by phone from her office in the city of Jinhua, Abdi walks us through the film's production process, some of the people she met along the way, and what life is like for her as an African Muslim woman living in China. Turn the page to read our conversation. ▶



Yusuph and his bride on their wedding day



Can you tell us where the idea of *Africans in Yiwu* came from? What do you hope to achieve with this project?

The idea actually came from my co-director, Zhang Yong, who did his PhD in African cinema studies. We first met through a friend at a conference a few years ago, and then reconnected at the launch of ZNU's Center for African Film and Television Research in December 2015, which was when he first told me about the idea of making a documentary about the African community in China. The following March, the project was given the green light and I was asked to be a part of it due to my connection to the African community in Yiwu, where I've lived for most of the past 12 years.

What spiked my interest in the project was the desire to increase the presence of Africans in Chinese media. As China becomes more and more globalized, diversity needs to be seen as a positive thing for people to embrace.

How did you select your interview subjects? Besides their origin (Africa) and where they currently live (Yiwu), what other qualities do they all have in common?

We started with a pool of 50 people and narrowed them down to 19 in the final cut. We have people who've lived in China from anywhere between a few months to 16 years. Throughout the two years of observations and interactions with them, we discovered a lot of commonalities between them. One of which was that they all came to China because they saw it as a rapidly developing country that offers a lot of opportunities for self development, whether it was through the acquisition of the language, gaining knowledge of the culture, or engaging in business here.

Who are some of the most memorable characters in the film?

There are quite a few. The story of Harvey is interesting, as he came to China to learn Chinese, but found himself struggling to blend in with a bunch of college-age kids in the classroom (Harvey is in his 30s). He found refuge in the city square and connected with the seniors there through the common love of singing old Chinese songs, which became an unconventional way for him to pick up the language and culture.

Another is a romantic story between a

“

As China becomes more and more globalized, diversity needs to be seen as a positive thing for people to embrace

”



Harvey (left) singing with locals



Abdi and Zhang Yong behind the lens



Zain and his family wave goodbye

yoTanzanian man named Yusuph and his Chinese wife. They'd been dating for six years, but the girl's parents only found out about their relationship when they decided to get married. At first, they faced a lot of objection, but Yusuph, who's fluent in Chinese, eventually won over his in-laws – the process from rejection to acceptance was quite touching to witness.

On the other end of the spectrum is the story of Zain, a Sudanese barbershop owner who married a young girl from an ethnic minority group. To this day, his wife's family still refuse to speak to them, which is quite painful for her, because she doesn't quite understand why her own parents would cut ties with her [because of her husband's identity]. But like all of the characters featured in the film, they're able to balance the struggles of their daily lives with the happiness. The scene with them and their son waving goodbye to us and riding off on their motorcycle is one of the most memorable and moving images of the film for me.

You're also one of the characters featured in the film. Can you tell us about your story arc?

I'm featured in the first of the six-part documentary, and the theme of that episode is 'education.' The day I graduated from my doctorate program was actually the very first day of filming. I remember there was a scene in which Zhang Yong asked about my biggest achievement since arriving in China, and I said, "Learning to drive," which is something that women aren't allowed to do in Saudi Arabia. [Note: Since September 2017, women in Saudi Arabia have been given the right to obtain drivers' licenses.]

As a Muslim black woman teaching at a leading university, I'm defying a lot of stereotypes. I'm not sure if I would be able to get to where I am today if I were to be in any other country. China has offered a lot of opportunities... [You learn to] manage the struggles with the fulfillment.

Struggles?

Oftentimes, locals make casual comments like, "Hodan, although you're black, you're very beautiful!" Things like that give me this sick feeling in my stomach, but you know they don't mean any harm, and these comments are stemming from a lack of exposure to the outside world.

Where do you think this is coming from? And what can be done to change this?

It has to do with the way Africans are portrayed in the media – both Chinese and international. For decades, coverage of the region has always focused on the negatives – poverty, diseases, famine, war and instability. In order to change the image of Africa and its people among the public, I think the media should tell more human stories, rather than always just focusing on the sensationalized, attention-grabbing headlines. Additionally, more cross-cultural co-productions are also needed, as conversations surrounding the region are often very one sided.

Lastly, after being abroad for so many years, where do you consider to be your home?

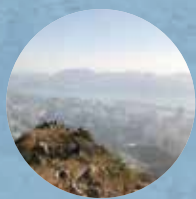
That's probably the toughest question to answer. Although I know I can't stay here permanently, China is where most of my friends are, and the place that I miss when I'm traveling. I consider China as my second home, but as for my first home, I think I still need to find that.

Visit africansinyiwu.com for more about the film.

LIFE & STYLE

Panoramic Winter

Boundless natural scenery from this viewing platform in Jilin, p20



Hong Kong Hiking
P19



Fashionable Luggage
P22

EKATERINA LAMBERT

Founder & CEO of Fashlcon

Interview by Dominic Ngai

Fashion was the last thing on Ekaterina Lambert's mind when she grew up in a small city in Russia during a politically turbulent time. That, however, all changed at age 16, when she became a model and took part in her first fashion show. Fast-forward to more than a decade later and with more experience in the industry, Lambert, who's now based in Shanghai, founded Fashlcon, an app that allows users to share their look or a specific item of clothing that they want to buy, and seek instant feedback from a community of fashionistas. Here, she tells us about her modeling days, her vision for the app, as well as her likes and dislikes in the wardrobe department.

How did your career in fashion begin?

I still remember buying my first fashion magazine and watching Fashion TV for the first time when I was 9, but the moment when I realized that fashion is the absolute right career choice for me must have been when I took part in a Zandra Rhodes fashion show back in Russia at age 16. I always loved being a model – not just being on the runway but what goes on backstage as well. It was where I could learn about styling and I could spend hours observing how stylists mix and match different looks. Between that time and now, a lot of things happened: I received a bachelor's degree in fashion design and technology at IFA Paris, met the love of my life, became a mom, began to design clothes, and started my company, Fashlcon.

What's your vision for Fashlcon?

Fashlcon is the Instagram of fashion – a community of fashionistas helping each other find their voice in every day fashion and celebrate



“My outfit choices always reflect the mood of the day”

who they are through their style. Users can connect with stylish, beautiful and unique people with different and unique vision from around the world with our app.

How does the app work? Why should people use it?

In the Fashlcon app, you can find the newest looks and outfit ideas; get feedback on your looks or the new dress that you want to buy instantly with the 'Immediate Advice' option; receive styling advice by chatting with our community of fashionistas in one-to-one sessions, or offer advice to other users. The 'Item Tags' function allows you to identify the exact item and brands from your favorite street style looks shared by others. In addition, we're also creating weekly challenges with great prizes from some of the biggest brands.

Is there a general rule of thumb that you personally always follow when building a look for yourself?

I never stick to any style, rules or brands; my outfit choices always reflect the mood of the day as I strongly believe what we wear changes the way we feel, talk, look and act.

Generally, one thing that I always do is to take a last look at the mirror before heading out the door to make sure everything is suitable to the different meetings and events I have to attend on that particular day. One other tip that I can offer is to simplify your wardrobe by getting rid of things you can't or don't wear regularly, and play more with accessories instead.

What are a few of your favorite fashion items at the moment?

I love my Gucci belt because it gives a luxurious twist to a casual look – just enough to make your favorite jeans look exquisite. My classic Marc Jacobs red ankle boots are a statement piece that make everything look better. I also love my Tiednista tie – wearing a tie is undeniably sexy for women, it gives this regal look with a touch of flirty sass.

Is there anything that you'd never wear?

No matter how comfortable Crocs are, they're just ugly (at least they're not flattering on me).

Find out more at fashlcon.cn

STYLE RADAR

TAP THAT APP

SoundHound

We've all faced that age-old problem. You have a song stuck in your head, the melody playing on repeat – the name of the song is on the tip of your tongue but infuriatingly elusive.

Well, worry no more – now we have an app for that.

SoundHound is a music player unlike traditional music players, in that it incorporates a voice operator which allows you to make commands such as “play rock music,” after which the app will search for and play a random rock song. If that song is to your liking, you just hit the favorite button in order to add it to a playlist. If you're not digging the track, skip the song and wait for one that's more your pace.

It also works in similar ways to Shazam, in that SoundHound can 'listen' to discover the name of an unknown but catchy tune. Perhaps most impressively, you can also hum or sing the lyrics of a song to find a result – the perfect way to fine-tune your vocal skills.

While SoundHound's music archives may not be as stacked as other music players like Spotify or Xiami, it certainly combines useful and interesting tech to create a whole new user experience.

SoundHound's interface is laid out in a simple and self-explanatory way. The home screen gives users three options: review user history, play a song (from one of a series of popular genres) and SoundHound's signature speaking tool.

The music player is made by the same folks that brought the world Houndify – an innovative voice intelligence tool that can be integrated into products to produce interactive user experiences, similar to what Siri and Amazon Alexa offer.

So there it is, a music player for the future!

Soundhound is available on iOS and Android devices. Visit soundhound.com for more info.



SoundHound

INSPECT-A-GADGET

Playable Game Boy Phone Case

Huaqiangbei electronics market: Shenzhen's gritty first stop on the world's electronic supply chain. Through plastic-flap doorways, cigarette smoke drifts across narrow hallways where tech ranging from SD cards to musical plant vases are sold – in bulk.

This was ground zero for the fidget spinner fad – and like all the fads, it started with a question: what will Westerners buy?

From there, spare shelf space in hundreds of shops is set aside, with sellers happy to either take bulk orders of the gadget *du jour* or introduce you to a friend that will.

This month, the shelf space is going to Game Boy-style phone cases.

Wrapped around an iPhone 6 or newer model, it looks like the handheld toy that set the industry standard in the early '90s. On closer inspection: a Game Boy this is not.

For one, it does not play Game Boy-games. A surprise, given Shenzhen's fast-and-loose approach to intellectual property, but also a sign that this gadget-meets-phone case is meant for Western exporters who'd rather not be sued by Nintendo.

The rubber buttons feel solid and the tiny



speaker warbles 'Ode to Joy' as a Tetris rip-off launches. There's also a Space Invaders-style game, though neither is likely to hold your attention for more than a few minutes, both hindered by terrible graphics and poor control response.

But that misses the point: the case is cool.

It looks like a treasured childhood toy and runs games – kind of – though if you really want a gaming fix, just turn your phone around.

RMB55 Game Boy Phone Case; available on taobao.com (search 'gameboy 手机壳')

COVET

Feng Chen Wang x Air Jordan 1

Royal College of Art graduate Feng Chen Wang returned to New York Fashion Week to unveil her Fall/Winter 2018 collection titled 'The Way Home' last month. Audiences, however, were drawn to one particular item: a pair of Air Jordan 1's that the London-based Chinese designer will be releasing with the sportswear label. Models were seen wearing these dope kicks in two different colors – a black version featuring pebbled leather body and clear plastic panels on the heel and toe, and a white version with smooth leather. Both models feature a bronze-colored Air Jordan logo and a fabric patch on the heel with the title of Feng's collection.



fengchenwang.com



DAYTRIPPER

Suicide Cliff



Tired of hiking the crowded, paved roads on Shenzhen's mountain paths? Take a day trip to Hong Kong for a quick but rewarding trek to the infamous 'Suicide Cliff' in Kowloon. The cliff's high vantage point and seriously steep drop make for breathtaking views of the city.

Over the years, savvy Hong Kongers have discovered a handful of different trails leading to the cliff, all with varying difficulty levels.



We chose an 'easy' path, which was conveniently marked by a 'danger' sign warning us of the serious and fatal accidents that have occurred on the trail. In spite of this, the trail has only increased in popularity, with dozens of hikers trekking to Suicide Cliff each day. While the risk is relatively low, it's important to note the weather and hike with care.

We ascended the steep wooden stairs embedded in the dirt trail, working up a sweat quickly and feeling grateful for the crisp Hong Kong breeze. Our struggle was short-lived – in just under an hour, we'd reached the summit of Kowloon Peak, where we discovered a helipad and a gorgeous landscape.

From there, it was a short walk down to Suicide Cliff. In the late afternoon, other hikers had already convened there, relaxing on the rocks and enjoying the sweeping Hong Kong skyline. After a quick snack and our obligatory photo shoot, we headed down another easy trail along the ridge of the mountain. While the decent was no doubt scenic, it was also treacherous, and several of us found ourselves with butts covered in dirt after a few unfortunate slips.

Mercifully, within an hour, the trail spat us out in one piece in the driveway of someone's mountain mansion. We followed the driveway down to the main road, where we prepared to reward ourselves with some food. Hong Kong had been good to us that day, offering a solid workout, Instagram-worthy selfies and, most importantly, an unforgettable experience. The perfect temporary escape from the relentless bustle of Pearl River Delta. **WJ**

How to get there:

After crossing the Hong Kong border, take the Hong Kong MTR to Choi Hung station, where you can grab a taxi to the trailhead at Fei Ngo Shan Road.





PANORAMIC WINTER

Boundless Natural Scenery from this Viewing Platform in Jilin

Words by Dominic Ngai, Photos by Su Shengliang

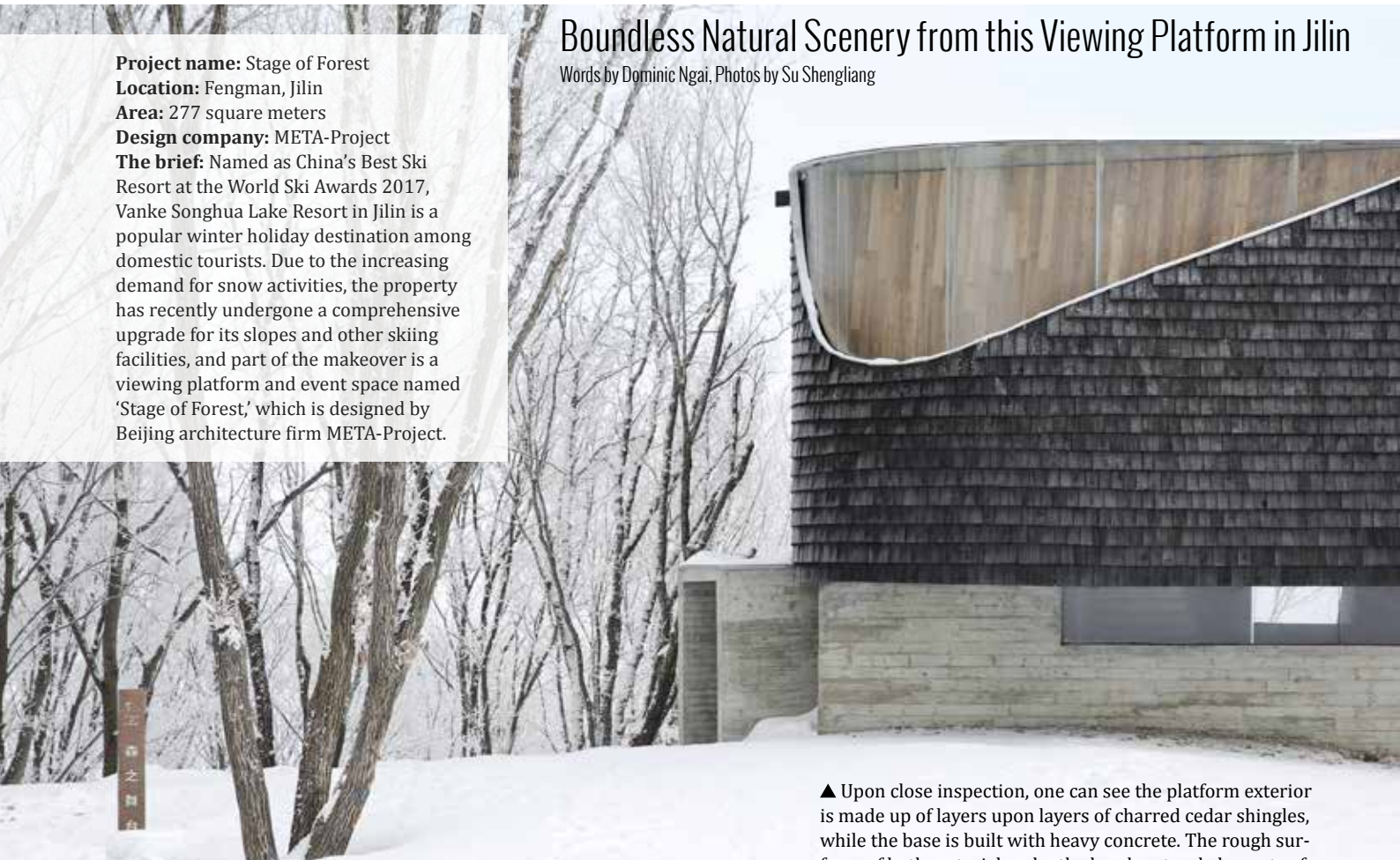
Project name: Stage of Forest

Location: Fengman, Jilin

Area: 277 square meters

Design company: META-Project

The brief: Named as China's Best Ski Resort at the World Ski Awards 2017, Vanke Songhua Lake Resort in Jilin is a popular winter holiday destination among domestic tourists. Due to the increasing demand for snow activities, the property has recently undergone a comprehensive upgrade for its slopes and other skiing facilities, and part of the makeover is a viewing platform and event space named 'Stage of Forest,' which is designed by Beijing architecture firm META-Project.



