

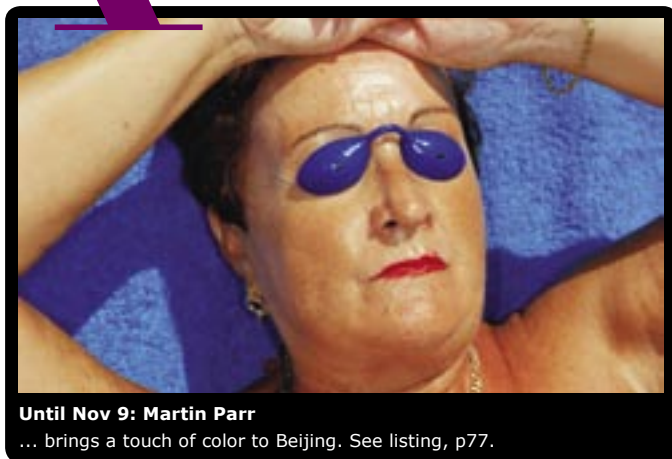
# ARTS & CULTURE



P76 ART

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P85 STAGE



Until Nov 9: **Martin Parr**

... brings a touch of color to Beijing. See listing, p77.

It's anniversary season – for this magazine, and for the big one, 60 years of the People's Republic of China.

Chinese contemporary art has, of course, already marked two anniversaries of its own this year – last month celebrating 30 years since the **Stars** group mounted the first contemporary art exhibition in China in September 1979, and back in February when alumni of the **China/Avant-Garde** exhibition of 1989 gathered to remember the historic show that first put the Chinese avant-garde on the map. Falling during the post-Global-Financial-Crisis calm, these anniversaries provoked contemplation of where we are and how far we've come and as we look around again this month the conclusion is a surprisingly optimistic one.

The most striking thing about the scene as we move into autumn is how many signs of life there are. At one extreme is the re-opening of **Pace Beijing** after its long post-Olympics hibernation. The local offshoot of the **New York**-based über-gallery is playing its strong suit with a major show of new works by **Zhang Xiaogang** (see 3 to See, p77). At the other extreme, a group of 12 Chinese and international artists are this month pitching a tent at the gate of 798 to display their wares (see Feature, p78).

And for those who value an international stamp of approval, there's ample evidence this month that Beijing is firmly on the world art map, with shows by international art stars **Antony Gormley** (see 3 to See, p77) and **Martin Parr** (see listing, p77).

As for the market, though, it's still in the doldrums and September's **Shanghai Art Fair** and **ShContemporary** were both muted affairs, with international participation way down from previous years.

But international interest in China, thankfully, goes beyond the market and in **Frankfurt** the **SHIRN Kunsthalle** is currently showing for the first time in the West one of the most influential works of Chinese modern art. Back in **1965**, a group of students and teachers from the **Sichuan Fine Arts Institute** in **Chongqing** began work on a massive group of sculptures entitled **Rent Collection Courtyard**. They created one hundred life-size figures and with them fashioned striking tableaux of rural exploitation in pre-revolutionary China. This work entered the collective consciousness of Chinese people over the next ten years as the work was copied and shown throughout the country. In recent years, contemporary artists as diverse as **Cai Guo-Qiang** and **Li Zhangyang** have created works based on the 45-year-old sculptures, Li famously modeling his exploited peasants and merciless landlords with faces taken straight from today's contemporary art players. It's nice to have this reminder in this anniversary year that contemporary culture draws on a deep history, both modern and ancient, so let's get out and celebrate that this month. *Madeleine O'Dea*

## NEW OPENINGS

Oct 9-11, 16-18

### Cou Huo

Twelve artists, both Chinese and international, create work around the theme of "making do." The works will be displayed in a tent, erected first at the south gate of 798, and then at Solana shopping mall. See Feature, p78.

Oct 10, 14

### Urban Carpets

For one day only at different hutong locations around Beijing, a novel homage to Beijing's traditional streets. For each location a carpet has been embroidered recording the maze of streets that make up particular hutong areas. Visit [www.instanthutong.com/news.htm](http://www.instanthutong.com/news.htm) for information on locations and other associated activities.

Oct 10-Feb 28

### Antony Gormley: Another Singularity

Details of this show are still scant as we go to press, but given Gormley's eminence in international contemporary art, this exhibition should be unmissable. On opening day, Gormley will give a presentation at the UCCA. See 3 to See, p77. Galleria Continua (5978 9505)

## ONGOING SHOWS

Until Oct 5

### Eko Nugroho Solo Exhibition

Indonesian artist Nugroho works with shadows in his latest exhibition. Drawing on the traditions of the puppetry of his native country, he creates collaborative shadow puppet shows, which allow him to play with light and dark, the real and the unreal. This work further develops an interest in fantasy that earlier saw him creating works that fused his own body with elements such as UFOs and machines. Peking Fine Arts (5127 3220)

Until Oct 6

### Nick Otto: Smoke and Light

Otto has been carving out a career as a photojournalist in Beijing for the last five years but it's a poet's eye he brings to these images of daily life in China rather than a newsman's. An everyday scene of worshippers burning incense, for example, takes on a hallucinatory quality as people are lost in the swirl of smoke. CNEX Saloon Café (8721 5576)

Until Oct 8

### Guo Gongwei: Things

Young Sichuan artist Guo Gongwei is fascinated by things, things that can seem quite banal (like paper cups) or creepy (like specimens in jars). These he renders on canvas in pale "still lives" where even the worn-down bristles of a toothbrush can assume a kind of beauty. Chambers Fine Art (5127 3298)

Until Oct 10

### Charity Photography Exhibition: Luna Zhang

The late photographer Luna Zhang was a long-time friend and freelancer to *the Beijinger* and our sister magazine *Agenda*, as well as a friend to Beijing musicians and many others. This exhibition of some of the work she has done over the past seven years. Photos available for purchase, with all proceeds going to her family. Yugong Yishan (136 7109 4537)

Until Oct 11

### Jin Shan: Naked Ape

Taking his cue from zoologist Desmond Morris' famous description of humans, Jin creates paintings that reflect on our basically animal nature. His oils are bold, bright and disturbing. Platform China (6432 0169)

### Cheng Ran and Jiang Pengyi: Immersion and Distance

Curated by Yang Fudong. Cheng Ran presents his "Midnight Museum," an installation that never opens but emits the occasional plume of smoke from its brightly lit walls, while Jiang brings us his constructed photographs: "Unregistered City. Forgot the Password?" UCCA (8459 9269)

Until Oct 15

### Chen Qi: 1963

Eminent print artist Chen Qi has long been admired for his work utilizing the ancient technique of water-based woodblock printing. Here he brings us a massive work, measuring some 7.8 meters high and 3.35 meters long, created using 96 woodblocks and nine color applications, a gorgeous depiction of surging water. Amelie Gallery (5978 9698)

### Cube: From Belgium to China

Ten up-and-coming photographers, five each from Belgium and China, bring their distinctive take on their homelands to Sanlitun. The works will be displayed inside 30 light boxes set up in the open air, allowing us to wander amongst their diverse visions of home. See photo, p77. The Village at Sanlitun South (8580 6766 x 808)

Until Oct 18

### Du Zhenjun: Virtual Politics

Paris-based pioneering multimedia artist Du Zhenjun brings his interactive video installations to Beijing. His work is oft-noted to have a cruel streak and titles like *Human Cage* and *Shark Man* might give you pause, but this exhibition should be as fascinating as it is troubling. Tang Contemporary (6436 3518)

### Young Artists Invitational

Curator Bao Dong introduces us to some of the new voices in Chinese contemporary art. More than 40 artists are featured, chosen from more than 800 submissions. 798 Originality Square (5978 9880)

### Zhang Ding: Law

Zhang brings us his fantastical multimedia installations, all reflecting on the "relationship between controlled and uncontrolled power." The large-scale works incorporate trees as well as 700 light bulbs in a work which makes us wonder whether his art creates more heat than light. ShanghART (6432 3202)

Until Oct 19

### Caroline Hands: Dream of Colour

Hands' canvases revel in color and movement. Scenes from opera, dreams of bucolic life and Chagall-like visions of peace on earth crowd this vivid exhibition. XYZ Gallery (8459 9299)

### Liu Heung Shing: Seek Truth from Facts

Pulitzer prize-winning photojournalist Liu Heung Shing took the photographs in this exhibition between 1976 and 2003, a time of extraordinary change in China. Taking ordinary life as his subject, he allows the broader themes to



emerge rather than dominate. Three Shadows Photography Art Centre (6432 2663, 6431 9063)

*Until Oct 29*

#### Traces: Liu Xiaodong

This exhibition brings us the detritus of an artist's work – all the sketches, preliminary work, notes, references that are behind a finished work. In this case the artist is eminent painter Liu Xiaodong, so take this opportunity to look inside his mind. Beijing Angle Modern Art (6561 8327)

*Until Oct 31*

#### He Yunchang: The Wings of Performance

Performance artist He Yunchang's work is not for the faint-hearted. See 3 to See, right. Galerie Urs Meile (6433 3393)

*Until Nov 7*

#### Miao Xiaochun: Index

Miao Xiaochun's latest work attempts to capture Beijing in a series of 360-degree panoramic shots taken at different longitudes and latitudes of the city over an 18-month period. Miao used up thousands of rolls of film in this project of documentation, where the point of view would be dictated by points on the map rather than his own inclinations. White Space (8456 2054)

*Until Nov 8*

#### Bard Breivik: Listen

Norwegian sculptor Breivik aims "to test the absolute limit of a given material" whether it be wood, stone, plastic or bronze. Here he shows works that range from the purely abstract through to the disturbingly concrete (a human ear rendered in bronze). Imagine Gallery (6438 5747)

#### James Rosenquist: Speed of Light

US artist Rosenquist is most widely known for his large-scale canvases riffing on American popular culture, but here he presents a series of lithographs inspired by his contemplation of Einstein's study of the speed of light. These dazzling works take the point of view of a passenger in a speeding car in his own study of relativity. DaFeng Art Gallery (5978 9468)

*Until Nov 9*

#### Ma Qiusha

'80s-born artist Ma Qiusha embodies what has become an increasing trend in Chinese contemporary art, a move towards the personal and the intimate and away from the pop and the political. Her works seek to engage the audience with their earnest expression of the complexities of intimacy, relationships and daily life for a young woman in today's China. Beijing Commune (8456 2862)

#### Martin Parr

As a member of the Magnum photo agency for 15 years, Parr has pursued a singular course. His works, in highly saturated color, critique social life as it is lived in the developed world. Here he presents work from famous series such as his portrait of British holiday resort Brighton, "Last Resort" and "Bored Couples." Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery (5978 9262)

#### The Next Generation of Artists from Hangzhou

Hangzhou, home to the prestigious China Academy of Art, has replaced Sichuan as the place to look for the Next Big Thing, not surprising given the academy has leading artists like master video maker Zhang Peili and conceptual artist Qiu Zhijie on their payroll. This show brings us artists from hot young painter Li Qing to Wu Junyong, whose recent video work has drawn on traditional shadow puppetry. F2 Gallery (6432 8831)

