

COLLAGE

SINO CELEB

Wu Xiubo

Raised in Beijing by his mother, a pharmacist, and father, a career diplomat, it's no wonder that Wu Xiubo has great on-screen chemistry and enough charm to end wars. It's just a surprise it took so long for his talents to get noticed.

Wu started his acting career in 1988, joining the China Railway Art Troupe, where he remained until 1995. When he became tired of reprising the same stage roles, he made a decision that looks bizarre on the resume of one of China's most bankable stars: he took jobs singing in popular Beijing bars.

Crooning well-known Chinese ballads and original work until 2000, Wu has referred to that time as the happiest of his life. In spite of the small-time bliss, he was coaxed back into acting in 2002 for detective thriller *Crime Investigate*, his TV debut.

By 2011 he was one of the highest paid actors on Chinese television, paving the way for his ascent to the big screen in 2012's *People Mountain People Sea* and 2013's smash hit *Finding Mr. Right*, a romantic comedy which grossed 798 million yuan worldwide.

To cap it all off, PETA named him Asia's sexiest vegetarian celebrity in 2014.



Kind of like: Robert Downey Jr.'s style crossed with George Clooney's charm

Famous for: being the veggie hunk of meat that everyone wants to take a bite out of

See him next in: TV series *Luxury Era*

STAGECRAFT

Tap Factory

A show created and directed by French choreographer Vincent Pausanias, *Tap Factory* is like a mash-up of *Stomp*, *Tap Dogs* and the Blue Man Group, only sexier – much sexier. The toned, all-male cast presents a gripping assortment of urban tap dance, break dance, aerial and floor acrobatics, improvisational comedy and whatever other spontaneous routines happen to inspire them that night.

Fierce percussion on drums, barrels, buckets, stepladders and even the soles of tap shoes serve as a musical interlude between acts, keeping audiences on the edge of their seats for the entire one-and-a-half-hour show.

Though *Tap Factory* covers quite a wide variety of genres, tap is still at the heart of the production, and Pausanias has brought together four of the world's greatest tappers for this international tour. The fusion between the dancers, musicians and other entertainers creates diverse energies that collide into a show lauded for being unique every time.

After touring nearly every major city in



China, *Tap Factory* will perform on stage in Guangzhou between December 14-18, after which the cast and crew will head to France and Germany to kick off their world tour in January 2017. If you're a fan of drums, dance or dudes, you won't want to miss this one.

Wed-Sat Dec 14-17, 8pm; Sat-Sun Dec 17-18, 2.30pm; RMB80-480. Guangdong Performing Arts Centre, 1229 Guangzhou Dadao Zhong, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 广州市天河区广州大道中1229号 广东演艺中心大剧院 (020-3727 6300)

HAO BU HAO

Hao

Months after its grand opening, Shanghai Disney has broken ground on an extension. Toy Story Land is expected to open in 2018 and will be designed like Andy's backyard, with guests feeling like they've been shrunk down to the size of their favorite *Toy Story* characters. There will be three new attractions and an area to meet characters.



Bu Hao

Netflix has waved the white flag on its efforts to launch a China service. Citing a "challenging" regulatory environment, the company has shifted focus to licensing their shows to the country's existing online platforms. In related news, Amazon launched its Prime subscription service in China but have stripped off its online music and video options.

