

# STYLE RADAR

## TAP THAT APP

### Popcorn Time

It's no secret that streaming television shows and movies is a breeze in China, but for expats with limited Mandarin skills, local apps and streaming sites can be difficult to navigate.

The solution? Popcorn Time. No, we aren't talking about delicious, buttery movie theater popcorn; we're talking about the free video-streaming app. The program is available on both Android and iOS (it's still in beta, so you can download it via popcorn-time.to) and features a comprehensive catalogue of films and television shows that can be directly streamed to your phone or computer.

Founded in 2014, Popcorn Time is a BitTorrent program that can stream in high definition and with subtitles (when desired) through its integrated media player.

Content on Popcorn Time is diverse, with users able to access new Hollywood films, popular TV shows and even an extensive selection of anime. One of the best aspects of the app is that you can also download videos directly to your mobile or computer, so you don't need an Internet connection to enjoy HBO's *Westworld* on your flight to Thailand this Chinese New Year.

If you're tired of browsing steaming sites like iQiyi or roadside pirated DVD stalls, this app's for you.

Popcorn time is available for both Android and iOS devices, as well as laptop computers. Download it at popcorn-time.to.



MAISON MICHEL'S  
'VIRGINIE' FEDORA  
WWW.NET-A-PORTER.COM  
RMB5,350



HATSUP'S NAVY HAT  
TAOBAO SHOP: HATSUP  
RMB160

## CHEAP CHIC VS LUX LABEL

### Start at the Top

Use the new year to usher in a new you, beginning at the brow. This month we take a look two hats that appear similar but are created from very different materials. Handcrafted in France, the Maison Michel 'Virginie' fedora is made from waterproof rabbit felt and includes an internal head-gripping band. It also costs more than RMB5,000, restricting purchasers to well-to-do fashionistas. Decidedly more affordable is the woolen, Chinese-made Hatsup's navy-colored cap. It cuts a similar profile at a fraction of the price, leaving you a bit of coin to rework the rest of your wardrobe.

## INSPECT-A-GADGET

### 360-Degree Video Viewer

A sunlit curtain moves gently in the wind behind you as a girl-next-door type approaches from the front. "You worked really hard today," she whispers. "Let me massage your shoulders."

A glance down and the illusion is shattered: where your shoulders should be is a tabletop, the woman's hands moving back-and-forth above it.

This simulated massage marks the humble beginnings of an in-home VR revolution, the 360-degree video downloaded through a free phone app.

Originally thought to be a joke, Google Cardboard proved in 2014 that all that was needed for a 'virtual reality' experience was lenses set in a smartphone-holding, cardboard visor.

With the introduction of 'truer' VR technology, which allows room-wide movement and real-time interaction, the content viewable through Google Cardboard is now rightly referred to as 360-degree video, though that hasn't slowed down the shipping of millions of units.

Now, several Shenzhen-area companies are trying to outdo the big G.

We got our hands on UCVR's Zombies Cat



FOR WHO: THE VR CURIOUS  
HOW MUCH: ABOUT RMB200  
SOLD WHERE: TAOBAO.COM, JD.COM

headset. The frame is made from lightweight plastic, and the band that fastens around your head uses a special Velcro that doesn't stick to hair. Comfortable padding also lines the places where your face meets the hardware.

The Zombie Cat's sliding, spring-loaded grips max out at iPhone 6 Plus-sized phones, but, surprisingly, bigger doesn't mean better; smaller-sized phones deliver the same experience, albeit with some light leakage from the real world.

Until prices on newer VR technology drop (the HTC Vive costs RMB6,888), headsets used to view 360-degree videos are an excellent way to glimpse the experience still just over the virtual horizon.