*Until Nov 15*

#### Zhang Xiaogang: The Records

This exhibition by Zhang Xiaogang has been much anticipated. See 3 to See, right. Pace Beijing (5978 9781)

*Until Nov 22*

#### Cartier Treasure: King of Jewelers

346 items were selected for this exhibition from more than 1,360 in the Cartier Collection. Jewelry, watches and accessories tell the Cartier story from its founding in 1847 to the 1970s. Palace Museum (6513 2255, 8511 7099)

*Until Nov 28*

#### Herbert Beck Watercolors: Faces of the World

At 89, Beck is still producing the vibrant watercolors that have been the hallmark of his practice for seven decades. Influenced by the German Expressionist Emil Nolde, whom he knew, Beck has developed a passionate approach to the use of color. At the heart of this exhibition are his *Faces of the World*, a series of stylized portraits assembled into larger works which aim to represent all the peoples of the world. ArtMia (8457 4550/2145)

*Until Dec 20*

#### Ai Weiwei: World Map

Ai Weiwei brings his distinctive wit and aesthetics to 798. A map of the world made of cloth is a centerpiece, but more interesting is his "Fairytale" installation. The latter is based on a piece of art meets social engineering which was his contribution to the 2007 Documenta festival in Kassel Germany, where he transported 1001 Chinese citizens to the city to see and be seen. Fauschou Gallery (8459 9316)

### Antony Gormley: Another Singularity



British sculptor Gormley is a leading contemporary art figure, so it's no risk to make this show one to see. Details were scant at press time, leaving us contemplating his previous work for clues. Gormley's defining work has been created in the open air, which makes the idea of him confined to a gallery space intriguing. He recently utilized an empty plinth in London's Trafalgar Square so that a series of ordinary citizens could spend an hour each as living sculptures, a work that proved incredibly popular. But an earlier experiment with group participation, *Asian Field* (2006), was

controversial. Featuring 180,000 clay figurines crafted by 350 Chinese villagers in five days from 100 tons of red clay, it left viewers debating whether Gormley could truly be deemed the creator of the work. Opening day provides an opportunity to debate the man himself, when Gormley appears at the UCCA. *Madeleine O'Dea*

*Antony Gormley's "Another Singularity" runs from Oct 10-Feb 28 at Galleria Continua (5978 9505)*

### He Yunchang: The Wings of Performance



Performance artist He Yunchang's work is not for the faint-hearted. The centerpiece of this show, which includes performance, sculpture, photography, video and painting, is a necklace made out of the artist's own rib – which he had removed in a medically unnecessary operation in August 2008. The idea of fashioning a new creation out of one man's rib inevitably evokes biblical allusions and there is something almost messianic about the way He Yunchang has pursued his work as a performance artist, pushing to extremes the barriers of what it is possible to do with

his body. His previously most memorable work found him encased in concrete for 24 hours before being chiseled out and the image of He as he broke free is one of the most enduring in Chinese contemporary art, encapsulating the euphoria of freedom. This is darker work, but no less compelling. *Madeleine O'Dea*

*He Yunchang's "The Wings of Performance" runs until Oct 31 at Galerie Urs Meile (6433 3393)*

### Zhang Xiaogang: The Records



Zhang's eminence in Chinese contemporary art makes this exhibition, like Gormley's, a must-see. Here he goes beyond paint on canvas to create work on steel plates, as well as installation and sculpture. In recent years he has moved away from the soulful portraits that made his name to sad interiors that seem to summon a youth spent in loneliness and contemplation and moody landscapes of monumental squares, construction sites, ships and dams. Most intriguingly, he has of late created a series of diary-like works, where photos chosen from personal or national history are

adorned by his writings on their significance to him. These have in turn been developed into paintings, where the texts vie with the images for our attention. A chance to see where one of Chinese contemporary art's leading figures is heading now. *Madeleine O'Dea*

*Zhang Xiaogang's "The Records" runs until Nov 15 at Pace Beijing (5978 9781)*



#### Until Oct 15: Cube: From Belgium to China

The long and winding road leads to Sanlitun. See listing, p76.



# POP-UP ART

## TWELVE ARTISTS IN A TENT

by Jennifer Conrad

In a city where new buildings spring up seemingly overnight and an entire block can be transformed in the course of a week, the organizers behind “Cou Huo” are adding one more insta-structure to the urban landscape.

*Couhuo* 凑合 translates into English as “makeshift” or “to improvise” – it connotes a hasty way of doing things. At its best, the organizers of this exhibition believe, it’s about the act of getting things accomplished in the only way possible. “*Cou hu*o is a positive energy,” says Chen Xinpeng, the curator and a local mixed-media artist. “It’s how we get our shit done.

“Look at this,” he says, gesturing towards the expanse of Guomao and Soho New Town, visible from the office where we met, near the Today Art Museum. “Five, ten years ago, this was nothing.”

Similarly, “Cou Huo” appears to pop up from nowhere. The exhibition is housed in an inflatable gold 20sqm tent that will travel to three locations around Beijing on weekends throughout the month. Neville Mars, the Beijing-based architect who founded the Dynamic City Foundation, consulted on the tent design.

Chen commissioned 12 works to address the concept of *couhuo*. The artists are a mix of Chinese and foreigners – from Austria, Chile, Scotland, Switzerland and the US – who have a connection to the Beijing art scene. The outdoor tent setting creates some parameters: The works include installations, videos and sculptures, but no paintings or delicate pieces that can’t stand up to the elements.

“There’s a larger context for this concept in Beijing. A lot of things spring from nowhere, and don’t always stand up to scrutiny,” says Michael Zheng, a participating artist who splits his time between Beijing and San Francisco. “There’s a seeming compromise, but nonetheless you achieve things. China probably wouldn’t have gotten so far if things weren’t done this way.”

**“We don’t think of it as an exhibition, but an event in a tent”**

The objects on display – and the moving exhibition – reflect this spirit, centered on the notion that “through a seemingly casual approach, it ends up interesting,” says Zheng. His work depicts the bottom portion of a doorway leading to a carpet with shadows cast by unseen objects and is based on a memory he can’t place.

Chilean duo nicoykatiushka present a video installation called “Genograma,” in which 12 screens show their family members going to bed at the same time. “A genogram is a pictorial display of a person’s family relationships and medical history,” they explain. “It goes beyond a traditional family tree by allowing the user to visualize hereditary patterns and psychological factors that punctuate relationships.” They add that the *couhuo* nature of the exhibition – especially the limits of a non-traditional space – affected the creation of the piece. “We have been traveling with the tapes for a while and never

found the right moment to put the piece together. Under this improvised or makeshift exhibition, we believe this is a perfect moment to put together the pieces.”

Rutherford Chang, an American artist working in Beijing, presents a sound installation using loudspeakers bought or bartered from their previous owners. The speakers retain the original recordings, which hawk items like newspapers and bottled water. Another American, Johnston Foster, uses plastic items bought at 99-cent stores to form a colorful rainbow made from consumer junk. Giant skulls anchor the rainbow at each end.

“We don’t think of it as an exhibition, but an event in a tent,” says Katherine Don, whose Red Box Studio organized the traveling event. The choice of an unconventional venue is intended to create an experience different from shows in institutions and commercial galleries. “In the last couple of years, when you talk to artists, it’s like, ‘How much do you sell? How much do you make?’” says Chen. Thus, presenting outside of the gallery system and showing works that aren’t meant to be sold or collected offers a chance to change that vibe.

Don adds, “The focus of the exhibition is on the space and the experience it creates for the viewer. We want to take that next step and contribute something different to the art landscape.”

*“Cou Huo” makes its first stop in the parking lot by the south gate of the 798 (Oct 9-11). Its second stop will be at Solana Mall (Oct 16-18). The third location was still TBD at time of press. For updates and more info, visit [www.nicouhuoma.com](http://www.nicouhuoma.com).*





# In Print & Cinema

All event listings are accurate at time of press and subject to change  
For venue details, see directories, p83  
Send events to listings@thebeijinger.com by Oct 12



**Gasp! In theaters now.**  
Forgettable, or future cult classic? See below.

**P**op quiz: Which red-hot A-list Chinese celebrity does *not* appear in the October 1 blockbuster, **The Founding of a Republic** (建国大业)? Trick question: none of them. The star-studded propaganda piece features cameo appearances from everyone who's anyone in Chinese film (see Feature, p82) and is sure to be the cinematic equivalent of **Zhang Yimou's** Tiananmen Square fireworks extravaganza.

Another film in theaters now is noteworthy for what appears to be the opposite reason. **Gasp!** (气喘吁吁) is a dark comedy about an American (**John Savage**) who travels to China looking for some innocent Chinese investor he can milk for cash (see photo, above). Starring **Ge You** and featuring **Howie B** and **Cui Jian** on the soundtrack, the film has gotten what might be the worst reception in Chinese film history. While some fans call the artistic film "China's first cult movie," and simply not mainstream enough for the general audience, local critics and bloggers alike have blasted it almost unanimously. When asked what he thought about the film's warmer overseas reception, director **Zhong Zheng** said, "I don't know and it doesn't matter – it's seriously related to China and Chinese people." Go see the controversial film for yourself, before its sure-to-be-short run in theaters concludes.

Around town, there's plenty of fun film events to attend – the **Italian Cultural Center** is holding a batch of **Italian film noir** screenings full of sneaky detectives, organized crime and corruption, all based on books by famous noir authors. The **French Cultural Centre** has dedicated the month to an equally worthy genre: **cartoons for grown-ups!** The center will be screening several feature-length animated films that cover a wide range of artistic styles, as well as two separate collections of animated shorts.

As for book events, **Michael Santoro** is back to talk about the link between economics and politics in China, and what it means for the future (Oct 14). If you're looking for something a little more fun, there are two book launches you might want to check out – **Helen Couchman** is presenting a piece on her grandmother's marvelous collection of hats (Oct 15), while local novelist **Jimmy Qi** is giving us the **Confessions of an Elevator Operator** (Oct 22).