▲ Upon close inspection, one can see the platform exterior is made up of layers upon layers of charred cedar shingles, while the base is built with heavy concrete. The rough surfaces of both materials echo the harsh natural elements of the region during winter.



▲ The open-air observation deck offers a view of the majestic mountains and Songhua Lake at a distance.



▲ Inspired by a piece of leaf floating on water, the boomerang-shaped structure's location was selected due to its unobstructed view of the surrounding area, and its minimal impact to the forest.



▲ Two circular openings cut through the red cedar ceiling and floor. While the top hole allows sunlight and snowflakes to enter, the floor window gives visitors a chance to observe the skiing activities below.



▲ Snowboarders in action with the 'Stage' in the background.

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Compiled by Dominic Ngai

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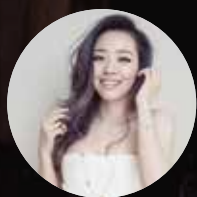
Yeezy
farfetch.cn RMB5,135

For Her

ARTS

Boss Ladies

Seven women defining China's music industry, p28



Sino Celeb
P26



South China Music Corner
P32

INTERNATIONAL SHENZHEN ARTIST FORUM

Proving the Cynics Wrong

By Bailey Hu

Conventional wisdom says that Shenzhen lacks Culture.

The folks behind the International Shenzhen Artist Forum (ISZAF) disagree. Passionately.

Founded in the fall of 2016, the group claims a mission of connecting visual artists from different backgrounds, helping them grow and providing a platform to showcase their work.

Over the last year or so, that's taken the form of 'art challenges' that keep creators on their toes, group drawing sessions and exhibitions. Most recently, a pop-up show (open until March 6) in Xili's new Whatever Art Space features the works of 13 artists from around the world, covering surrealist themes, landscapes and experimental photography.

We chatted to ISZAF's administrative team - co-chairs Brittan Aebischer and Gloria Carnevale plus coordinators Catarina Braga, Jen Rogan and Kumi Onari-Legault - about the group's work and where it might lead.

Your mission statement mentions 'engaging the local community.' What kind of outreach has ISZAF done?

In the beginning, ISZAF began engaging with the artists and their communities with our weekly live drawing figure study sessions. These sessions not only allow artists to come and draw but anyone interested from the community.

At the same time, we established comprehensive artist challenges that were open to anyone who wanted to be challenged to make work based on a set theme. The community participation in both the live drawing sessions and the artist challenges quickly established the ISZAF community base and has since then been the drive and source for all of our major shows and community events. ISZAF also believes in engaging Shenzhen's youth in their artistic and creative development. Our mission as an organization is to be adaptive to the artists and the needs of our community.

What has been ISZAF's most successful project to date?

It is difficult to peg just one event. I guess



if we were to determine which event was most successful based on the most publicity and community involvement, the Kuku Chai International Youth Exhibition would be it. This show involved over six international schools, over 400 children, and featured 60 works of art by international students in response to Kuku Chai's contemporary but traditional Chinese work.

What's your assessment of Shenzhen's art scene?

Shenzhen's art scene is a mirror of itself: young, dynamic, new and ready to take risks.

The amount of accessible materials and resources for artists to engage with is overwhelming, allowing for artists of all disciplines to really get their hands dirty and make work.

Shenzhen overall is investing in the arts and culture scene, thus the time for artists to really make their voices heard is now! Both private and public art galleries of all types are being installed. For example, OCT Loft is the most prominent scene in Shenzhen for art with its private and public gallery spaces. Recently, SoFunLand in Xili has become the most recent up-and-coming art scene, boasting an international artist residency, galleries, and art shops.

There are also long time established art scenes in the urban villages of Baishizhou

and Dafen, just to name a few. Even organizations like ISZAF are virtually and physically organizing themselves both within the international and local Chinese communities. And of course, we cannot fail to mention the number of mega art groups that promote and push the art scene, such as OCT and Artron. Shenzhen's art scene is hot and getting hotter.

Any cool future projects you'd like to mention?

Yes! We have two upcoming events. The next event we are excited about is the photography exhibition taking place in the SE Artspace at OCT-Loft. This will be the first exhibition we've organized solely dedicated to photography and the photographers of Shenzhen. The exhibition, *Concurrence*, will be held from April 13-May 5.

Additionally, we are in the early stages of planning an exhibition of artwork created during our Call & Response challenge. This show will feature over 30 artists and our first comprehensive group installation. Stay tuned for more information, we can guarantee that it will be awesome!

To learn more about ISZAF or get involved, visit their official website at www.iszaf.com. This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

COLLAGE

SINO CELEB

Jane Zhang

The China debut of the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in Shanghai last year marked the first time a Chinese singer took to the stage at the event. Jane Zhang performed three English-language songs, 'Work For It,' '808' and 'Dust My Shoulders Off,' alongside a team of dancers dressed in white, flowing garments.

For those that are unfamiliar with Zhang, she rose to fame in 2005 after competing on *Super Girl*, an American Idol-inspired talent show. Her performances wowed China's pop-music fans and her wide-ranging vocal ability earned her the moniker 'the dolphin-voiced princess.'

Since her debut, Zhang has blasted onto the world stage, performing live on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* in 2009, singing onstage with John Legend and contributing music to the 2015 Bond film *Spectre*. She also recorded the theme song for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic torch relay.

In 2016, Zhang released her inaugural English-language single, titled 'Dust My Shoulders Off.' The song was produced by celebrated American producer Timbaland.

Her accolades are numerous, including seven 'Best Female Singer' wins (in a row!) at the Beijing Pop Music Awards and her 'Best Chinese & Hong Kong Act' and 'Best Asian Act' wins at the MTV Europe Music Awards in 2015.

Zhang's unorthodox, mid-concert proposal to husband slash agent Feng Ke was a high point for many fans, although the union failed to earn blessings from Zhang's mother, who accused Feng of controlling her daughter both financially and emotionally. The drama between mother and son-in-law has remained an indelible dark spot on Zhang's public image.

Kind of like:

Mariah Carey

Famous for:

wide-ranging vocal abilities, a mid-concert proposal

See her in:

the music video for 'Dust My Shoulders Off'



AGE

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU



★ MARCH 2 ★

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

One of the standout releases of 2017, this film by Martin McDonagh (*In Bruges*, *Seven Psychopaths*) uses satire and pitch-black comedy to chronicle a grieving mother in a sleepy American town and her renegade search for justice for an unsolved murder. Frances McDormand gives an especially strong performance in the starring role, which McDonagh wrote with her in mind. Sam Rockwell, Woody Harrelson and Peter Dinklage also star in this dark and grimly realistic portrait of a conflict bitterly unfolding in small town America. The film is up for seven Oscars, including Best Picture.



HAO BU HAO



Hao

In what's beginning to look like a trend of non-English foreign films gaining greater traction in the Chinese box office, Bollywood flick *Secret Superstar* has become the first big hit of 2018, overtaking Western blockbusters like *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* to become the highest grossing foreign film of the year so far. It's also made history as the first Indian movie to split box office profits with domestic distributors, rather than selling the film for a flat fee. The film stars Amir Khan and Zaira Wasim, who also appeared as father and daughter in last year's extremely successful film *Dangal*.



Bu Hao

Domestic film *Bad Daddy* has been making headlines for executing potentially the biggest box office fraud in China's film history. Occupying just three percent of screens in theaters throughout the country when it debuted on February 2, it boasted 34 percent of the day's total revenue, beating out several more high-profile films with presale ticket purchases. Investigators suspect the film's distributor of running a pyramid scheme, citing unusual seating patterns in presale ticket purchases that began over a year ago.



★ MARCH 9 ★

Black Panther

This latest installment in the Marvel Comics Universe is the most acclaimed superhero film of recent years. Starring Chadwick Boseman as T'Challa/Black Panther alongside Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Forest Whitaker, Daniel Kaluuya (*Get Out*) and Letitia Wright (*Black Mirror*), the film centers on T'Challa, king of the fictional African nation of Wakanda, who returns from an international conflict only to find further trouble at home. His superhero alter ego, Black Panther, was the first African superhero of all time, debuting in the comic *Fantastic Four #52* in 1966. One of the film's many selling points is its epic soundtrack, which was curated by Kendrick Lamar. At the time of writing, the film holds a rare 99 percent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes.



THE PLAYLIST

From aptly stage-named John Legend to trippy Japanese rock outfit The fin., here are our picks for artists playing in South China this month.

John Legend - Penthouse Floor

Martin Garrix, Troye Sivan - There For You

Generations from Exile Tribe - Brave It Out

Tiësto, Matthew Koma - Wasted

Mouse on the Keys - toccatina

The fin. - Outskirts

Black Madonna - Song 16

We Lost the Sea - Bogatyri

Basic Soul Unit - Deep Blue

Föllakzoid - Feuerzeug

WHAT'S NEW

Domestic Blockbuster Romance Shot on Location in Antarctica

Till the End of the World (南极绝恋), a romance survival drama written and directed by Wu Youyin that debuted last month in domestic theaters, enjoys the distinction of being one of the only feature films ever shot on location in Antarctica. A writer who also took part in China's



27th and 28th Antarctic expeditions, Wu later penned the novel that the film is based on. Mark Chao and Yang Zishan star as the sole survivors of a plane crash who fall in love as they try to stay alive long enough to be rescued. Most films set in Antarctica, like John Carpenter's 1982 hit *The Thing*, are actually filmed in more manageable locales like Alaska, but both Wu and the actors apparently agreed that filming on location would lend the film more authenticity. *Till the End of the World* has been marketed as the first feature film ever to be filmed in Antarctica, though this isn't entirely true - British scientist and documentary filmmaker Kirk Watson gained some media attention in 2012 for his amateur horror film *South of Sanity*, which he filmed entirely during a stint at the continent's Halley Research Station.

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BOSS LADIES

Seven Women Defining China's Music Industry

By Erica Martin



Lieselotte Wang

Founder, Ye Records | Shanghai

From label bosses and concert promoters to musicians, here are some of the most successful female leaders in China's indie music scene, all of whom are helping to forge and define the future of the country's music industry.

Lieselotte Wang has been an avid music fan since childhood, and in high school she developed a passion for NYC indie pop band The Drums. "I dreamed that one day I could own one of their records," she says, "but then I ended up touring with them through China in 2014."

With her music promotion company, Ye Records, Wang has carved a niche for herself even within Shanghai's saturated music scene, beginning back in 2015 with a reunion tour for Japanese post-rock band Euphoria. In fact, Wang herself was the catalyst for their return. A fan of their music, she emailed the individual band members encouraging them to end their five-year hiatus and get back together; they eventually agreed, and then she organized their eight-city China tour.

"At first I was trying to help my musician friends do some local bookings and promoting, and also fulfill my dream of seeing bands that no one was bringing to China yet," Wang says of Ye Records' origins. "Then I got to know the

bands more (and the fans as well), and I felt like I could do more to help, so I just kept going."

This month, she's bringing lo-fi Brooklyn rock band Beach Fossils on a China tour, an especially impressive booking for an independent promotion company. Her 2018 calendar is packed with interesting bookings, from American pop band The Bilinda Butchers to her current favorite band, breezy and soulful Japanese trio Lamp.

Despite her string of accomplishments, Wang acknowledges some of her frustrations with music promotion. "It seems like sometimes male promoters get more respect, whereas female promoters still feel a bit like outsiders," she says. "People sometimes judge you and gossip, but I don't care about that stuff anymore. Now I think if I can do my work well and put on good shows and tours, that's all that really matters."

WeChat ID: yerecords

Hisana Yan has been buying vinyl records since she was a teenager, a habit that developed into a specific love for Japanese indie music. Now based out of Shenzhen, she began blogging via Weibo and WeChat under the account, Jrock30s, quickly developing a devoted following of fans.

Buoyed by the success of her first offline concert last summer, Yan is expanding into concert promotion, bringing quirky rap trio Enjoy Music Club over from Japan for a multi-city tour this month. "They have their own style, and their music is full of happiness," Yan says of the band. "They are not very famous in China now, but I believe that they have the potential."

Yan has found that the music industry

in China is largely male-dominated, though she's been able to operate with relative ease because she's mostly anonymous behind the Jrock30s brand. "There are some followers who believe that Jrock30s is run by a middle-aged man," she jokes.

Though time management is her greatest hurdle when balancing a full-time job with her blogging, she'd recommend the DIY profession to anyone who has the passion to see it through.

"If you like music, just do it," she says. "My real-life job is far away from the music industry, but I think the Internet enables all of us to speak out and share."

WeChat ID: Jrock30s



Hisana Yan

Founder, Jrock30s
(邦摇30s) | Shenzhen

Kristen Ng's introduction to Chengdu came during a backpacking trip in 2014, when her friend took her to an "insane pool party in a garden village with drum 'n bass DJs and fireworks," she says. Smitten with the city, the New Zealand native moved there the following year to focus on her venture Kiwese (a play on 'Kiwi' and 'Chinese'), which began as a blog discussing cultural identity and underground music, and then expanded into a touring label as Ng began putting down roots in Chengdu's music scene. "It's basically introducing cool New Zealand artists to Chinese audiences and vice versa," she says.

Ng recently wrapped an extensive tour with The All Seeing Hand, an electronic noise rock group from New Zealand. The band trampled through 14 shows across the mainland with several supporting acts, including Ng's own music project, Kaishandao. "It felt like we were this roaming circus troupe," she says.

