

Press Release

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Hong Kong Dance Company Announces Three Artistic Staff Promotions

The Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDC) is delighted to announce the promotion of three dancers on 14 May 2019 in recognition of their outstanding performance: Hua Chi-yu is promoted from Senior Dancer to Principal Dancer, Ho Ho-fei and Huang Wenjie are promoted from Dancer to Senior Dancer.

Stepping into a new dance season, the HKDC will continue to present inspiring productions enriched by Chinese culture and the creativity of contemporary art, expanding aesthetic horizons of performers and audiences alike. HKDC will also tour to various cities in the coming year, bringing the city's unique artistic style to the world over, engaging local audiences and encouraging cultural exchange.

Hua Chi-yu – promoted to Principal Dancer



Hua Chi-yu has been bestowed the Hong Kong Dance Awards – “Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer” three times, for her performances in *Lady White of West Lake* (2018), *The Butterfly Lovers* (2015) and *Thunderstorm* (2013). To quote from the award citation: “Hua has long been one of Hong Kong’s finest dancers... She dominates the stage from start to finish with a presence of such intensity that the eye is drawn to her even when she is standing still.”

Born in Taiwan, Hua came to study Chinese dance in Hong Kong and graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2000. She joined the Hong Kong Dance Company in 2001, and has performed main roles in many



HKDC productions including *Dream Dances*, *Desperately Seeking Miss Blossom*, *Princess Changping*, *Everlasting Love*, *Eagle Companions*, *Painted Face*, *Red Poppies*, *Butterfly Lovers* and *Lady White of West Lake*. Hua played the lead role in *Rock Hard* at the Hong Kong New Vision Arts Festival in 2008, as well as main roles in *Thunderstorm* at New Vision Festival in 2012 and in the Hong Kong Sinfonietta production of *La Valse Remembered* at the 2012 Hong Kong Arts Festival. She choreographed for Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra's 35th Anniversary Season Opening Concert *Ode to Water*.

Hua Chi-yu will perform the lead role Tana in a brand new version of *Red Poppies* again this year in both the Hong Kong and Chengdu presentations of the well-received dance drama.

Ho Ho-fei – promoted to Senior Dancer

Born in Hong Kong, Ho Ho-fei graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts majoring in Chinese dance with a minor in choreography in 2009. While at the Academy, Ho received scholarships from the Society of the Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Philharmonic Society and the HSBC Charitable Foundation Mainland China Study Programme. He was also awarded the Hong Kong and Macao Taiwanese Charity Fund's Chien Yeh Yuan Scholarship and Jackie Chan Charitable Foundation Scholarship. While studying at the Academy, Ho received a bronze medal at the 4th Shenzhen Modern Dance Competition and a gold medal at the 3rd National Minority Performance Gala.



Ho joined the Hong Kong Dance Company in 2010. Recent performance highlights include major roles in *Journey to the Wild West*, *Red Poppies* (2014), *Magical Adventures of Baby Polar Bear and the 12 Zodiac Animals*, *Chinese Hero: A Lone Exile*, *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances* and *Dim Sum Adventures @ Lung Fung Teahouse 2.0*. Ho was invited by the Hong Kong Ballet to perform in *The Nutcracker*. He has choreographed for 8/F Platform's *Fly* as well as for the Hong Kong Dance Alliance's "2010 Dance Platform". He was also co-choreographer for *The Great River*, for the Association of Hong Kong Dance Organizations. His work *Protect* received the gold medal in the *pas de deux* category at the 2013 Hong Kong Bauhinia Cup International Dance Invitation Competition.



Huang Wenjie - promoted to Senior Dancer



Huang Wenjie graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy's Chinese Ethnic and Folk Dance Department. She was awarded numerous scholarships during her studies. In 2012, she won the Second Prize, Chinese Ethnic and Folk Dance Section, at the 10th Taoli Cup Dance Competition for her solo performance *You are My Heart*.

In 2013, she received the Third Prize for Creativity at the 10th National Dance Competition with her choreographic work *Capriccio in Erquan*. In 2015, she was awarded the Bronze Prize at the 12th Seoul International Dance Competition and the Second Prize at the 14th Beijing Dance Competition for her performance in *Yao's Sentiments with Flower Stick*.



In 2016, she received the Silver Prize at the China Ethnic and Folk Dance Technical Skills Awards. She joined the Hong Kong Dance Company in 2017 and has performed in *Four Seasons in Tale of Three Cities*, *pas de trois in Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*, *Next at 8/F Platform*, *Waiting Heart*, *Liu San Jie* and solo in *Ode to the Silk Road*.

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, Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., The Sony Centre in Toronto, the Concourse Theatre in Sydney, the Southbank Centre in London, among others.

Media Inquiries

For interviews, please contact:

Chris Lam - Marketing and Development Manager, Hong Kong Dance Company
Tel: 3103 1828 Fax: 2805 2743 Email: chris@hkdance.com