

SBL players make a stand for animals

The players put on their jerseys not to battle opponents on court, but to speak up against animal cruelty



From left: Super Basketball League players Wang Chien-wei (王建惟), Sam Ho (何守正), Hsu Hao-cheng (許皓程) and Doug Creighton (簡浩) pose for pictures with rescued dogs while shooting a promotional film for animal welfare in Taipei last month.

By DEBORAH LU The China Post

Sam Ho (何守正), Doug Creighton (簡浩), Wang Chien-wei (王建惟) and Hsu Hao-cheng (許皓程) of the Super Basketball League (SBL) shot a pro bono promotional film to educate the public about animal welfare.

The Taiwan Beer Team (台灣啤酒籃球隊) players made the film for the Taiwan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Taiwan SPCA, 台灣防止虐待動物協會), an organization aimed at improving the welfare of all animals on the island.

"It is sad to see stray dogs and animals being abused. I hope everyone can support the SPCA and animal protection," Ho said at the shoot.

Laughter broke out throughout the shoot, but the basketball players got serious once focused on the topic of animal abuse.

When it comes to pets, Creighton prefers to adopt instead of purchasing from pet shops. He revealed that he had adopted his pet cat and would choose adoption over buying if he wanted more pets in the future.

Hsu, a dog-owner, urged the public to have empathy for animals. "Do not abuse them but cherish them," he said. He reminded that animal abandonment is also animal abuse. "A

lot of animals, including turtles and fish, are abandoned by their owners. That is another form of abuse," he said.

The basketball players also talked a little bit about Taiwan's professional basketball.

"Professional basketball players in Taiwan are not paid as well as basketball players in other countries. The system [for professional basketball] in Taiwan is incomplete and there isn't enough security for the players," Ho said.

"It is different in other countries, where they have a good and integrated system, offering more security for their players," he continued.

Hsu agreed, saying that it is tough to be an athlete in Taiwan. "A lot of athletes in Taiwan can't see where their future lies. It is important for athletes to have dreams and goals. Basketball players in Taiwan face a lot of limitations," Hsu said.

The basketball players were brought together by Creighton, who volunteers for the SPCA. "I have participated in SPCA events. When I found out about the chance to make a promotional film, I asked my teammates to join," Creighton said.

"I have always liked animals and I help them whenever I have the chance to," he continued, adding "It is a wonderful thing and it makes me happy."

The SPCA will use the film in their ongoing campaign against animal cruelty and is currently looking for more outlets to air the film.

[Animals] cannot express the way they feel when they are being mistreated. They can only suffer in silence. People like us who have the ability to protect them should take a stand.

— Wang Chien-wei (王建惟)

For more information on the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, please visit http://www.sPCA.org.tw/

Taiwan redefines the meaning of architecture

By JEFF LIN AND AVA LIU The China Post

The Shanghai Expo 2010 is not the only international fair where a Taiwan Pavilion is showing off Taiwanese design and ingenuity during this autumn. From now until Nov. 21, the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (NTMOFA, 國立台灣美術館) is presenting a Taiwan Pavilion called "Take a Break: Spatial Variability in Contemporary Taiwan" at the Venice Architecture Biennale to reflect upon the alternative values that result from extreme industrial development.

Beyond just being aesthetically pleasing, architectural work needs to have an objective and the meaning of the work should be defined by users' interpretations through interaction with the exhibition.

In this 12th Biennale entitled "People

meet in architecture," the Taiwan Pavilion will present its reflection on the pursuit of efficiency by modern society and invite the visitors to "slowly experience" architecture through "soft space."

Unlike presentations of the other Taiwan Pavilions in the past, curator Tseng Wei of the current biennale creates an alternative sensory experience and spatial concept through the use of unconventional material.

Tseng's team transformed the interior of the exhibition venue of Palazzo delle Prigioni in Venice, Italy, with platforms and balloons, forming a space that is undefined. With screens showing scenes from Taiwan, the meaning of the space is defined by the visitors' interpretation of images seen. As different images inspire different feelings, visitors are constantly challenged to redefine the architectural work surrounding them.

The Venice Biennial has been a playground for architects and designers for the last two decades. Since the mid-1990s, NTMOFA in Taichung has been organizing the Taiwan Pavilion to display Taiwan's innovative architectural designs.

Even though visitors will have to travel to Venice, Italy, to see the pavilion, the opportunity to participate in the creative process of architectural works and the chance to see innovative structures is well worth the flight.

(Far Right) The Taiwan Pavilion at the Venice Biennial organized by National Museum of Fine Arts highlights a modern take on architecture in Taiwan.

(Right) Inflatable containers strung from the ceiling of the Palazzo delle Prigioni Gallery give the Taiwan Pavilion a never-seen-before look.



Courtesy of NTMOFA



SHOWTIMES NORTH 北部 AMBASSADOR (Breeze) 國賓微風影城

GOING THE DISTANCE 真愛零距離 (9/3) 17:00 19:00 21:00 (數位版)

THE HOUSEMAID 下女 (9/3) 17:30 19:40 21:50 24:00 Avatar:Special Edition 阿凡達: 特別版 (9/3) 10:20 17:50 23:10

SEVEN DAYS IN HEAVEN 天後七日 (9/3) 10:00 11:45 13:30 15:15 17:00 18:45 20:30 22:15 00:00 Cats & Dogs 貓狗大戰 (9/3) 10:00 11:35 13:10

AFTER SHOCK 唐山大地震 (9/3) 10:30 14:00 THE EXPENDABLES 浴血任務 (9/3) 10:40 12:50 14:50 16:50 18:50 20:50 22:45 (V/P)

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Kingfisher 魚男 (9/3) 18:00 21:50 Inception 全面啟動 (9/3) 13:00 16:00 19:00 22:00 (IMAX)

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AFTER SHOCK 唐山大地震 (9/3) 03:00 05:30 08:00 10:30 01:00 Inception 全面啟動 (9/3)

Cats & Dogs 貓狗大戰 (9/3) 02:20 05:05 07:35 10:15 02:00 (數位版) Kingfisher 魚男 (9/3) 10:30 12:10 (3D English)

GOING THE DISTANCE 真愛零距離 (9/3) 04:30 06:40 08:50 11:00 01:10 Avatar:Special Edition 阿凡達: 特別版 (9/3)

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