On a more global page, **Google** is once again being lambasted for their **Google Books project**, which has scanned millions of out-of-print books and put them up online, available for free. However, many books that are out of print in the US are still available in Europe, and European publishers are up in arms over the unfair competition and copyright infringement. The US court ruling is set for **October 7**. *Mary Dennis*

## IN PRINT EVENTS

Oct 5

**Book Launch: The Seventies**  
The five authors of *The Seventies* will share their memories of growing up during that complicated decade. Free. 10 am-noon. UCCA (8459 9269)

Oct 10

**Book Swap and Board Games**  
Trade your old English, French, Dutch and Portuguese books for new ones, and stick around to make new friends playing Monopoly and other board games. Free. 2-6pm. Sequoia Cafe (6501 5503)

Oct 14

**China 2020 with Michael Santoro**  
What will be the effect of economic reform and prosperity on political reform in China? How can companies operate with moral integrity and ethics in China? Santoro argues that moral integrity (or lack of it) by Western business will have a profound impact on whether or not economic privatization and growth usher in greater democracy and respect for human rights. Michael Santoro has a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard, and has published books on business ethics, two of them focusing specifically on China. He is currently associate professor of Ethics at Rutgers Business School. RMB 30, RMB 20 (members) The Bookworm (6586 9507)

Oct 15

**Book Launch: Mrs. West's Hats by Helen Couchman**  
Helen Couchman's new book is on the life of her grandmother, a remarkable lady and the owner of a number of extravagant hats. Explore memory, history, heritage, and inheritance via this beautiful little work, soon to be launched in London and worldwide. Helen Couchman is a Beijing-based visual artist, and the author of *Gongren*. With special guests, including critic Anthony Gorman. RMB 30, RMB 20 (members). 7.30pm. The Bookworm (6586 9507)

Oct 22

**Book Launch: Confessions of an Elevator Operator by Jimmy Qi**  
Beijing novelist Jimmy "Monkey" Qi firmly subscribes to the philosophy that writers should live in the world, rather than take writing as a "professional occupation." This new voice presents the first English translation of his *Yu Li - Confessions of an Elevator Operator*, recently published by Make Do Studios, Hong Kong. RMB 30, RMB 20 (members) 7.30pm. The Bookworm (6586 9507)

Oct 28

**Discussion: Segalen - A Life with John Mateer**  
2009 marks one century since the first visit of Victor Segalen, the French novelist, poet, archaeologist and art historian, to this country. Segalen's work is increasingly seen as an alternative literary response to the American Ezra Pound's vision of Cathay. Bookworm's writer-in-residence, the Australian poet John Mateer, who has been in Beijing to investigate Segalen, will present a personal response to Segalen's inspiring work. RMB 30, RMB 20 (members). 7.30pm. The Bookworm (6586 9507)

Oct 30

**Death in the Palace: A Murder Mystery**  
A mild October evening, 1793, in the Forbidden City. For one exceptional occasion, the emperor has thrown the doors of the palace open for a lavish party, inviting noblemen and warlords, visiting envoys from abroad, mysterious travelers and traders from afar into his sacred chambers. But just as the party is getting underway, tragedy strikes! The emperor's favorite concubine, Fan Fan, is stabbed in the heart with a jade hairpin! Who did it? A jealous rival? The court physician? A figure from her distant pre-palace past? Secrets and intrigue abound as we celebrate Halloween with a murder mystery night. Audience participation; imperial dress required. 8pm. The Bookworm (6586 9507)

## CINEMA EVENTS

Oct 1, 17

**Puuje**  
Explorer Yoshiharu Sekino is on a voyage to trace the journey of the human race back to its point of origin, but when he reaches Mongolia, he meets a self-assured 6-year-old girl who will change the course of his journey completely. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 7.30pm. CNEX (8721 5576)

Oct 1, 18

**KJ**  
Wong Ka-jeng is a 17-year-old music prodigy from a well-to-do family, but despite his talent, he begins to question, "What is in life, if not music?" RMB 30 (includes a drink). 3.30pm (Oct 1), 5pm (Oct 18). CNEX (8721 5576)

Oct 2, 11

**Hip-Hop Storm**  
A documentary about two generations of Taiwanese hip-hop dancers. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 5pm (Oct 11), 7.30pm (Oct 2). CNEX (8721 5576)

Oct 2, 24

**Little Dieter Needs to Fly**  
A feature-documentary about the extraordinary capture and escape of the German-US pilot Dieter Dengler in Laos. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 3.30pm (Oct 2), 7.30pm (Oct 24). CNEX (8721 5576)

Oct 3-9

**Nordic Mini Film Festival**  
Five recent films and documentaries from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland will be screened, each telling a story of migrant life and culture in the Nordic world. Price and time TBA. UCCA (8459 9269)

Oct 3, 25

**White Diamond**  
Airship engineer Dr. Graham Dorrington embarks on a trip to Kaieteur Falls, hoping to fly his helium-filled invention above the treetops in the area's little-explored rain forest. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 3.30pm (Oct 3), 5pm (Oct 25). CNEX (8721 5576)

Oct 4, 9, 11, 24, 30

**We Are Not Machines**  
Animated shorts. In French with English and Chinese subtitles. RMB 20, RMB 10 (students). 5pm (Oct 9, 30), 7.30pm (Oct 4, 11, 24). French Cultural Centre (6553 2627)



BOOKS

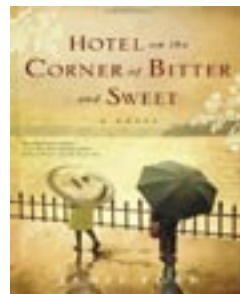
**Water Flows Below Time** 水在时间之下 Fang Fang

“The most ruthless thing in the world is time,” says author Fang Fang. This is true especially for women in a patriarchal society – and actresses. The biography of opera performer Shui Di (“Water Drop”), therefore, unfolds to the sound of a ticking clock. Set in old Wuhan, *Water* traces Shui Di’s rags-to-riches life – she was a concubine’s daughter who overcame a tough childhood to become a star of Han (Hubei) opera. However, the onset of war robs her of both her glorious stage career and her lover. As she finds herself abandoned in a besieged city, we see that the twists of fate in Shui Di’s life reflect the turbulent history of Wuhan during the last century. *Alice Wang*



**Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet** Jamie Ford

Set in Seattle during World War II, this debut novel traces the unlikely love story between a young Chinese-American boy and his Japanese-American classmate. Despite the objections of his nationalistic father, 13-year-old Henry Lee maintains his love and loyalty to Keiko even after she and her family are locked up in an internment camp. Spliced as a series of flashbacks between descriptions of Henry’s adult life decades later, this account of a forbidden first love is tender and evocative. The writing can be clunky – the author tries so earnestly to be politically correct, and treats war and racism as only minor obstacles to the requisite Happy Ending. Still, it’s a fun read and yes, it’s “heartwarming.” *Mingfong Ho*



MOVIES

**Good Cats** 好猫

You might say Ying Liang is a bit of a hermit. Despite critical acclaim and an international reputation, the director lives in Sichuan, keeping a safe distance from China’s cinematic centers, Beijing and Shanghai. In his third feature-length film, *Good Cats*, the impact of China’s real estate expansion is seen in the tale of a miserable village youth in Sichuan. Shot on digital, this low-budget art-house picture dresses social conflict in black humor, and is blessed with impressive acting from a non-professional cast – mostly Ying Liang’s friends and relatives. The film feels like Michelangelo Antonioni’s late works – a story of industrial society told through realism, though surreal elements add a splash of the absurd. *Wang Ge*



**The Time Traveler’s Wife**

Henry DeTamble (Eric Bana) has a genetic condition that transports him through time, but this isn’t the story of a superhero. Henry has no control over which episode of his life he visits, and he can’t change the future – there’s no *point* to his condition. The film’s primarily a tearjerker about his predestined courtship with Clare (Rachel McAdams), the long-suffering wife. Despite the charm of the two leads, Bana’s put-on monotone American accent and the stilted dialogue rob the story of its potential – even a movie based on a bestseller can’t make up for Henry’s passivity. Audiences will be waiting for a twist or climax that never arrives. *Jessica Pan*



**Oct 7: Romeo + Juliet**

“Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?” See listing, this page.

Oct 4, 10, 14, 18, 28

**Princes and Princesses** (*Princes et princesses*)

This animated film uses cut-outs and faceless characters to retell six fairy tales. Each story is delicately connected to the next and contains implicit morals from latter-day fables. A film for both adults and children. In French with Chinese subtitles. RMB 20, RMB 10 (students). 3pm (Oct 4), 7.30pm (Oct 14, 18, 28). French Cultural Centre (6553 2627)

**The Fantastic Planet** (*La planète sauvage*)

A futuristic cartoon taking place on a faraway planet where giants rule, and oppressed humans rebel against the machine-like leaders. In French with Chinese subtitles. RMB 20, RMB 10 (students). 3pm (Oct 4), 5pm (Oct 18, 23), 7.30pm (Oct 16, 19, 25). French Cultural Centre (6553 2627)

Oct 4, 16, 18, 19, 23, 25

**Chronopolis**

An animated film that tells the story of a gargantuan city lurking in the sky, colonized by powerful immortals who have become jaded with eternal life. Most of their time is spent monotonously constructing bizarre and unusual objects while waiting for the ultimate gift to arrive in their hands. Film contains no language. RMB 20, RMB 10 (students). 3pm (Oct 18), 5pm (Oct 11, 17), 7.30pm (Oct 9, 21, 26). French Cultural Centre (6553 2627)

Oct 5, 10, 12, 25

**Raining Cats and Frogs** (*La prophétie des grenouilles*)

In this cute animal animation, a flood decimates the planet, leaving only an unusual group of survivors. Led by Ferdinand, a modern-day Noah, this little group manages to defy the furiously raging elements. People and animals alike are dragged through this incredible whirlpool of adventure. In French with Chinese subtitles. RMB 20, RMB 10 (students). 3pm (Oct 25), 5pm (Oct 10), 7.30pm (Oct 5, 12). French Cultural Centre (6553 2627)

Oct 7

**Romeo + Juliet**

“My only love sprung from my only hate! Too early seen unknown, and known too late! Prodigious birth of love it is to me that I must love a loathed enemy.” Claire Danes and Leonardo DiCaprio star in a modern setting of Shakespeare’s timeless tale of forbidden love. Free (includes popcorn). 8pm. Obiwan (8322 1231)

Oct 7, 11, 17, 24, 25

**Childishness**

Animated shorts. In French with English and Chinese subtitles. RMB 20, RMB 10 (students). 3pm (11, 17, 24), 5pm (Oct 25), 7.30pm (Oct 7). French Cultural Centre (6553 2627)

Oct 8

**Let it Be**

A documentary about the grueling everyday life and work of three elderly farmers in a town in the heart of Taiwan’s rice cultivation area. Free. 7pm. Channel Zero Salon (8855 0623)

Oct 9

**The Snack Thief** (*Il commissario Montalbano – Il ladro di merendine*)

The first of the Inspector Montalbano series of TV movies, a noir tale of blackmail and conspiracy, shows there’s much more to Sicily than what is seen in American mafia movies. In Italian with Chinese subtitles. Free. 7pm. Italian Cultural Office (6532 5015)

Oct 10, 31

**A Map for Saturday**

The product of a year’s travel through 26 countries on four continents by Emmy-winning producer Brook Silva-Braga, who left a cushy gig with HBO to travel the world with five pounds of clothes and 30 pounds of video equipment. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 7.30pm. CNEX (8721 5576)

Oct 13

**Blood Drawing** (*Disegno di sangue*)

When Inspector Curreli takes up his new position in Cagliari, he must deal with his colleagues’ suspicion and a murder that nobody wants to solve. Based on a story by Marcello Fois. In Italian with Chinese subtitles. Free. 7pm. Italian Cultural Office (6532 5015)

Oct 14

**Drastic Therapy** (*Terapia d’urto*)

Roberto, a 30-year-old man, leads a secluded life because of a serious panic disorder. When his mother dies, he discovers the existence of a brother that he’d never known. In Italian with Chinese subtitles. Free. 7pm. Italian Cultural Office (6532 5015)

**A Fistful of Dollars**

From Sergio Leone (*The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*) comes the original genre-defining spaghetti Western. Clint Eastwood stars as a drifter gunman who arrives in a Mexican village to discover that the town is dominated by two gangster lords. He decides to work for both, playing one side off against the other. Free (includes popcorn). 8pm. Obiwan (8322 1231)

Scenes from *Jianguo Daye* (*The Founding of a Republic*)

## PATRIOT FRAMES

A proper gander at upcoming films

by Mary Dennis

Since the founding of this great nation, the State Administration of Radio, Film, and Television (SARFT) has presented China's citizens with inspirational tales of its history and moral code through film. The patriotic film has come a long way since 1949. "The portrayal of characters has become more well-rounded and dimensional, rather than having one communal face," says Zhang Yong, a screenwriter and director for CCTV-10.