On top of this, Ng also works with NU SPACE, Chengdu's main livehouse and hub for underground music, which her flatmate

Kristen Ng

**Founder, Kiwese
Booking Manager, NU SPACE
Chengdu**

helped open in 2015. "NU SPACE is the place where artists can flesh out their ideas for stage design and visuals," explains Ng. She manages the venue's diverse bookings and also runs an audiovisual series called Blah Blah out of the space as a platform for emerging artists.

"I hope more women will get involved with performance and promotion, as well as the tech side of things like lights, stage and sound," Ng concludes. "It's always nice to turn up at a venue and find women involved with the process of putting on a live show. Support your sisters!"

kiwese.co.nz



Sun Yi

**Founder, Space Circle
Manager, Wang Wen | Hangzhou**

After discovering promotion and artist management in college while organizing concerts at a music venue owned by her friend, Sun Yi went on to found Space Circle, a Hangzhou-based artist management company that also offers tech support and stage crews for shows.

"I initially started with a small team, as per my experience in the last 10 years," she says. "There is a lack of partners in the industry here in Hangzhou, but there is a good scene with good venues. I wanted to start a company, where I could work with my favorite bands and give an opportunity to young people to enter this line of work."

Space Circle provides a platform for small, up-and-coming indie bands, like Shaoxing instrumental rockers Little Wizard, who released an EP with them last year. The brightest star on their roster, however, is Wang Wen, the Dalian troupe that's been active since 1999 and is largely considered China's greatest post-rock band. Sun serves

as the band's manager, traveling with them on overseas tours and organizing their album releases. "Wang Wen has always maintained a steady positive creative streak," she says. "Every time I work with them, it's a new learning experience."

Aside from their continued collaboration with Wang Wen, Space Circle's greatest achievement thus far has been organizing a stadium show for Nanjing rapper Jony J in 2017, a major milestone for a small company after only their second year in action.

"The [music promotion] industry is still pretty young in China and needs more excellent people," she says, explaining that many of the other managers she knows and respects are also women.

"I haven't thought too much about the issue of gender," says Sun. "but this job is very different. I hope that many women consider working in this field."

WeChat ID: SpaceCircleMusic



Cookie Zhang

Co-founder, Daily Vinyl
Shanghai

On the racks at Daily Vinyl's record store, which doubles as a hotel in an airy lanehouse on Dagu Lu, an album by 90s hip-hop troupe The Pharcyde lies next to Anderson Paak's 2016 collaboration record with Knxwledge and a 1977 album by a South Korean all-girl funk group called The Happy Dolls that has a "rare" sticker on its sleeve.

These eclectic options are compiled by long-time cratedigger Cookie Zhang and her Daily Vinyl co-founder Endy Chen. Zhang's collecting habits began with CDs when she was a teen. "I had listened to hip-hop for more than 12 years," she says, "And at that time I was really into scratching and turntablism, so I started to buy records just to practice."

Zhang then coped with an illness that left her bedridden for half-a-year by spending her idle time delving into new genres and exploring the source material that her favorite hip-hop songs sampled from, giving her a deeper knowledge of the genres she works with today.

The Daily Vinyl concept began simply in 2014, with Zhang and Chen posting one album a day on Weibo to promote some records they

were hoping to sell. It has since expanded into a recurring market, workshops and parties featuring occasional DJ sets by Zhang under her moniker ollo-MAM.

"Once you get some people in, they'll have their own connections with others, and that will inspire new people to come take part," she says, explaining Daily Vinyl's relaxed and grassroots approach to spreading vinyl culture.

Now that the dust has settled, Zhang has several major plans for keeping momentum up in 2018. These include a second location of her hotel-cum-vinyl shop set to open in Guangzhou this spring, plus a new music label purposely focused on digital rather than vinyl releases. "It will just be some music for people to listen to and have another way to be into what we do," she says. "I don't think about these ideas in terms of bad or good. I just think about what I want to do next."

WeChat ID: DailyVinyl



Lolly Fan

Marketing Manager, Maybe
Mars Records | Beijing

Lolly Fan's relationship with music began not with albums, but with video games. "I was obsessed with Counter-Strike when I was in middle school," she says, explaining that she became particularly taken with a segment in the game that featured 'It's My Life' as the background music. "I remembered I watched that video again and again. Then I looked up the song and found a whole new world outside of Chinese pop."

Years later, she's now the Marketing Manager at Maybe Mars Records, a core member of the three-person team behind one of the most influential labels in China. Fan describes her daily duties as a whirlwind of projects that anyone who's worked in a small company will understand.

"I guess I do almost all the work, except production, designing and tour booking," she tells us. "When you are in smaller company like Maybe Mars, there's a lot space for you to learn and to do. It's a great chance for me to reach every corner of the music business. Besides, our work day starts at 1pm!"

To Fan, the label's greatest challenge is find-

ing the balance between what she describes as "being ourselves, being avant-garde and selling well. How do we manage the expectations of our artists and the audience at the same time?"

When asked if she hopes her role at Maybe Mars will inspire other women to work in music, she agrees, but sees things a little differently.

"I think their passion is the key that will drive them into music," she says, "I feel that most women nowadays don't see themselves as weaker than men. There might be more male musicians and technicians, but when you look into the office, there are more females, especially in media-related jobs. Most band managers I know are female, and every venue I know in Beijing has female employees. Maybe they don't need to be inspired by others."

maybemars.com





Yvonne Che

Founder, Say Yes Asia | Shanghai

The name of Yvonne Chen's promotion company, Say Yes, is nod to the "Yes and..." improv concept, in which comedians accept whatever idea a fellow participant suggests and then adds on something new. For Chen, the concept resonates because of her desire to expand perceptions about electronic music in Shanghai.

"When I started Say Yes, I hoped that more people could be open and accepting of the music and events we promote" she explains. "[The name] tells us that people all think very differently, but we should always be positive, polite and open-minded, instead of saying no to everything immediately."

Chen started promoting after a four-year stint at an office job, taking inspiration from the nightlife culture she's loved since she first moved to Shanghai.

"Back in the old days, I went to underground clubs like Shelter, which brought really good stuff from all over the world," she says. "Those experiences on the dance floor – the music they played, the people I met – was totally different from commercial nightclubs, and it changed my life."

Say Yes has made massive strides in the two years it's been active, organizing tours for techno producer Paula Temple and Silent Servant in 2017, plus collaborative efforts that included a rooftop rave in Chengdu, a tour for prominent Austrian electronic act HVOB with Modern Sky and Xihu Festival on Hangzhou's West Lake.

One of Chen's long-term goals is to increase the number of live electronic acts that come to Shanghai, and female electronic musicians in general. "I hope to see other young women get inspired by what I do," she says, "because I feel that we need more real female producers, rather than just DJs."

Chen doesn't have a favorite memory or highlight gig, but she's satisfied whenever she gets positive feedback from clubgoers in real time. "People have come up to me many times at the end of a Say Yes event and asked me when the next one is," she says. "They already can't wait."

WeChat ID: SayYesAsia

Power Playlist

Our interviewees recommend their favorite female musicians

Cookie Zhang:

Daymé Arocena – 'Mambo Na Ma'
Perera Elsewhere – 'Happened'
Dawn Penn – 'You Don't Love Me (No, No, No)'

Sun Yi:

Yunggie Ma – 'Green Tara'
Nova Heart – 'Ethereal'

Lieselotte Wang:

Lamp – '恋は月の蔭に'
Broadcast – 'Corporeal'
Yo La Tengo – 'You Can Have It All'

Yvonne Chen:

Fever Ray – 'To the Moon and Back'
Paula Temple – 'Colonized'
Powder – 'Heart'

Hisana Yan:

Shiina Ringo – 'Suberidai'
tricot – 'oyasumi'
CHAI – 'Sayonara Complex'

Kristen Ng:

Hiperson – 'Reaping'
The Hormones – 'Darkness of the Light'

Lolly Fan:

Carter Tutti Void – 'v1'
Ourselves Beside Me – 'Sunday Girl'
Alpine Decline – 'Return to Desolation Lake' (forthcoming this month)

SOUTH CHINA

MUSIC CORNER

Three New Homegrown Albums on Our Radar this Month

Bryan Grogan

Collected Reworks & Collected Works by Guangzhou Underground

GZUG was founded in 2013 by Simon B and Bass Panda, with Failed State later joining the fray. The label was established as a way to make and release dance music that could cross genres without expectation, a mission similar to Ran Music and Do Hits of Beijing. According to Guangzhou Underground co-founder Simon B, these two albums bring together a lot of unfinished business and outstanding track re-works and remixes. What better way to get into the electronic underground sounds of GZUG than a compilation – or two? These albums include retrospectives of works by frequent contributor Alex Agore, with remixes by producers like 3ASIC from Nanjing and Purple Key from Guangzhou. The next few months will stay busy for Guangzhou Underground as they release music by Neil M from Guangzhou, DJ Tayta from Shenzhen and YEN from Taipei. Keep an eye on their Bandcamp and Xiami for more.

Scan the QR code to listen.



Convenience Store Girl by Moonband

Zhaoqing act Moonband have been quite active in the past year. Founded in the spring of 2012, their second release, *Convenience Store Girl*, comes hot on the heels of multiple shows around the region at the end of 2017. During that time, they were also featured on the compilation album *Nerd Noise 2*, which brings together fledgling indie bands from all over China, along with the likes of She Never Sings Our Songs and Trip Fuel. Moonband cite a variety of different genres as providing inspiration for their eclectic take on post-rock music, such as blues, emo rock and math rock. *Convenience Store Girl* sounds particularly like the latter, with many an irregular pause in the guitar and rhythm sections. These gaps in time provide the perfect moment for romantic and thoughtful vocal interludes.

Scan the QR code to listen.



Emotional, Too by Sweaty and Cramped

Hong Kong label Sweaty and Cramped's second 'Asian emo compilation' comes with a small aside thanking the universe that their reach in the music world has gradually increased since their first 2015 compilation release. The Hong Kong label again enlists Guangzhou's Qiii Snacks Records and Sango Records to disseminate their work on the Chinese mainland and in Japan respectively. Artists included on the album this time around come from all three labels, with songs by Nein Gas Muss, Foster Parents and Wellsaid, among others. For three small localized labels, this release is a signal of intent toward creating a larger Asian punk music circle across typically very difficult regions and language barriers. While the album features 10 tracks, it can also brag of featuring bands from nine cities across Asia.

Scan the QR code to listen.



SHENZHEN SUPERSTARS

A Short Ode to China's Silicon Valley

By Bailey Hu

Swedish journalist Johan Nylander's *Shenzhen Superstars* is less a book than a really long pamphlet. We zoomed through its 75 pages, taking notes along the way, in under two hours.

In case you don't have the time and USD4 to spare, here is our pithiest summary: Shenzhen is great, you ignorant Westerner.

A longer, more accurate paraphrase might read, "Shenzhen has had the tech infrastructure and know-how to hold sway over world markets for years. Don't believe it? Let me count the ways."

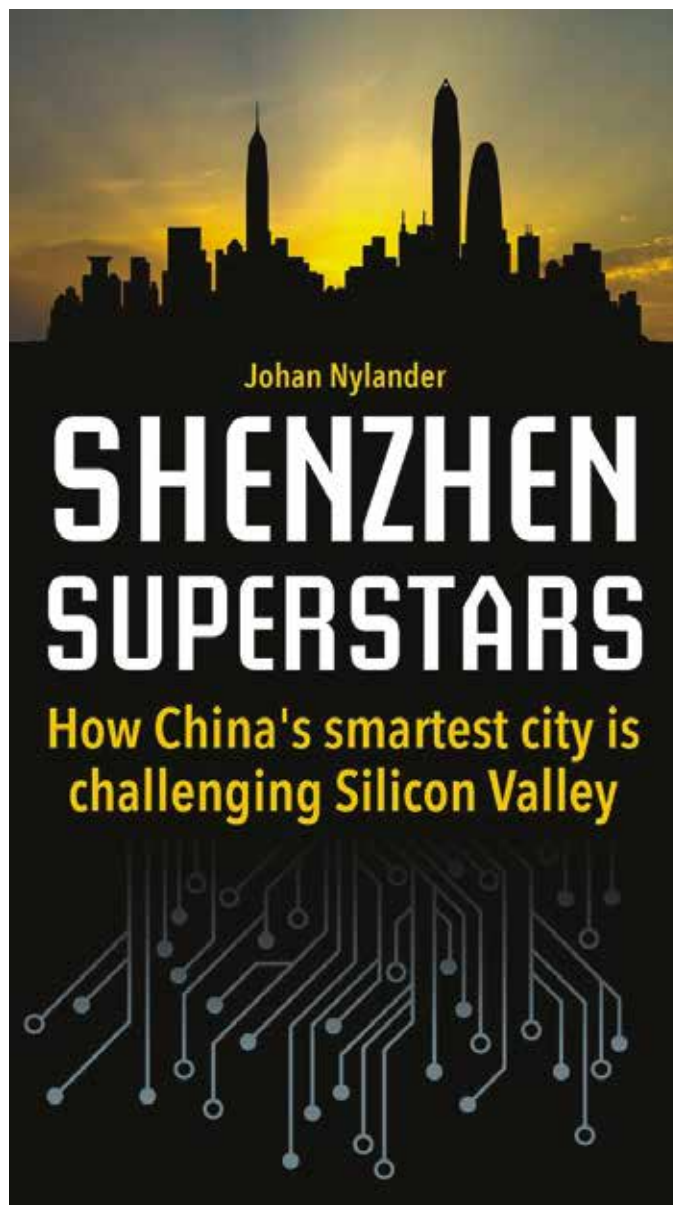
If you live and work in Shenzhen, you probably already knew that. But even for the most scene-savvy, Nylander has plenty of fun factoids and interviews to offer.

For instance, the story of Shenzhen's hurried transformation from fishing village to megalopolis (false, by the way) is mentioned in nearly every article written about the city. Rarely, however, is its growth elaborated beyond China's general opening-up policies during the '80s.

In the chapter "World's Fastest Growing City," Nylander cites a study by the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan revealing that even in Shenzhen's early stages, "cutting-edge production technologies were embraced much faster" than in other Chinese cities.

In other words, the foundation for Shenzhen becoming a hardware capital of the world, boasting streamlined production and technological innovation, was laid decades ago.

In another, catchier sound bite, we discover that "more than 60 percent of post-1990s university graduates in Shenzhen say they want to join a startup or start their own company." And expanding his view to the PRD's potential, Nylander mentions



"Shenzhen has had the tech infrastructure and know-how to hold sway over world markets for years"

the World Bank's declaration of the Delta as the largest megacity in the world, with a population around the size of Great Britain.

At times, he gets carried away on the wave of his own enthusiasm. In the middle of a discussion on tech supply chains in the Delta, he interrupts himself to announce that "no one [in Shenzhen] is using cash anymore." This is followed by statistics on mobile payments in China, and the chapter wraps up by mentioning the co-working space where an interview takes place.

Difficulties of doing business in China, "from red tape and intellectual property theft to internet censorship," are mostly mentioned only in passing.

The chapter "Lessons from Tech Pirates" is a notable exception, and features interesting firsthand observations on how the *shanzhai* practice of counterfeiting popular products has actually promoted innovation. It's also no doubt thanks to his experience covering tech in South China that the writer is able to land interviews with local CEOs, academics, hackers and even venture capitalists.

