



**Press Release**

9 Aug 2018 [total 4 pages]

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Dance Theatre x Minimalist Canton-Opera  
**WAITING HEART**



**“Bamboo moving with the wind, a curtain opens; an old acquaintance is coming, I suspect”**

A modern-day take on Tong Tik-sang’s Cantonese opera masterpiece *The Legend of the Purple Hairpin* that reimagines the classic tale of the reckoning of old scores in a contemporary vision of the future. 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 cross-over cultural treasure is about to be staged as Hong Kong’s first intangible cultural heritage element - Chinese opera, encounters and merges

with the beauty of dance. The sensation and emotion of the drama are heightened by the exploration of movement and a new narrative has been created for the heroine Huo Xiaoyu. Using an innovative interactive platform for dancers, Cantonese opera artists and the audience, *The Legend* ventures into new possibilities across multiple artistic disciplines while emphasizing the contemporary significance of traditional performing arts.

Ever since their first encounter, when Li Yi picked up Xiaoyu’s hairpin by chance, the two have been destined to love while fighting against evil. Contemplating multiple parallel universes, different versions of Xiaoyu are locked in a saga of destiny and self-determination. Will she accept a fate cut short? Will she continue to search for happiness? Or will she fight for what she believes in?

<b>Performance Information</b>		
Venue	<b>Hong Kong Cultural Centre Studio Theatre</b>	
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: <a href="http://www.urbtix.hk">www.urbtix.hk</a> Telephone Credit Card: 2111 5999 Ticketing Enquiries: 3761 6661	
Age Range	Suitable for ages 6 and above	
Programme Enquiries	3103 1809 <a href="http://www.hkdance.com">www.hkdance.com</a>	
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
	Details of other discounts are available at URBTIX	

### **Exhibition** (Free admission)

<b>A cross-disciplinary journey begins on the 101st anniversary of Tong Tik-sang's birth</b>	
Venue	Hong Kong Cultural Centre Foyer
Date/Time	16-27.8.2018 (Thu-Mon) 9:00 am – 11:00 pm

### **Pre-performance activities** (Free admission, limited seats)

Enquiries : 3103 1806

<b>Mapping Canton-opera, film and dance theatre: a multimedia homage to Tong Tik-sang</b>	
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**

<b>Director/Choreographer</b>	Yang Yuntao
<b>Associate Director/Script</b>	Rex Ng
<b>Concept/Video Designer</b>	Maurice Lai*
<b>Music Director/Composer</b>	Lee Che-yi
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Anthony Yeung
<b>Set Designer</b>	Jan Wong
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Mandy Tam
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Billy Chan
<b>Image Designer/Performer</b>	Sunny Chan*
<b>Live Audio Mixing Supervisor</b>	Ziv Chui
<b>Cantonese Opera Performers</b>	Hong Hai*, Eliza Li Pui-yan
<b>Musicians</b>	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 (HKDC) 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 – In the Beginning* and *Lady White of West Lake*.

The Company has toured internationally, as well as in 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, encompassing 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 the 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

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