



THE STRANGE WORLD OF
BENJAMIN ALEXANDER

'Gifted' by Autism

Though he cannot speak, Benjamin Alexander has much to say, one typed word at a time.

Ben was diagnosed with non-verbal autism and epilepsy a few months before his third birthday. Now 22, he is a writer and a student at Tulane University in New Orleans with a GPA of 3.7. In his essays, he returns repeatedly to the "fiend" that tried to silence him, the condition he sarcastically calls his "gift."

"Who in the hell gave me this gift?" he wrote in one piece published in a local online journal. "Please, take it back."

Ben wants to help educate people about autism and to challenge stereotypes. That's not easy because he still needs some assistance from computer to communicate, and that's caused some to doubt him over the years.

One evening, Ben's father settles him at the keyboard and rests his hand under his son's

arm. He lightly squeezes Ben's forearm, a subtle move that sets him into action. Ben begins to punch the keys with one finger. "I . am . not . stupid . as . some . people . used . to . think," Ben types. He unwraps his arm from his dad's and hits the period by himself, causing the computer to read each word in a robotic voice that he doesn't really like, but needs.

Later he adds, "I want people to know I am here."

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DRIVE IN

Lindsey Bahr, AP Film Writer

ADAPTATION EXAMINES DYSFUNCTION OF 'THE FAMILY FANG'

Family dysfunction takes on new meaning in "The Family Fang," a film about a pair of performance artists for whom everything in life is part of the act, and the effects this existence has on their two children.

The elegantly structured adaptation of Kevin Wilson's best-selling novel opens in a scene from the past. In the family car, parents Caleb (Jason Butler Harner) and Camille (Kathryn Hahn) are preparing their adolescent children Annie (Mackenzie Brooke Smith) and Baxter (Jack McCarthy) for something. Caleb is dressed as

a police officer and Baxter, at probably five, is asking if he can taste the fake blood again. Suddenly we're in a bank, where Baxter is staging a hold up for the teller's lollipop jar with a gun. There's a shooting, there are tears, and then there's laughter as the family breaks the ruse. Surrounding pedestrians look on in horror at the bizarre, terrifying scene. The Fangs are just in their own world enjoying themselves and relishing in the chaos that they've created. As is to be expected, the future is not as carefree. Now grown, Annie (Nicole Kidman) is a famous actress with a wild repu-

tation who has gotten less interesting with sobriety. The once indie darling is now best known for a string of lousy rom coms and is trying to stage a comeback. Baxter (Jason Bateman, who also directed), is a novelist who had one great breakout, a middling follow-up and is now two years late on his next. An accident and a hospital stint brings the siblings back together again, and back with their parents (Christopher Walken and Maryann Plunkett), who they escaped long ago. The accidental reunion is at turns fraught and comforting, but things turn sour and volatile when the adult kids refuse to participate in another stunt with their too-eager parents.

The stunt goes bad, Caleb freaks out and soon after, Caleb and Camille go missing. A distressing meeting with the police forces the kids to sincerely wonder whether their parents' disappearance is serious or just another stunt. While Baxter resigns himself to the idea that perhaps his parents are actually dead, Annie becomes obsessed with the idea that they're not and the two damaged kids mine past traumas and present complications to try to figure out the truth. The film is brimming with big



Jason Bateman in a scene from "The Family Fang"

ideas about art, expression, authenticity and family, which Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Lindsay-Abaire weaves seamlessly into a briskly paced plot, where even flashbacks feel not like diversions, but perfect reveals.

Bateman, back in the director's seat after his 2013 feature debut "Bad Words," may not be an especially cinematic director yet, but he sure knows how to capture performances, even if he's just letting his actors do their own thing. Walken is a standout as the art obsessed patriarch, mercilessly indifferent

to his family but still somewhat empathetic in his lofty artistic endeavors. Bateman, too, is in top form in a rare, emotionally resonant performance.

The one real false note is Kidman, also a producer. Her Annie is terrific on her own — especially in some early scenes on the set of a film and then in conversation with a journalist — but seems woefully out of place with the Fangs, and not just because Kidman struggles to conceal her Aussie accent. She and Bateman are fine together, but her detachment detracts from the emotional core

of this relationship. For a story bursting with ideas about radical art, the film is ultimately rather conventional. But that's just as well. Smart modern literary adaptations can too often get bogged down in whimsy. "The Family Fang" plays it straight, knowing that the story is peculiar enough on its own.

