

Irrepressible Chau

by **Chow Ee-Tan**

EMIL Chau Wakin was simply relentless and unstoppable on stage throughout his Wakin 20th Anniversary Live in Malaysia 2007 concert at Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil, last Saturday. The singer clocked a staggering four-and-a-half hours of songs – setting not only a personal concert best but also that by a solo artiste here.

And the amazing thing was that not only did Chau not show any sign of fatigue, the 10,000-strong crowd actually wanted more! There was no doubt the



(from left) Teo, Chau, Lee and Wong entertaining the crowd with *Chen Xin Ying Xiong*.

Hongkong-born, Taiwan-based veteran singer-songwriter, with more than 40 albums under his belt, has lived up to expectation and put up another fine performance with his superb vocal, charismatic showmanship and humorous anecdotes.

But after listening to close to 50 songs – half of them less familiar numbers – it could become a bit tiring and draggy. Well, except if you're a die-hard Emil Chau fan.

Fortunately, the 46-year-old Chau likes to make small talk with his fans, and never fails to make his audience laugh over his witty lines and comical antics.

"Of all the places I've been, I have held the most [number of] concerts in KL," said Chau to loud applause. "So, instead of listening to my songs growing up, many people here actually saw me growing up. But why do all of you look so young after

seeing me for 20 years?" he asked a cheering crowd.

The concert, presented by Sports Toto and Ogawa, and organised by Galaxy Productions, featured a state-of-the-art stage with a rotating centre and screens of various sizes. Chau was accompanied by a group of skilful musicians that included a band as well as a string ensemble.

The singer was a natural entertainer, blessed with powerful almost-impeccable vocals and an amazing stamina. He was as engaging singing soulful ballads as belting out energetic songs, sometimes crooning from the edge of the stage and even kneeling on one knee for some.

He sang many of his most-loved hits such as *Ai Xiang Sui* (Follow Love), *Ming Tien Wo Yau Jia Gei Ni* (Tomorrow I Will Marry You), *Fung Yu Wu Zu* (Rain and Wind Won't

VETERAN ARTISTE

EMIL CHAU SETS A NEW PERSONAL RECORD

AT HIS CONCERT HERE TO CELEBRATE HIS TWO DECADES AS A SINGER

Deter Me) and *Rang Wo Huan Xi Rang Wo Yu* (You Make Me Happy and Sad), among others.

He also happily answered song requests from the audience and was rewarded with more cheers and thunderous applause, not to mention countless bouquets and gifts.

Local songwriter Lee Chee Cheng, and singers Victor Wong and Nicholas Teo were Chau's guests that night.

Lee, with his acoustic guitar, performed some of his new compositions while Wong surprised many with English oldie *Top of the World* before singing one of Chau's songs.

Teo did a duet with Chau on *Wo Shi Zen De Fu Chu Wo De Ai* (I Really Gave My Love), before Lee and Wong joined them on stage for *Chen Xin Ying Xiong* (The Sincere Hero), which Chau recorded with Jackie Chan, Jonathon Lee and Anthony Wong.

At 12.45am, Chau sang the quintessential, *Peng Yu* (Friends), to an appreciative crowd, bringing a remarkable concert to an end.

Chau's next tour stop will be Mongolia.



Ogawa's million\$\$ spokesman

OGAWA World Bhd has just appointed veteran singer Emil Chau as its first Asia regional spokesman for its products in a reported seven-figure-ringgit deal.

The deal was announced at a press conference on Monday by Ogawa World executive director Eric Cheah following the singer's record-breaking four-and-a-half-hour concert in Bukit Jalil last Saturday.

Cheah said Ogawa had wanted Chau as its spokes-

man two years ago, but that did not happen due to time constraints and other factors.

"Since we were listed on the main board in April this year, we are looking to penetrate foreign markets such as China, Hongkong, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, and Vietnam apart from strengthening our share in the local market," added Cheah.

Chau will be singing the theme song for Ogawa's latest advertising campaign, the

evergreen hit *Close to You*, which will also be featured in Chau's upcoming album.

The commercials for the campaign will be out by the end of August.

Chau likened this deal as sweet bonus for his more than 20 years in show business.

"I have been leading a tensed life recently, but we should give ourselves a break no matter how busy we are, which is why I accepted this deal – to relax myself."



Cheah (left) and Chau shaking on their deal.

And the singer got to do just that in a brand-new Ogawa Smart 10 massage chair presented to him by Cheah. – **Khoo Hong Yee**

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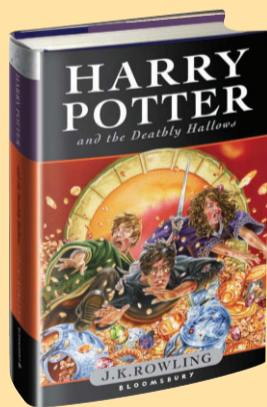
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LFFC/M2-2-S/K268 2007/02007