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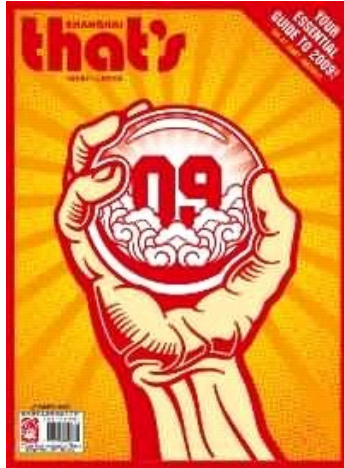
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# Shanghai Preview 2009



**Features**  
Wednesday, 31 December 2008  
03:12  
Written by The Urbanatomy team

The **Urbanatomy team** looks into **2009** with their mystic balls to track down what you need to look out for and to entice you into a whole load of weird stuff... Think World Stamp exhibitions, new Shanghai theme parks, the solar eclipse, new bands and DJs, plus what's hot and what's not this year.

**Total Solar Eclipse 日全食**  
When: July 22 / Best Vantage point: SWFC observation decks (where else than the top of the world?)

The ancient Chinese believed that eclipses (ri quan shi) were heavenly signs foretelling the fortune of the future. And we believe them. This summer, at approximately 9:40am local time, the Earth will slip into the Moon's shadow and for six minutes thirty eight seconds Shanghai will be enveloped in total, apocalyptic darkness. But don't fret, kids – it'll be a wondrous sight, and one that won't be repeated until 2132. The Total Solar Eclipse will only appear along a narrow corridor of the Earth's curvature, into which China fits snugly. The other major cities in China lucky enough to experience this celestial path of totality will be Chongqing, Wuhan, Hefei and Hangzhou. So do as the Chinese do and bang your drums as day turns into night. Your future is writ in the stars...

**Shanghai feels the fiscal funk  
But 2009 should be the year of young artists**  
*Berwin*

Despite financial woes and plummeting prices, 2009 may nevertheless prove to be an interesting year for Chinese art. "Everyone had a hunch, regardless of the slump, that the focus on Chinese contemporary art was going to slow," says Steve Harris, director and owner of m97 Gallery, in lieu of using the words 'Chinese Art Bubble.' But less hype is certainly never a bad thing: "For some artists, it's going to be a time to settle and contemplate," says Harris. "The financial crisis could be a good thing," he continues, "it will lower prices for artists with inflated prices, and I think that's great. Sobering people up on prices – it's the only way things are going to mature. Things can't run forever on inflated hype. Everyone can be more

### 11 unmissable American movies

- Watchmen (March)**  
The year's most anticipated comic book fanboy event. Geek boys, rejoice!
- S Darko (March)**  
An unexpected sequel to everybody's cult favorite Donnie Darko.
- Star Trek (May)**  
JJ Abram's reboot gets a new cast, an updated Enterprise and a Leonard Nimoy cameo.
- Inglorious Bastards (April)**  
After 15 years of talk, Quentin Tarantino finally brings his WWII epic to the screen, starring Brad Pitt and, er, Mike Myers.
- The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (June)**  
A tale of baroque surrealism by Terry Gilliam boasting Heath Ledger's last (though sadly not complete) screen performance.
- Monsters v Aliens (June)**  
The most talked-about CGI animation event of the year, courtesy of Dreamworks.
- Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (June)**  
Bedwetters behold: the sequel you have been dreaming about is coming this year.
- Public Enemies (July)**  
Michael Mann goes Roaring Twenties with an FBI crime caper starring Johnny Depp and Christian Bale. Sounds way cool!

## Shanghai's May Debate

**Shanghai could use a good \_\_\_\_\_**

Caribbean restaurant - 13.4%
Ethiopian restaurant - 19.4%
Jewish deli - 29.9%
Fish and chip shop - 35.8%
Malaysian restaurant - 1.5%

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grates suspended from the ceiling say it all. And if the licensing comes through for the proposed aging room, in full view of the guests, that should be the icing on the cake.