"The Family Fang," a Starz Digital release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some language." Running time: 107 minutes. ★★★★★



Nicole Kidman (left) and Jason Bateman

BOOK IT

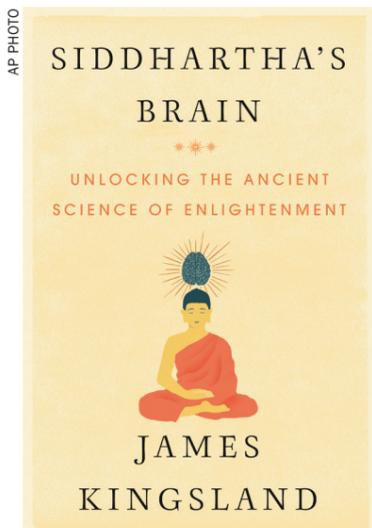
'SIDDHARTHA'S BRAIN' SMART TAKE ON MEDITATION

It's a pleasure to read "Siddhartha's Brain," which comes from a science journalist with long experience of explaining ideas for readers of The Guardian and other publications. James Kingsland even includes guided meditation exercises throughout a book that explores mindfulness and its benefits.

"For contemplatives with a tendency to intellectualize — which would probably include people who read books about the science of enlightenment — mindfulness of breathing is strongly recommended," he suggests at one point. Others might focus on compassion, or on the putrefaction of the body if easily distracted by sensual desire.

Kingsland draws from the life of Siddhartha Gautama, founder of Buddhist philosophy and practice, and from research and personal exploration to show what lies behind the book's striking first sentence: "We are all mentally ill," said the smiling monk in the wide-brimmed hat, as if this explained everything."

Anyone familiar with meditation will know that it involves not avoiding uncomfortable feelings but focusing on them calmly and with detachment. But Kingsland wants to know how this came to be. "What has gone so wrong during the evolution of the human brain that it needs to be fixed by meditation? Curiously, no one I spoke to during my research for this book had given much thought to this question."



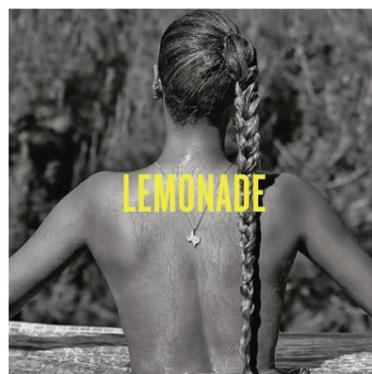
"Siddhartha's Brain: Unlocking the Ancient Science of Enlightenment" (William Morrow), by James Kingsland

This is a smart, accessible balance of philosophical teachings and brain science and how meditation can relate to everything from addiction to Alzheimer's disease. Whether you are comfortable with being alone with your wandering mind or avoid it at all costs, you'll learn something useful from this book.

Cara Anna, AP

TTUNES

BEYONCE AGAIN PROVES TO BE CENTER OF POP UNIVERSE



"Lemonade" (Parkwood Entertainment)

Beyoncé doesn't simply release albums anymore, she unleashes events.

And so it was this weekend, amid deep mourning for a lost icon, music's queen dropped "Lemonade," an arresting display of what technically qualifies as videos and singles, but is better described as a work of art that appeared deeply personal, yet is a bold social and political statement as well.

It contains revenge anthems for scorned wives, a requiem for side chicks, a display of #BlackGirlMagic and support of #BlackLivesMatter, and an ode to forgiveness, all wrapped into an hourlong HBO special Saturday night that would of course land on Tidal, the music streaming service owned by hubby Jay Z, moments after the special ended.

"Are you cheating on me?" Beyoncé's husky voice intones early on. For the first half of "Lemonade," it seems that Jay Z's 100th problem is here, and unfixable. While Beyoncé has used rumors of infidelity to fuel her music for years, from "Ring the Alarm" to "Jealous," it

seemed as if she was spilling all the tea on her much-scrutinized marriage with "Lemonade."

On "Hold Up," an intoxicating song with an island beat, a smiling Beyoncé takes "Crazy in Love" to a new level: She smashes a bat on everything around her while reminding her man that other women "don't love you like I love you." Later, on "Sorry," with a twerking Serena Williams by her side, she shows her man the stupidity of his cheating ways and all he's lost. "Middle fingers up, put 'em hands high, put it in his face, tell him 'Boy bye.'"

At another point, she references her man's desire for "Becky with the good hair" and talks about wearing his mistress' scalp — talk about snatching edges.

What could come across as desperate instead becomes empowering, though, in part due to the poetic narrative Beyoncé uses to tie each segment together, as well as the imagery, which is a defiant celebration of the beauty of black women: Dark to light, wooly hair to wavy hair, all looking glorious, with cameos from the likes of Oscar-nominated Quvenzhané Wallis, Zendaya and Amandla Stenberg.

And just as we think it's time to start to get seriously concerned for Jay Z's safety, he appears, nestled with his queen, in "Sandcastles," which speaks to a troubled union but a love that transcends it.

While much of "Lemonade" would appear to tie into Beyoncé's own life, or so she would have us believe, she also draws from the angst of the black community: The mothers of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown are seen, among others, looking somber as they hold photos of their slain sons. At another point, she tells the audience via the voice of Malcolm X that "the most disrespected woman in America is the black woman."

