

# Bla Bla Song

## 芭樂歌

**Author:** Peter Mann **Illustrator:** Peter Mann **Publisher:** Sharp Point

**Date:** 7/2022 **Right's contacts:** bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

244 pages | 14.5 x 21 cm **Volume:** 1

**Awards:** 2023 The 14th Golden Comic Awards, Best New Talent & Best Cross-media Application

**BFT2.0 Translator:** Tong Hao

*Bla Bla Song's* four short stories, each paired with a different song, combine Peter Mann's bold brushstrokes with absurd plots. Moving fluidly between reality and fantasy, visual and auditory experiences, *Bla Bla Song* creates a captivating narrative. Collaborating with musicians from Japan and Taiwan, the book breaks free from the constraints of traditional text-based storytelling.



## Peter Mann

Born in 1995 in Germany, Peter Mann is 100% Taiwanese. After working in animation and film production, she shifted focus to manga creation. Her illustration work frequently intersects with music, contributing visual art for music festivals and album cover designs. Her manga creations defy easy categorization, often blending dark humor with unexpected twists in seemingly logical narratives. Peter Mann won the Best New Talent and Cross-Disciplinary Application Awards at the 14th Golden Comic Awards. He She also produced cross-disciplinary music video animations and original art exhibitions showcased in Japan, Taiwan, and other locations.

# A Colorful Collision of Comics and Music: Peter Mann's *BLA BLA SONG*

(originally published on OpenBook)  
by Hsieh Ming-hong

Peter Mann frequently collaborates with music festivals and bands, showcasing his work across various formats, including print, animation, and album design. Last summer, he released his first commercial *short* comic collection, *Bla Bla Song*, featuring four stories with diverse themes and a magical realism style. The narratives are intricately woven, creating a rich visual feast. Meanwhile, Mann partnered with Japanese musician Natsume Tomoyuki and DSPS lead singer Zeng Renwen to create four catchy songs tailored to the comics, intertwining visuals and music.

The chapter titled after the book features a girl who uploads her song online, instantly becoming a viral hit

and opening up numerous collaboration opportunities. However, the joy of singing becomes less pure as her creative value gets commercialized into profit-driven calculations. In another chapter, Peter Mann conveys the struggles of his protagonist, who is metaphorically pushed onto a billiards table. He explains, "Each collision and path aims to achieve a goal, completing something. Players calculate how to succeed." As Mann puts it, "I wanted to find a good balance between text and image, avoiding too much text that disrupts the equilibrium."

Heavily influenced by Japanese manga, Peter Mann believes comic works should not decline to entertain. During his personal exhibition GANNA in 2020,

he stated in an interview with Mangasick that his ideal work is Takashi Hashiguchi's *Baking King*: "The setup is utterly nonsensical, yet it remains a mass-appeal entertainment piece, and the author is an excellent artist."

Other influences on Mann are the Japanese "genius screenwriter" Kankuro Kudo, who excels in humor while depicting human nature. This quality shines through in the vibrant and dynamic narrative style of *BLA BLA SONG*, setting it apart in the Taiwanese manga landscape.

*Hsieh Ming-hong, a native of Taoyuan, graduated from the Department of English at National Chengchi University. Currently, Hsieh is pursuing a graduate*

*degree in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language at National Taiwan University and has received a Fulbright grant to study in the United States. Hsieh enjoys reading, writing, traveling, making friends, playing soccer, and has a passion for dinosaurs.*



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**YOU WEN-TI**

I'M IN CHARGE OF THE MAGAZINE'S MONTHLY FEATURE COLUMN, AND I'D LOVE TO WRITE ABOUT YOUR BEAUTIFUL CAFÉ FOR OUR NEXT STORY. WOULD YOU BE OPEN TO A QUICK INTERVIEW?

MY NAME IS YOU WEN-TI, AND I'M AN EDITOR AT BLA MAGAZINE.

OH HI!



MAY I SPEAK WITH THE OWNER?



I THINK I'M GOOD, THANK YOU.

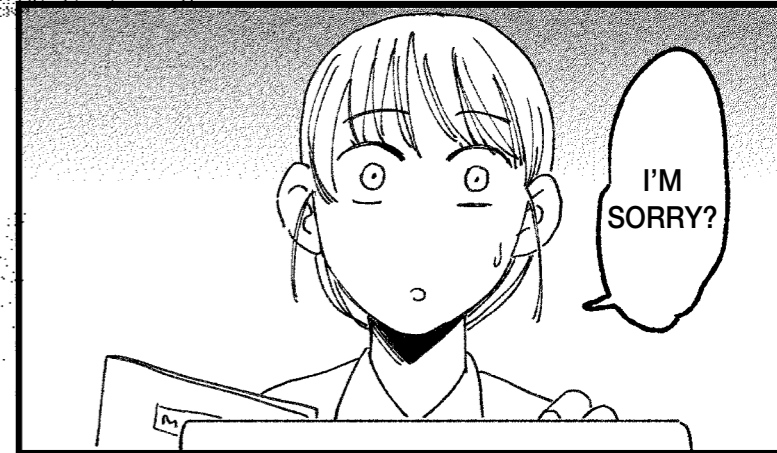
AND WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT MY PLACE THAT YOU WANT TO INTERVIEW ME?

NOT AGAIN...

OH NO...



DO YOU NEED ME FOR SOMETHING?



I'M SORRY?

BUT SIR!



THE OWNER ...



