

groove news



HYUNA HAS A FASHION MISFIRE

SEXY singer Hyuna made a questionable outfit choice recently while on her way to perform on the music show *Music Bank*, reports Koreaboo. The former member of K-pop group 4Minute was photographed meeting fans before filming began, wearing really short shorts and a black shirt. However, the way her oversized shirt hid her shorts gave an illusion that she was suffering from a wardrobe malfunction. Making things worse was the fact that the shorts' fringe could be seen between her legs!



WHAT LIES?

EXO's Baekhyun left fans confused with his mysterious Instagram post

On Tuesday, Baekhyun posted a picture of a lamp post with a rather baffling caption that refers to lies. "Do not believe lies. EXO-Ls (EXO fans), there are a lot of things on the Internet you can't believe. It's so easy to make lies look like the truth, but it's hard to prove that the truth is the truth. I can't talk in more detail directly. Don't believe the words of people who don't know anything. Anyway, let's all cheer up!"

That certainly is a head-scratcher because the EXO member or the male group itself haven't been involved in any issue lately.



KEEPING US GUESSING

HERE'S what you need to know about Rain and Kim Tae Hee's first child. According to reports, Kim Tae-hee has continued receiving prenatal treatments as she prepares to give birth around the end of next month, reported Koreaboo.

It was also revealed that Rain has been very happy with the news that he and his wife is expecting a baby girl. Both of their agencies, however, released a statement to refute any reports about the baby's gender and due date. Following the news on the baby's gender, Section TV released a photo of what their baby would look like. The couple was last seen on a trip to Italy and will visit the US for both business and pleasure.



DANGEROUS DIETING

SOYOU lost 8kg in just one month through an absolutely dangerous diet. Soyou spoke on SBS talkshow *Entertainment Night* about her insane diet of just four quail eggs per day, which enabled her to lose 8kg in a month. According to Koreaboo, she said that the diet combined with hot yoga and exercising allowed her to drop a huge amount of weight in a short amount of time.

This crazy diet really shows how far the former Sistar member has gone in order to look perfect before appearances. Stressing that it is very dangerous, Soyou advises others not to attempt the same thing.

↳ bibiramli@nst.com.my

Federal Hotel holds Malaya showcase

AMID the bustle of Jalan Bukit Bintang is the country's first international-class hotel, built to coincide with Merdeka Day. Opening its doors on Aug 28, 1957, over time, this landmark hotel saw many firsts, including its Bintang Revolving Lounge and restaurant on the 18th floor, its Minnal Family & Fun Club, and luminaries of world governments.

A "storytelling concert" called *Modern Grand Hotel*, which begins today, celebrates the hotel's Diamond Jubilee and the 60th anniversary of Malaysia's independence. Says its director Loh Kok Man: "We hope to bring the audience back to Malaya of the 1940s, '50s and '60s."

"There were many interesting stories, the development of cultural and entertainment businesses including films, radio broadcasting, cabaret showcases, amusement parks and such. The Nanyang pop music flourished from the influence of the eastern and western world, with song

covers made from each other. The scene was vibrant and modern, and we also have fabulous local compositions."

Nanyang pop music was the rage in 1950s Malaya. The style, which originated from Shanghai, was fused with Malay classics to become cabaret hits. The 45-year-old founder and artistic director of Pentas Project reveals a favourite song in the repertoire. "It's P. Ramlee's *Getaran Jiwa* from his film *Antara Dua Darjat*. Apart from its soothing melody, it's also my favourite movie of his," says the award-winning Loh, who is also an actor and lighting designer.

Loh is aided in *Modern Grand Hotel* by music director Tay Cher Siang with the WVC Jazz Ensemble, and Chinese dialect conservator Chong Keat Aun as the narrator.

The show is produced by Modern Nanyang and presented by Bukit Bintang Event Spaces with the support of The Federal Kuala Lumpur.

Modern Grand Hotel stars Nanyang Songstress Yudi Yap with an ensemble including actor Goh Wee Ping, from NTV 7's *Age Of Glory II*, who will play multiple characters.

Pahang-born Yudi used to sing *Shi Dai Qu* or Chinese oldies since 1999. "I gradually went into the stories behind the song, and I found it really interesting to 'read' about the



Yudi Yap

artiste's life which reflected the humanities of another era, telling the truth of the time, or which revealed the motivation in composing or singing those songs.

It encouraged me to do some research about these artistes and composers and the knowledge widened my interpretation on the songs. I started to put some drama elements on stage which I learnt from theatre performances over the years."

Yudi began singing in her Catholic high school in Bentong. "For a singer performer like me, especially a Chinese artiste who does not really follow mainstream music, it's hard to survive here. I am a firm believer in the arts, which encourages the will to live. Music is a beautiful gift in life."

True to her calling, Yudi says one of her favourites in the show's repertoire is *Kopi Susu*, a Saloma staple.

"It was the theme of our award-winning concert play (in 2014), and I also translated it into Chinese and recorded it for my album, called *Kopisusu*. I think the song really has the spirit of *muhibbah*, a cultural melting pot.

Yudi says of *Modern Grand Hotel*: "We will tell stories from old Kuala Lumpur to BB Park, the amusement funfair, P. Ramlee and Saloma and the radio station which had influenced and entertained people a lot then."

"There are precious memories to share of a nation that we shouldn't forget."

Subhadra Devan
↳ nstent@nst.com.my

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