Nekesa Mumbi Moody, AP Entertainment Writer

'I am here' - Silenced by autism, young man finds his voice

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

As the sun rises over the leafy streets of suburban New Orleans, Ellen Schneider enters her son's room, adorned to the ceiling with tributes to his beloved New Orleans Saints football team, and rouses him for his day on campus. "Come on, B-man." She leads him to the bathroom to use an electric toothbrush. "Oooh, you're gorgeous," she says, as she looks into his wide hazel eyes and wipes his bearded face with a towel.

This morning, Ben is calm, having taken his medication — pills for everything from epileptic seizures to anxiety. He eats sliced apples and bread for breakfast while laughing to himself or babbling: "Aw aw, mm mm, bip bip." The soft sounds seem involuntary in some moments, self-soothing in others.

This daily existence, with its many ups and downs, has tested the resolve of his success-minded parents, both age 55. His mother is an ophthalmologist, his father an obstetrician. They also have two daughters, Hillary, 25, and Lexi, 15. "We cure things with our hands. We cut it out. If it's something that needs to be removed, we remove it," his dad, Sam Alexander, says. But with Ben's condition, "we couldn't do that."

When Ben was born, there was no indication that anything was wrong. Family videos show a smiley, chubby-cheeked boy with curly red hair just beginning to form words. "Hello," he seems to utter in one video, after picking up an old telephone receiver.

In the months that followed, however, Ben lost those first few words. He stopped looking people in the eye. His parents often would find him off in a corner spinning around and around.

Doctors initially told them to be patient, that it wasn't unusual for some kids to have delayed speech. But then, when Ben was about 2 1/2, came the diagnosis they feared: autism. Often called pervasive developmental disorder, it was accompanied by epileptic episodes, which worsened in adolescence. "It felt like he died," dad says.

Ben never spoke again.

Though advised to keep their expectations low, his parents took him from specialist to specialist, to Miami, Boston and Chicago, and tried any number of recommended therapies.

Eventually, Ben saw Dr. Stanley Greenspan. The Maryland child psychiatrist used a technique called "floortime," where Ben played problem-solving games on the



Ben Alexander listens to a lecture during a class for screenwriting at Tulane University in New Orleans

floor with his therapists or parents.

In his writing, Ben recalls how the doctor in blue jeans and Birkenstocks encouraged him: "It does not matter how fast you get there, so long as you get there."

Early on in their battle with autism, Ben's parents heard that a nonverbal boy in India was writing poetry about his condition, and they wondered: What if Ben could communicate that way? So they tried facilitated communication, a controversial method where another person supports the typing hand of a nonverbal autistic person to help him "speak" using a computer.

One afternoon, dad asked 8-year-old Ben a question.

"Who is the president of the United States?"

"G-e-o-r-g-e-w-b-u-s-h," Ben typed on a portable keyboard, according to his father, who supported his typing hand.

These days, dad often only needs to hold Ben's forearm loosely when he types, or he places his flat hand atop his son's wrist to steady him in moments of higher anxiety. For some reason, his parents say, human touch and verbal prompting help bridge the connection between what Ben's brain wants to do, and the actual execution. When typing, he appears to be directing his own finger to particular keys. His eyes alternate from keys to screen. He often sees and fixes his mistakes, though his parents also point out errors.

Because Ben needed more physical support early on, some people didn't believe he was typing his own thoughts. His parents say they included the administrators at the private school he attended. So he

switched to a public school, where special education teacher Judy Nodurft took on his case.

She, too, had doubts initially. She'd heard of cases where well-meaning parents directed their children's typing, an oft-repeated criticism of facilitated communication. Nodurft received training for supported typing at an institute at Syracuse University in New York and, after working with Ben, became a believer.

"You were hard," Ben typed recently when Nodurft visited his home. She chuckled.

By the time Ben was 9, he wrote an essay — "My Adventure in Life" — that won a state writing honor. It was compiled from his answers to his mom's questions about what his autism felt like.

In simple words — and with mom telling him what didn't make sense or pointing out spelling and punctuation errors — Ben told readers how he needed to be by himself to think and how looking into her eyes was often difficult for him, even "painful."

Even so, he wrote, "I can not wait to start living."

Today, Ben is living the life of a college student. In his classes at Tulane, he sits with his dad at his side, often in a back corner with easy access to an exit. Sometimes, his father places his hand over Ben's mouth to quiet him, or nudges him to participate in a discussion. Ben clicks his laptop mouse so the computer voice announces "Speak!" when he has a question or comment, his way of raising his hand.

During a screenwriting class this

In his [college] classes Ben sits with his dad at his side

semester, he contributes to a discussion on the movie "The Social Network."

"I loved it because I found it ironic that a guy who was socially inept started a social network," Ben says through his laptop voice, as the instructor nods in agreement.

Dr. Paul Lipkin, director of the Interactive Autism Network at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, says as few as 10 percent of people on the autism spectrum have no real language, and most of those tend to have low intellectual abilities.

Though many experts point to studies debunking facilitated communication, Lipkin is less skeptical, even if Ben seems "really rare."

"As physicians," he says, "we never say never."

