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by Blythe Yee

time off

Hong Kong theater

East Wing West Wing 2007: Theater company Zuni Icosahedron presents something that Hong Kong could do with a lot more of: political satire. Part of the group's "East Wing West Wing" series of social-critique comedies, this performance, "Back to Qing Chiu," examines the decade that has passed since Hong Kong reverted to China.
 Hong Kong Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui; Jan. 20 to 22, 26 and 27, 7:30 p.m.
 Admission: HK\$120 to HK\$250.
 ☎ 852-2111-5999
 Web: www.urbtix.hk

Macau exhibition

Eternal Knowledge: A look at Qing dynasty artifacts, along with an explanation of how China's Ming and Qing emperors tried to spread a classical Chinese culture through the country. The considerable scholarly efforts of emperors and courtiers are shown through items including books, seals, calligraphy and paintings.
 Macao Museum of Art, Avenida Xian Xing Hai; to March 18, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., closed Monday.
 Admission: 5 patacas.
 ☎ 853-791-9814
 Web: www.artmuseum.gov.mo

Singapore exhibition

Maria Theresia: Mother Empress of Habsburg Austria: A chronicle of the life of the Austrian ruler through nearly 100 very ornate items, including rococo furniture, art and clothing. Exhibition organizers are painting her as a sort of 18th-century career woman, leading in a man's world, and waging various wars of succession while juggling the demands of a family.
 National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Rd.; to Jan. 31, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 Admission: S\$8.
 ☎ 65-6332-3659
 Web: www.nationalmuseum.sg

exhibition

The Xiang Xue Zhuang Collection: Featuring a selection of items from the collection of art aficionado Tan Tzee Chor, who assembled, between the 1930s and '90s, one of Southeast Asia's finest private stashes of Chinese art. The precious tchotchkes include Chinese ceramics, seals and inkstones.
 Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place; to March 18, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday to 9 p.m., Monday 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Admission: S\$5.
 ☎ 65-6332-2982
 Web: www.acm.org.sg

Tokyo dance

The Tokyo Ballet: The dance company presents two works by ballet master Maurice Béjart. The choreographer created "The Kabuki," inspired by samurai legends, especially for the Tokyo Ballet in 1986. The second is "Images of Asia," a series of dances inspired by rather exoticized, eroticized impressions of the continent. Programs vary by date.
 Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, 5-45 Ueno Park, Taito-ku; Jan. 23 and 24, 6:30 p.m., Jan. 27 and 28, 3 p.m.
 Admission: 3,000 yen to 10,000 yen.
 ☎ 81-3-5721-8000
 Web: www.nbs.or.jp

Tour: Asia concert

John Legend: This R&B performer has a solid résumé that includes collaborations with flash-



Macau: Qing dynasty manuscript, from 'Eternal Knowledge' (top); **Tokyo:** The Tokyo Ballet's 'The Kabuki' (above); **Singapore:** a portrait of Maria Theresia (left)

ier recording artists such as the Black Eyed Peas, Snoop Dogg, Kanye West and Alicia Keys. In 2004, though, he came into his own with the Grammy-winning album "Get Lifted."
Singapore: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive; Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.
 Admission: S\$99 to S\$159.
 ☎ 65-6348-5555
 Web: www.sistic.com.sg
Hong Kong: AsiaWorld Arena, AsiaWorld Expo; Jan. 18, 8 p.m.
 Admission: HK\$325 to HK\$688.
 ☎ 852-3128-8288
 Web: www.hkticketing.com

theater

Teahouse: A 20th-century Beijing teahouse is the setting for this drama, which follows the lives of the teahouse owner and patrons from the end of the Imperial period, through

the Republican revolution, to the convulsive civil war. The Beijing People's Art Theatre presents the play, by Lao She, in Mandarin with English and Chinese surtitles.
Hong Kong: Kwai Tsing Theatre, 12 Hing Ning Rd., Kwai Fong; Jan. 18 to 20, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 21, 2:30 p.m.
 Admission: HK\$100 to HK\$280.
 ☎ 852-2111-5999
 Web: www.urbtix.hk
Macau: Macao Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai; Jan. 26 and 27, 7:30 p.m.
 Admission: 80 patacas to 250 patacas.
 ☎ 853-2855-5555
 Web: www.ccm.gov.mo

concert

Il Divo: Tall, dark and harrowing. This opera-

pop crossover quartet, conceived by nasty "Pop Idol" and "American Idol" mastermind Simon Cowell, might be described as the spray cheese of the music world. Their most recent album, "Siempre," includes smooth, harmonized renditions of such highbrow fare as "Have You Ever Really Loved a Woman?"
Kuala Lumpur: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur City Centre; Jan. 16, 8:30 p.m.
 Admission: 1,000 ringgit to 1,500 ringgit.
 ☎ 60-3-7711-5000
 Web: www.axcess.com.my
Singapore: Singapore Indoor Stadium, 2 Stadium Walk; Jan. 18, 8 p.m.
 Admission: S\$88 to S\$248.
 ☎ 65-6348-5555
 Web: www.sistic.com.sg
Manila: PICC Plenary Hall; Jan. 20, 8 p.m.
 Admission: 5,150 pesos.
 ☎ 63-2-891-9999
 Web: www.ticketworld.com.ph
Hong Kong: AsiaWorld Arena, AsiaWorld Expo; Jan. 22, 8 p.m.
 Admission: HK\$280 to HK\$1,280.
 ☎ 852-3128-8288
 Web: www.hkticketing.com
Shanghai: Shanghai Grand Stage, 1111 Caoyi Rd.; Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.
 Admission: 180 yuan to 1,280 yuan.
 ☎ 86-21-6217-2426
 Web: www.culture.sh.cn