From the mid-'50s until the mid-'80s, the government-owned China Film Group made all of China's propaganda films. Starting in the mid-'90s, SARFT began to commission private companies to create films on a particular topic.

In anticipation of the CCP's 60th anniversary, SARFT commissioned the production of over 50 "main melody" (i.e. state-recommended) films. The cream of the crop will be taking over screens at every theater near you, from mid-September onwards.

The one to watch is undoubtedly *Jianguo Daye*, a rousing, historical birth-of-the-nation epic that premiered on September 17. The film is sure to be absolutely stunning, as over 100 of China's biggest stars had the privilege of serving their country cinematically, comprising what its own producers have called "the most powerful lineup in the history of Chinese film."

The lineup itself demonstrates the strong patriotism China ignites in its people. Many of its stars are technically citizens of other countries – including Chen Kaige, Chen Hong, Wu Junmei, Ning Jing (US); Jet Li (Singapore); Jiang Wen (France); and Xu Qing (Japan) – but when asked by the CCP to participate in such an extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, there was simply no Chinese star, regardless of citizenship, who could refuse.

But that's just one movie – there are plenty more to be had. If any film stands to present a box office threat to *Jianguo Daye*, it's

sure to be the October 1st arrival of *Feng Sheng* (*The Message*). This spy thriller, starring A-listers Zhou Xun, Li Bingbing, and Zhang Hanyu, brings to light the undercover operations of the Communist Party – surely something that many people would love to see.

Another highlight is *Tiananmen*, which opened early on September 3, and gives the historic square, one of the cornerstones of China's identity, the tribute and recognition it has long deserved. Directed by Ye Daying, the film presents an inspiring view of how people decorated the square in preparation for the PRC founding ceremony 60 years ago. The film serves as a kind of countdown to this year's

National Day extravaganza, set to once again bring an absolutely heartstopping experience to the heart of the city.

The three films above are the "must-see" box office hits of the anniversary, but viewers will have plenty to choose from when it comes to October cinema selection – there's still 47 more celebratory "main melody" films! If you are looking

for something just a little bit different, check out *Jingtian Dongdi*, a film about the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake that was shot on location in Sichuan last fall. There are also biopics like *Wang Jinxi* (*Iron Man*), a tale of a model worker who helped dig the Daqing Oilfield, and *Deng Jiaxian*, which honors a leading scientist of China's nuclear weapons program.

All of these films are absolutely guaranteed to be huge box office successes; to help attendance, ticket vouchers good for a RMB 10 entry were given to anyone who bought a movie ticket between September 1-20. But SARFT wants to ensure that it isn't just the wealthy who are given the privilege of viewing these films. "We will hold special screenings for orphans, children of migrant workers, and model workers from August 30," said an official from SARFT. "We hope all residents are able to share the achievements of China's film industry during the past 60 years."

Another highlight is *Tiananmen*, which gives the historic square the tribute and recognition it has long deserved





### Oct 5-25: The Fantastic Planet

When mechanical giants ruled the earth. See listing, p81.

#### Oct 15

##### Short and Male & Ah Ma Peach

A documentary about the worldwide discrimination against short men, followed by one about love and forgiveness, and snow leopards. Free. 7pm. Channel Zero Salon (8855 0623)

##### Unauthorized Investigation

**(Indagine non autorizzate)**  
1938: A young woman's body is found on a beach, very close to the villa where Mussolini is spending his summer holidays. In Italian with Chinese subtitles. Free. 7pm. Italian Cultural Office (6532 5015)

#### Oct 16

##### Crime Novel (Romanzo criminale)

Rome, 1960s: Three young criminals take a step up from the streets of Rome into the world of organized crime. It's the birth of a smart and ruthless organization that soon crushes all its rivals to assume total control of the drug trade, while imposing brutal criminal laws on Rome. In Italian with Chinese subtitles. Free. 7pm. Italian Cultural Office (6532 5015)

#### Oct 21

##### The Game

Michael Douglas stars in a fast-paced action thriller that is equal parts eerie and suspenseful. Loner Nicholas Van Orton is a cold-hearted, wealthy San Francisco banker. While celebrating his 48th birthday alone, he receives a card announcing he has been entered in a live action game that soon turns into a deadly web of scams and betrayal. Free (includes popcorn). 8pm. Obiwan (8322 1231)

#### Oct 22

##### Protecting Art in Wartime

The Museo del Prado of Spain is cooperating with the Palace Museum of China on a roundtable and screening of documentaries about the effort of museums to save priceless masterpieces during wartime. The roundtable begins at 5pm, followed by tapas and wine and a screening of two documentaries about protecting art in China during the anti Japan War and in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. 5pm. Institutes Cervantes (5879 9666).

##### We Have Three

In 1975, Luo is the victim of a construction site accident that requires a below-the-knee amputation. His wife suffers from glaucoma and cannot work, leaving his visually impaired son as

the sole breadwinner. This documentary charts how, with determination, Luo tries something new to earn a living: opening a coffee bar. Free. 7pm. Channel Zero Salon (8855 0623)

#### Oct 23

##### Early Documentaries of Kieslowski

Your only chance to see the early works of this world-famous Polish director, best known for his award-winning trilogy, *Trois Couleurs: Bleu, Blanc, Rouge*. RMB 30 (includes a drink). 7.30pm. CNEX (8721 5576)

##### The Goodbye Kiss (Arrivederci amore, ciao)

Once released from prison, a former left-wing activist-turned-terrorist pursues his dream of becoming a "respectable" citizen, even if the way to it is paved with larceny, pimping, drug-dealing, rape, heist and murder. In Italian with Chinese subtitles. Free. 7pm. Italian Cultural Office (6532 5015)

#### Oct 28

##### The Doors

Oliver Stone's homage to '60s rock group The Doors also doubles as a biography of the group's late singer, the "Electric Poet" Jim Morrison, played by a surprisingly convincing Val Kilmer. Free (includes popcorn). 8pm. Obiwan (8322 1231)

#### Oct 29

##### 9 Star Hotel

Israeli filmmaker Ido Haar follows a band of Palestinian day laborers as they attempt to make a living by illegally crossing the border into the Israeli city of Modi'in for work. A handheld camera assumes the position of a group member around campfire meals and amid flights from police. Largely focusing on two young best friends, the film is a portrait of their anxiety and desperation. Free. 7pm. Channel Zero Salon (8855 0623)

#### Oct 30

##### As God Commands (Come Dio comanda)

The story of the relationship between a neo-Nazi alcoholic and his 11-year-old son. They live on the margins of society in a town in northern Italy with their mentally ill friend Quattro Formaggi, until a dark, long night of rain, lightning and desperation changes their lives forever. In Italian with English subtitles. Free. 7pm. Italian Cultural Office (6532 5015)

## BOOKSTORES

**All Sages Bookstore** Not many English-language titles, but nice Chinese selection and stylish cafe on the second floor. Daily 10am-10pm. 123 Lanqiying, Chengfu Lu, Haidian District. (6276 8748) www.allsages-books.com 北京万圣书店, 海淀区蓝旗营成府路123号

**Beijing Book Building** An eclectic range of English-language books. Daily 9am-9pm. 17 Xichang'an Jie, (right near Xidan subway station), Xicheng District. (6607 8477) www.bjbb.com 北京图书大厦, 西城区西长安大街17号

**Beijing Forestsong Bookstore** Specializing in Chinese-language humanities and social science related titles. Daily 9am-9pm. 46 Haidian Lu, (south gate of Peking University), Haidian District. (6276 8736) www.forestsong.com.cn 北京风入松书店, 海淀区海淀路46号 (北大南门)

**Beijing International Book Store** This huge bookstore in Beijing's far west stocks a large range of English-language titles. 9am-9pm. 117 Xishui Beilu, Haidian District. (8849 9030, gjsd@mail.cibt.com.cn) 北京国际书店, 海淀区西四环北路117号 (四季青桥西南)

**Beijing Publishing Logistics Center** Asia's largest book warehouse. It houses over 500 state-owned and overseas publishers. Sells second-hand Chinese and foreign books. Daily 9am-5pm. 12 Zhengfu Dajie, Taihu Town, Tongzhou District. (8080 8888) www.beifabook.com 北京出版发行物流中心, 通州区台湖镇政府大街13号

**Big and Little Books** Specializes in imported English language children's books. 1) 10 am-10pm. Shop 4001N, 5/F, Golden Resource Mall, 1 Yuanda Lu, Haidian District. (135 5237 3200); 2) 9.30am-8pm. 102A, Beiing Lido Holiday Inn, Jiangtai Lu, Airport Expressway, Chaoyang District. (6437 6338); 3) Daily 10am-10pm. F4, Wangjing Mall, 33 Guangshun Beidajie, Wangjing, Chaoyang District. (8478 0428) 小逗号儿童书店: 1) 海淀区远大路1号金源新燕莎五层4001N; 2) 朝阳区首都机场路将台路丽都假日饭店102A; 3) 朝阳区望京广顺北大街33号嘉茂(望京华联)购物中心四层

**Blue Goat Books & Cafe** Lots of Chinese cinema books and movies in a good place for a nap or a beer. Daily 12.30am-midnight. 3 Shuimo Xinqu (200m north of west gate of Tsinghua University), Haidian District. (6265 5069) 蓝羊书坊, 海淀区水磨新村3号(清华西门向北200米)

**The BookMark** A wide range of books in English and other languages, including a sizable selection of children's literature. Wed-Sat 10am-4pm. 1 Kaifa Jie (between Ms. Shanen's Bagels and Smallville Café), Xibaixinzhuang, Houshayu, Shunyi District. (8049 9175, shunyiilibrary@aol.com) www.bookmarkbeijing.com 顺义区后沙峪西白辛庄开发街1号

**BooksChina.com** Daily 8.30am-6pm. 2/F, Xueyuanlu Post Office, 17 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District. (8237 5220, wh0461@126.com, www.bookschina.com) 中国图书网, 海淀区成府路17号院路路局2层

**The Bookworm** This sleek lending library and bookshop has the best selection of English language books and magazines in town and is often cheaper than Amazon et al. The bibliophile manager arranges a fabulous lecture series that features both local and international authors. Other draw cards include the rooftop terrace, comfy couches and a kitchen that serves European fare. 1) Mon-Sat 8am-8pm, Sun 8am-5pm. The First Courtyard, Hegezhuang Village, Shunyi District. (6431 2108, books@beijingbookworm.com, kidsclub@beijingbookworm.com); 2) Daily 9am-2am. Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6586 9507, books@beijingbookworm.com, kidsclub@beijingbookworm.com) www.chinabookworm.com 书虫书吧: 1) 顺义区崔各庄乡, 何各庄村一号院; 2) 朝阳区工体北路4号院