Ben is the first person with nonverbal autism to attend Tulane, and administrators and professors say they've never had reason to doubt his abilities. The university's accessibility office arranged meetings to introduce Ben and his father to each new professor. But assistant director Shawna Foote, who's gotten to know Ben well, says that's about it.

"He doesn't want to be seen as a freak or a fraud," she says.

Thomas Beller, an associate professor of creative writing who's had Ben in class, says he, too, quickly bypassed the "exoticism" of Ben's condition to judge him on

the merits of his work.

"I don't want to grade him on a curve as the autistic guy," Beller says.

Writing takes Ben many hours. He uses predictive word processing software that allows him to choose from a list of words after typing a few letters. Sometimes he writes fiction, such as a short story set at the time of Hurricane Katrina, and he is talking about a novel. Essays are his favorite form, though.

This year, at his father's suggestion, Ben wrote about a remarkable meeting — and a transformative conversation. Using his voice simulator, he spoke to one of his heroes, Steve Gleason, a former Saints player who now has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, and also speaks with the help of a computer.

The conversation turned serious when Ben shared his anger, asking: "Can you tell me how you stay so positive? How do you deal with frustration? How do you make your computer scream?"

Gleason replied that he'd found purpose by helping others with a foundation he and his wife formed. He also assured Ben that it was normal to question the meaning of his life. Ben was amazed.

"I have only dreamed about being normal," he wrote in the piece, published on Tulane's news site.

Gleason also told Ben that he could be an example for other people with autism. Ben, in his interview, says he knows that's true.

"I am not the autism poster boy. But I hope that people will ... allow us to be heard."

Ben's Gleason story: goo.gl/fDusi3



Sam Alexander and Ellen Schneider assist their son, Ben, during lunch

WORLD OF BACCHUS

Jacky I.F. Cheong



HOLDVÖLGY TOKAJI HÁRSLEVELŰ EXPRESSION 2009

A single-varietal Hárslevelű. Bright citrine with luminous golden reflex, the aromatic nose offers lime, nectarine, wet stone and frangipane. With piercing acidity and clear minerality, the potent palate delivers lemon, apricot, dried herbs and rhubarb. Medium-full bodied at 13%, the racy entry continues through an expressive mid-palate, leading to a cleansing finish.



HOLDVÖLGY TOKAJI FURMINT MEDITATION 2007

A single-varietal Furmint. Rich citrine with brilliant golden reflex, the fragrant nose presents grapefruit, peach, dried herbs and lemon blossom. With penetrating acidity and clear minerality, the robust palate supplies bergamot, physalis, wet stone and rhubarb. Medium-full bodied at 13%, the stony entry evolves into a tangy mid-palate, leading to a clean finish.

The Carpathian Linden

Situated in the centre of the Carpathian Basin and surrounded by the Carpathian Mountains, Hungary covers some 93,000 sq km and has a population of just under 10 million. The country is often described as geographically Central European and historically Eastern European, but linguistically and culturally, Hungary is arguably non-European. Traditionally classified as a Uralic language, Hungarian is a lonely enclave in the linguistic map of continental Europe, sharing more in common with the Siberian languages than those of its neighbours'. The ethnogenesis of the Hungarians – or Magyars – is not yet settled beyond reasonable doubt, but it is generally held that the Hungarians originated from the southern Ural Mountains, the mountain range that separates Europe from Asia. Migrating westward since the 8th century, the Hungarians entered Europe and, by way of military conquest, finally settled in the Carpathian Basin in the late 9th century. Extensive interactions with ethnically European neighbours ensued, and Hungary has by and large been ruled by European royal houses since the 14th century and uninterrupted by the House of Habsburg since the early 16th century. An important part of the Austrian - and subsequently Austro-Hungarian – Empire, Hungary used to be almost as large as Italy. The post-WWI Treaty of Trianon in 1920, with self-determination at its core, ceded some 72% of Hungary's land mass to Romanian, former Czechoslovakia and former Yugoslavia.

If nationalism can be reflected by wine, the case study has to be Hungary. Revered for its incredibly sweet botrytised wine, Tokaj in northeastern Hungary is no doubt the jewel in the crown of Hungarian wine, but due to the Treaty of Trianon, part of Tokaj now lies in Slovakia, leading to much dispute between the neighbours regarding the use of the name. Meanwhile, indigenous Hungarian varieties are known for their distinctive, if unfamiliar, character of fiery spiciness and lip-smacking acidity but, held in high regard in Hungary, Hungarian wines are often not competitively priced in the export market, on top of the pre-existing language difficulty.

Consisting of 22 wine regions, Hungary produces more white (60%) than red (40%) wines. Despite the influx of international varieties after the fall of the Iron Curtain, indigenous varieties such as Ezerjő, Furmint, Hárslevelű (literally: linden leaf), Irsai Olivér, Juhfark, Kéknyelű, Leányka and Olaszrizling (Welschriesling) remain popular, whereas Kékfrankos (Blafränkisch) and Kékoportó (Blauer Portugieser) still are the preferred red varieties. Whilst Bordeaux relies on Muscadelle, Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon for its white and sweet wines, the formula in Tokaj is Furmint, Hárslevelű and Sárgamuskotály (Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains).

