

BEHIND THE MUSIC

Renaissance Man

Drummer **Zac Courtney** plays in no fewer than five bands

What's keeping you in Beijing? What isn't? Five main bands. An opportunity to be the regular drummer of Ember Swift, a part-time gig at a university teaching jazz ensemble, jazz history and drum masterclass. An opportunity to help shape the music scene here, especially in regards to jazz. **How are you advancing music in Beijing?** I've just started my own brand which I use to promote the different bands that I work with. But eventually I will be promoting other bands that I believe are really creative and tight. I have big plans for these guys for the future! **How did you get involved in so many groups?** I've always tried to be as versatile in my playing as

Best memory?
Getting underwear thrown at me.

possible, and love to mix up styles as much as I can.

I've never really stuck to just one group.

Favorite teaching memory? Getting underwear thrown at me. No, wait, that wasn't in the classroom, it was while I was on stage.

Zac Courtney at Heavenly Stems concert at VA Bar, Thursday, Sep. 29



A Gongti club with an underground feel

new bars

NIGHTLIFE

Lantern ★★★☆☆

Raise the Red Lantern

This club specializes in underground music, and with a venue that is literally underground, it's set to make a name for itself ... again. This reincarnation of the original Lantern boasts a raised DJ booth, VIP tables along the walls (¥1,200+ minimum), a fully stocked bar and a massive dance space. The club has all the requirements for success without quite making the mark. The bathrooms are grungy, and the bartenders weren't sure what a mojito was. The sound system could also use some work. Still, we're happy to have Lantern—and great electronic music—back. ■ **Lauren Johnson**
Find it: 100m north of Workers Stadium West Gate, 工体西门向北 100 米, Tel: 135-0134-8785

The Yard ★★★☆☆

Classy Tree

A stunning example of traditional Chinese architecture gone modern, The Yard boasts exquisite wooden furniture and water flowing around the fringes. But this isn't paradise for serious drinkers. Catering to locals, The Yard stocks a hefty collection of bottled spirits and an eclectic array of food, but the selection of drinks is weak and most are poorly mixed. We recommend grabbing a Tsingtao (¥20) during their happy hour and tucking in under the gnarled tree for quiet contemplation. ■ **Lisa Gay**

Find it: 55 Wudaoying Hutong, 五道营胡同55号
Tel: 6407-7608



Classy décor distracts from subpar drinks

MIXOLOGY

12SQM
Bahama
Mama

Summer Sipping

Celebrating its four-year anniversary, Beijing's homiest bar continues to impress. And it's no wonder—the cocktails are great. Our fave? The Bahama Mama. (¥45)



Mix equal parts Cpt. Morgan black rum, Cpt. Morgan spiced rum, coconut rum and Kahlua, then top with pineapple and plenty of lemon. Bahama Mama isn't your typical Caribbean cocktail. Its sophisticated flavors blend into the perfect sipping drink for late summer.

Find it: 1 Fuxiang Hutong, 南锣鼓巷福祥1号, Tel: 6402-1554