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what's on

STAGE

David Friesen Trio

David Friesen is one of two or three bassists in the world that is able to play a solo concert and keeps an audience riveted. He has performed and recorded with many of the great names and legends of jazz. For his Asian tour, Friesen will be joined by two of the finest musicians based in Shanghai, saxophonist Alec Haavik, and guitarist Lawrence Ku.

3 pm, June 6
Shanghai Oriental Art Center, 425 Dingxiang Road
021-6854-1234
60-300 yuan

Swedish Radio Symphony

Founded in 1965, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra developed into a world-class ensemble under the direction of Sergiu Celibidache. Today, the music director is Daniel Harding from the United Kingdom. His programs reflect an untrammelled attitude toward tradition, often combining new and old in original compilations. And he has continued the practice of commissioning and performing new Swedish music. The Shanghai concert program will include *Violin Concerto No 2* by Bartok and *Symphony No 1* by Mahler. The leading violinist is Frank Peter Zimmermann.

7:30 pm, June 10
Shanghai Oriental Art Center, 425 Dingxiang Road
021-6854-1234
180-1680 yuan (90 yuan for students)

EXHIBITIONS

Time Doth Swiftly Fly

The joint exhibition features Chinese ink painter Chen Jiu and ceramic artist Li Jianshen (Jackson Li). Jiu's works are born of water and his sumi-e (ink and wash) paintings represent an intellectual, scholarly approach to art. Li's stoneware sculptures are born of fire and are rough and visceral — the art of the people. Both artists recall the past with palpability in their works, combining the spiritual and the material to honor the richness of Chinese heritage.

Until July 7
Twocities Gallery, 2F, Building O, 50 Moganshan Road
10 am-6 pm (Tuesday-Friday), 12:30 pm-6 pm (Saturday-Sunday)
021-5252-1518

Li Lei: Canvas and Bronze

Director of Shanghai Art Museum and abstract painter Li Lei hosts a solo exhibition. His bronze series depict the lightness of souls, the heaviness of spirit, the fragility of human life and intense interaction. In his latest painting series Shanghai Flowers, there is a sense of tranquil abandon with their streaks and sprays of pure unfettered color. There is a rawness of energy and a pulsating expression of emotion.

Until August 5
Elisabeth de Brabant Art Center
299 Fuxing Road W
021-6466-7428

Taiwan art

Taipei Fine Art Museum will bring its collection of Taiwanese artists' work from the 1950s for a special exhibition in Shanghai. The artwork will feature local characteristics and showcase the unique culture of Taiwan. The exhibition will be divided into eight sections, highlighting different regions of the island.

Until June 29
Shanghai Art Museum
325 Nanjing Road W
021-6327-2829

Dancing to a Hong Kong tune

The city's best performers head to Shanghai, **Zhang Kun** reports.

The Hong Kong SAR government has commissioned Hong Kong's modern dance flagship, the City Contemporary Dance Company, for two performances during the Expo 2010 Shanghai.

On June 19 and 20, City Contemporary Dance Company artistic director Willy Tsao will bring his creation of *DELT*, a dance gala, to Shanghai Times Square, and on June 25 at the Shanghai Grand Theater, the dance company will present *Tales of Two Cities-Hong Kong-Shanghai-Eileen Chang*.

Eileen Chang (1920-1995) was one of the most influential Chinese writers of the 20th century, whose works have inspired numerous award-winning films, including Ang Lee's *Lust, Caution*. She lived and worked in Shanghai and Hong Kong during times of political turmoil. Her stories, mostly short fiction, reveal an unsettling, probing and contemporary sensibility. The stories tackle sexual politics and are rich in psychological ambiguity.

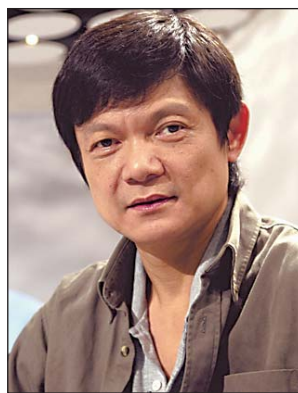
Inspired from a rare photo of the writer during her final years in the United States and texts from her most well-known stories, four-time Hong Kong Dance Award winner Helen Lai created *Tales of Two Cities* especially for the Expo. Lai, critically acclaimed for her emotionally charged dance theatre, reconstructs the writer's life and times with intriguing flashbacks to her golden days.

"Eileen Chang was a prodigy — her best works were all written when she was in her 20s. How could one have such deep observations at such young age? She was really a very sensitive person," Lai said. "In my production, I try to present my impressions of Eileen Chang, or to imagine about her from a woman's point of view."

"Many of her stories are focused on women bound by traditional ideas. Women in these stories want to escape from lots of things, but are mostly unsuccessful. But I feel somehow she herself had succeeded. Many think her life in her later years was sad and solitary, but I think she enjoyed it, since it was out of her own choice," Lai said.

Lai has incorporated different music styles into the production. She boldly mixes northeastern Chinese folk music, the *erhu*, a traditional Chinese string instrument, and Western music. Sounds from insects, such as crickets, can also be heard during the show.

Meanwhile, *DELT* is tailored specifically for the environment of a shopping mall. The dancers from the City Contemporary Dance Company and Beijing Dance (also known as LDTX) don't perform on a conventional stage, but instead move fluidly around the crowds inside the mall, allowing visitors a rare chance to have an up close and personal experience with contemporary dance. In this highly interactive work, dance becomes everyday life and everyday life is transformed into dance. The audience will find themselves no longer just observers, but also participants, responsible for creating and completing the dance itself.



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Willy Tsao will bring his creation, *DELT*, to Shanghai.



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

A stage scene of *Tales of Two Cities-Hong Kong-Shanghai-Eileen Chang*.

IF YOU GO

DELT

3 pm, 5 pm, June 19, Shanghai Times Square, 99 Huaihai Road M
2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, June 20, Plaza 353, Nanjing Road E
Free admission

Tales of Two Cities

Shanghai Grand Theater – Studio Theater, 300 Renmin Avenue
7:30 pm, June 25
40-480 yuan