(NB: "Tokaj" refers to the region, whereas "Tokaji" to the wine produced in the said region.)

Jacky I.F. Cheong is a legal professional by day and columnist by night. Having spent his formative years in Britain, France, and Germany, he regularly writes about wine, fine arts, classical music, and politics in several languages

RESTAURANTS

CANTONESE



GRAND IMPERIAL COURT
10:00 - 23:00
T: 88022539
Level 2, MGM MACAU



IMPERIAL COURT
Mon - Friday
11:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 23:00
Sat, Sun & Public Holidays
10:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 23:00
T: 8802 2361
VIP Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU

BEIJING KITCHEN

Level 1, Grand Hyatt Macau
Opening Hours
11:30am - 24:00



KAM LAI HEEN
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 8793 3821
11:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 22:00
(Close on Tuesday)

SHANGHAI MIN

Level 1, The Shops at The Boulevard
Opening Hours
11:00 - 15:00; 18:00 - 22:30

SHANGHAI

CATALPA GARDEN

Mon - Sunday
11:00 - 15:00 / 17:30 - 23:00
Hotel Royal, 2-4
Estrada da Vitoria
T: 28552222



JADE ORCHID

Mon - Sun
11:00am - 3:00pm & 6:00pm - 11:00pm
Mezzanine Floor, Harbourview Hotel, Macau
Fisherman's Wharf
T: (853) 8799 6315 | (853) 8799 6316

FRENCH

**寶雅座
AUX BEAUX ARTS**

AUX BEAUX ARTS
Tue - Fri: 18:00 - 24:00
Sat & Sun: 11:00 - 24:00
Closed every Monday
T: 8802 2319
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU

GLOBAL

HARD ROCK CAFE
Level 2, Hard Rock Hotel
Opening Hours
Monday to Sunday : 11:00 - 02:00
Sunday : 10:00 - 02:00

CAFÉ BELA VISTA
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 87933871
Mon -Thurs
06:30 - 15:00 / 6:00 - 22:00
Fri - Sunday
06:30 - 22:00

MEZZA9 MACAU
Level 3, Grand Hyatt Macau
Opening Hours
Dinner: 5:30 - 11:00



VIDA RICA (RESTAURANT)
2/F, Avenida Dr Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8918
Mon - Sunday
6:30 - 14:30 / 18:00 - 23:00



MORTON'S OF CHICAGO
The Venetian(r) Macao-Resort-Hotel
Taipa, Macau
T:853 8117 5000
mortons.com
• Bar
Open daily at 3pm
• Dining Room
Monday - Saturday: 13:00 - 23:00
Sunday: 17:00 - 22:00

ABA BAR

ABA BAR
Tue-Sun: 17:00 - 24:00
Closed every Monday
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



MGM PASTRY BAR
10:00 - :00
T: 8802 2324
Main Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU



ROSSIO
Mon - Sun: 07:00 - 23:00
T: 8802 2385
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



SQUARE EIGHT
T: 8802 2389
24 hours
Level 1, MGM MACAU

ITALIAN

LA GONDOLA
Mon - Sunday
11:00am - 11:00pm
Praia de Cheoc Van, Coloane,
next to swimming pool
T: 2888 0156



PORTOFINO
Casino Level1, Shop 1039,
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 8118 9950



AFRIKANA
Monday to Sunday
6:00pm - 3:00am
Location : AfriKana, Macau Fisherman's Wharf
Telephone Number : (853) 8299 3678

JAPANESE

SHINJI BY KANESAKA

Level 1, Crown Towers
Lunch 12:00 - 15:00
Dinner 18:00 - 23:00
Closed on
Tuesday (Lunch and Dinner)
Wednesday (Lunch)

ASIAN PACIFIC

ASIA KITCHEN
Level 2, SOHO at City of Dreams
Opening Hours
11:00 - 23:00

GOLDEN PAVILION
Level 1, Casino at City of Dreams
Opening Hours
24 Hours



GOLDEN PEACOCK
Casino Level1, Shop 1037,
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 8118 9696
Monday - Sunday:
11:00 - 23:00

PORTUGUESE

CLUBE MILITAR
975 Avenida da Praia Grande
T: 2871 4000
12:30 - 15:00 / 19:00 - 23:00

FERNANDO'S
9 Praia de Hac Sa, Coloane
T: 2888 2264
12:00 - 21:30

WESTERN

FOGO SAMBA
Shop 2412 (ST. Mark's Square)
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 2882 8499

THAI



NAAM
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, The Resort
T: 8793 4818
12:00 - 14:30 / 18:30 - 22:30
(Close on Mondays)

BARS & PUBS



38 LOUNGE
Altrira Macau,
Avenida de Kwong Tung, 38/F Taipa
Sun-Thu: 13:00 - 02:00
Fri, Sat and Eve of public holiday:
15:00 - 03:00