**Chaterhouse Booktrader** Prices are generally a bit higher than those at the Foreign Language Bookstore, but they do stock a good range of travel, kids, health and coffee table books. 1) Daily

10.30am-7.30pm. River Garden Clubhouse, 7 Yuyang Lu, Houshayu, Shunyi District. (8046 6211, customer@chaterhouse.com.cn); 2) Daily 10am-10pm. Shop B107, The Place, 9 Guanghua Lu (Dongdaqiao Lu), Chaoyang District. (6587 1328, customer@chaterhouse.com.cn) 1) 顺义区后沙峪乡榆阳路7号; 2) 朝阳区光华路9号世贸天阶中心地库B107

**China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation** A wealth of foreign-language books, periodicals and multimedia products are available at this little-known store. 8.30am-6.30pm. 2/F, 16 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District. (6508 2324) www.cnpeak.com 中国图书进出口公司, 朝阳区工体东路16号

**Disanji Bookstore** One of the biggest Chinese language bookstores in the world. Great selection of original editions from Taiwan and Hong Kong. 9am-9pm. 66 Beisihuan Lu (opposite the south gate of Peking University), Haidian District. (5128 2300, fax 6253 4396) www.d3j.com.cn 第三极书局, 海淀区北四环西路66号

**Foreign Languages Bookstore** English language fiction, art books, travel books, magazines, maps, dictionaries, kids' books (Dr. Seuss!) and more. Daily 9.30am-9.30pm. 235 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. (6512 6903, bxwjsjb@public.bta.net.cn) www.bpiec.com.cn 外文书店, 东城区王府井大街235号

**Friendship Store** Overpriced and snooty, but the best place in town to buy foreign newspapers. 9.30am-8.30pm. 17 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6500 3311) 北京友谊商店, 朝阳区建国门外大街17号

**Garden Books** A small English-language bookstore above Sequoia Cafe with a quality selection. 8am-9pm. 44 Guanghua Lu (opposite the Brazilian Embassy), Chaoyang District. (6585 1435, gardenbooks@yahoo.com) 朝阳区光华路44号

**Haidian Book City** Four huge stories house the biggest and most up-to-date collection of publications you can find in the city. Daily 9am-6pm. 36 Haidian Xidajie, Haidian District. (6252 9474) 海淀图书城, 海淀区海淀西大街36号

**Hanfen Lou Bookstore** Commercial Press supported, with regular weekend lectures by local Chinese authors and academics. For upcoming events call 6525 8899 ext 544. Daily 9am-9pm. 36 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. (6559 5282) www.cp.com.cn/hf/ 涵芬楼书店, 东城区王府井大街36号

**Hui Yuan Bookstore** Popular with students cramming for the HSK for their cheap, large range of Chinese-language learning materials. Daily 9.30am-7.30pm. A1 Qinghua Donglu (inside Jingyu Hotel), Haidian District. (6232 9778) 汇缘书店, 海淀区清华东路甲1号(京裕宾馆内)

**Ivy Kids Book Club** The best selection of English children's books in Beijing, with over 1,400 titles suitable for children between 0 and 6 years-old. Ask about their book club. Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm-Sat 10am-6pm. Bldg E, Ocean Express, 2 Dongsanhuan Beilu (behind Silver Tower), Chaoyang District. (8446 7286, info@ivybookclub.cn) www.ivybookclub.cn 朝阳区东三环北路2号远洋新干线E座(南银大厦后面)

**Le Petit Gourmand** Warm and cozy space with a menu featuring crepes and cous-cous. Also boasts a library of over 9,000 books and wireless internet. Voted "Outstanding French" in our 2009 Restaurant Awards. Daily 9.30am-midnight. bar open until 2am. 3/F, Tongli Studios, Sanlitun Houjia, Chaoyang District. (6417 6095, fax 6413 0765) www.lepetitgourmand.com.cn 小美食家, 朝阳区三里屯后街同里3层

**O2SUN Bookstore** A very browse-worthy store with a wide, fun selection of Chinese books and magazines, with a few shelves of English books. 1) Daily 9am-midnight. Bldg 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu (across from Wudaokou light-rail station), Haidian District. (8286 3032/33); 2) Daily 10am-10pm. B1083, Shin Kong Place, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District. (6533 1369); 3) Daily 9am-midnight. S3001,

Bldg B, Soho New Town, 88 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District. (8580 2786/2789) www.o2sun.com 光合作用。1) 海淀区五道口华清嘉园1号楼; 2) 朝阳区建国路97号新光天地地下层1083号; 3) 朝阳区建国路88号Soho现代城B座S3001

**One Way Street Library** The limited selection of English-language books in this hard to find shop can only be browsed in store, but this small, sunny bookstore is still worth visiting. 1) 9am-midnight. Rm 1314, Bldg 19, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District. (5820 5369, 5820 6125, onewaystreetlibrary@gmail.com); 2) Daily 9am-8:30pm. East Gate of Yuanmingyuan, enter the parking lot and keep heading north past the entrance to the park and then turn left (next to Mima Cafe, Haidian District. (6257 0357, fax 6257 0357, onewaystreetlibrary@gmail.com); 3) Daily 9:30am-10pm. Blue Rock Club, Area B, China Millennium Monument, 9A Fuxing Lu, Haidian District. (6857 3382, onewaystreetlibrary@gmail.com) www.onewaystreet.cn 单向街图书馆。1) 朝阳区建国路93号万达广场19座1314; 2) 海淀区圆明园东门内停车场北侧(在左右间旁边); 3) 海淀区复兴路甲9号中华世纪坛B区蓝石俱乐部内

**Sanlian Taofen Bookstore** An art lover's haven, filled with quality philosophy and art books and magazines. With a large range of English-language editions and a small cafe. Daily 9am-9pm. Meishuguan Dongjie (East of National Art Museum of China), Dongcheng District. (6407 1664, 6400 1122) www.sdxjpc.com 北京三联韬奋图书中心。东城区北京美术馆东街(中国美术馆东侧)

**San Wei Bookstore** This small bookstore stocks artsy and literary titles. After making your purchases, join the hipsters in the upstairs teahouse for live jazz or traditional Chinese music performances. Daily 9:30am-10:30pm. 60 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng District. (6601 3204) 三味书屋。西城区复兴门内大街60号

**Shunyi Bookstore** Daily 9am-6pm. 606 Pinnacle Plaza, South of Hualikan Cun, Tianzhu Zhen, Shunyi District. (8046 1276) 顺义书店。顺义区天竺镇花梨村南荣祥广场606

**Timezone 8** An amazing selection of fashion and art books from local and foreign publishers. Serves a selection of healthy and light cuisine. Booktalks on Saturdays. 11:30am to 7:30pm. Dashanzi art district, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (8456 0336) timezone8.com 现代书店北京艺术书屋。朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798大山子艺术区

**Trends Lounge** A bookstore-cafe with plenty of comfy nooks for you, coffee and a book. Impressive range of magazines and books including a decent English-

language selection. Daily 10am-10pm. L214, 2/F, Trends Bldg (connected to The Place's north building), 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District. (6587 1998) 时尚廊。朝阳区光华路9号时尚大厦2层L214

**Wangfujing Bookstore** One of the city's biggest and most comprehensive bookstores. Struggle through the crowds to reach the third floor, where you'll find a smattering of original English editions and a good range of Chinese language learning materials. Lectures are held on the sixth floor on weekends, usually in Chinese. 10am-9pm. 218 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. (6513 2842, 6525 2592) www.wfjdsd.com 王府井书店。东城区王府井大街218号

**Yansha Books** Stocks Lonely Planet and Frommers guidebooks, coffee table tomes and kids books, notably by Richard Scarry, Sesame Street and Disney. Daily 10am-10pm. 4/F, Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (6465 1188-421) 燕莎购物中心。朝阳区亮马桥路50号燕莎购物中心4层

**Zhongguancun Bookstore** Up there with Xidan and Wangfujing with its range of English-language titles, but located in the university district. Daily 9am-9pm. 68 Beisihuan Xilu, Haidian District. (8267 6696/97/98) www.zgcb.com 中关村图书大厦。海淀区北四环西路68号

### CINEMAS

**BC Cafe** Bldg 13, Jianwai Soho, Chaoyang District. (5869 5022/5030, bcofficecn@gmail.com) www.bccoffee.cn 铂澜咖啡。朝阳区建外Soho13号楼

**Beijing Chaoyang Theater** Shows daily 7.15pm (call for additional show times). 36 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6507 2421/1818) www.bjcyj.com 北京朝阳剧场。朝阳区东三环北路36号

**Beijing Shunboyan Cinema** Shiyuan South, Shunyi District. (8944 9474) 北京顺博苑影院。顺义区石园南区

**Beijing Theater** Area 3, 10 Anhui Beili, Yancun, Chaoyang District. (6491 1228) bj-show.51.net 北京剧院。朝阳区亚运村安慧北里三区10号

**Beijing Youth Palace Cinema** 68 Xizhimen Nanxiaojie, Xicheng District. (6615 2241) www.ntcc.com.cn 北京青年宫影院。西城区西直门南小街68号

**Changheng Cinema** 75 Longfusi Jie, Dongcheng District. (6404 2159/1160) www.cfilm.cn 长虹电影院。东城区隆福寺街75号

**Channel Zero Salon** 7G, Bldg 4, Meilin Garden, 33 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District. (8855 0623, channelzero@vip.sina.com) www.bjdoc.com 零频道沙龙。海淀区紫竹院路33号美林花园4号楼7G

**Chaoyang Culture Center/TNT Theater** Corner of Jintai Xilu and Chaoyangmenwai Dajie (east of Jingguang Qiao), Chaoyang District. (8599 6011) www.cqwhg.com 朝阳文化馆。朝阳区朝阳门外大街和金台西路的路口

**China Cinema** 25 Xinjiekouwai Dajie, Haidian District. (6223 0207) www.cfc.com.cn 中影影院。海淀区新街口外大街25号

**Chongong Cinema** 44 Xingfu Dajie, Chongwen District. (6714 5358) 崇工电影院。崇文区幸福大街44号

**CNEX Saloon Cafe** Tue-Sun 1.30-9.30pm. 3 Guangqu Donglu (inside Imagebase Beijing), Chaoyang District. (8721 5576) 北三环沙龙咖啡馆。朝阳区广渠东路3号院图片基地1号库东1层

**Cultural Office of the Mexican Embassy** 5 Sanlitun Dongwujie, Chaoyang District. (6532 2574) 墨西哥大使馆文化处。朝阳区三里屯东五街5号

**D-22** Tue-Sun 7pm-2am. 242 Chengfu Lu (two doors west of 13 Club), Haidian District. (6265 3177, charles@d22beijing.com) www.d22beijing.com 海淀区成府路242号