In attempting to offer sage advice on navigating Shenzhen's intricacies, however, Nylander sometimes stumbles. At one point he abruptly mentions a local directory website mid-chapter as a go-to source for "events, eateries and happenings around the city." It's an awkward plug in an otherwise informative narrative.

At the same time, we also couldn't help but notice that Nylander has taken his own words to heart and immersed himself in Shenzhen's inventive, entrepreneurial spirit.

Shenzhen Superstars is available on Amazon.



Kick, Push, Coast

35 COVER STORY

South China's Skaters Grind a Fine Line

By Daniel Plafker



On a warm, breezy evening under the twinkling lights that line the Guangzhou waterfront, the people of the city are out in force to take their leisure. The classic open-air pastimes of China are represented: plaza dancing aunties move with practiced synchronicity, badminton shuttlecocks soar through the night air and taichi practitioners gesture through their age-old routines. On a particularly wide swath of pavement opposite the Nanfang Dasha, a less familiar activity is underway: skateboarding.

Cool, smiling youth from various districts of the city have gathered to hone their skills, some with the unsteady bravado of





overconfident beginners, others with the understated proficiency of seasoned riders. In between runs, the crowd huddles together against the stone embankment at the riverside, laughing, chatting, snacking, sharing jokes and cigarettes. It's a scene that, though once rare, is now playing itself out all across the PRC.

Virtually unheard of until the mid-1980s, skateboarding is fast gaining ground across the country as a popular pursuit, and the PRD is no exception. What started as an edgy subculture is now a sport on the rise. With the historic announcement that skateboarding will be included for the first time in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics propelling the sport to new heights, business, government and foreign talent are coming together with Guangdong youth to determine the future of the sport in the province.

Nowhere is skateboarding's transformation from back-alley obscurity to public plaza primetime more apparent than Foshan. Jason Guadalajara, a California native who for six years has called the city home, has helped make it happen. After arriving in 2011 with enterprising dreams of manufacturing high quality skate shoes and insoles, Guadalajara and his fpFootwear gear line now exports to more than 15 countries and brings in pros from around the world through to skate the PRD.



Public architecture in China, Guadalajara tells us, is particularly well suited to street skating, with the preponderance of 'ledge-plazas' (parks and squares with numerous benches, steps and railings) offering endless opportunities for 'slide tricks' and grinds.

An unusual laissez-faire attitude from authorities also nurtured the scene, in contrast to the more draconian enforcement found in other countries. "In LA if you wanted to skateboard in the street you've got like five or 10 minutes to land your trick or the cops are gonna come and move you along. Whereas in China, you have total freedom." Rather than chasing him away, Guadalajara says fascinated Chinese security guards would buy him a beer, sit down with a bag of peanuts and just watch him skate.

"I call it a 'Communist Wonderland'," Guadalajara says in



reference to the title of a popular skateboarding video he shot and produced, filmed entirely in Foshan. "This is supposedly a country with limited freedoms but in a lot of respects it's completely the opposite to the United States. Even if you get kicked out of one place you can just skate for five minutes and you'll find another ledge plaza or some cool thing. It's littered with spots."

In a way, it's not surprising that skateboarding has found a ready audience in China. It requires discipline, practice, control, balance and of course finesse. It's not unlike traditional acrobatics or gymnastics in the way it draws a crowd. "American kungfu on four wheels," Guadalajara calls it. Perhaps it's only fitting that, here in

Bruce Lee's ancestral hometown, the culture is taking root.

Slowly but surely, however, that hands-off attitude from authorities towards street skating is beginning to change. The bombshell announcement of the International Olympic Committee that skateboarding will soon make its Olympic debut as a full-fledged event has sent shockwaves through the scene. China, in its quest for gold medals, is throwing its full weight behind the development of the sport, opening up enormous skate parks and training facilities to groom its next generation of champions. Guangzhou got its massive skate park megaplex in University City, while Shenzhen was granted its National Olympic





Skateboard Training Base in Shekou. For many in the scene, though, this increasing formalization and professionalization is proving to be a double-edged sword.

Skateboarding of course has its roots as an edgy, countercultural activity, forged in the streets. Riders would interact with their urban environment in unexpected ways, negotiating novel obstacles creatively, with courage and skill. As much as anything else, it was about art and expression. While skate parks provide a welcome environment to practice highly technical maneuvers, they also serve to confine skateboarding into a legalized zone. The uniformity and purpose-built design of the obstacles add an element of monotony and repetition at the expense of style and imagination. Meanwhile, the presence of skate parks can have a chilling effect on the street scene, delegitimizing skating that happens outside of these captive enclosures.

The recent history of Shenzhen's skate scene is a great case study in this phenomenon playing out. Sergey Sidey, a Russian transplant to the city, has been cutting up its streets and plazas for more than three years, usually with a camera in hand. He tells us that Shenzhen was once a veritable paradise for skaters, with the iconic Shenzhen Museum and Civic Center serving as its beating heart. More and more, however, securitization, surveillance cameras and skateproofing landscape fixtures known as 'skate-stoppers' have pushed the once aboveboard pastime further underground.

"It's a huge problem for skaters," Sidey says. "Most of the spots are either skateproofed or 'security proofed,' meaning that security guards don't let us skate there. We usually go to those places at night or come back every half hour until the guards make us leave."

When we ask what it looks like when guards 'make you leave,' Sergey shows us a video he shot of a skater being shoved, mid-grind, into the hedges of a Shenzhen ledge plaza by uniformed guards using a meter-long anti-riot pole.

In Foshan, too, the increasing clampdown on public skating in unsanctioned places is palpable. Zhaoxiang Park, a city plaza once beloved by local skaters and international pros alike for its uniquely grindable handrails now lies silent, the well-worn rails rendered unskatable by thick steel rings welded on by the authorities in a deliberate effort to keep four-wheeled stuntsters at bay.

Elsewhere in Foshan, though, the street-ethos of the skate scene seems alive and well. In a sign of the times, the UNIM Mall (Guangfo Line, Leigang Station) has set up a skate park out front and a couple wheeled-up youngsters





photo by @sergeyisidey





sporting piercings and tattoos are practicing their craft. Interestingly, they eschew the newly built ramps and bowls for some of the more tempting obstacles found elsewhere in the commercial landscape. Ledges, benches and handrails all seem to be fair game. One, a lanky, baseball-capped rider, who goes by the name Meinianda (after a popular orange soda drink from childhood) flashes an easy smile, "I bought my first board in Foshan three years ago," he says. "You'll laugh, but at first I started riding because I thought it made me look suave." Watching him try time and time again to nail a challenging nose grind, it's clear his love for the sport goes deeper than appearances. "I'm gonna

stick it this time for sure!" he grins before gathering speed for another approach.

Like any scene in the midst of changes and contradictions, South China's skating landscape has some new dynamics emerging. Though the sport and its associated cultural trappings have historically been dominated by men and boys, women are increasingly starting to take part. Longboarding in particular has been where many of the country's female skaters have found their niche.

A video released by *Vogue Korea* in 2016 which featured amateur longboarder Ko Hyojoon twirling and dancing her way through the streets of Seoul in playful, feminine

outfits flew in the face of the stereotypical grunginess of the traditional skateboard aesthetic. "The instant that video came out," Guadalajara tells us, "longboarding just exploded in China. It turned into this new thing. Absolutely, there's a lot of girls doing it now."

Today, it's not uncommon to see female youth among the riders plying many of Guangdong's skate plazas, usually on longboards. Meanwhile, a cursory search for affordable skateboards on Taobao yields pages of results featuring female models emulating Ko's carefree style of board-top dance and fancy footwork alongside products marketed as *wuban* or 'danceboards' — a category that scarcely existed just years ago.

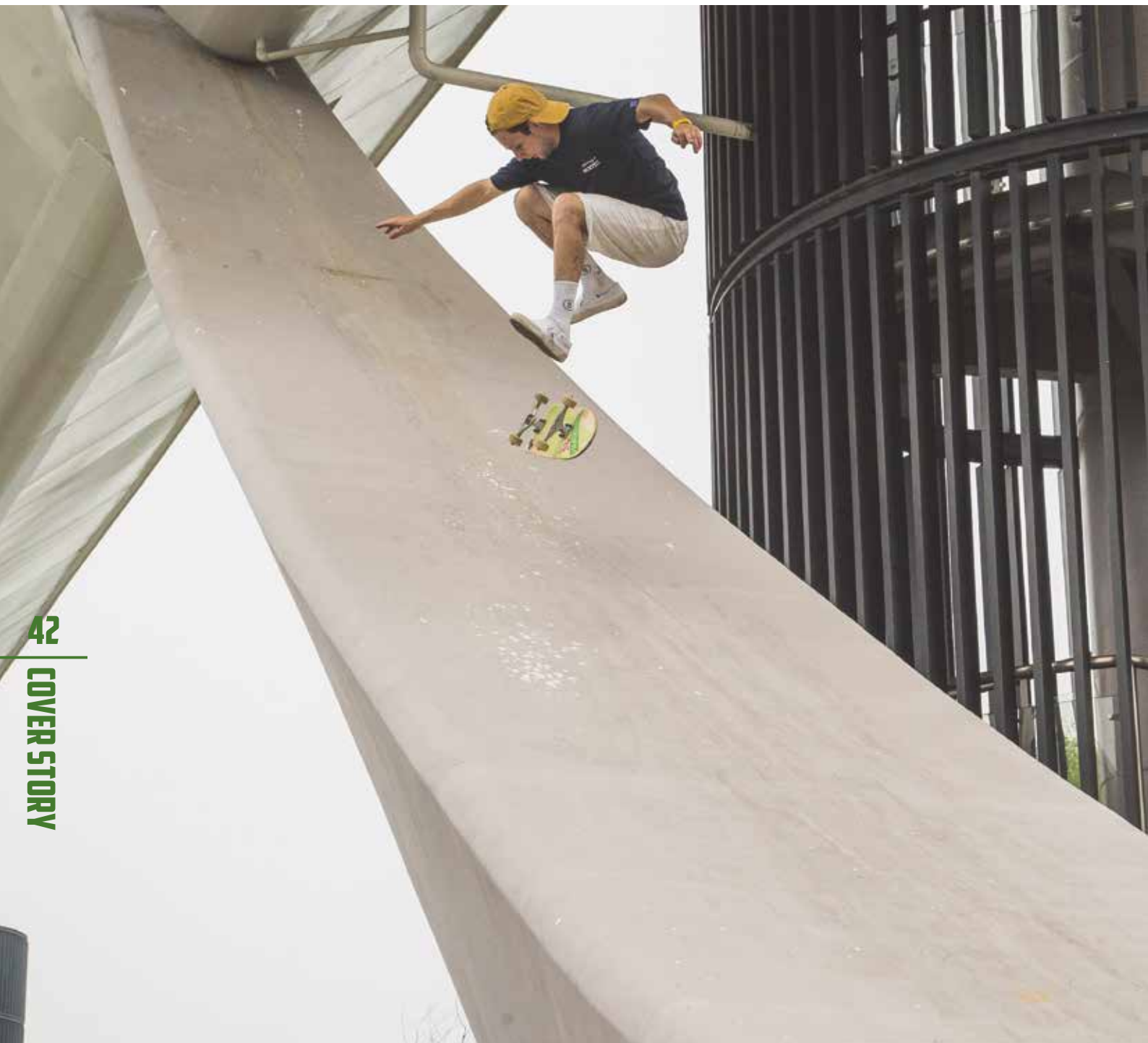
In this increasingly commercialized and regimented environment, some have managed to strike a delicate balance. Glory, a Foshan native, quit a stable job in sales and marketing to pursue his dream of opening his own skate shop. Today, he owns Volcano, Foshan's first full spectrum skate shop, and served as the coach of Guangdong's Provincial

Skateboarding Team last year ahead of the sport's debut at the China National Games. Glory still commands the respect and admiration of the kids on the street, even as he proudly sports his team uniform.

"Skateboarding these past years in Foshan has been steadily growing," Glory tells us. "A lot of Chinese parents took a negative view of skateboarding, thinking it was a sport for 'bad kids.' But now, with Olympic recognition and the support of the government, a lot of people's view of skateboarding is starting to change for the better."

Back at the riverside in Guangzhou, the kids are getting ready to pack it in for the night. For their part, they're still learning things the old-fashioned way, with scrapes and bruises to prove it. Will one of them be China's next gold medal superstar, winning national glory on the world stage? It's hard to say, but as they kick-push their way off into the night, skirting tourists and baby strollers, it seems like the last thing on their minds.

Photos by @fpinsoles, @sergeysidey and @gloryjame



A lot of Chinese parents took a negative view of skateboarding, thinking it was a sport for ‘bad kids.’ But now, with Olympic recognition and the support of the government, a lot of people’s view of skateboarding is starting to change for the better.



SPOTS AND SHOPS FOR RIDERS IN SHENZHEN

1985 Shop

This is Shenzhen's all-in-one stop for booze and boards. Lying just south of Shenzhen East Station, the skate shop boasts counter seating out front plus import beers for summer sipping. *Baihe Star City, Building A, Shop 164, Buji Township, Longgang District, Shenzhen*
深圳市龙岗区布吉镇百合星城A栋164号商铺1985滑板店

Civic Center Plaza

Shenzhen's Civic Center Plaza, replete with achingly smooth and grindable ledges, is the indisputable mecca for skaters in the city. Its too-good-to-be-true architectural features and the hands-off skate-policing of local *bao'an* drew pilgrims from around the world and even earned the place an appearance in a Vice video about Chinese skateboarding. Security has tightened however and some 'skateproofing' features have been added to the landscape, so approach with caution.

Shekou Skate Park

The park lies just west of Sihai Park and boasts a modest array of concrete and steel obstacles including steps, banks, ramps, ledges and a small bowl.



COMMUNITY

Girl Talk

Closing the gender gap in education, p49



Kitty 'Konundrum'
P46



Take Five
P47

GIVING CHARITY A CHANCE

How to Volunteer in Shenzhen

By Bailey Hu

Ever wondered how volunteering in Shenzhen works, and whether you can join? Here's our rundown of all the ways you can help out around the city, no matter where you're from.

Apply Online

It's as easy as that. If you're fluent in Chinese, there is a wide range of opportunities open to you. Learn more about them and sign up on Shenzhen's official volunteer website, www.sva.org.cn.

Even if your Mandarin could use some work, some roles are still available, especially if you know about or have interest in teaching English.

For instance, if you're over 10 years old and have a basic understanding of Chinese, you're qualified to volunteer in Futian. Simply fill out the English-language form at www.futian.gov.cn/volunteers/about and email 1273522571@qq.com.

Nanshan District also has its own 'international volunteer team.' To apply, fill out and submit the form at yigong.org/register. You can also follow official WeChat account '志愿南山' to learn more.

Plus, you don't have to live in Nanshan or Futian to join either group. According to organizer Luca Mei, Futian District accepts volunteers from any area of Shenzhen, and residential requirements for the Nanshan group seem similarly loose.

Visit a U Station (U站)

Have a specific field of service in mind? Try the U Stations. Built out of shipping containers and environmentally friendly materials, these funny-looking stands around Shenzhen number in the hundreds and are a vital platform for the city's volunteer network.

Services offered at each station vary, but U Stations' overall purpose is to guide lost pedestrians, help children and the elderly, and host the occasional helpful event.