R BAR

Level 1, Hard Rock Hotel
Opening Hours
Sun to Thu:
11:00 - 23:00
Fri & Sat:
11:00 - 24:00



BELLINI LOUNGE
Casino Level 1, Shop 1041,
The Venetian Macao
CONTACT US:
Tel: +853 8118 9940
Daily: 16:00 - 04:00



D2
Macau Fisherman's Wharf
Edf. New Orleans III
Macau



LION'S BAR
Thursday to Tuesday
19:00 - 17:00
(Close every Wednesday)
Tel: 8802 2375 / 8802 2376

VIDA RICA BAR
2/F, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8928
Monday to Tuesday: 12:00 - 00:00
Friday: 12:00 - 01:00
Saturday: 14:00 - 01:00
Sunday: 14:00 - 00:00

VASCO
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 8793 3831
Monday to Thursday: 18:30 - 12:00
Friday to Saturday: 18:00 - 02:00
Sunday: 18:00 - 24:00

TASTE OF EDESIA

Irene Sam

FOOD

CABANA CHILL-OUT

Thinking of where to relax and chill out this summer? Banyan Tree Macau has the answer to your most important question this summer. Listed as one of the '10 Triple Five-star Hotels in the World' by Forbes Travel Guide, it is the first and only high-rise urban resort in Macau to showcase the ultimate privilege of private indoor relaxation pools in every suite and swimming pools with serene gardens in every villa.

The urban luxury resort is proud to announce the re-opening of its exclusive pool cabanas for the summer months, "offering enticing packages at their stunning pool cabanas." The luxury high-rise resort overlooking Cotai has devised a series of 'Cabana' packages to suit all your summer needs. Positioned around the resort's palm tree-flanked pool, these luxurious full service shelters offer a breath of fresh air in the bustling city and are ideal for a range of occasions from stylish getaways for adults complete with bubbly champagne, to kid's birthday parties.

The 'Cabana Chill-Out' program allows guests to book the secluded, luxurious host-serviced cabanas from just MOP 1,800. The price includes credit for F&B spending, along with a complimentary bottle of Moët & Chandon champagne – making it exceptional value for money for parties of up to four to soak-up the sun and enjoy in the crystal waters from morning to evening.

F&B credit can be spent on a variety of pool-side favorites from satay and French fries to spring rolls, chicken wings, pizzas, salads, sandwiches, burgers, tacos, BBQ and Indian tandoori specialties, Asian favorites noodles, fried rice and desserts.

A Cabana Thai Hot Pot for two is alternatively available during the evening, with a selection of Thai salads and spicy or mild Thai flavors hot broths with seafood, chicken, beef, pork belly and meat balls, and a variety of Thai favorite's side dishes and desserts.

Cabana Pool-side Kids' Birthday Parties can be booked during the day at MOP 15,888 for 15 kids and 15 adults or MOP 26,888 for 30 kids and 30 adults. With a dedicated banquet host and two Cabanas, the package includes a birthday cake, free-flowing soft drinks & chilled juices, face painting, complimentary access to Grand Resort Deck facilities and a buffet that suits the appetite of both kids and adults.

The exclusive poolside experience is also part of a Western Wedding Package, which includes a romantic one-night wedding stay for two in a glamorous Cotai Pool Suite with breakfast, a western buffet dinner for 200 persons plus two Cabanas with free-flowing soft drinks and beer during dinner, a bottle of Veuve Cliquot Ponsardin Champagne for toasting and floral decorations with a mock wedding cake for photos. Also included is bridal limousine service and 5-hours of parking for 5 vehicles, and special room rates for wedding guests, with value-added options for guests who confirmed a Wedding Cocktail Package on the event day, such as complimentary usage of a floating stage with a live band performance and floral arch decoration for a wedding ceremony. For the ultimate poolside 'chill-out' experience, Banyan Tree Spa also offers a 30-minute head & shoulder massage.



WHAT'S ON



TODAY (APR 29)

SHAKESPEARE'S WORLD – LÜ JIA AND SAYAKA

Sergei Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 and his well-known ballet Romeo and Juliet were created during the same period. Macao Orchestra has invited Japanese violinist Sayaka Shoji, winner of the Paganini Competition, to be the soloist for the concerto.

TIME: 8pm
 VENUE: Macau Tower Auditorium
 ADMISSION: MOP100, MOP150, MOP200
 ORGANIZER: Macau Orchestra
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/ochm>



TOMORROW (APR 30)
 HUSH!! FULL MUSIC CONCERT

Hush!! Full Music Concert runs for 15 hours over two consecutive days. Aside from famous singers, the renowned local and foreign ensembles are also invited to perform different types of music, thereby offering a warm and enthusiastic music event for the general public.

TIME: 1pm-8pm (April 30)
 1pm-9pm (May 1)
 VENUE: Hac Sa Beach
 ADMISSION: Free
 ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Bureau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866
<http://www.icm.gov.mo>



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
 – SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY (U.S.A.)