**Daguanlou Cinema** 36 Dashi'an'er, Qianmen, Xuanwu District. (6303 0878) 大观楼电影院。宣武区前门大栅栏36号

**Dahua Cinema** 82 Dongdan Beidajie, Dongcheng District. (6521 2647) 大华电影院。东城区东单北大街82号

**Dizhi Cinema** 30 Yangrou Hutong, Xisi, Xicheng District. (6616 8376) 地质电影院。西城区西四羊肉胡同30号

**Dongsi Workers' Culture Theater** 47 Longfusi Jie, Dongcheng District. (6403 1596) 东四工人文化宫。东城区隆福寺街47号

**Dongtu Cinema** 85 Jiaodaokou Dongdajie, Dongcheng District. (6404 2764) 东图影剧院。东城区交道口东大街85号

**Drive-in Cinema** 2 Liangmaqiao Lu (1,500m east of Yanshaqiao), Chaoyang District. (6431 9595, 5165 2832) www.drive-in.net.cn 汽车影院。朝阳区燕莎桥东1500米路北。亮马桥2号

**East Gate Cinema** B1/F, Bldg B, East Gate Plaza (behind the Poly Theatre), 9 Dongzhong Jie, Dongcheng District. (6418 5931) www.dhyc.com 东影影城。东城区保利大厦北侧东广场B座下一层

**Esape France Cinema** 5/F, Huateng Xintiandi, 195 Dongsihuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District. (8795 2618) www.dd-cinema.com 世纪东都国际影城。朝阳区东四环中路195号华腾新天地5层

**French Cultural Centre** 18 Gongti Xilu, Haidian District. (6553 2627) www.ccfpekin.org 法国文化中心。朝阳区工体西路18号

**Goethe Institute** 1/F, Building C, Haixing Mansion, southwest corner of Haidian Zhonglu and Haidian Nanjie Intersection, Haidian District. (8251 2909, info@peking.goethe.org) www.goethe.de/peking 歌德学院北京分院。海淀区海淀中路和海淀南街十字路口西南角海兴大厦C座1层

**Guang'anmen Cinema** 8 Baiguang Lu, Xuanwu District. (6352 1766/2713) 广安门电影院。宣武区白广路8号

**Guoan Theater** 16A Huayuan Donglu, Haidian District. (6202 6328) 国安剧院。海淀区花园东路甲16号

**Haidian Theater** 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District. (6255 8026) 海淀剧院。海淀区中关村大街28号

**Hart Centre of Arts** Dashanzi art district, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (6435 3570) www.hart.com.cn 哈特沙龙。朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798大山子艺术区

**Honglou Cinema** 156 Xi'anmen Dajie, Xicheng District. (6605 1908) 红楼电影院。西城区西安门大街156号

**Hujiailou Cinema** Xinjiejie Dayuan, Chaoyangmenwai Xiaozhuang, Chaoyang District. (6593 1765/20) 呼家楼电影院。朝阳区朝阳门外小庄新街大院

**Instituto Cervantes** 1A Gongti Nanlu, Chaoyang District. (5879 9666) www.pekin.cervantes.es 北京塞万提斯学院。朝阳区工体南路甲1号

**Italian Embassy Cultural Office** 2 Sanlitun Dong Er Jie, Chaoyang District. (6532 5015, iicpechino@esteri.it) www.iicpechino.esteri.it 意大利大使馆文化处。朝阳区三里屯东二街2号

**Jinyi International Cinemas** B1/F, New Zhongguang Shopping Center, 19 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District. (8248 6800) 金逸国际影城。海淀区中关村大街19号新中关购物中心B1层

**Ladies' Book Saloon** Daily 10am-11pm. 69 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District. (6270 1928) 雨枫书馆。海淀区成府路69号

**Mega Box** 1) B2/F, The Village at Sanlitun, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District. (6417 6118); 2) 3/F, Area C, Zhongguancun Mall (West of Dinghao Mall), Haidian District. (5986 3777) www.imegabox.com 美嘉欢乐影城。1) 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯Village地下二层(三里屯酒吧街南口西侧); 2) 海淀区中关村广场购物中心C区三层(鼎好西侧)

**National Library Concert Hall** 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. (6848 5462) www.btwhfz.com.cn 国家图书馆音乐厅。海淀区中关村南大街33号

**Obiwan** Daily 2pm-2am. 4 Xihai Xiyuan (300m from Jishuitan subway station), Xicheng District. (8322 1231,

contact@clubobiwan.com.cn) www.clubobiwan.com.cn 西城区西海西沿4号

**Saga Cinema** SA-42, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu (east side of Lucky Street/Haoyun Jie), Chaoyang District. (5905 6868) www.sagacinema.com 传奇时代影城。朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾商业区SA-42(朝阳公园西北)

**Sam Cinema** 29 Shijingshan Lu, Shijingshan District. (6687 9104) 山姆电影院。石景山区石景山路29号

**Shengli Cinema** 55 Xisi Dongdajie, Xicheng District. (6617 5091) 胜利电影院。西城区西四大街55号

**Shoudu Shidai Cinema** B1/F, Capital Times Square, Xidan, Xicheng District. (8391 3643) www.shoudushidai.blog.sohu.com 首都时代影城。西城区西单时代广场地下一层

**Show Max Cinema** Daily 9am-midnight. 9/F, Soshow Market, 40 Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen District. (5167 1298, 5167 1299) www.bjshowmax.com 搜秀影城。崇文区崇文门外大街40号搜秀城9层

**Space for Imagination** Daily 9am-1:30am. 5 Xiwangzhuang, Shuangqing Lu, Haidian District. (6279 1280) www.hzcafe.com 盒子咖啡馆。海淀区双清路西王庄5号

**Star City** Daily 9am-10pm. B1/F, The Malls at Oriental Plaza, Dongcheng District. (8518 6778) www.b-cinema.com.cn 新世纪影城。东城区东方广场地下一层

**Stellar International Cineplex** 1) 4/F, Bldg A, Wangjing International Business Center, 9 Wangjing Jie, Chaoyang District. (5920 3788); 2) 3/F, Hualian Shopping Mall, 111 Huilongguan Xidajie, Changping District. (8077 1188); 3) 5/F, Golden Resources Shopping Center, 1 Yuanda Lu, Haidian District. (8887 8695) www.bjxingmei.com, www.wjxingmei.com 星美国际影城。1) 朝阳区望京街9号望京国际商业中心A座4层; 2) 昌平区回龙观西大街111号华联商厦3层; 3) 海淀区远大路1号金源购物中心5层

**Story Club** 61 Beisanhuan, Haidian District. (8207 1909 ext 1202) 老故事餐吧。海淀区北三环中路61号

**Sun Cinema** 1/F, Sun Square (North Gate), 68 Anli Lu, Chaoyang District. (6489 3954) http://blog.sina.com.cn/lygg 阳光影城。朝阳区安立路68号阳光广场北1层

**UME International Cineplex** 1) 5th floor, Fuli Plaza, Shuangjing Qiao Bei, Dongsanshuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District. (5903 7171); 2) 44 Kexueyuan Nanlu, Shuangyushu, Haidian District. (8211 5566) www.bjume.com 华星影院。1) 朝阳区东三环中路双井桥富力广场5层; 2) 海淀区双榆树科学院南路44号

**Wanda International Cinema** 1) Daily 10am-9pm. 5/F, Longde Square, 186 Litang Lu, Changping District. (8484 4742); 2) Daily 9am-10pm. 3/F, Bldg B, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District. (5960 3399) www.wandafilm.com 万达国际影城。1) 昌平区立汤路186号龙德广场5层; 2) 朝阳区建国路93号万达广场B座3层

**Xiangshan Huandao Drive-in Cinema** Southwest corner of Wofosi Lu, Fragrant Hills, Haidian District. (6259 0438) 香山环岛汽车影院。海淀区香山卧佛寺路口西南侧

**Xidan 4D Digital Cinema** B1, Xidan Cultural Plaza, 180 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng District. (6606 3284) 西单4D数字影院。西城区西单北大街180号文化广场B1层4D影院

**Xindong'an Cinema** 5/F, 138 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. (6528 1988/1898) www.xindongan.blog.sohu.com 新东方影城。东城区王府井大街138号5层

**Xinjiekou Cinema** 69 Xizhimennei Dajie, Xicheng District. (6225 6713) 新街口电影院。西城区西直门内大街69号

**Yingxie Cinema** 22 Beisanhuan Donglu, Chaoyang District. (6420 7759) 影协电影院。朝阳区北三环东路22号

**Ziguang Cinema** 5-6/F, west section of Landao, 168 Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. (6599 2228/9) www.bjzgy.com 紫光电影院。朝阳区朝阳门外大街168号蓝岛大厦西5-6层

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## San Francisco Ballet



The Martha Graham Dance Company and Jennifer Muller/The Works are not the only American modern dance troupes to have opened shows in Beijing. The San Francisco Ballet has also scheduled their first China tour for this fall. The pioneering troupe was the first to define the American style of ballet in Tchaikovsky's most popular pieces, *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*, as well as in their production of *Coppélia* by American choreographer Willam Christensen. To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the PRC's founding and the 30th anniversary of

diplomatic relations between the US and China, SF Ballet presents the full-length production of *Swan Lake* that they premiered in 1988, and a mixed-repertory program featuring acclaimed works by George Balanchine, Helgi Tomasson, and Christopher Wheeldon. *Cecily Huang*

*San Francisco Ballet performs at Poly Theatre from Oct 1-3. RMB 60-800. 7.30pm.*

## Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra



The arrival of Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, which Felix Mendelssohn himself conducted for more than ten years, is truly the highlight of "Mendelssohn Music Week" at the Egg. When it was founded by 16 Leipzig merchants in 1743, no one could have predicted that the small ensemble would eventually become one of the most important orchestras in the development of the symphony. Not only did Gewandhaus perform all of Beethoven's symphonies during the composer's lifetime, but Schubert's Symphony No. 9, discovered

by Schumann, had its premiere in 1839 by Gewandhaus under Mendelssohn's baton. Under the leadership of many distinguished conductors, including Wilhelm Furtwängler and Kurt Masur, the orchestra has maintained a distinguished tradition and style and enjoys an exceptionally wide repertoire. Current music director Riccardo Chailly, acclaimed for his passionate, vigorous style, embodies the Gewandhaus motto: "True pleasure is a serious business." *Cecily Huang*

*Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra will perform at the NCPA on Oct 24 and 25. RMB 200-1,200. 7.30pm.*

## Turandot



Thanks to Giacomo Puccini for making this beautiful but heartless Chinese princess world-famous through his operatic masterpiece. In turn, she'll help Beijing regain the world's attention in yet another PRC 60th anniversary gala event. In 1926, *Turandot* premiered at La Scala, which holds a mere 2,800 seats; in 2009, the Chinese adaptation of the opera will be grandly staged at the Bird's Nest, the iconic stadium with a capacity of 91,000. Film director Zhang Yimou first launched this version at the Forbidden City in 1998. This year's revival features multi-

media resources and sumptuous costumes. It stars leading sopranos Susan Foster and Raffaella Anceletti, and leading tenors Dai Yuqiang and Mo Hualun. Janos Acs will conduct. *Cecily Huang*

*Turandot will be performed on Oct 6 and 7 in the National Stadium (Bird's Nest). RMB 180-3,800. 7.30pm.*



**Oct 2-3, 30-31: The Red Detachment of Women**  
Chairman Mao says, "Women hold up half the sky." See listing, p87.

The Chinese grand ballet *Red Detachment of Women* (Oct 2-3, 30-31; see photo, this page) was a milestone in Chinese ballet when it premiered in 1964. It was the first to successfully combine Western ballet with Chinese folk dance, and set a model for new Chinese ballet. Based on real stories, it depicts the liberation of a peasant girl from her tyrant landlord on Hainan Island, and her subsequent rise in the Chinese Community Party. In its time, it sparked a huge popular interest in dance, fueled by exquisite choreography and music based on folk songs from Hainan. Despite its strong political and historical grounding, the performance is an enjoyable reminiscence of a bygone era in Chinese dance.

