

Press Release [4 pages in total]

10<sup>th</sup> January (Friday)

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## Grand Dance Drama *The Moon Opera*

Beauty and Memories Fade as the Days A Lone Shadow Shimmering on Stage

Co-presented and performed by Hong Kong Dance Company and Yabin Studio



Attainment of fame and recognition on stage as with perfect love are the stuff of dreams. Our protagonist, the Peking Opera actress, Xiao Yanqiu, gained overnight notoriety by her stunning performance as Cháng'é in the play – *Ascension to the Moon*. Only to, at the height of her fame, was Xiao expelled from the stage and thus descended into ruin. The ruthless battle between dreams and reality rages inside of Xiao throughout the years. It comes to a head at a lustful banquet, where all her desires became nearly within her grasp. Yet, all was for nought, as Xiao falls from grace and ends in the heap of her shattered dreams.

**The grand dance drama *The Moon Opera* will be premiered in Hong Kong at Kwai Tsing Theatre from February 7 to 8, 2020. Tickets are now on sale at URBIX.**

Adapted from the prize-winning novel (Mao Dun Literature Prize), this 90-minute production distils the peaks and troughs of the protagonist's life story through the spectacle of dance. Its creative process spanned over three years and is the work of the first-time director, the National Class One Dance Artist, Wang Yabin, and a globally-sourced artistic team of top professionals. This piece presents a Peking-opera-filled Chinese story through a minimalistic stage setting and fused with elements from both classical and modern dances.

[More Information](#)

[Programme Trailer](#)

### Short summary (about 136 words)

Attainment of fame and recognition on stage as with perfect love are the stuff of dreams. Our protagonist, the Peking Opera actress, Xiao Yanqiu, gained overnight notoriety by her stunning performance as Cháng'é in the play – *Ascension to the Moon*. Only to, at the height of her fame, was Xiao expelled from the stage and thus descended into ruin. The ruthless battle between dreams and reality rages inside of Xiao throughout the years. It comes to a head at a lustful banquet, where all her desires became nearly within her grasp. Yet, all was for nought, as Xiao falls from grace and ends in the heap of her shattered dreams.

### Programme Information

<b>Grand Dance Drama – <i>The Moon Opera</i></b>	
Date & Time	7-8.2.2020 (Fri to Sat) 7:45pm 8.2.2020 (Sat) 3:00pm
Venue	Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium
Ticket Price	\$320、\$220、\$120 Tickets available at URBTIX from 29 November 2019 (Full-time student, people with disabilities and the minder, senior citizens aged over 60 or above and CSSA recipient enjoy 50 % off discount – limited offer)
Internet Ticketing	<a href="http://www.urbtix.hk">www.urbtix.hk</a>
Mobile Ticketing App	My URBTIX
Telephone Credit Card Booking	2111 5999
Ticketing Enquiries	3761 6661
Programme Enquiries	3103 1879   <a href="mailto:hkdance@hkdance.com">hkdance@hkdance.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.hkdance.com">www.hkdance.com</a>
Suitable for aged 6 or above   Hong Kong Dance Company reserves the right to change programme details and substitute artists	

### Creative Team

Artistic Coordinator	Yang Yuntao
Director & Choreographer	Wang Yabin
Based on the novel by	Bi Feiyu
Peking Opera Consultant	Pei Yanling
Playwright	Zhuang Yi
Composers	Olga Wojciechowska (Poland) & Guo Sida
Set Designer	Matt Deely (England)
Costume Designer	Kimie Nakano (Japan)
Lighting Designer	Willy Cessa (France)
Dramatic Consultant & Imager	Helene Guetary (France)

## Starring

**Wang Yabin (Guest Appearance)** - Feb 7, 2020 (Fri) 7:45pm

**Hua Chi-yu (Principal Dancer)** - Feb 8, 2020 (Sat) 3:00pm & 7:45pm

## Starring Introduction

### Wang Yabin

**National First Class Artist | Artistic Director of Yabin Dance Studio**



Wang founded the Yabin Dance Studio in 2009 and presented the 'Yabin and Her Friends' dance series in the following year. Original works include *QingYi*, *Dream in Three Episodes*, *One Dream – As If* and more, with many receiving continued international performance invitations. In 2016, Wang became the English National Ballet's first commissioned Chinese choreographer, and the sole Chinese choreographer amongst three in ENB's production of *She Said*.

### Hua Chi-yu

**Hong Kong Dance Company | Principal Dancer**



Since joining Hong Kong Dance Company, she 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* and *Lady White of West Lake*. Hua played the lead role in *Red Poppies* at the 8th China Arts Festival in Wuhan and also performed at

the 2008 and 2012 Hong Kong New Vision Arts Festival, 2012 Hong Kong Arts Festival. She choreographed for Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra's 35th Anniversary Season Opening Concert *Ode to Water*. Her performances in *Thunderstorm* (2012 New Vision Arts Festival), *The Butterfly Lovers* and *Lady White of West Lake* won her three Hong Kong Dance Awards – "Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer" in 2013, 2015 and 2018 respectively.

## Post-performance activities

**Autograph Session** - Feb 7-8, 2020 (Fri-Sat) 7:45pm

**Meet the Artists** - Feb 8, 2020 (Sat) 3:00pm

\* To be held after the performance

## 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 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***, ***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 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 Butterfly Lovers was showcased at the Korea Dance Festival in April 2016. ***The Legend of Mulan*** was presented 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 Guangzhou Opera House in July 2017 respectively. ***Vipassana - In the Beginning*** was presented at the International Buddhism Dance Festival in Seoul this April.

### Media Enquiries: :

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