



Press Release

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Dance Theatre x Minimal Canto-Opera

WAITING HEART

Till death do us part: a conquest of love, fate and free will



A cross-disciplinary journey begins at Tong Tik-sang's 101st birth anniversary...

Waiting Heart is a modern interpretation of the acclaimed Cantonese opera *The Legend of the Purple Hairpin*. To celebrate the 101st anniversary of the birth of the eminent playwright Tong Tik-sang, the **Hong Kong Dance Company** (HKDC) and **Utopia Cantonese Opera Workshop** (UCOW) will stage this creative collaborative piece from 31st August to 2nd September at Hong Kong Cultural Centre Studio Theatre.

A Cutting-edge Theatre Experience

Bringing together the artistic elements of dance theatre and a minimalist approach to Cantonese opera, *Waiting Heart* reinterprets the classic love story of Huo Xiaoyu and Li Yi through multi-media. Live music and video projection, the switching of roles among dancers and actors, combine to create not just a performance but a unique evocation of emotion and atmosphere.

The production breaks the usual rules of theatre by making the audience a part of the performance. Half of them, seated in the stalls right next to the stage, will be impacted by performers' facial expressions in a closer distance; the other half of the audience, standing in the gallery, will have a bird's eye view of the events.

Performance Information	
Venue	Hong Kong Cultural Centre Studio Theatre
Date/Time	31.8 – 2.9.2018 (Fri – Sun) 7:45 pm 1 – 2.9.2018 (Sat – Sun) 3:00 pm
Price	\$280 (Free Seating), \$200 (Standing)
Duration	Approx 1 hour 40 minutes without intermission
Ticketing	Tickets available now at URBTIX: www.urbtix.hk Telephone Credit Card: 2111 5999 Ticketing Enquiries: 3761 6661
Age Range	Suitable for ages 6 and above
Programme Enquiries	3103 1809 www.hkdance.com
Discount (Limited quota)	50% off Full-time students, persons with disabilities and their carers
	20% off Prestige Member of HKDC
	10% off Classic Member of HKDC
	There are other discounts, details are available at URBTIX

Pre-performance activities (Free admission, limited seats)

Enquiries : 3103 1806

Creativity beyond borders: The rendezvous of dance and canton-opera	
Venue	eslite Causeway Bay Store 9/F Forum
Date/Time	29.7.2018 (Sun) 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Host	Bernice Chan
Guest Speaker	Yang Yuntao, Rex Ng

Mapping Canton-opera, film and dance theatre: a multi-media homage to Tong Tik-sang	
Venue	Mei Ho House Function Room (Block 41, 70 Berwick Street, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon)
Date/Time	11.8.2018 (Sat) 2:30 - 4:30 pm
Host	Natalia Chan
Guest Speaker	Yang Yuntao, Rex Ng, Maurice Lai

Production Team

Director/Choreographer	Yang Yuntao
Associate Director/Script	Rex Ng
Concept/Video Designer	Maurice Lai*
Music Director/Composer	Lee Che-yi
Sound Designer	Anthony Yeung
Set Designer	Jan Wong
Costume Designer	Mandy Tam
Lighting Designer	Billy Chan
Image Designer/Performer	Sunny Chan*
Live Audio Mixing Supervisor	Ziv Chui
Cantonese Opera Performers	Hong Hai*, Eliza Li Pui-yan
Musicians	Chass Wong, Zhao Riwei*, Nero Lee, Ho Chun Hei

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Hong Kong Dance Company

“Dancing across East and West, Moving to the Tempo of Hong Kong”

Mission Statement

We are nurtured in the cultural tradition of China, combining the creativity of contemporary art, to impress the world with Chinese dance of Hong Kong character.

History

Established in 1981 with the aim of promoting Chinese dance, the Hong Kong Dance Company was incorporated in 2001 as a charitable and non-profit-making institution, and is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Since its inception, HKDC has staged over 100 productions, many to critical acclaim. Recent productions have included *Qingming Riverside*, *Snow Fox*, *Two Swallows – Ode to Wu Guanzhong*, *Spring Ritual·Eulogy*, *Pop Classics: Joseph Koo's Dance Melodies 2013*, *The Legend of Mulan*, *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Storm Clouds*, *L'Amour Immortel*, *Reveries of the Red Chamber*, *Chinese Hero: A Lone Exile*, *Kaleidoscope of Dance from Yunnan*, *Vipassana* and *Lady White of West Lake*.

The Company has toured internationally, as well as around mainland China, to encourage cultural exchange. HKDC was invited to perform at the “Meet in Beijing 2008” Arts Festival to celebrating the Beijing Olympics and took part in the opening ceremony of the East Asian Games in 2009. In 2010, it participated in “The Ninth China Art Festival” in Guangzhou and the World Expo in Shanghai, and in January 2013, presented *Qingming Riverside* at The Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. *Spring Ritual · Eulogy* was presented at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing in September 2013 and at the Novel Hall for Performing Arts in Taipei in December 2013 as part of Hong Kong Week 2013. *The Butterfly Lovers* was showcased at the Korea Dance Festival in April 2016. *The Legend of Mulan* was performed at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York in March 2015, in Sydney in September 2015, and in London in April 2017. The three-time Hong Kong Dance Award winner *L'Amour Immortel* was presented at Beijing Tianqiao Performing Arts Center and at the Guangzhou Opera House in July 2017. HKDC took *Vipassana - In the Beginning* to the International Buddhism Dance Festival in Seoul this April.

Utopia Cantonese Opera Workshop

Utopia Cantonese Opera Workshop (UCOW) was established in 1999 and later registered as a charitable organization. An art form needs young successors to build a road: at one end of this road is Bo Le, the legendary Chinese connoisseur of fine horses and at the other the legendary winged steed. In the middle is Utopia, just a humble street cleaner on the road. Utopia wishes to build a platform, holding both tradition and modernity. Our three objectives are Stage Production, Education and Promotion, and Preservation and Research. It is our aim to present this local art form to the world.

We value greatly the contribution of the late librettist Tong Tik-sang (1917 - 1959). In 2011 we realized that the best kind of tribute we could pay to him would be to continue with his mission of creative work. Thus, we wrote our first Cantonese opera, *ArenA* (performed in 2011 at Kwai Tsing Theatre, and in 2015 at Shatin City Hall; our "black-box version" was presented in Seoul in 2017). Our theatrical concert *His Butterflies* (2014 - a performance celebrating the opening of the New Wing of Ko Shan Theatre; 2016 - a version commissioned by West Kowloon Cultural District), is unusual in that nearly fifty extracts were taken from Tong's works, with montage working to trigger different readings and visions on the part of the audience.

For 19 years we have been engaged in cross-overs with other artists, amalgamating tradition and modernity, to present a 21st century rendition of Cantonese opera and operatic singing.

Media Enquiries

Ruby Kwan – Marketing & Programme Manager

Tel: (852) 3103 1858 Email: ruby@hkdance.com

Ruby Yuen - Marketing & Programme Officer

Tel: (852) 3103 1806 Email: rubyyuen@hkdance.com

Rain Liao - Marketing & Programme Officer

Tel: (852) 3103 1809 Email: rainliao@hkdance.com