In comparison, we will get a chance to learn how the American style of ballet was defined by its oldest professional ballet company, the **San Francisco Ballet** (Oct 1-3). The company has a long tradition of artistic "firsts" behind them, but as **Reid Anderson** will tell you, that's not all that matters – the artistic director of the famous Stuttgart Ballet has voiced his worries about what was once their exclusive repertoire, *Onegin*, being outperformed by the National Ballet of China in Beijing. So this month, he leads **Stuttgart Ballet**, Germany's "first major ballet company," in a performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* (Oct 9-11).

The Chinese adaptation of Puccini's opera *Turandot* returns to Beijing this month as part of the PRC's 60th anniversary celebration. Director **Zhang Yimou** will stage performances at the Bird's Nest on October 6 and 7, but that's just the beginning. According to event organizer Haosi International, plans are underway to transform the RMB 120 million production into a "recognized Chinese princess-themed franchise." Details have yet to be confirmed, but the organizers have informed us they want to go all out with merchandising by selling "handcrafted Princess Turandot dolls," as well as producing an animated feature and building a Disneyland-like **Turandot theme park** in China.

Stuttgart Ballet is not the only German performance company to perform in Beijing this month. Under the baton of Jan Cober, **Rundfunk Blasorchester Leipzig** will make your feet itchy with a series of exciting dance symphonies on October 4. The **German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra** (Oct 17-18) will give audiences masterpieces from Haydn and Beethoven, while the **Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra** (see 3 to See, right) will take part in a **Mendelssohn Concert Series** at the National Centre for Performing Arts (Oct 24-25). Soprano **Kiri Te Kanawa** (Oct 21) mesmerizes audiences with her beautiful, warm voice on October 21, while the **12th Beijing Music Festival** and the **7th Beijing International Symphony Concert Season** open on October 10 and run through the whole month. *Cecily Huang*



Patient becomes experiment in the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Wit*

# HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?

A play about dying, love and knowledge

by Cecily Huang

It might be normal for you, but for Vivian Bearing, this mundane greeting is serious and heavy. Her words – “Hi. How are you feeling today?” – open the play *Wit*, which proceeds to run as a single continuous act without intermission. Vivian Bearing is the character at the heart of the play; she’s a professor of English literature who has been diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer and is being treated with an experimental drug cocktail.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning play, based on the hospital experiences of American playwright Margaret Edson, has been popular on the American stage for years, and was adapted into a 2001 film starring Emma Thompson. Beijing International Theater Experience (BITE) presents the play’s Beijing premiere in October, with producer Anna Grace in the lead role.

Like the playwright herself, Grace has lived through a family member’s battle against cancer. To make her portrayal of Vivian Bearing more realistic, she made the decision to shave her head for the role. Anna Grace shared her thoughts with *the Beijinger* about the upcoming show.

“It is one of my favorite plays ever. When I was in college, I always wanted to have an opportunity to do it ... It’s very intellectual, but also heartwarming.

“Seeing my grandfather going through cancer affected me strongly. Plus, my mother had the same kind of tumor in her ovary that the character has. She had it removed and she survived. Now she works in a hospital taking care of patients who are terminally ill. My mom, who survived, and my grandfather, who didn’t, both contributed to what I put into the character of Vivian.

“But if I actually had cancer like Vivian, my experience would be different. Absolutely! Because I am very close with my family and my friends. I would not be afraid to say, ‘I am weak’ ... whereas I don’t think Vivian would ever admit that until she had been broken.

“One thing that both Kris [Chung, the director] and I believe is that we should not choose a play because we think other people will like it. We should choose a play we like and we want to do.

“I always think live performance is better than a movie. I personally think theater is meant to be experienced. When you have the TV screen between the audiences and actors, it takes something away from your experience.

“Actually, I find the crying, the screaming is the easier part. Being honest, awkward and real is the hardest part of this character.

“I think this play will make you laugh and cry. It is a serious play, but it definitely has humor in it. It is intellectually funny, and it makes you think.”

*Wit* will be performed on Oct 22-25 at Penghao Theater. See listing, p87.



All event listings are accurate at time of press and subject to change

For venue details, see directories, p88

Send events to listings@thebeijinger.com by Oct 12

## STAGE EVENTS

Oct 1-3

### San Francisco Ballet

Under the direction of Helgi Tomasson, American's oldest ballet company performs *Swan Lake* and a mixed-repertoire program. See 3 to See, p85. Tickets at 6417 7845. RMB 180-1,680. 7.30pm. Poly Theatre (6500 1188 ext 5126)

Oct 2-3

### Cross-Talk: Better and Better (Yue Lai Yue Hao)

Chinese Broadcast Art Troupe spent ten years developing this program, which talks about the social changes in Chinese society in the past 30 years after the "reform and opening-up policy." It is spiced up with a lot of Chinese slang, idioms and even some "newborn words" which may not be found in the Chinese dictionary. In Chinese only. RMB 20-280. 7.30pm. Ethnic Cultural Palace Theater (6605 2404)

Oct 2-10

### Drama: Copenhagen

Set in 1941, this Chinese adaptation of Michael Frayn's Tony award-winning play examines a historical meeting between physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg. In Chinese only. Tickets at 6527 6911. RMB 50-150. 7.30pm. East Pioneer Theater (6559 7394)

Oct 2-3, 30-31

### Ballet: The Red Detachment of Women

Some consider this classic piece to be China's first and most successful grand ballet. First shown in 1964, and based on the film of the same name, it created the precedent for a completely Chinese-style ballet. Performed by the Central Ballet of China. See photo, p85. RMB 180-680. 7.30pm. Oct 2-3 at NCPA (6655 0000), Oct 30-31 at Peking University Hall

Oct 6-7

### Opera: Turandot at the Bird's Nest

Zhang Yimou debuts the new Chinese adaptation of the opera *Turandot* in the historic structure. Zhang says he will add some special effects that he did not get the chance to use in the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the 2008 Olympic Games. See 3 to See, p85. Tickets at 6417 7845. RMB 180-3,800. 7.30pm. National Stadium (8437 2992/3)

Oct 9-11

### Ballet: The Taming of the Shrew

Germany's oldest ballet troupe, Stuttgart Ballet, will stage one of John Cranko's three legendary works, *The Taming of the Shrew*, which redefined the genre of the narrative ballet in the 20th century. It translates Shakespeare's comedy into the movements of classical ballet with wit and comic timing. See photo, p88. Tickets at 6417 7845. RMB 120-880. 7.30pm. NCPA Opera House (6655 0000)

Oct 10-12

### Shaoying Opera: Butterfly Lovers

Originally from the southern regions of the Yangtze River, Shaoying opera is known for its sweet, lyrical singing. *Butterfly Lovers* is similar to the tragedy of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. This new edition takes bold steps in stage design. Price TBD. 7.30pm. Mei Lanfang Grand Theater (5833 1388)

Oct 13

### Mixed Program from Stuttgart Ballet

The collection gathers seven superb ballet programs created by four internationally renowned choreographers: John Cranko, Bridget Breiner, Christian Spuck and Ben Van Cauwenbergh. Magnificent stage designs along with novel artistic expression display both the avant-garde and classical styles of German ballet. RMB 120-880. 7.30pm. NCPA Opera House (6655 0000)

Oct 14-16

### Alexander Red-Flag Song and Dance Troupe of The Russian Armed Forces

As the largest army song and dance troupe in Russia, this troupe brings a strong lineup of over 130 people, including a chorus, an orchestra, a dance group and many outstanding soloists, to perform Russian army songs, folk songs and classic Chinese songs. Tickets at 6417 7845. RMB 180-1,280. 7.30pm. NCPA Opera House (6655 0000)

Oct 16

### Dance: Burn the Floor 2009 World Tour

As its name suggests, this troupe burns up the stage with their sizzling Latin and ballroom dances: cha-cha-cha, samba, rumba, jazz, swing, tango and waltz. RMB 180-1,680. 7.30pm. Great Hall of the People (6309 6156)

Oct 16-18

### Drama: Rhinoceros in Love (Lianai de Xiniu)

Meng Jinghui's long-standing show is one of the selections from "The Autumn of National Drama." A young boy, Ma Lu, falls madly in love with a sexy, mysterious girl, Ming Ming. When Ming Ming rebukes all his approaches, Ma decides to kidnap her. In Chinese only. Tickets at 6417 7845. RMB 100-250. 7pm. Peking University Hall (6275 1278)

Oct 19-21

### Dance: The Charm of Tibet

Based on Tibetan folklore, this performance transforms Tibetan people's work, life and religious activity into the movements of ethnic dance. In *Luoba's Sword*, you will see the Luoba nation's hunt and exorcism. *Fast Dancing* shows Tibetan tap dancing, performed in unique clothes and accessories. RMB 20-380. 7.30pm. Tianqiao Theater (8315 6300)

Oct 22-25

### Drama: Wit

A play based on one woman's struggle with cancer. See Feature, p86. In English with Chinese subtitles. Tickets at 135 2045 0019. RMB 80-120. 7.30pm. Penghao Theater (6400 6452)

Oct 24

### Comedy: Chopschticks

*the Beijinger* sponsors the return of Chopschticks' improv comedy show. Call 158 1026 1614 for more info. RMB 290(at the door), 220 (in advance). 9pm. Block 8 (6508 8585)

Oct 24-Nov 7

### NOTCH09 Festival

Following the "ID-entity" theme of emerging individuals with multiple identities, the fourth annual NOTCH Nordic Festival features a futuristic audio-visual performance series as well as cross-disciplinary exhibitions (design & art). Events will be held at The Village at

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Sanlitun. See [www.notch09.com](http://www.notch09.com) for a detailed schedule.