A prominent station at Futian's Lianhuashan Park, for instance, provides not only directions and free water, but also walking aids, umbrellas, first aid, sewing kits, phone chargers, and an air pump for bikes, according to volunteer Zhang Chunye.

U Station staffers like Zhang are likely to know about volunteer events and opportunities in their areas. Plus, some speak English, making asking about activities that much easier.



Call a Volunteer Union

Learn what opportunities are available in your area by calling – or asking a Chinese-fluent friend to help contact – any of the following volunteer subgroups.

Bao'an District Volunteer Union

Contact: Ye Yingsong (叶映松)
Phone: 2787 0964

Dapeng New District Volunteer Union

Contact: Li Yuemin (李月敏)
Phone: 2833 3645

Futian District Volunteer Union

Contact: Peng Shigui (彭士圭)
Phone: 8307 3637

Guangming New District Volunteer Union

Contact: Huang Haigen (黄海根)
Phone: 8821 2355

Longgang District Volunteer Union

Contact: Zhang Xinyue (张馨月)
Phone: 2890 2320

Longhua District Volunteer Union

Contact: Tang Zubin (唐祖斌)
Phone: 8171 8490

Luohu District Volunteer Union

Contact: Xing Yan (邢雁)
Phone: 2552 2222

Nanshan District Volunteer Union

Phone: 2666 2414/2661 5439

Pingshan District Volunteer Union

Contact: Wei Junli (魏军丽)
Phone: 8462 2920

Yantian District Volunteer Union

Contact: Wei Pengju (卫鹏举)
Phone: 2232 0158

Find even more at www.sva.org.cn (Chinese).

Contribute to a Cause

You don't have to be a volunteer to give back. The city also hosts various groups like A Heart for China (WeChat ID 'AHeartForChina'), which supports orphans, the elderly and children with disabilities, and recurring events such as the White Collar Charity Fight Night.

There are also drop-off boxes for gently used clothes and other items scattered around Shenzhen, often in front of the city's community service centers (社区服务中心).



COMMUNITY

DEAR JAMIE

Kitty 'Konundrum'

Dear Jamie,

My close friend of many years was traveling back to his home country for Chinese New Year and asked me to look after his cat while he was gone. He's done so much for me since I arrived in Guangzhou, so of course I agreed. What's two weeks?

He ran into some legal trouble while overseas and was deemed a flight risk. Long story short, he can't return to China and I'm stuck with his pet.

What can I do? The truth is I despise animals. At least if it was a dog I could find a willing buyer, given the auspicious zodiac cycle. I can't stand having the thing around my house and I'm this close to drowning it in the river or selling it to an unscrupulous kebab shop. Help!

-Kitty Konundrum

Dear Kitty Konundrum,

My mother always said "don't kill what you won't eat." So, if you decide to drown Mr. Whiskers in the river, you better be prepared to put him in a kebab and eat him!

In all seriousness, though, drowning any living creature – no matter how troublesome or annoying – is an act carried out by a deeply troubled individual. Don't do it, please.

Moving on to the crux of your problem: I can sympathize with your situation, as I know firsthand how unpleasant it can be to be stuck with an unwanted pet (especially if you are allergic to dog and cat hair...). Fortunately for you, Guangzhou has an amazing wealth of resources available for both pet owners and unwanted animals.

If you check out the community section in the January issue of *That's PRD*, you will find an introduction to Animal Action Guangzhou (AAGZ). Composed of dedicated, locally based animal lovers, AAGZ helps rescued and abandoned animals get healthy and find a loving home.

I'd suggest reaching out to their team and inquiring as to whether they're willing to help you track down a new, less-threatening environment for the kitty in your possession.

-Jamie

Have a pesky problem on your hands?
Email jamiinchina@outlook.com.

AROUND TOWN



SOCIAL SKILLS

Big Debates

"Is the Trump presidency good for the world?" "Is a higher education degree still worth it?" These are the kinds of questions posed by Shenzhen's Big Debates club, which has no intention of backing away from polarizing topics.

Once a month, Big Debates members meet to discuss a "motion" put forth by the community in a format resembling a high school debate club, but with audience participation. A few bold members volunteer to lead the debate as "front-line debaters," who pick a side and take the stage to argue either for or against the motion. Whichever side changes the most minds in the audience by the end of the meeting wins the debate.

Big Debates originally began in Shanghai, but after meeting the founder of the events online, organizer Greg Curtin decided to bring the concept to Shenzhen in late 2017.

"I think Shenzhen is the best city for the Big Debates in China," he says, "because the vast majority of people here are not locals. So already they've had to deal with coming into a new situation, with different opinions than the people around them."

According to Curtin, the event's ultimate goal is to give people from all kinds of backgrounds a fair chance to share their ideas, even if they diverge from the consensus of their community.

"I feel that in a lot of places, that's not the case," he says. "You're pushed into a corner and expected to feel a certain way, whether that's conservative or progressive, so this is a place where both views are allowed."

Meetings take place once a month at various venues around the city. Tickets are RMB30 prepaid via WeChat, RMB40 at the door. Add Curtin on WeChat (ID 'curtin9') to RSVP for the next debate.



TAKE FIVE

Salden Joris

This month we talk to Salden Joris, Consul General for Belgium stationed in Guangzhou. We've edited the exchange for length; look for the full interview online.

How long have you been in China and what have you noticed in that time?

I arrived in China slightly more than one and a half years ago... [One] fascinating aspect is the youth and the interest they show for foreign countries. I regularly give lectures on Belgium and its culture and can't help noticing that the question time after the presentation is almost longer than the lecture itself.

What are some lessons you hope China will learn from Belgium?

Our two regions have so much in common. [J]ust as Guangdong [is] one of the main entry points in China, Belgium has developed over the centuries, thanks to its location at the very heart of Europe, into the main gateway to the continent... But, to my opinion, even more important is the mentality of its people characterized by an industrious and business-minded attitude and a very open approach to the rest of the world...



And what can the world learn from China?

[Guangdong also went] through the process of converting its manufacturing industry into a modern high tech economy in which service industry and research and development are key elements. I have no doubt there are common lessons learned to be shared on that topic.

What do you hope the new year will bring?

2018 is the EU-China Year of Tourism. In this context I hope more and more Chinese friends will find their way to Belgium... You can find all the famous European brands of course, and quite often cheaper than in the rest of Europe, but even some more exclusive Belgian designers such as the famous Delvaux bags for example...

On cultural level the country has also a lot to offer. In fact, there is something to see in every city. The Grand Place of Brussels is one of the most beautiful squares in the world. Brussels also houses some marvelous museums such as the new Magritte museum dedicated to the famous surrealist painter or the comic museum...

I hope Chinese tourists will take the time to come and discover Belgium.

Belgium is known for its excellent breweries. Where in the PRD can we find the best, most authentic Belgian beer?

Belgium produces over a thousand different types of beer, from large multinationals to small traditional breweries, so it would be unfair, not to say impossible, to select just one. Fortunately I am happy to notice the most famous brands are easily found in China and a lot of bars and restaurants in Guangzhou serve excellent Belgian beers.

BEHIND THE HOLIDAY

International Women's Day

March 8, in China and around the world, will mark International Women's Day. The holiday, originally founded in 1911 to promote feminism and gender equality, was widely celebrated in socialist countries throughout the 20th century. As time went on, it has steadily been adopted by nations around the world as a day to recognize the daily social contributions of the people that Mao Zedong famously said, "hold up half the sky."

In 1975, the holiday was adopted by the UN, which proclaimed the day to be "a



time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities." Though in many countries the holiday, which was once known as the "International Day of the Working Woman" has strayed far from its proletarian roots, with everyone from advertisers to CEOs finding ways to commercialize or otherwise co-opt the festivities, it remains a day to be celebrated.

Here in China, the day is traditionally marked with the giving of flowers (either white lilies or red carnations – though in other countries yellow mimosas are more common). More importantly perhaps, women in China to this day are entitled by law to a half-day off from their jobs in celebration of the day. However you choose to celebrate March 8 this year, make sure to take a moment to honor the women and girls in your life, on this day and every day.

“I CAN’T FIX EVERYTHING”

Western Medicine Doesn’t Have All the Answers

By Dr. Kate Gaynor

I postponed going to medical school for many years, because I feared that practicing as a ‘Western’ physician would not make me happy. My friends and mentors in medicine were complaining about lawsuits and mounds of paperwork. I wanted to have a warm, therapeutic relationship with my patients and it seemed physicians had to spend less and less time with their patients and maintain more distance.

I also felt, even before entering medical school, that there were many physical or mental problems for which Western medicine did not have a good solution. I considered training in alternative healing traditions, but kept coming back to the thought that doctors only seemed to respect other doctors and perhaps I could accomplish more from within the profession than from the outside. Seven years after graduating from university, I finally started medical school.

Columbia University’s College of Physicians & Surgeons is an old-fashioned institution, steeped in tradition and slow to accept changes in the profession. The prevailing attitude toward complementary or alternative therapies was that they were quackery. I happened to be there, however,

at a time when one man successfully overturned this perception.

Dr. Mehmet Oz was a cardiothoracic surgeon with impeccable academic credentials and several medical device patents to his name. No one could call him a ‘quack.’ And he was able to leverage this respect to create the Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine within Columbia. Later he went on to be better known as Dr. Oz on *Oprah*.

Thanks to Mehmet Oz, I was able to meet and learn from a wide range of internationally famous practitioners of various healing traditions. In one instance, I scrubbed in to open heart surgery with Dr. Oz while a *qi gong* practitioner worked at the feet of the patient.

Later, during my residency in Family Medicine at the University of Washington, I used elective time to study at Bastyr University, one of the world’s premier institutions for the study of alternative medicine. Bastyr describes itself as a “pioneer in science-based natural medicine” and offers courses in acupuncture and East Asian medicine, ayurvedic sciences, exercise science, herbal sciences, midwifery, naturopathic medicine, nutrition, public health and psychology.

At Bastyr I learned to recognize and appreciate the healthy herbal smell of a traditional Chinese pharmacy. I received some of my very little formal training in nutrition at Bastyr. Most of what I know about nutrition comes from my own research and study. I remain amazed that so little attention is paid in Western medical training to something so critical to health.

In the end, I feel that I have learned to take the best from all realms of the health care world. I received a rigorous Western medical education and I believe in practicing evidence-based medicine based on high quality data. I’m a strong proponent of the benefits of vaccination. But I also believe that there isn’t a pill for everything and I’m going to do my best not to give you any pills – or shots – that you don’t need.

If you can treat your migraines with acupuncture, do it. Maybe what you need for your insomnia is a yoga class. Bloating? You might need to get serious about dietary changes. I am the first person to admit that Western medicine can’t solve all problems. But maybe I can help point you in the right direction.

Dr. Kate Gaynor is a board-certified US Family Medicine physician. She received her BA from Yale University, her medical degree from Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Washington. She sees patients of all ages, from children to adults, at the United Family Guangzhou Clinic where she is also the General Manager. United Family Guangzhou Clinic, 1/F, Annex, PICC Bldg, 301 Guangzhou Dadao Zhong, Yuexiu District, Guangzhou 广州市越秀区广州大道中301号人保大厦附楼首层 (4008-919191, emergency:8620 8710 6060, www.ufh.com.cn)



GIRL TALK

Closing the Gender Gap

By Lena Gidwani



It was October 9, 2012 in Pakistan's Swat Valley. Centered among a throng of mayhem and an overwhelming crowd of looming men was a young, brave 15-year-old Pakistani schoolgirl named Malala Yousafzai. A campaigner, her high-pitched voice exploded in protest with her unwavering belief and indignation as she demanded a very simple thing: her birthright and the right of all young girls to be educated.

She was determined to be heard loud and clear, but the response to silence her proved near-fatal. She was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman while riding a bus home from an examination. Nine months after being airlifted to England for treatment, this heroic young lady addressed the United Nations, and gained global attention for becoming the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner in history in 2014.

With a much larger stage than she could have ever imagined, Malala and her father set up the Malala Fund. Now in its fifth year, the Malala Fund has just been injected with a major grant by Apple.

Discussed heavily both in the news and on Apple's website, the aim is to support "12 years of free, safe and quality education for every girl." Apple's financial support will

allow the foundation to double the number of grants to more than 100,000 secondary school girls in India and Latin America.

As the world celebrates International Women's Day in March, it brings to light a topic that has been on the minds of many: why is access to education for girls still more limited than for boys?

According to the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) report, there are 130 million girls between the ages of 6 and 17 that are out of school. The report highlights significant challenges, such as widening gender disparity from primary to lower and upper secondary and lower completion rates for girls, with the poorest remaining at a significant disadvantage.

While all geographic regions recorded a narrower gender gap than a decade ago, the figures reveal that much more work is still needed. Given our current rate of progress, the 2017 Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic forum claims that the overall global gender gap can be closed at the following rates: 62 years in South Asia, 128 years in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, 161 years in East Asia and the Pacific, and 168 years in North America. That's an awfully long time for wait for gender equality.

With women constituting roughly half of the world's population, there is an obvious, practical case to be made: women deserve equal access to education, as it affects economic participation and outcomes. Research by the World Bank has discovered that excluding girls from education considerably hinders the productive potential of an economy and its overall development, and investing in girls so they complete education at the same rate as boys could supposedly lead to an increase in annual GDP growth rates of about 1.5 percent.

Further findings by McKinsey Global Institute give a more impressive figure: USD12 trillion, or 11 percent, in annual 2025 GDP can be added if all countries matched the rate of improvement of the fastest-improving country in their region. And if women played similar roles in the labor market as men, USD28 trillion, or 26 percent, could be added to global annual GDP by 2025. Staggering numbers, right?

With cash grants from companies like Apple, it does appear that we have made some progress, spurred on by Malala and many others like her, but only time will tell when – or if – we can achieve true advancement. Happy Women's Day, folks.

CITY SCENES

AmCham South China's Charity Cause (Supported by **that's**)

AmCham South China helped the impoverished Wuxing village in eastern Guangdong's Meizhou city to battle poverty with RMB3,429,517 (USD545,233) and in-kind donations from its members. The American Chamber of Commerce in South China, in its eighth consecutive annual charity effort and second year visiting Wuxing village, was joined by a select group of business and community leaders including executives from multinational corporations. On top of cash donations, member companies and groups also contributed clothing, educational materials, bedding, food, stationery and headsets. All donations are to be processed by Guangzhou Youth Development Foundation and cash donations will be used to save lives of orphaned children in need of immediate, emergency surgery and to help Wuxing village combat poverty.



Mix and Eat 3 (Supported by **that's**)

On January 20, The Ritz-Carlton Shenzhen collaborated with *That's PRD*, Beluga and Delamain to hold a third session of their popular Mix and Eat series. The dinner, which began at 6.30pm, featured culinary creations by Chef Stefano paired with five different cocktails from guest bartender Miss Lola Lau, crowned 'Cointreau Queen' in 2017. The meal began with slow-cooked octopus served with tomato capers and olives. It was paired perfectly with a Beluga vodka-based cocktail, mixed with dry vermouth, charcoal powder, fish sauce, smoked salt and egg white. Chef Stefano ended the dinner with a 'green apple' dessert combined with a sweet Delamain cognac-based cocktail with cinnamon and elderflower. After the dinner the party continued at the Curv where DJs and special cocktails continued to entertain.



