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- Blood and Booze: A Drink With Italian Horror Comedy Director...** by Kyle Mullin on Mar 24 6:00pm
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- Is Your House Getting Colder? (552)
- California Dreaming: Hollister Debuts in Beijing (523)
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- The Lighter Side of China: English

China's Prodigal Daughter

Submitted on Mar 17, 2012 12:00pm by Kyle Mullin

Permalink

Interview Events JUE Music + Art Festival 2012 Yugong Yishan Live Music



Café background music is supposed to help us unwind, not write blockbuster movie scripts. But when Beijing bistro **Navena Cafe** blared a throbbing ballad called "Drenched" one afternoon last year, Hong Kong rom-com auteur Pang Ho-Cheung started writing a new screenplay then and there as his coffee order percolated. Eventually, he found the song's source: a Myspace page belonging to Vancouver-based, **Harbin-born songstress Qu Wanting**.

"Fans from all over China somehow ripped the song from Myspace. That must be how the coffee shop got it," says Wanting of the tune that inspired Pang and was eventually featured in the film itself, a recent hit Mandarin date flick dubbed *Love in the Buff*. "At first I didn't think it was right - it was only a demo for fans, for feedback. But having it in the movie was a huge opportunity."

From **pirated demos** to **tiger-mom meddling**, Wanting tells us more about the happy surprises of her songwriting career.

Our Magazines

the Beijinger - March 2012: Break Into Publishing



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by BenArnold4u Mar 25 6:19pm

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If you could choose any director in the world to feature your songs in their next movie, who would it be?

It depends more on the movie, I don't follow directors that much. I probably couldn't write for any sci-fi movies. It has to be a real person-to-person story; it definitely has to have love in it.

What kind of love songs are featured on your upcoming album, *Everything in the World*?

"Shell" is a love song about me and my mom. I wrote it after a phone call where I tried to convince her I should do music. She said I should focus on my business degree, and then the conversation ended. The song was about me living in Canada young and alone, but not financially independent because I didn't have a work permit. I had to live off my mom's money, and felt responsible to her.

How did you change her mind – was it when your amateur Chinese songs netted thousands of fans on Renren and Weibo? When your English Myspace songs nabbed you a record deal on the Canadian label Nettwerk? When you played for 10,000 people at an outdoor festival in Harbin?

When I was in university I joined bands and went to concerts all the time, but never kept Mom in the loop. Then I graduated, called home and said, "Hey Mom, I got this degree for you. It's not something I wanted. Now I want to study music theory and go to the Art Institute of Vancouver." I got really good grades there, then got signed, and after that she said, "If you ever need me to fly you to Shanghai or Beijing for a show, let me know."

Did you resent her for offering that support so late?

I'm here now because she didn't support me. It made me want to prove her wrong.

How did she react when she saw you perform for the first time?

She cried. Then she told the audience: "Parents, listen to your children more when they tell you they can do something." But she's the type of mom that will never give me 100 percent – she'll always find something in there to make me work harder.

Wanting will play a sold-out show at Yugong Yishan on Mar 17 at 8.30pm as part of the JUE Festival. For more information, visit www.yugongyishan.com or <http://site.douban.com/wanting>.

Photo: Courtesy of the organizer

480 views

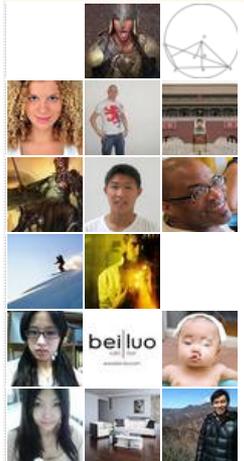
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Latest Reviews



Terrible food, fake reviews

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The same sh*t quality

Review of *Carol and Luc* by *weagesdf*
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As this year's JUE festivities draw to a close, they're looking to wind up with a bang this weekend as the festival hosts a Shanghai invasion on the capital. As part of the aptly named Shanghai Weekend, two of the southern city's live scene stalwarts, Rainbow Danger Club and Friend or Foe, will bring their legendary live performances to 2 Kolegas on Saturday night. "Vibrant" is one word you could use to describe the experience. "Insane" is another. We got the skinny from Rainbow Danger Club on "the scene," their exuberant live show and a recent run-in with Beijing authorities.

[Read more...](#)

Summer Lei's Gently Eclectic Spectacle



It's not just her music that's eclectic, but her very inspiration. The JUE Fest's climactic weekend features **Taiwanese** 'musical poet' **Summer Lei**, who blends intimate lyrics with gentle backing piano and searing violins on recorded songs like "Homeland." Her live performances are a hodgepodge of sonnets, melancholy harmonies, and flickering slide shows. Below, Summer Lei details the value of her shows' assorted components and her music's mixed muses – drawing on everything from simple changes in weather to the political tensions between China and Japan, Israel and Palestine.

[Read more...](#)

Down the Rabbit Hole: Win Tickets to Chapelier Fou



Classically trained violinist cum neo-electronicist Chapelier Fou performs in Beijing on Thursday night as the JUE festival continues to attract an eclectic mix of artists from around the world for its 2012 edition. We asked the Metz-native about his penchant for Lewis Carroll characters, performing in China and his love for electro. We've also got tickets for tomorrow's gig to give away. Read on to win.

[Read more...](#)

One Man and His Uke: Courtney Wing on His Beijing Show



Canadian multi-instrumentalist **Courtney Wing** hits Beijing on Sunday night as part of **JUE**. His show is being dubbed one of the **not-to-be-missed performances** of the festival. We took the opportunity to ask the Vancouverite about his live performances, his influences and his strange penchant for bin-dipping.

[Read more...](#)

From Hard Rocker to Blue-Collar Worker



Steve Mackay

He fell from punk stardom to trade labor. Then the world literally left him for dead. Saxophonist Steve Mackay will hit the Hot Cat Club on March 16 to promote his latest solo album, *Sometimes Like This I Talk*. But he's best known for playing on The Stooges' seminal 1970 release *Fun House*. His sweltering horn blasts were a sonic mimicry of front man Iggy Pop's infamous swagger.

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