Hermia loves Lysander and Helena loves Demetrius – but Demetrius is supposed to be marrying Hermia... When the Duke of Athens tries to enforce the marriage, the lovers take refuge in the woods and wander into the midst of a dispute between the king and queen of the fairies. William Shakespeare put some of his most dazzling dramatic poetry at the service of this teasing, glittering, hilarious and amazingly inventive comedic play, whose seriousness is only fleetingly glimpsed beneath its dream-like surface.

TIME: 8pm
 DATE: April 30 & May 1, 2016
 VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre
 ADMISSION: MOP120, MOP250, MOP300, MOP380
 ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/fam/27/en/>



SUNDAY (MAY 1)
 MU GUIYING BATTING IN HONGZHOU – MACAU KAIFONG CANTONESE OPERA JUVENILE'S TROUPE

Young as they are, the performers' professionalism shines on stage. The rising stars of Cantonese opera will present Mu Guiying Battling in Hongzhou, a celebrated work composed of both singing section and martial arts section. The heroic deeds of the female generals of the Yang family are well-known in China. Mu Guiying Battling in Hongzhou narrates a story that happened during Renzong's reign in the Northern Song Dynasty. The Liao forces invaded the nation and trapped Yang Yanzhao in Hongzhou. Despite her pregnancy, Mu Guiying is urged by Kou Zhun into leading an army to rescue Yang Yanzhao, with her husband Yang Zongbao. Despite life is not a bed of roses, they finally defeat their enemy and save Yang Yanzhao. Macau Kaifong Cantonese Opera Juvenile's Troupe have been actively pushing forward the development of Macau's Cantonese opera culture, nurturing youth's interest in Cantonese opera and improving their understanding of it.

TIME: 7:30pm
 VENUE: Cinema Alegria
 ADMISSION: MOP100, MOP120
 ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/fam/27/en/>

MONDAY (MAY 2)
 IN CHANTS – CASA DE PORTUGAL EM MACAU

In Chants consists of six mimed mini stories accompanied by a set of short live musical compositions which serve as motto for the different tales. Babies and toddlers sit with their parents

or family on a patchwork mat, where the actor and musicians interact with them in a set made of clouds, a sun and birds suspended from the ceiling. Different types of puppets with varied manipulation techniques give life and soul to the stories, and the use of different props and lighting create magic moments. Gardens populated by colourful flowers with affectionate animals, majestic birds with fluffy feathers, funny frogs playing in puddles, and even the seabed where gentle dolphins, oysters that open and fish, many fish, all can be found.



TIME: 11am, 3pm, 5:30pm
 DATE: May 1 & 2, 2016
 VENUE: Macau Conservatory Auditorium
 ADMISSION: MOP200 (Children Package); MOP100 (Observer)
 ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/fam/27/en/>



TUESDAY (MAY 3)
 LA VIE EN MACAU, PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION BY ANTÓNIO LEONG

The exhibition showcases 30 photos of Macau city landscape with the topics "Life in Macau" and "This is the Macau". The different features of the city are presented in front of the audience through the lens of the artist, showing a distinctive cultural atmosphere.

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays); 3pm-8pm (Mondays, open on public holidays)
 UNTIL: June 11, 2016
 VENUE: Albergue SCM, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau Gallery A2
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205
 ORGANIZER: Albergue SCM

WEDNESDAY (MAY 4)
 THE EXHIBITION "TRAVELOGUE – WORKS BY PARK, SEUNG HOON"

The exhibition features two series of photography works by Park, Seung Hoon, namely Textus and A Better Explanation. The Textus series is captured on positive 16mm movie film with an 8x10mm

camera. Park weaves multiple film strips that he produced across the continents over the years into a single unique photograph to reconstruct a perfect scenario. The latest work of Park, A Better Explanation, is a manifestation of change over time and space through the long-term photography of the riverside scenery of the Arno River, in Florence. With his artistic language, he presents the scene of the moment while depicting the social and historical development of the Arno River.



TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 26, 2016
VENUE: Gallery of Taipa Houses-Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000
ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/en>



THURSDAY (MAY 5)
THE ASSEMBLY OF ANIMALS
– TIM SPOONER (UNITED KINGDOM)

Exemplifying the low-tech, handmade yet magical quality of Spooner's work, The Assembly of Animals is a series of demonstrated experiments, where the performers assemble, reorganise and animate an array of ingeniously constructed "animals" of very different sizes and forms. Magnets, motors, inflating objects, travelling glowing liquid and other mechanisms give this complex installation a movement and life of its own. After the performance, the audience is invited to explore the objects more closely and to discover the ways they function.