Vivo Global Digital Promotion Seminar

Dongguan-based smartphone superstar Vivo took to the Gcross complex on February 8-9, 2018, to discuss groundbreaking new technology and the company's plans for 2018 and beyond. In a seminar presentation considering the path of global expansion, Vivo's national branding and marketing teams engaged with members of teams from Google and Facebook as the brands consider their digital future.



Chinese New Year at Terrace (Supported by **that's**)

For this year's Chinese New Year party, Terrace embraced tradition by adding a festive lion dance team to their celebrations. Your 2017 pick for Bar of the Year and Live Music Venue of the Year brought an authentic CNY atmosphere to the holiday fun and topped off the night with a special performance from their house band TAS. Look forward to more fun in the Year of the Dog with Terrace.



Children's Biking Day (Supported by **that's**)

In an age when mobile devices can distract us from the things that really matter, Gcross offered parents an opportunity to slow down and focus on family. On December 2-3, 2017, budding bikers took to two wheels in an afternoon of play and friendly competition. The tiny riders were a source of pride and delight for their watchful parents, while the act of riding helped to build the balance and coordination they'll need for an active life ahead.



Kizbasa Dance Party (Supported by **that's**)

Shake off the winter blues with a weekly dance party, courtesy of Pelicano. If you've never experienced the slow, smooth, sensuous rhythms of kizomba, Poppa KD will guide your way with instruction every Friday night from 9.15-9.55pm. After you've learned a few moves, take to the floor for a free open dance party, with addictive kizomba, bachata and salsa beats... and drink specials for all dancers. Grab your friends and check out one of the most popular dance styles sweeping China.



BenCham New Year Celebration (Supported by **that's**)

The Benelux Chamber of Commerce in China celebrated the New Year in the Pearl River Delta region with a reception party for members and friends at the Grand Hyatt Guangzhou on January 26. The Belgian Ambassador to China, H.E. Marc Vinck was present to open the event. Thanks to generous sponsors there were many amazing prizes for raffle winners. Besides entertainment shows, the evening also offered interactive opportunities for all the attendees.



PRD FOCUS



From February 5-9, The British School of Guangzhou held its annual China Week to welcome the Year of the Dog. The event included arts and crafts, dragon dances, cooking classes and a special dress-up day to celebrate Chinese culture.



For the second year in a row, AISG will represent China at the First Lego League (FLL) World Festival Championship in Houston, Texas. The World Championship invitation follows a successful weekend at the recent China English Language School FLL Robotics Championships in Shanghai, where seven middle school teams earned trophies across a number of categories.



Dubai recorded a strong 6.2 percent year-on-year increase in international overnight visitation in 2017, with the number of visitors from China seeing an impressive 41 percent increase, which helps the emirate to gain momentum towards its 2020 goal of welcoming 20 million visitors per year.



Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou was recently honored with the title of 'Five-Star Spa in China' by the 2018 Forbes Travel Guide. This is the third year the Guangzhou hotel was awarded a five-star rating. Occupying a prime location in Guangzhou's CBD, Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou adorns its interior with art and offers an elegant dining experience coupled with world-class service.



The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou has been recognized for the fourth consecutive year as a Forbes Five-Star Hotel by the prestigious Forbes Travel Guide for its excellent service and superior facilities. Since March 11, 2008, when The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou launched in the heart of the city, it has been offering the valiant traveler glorious and luxurious hospitality in Guangzhou.



On the afternoon of February 13, a group of warmhearted students from Le Xian Fang Primary School volunteered to accompany a group of elderly Guangzhouers to the Liwan District Flower Market. With the companionship of the youngsters, the group of senior citizens was treated to a sincere and festive outing that allowed them to recall joyful memories from when they were young.



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FOOD, DRINK & EVENTS IN SHENZHEN

Old Man, New Tricks

Disrupting the staid coffee shop model,
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AWAKE THE SENSES

INSTANT(ISH) HOT POT

By Matthew Bossons

Preparing and executing spicy hot pot at home is a process. You need to dig out that old hotplate you never use, make broth, chop up veggies and meat and then, obviously, cook it all up. After that: the dreaded and inevitably oily cleanup.

If only preparing hot pot could be easier, you've probably wished before. And now it is, with the advent of prepackaged, self-heating *huoguo*.

The instant noodles-inspired dish is ready in 15 minutes, no external heating required. While there are numerous prepackaged hot pot brands available, we sampled the aptly-called Chongqing Self-Heating Hot Pot.

The meal comes in a square red plastic container. All the necessary hot pot ingredients and accessories are inside: spicy broth mix, vegetables, meat, seaweed, a water-

activated heating pad and a small plastic cooking 'pot.'

Meal prep is as follows:

1. Remove the smaller bowl from the container. Add Chongqing soup mix and then fill it up approximately halfway with water.
2. Add prepackaged meats and veggies to the fiery broth.
3. Put the heating pad in the bottom of the larger bowl and add roughly an inch of water to activate the heating pad.
4. Place the smaller bowl inside the larger bowl and then put the lid on. Let boil for 15 minutes.



While the meal cooks, a steady stream of steam leaking from a hole in the lid and around the edges of the top releases a scent that stings the nostrils.

Inside the steaming plastic container, a smorgasbord of edibles – potatoes, seaweed, mushrooms, chicken, tripe and intestines (of unknown origin), lotus root, bamboo shoots and noodles – boil away in the super spicy broth.

When finished, crack open the top to indulge in authentic(ish) Chongqing-style *huoguo*.

Although we were skeptical, the prepackaged hot pot delivered a flavor-infused selection of edibles. The dish was also loyal to the hot and numbing taste you've either come to know and love, or to fear.

A word to the wise: if super-spiced, kick-you-in-the-throat heat is something you do not enjoy in a meal, refrain from using the entire broth mix. From our experience, half of the soup-mix package is more than enough to get you red in the face.

GRAPE VINE

THE SCANDALOUS SCOOP

We're Digging:



The opening of BAO Asian Fusion Restaurant; clear roads and train stations at the end of the world's largest annual human migration (aka: CNY); Shenzhen Fashion Week bringing art and couture ever closer in mid-March; James 'You're Beautiful' Blunt gracing nearby Guangzhou with his crooning come April; and McDonald's tasty new ice cream flavor: we can't believe it's not Nutella!

We're Done with:



Shenzhen snagging the title of Singleton Central this past Valentine's – here's hoping next year's date fares better; cuddly critters getting the shaft with online 'pet-sharing' services; the health of Shenzhen's coral reefs taking a dive despite NGOs' best efforts; and a worrying trend of flu outbreaks as Chinese tourists turn homewards – stay safe, Shenzheners.



OLDIE BUT GOODIE

Muwu Shaokao

If there was a gold standard for semi-streetside *shaokao* spots in Shenzhen, Muwu would be it.

The chain has spread its well-toasted tentacles over seemingly every corner of the city, along with a reputation for quality and sanitation.

It's also known for being partly owned by Barack Obama's half-brother, Mark Ndesandjo. The musician, writer and entrepreneur has called Shenzhen home since 2002. Over the years he's given free piano lessons to local orphans and founded a charitable foundation that aims to "foster cultural exchanges between Asia, America and Africa."

His greatest impact on Shenzhen's social fabric, however, is arguably his barbecue brand. Co-owned with Chinese partners, Muwu Shaokao is often crowded from early evening until late in the night. It swaps out the spontaneity and risk of snacking on the street for relative comfort and predictably solid dishes.

A topping of minced garlic and chili peppers on eggplant (RMB7), for instance, is a satisfying if unadventurous culinary choice.

Well-seasoned chicken cartilage skewers (RMB28 per order), though, are a well-executed late-night classic. If gristle isn't your thing, barbecued wings (RMB7.5 for two), lamb (RMB25) and beef (RMB28) are also mouth-

watering.

A plate of soy sauce-tinted fried rice (RMB18) is generous enough to share among two or three people. Take caution with the accompanying dish of pickled veggies, however, as they pack an outsized sour punch.

Muwu's service is prompt, helped along by a streamlined ordering system: just write down the numbers under the pictures on the menu, no Chinese required.

But by far the best part about the chain is, hm, how should we put it? The gift of being able to stroll away post-meal without a worry about the runs.

1/F, Dongfang Haiyaju, 133 Chuangye Lu, Nanshan District 南山区创业路133号东方海雅居第一层 (2639 4665)



KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL

Drunk Like Him

This month we talk with Mr. Liu, founder of Mixy Bar, the charming new whiskey bar nestled beside OCT's Hua Living Space mall in Shenzhen.



"One day there was a man in the bar shouting: 'Come on, my friends, when I drink, everyone can drink!' Everyone shouted their thanks for his kindness and, just like him, took another glass of whiskey. And just like him, it was drunk in one breath. This man shouted again: 'I want a second cup, my friends, each of you can have another cup.' So just like him, everyone took up another cup with excitement and smiled as they toasted this man. After drinking, he put down money for his drinks and said: 'I paid! You have to remember to pay too!' Then the carefree spirit departed, just like him."

WHAT'S ON WAIMAI

Hotties Burger

In a sea of fast-food competitors, Hotties Burger sets itself apart with just one menu item – the waffle fry. Okay, not really. But as we munch on one, then another crispy lattice of starch, priced at RMB13 per order, we're reminded of why the shape became an American staple in the first place.

Also worth mentioning are the burgers. Instead of the gourmet, precariously-stacked creations you might find for RMB80 in the CBD, patties are modestly sized and enveloped in pillowy buns.

But bringing burgers back to the basics works for Hotties. The patties are well-made and just juicy enough to sport a hint of pink in the middle. Simple additions of lettuce, tomato and cheese in the standard cheeseburger (RMB26) don't distract too much, while spicy mayo, mushrooms and bacon keep things interesting in the bacon burger (RMB28).

A simple foil wrapper keeps



things from falling apart, plus helps us avoid the age-old Chinese question – to glove up or not to glove up?

Besides burgers, plenty of sides are available, from wings (RMB20-21) to hash browns (RMB9) to chicken nuggets (RMB12) to onion rings (RMB13). We'd warn against the last, though, as fried batter overwhelms what little vegetable remains.

A final note: prices are modest, but so are portion sizes. If you're in the mood for a supersized meal, be prepared to either order a lot or look elsewhere.

Price: RMB35

Good for: above-average burgers, waffle fries

Search: 哈帝斯汉堡 *ha di si hanbao*

Available on: Dianping, Meituan

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OLD MAN CAFE

Coffee with a Vision

By Paul Barresi

The Place

Rapidly growing Longhua New District might not be seen as a destination for food but if you look hard enough you can find hidden gems like the Old Man Cafe. This local coffeehouse burst onto the scene with the goal of “disrupting traditional neighborhood stores found on the ground level of apartment complexes” – precisely where Old Man is located.

With grand aspirations in mind, Old Man Cafe wows with strong, unified branding. From the orange decor with matching coffee mugs and staff uniforms, to celebrations of masculinity through pop culture icons, Old Man Cafe wants you to feel part of something greater than your run-of-the-mill coffee shop.



The Food

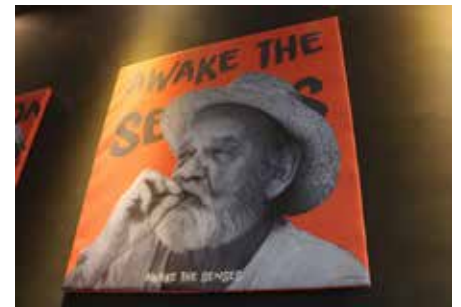
For those overwhelmed by choice, the English-Chinese menu is wisely kept to a minimum, while still including your favorite coffees and teas. For something different, the Salted Toffee Coffee (RMB28) was exactly as written – a salty, sticky, caffeine-filled treat.

But it was the French Fries with Plum Powder (RMB15) that surprised the most on a menu of standard, deep-fried finger food. Where salt is to be expected, the sweeter substitute of the plum powder worked strangely well as a garnish.

While outside signage advertises that they also serve liquor, it's currently off the menu for unspecified reasons. The wait staff reported that it may or may not come back, as they cheekily mixed us a Blue Hawaiian (RMB50) without going easy on the booze.

The Vibe

With plans for other Old Man shops to join “an ecosystem that services the entire community,” the cafe iteration is part of the early days of something greater. But it might be very early days as they still have an unstocked salad section and an important decision to make regarding alcohol. Happily, a warm staff, a manly aesthetic and a vision for the future let Old Man Cafe provide a welcome refuge for both old and young alike.



Price: RMB25-50

Who's going: pop-culture junkies, art students, open-minded Longhua residents

Good for: quiet place for working, late night coffee

Nearest metro: Shangtang (Exit B), 8 minutes

Open Mon-Fri 10am-10pm, Sat-Sun 2pm-10pm;
115 South Block, Qian Long Man Hai Ning,
Longhua New District 龙华新区潜龙曼海宁南区115
号商铺OMC老男人咖啡 (2103 4815)

MORTON'S GRILLE

High on the Hog

By Adam Robbins



The Place

If there's any doubt of Shenzhen's rising status, look no further than the Ping An Financial Center. Over 100 stories of concrete and steel announce an economy to rival any in China; the attached PAFC Mall echoes that with some of the finest fare in the city. Morton's Grille is emblematic, with premium steaks and grade A service to match.

From the glass-lined dining room that seats 130, or the seven private rooms, we can spy a few distant hills and the ongoing construction that remind us this city isn't slowing down anytime soon.



The Food

These are the days of plenty, with an American-style, Texas-sized carnivorous feast. The lamp sculpted like a pig – a tradition since the earliest Morton's The Steakhouse – sets the mood for the kind of satisfaction guests can enjoy.

Servers present the day's finest cuts, each held to such rigorous standards that the USDA portion of the menu (nearly half the cuts) weren't available on our visit. We trust reliable vendors will speed their return.

The remaining Australian beef is perfectly sumptuous. The two-inch fillet of the porterhouse (RMB728/650g) is a masterpiece, finely demiglazed so it only needs a touch of sea salt to reach perfection. As with the fall-off-the-bone barbecue pork ribs (RMB98), slathered in barbecue sweetness, the portions are massive. But as they remind: "the more you share, the more you care." Bring friends to share the meat and a fresh, satisfying chopped house salad (RMB58) that mingles a mild, creamy dressing against firm chunks of avocado.

The place deserves more attention during lunch, with set meals as inexpensive as RMB100 (for soup and pasta with meatballs), or up to RMB358 for 280 grams of center-cut ribeye, with a half dozen choices in between. We defy you to save room for dessert: velvet-smooth creme brulee (RMB38) and indulgent molten chocolate cake (RMB88) are rich enough to make that pig lamp blush.

The Vibe

For a city at the cusp of China's economic boom, it's only right to enjoy a *Mad Man*-style lunch among the dark leather, woodgrain and stainless steel of Morton's Grille. It's 'casual dining' ... but business casual or fashion-forward casual. Anyone in the orbit of the towering Ping An will find comfort, welcome and well-fed satisfaction in this echo of swank Americana.

Price: RMB100-1,500

Who's going: shoppers and workers of Futian, steak lovers

Good for: exquisite dining, power lunches
Nearest Metro: Shopping Park (Exit D), 3 minutes

Open Sun-Thu 11.30am-10pm, Fri-Sat 11.30am-11pm, N901 PAFC Mall, Ping An Finance Center, 5033 Yitian Road, Futian District 深圳市福田区益田路5033号平安金融中心N901 (8326 8333)



GLASS HAMMER

Shattering Expectations

By Adam Robbins

The Place

If you've visited this Coco Park brew house since last November, you know there's a new concept in the Anglo-American gastro pub now known as Glass Hammer. It's still brewing up its own beers, but the emphasis is now firmly on the food. And we couldn't be happier with the substantial portions of meat that now dominate the menu.

