

Sizzling party ala Las Vegas



Outrageously entertaining: The Lady Gaga impersonator (second left) and her team of backup dancers re-enacting the routine from one of the artiste's hits.

Soju Club opens with a bang at Penang Times Square

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EXTRAVAGANT fashion shows, dazzling fire-eating displays and an appearance by 'Lady Gaga' sizzled up the atmosphere at the grand opening of Soju Club in Penang Times Square.

Themed 'Vegas Night', it had all the panache and pizzazz befitting an occasion under the glow of the bright neon lights of the Las Vegas Strip, with several hundred invited guests revelling in the atmosphere and dancing the night away.

Dressed to the nines, the privileged few wasted no time treating themselves to free flow of beverages and food, chatting away as the night began to heat up.

A team of fire-eaters had the crowds wowed with their mini infernos, puffing up balls of fire with as much ease as any mythical dragon would.

And just as quickly as the fireballs appeared, the stuntmen nonchalantly extinguished burning rods by dipping it into their mouths.

In between, stilt walkers, jesters and clowns kept the crowds entertained and obligingly posed for pictures.

A living statue, affectionately

referred to as the 'gold man', also drew much attention.

Try as they might, guests could not even elicit a twitch from the mime artist who 'froze' in one position for minutes at a time.

All eyes then turned to the elaborate stage and lengthy runway as Soju's resident band, Crush, made their entrance.

A multinational nine-member ensemble, they showcased their musical prowess by belting out tunes in different languages during the party last Friday.

Comprising two Americans, two Thais, two Filipinos, a Canadian, a Brazilian and a Columbian, the band is well-known on the international club scene, having had gigs at Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Taiwan, Tokyo, Dubai, China, Macau and Thailand previously.

In an earlier interview, band leader Michael Willingham, otherwise known as Mickey, revealed that wherever the band goes, they would adapt to the local culture and sing in the local tongue.

Glam and bling went hand-in-hand when a Lady Gaga impersonator, with a team of similarly dressed backup dancers in tow, appeared and rocked the crowd with some of the artiste's most popular tunes.



Latest attraction: Soju's resident band, Crush, entertains the crowd during the club's official opening; (below) the Soju Club located on the ground floor of Penang Times Square.

The stage events were capped off by a two-part fashion show that saw top local models sashay around the lengthy catwalk in elegant evening and cocktail outfits.

The party later adjourned inside the club, where resident DJs Chin and Soya spun great music that got clubbers on their feet all night long.

Mesmeric light shows completed the night's highlights.

Located at the ground floor of the mall, Soju comprises a club, beer garden and cafe all-in-one, allowing customers the choice of indulging in pork-free, local or western cuisine, have a drink or party the night away.

Decorated with a poker themed design, their F&B highlights include freshly grilled seafood, gelato, coffee and ice blended beverages.



Street artists: A guest posing with a stilt walker (back) and a mime artist all dressed in gold.