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Headline: Time off (Convergences: Chen Wen Hsi Centennial Exhibition)

by Blythe Yee

Hong Kong theater

The Spencers: Family-friendly magic show from an American duo who appear to do things like walk through walls, escape from rope bindings, make handkerchiefs jump, levitate, slice their feet off, saw women in half, chain themselves up in water-filled tanks...you get the picture.

Various venues,
 Dec. 25 to 28, 8 p.m.
 Admission: HK\$90 to HK\$160.
 ☎ 852-2111-5999
 Web: www.urbtix.hk

theater

Proof: Taiwan's Greenray Theatre company performs the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by David Auburn. This tight drama explores the murky boundary between genius and mental illness; after a famed, unstable mathematician dies, his daughter struggles with her own grief and mathematical gift. Performed in Mandarin, with Chinese and English surtitles.

Hong Kong Cultural Centre,
 10 Salisbury Rd.,
 Tsim Sha Tsui; Jan. 12 to 14,
 7:45 p.m., Jan. 13, 3 p.m.
 Admission: HK\$140 to
 HK\$200.
 ☎ 852-2111-5999
 Web: www.urbtix.hk

Seoul exhibition

Michael Joo: Korean-American artist Michael Joo's work deals with the usual range of issues contemporary artists are obsessed with: multiculturalism, globalization, science and the like. This exhibition includes examples of his sculpture, installations and video.

Rodin Gallery, Samsung Life Insurance Building,
 Taepyeongro 2-ga, Joong-gu;
 to Jan. 28, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
 closed Monday.
 Admission: 3,000 won.
 ☎ 82-2-2259-7789
 Web: www.rodin.co.kr

Singapore concert

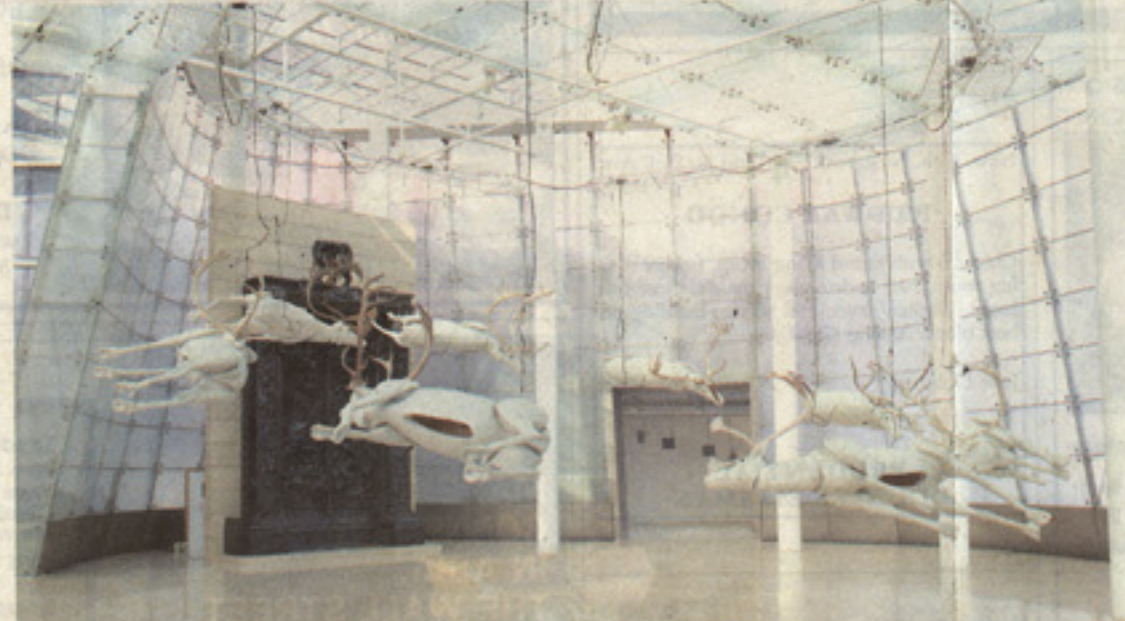
Muse: The three musicians of English band Muse are known for their preoccupation with apocalyptic subject matter, their fusion of musical styles—everything from hard rock to electronica—and the sleek mod look favored by a startlingly large number of other successful rockers from the United Kingdom these days.

Fort Canning Park;
 Jan. 16, 8 p.m.
 Admission: S\$85 to S\$110.
 ☎ 65-6348-5555
 Web: www.sistic.com.sg

exhibition

Convergences: Chen Wen Hsi Centennial Exhibition: Featuring more than 100 works by Singaporean art pioneer Chen Wen Hsi, who developed an aesthetic combining Western composition and Eastern philosophies and media. This exhibition includes plenty of his landscapes, as well as his experiments with Fauvist and Cubist styles.

Singapore Art Museum,
 71 Bras Basah Rd.; to April 8,
 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.,
 Friday to 9 p.m.
 Admission: S\$5.
 ☎ 65-6332-3222
 Web: www.singart.com



Tokyo exhibition

Our Landscape: 400 Years of European Paintings of the State Hermitage Museum: The title pretty much says it. Here you'll find paintings

from the 15th to the 20th centuries from St. Petersburg's legendary museum, with greats like Veronese, Lorraine, Boucher, Monet, Gauguin, Picasso and Matisse represented.
 Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum,

8-36 Ueno Park, Taito-ku;
 to Dec. 24, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
 closed Monday.
 Admission: 1,400 yen.
 ☎ 81-3-6215-4406
 Web: www.ntv.co.jp/hermitage

Tour: Asia concert

Hoobastank: You might have thought—or hoped—grunge was dead. It's not. It's gotten a slightly quirky makeover in the guise of bands like this oddly named alternative-rock trio from California, who seem somewhat less angry than grunge's founders.

Tokyo: Shibuya-AX, 2-1-1 Jinnan,
 Shibuya-ku; Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
 Admission: 6,000 yen to
 7,000 yen.
 ☎ 81-3-3402-5999
 Web: www.udo.co.jp
Singapore: Fort Canning Park;
 Jan. 28, 8 p.m.
 Admission: S\$79.
 ☎ 65-6348-5555
 Web: www.sistic.com.sg

dance

The Stuttgart Ballet: In Singapore, the company presents the melodramatic "Romeo and Juliet," set to the Prokofiev score by choreographer John Cranko. In Bangkok, the program will be considerably lighter: four shorter, contemporary ballets, set to music by composers ranging from Beethoven to Shostakovich.

Singapore: Esplanade Theatre,
 1 Esplanade Drive;
 Feb. 2 and 3, 2:30 p.m.
 and 8 p.m.
 Admission: S\$15 to S\$140.
 ☎ 65-6348-5555
 Web: www.sistic.com.sg
Bangkok: Thailand Cultural Centre, Ratchadaphisek Road,
 Huay Kwang;
 Feb. 8 and 9, 8 p.m.
 Admission: 1,500 baht to
 4,500 baht.
 ☎ 66-2262-3456
 Web: www.thaiticketmaster.com