



Press Release

20 May 2015

(7 pages in total)

Hong Kong Dance Company Wins 4 Honours at the 17th Hong Kong Dance Awards Announces 2015/16 Season “A Beauty Called Dance”

The Hong Kong Dance Company’s professional production and outstanding performances have earned four honours at the 17th Hong Kong Dance Awards, bearing witness to the high regard the Company’s efforts have achieved. The martial arts dance drama *Storm Clouds* from the Company’s 2014/15 season won “Outstanding Achievement in Production”, while the production’s original score won “Outstanding Achievement in Music for Dance”. In addition, company dancers Sun Gongwei, who played the role of Bo Ging-wan, was awarded “Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer” and Tina Hua Chi-yu’s portrayal of Lady Meng Jiang from the dance poem *The Butterfly Lovers* won her “Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer”. These accomplishments brought the curtain to a consummate close for the Hong Kong Dance Company’s 2014/15 season, basking in the glory amidst tremendous applause from our audiences and peers.

The Hong Kong Dance Company’s new season will launch in the very near future. Here is a preview of the wonderful array of programmes in store: from splendid, large-scale productions to simple yet charming children’s dance dramas, humorous crossover creations and experimental works exploring multiple senses. None of these wonderful programmes are to be missed!

Dance Season 2015/16 — A Beauty Called Dance

The Hong Kong Dance Company’s Artistic Director Yang Yuntao has conceived the motto “A Beauty Called Dance” for the 2015/16 season, leading audiences to savour and appreciate the beauty that is dance. Our 2015/16 season covers a wide range of styles and themes, including *The Legend of Mulan* stemming from an ancient Chinese folk tale and *Magical Adventures of Baby Polar Bear and the 12 Zodiac Animals* filling every family with joy in the summer. *Voices and Dances of the Distant Land* is accompanied by a cappella singing, while *L’Amour Immortel* is a remake through dance of the film classic *A Chinese Ghost Story*. There is also *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances* that harks back to the Han and Tang Dynasties, and the experimental “8/F Platform” series.



Apart from performances in our hometown, the Hong Kong Dance Company was invited in March to perform *The Legend of Mulan* in New York City, and in September we will bring this production to Sydney as a highlight of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office's 20th anniversary celebration. The Hong Kong Dance Company is steadfast in its mission, bringing dance imbued with Hong Kong characteristics as well as contemporary artistic creativity to audiences all over the world.

Folklore Dance Drama

The Legend of Mulan

Strength, Courage and Honour: China's Legendary Woman Warrior

Date: 12 - 14 June 2015

Venue: Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre



The Hong Kong Dance Company brings to the stage an inspiring re-telling of the household folktale of *The Legend of Mulan* in a dance drama. Traditional Chinese virtues are exemplified through the unusual adventures and touching story of Mulan, a peasant girl who disguises as a man to join the army in place of her aged father. A heroine with moral courage and intelligence, Mulan's exceptional wisdom and vision transcend fame and fortune.

***Tickets available NOW at URBTIX**

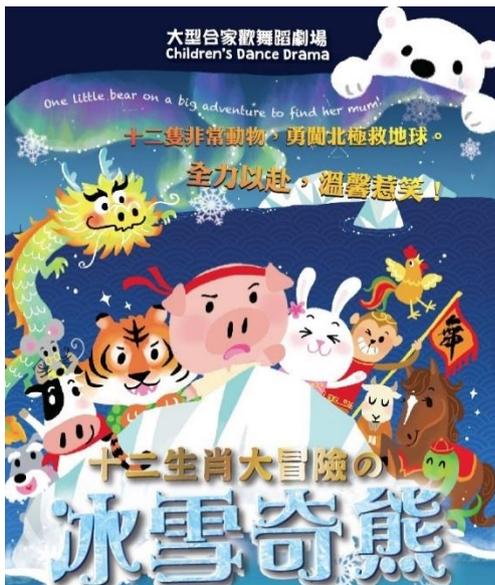
Children's Dance Drama

Magical Adventures of Baby Polar Bear and the 12 Zodiac Animals

One little bear on a big adventure to find her mum

Date: 21 - 23 August 2015

Venue: Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre



The North Pole is threatened by global warming because of decades of pollution, even polar bears have lost their homes! The twelve Zodiac animals, each endowed with unique talent, are sent to the North Pole on a rescue mission. An avalanche separates the polar bear from her cub. Danger! Now it's time for the twelve little heroes to use their special talents to help the cub reunite with her mother. Twelve cute animals join the bears in this exciting story for all ages. Through dance, music and hilarious drama, the show will take you on a ride in this heartfelt tale about love, courage and environment protection.

***Tickets available at URBTIX from 22 May 2015**

A Folkish Crossover

Voices and Dances of the Distant Land

Folk Songs and Dances, with A Cappella Singing

Date: 25 – 26 September 2015

Venue: Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium



Ever wonder what a modern makeover of Chinese traditional folk art is like? Hong Kong Dance Company will collaborate with Yat Po Singers, a local a cappella group, to deliver a creative remaking of the most vibrant, ecstatic Chinese folk songs and dances. In *Voices and Dances of the Distant Land*, Yat Po Singers will render a collection of widely loved folk songs into choral music, airing their melodic beauty and idyllic spirit with the magic of voices. What's more, you will find –

alongside the hilarious performance of the singers – an ingenious variation of these songs mixed with latter-day music genres like pop, rock, and jazz, which lend a distinctive modern flavor to traditional songs and dances. Let's take this modern ride to the heaven on earth: follow our voices and our dancing steps, move into the realms of romance, folklore and the ode to life, and roam freely about the rural ethnic China.