Why the change? It's business, we're told. River Flow Investment – owners of this space and 20 others, like Pepper and Shark – wanted an upgrade to attract both beer drinkers and the dinner crowd.

The Food

A robust roast bone marrow (RMB88) is equal part bacon

and we wouldn't have it any other way. Like most of the new menu the spread incorporates Glass Hammer's beer (here it's stout) along with bourbon for a savory-sweet mixture that's oh so easy to enjoy.

Tender chili stout-braised short ribs (RMB208) are just one excellent example of their imported beef. It appears elsewhere as tender beef cheek, as in a mac and cheese (RMB118) that's pure comfort food in a small cast iron pan, with a rich beer-infused sauce elevating it to something a bit more grown up.

And, of course, they trot out a trotter (RMB138). But if you love gnawing at all those bones, we have some bad news: this version is deliciously free of those inedible annoyances. The kitchen gives the pig foot a long brine and roast, then pulls out the meat for a Sichuan-spicy sausage, packed back into the skin for a surprising presentation.



The Beer

But if beer is still your only reason to get to Coco Park, you'll be glad to hear of Glass Hammer's new five-liter keg, an innovation from home brewers that we haven't really seen in Shenzhen's bar scene. They're light enough to fit on a table top but carry enough brew for a party at home or in the office (if your boss is cool like that).

Even more exciting (perhaps) is Glass Hammer's plan to deliver a two-liter nitro device, so your beer or coffee (or wine?) can get the effervescent treatment from the super-chilled gas.

Whatever you thought of the space before, put that out of mind. Glass Hammer is a new foodie destination with changes to almost all the 20+ beers on tap. This is the chance to find new favorites alongside a mature gastropub menu.

Price: RMB150-300

Who's going: Gastropub fans, gal pals

Good for: Savory comfort food, beer choices, people watching

Nearest metro: Shopping Park (Exit B), one minute

Open daily 9am-2am; No. 132, 1/F, B Area, Shopping Park, Fuhua Lu, Futian District 福田区福华路购物公园B区1楼132 (2394 4697)





I AM CHINESE FESTIVAL

Twelve Traditional Holidays, Explained
By Josir and Berenice Zandonai

Ever wonder about the origins of your favorite Chinese holidays? Telling the stories through the perspective of a young protagonist, *I Am Chinese Festival* is a bilingual illustrated book that introduces the history behind 12 major Chinese traditional festivals. Besides their origins, readers can also learn about the stories behind some of the different customs of Spring Festival, Lantern Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival, and much more.

I Am Chinese Festival is available in two versions: Chinese-English and Chinese-French (to be published), and is suitable for anyone who has an interest in Chinese culture. The book is a collaboration between Chinese illustrator Josir and Berenice Zandonai, a French fashion designer who translated the picture book into English and French.

Moreover, a trilingual audio version of this illustrated book is also available for free by scanning the QR code printed on the back cover of the book. The Chinese and English recordings come courtesy of Emma, a 10-year-old Chinese girl who's fluent in Mandarin and English, while Zandonai provides the French version.

To Purchase these books, please call
☎ 010 8200 5927

EDEN BAR

Coco Park's Dance Carnival

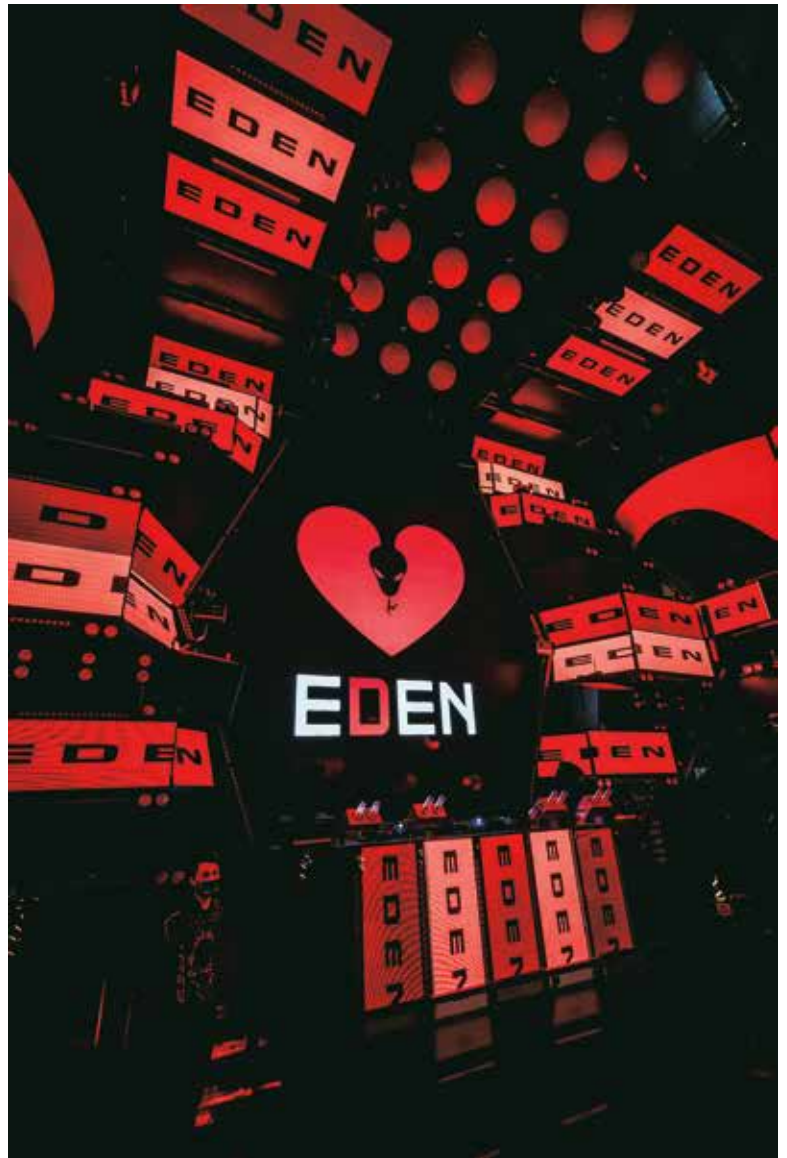
By Paul Barresi



“We want you to come in and feel like you’re in a rave, like you’re in a dance festival,” says Moe, co-owner of the latest in the ever-expanding nightlife of China’s fastest-growing city.

Welcome to Eden Bar, the self-dubbed “Electronic Music Carnival.” Taking cues from EDM festivals, Eden is hoping to replicate that intense festival atmosphere in Coco Park. And there certainly is an abundance of atmosphere as Eden brings all the trappings to its large outdoor space: ample seating, speakers in every corner, heaters, and two bars – complete with a water feature the bartenders must dodge.

But for regular Coco Park revelers, Eden’s outdoor part isn’t new. After all, it’s been open for over a year. What is new is the inside dance floor, which is where you can find the real party. Once inside, Eden’s claim of being an electronic music carnival begins to make



sense. It’s a mini Tomorrowland. It’s an intimate dance party. It’s a seven-nights-a-week rave.

Cementing its festive vibe is a staggering amount of LED screens and lights planted on the walls and ceiling. Together with the EDM soundtrack, your senses are bombarded with a dazzling display of images, lights and sounds.

Even with the right things in place, the dance floor sadly feels too small, which is a shame given how carefully the venue has been designed to appeal to both unabashed partiers and those needing the courage to get up and dance. If you’re in need of some Dutch courage, try the devilishly strong Zombie cocktail (RMB70) – the tropical mix of pineapple and lemon skillfully hide the potent punch of three kinds of rum. Or if you’re already on the dance floor, the even stronger Forbidden Fruit (RMB68) – parts gin, tequila, and curacao – comes in a Minion-shaped bottle for those juggling drinks while busting moves.

Price: RMB50-200

Who’s going: Coco Park regulars, EDM enthusiasts

Good for: a new place to party, dancing until dawn

Nearest metro: Shopping Park (Exit B) three minutes

Open daily, 8pm-6am; West Entrance, Shopping Park Bar Street, Futian District, Shenzhen (across from Sicilia) 深圳市福田区购物公园北园酒吧街西面入口 (188-9877 0808)



**FRIDAY,
MARCH 9**

**GRADES
3-5**

**PYP OPEN
HOUSE**

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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IN SHENZHEN, CHINA**

**GRADES
6-10**

MYP OPEN HOUSE

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 16**

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- ✓ Meet our Senior Leadership Team
- ✓ Discover the IB MYP & DP (Q&A)
- ✓ Explore our state-of-the-art campus
- ✓ Speak to our University Guidance Counsellor



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[t] +86-2666-1000 中国深圳南山区桃源街道龙苑路11号





● **Hardwell Set**



Get up-close and personal with the Dutch electro house superstar. Since his 2012 breakthrough, Hardwell has climbed the charts and the ranks of EDM's most influential. This is your chance to see the magic live, before he hops across the border for his Macau residency.

Fri Mar 2, 7pm. BBR, 3/F, Bldg A, Poly Culture Square, Haide Er Dao, Coastal City, Nanshan District 南山区海岸城海德二道保利文化广场A栋3楼 (8631 1999)

● **John Legend: Darkness and Light Tour Concert**



The American singer, songwriter, musician and actor – famous on his own, and for collabs with Kanye West, Alicia Keyes, Jay-Z and many more – comes to town for his fifth album. Don't miss this supremely talented wordsmith, neo-soul singer and pianist as he shines in *Darkness and Light*.

Tue Mar 6, 8pm; RMB 388-1,280. Shenzhen Bay Sports Center, 3001 Binhai Dadao, Nanshan District 南山区滨海大道3001号 (8630 8888)

● **The Royal Engineers Concert**

Inspired by the analogue sound of the '70s, these pop rockers out of The Netherlands craft a groovy, original sound guaranteed to put a smile on your face. Hot off their first tour of the US, they're criss-crossing China to support their newest album, the appropriately optimistic *Rock 'N Roll Will Never Let You Down*. They're joined by guest band The Fox Hunter.

Thu Mar 15, 9pm. Brown Sugar Jar Public House, 1031 Shangbunan Rd. Futian District 福田区上步南路1031号 (189-3867 9176)

● **Bakerie Gig**



Some of the hottest hip hop artists out of Hong Kong – like Dough-Boy, Geniuz F, Tommy Grooves and Seanie P – throw their talents into the Bakerie collective. Get out and hear them spit their flow, with lyrics and rhythms grounded in HK culture. Don't miss this chance to check out award-winning music creators without all that border-crossing hassle.

Fri Mar 2, 8:30pm; RMB120 presale RMB150 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)

win!

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

● **re:plus Concert**



Relentlessly creative, Hiroaki Watanabe assimilates the sounds of break-beat, house, hip hop, jazz, ambient, acoustic, electro and more to craft a unique sound filtered by his own nostalgic sense of the past. The result is surprisingly fresh and future-forward, as his group inspires chart-topping sales for their three albums. Witness this rare wonder while you can.

Sat Mar 3, 8:30pm; RMB180 presale RMB230 door RMB350 VIP. 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

● **shuhari Instrumental**



Blasting past the language barrier, Japan's shuhari delivers post-rock meditations that draw inspiration from Neo-Confucian Bushido. On guitar, drums and bass guitar, the instrumental trio rock out an indie sound that will send your mind on a journey through the ages.

Sun Mar 4, 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 (8633 7602, b10live.taobao.com)

● **Basic Soul Unit & Ctt. Records Release Party**



A truly massive lineup comes together to mix it up for the release of a digital EP release from VOID founder Shanghai Ultra and a new CD dropped by Tayta. Canadian DJ and producer Basic Soul Unit arrives for his China debut, spinning after hosting a production workshop with beatmasters like Biting Eye and Purple Key. Purchase tickets separately or as a discount package.

Fri Mar 16, 8pm workshop 9pm-7am show; RMB120 presale RMB150 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 (www.b10live.cn)

● **The fin. Concert**



Japan's chillwave rockers hit up the PRD at the tail end of their China tour, in support of their new album *There*. Get down with the shoegaze in the B10 Live space and let your heart bask in the pale blue afterglow.

Fri Mar 16, 8pm doors 8:30pm show; RMB120 presale RMB150 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 (www.b10live.cn)



● **When All Was Green** Puppet Show



Through old books, recycled bindings and yellowing pages a story is told about a boy and a tree, about childhood and adolescence, about fields that are lost between grey concrete and about one green bud of hope. The wordless performance reveals surprising depth of feeling, with a moving message that can be understood across language and culture.

Every Sun & Sat Mar 3-Apr 1, 10:30am & 3pm; RMB180. Nanshan Cultural and Sports Center, 62 Nantou Jie, Nanshan District 南山区南山大道南头街62号 (247tickets.com)

● **Repertoire Fragment** Dance



Graceful, dreamy ballet arrives from Japan, with award-winning young dancers performing acts of cultural diplomacy. With solo and pas-de-deux performances that defy their tender age, this intensely beautiful show promises to transcend your expectations of what young dancers can accomplish.

Sat Mar 24, 8pm; RMB180-380. Shenzhen Poly Theatre, Baoli Culture Square, Haibin Lu, Houhai, Nanshan District 南山区后海滨路保利文化广场保利剧院 (polytheatre.sz.com)

Pulse

● **Romeo et Juliette: de la Haine a l'Amour** Musical



The Bard's tragic work on love that destroys is reborn with music and lyrics by Gerard Presgurvic. Besides a tweak to the two teens' deaths, this musical version gives greater voice to Lady Capulet and richer context to Tybalt as he plays out his fatal jealousy. Presented with choreography by Carl Portal and haute-couture costumes by Laurent Déjardin, with Chinese supertitles accompanying the French text.

Thu Mar 29-Sat Mar 31, 2:30pm & 7:30pm; RMB280-1,080. Nanshan Cultural and Sports Center, 62 Nantou Jie, Nanshan District 南山区南山大道南头街62号 (damai.cn)

● **Cirque du Soleil: KOOZA** Show



In addition to the acrobatics we'd expect from Cirque performances, KOOZA brings back the slapstick clowning of the circus for a performance of high-energy humor. Journey with the Innocent and a panoply of comic characters like the King, the Trickster, the Obnoxious Tourist and his Bad Dog, in a big-top spectacle packed with thrills, chills, and electrifying surprises. Despite a few frightening noises, the show is appropriate for the whole family.

Daily through Apr 1, 3:30 & 7:30pm. Shenzhen Media Group Longgang Broadcast TV Center, 500 Longfei Avenue, Longgang District 龙飞大道500号 (www.247tickets.com)



● **Luxury Spring** High Tea



A wonderful afternoon spent with good friends over tea and treats is one of best ways to welcome spring in Shenzhen. Through the end of March, Kempinski Hotel Shenzhen offers a luxury spring high tea set at The Lounge, with delicate refreshments, aromatic coffee or Ronnefeldt teas and piano accompaniment to set the mood. Pamper yourself with a 15-piece pastry selection featuring deep-fried truffle risotto balls, macarons, Napoleon cake, linzer tart, scones, mousse and more.

