

# Hong Kong singer and actress Josie Ho is making new music

HONG KONG (AP) — To say that Josie Ho has been busy is an understatement.

The Hong Kong singer and actress is putting out new music, touring Asia, and has shot a new travel show on TLC.

Together with her indie rock band, Josie and the Uni Boys, Ho is releasing seven new singles on vinyl records, one song at a time. She said her new music is inspired by the psycho thriller film *Split* starring James McAvoy, about three young girls kidnapped by a man who suffers from a multiple personality disorder. Fittingly, the first single is named "Skitzo."

"I believe everyone has at least five personalities, like when you go home and face your parents, your lover, your friends, your colleagues, your boss, and like, some PR friends," Ho explained. "Some people have guilt trips about having different faces, like they feel like they're two-faced, which I don't think so. That's why we need to put this concept out there, so when people really understand our lyrics and our music, I hope everyone feels that 'We're OK. We're all OK. We're fine.'"

Split might just be the way Ho, 42, feels about her life. The daughter of Macau casino mogul Stanley Ho, Josie defied her parents and refused to join the family



business. Instead, she wanted to become an actress and singer.

In 1996, she released her first solo albums and also began acting in films. However, it wasn't until she played a prostitute in the 2003 movie *Naked Ambition* that critics began to take her seriously as an actress. For that performance, Ho won the

Best Supporting Actress award at the Hong Kong Film Awards. She also attempted to break into Hollywood, gaining a small part in Steven Soderbergh's movie *Contagion* about the SARS epidemic.

This year, Ho is celebrating the 10th anniversary of her band. They are kicking

**SPLIT LIFE.** Hong Kong actress and singer Josie Ho talks during an interview in Hong Kong. Josie, the daughter of Macau casino mogul Stanley Ho, is putting out new music, touring Asia, and shot a new travel segment on TLC. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

off a tour in Tokyo this month, and Ho could hardly contain her excitement.

"I'm going to be able to perform like a Japanese band at their live houses. Those are not just any live houses, those are sacred rock 'n' roll, hall-of-fame places. So I'm really honored to play there," Ho said.

After Japan, Josie and the Uni Boys head to China, the Philippines, and Taiwan before returning home to Hong Kong next spring. Until then, fans can catch Ho on TLC on "A Taste of Hong Kong with Josie Ho," where she hosts other Asian celebrities in Hong Kong and shows them around town. Her favorite spot in Hong Kong? Surprisingly, the outdoors.

"A lot of countries have outdoor sports as well, but our outdoor sports are only 20 minutes away from the city. So I think we have the upper hand, compared to other cities in Asia. So you can go wakeboarding, take 45 minutes to shower and change, and go to work in central. So I think that's a really important point to tell people," she said.



**VENERABLE PANDA PASSES.** Basi the giant panda eats plants during ceremonies to mark her 35th birthday at the Fuzhou Giant Panda Research Center in Fuzhou in southeastern China's Fujian province on November 28, 2015. Basi, who was the oldest known panda in the world, visited the United States in 1987 and was the mascot for the 11th Asian Games in Beijing in 1990. (Chinatopix via AP, File)

## China mourns death of oldest panda

BEIJING (AP) — China is mourning the death of the world's oldest panda, Basi, who attracted millions of visitors during a visit to the United States 30 years ago.

Caretakers in the eastern city of Fuzhou said Basi was suffering from a number of ailments, including liver and kidney problems, when she died in mid-September at age 37.

Her body is to be preserved and placed in a museum dedicated to her life, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"She was very talented and liked weight-lifting, riding a bicycle, and playing basketball," Xinhua said.

Born in the wild in 1980, Basi was discovered by villagers after falling into an icy river in the western province of Sichuan at age four and sent to the breeding center in Fuzhou. She lived out her life there without giving birth to cubs.

She made a then-rare visit to San Diego in the United States in 1987,

where she drew more than 2 million visitors during a 200-day stay accompanied by fellow panda Yuan Yuan, and was the model for the mascot of the 11th Asian Games, which was held in Beijing in 1990.

The rare giant pandas are China's unofficial national mascot and live mainly in Sichuan's bamboo-covered mountains.

An estimated 1,864 exist in the wild, where they are threatened chiefly with habitat loss, and around 420 others live in captivity in zoos and reserves, the majority within China.

Giant pandas are

generally considered old after reaching age 20, but can live for many more years in captivity, where they can be treated for diseases and shielded from accidents.

That has led to a growing number of geriatric captive pandas who suffer from failing eyesight, poor digestion, bad teeth, and arthritic limbs, along with fluctuating emotions. A special home for the old timers has been set up in Sichuan to provide customized diets, exercise, and other care aimed at improving their quality of life.




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