

# Pop & Rock

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CALVIN SIT

## The indie voice

The Queen of Hong Kong indie rock, Chris B, chats to Mark Tjhung about her new adventure on the airwaves

Chris B is in danger of developing a bad neck. Just recently, she's had to devise a new laughing technique, whipping her neck backwards and slightly to the side, before letting out her booming, boisterous hoots which have become renowned across the Hong Kong music community. Her laugh is too loud for the microphone, she confesses, and to compensate, she's created this new neck-swivelling gesture.

It's just one of the adjustments Chris B is making to being on the airwaves with *The Indie Show* – a new programme on RTHK which will make her an even more influential voice in the city's music scene.

Of course, Chris B – once described by *Time* magazine as the 'tattooed fairy godmother of the Hong Kong scene' – is already the everywhere-woman of the city's nascent indie landscape. She was part of iconic 90s all-girl rock band Sisters of Sharon, founded the influential and long-running gig series *The Underground*, is the China

national director of Global Battle of the Bands and is live music director of internet radio station HKGFM, to name just a few of her roles. Oh, and she still plays in the band Thinking Out Loud. It seems only natural, then, that the born-and-bred Hongkonger should end up on the radio as well – even without any radio experience.

So how did it come about? "[RTHK producer and presenter] Hugh Chiverton emailed me and said, 'would you like to do an indie show on the radio?' This was out of the blue," says B. "And I just wrote back saying, 'okay' [laughs], not knowing anything. I knew nothing. Would I get paid? Would it be one show?"

Over the course of the six-month-long weekly series, which first aired on May 4, B plans to explore the concept of 'indie' music, from different viewpoints. "I want to hear people's ideas of 'indie music'

and what they think is indie music. Everyone has a different idea and perspective, depending on their age, their race, where they grew up and their musical influences. I thought that would be really interesting," she says.

Each show consists of a number of guests ('anyone music-related', she says) to chat about 'indie music' and also play tracks that reflect their perspective on the term. So far she has welcomed Jon Lee from This Music Studio, Simon Gaudry, director of Quebec festival

Envol et Macadam, Brit band Fluorescent Hearts and *TOHK*'s own editor-in-chief. Her show on May 22 sees Graham Perkins from Fender Asia taking to the mic. In the future, there may also be a live element to the segment. "John Peel had his live sessions. We're going to have

them too," she says.

Naturally, the show takes on a strong Hong Kong focus but it won't be limited to music created within our borders. "I want to hear what's happening in other cities. I'm going to try and keep it more Asian but I do want to throw in music from the UK and other bands that I like, because it's my

show," she says, launching into that laugh again.

"It's the Indie Show, 8pm, Saturday nights," she rounds out. And with that, it's clear she's a natural.

### MORE INDIE MUSIC ON THE AIRWAVES

#### Chi-chung's Class

The influential mainstay of Hong Kong music (and former *TOHK* columnist) continues with his weekly show with global and local music. Saturday, 9pm-11pm; bit.ly/TOHKccc. In Cantonese.

#### Morning Brew

While not focused on music, Phil Whelan's weekday show regularly hosts bands and personalities from the local scene. Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm; rthk.org.hk/rthk/radio3/morning\_brew.

#### Underground Battlefield

The trio of Bun Ng, Erik Piece and Calvin Wong chat about the alternative Hong Kong music scene, with the help of regular special guests and bands. Saturdays, 3pm-5pm; radiodada.hk.

#### Wongdergar! <<熱血神奇膠>>

Hosted by local pop rock outfit Wongdergar!, this podcast sees the band interview other bands around the scene. Released Thursdays; passiontimes.hk. In Cantonese.

**The Indie Show** RTHK Radio 3  
Every Saturday, 8pm  
bit.ly/RTHKIndieshow

[timeout.com.hk/music](http://timeout.com.hk/music)

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