As for the food, Laris is going retro. "I want recreate the glamour of the 40s and 50s," he told that's Shanghai. "I also want to recapture the essence of what dining used to be about... nothing molecular, just basic food that people love to eat." This means not only delicious steaks, but chops, sausages, roasted game birds, seafood towers with lobster and oysters. And what about the bar? "A bit of early New York," says David. "A great dry martini, great screwdrivers and other classic variations." The Maverick is slated to open in April.

#### Mr. and Mrs. Bund

After his surprise move across the river, we finally had a chance to sit down and talk with Paul Pairet about what he's got in the works for 2009. With that characteristically mischievous glimmer in his eye, he told us: "no revolution – and I want to tell you this right now." That's not to say Sens won't be undergoing any changes. The first tinker will be in the name. Come spring, Sens will be known as Mr. and Mrs. Bund. In keeping with this more homey and familiar name, the menu will be completely torn up and rewritten, and Pairet is taking a radical departure from what he is known for. He may offer a few of his iconic dishes from Jade but, in general, he is moving away from the molecular and toward simpler, more traditional fare. Taking a cue from traditional Chinese restaurants, dinner will be served family style; yet the menu will still have a "French backbone." The structure, meanwhile, will be radically different. With each dish, the guest will be given four of five choices of how it's prepared. True, it may not be a revolution per se, but the changes will be immediately noticeable. Pairet is even designing new china pieces. Expect an opening around March or April.

But just as a leopard can't change its spots, so Paul has another secret project in the works – and this one just sounds wild. It's still under approval, but we can tell you this much: it will have only one table for ten people. Courses will be complemented and interspersed with sights, sounds, and scents. It will be a holistically sensual dining experience. Watch out for this in late summer or early fall.

#### Chinatown

Chinatown is taking the notion of fantasy and escapism to its logical conclusion: a purpose-built burlesque club. When we first heard about this back in 2008 we were honestly a tad sceptical. Images of rigid, flogged-to-death burlesque joints in London and New York popped into our head, as did customers sitting around like personality vacuums and Betty-Page-clad girls undergoing kitschy 'reverse strips.' But Managing Director Tim Clark can't stress the concept enough: "It's not a tacky theme bar - it's as true to form as you can get," he states. "Much in the same way that Cotton Club and JZ are jazz bars, so we will be a burlesque club; it's what we do." Then they showed us a preliminary sketch by designer/owner Norman Gosney and that's what really got us excited. Frankly, it was stunning: banquettes upholstered in red and gold candy stripes, a stage framed with ornate Victorian-era motifs and hand-painted backgrounds, a cool catwalk, a bandstand and that's just the first floor. The second floor features private luxury booths for Shanghai's aristocratic element. Then, finally, there will be a super exclusive third floor that Clark describes as "very much a purist bar" serving super-premium spirits and just about any cocktail you could imagine. "The illusion will never be broken," bar manager Jacob Prain insists. "We're

#### Jade Bremner's 2009 style guide

##### What's so very now

1. **Stubble is officially in.** Everyone is 'wearing' a beard at the moment and that's great news all round. We love the rugged look, plus guys now get an extra 10-minute lie-in during 2009.

2. **Ultra Violet is an 'on the way in' color for 2009;** so are 80s pointed or rounded power shoulders. Low v-necks for men should also be garnishing the racks of your favorite designers. Bold costume jewelry is on the hitlist for 2009 and boutiques are popping up around Shanghai including BIA and Dawn Zhu collections. Basic brands such as Muji, American Apparel and Uni Qlo are dominating the market, but Shanghai's fashion industry is hard to shake. We're holding strong against the tidal wave – pah, it's just a ripple to us.

3. Design-wise, **50s furniture and patterns** will be 'in' this year but don't overdose on them; use only as part of a minimalist design.

##### What's so five minutes ago

1. **Jackets with scarves built into them.**

These never really took off and we're not surprised – they remind us of when mum used to tie our mittens into our jacket before school.

2. **Brightly colored tights** – we've realized that life is not a pantomime. And puffed sleeves and collars? These only have valid usage on a Star Trek set.

3. **The Obama Look.** God knows we love him, but a stiff-fitting collar, a cashmere two-button suit and a bland tie with a dimple screams "logistics" to us. Word in your ear, Barack: check out Sarkozy at the next G8 lovefest for some real sartorial tailoring.