Daily through Mar 31, 2-6pm; RMB298 for two (plus 16 percent). Kempinski Hotel Shenzhen, Hai De San Dao, Nanshan District 南山区后海滨路海德三道 (8888 8888 ext. 8310)

● **Premium Angus** Night



For their Premium Angus Night, Kempinski Hotel Shenzhen selected Angus beef from Australia, where the cattle are fed abundant feed grains and fresh water in wide open spaces. The culinary team is prepared to cook this tender meat as rare as you'd like, or you can pamper yourself with other delicious Angus beef dishes like beef carpaccio with olive oil and honey black truffle, Ossobuco, veal cheek with truffle potato, or beef tenderloin filled with cheese and spinach.

Daily Through Mar 31, 5:30-9:30pm; RMB428 (plus 16%). Seasons Restaurant, Kempinski Hotel Shenzhen, Hai De San Dao, Nanshan District 南山区后海滨路海德三道 (8888 8888 ext. 8318)



● Xinjiang Photography Exhibit



Photographer Li Xinzhao exhibits photos capturing the people and landscape of Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. With brilliant manmade fabrics against a bleak natural and social reality, the artist hopes to evoke a pure, elusive land of the spirit.

Daily Through Mar 10. Excellence Century Center, 2030 Jintian Road, Futian District 福田区金田路2030号卓越世纪中心

● Kidz with Heart Sports Day



Kids (ages 5 to 11) run, jump and enjoy a tiny Olympics of sporting fun, and all for a good cause. Choose which location is more convenient – Shekou International School on March 17 or Shen Wai International School on March 24 – but sign up your little athlete soon: registration closes March 6. Everyone goes home a winner, with a goodie bag that includes a T-shirt and medal to show off their hard work. All proceeds support Captivating and its China-based partners.

Sat Mar 17 & Sat Mar 24, 8am check in 9am event begins 12pm award ceremony; RMB230. Shekou International School, Jing Shan Villas, Nanshai Blvd, Nanshan District南山区蛇口工业二路鲸山别墅内; Shen Wai International School, 29 Baishi San Dao, Nanshan District南山区白石三道29号深外国际部 (captivatingevents.org)

● Majolica Italian Ceramics Exhibit



A selection of 150 ceramic pieces from Italy's International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza are on display at Shenzhen Museum, portraying Italian ceramic history from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. The inspiration for this Majolica-style pottery arrived from Chinese white ware of the Tang Dynasty, courtesy of the tin-glazed replicas from North Africa, in another sign of early globalization that reached the world via the original Silk Road.

Tue-Sun through Mar 25, 9am-5pm. Shenzhen Museum, Section A, Shenzhen Citizen Center, 3 Fuzhong San Lu, Futian District福田区福中3路深圳市民中心A区 (shenzhenmuseum.com.cn)

● Dunhuang Mogao Caves Exhibit



The richly decorated caves of Mogao are believed to be as old as the fourth century, and expanded to more than 1,000 during the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618-907) as Dunhuang became a Silk Road hub and major religious center. In collaboration with Dunhuang Academy, organizers have set up seven life-sized Mogao caves with mural reproductions across the walls and ceilings. Reproductions of ancient Buddha statues and paintings populate the three-story exhibition center, with video and animation added to provide an even more immersive experience.

Daily through Mar 30, 11am-9pm; RMB120-150. OCT Harbor Exhibition Center, OCT Harbor, Baishi Road, Nanshan District 南山区白石路欢乐海岸创展中心

Pulse

● International Bazaar Job Fair



Break out of your rut and embrace the new year with a new turn in your career, maybe with one of the businesses hosted by HiredChina.com at this monthly event. Even if you're not in the job market, stop by to shop for international products that will remind you of home or services to make life here a little easier.

Sat Mar 24, 10am-5pm; free entry RMB20 presale booth. Shekou Technology Building II, 1057 Nanshai Avenue, Nanshan District 南山区南海大道1057号 (3315 5334)

● Champion Road Fight Club Boxing



Tired of feeling tired? Ready to rumble with the big dogs in the new year? Then team up with the trainers of Champion Road to kick your body into gear. Choose a class in full-body Muay Thai, boxing, kickboxing, or anything-goes Mixed Martial Arts, or get dedicated support in a one-on-one session to build on your unique strengths. Bring water and a towel and plan to arrive 15 minutes before the 60-minute (private) or 90-minute (group) class begins.

Ongoing Tue-Sun; RMB108 (group) RMB256 (private). Champion Road Fight Club, Room 611, 25 Tairansi Lu, Futian District泰然四路25号创新科技广场一期B座 (247tickets.com)

HOTEL NEWS

MARCO POLO SHENZHEN

Announces the Grand Opening of Deli

Deli, a new outlet focused on healthy drinks, baked goods and snacks, was opened with a flourish on January 28, 2018, in the Marco Polo Shenzhen. To celebrate the addition of this healthy lifestyle outlet and show off the features to the public, around 60 guests were invited to attend an afternoon party in honor of the occasion.



THE RITZ-CARLTON, SHENZHEN

Wants You to Inspire Your Travel with Creativity



In collaboration with Design Society, The Ritz-Carlton, Shenzhen presents a brand new 'Inspire Your Travel with Creativity' room package for an artsy, unique and memorable stay. Starting from RMB1,488 (plus a 16.6 percent service charge), you can book a 'Travel with Art' room package, with perks like tickets for two to the 'Values of Design' and 'Minding the Digital' exhibitions. Reserve by June 3 to get this fresh view of China's creative metropolis: 2222-2222 or rc.szrz.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.

HONG KONG & MACAU CALENDAR

MAR 7
WED



RuPaul's Drag Race Stars Kim Chi & Naomi Smalls with Comedy Queen & Host Lady Bunny, HKD488-688 standard HKD1,088 VIP. The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (hkticketing.com)

Bow down to the queens! Chi and Smalls, two of the most popular competitors from the hit drag show, arrive for a night of high shade, unforgettable madness and pure *eleganza*. The intimidatingly beautiful glamazons are joined by one of the funniest artists to don fake eyelashes. Lose yourself in a night of style and hilarity with these queens of comedy.

MAR 17
SAT

Sónar Music and Tech Festival, 8pm; HKD880 all access HKD180 Sónar+D. Hong Kong Science Park (sonarhongkong.com)

Visionary electronic music artist Squarepusher joins 40 audacious artists on five stages in this massive futurist festival. Beyond digitally enhanced performances, you'll enjoy virtual and augmented reality, 3D holograms, instruments controlled by light and a talk with Sophia, the robot recently granted Saudi citizenship. Prepare to be blown away.

MAR 18
SUN



HKAF World Music Weekend:

Namgar, HKD260. The Hong Kong Academy For Performing Arts (hk.artsfestival.org)
Namgar – the Bjork-like lead singer and her band – carry forth the musical heritage of Mongol and Buryat nomads that hail from southern Siberia. They paint in song of ancient battles, brave warriors and swift horses, infusing the beauty and emotion of traditional hymns with the raw and rocking

HK

energy of electric guitars. The past shall not die with such champions as these.

THROUGH
MAR 24
DAILY

Hong Kong Arts Festival. Various locations (www.hk.artsfestival.org)
An international array of acclaimed theater, dance, live music, opera, circus and more fills the city with creativity until March 24. There's far too much to mention here; check out the complete schedule online.

MAR 29-31
THU-SAT



Art Basel, times vary; HKD200-350 presale HKD300-400 door HKD500-850 multiday. Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (hkticketing.com)

The sixth edition of the world-renowned art show returns to Hong Kong with an incredible lineup of modern and contemporary works from 248 premiere institutions across 32 countries. With Asia-Pacific galleries representing more than half, this marquee exhibition brings together the richest highlights of East and West, just like Hong Kong.

MAR 30
FRI



Katy Perry Witness: The Tour, 8pm; HKD588-1,888. AsiaWorld-Expo (hkticketing.com)

You know she's not coming to the mainland, so this might be your only chance to see the pop superstar with all her freaky bells and whistles. Her latest tour is a musical tour through her milestones and hits, "an imaginative trip from outer-space to inner-space, from the planets to the bottom of our oceans," all staged for eye-popping delight.

MAR 10 & 18
SAT & SUN



The Script Road – Macau Literary Festival, 8pm/9pm; MOP120. Pacha Macau (Studio City); Dom Pedro V Theatre (macauticket.com)

Started by local newspaper *Ponto Final*, The Script Road – Macau Literary Festival is an annual gathering of writers, publishers, journalists, musicians and directors, among other professions, from China and Portuguese-speaking countries. This year, two musical performances are scheduled as part of the event: one by Portuguese singer and composer JP Simões, who will be accompanied onstage by Portuguese DJ Selecta Alice, and the other by a blind Chinese folk singer and poet who hails from Shenyang.

MAR 16
FRI



Bosch Dream, 7:30pm; MOP100. Macao Cultural Centre.

Bosch Dream is an interactive circus class where participants will be taught the fundamentals and various disciplines of acrobatics. This workshop is organized by Canadian circus team The 7 Fingers, who have performed in Broadway shows, Olympic ceremonies, TV creations and more.

MAR 18
SUN



Feast of the God Tou Tei, Pou Tai Un Temple on Taipa.

MO

Tou Tei is the God of Earth in Chinese folk religion and is believed to be everywhere. Celebrations are held at the Tou Tei temples on Taipa, where Chinese pastries will be offered to Tou Tei. Cantonese operas will be staged in front of the temple and lion dances and other traditional shows will round out the festivities.

MAR 20
TUE



Land of Gold, 8pm; MOP100-250. Macao Cultural Centre (macauticket.com)

Anoushka Shankar, the daughter of renowned Indian musician Ravi Shankar, has turned the art of sitar, a traditional Indian instrument, into a sensation. Her highly anticipated performance on March 20 is sure to be an evening of auditory delight.

UNTIL MAR 31
TUE-SUN



11th Macau Design Biennial

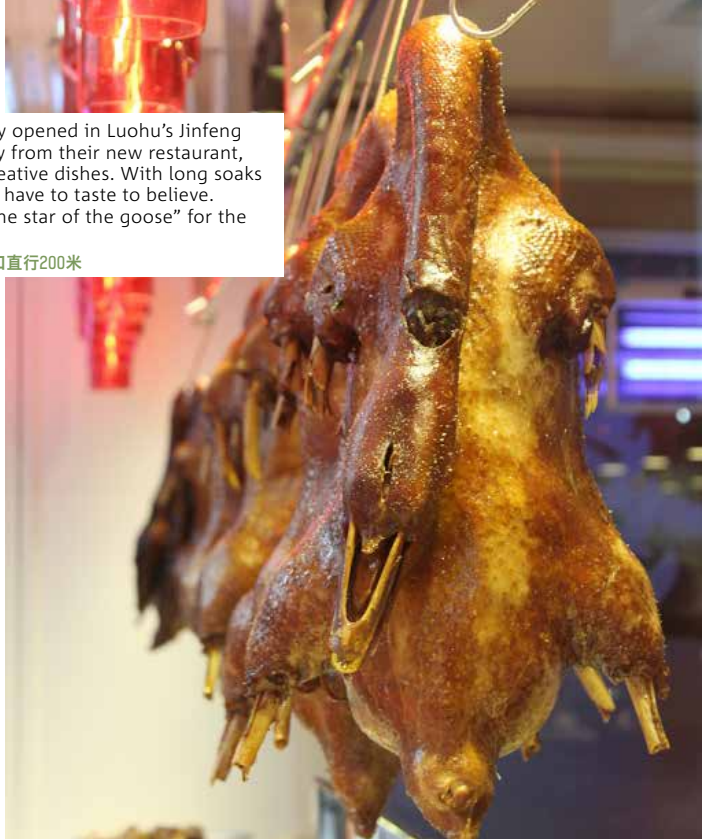
Exhibition, 10am-7pm; free. Macau Art Museum (mam.gov.mo)
With a record 4,575 works by contestants from 33 countries and regions, this year's edition of the Macau Design Biennial was a treat to the eyes and mind. A total of 183 winning designs in various categories are currently on exhibit at the Macau Art Museum.

CHAOSHAN GRACE OF GOOSE

Opens in Jinfeng City

Shenzhen welcomes the arrival of Chaoshan Grace of Goose Restaurant, newly opened in Luohu's Jinfeng City. With their own supply of eco-friendly farm-fresh geese a mere hour away from their new restaurant, the 40-year-old brand is able to offer consistent quality for a wide range of creative dishes. With long soaks in their signature 10-spice brine, the poultry take on a unique, rich flavor you have to taste to believe. Choose from classic goose liver foie gras, goose wing, savory intestines, or "the star of the goose" for the perfect taste of this time-honored fowl.

1/F, Jinfeng City, Shennan East Road, Luohu District 罗湖区深南东路金丰城负一楼 大剧院F出口直行200米



VIETMIAM

Brings a Taste of Saigon

With exotic plants, traditional Vietnamese design and classic French elegance, newly opened Vietmiam takes you out of the bustle of the city and into the quiet comfort of a Saigon cafe. A menu of Hui Xin cuisine offers the freshest ingredients, blended for the perfect level of spice and the brilliant colors that make every mouthful a tempting tour of the tropics. Savor signature dishes like big leaf beef *binhai*, champagne and beer crab, classic Vietnamese spring rolls and more. Visit their new MixC location for a culinary holiday to astound and delight your taste buds.

Shenzhen MixC World, 9668 Shennan Avenue, Nanshan District 深圳市南山区深南大道9668号 (8668 0072)



THE ST. REGIS SHENZHEN

Invites You to Enjoy a Spring Tea Infusion



If you agree that afternoons are best spent relaxing with your inner circle, The St. Regis Shenzhen has you covered with a Spring Tea Infusion hosted in their beautiful 96th floor Drawing Room. Overlook the verdant city while sampling a sumptuous tea set that includes tea and flower selections from across the globe, paired with delectable Western and Cantonese treats from the hotel's talented pastry chefs. Welcome spring with an authentic feast among friends for just RMB230 (plus six percent service charge).

96/F, The St. Regis Shenzhen, 5016 Shennan Dong Lu, Luohu District 深圳市罗湖区深南东路 5016号 (2223 9485)

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.greoasis.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
南山区龙源路11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三街29号

HOTEL

Futian Shangri-La Hotel Shenzhen No.4088 Yitian Lu, Futian District (8828 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 (8826 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.marcohotels.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
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The Venice Rayout Hotel Shenzhen No.9026, Shennan Dadao, Overseas Chinese Town, Nanshan District (2693 6888)
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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

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HarmoniCare Women & Children's Hospital 12018 Shennan Dadao, by Nanshan Dadao (3339 1333) 深圳和美妇儿医院 南山区深南大道12018号

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C-MER (Shenzhen) Dennis Lam Eye Hospital 1-2/F, Shengtang Bldg, 1 Tairan Jiu Lu, Chegongmiao, Futian District (4001 666 120, 3322 7188) 福田区车公庙泰然九路一号 盛唐大厦1-2层

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China-Italy Chamber of Commerce Rm220, 2/F, International Chamber of Commerce, Fuhua San Lu, Futian District (Tel: 8632 9518; Fax: 8632 9528). www.cameraitacina.com
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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).
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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
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The American Chamber of Commerce in the South China Rm 208, 2/F Overseas Chinese Scholars Venture Building, southern section of High-Tech Industrial Park, Nanshan District (Tel: 0755-2658 8342; fax: 0755-2658 8341). www.amcham-southchina.org

The British Chamber of Commerce, Shenzhen Sub-Chamber Rm 314, 3/F Overseas

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

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