**Oct 30-Nov 15**

### Opera: Beauty Xi Shi

National Centre for Performing Arts works with Shanghai Opera House to stage this musical about a love triangle involving a famous beauty, a general and the emperor. Emotions run high as patriotism, loyalty and desire clash. It features a strong Chinese opera star lineup: Zhang Liping, Dai Yuqiang and Wei Song. Tickets at 6417 7845. RMB 80-880. 7.30pm. NCPA Opera House (6655 0000)

**Every Wed**

### Beijing Improv Bilingual Workshop

A weekly class on improvised theater, stretching creativity and celebrating spontaneity. Open to people with all levels of theater experience. For details, visit [www.beijingimprov.org](http://www.beijingimprov.org). In English and Chinese. 8-9.30pm. Jiangjinju Bar (8405 0124; also see listing in Nightlife directory)

**Every Sat & Sun**

### Beijing Actors Workshop: New Fall Workshops

Participate in 12-week "Theatrical Triathlon" courses, where students sharpen skills through Advanced Playwriting and Advanced Play Directing Workshops. A Voice and Stage Acting Workshop and a Screen Acting Workshop also available. Instructors speak English with Chinese translation. For details and early registration, call 135 2045 0019 or e-mail [bjactorsworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:bjactorsworkshop@gmail.com). RMB 50 per workshop.

**All Month**

### Traditional Chinese Acrobatics Show

Watch amazing gravity-defying feats of acrobats, including board-swinging, hoop-diving, silk-suspending and bicycle-balancing, culminating with a lion dance. RMB 180-300. 5.15pm, 7.15pm. Chaoyang Theater (6507 2421)

## CONCERT EVENTS

**Oct 2**

### Comedy Film Music

Along with a video screening, China Film Symphony Orchestra will review international classic comedies including *Bathing Beauty*, *City Lights*, *A Story in Office*, *Home Alone*, *Stuart Little*. RMB 100-1,280. 7.30pm. Beijing Exhibition Theater (6835 4455)

**Oct 4**

### Rundfunk Blasorchester Leipzig

Rundfunk Blasorchester Leipzig Orchestra is noted for successfully adapting Mozart's opera, *The Magic Flute*, for wind symphony. They will present a program including "Hungarian Dance," "Romanian Rhapsody" and "Toccata," as well as "Strike up the Band," selections from *Lohengrin*, and "Trumpet Blues." RMB 50-580. 7.30pm. Forbidden City Concert Hall (6605 7006/5812)

**Oct 10**

### Chorus: The Vienna Boys Choir

Under the lead of conductor Andy Icochea Icochea, the Vienna Boys sing songs including Haydn's *Gloria* from the *Nicolai Mass*, Schubert's *Nachtelle*, *Die Forelle*, and ABBA's "Mamma Mia," "Chiquitita" and "Thank You For the Music." RMB 180-680. 7.30pm. Forbidden City Concert Hall (6605 7006/5812)

**Oct 10-30**

### The 12th Beijing Music Festival and the 7th Beijing International Symphony Concert Season

Opening with Verdi's *Macbeth*, this combined music festival brings symphony concerts, guitar concerts, operas, piano recitals,

and choruses to three of Beijing's major venues: Beijing Concert Hall, Poly Theatre, and Forbidden City Concert Hall. The program covers new contemporary works from New York's Bang on a Can, Strings and Keyboard Collective, the Boys Choir of Kenya and a piano recital by the 13th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition gold medal winner. For detailed program, see [www.piao.com](http://www.piao.com). RMB 50-180.

**Oct 13**

### Pinchas Zukerman with China Philharmonic Orchestra

This multi-talented Israeli musician will not only conduct the China Philharmonic Orchestra but also play violin and viola. Program includes Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for violin, viola, and orchestra and Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D major (Yin'ou Kalin, violin). Tickets at 6417 7845. RMB 80-180. 7.30pm. Forbidden City Concert Hall (6605 7006/5812)

**Oct 17**

### Chorus: Pirates of Penzance

The Internation Festival Chorus's diverse mix of amateur singers has performed since 2002. They're back with Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*. Conducted by Nicholas Smith. Tickets at 6506 5345/3. RMB 50-580. 7.30pm. Forbidden City Concert Hall (6605 7006/5812)

**Oct 17-18**

### German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra

The German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Haydn's Symphony No. 104 ("London"), Mozart's Horn Concerto No. 4, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 on the first night. On the second night: Mozart's Symphony No. 35 ("Haffner"), Benjamin Britten's Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings, and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 ("Scottish"). Conducted by Christoph Poppen. RMB 100-800. 7.30pm. NCPA Concert Hall (6655 0000)

**Oct 18**

### Piano Recital: When Classics Meets Jazz

Du Taihang amazes audiences by skillfully fusing diverse styles of music. How will he make classic music talk to jazz this time? RMB 80-480. 7.30pm. NCPA Concert Hall (6655 0000)

**Oct 21**

### Solo Recital: Kiri Te Kanawa

Possessing a lyric, mellow and vibrant voice, Maori soprano Kiri Te Kanawa will show her undeniably powerful voice through a selection of works from Mozart, R. Strauss, Liszt, Guastavino, Ginastera, and Puccini. Tickets at 6417 7845. RMB 180-880. 7.30pm. NCPA Concert Hall (6655 0000)

**Oct 23**

### Tommy Emmanuel Guitar Concert

Australian guitar wizard Tommy Emmanuel is a two-time Grammy nominee. His career spans four decades, and he is famous for his versatile, humorous, and passionate performance style. RMB 20-150. 7.30pm. Peking University Hall (6275 1278)

**Oct 24-25**

### Concert: Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra

Under the baton of Riccardo Chailly, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra will present works from Mozart (Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major), and Mahler (Symphony No. 1) on Oct 24. Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 and Bruckner's Symphony No. 4 is scheduled for Oct 25. See 3 to See, p85. Tickets at 6417 7845. RMB 190-1,520. 7.30pm. NCPA Concert Hall (6655 0000)

## THEATERS

**Beijing Chaoyang Theater** Shows daily 7.15pm (call for additional show times). 36 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. (6507 2421/1818) [www.bjcyj.com](http://www.bjcyj.com) 北京朝阳剧场, 朝阳区东三环北路36号

**BeijingDance/LDTX** Rm 2111,1 Bakey-angshu, Shuang Jing, Chaoyang District. (6405 4842) 北京雷动天下现代舞团, 朝阳区朝阳区双井八棵杨树甲1号北京歌舞剧院211室

**Beijing Exhibition Theater** 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng District. (6835 4455) 北京展览馆剧场, 西城区西直门外大街135号

**Beijing Modern Dance Company Theater (No.46 Theater)** 46 Fangjia Hutong, Andingmennei Dajie, Dongcheng District. (8403 3799, [info@bmdc.com.cn](mailto:info@bmdc.com.cn)) 北京现代舞团 (46号剧场), 东城区安定门内大街方家胡同46号

**Capital Theater** 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. (6524 9847) 首都剧场, 东城区王府井大街22号

**Central Experimental Drama Theater** 45A Mao'er Hutong, Di'anmenwai Dajie, Dongcheng District. (6403 1009) [www.ntcc.com.cn](http://www.ntcc.com.cn) 国家话剧院, 东城区地安门内大街猫耳胡同甲45号

**Century Theater** 21st Century Hotel, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. (6466 4805, 6468 3311 ext 3126) 世纪剧院, 朝阳区亮马桥路40号(21世纪饭店)

**Chaoyang Culture Center/TNT Theater** Corner of Jintai Xilu and Chaoyangmenwai Dajie (east of Jinguang Qiao), Chaoyang District. (8599 6011) [www.cyqwhg.com](http://www.cyqwhg.com) 朝阳文化馆, 朝阳区朝阳门外大街和金台西路的路口

**Chongwen Workers' Palace** 44 Xingfu Dajie, Chongwen District. (6711 6135) 崇文工人文化宫, 崇文区幸福大街44号

**East Pioneer Theater** 8-2 Dongdan Santiao (east of Oriental Plaza), Dongcheng District. (6559 7364, 65276911) 东方先锋剧场, 东城区东单三条8-2号

**Ethnic Cultural Palace Theater** 49 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng District. (6605 2404) 民族文化宫大剧院, 西城区复兴门内大街49号

**Fenghao Theater** 200m east of Oriental Ginza, 12 Shizipo, Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Dongcheng District. (6415 7332) 蜂巢剧场, 东城区东直门外大街十字坡12号东方银座东200米

**Haidian Theater** 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District. (6255 8026) 海淀剧院, 海淀区中关村大街28号

**Imperial Granary Nanxincang**, 22 Dongsहितia, Chaoyang District. (6409 6477/99, 136 0125 9568) 皇家粮仓, 朝阳区东四十条22号南新仓

**Mei Lanfang Grand Theater** 32 Ping'anli Dajie (southeast of Guanyuan Qiao), Xicheng District. (5833 1288/1388) [www.mfldjy.cn](http://www.mfldjy.cn) 梅兰芳大剧院, 西城区平安里西大街32号(官园桥东南角)

**National Centre For The Performing Arts (NCPA)** 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District. (6655 0000) [www.chncpa.org](http://www.chncpa.org) 国家大剧院, 西城区西长安街2号

**National Stadium (Bird's Nest)** Olympic Green, Beichen Lu, Chaoyang District. (8437 299293) 国家体育场, 朝阳区北辰路奥林匹克公园

**Peking University Hall** Inside Peking University, 5A Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District. (6275 1278) [www.pku-hall.com](http://www.pku-hall.com) 北大百年纪念礼堂, 海淀区颐和园路甲5号北京大学内

**Penghao Theater** 35 Dongmianhua Hutong (south gate of the Central Academy of Drama, between Nanluogu Xiang and Jiadaokou Nandajie), Dongcheng District. (6400 6452/72) 蓬蒿剧场, 东城区东棉花胡同35号(中央戏剧学院南门, 南锣鼓巷和交道口南大街之间)

**People's Art Experimental Theater 3/F**, Capital Theater, 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. (6526 3338) 人艺实验剧场, 东城区王府井大街22号首都剧场3层

**People's Art Theater** 22 Wangfujing Dajie (behind Capital Theater), Dongcheng District. (6525 0123) 人艺小剧场, 东城区王府井大街22号, 首都剧场后面

**PLA Song and Dance Theater** 60 Deshengmennei Dajie, southeast corner of Jishuitan Bridge, Xicheng District. (8322 0726, 6613 1718) [www.pla-theater.com](http://www.pla-theater.com) 解放军歌舞剧院, 西城区德胜门内大街60号积水潭桥东南角

**Poly Theater** Poly Plaza, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District. (6500 1188 ext 5126/5127) [www.polytheatre.com](http://www.polytheatre.com) 保利剧院, 东城区东直门南大街14号保利大厦1层

**Tianqiao Theater** 30 Beiweli Lu, Xuanwu District. (8315 6300) 天桥剧场, 宣武区北纬路30号

## CONCERT HALLS

**Beijing Concert Hall** 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng District. (6605 7006/5812) 北京音乐厅, 西城区北新华街1号

**Forbidden City Concert Hall** Inside Zhongshan Park, Xichang'an Jie, Xicheng District. (6559 8285) [www.fccbj.com](http://www.fccbj.com) 中山公园音乐堂, 西城区西长安街中山公园内

**Great Hall of the People** Daily 8.30am-3pm, but closed during government meetings. RMB 30, RMB 15 (children). West side of Tian'anmen Square, Dongcheng District. (6309 6156) 人民大会堂, 东城区天安门广场西侧



**Oct 9-11: The Taming of the Shrew**

Shakespeare's timeless comedy takes on the ballet. See listing, p87.