



Press Release

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Hong Kong Dance Company is Honoured with Two Hong Kong Dance Awards 2019

“The Hong Kong Dance Award for Outstanding Medium Venue Production” is presented to Hong Kong Dance Company for *Waiting Heart*.

Award Citation: “The production brings together Chinese dance and Cantonese opera in this compelling re-imagining of *The Legend of the Purple Hairpin*, which makes inventive use of the venue to give the audience fresh perspectives and draw them into the action. Stunning designs, Yang Yuntao’s superb choreography and heartfelt performances bring out the intense emotion of this classic tale of love and devotion.”

Staged in 2018, the dance theatre x minimalist Canton-opera production *Waiting Heart* is a modern-day take on Tong Tik-sang’s Cantonese opera masterpiece *The Legend of the Purple Hairpin*. *Waiting Heart* reimagines the classic tale of the reckoning of old scores in a contemporary vision of the future. It explores the possibilities of interdisciplinary cooperation and experimental theatre, connecting dancers, Cantonese opera artists and audience, while also upholding traditional art forms.

“The Hong Kong Dance Award for Outstanding Lighting Design” is presented to Billy Chan for his lighting design for Hong Kong Dance Company’s *Waiting Heart*.

Award Citation: “Chan’s lighting plays a crucial role in setting the visual scene and highlighting the drama in this production with no sets. Bathing the stage in different colors which transform the characters’ white costumes, Chan vividly conjures up the moods and emotions of each scene and creates effects of mesmerizing beauty.”

Billy Chan graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, majoring in Theatre Lighting Design. He represented Hong Kong in 2007, 2011 and 2015 at the *Prague Quadrennial* with his lighting designs. He received the award for *Best Lighting Design* at the *Hong Kong Drama Awards* in 2008 for his lighting for *Secret of Resurrection*. Chan co-curated *PARALLEL SPACE* in the *Hong Kong Theatre Design Exhibition 2013-2015* and the *Hong Kong Exposition* at the *13th Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space*. In 2017, he was awarded the *Best Stage Art (Lighting Design)* by *Shanghai-Jing'an Modern Drama Valley One Drama Awards* for his lighting for *What is Sex?*.

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 with the creativity of contemporary art, to impress the world with Chinese dance of Hong Kong character.

Established in 1981, 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. As one of the nine flagship performing arts companies in Hong Kong, its mission is to promote Chinese dance with contemporary artistic visions and Hong Kong character. Since its inception, HKDC has staged over 100 productions, many of which were highly popular with critical acclaim. Recent productions include *The Legend of Mulan*, *Red Poppies*, *Spring Ritual Eulogy*, *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Storm Clouds*, *L'Amour Immortel*, *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*, *Reveries of the Red Chamber*, *Chinese Hero: A Lone Exile*, *Vipassana*, *Lady White of West Lake*, *Tale of Three Cities*, *Waiting Heart*, *Liu Sanjie* and *Ode to the Silk Road*.

As a cultural ambassador of Hong Kong, HKDC constantly brings the city's unique artistic style to the world by touring to different cities across the globe, engaging local audiences and encouraging cultural exchange. In recent years, it has brought its award-winning productions to the Lincoln Center in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Sony Centre in Toronto, the Concourse Theatre in Sydney and the Southbank Centre in London, among others.

Yang Yuntao

Artistic Director, Hong Kong Dance Company

Winner of two Hong Kong Dance Awards in 2003 and 2006 for his outstanding dance performance, and awarded Best Artist (Dance) at the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2009, Yang Yuntao is an accomplished dancer and choreographer. He joined the Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDC) in 2002 as Principal Dancer. He was the company's Assistant Artistic Director from 2007 and has been its Artistic Director since November 2013.

Yang has choreographed for various dance companies. His award-winning choreography credits for HKDC include: *Spring Ritual · Eulogy*, winner of Outstanding Achievement in Production at the 2013 Hong Kong Dance Awards and presented in Beijing and Taipei in 2013; *The Legend of Mulan*, winner of Outstanding Production and Outstanding Ensemble Performance in the 2014 Hong Kong Dance Awards and presented in New York and Sydney in 2015 and in London in 2017; *Storm Clouds*, winner of three awards in the 2015 Hong Kong Dance Awards; and *L'Amour Immortel*, winner of three awards in the 2016 Hong Kong Dance Awards and presented in Beijing and Guangzhou in 2017. His other works for HKDC include *The Butterfly Lovers* (presented in Seoul in 2016), *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *Voices and Dances of the Distant Land*, *Blanc in Reveries of the Red Chamber*, *Chinese Hero: A Lone Exile*, *In the Beginning* in *Vipassana*, *Lady White of West Lake* and *Waiting Heart*.

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