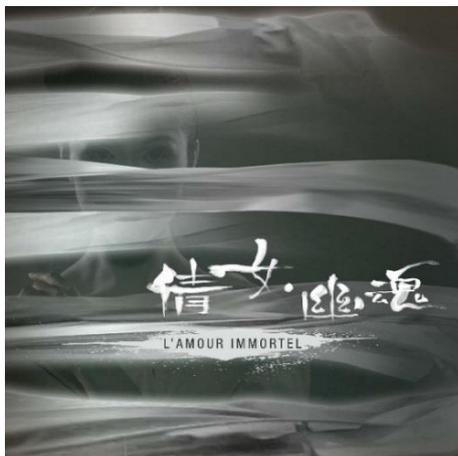
Grand Dance Drama

L'Amour Immortel

Love endures. In this world – or any others.

Date: 27 – 29 November 2015

Venue: Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre



Supernatural tales are taken as one of the major genres of classical Chinese literature, and the futile love between humans and ghosts is a recurrent theme. The story of *Nie Xiaoqian*, from a classical novel of Chinese literature *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio*, has touched so many hearts over the centuries that it is repeatedly adapted for literature, cinema, and television. *L'Amour Immortel* reinterprets this classic tale from a contemporary perspective. When a beautiful, bewitching ghost

meets a truthful, good-natured man, she loses her heart and is determined to save him from the evil force, even at the cost of her own afterlife. Gripping, thrilling, and passionate, *L'Amour Immortel* unfolds the most beautiful human values with a poignant ghost story, hymning the purest of all hearts in a tale of forbidden love.

A Journey Back to the Golden Dynasties of China
Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances
Long-Lost Treasures Rediscovered

Date: 26 – 28 February 2016

Venue: Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium



Ancient court dances, one of the lost treasures of China, reflect not only China's aesthetic achievement in the art of dancing but also her traditional culture in rite, music, etiquette, costume, poetry, and song. To recover these hidden riches, Hong Kong Dance Company joins hands with the Classical Dance Department of Beijing Dance Academy to present *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*, a performance that recreates, with extensive reference to archaeological archives, a representative

collection of Chinese court dances of different times. The programme includes: a ritualistic dance of China's pre-imperial period that bespeaks the quaint adoration people had for slim waist before the 3rd century BC, a male social dance of the 5th – 6th century that pictures the social gathering of eminent literati, a male group dance that manifests the chivalry and vigor of the palace guards of the Han dynasty, and an elegant group dance that narrates the lives of highborn maidens of the Qing dynasty. **All these splendid dances are put on the stage for the very first time in Hong Kong.**

Experimental Dance Theatre

8/F Platform



八樓平台
8/F Platform

Presented by the Hong Kong Dance Company, the "8/F Platform" is a dance laboratory that embraces choreography, performance, education, demonstration, multi-disciplinary collaboration and audience development. The Platform aims to

bring together audiences, dancers and artists, encourages exchange and interaction, and serve as a catalyst for creativity. Since its inception, the "8/F Platform" has produced many original works with artists from different backgrounds, showcasing new possibilities and dynamics for the development of dance in contemporary society. It is a platform to realize and experiment different dance visions.

Forthcoming programmes to be announced.

Hong Kong Dance Company 2015/16 Dance Season

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| <p>A Path to Transmedia Chinese Dance <i>Bipolar Bodies</i> 15 - 17 May 2015 8/F Platform, Hong Kong Dance Company 8/F Sheung Wan Civic Centre</p> |
| <p>Folklore Dance Drama <i>The Legend of Mulan</i> 12 - 14 Jun 2015 Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre</p> |
| <p>Children's Dance Drama <i>Magical Adventures of Baby Polar Bear and the 12 Zodiac Animals</i> 21 - 23 Aug 2015 Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre</p> |
| <p>A Folkish Crossover: Folk Song and Dances, with A Capella Singing <i>Voices and Dances of the Distant Land</i> 25 - 26 Sep 2015 Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium</p> |
| <p>Grand Dance Drama <i>L'Amour Immortel</i> 27 - 29 Nov 2015 Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre</p> |
| <p>A Journey Back to the Golden Dynasties of China <i>Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances</i> 26 - 28 Feb 2016 Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium</p> |

* More exciting 8/F Platform programmes to be announced!

For further details please refer to Hong Kong Dance Company's website, posters and leaflets.



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.

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, the Hong Kong Dance Company has staged over 100 productions, many of which were highly popular with critical acclaim. Recent productions include *Qingming Riverside*; *The Smiling, Proud Wanderer*; *Snow Fox*; *Eagle Companions*; *Two Swallows – Ode to Wu Guanzhong*; *Spring Ritual · Eulogy*; *Feng Shui*; *Pop Classics: Joseph Koo's Dance Melodies 2013*; *The Legend of Mulan*; *The Butterfly Lovers* and *Storm Clouds*.

The Company has toured internationally as well as around Mainland China as a way to encourage cultural exchange. The Company was invited to perform at the “Meet in Beijing 2008” Arts Festival to celebrate the Beijing Olympics, and took part in the opening ceremony of the East Asian Games in 2009. In 2010, the Company participated in “The Ninth China Art Festival” in Guangzhou and the World Expo in Shanghai. In January 2013, the Hong Kong Dance Company 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 the Novel Hall for Performing Arts in Taipei in December 2013 as part of Hong Kong Week 2013. *The Legend of Mulan* was presented at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York in March 2015.

Media Inquiries

For more information, please contact Hong Kong Dance Company’s Marketing and Development Department:

Marketing and Development Manager - Chris Lam

Tel : (852) 3103 1828 Fax : (852) 2851 3607 Email : chris@hkdance.com

Senior Officer (Corporate Communications & Development) - Karen Lau

Tel : (852) 3103 1805 Fax : (852) 2851 3607 Email : karenlau@hkdance.com