

Sat, July 11, 2009, Singapore

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ST Index (Real-time)

2,307.98 ▲0.37

Fri, Jul 10, 2009, 18:58

Regional Indices

KLCI	1,067.76	+2.08
HSI	17,708.42	-82.17
NIKKEI	9,287.28	-3.78

US Indices

Dow	8,146.52	-36.65
Nasdaq	1,756.03	+3.48
S&P	879.13	-3.55

Friday Closing

Stock Report

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Entertainment

Published July 10, 2009

MUSIC

Making moves at home & abroad

Electrico is the first local band to play Taiwan festival, NDP, reports CHRISTOPHER LIM

MUCH breath and ink have been spent discussing how best to move Singapore's English music scene forward, but instead of sitting around mulling the issue, local indie rock band Electrico has opted to get up and do something about it.

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Getting around: Electrico is looking beyond the local scene to the possibility of helping to create a regional festival circuit that would include countries such as the Philippines, where the bands also perform in English

That's probably why the all-male trio is easily the most successful English band here. Quantifying success is, of course, a tricky affair, but one of the less controversial criteria is how often a group is invited to play high-profile engagements.

Today, Electrico is performing at Taipei's Hohaiyan Rock Festival, which drew some 400,000 people last year over its three days. That's a seriously huge crowd. And Electrico's the first Singaporean band to play in front of it.

And guess who will be performing at the National Day

Parade next month? Yes, Electrico. And yes, it will be another first, in an honour usually reserved for Mandarin artists such as JJ Lin, Stefanie Sun, Rui En and Kit Chan.

Significant watershed

While the likes of English-singing Singapore Idols Taufik Batisah and Hady Mirza have also been featured in recent years, Electrico's the only band, as opposed to an individual pop artist. That's a significant watershed.

Breaking ground overseas while reinforcing its roots at home at the same time is a tall order, and puts the band in the running for a James Brown-esque award for hardest-working local band.

But the workload's all par for the course for Electrico, as are all the pioneering steps. Every other thing that the band does seems to be

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pioneering steps. Every other thing that the band does seems to be uncharted territory for the English rock scene, such as playing at the MTV Asia Awards last August. There must be some pressure from often being Singapore's sole ambassador of English indie music.

'Well, we are ambassadors a lot of the time, but we concentrate on putting on a good show, not on pressure,' says vocalist and guitarist Dave Tan.

Bassist Desmond Goh adds that the band's continuous commitment to pushing itself means that there are rarely moments of exceptional pressure. 'It doesn't matter what kind of venue or show we're playing; we always make sure we give it our all.'

But this begs the question why Electrico seems to be the only local band

<http://www.businesstimes.com.sg/sub/life/story/0,4574,341290,00.html>