TIME: 8pm (May 5 & 6)
3pm, 5pm & 8pm (May 7-8)
VENUE: Old Court Building, 2nd Floor
ADMISSION: MOP200
ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/fam/27/en/>

Sands WEEKEND



JOLIN TSAI <PLAY> WORLD TOUR 2016 - MACAO
8pm, 30 April (Saturday)

Cotai Arena

Pop diva Jolin Tsai has been praised for her use of cutting edge special effects, amazing stage production and spectacular costume designs. The show takes place with an elaborate stage setup that sees Tsai move through a range of costumes and settings, including as Medusa, the Greek mythological character with snakes for hair. The stage also transforms into a Chinese inn, a European-style cabaret and an enchanting underwater world where Tsai dresses as a Mermaid. This is a musical spectacle you won't want to miss.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD280, call reservations +853 2882 8818
cotaiticketing.com



SHREK THE MUSICAL – THE BROADWAY SMASH HIT SHOW

22 July - 7 August

The Venetian Theatre

SHREK The Musical, the smash hit show from New York's Broadway, brings the hilarious story of everyone's favourite ogre to life on stage. During its Broadway run, SHREK The Musical played over 500 performances, garnered eight 2009 Tony Award nominations. Now the hit stage version is coming to Macao this summer. One show daily on Tuesday to Friday, two shows daily on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD180, call reservations +853 2882 8818
cotaiticketing.com



SHOW YOUR LOVE THIS MOTHER'S DAY

7 - 8 May

The Grand Orbit, Sands Cotai Central

Enjoy delicious Mother's Day offers with our special lunch and dinner buffets with the most important woman in your life, and she'll receive an exclusive free gift to warm her heart.

Prices: Adult: MOP298 (Lunch)/MOP428 (Dinner)
Child: MOP149 (Lunch)/MOP214 (Dinner)
Reservations: +853 8113 8910



MOTHER'S CHAMPAGNE AND ROSE RETREAT

1 - 31 May

Bodhi SPA

Rose has long been the best loved and treasured of all of the essential oils, so what better way to treat Mom this year than with a head-to-toe indulgence using Aromatherapy Associates' prestigious Rose collection. Leave Mom in the nurturing hands of talented therapists for total relaxation of the mind and body with an aromatic massage and an anti-ageing facial.

- 30-minute private use of the SPA suite including Aromatic SPA Bath
- A glass of Rose Champagne
- 90-minute Rose Indulgence Facial
- 60-minute Aromatic Rose Massage
- A special gift from Aromatherapy Associates

Prices: Weekday MOP2,420 | Weekend MOP2,570



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RESORTS
COTAI STRIP MACAO



WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology
By Laurie Triefeldt

LEMURS

Lemurs are small primates known as “prosimians.” They have evolved in isolation on the island of Madagascar, off the southeast coast of Africa. Most lemurs are arboreal and live in trees.



Common brown lemur

Size: 19 inches, 5 pounds
This medium-sized social lemur can be found in dry deciduous forests of northwest Madagascar. It is capable of leaping large distances. It uses its long tail to help balance when climbing and jumping. The common brown lemur eats fruit, leaves and flowers.

Eastern lesser bamboo lemur

Size: 11 inches, 1.5 – 2.2 pounds
This small lemur has impressive manual dexterity and better hand-eye coordination than other lemurs. It has an upright, vertical posture when leaping from branch to branch. This lemur lives in bamboo forests and feeds mostly on bamboo.

Blue-eyed lemur

Size: 16 inches, 4 pounds
A subspecies of the black lemur, blue-eyed lemurs are highly vocal and live in groups of up to 15 lemurs. They are most active in the daytime and feed on ripe fruit, leaves and flowers.

This lemur is the only nonhuman primate with blue eyes. The blue-eyed lemur is endangered and lives in a small range of dry deciduous forests. Its population is estimated between 100 and 1,000.

Did you know?
Lemurs don't blink. They have a clear eyelid called a **nictitating membrane** that moves over the eyeball to keep it moist.



Note: Size entries do not account for tail length.



Gray mouse lemur

Size: 5 inches, 2 ounces
One of the world's smallest primates, this nocturnal forager lives in dry forests and deserts. It sleeps in groups, but hunts alone, eating insects, lizards, frogs, fruit and leaves. The gray mouse lemur is adaptive and has good-sized populations.

The **ring-tailed lemur** forms groups of three to 25.



Ring-tailed lemur

Size: 17 inches, 5 pounds
This lemur is easily recognized by its ringed tail and raccoon-like eyes. They are found in just a few protected areas. Many zoos keep this lemur.

Aye-aye lemur

Size: 15 inches, 6 pounds
These largely nocturnal lemurs are scattered across the island and have several unique characteristics. They have a very long middle finger to help catch insects. They also have very long, sharp teeth that grow continuously.

Sanford's lemur

Size: 15 inches, 4 pounds
This rare lemur lives in the north and forms small groups of four to 15. They eat fruit, buds, young and mature leaves, flowers, centipedes and spiders. The males have a reddish-colored ruff.

Sifaka lemur

Size: 19 inches, 8 pounds
The **sifaka** is the most endangered of all lemurs. This social creature forms groups of three to 10. It is most active during the day and feeds primarily on seeds and fruits found in dry deciduous forests.



SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <http://lemur.duke.edu>; www.arkive.org; www.lemurs.us; www.lemurworld.com; www.wildmadagascar.org

km 100
miles 100

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