

**PRESS RELEASE**

13 January 2016

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Please refer to page 2 for programme summary

Long-lost Treasures Rediscovered

A Journey Back to the Golden Dynasties of China

## *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*

Hong Kong Dance Company X Beijing Dance Academy



Ancient court dances are one of the long-lost treasures of China. Resplendent, exquisite and ceremonious, they showcase 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 forces with the Classical Dance Department of Beijing Dance Academy to present *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances* at Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium from 26 to 28 February 2016. The performance recreates, with extensive reference to archaeological archives, a representative collection of Chinese court dances from different times:

**"Chu-style Waist Dancing"** is a ritualistic dance of China's pre-imperial period that bespeaks the admiration people had for slim waists before the 3rd century BCE. **"Spring Excursion"**, a female group dance of the 3rd to 6th century, portrays the charm of ancient beauties in their excursion, while **"Duke Xie's Shoes"**, a male social dance from similar period, pictures a social gathering of eminent literati at that time. **"Imperial Guards"** manifests the chivalry and vigour of the palace guards of the Han dynasty, while **"Maid of Honour with Fan"** narrates the lives of highborn maidens of the Qing dynasty. **"Small Victory Dance"**, a dance trio of the Tang dynasty choreographed by the famous royal couple Emperor Xuanzong and Consort Yang Yuhuan, unveils the heroic bearing of the Tang armoured women. **"Rabbit Headdresses"** depicts the worship of the moon during the Song



Dynasty, with girls dancing gracefully bathed in moonlight. In “**Drum-top Dance**”, four dancers perform a unique dance on drums, popular in the Han dynasty. Last but not least, four captivating episodes from the grand dance drama *Dancing Girl of the Bronze Sparrow Pavilion* display the dynamics of Han dynasty dance on drums and upturned platters. The pas de deux “**Love Song with Drums**” is a lovers’ discourse – the man plays a hand drum, while his lover dances atop another drum.

Join us in this journey to the past to explore the grandeur of the precious long-lost dance and culture of ancient China, in the Hong Kong premiere of *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*.

[Programme Information](#)

[Trailer](#)

Title Sponsor:



#### Programme Summary (about 121 words)

Hong Kong Dance Company joins forces with the Classical Dance Department of Beijing Dance Academy to present *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*. The performance recreates, with extensive reference to archaeological archives, a representative collection of eleven Chinese court dances from different times.

Ancient court dances are one of the long-lost treasures of China. Resplendent, exquisite and ceremonious, they showcase not only China’s aesthetic achievement in the art of dancing but also her traditional culture in rite, music, etiquette, costume, poetry and song. Join us in this journey to the past to explore the grandeur of the precious long-lost dance and culture of ancient China, in the Hong Kong premiere of *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*.

26-28 Feb 2016 (Fri – Sun) Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium

\$300, \$240, \$180, \$100

\$240, \$180, \$120, \$80 (28 Feb 2016 7:45pm)

Ticket available now at URBTIX

Internet Ticketing [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk) | Ticketing Enquiries 3761 6661

Programme Enquiries 3103 1806 | [www.hkdance.com](http://www.hkdance.com)

| <b><i>Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances</i></b>   |  |
|---|--|
| Date & Time   | 26 & 28 February 2016 (Fri & Sun) 7:45pm<br>27 - 28 February 2016 (Sat - Sun) 3:00pm   |
| Venue   | Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium  |
| Ticketing   | 26 February 2016 (Fri) 7:45pm<br>27-28 February 2016 (Sat - Sun) 3:00pm<br>\$300, \$240, \$180, \$100<br><br>28 February 2016 (Sun) 7:45pm<br>\$240, \$180, \$120, \$80<br><br>Ticket available now at URBTIX<br><br>50% off - Full-time students#, people with disabilities and the minder, senior citizens aged 60 or above and CSSA recipients<br><br>#Applicable to \$120-\$300 tickets only. Tickets for full-time students are available on a first-come-first-served basis. |
| Internet Ticketing  | <a href="http://www.urbtix.hk">www.urbtix.hk</a>   |
| Mobile Ticketing App  | My URBTIX  |
| Telephone Credit Card Booking   | 2111 5999  |
| Enquiries   | 3761 6661 (Ticketing)<br>3103 1806 / hkdance@hkdance.com (Programme)   |
| Website   | <a href="http://www.hkdance.com">www.hkdance.com</a>   |
| <p>Suitable for aged 6 or above.<br/>           Programme duration is about 1 hour and 30 minutes with an intermission.<br/>           Hong Kong Dance Company reserves the right to change programme details and substitute artists.</p> |  |

### **Creative Team**

Artistic Coordinator: Xie Yin

Director & Choreographer: Sun Ying

Director: Zheng Lu

Executive Directors: Qiao Song, Zhang Xing, Liu Mengyu

Set & Costume Designer: Bacchus Lee\*

Lighting Designer: Billy Tsang

\*By kind permission of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

### **Pre & Post performance Activities**

#### **Chinese Classical Dance Master Class**

Excerpts from “Spring Excursion” and techniques of ancient Chinese dance will be taught by a teacher from Beijing Dance Academy.

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Date & Time              | 21 February 2016 (Sun) 7:30 - 9:30pm                                       |
| Venue                    | Rehearsal Room 1, 8/F, Hong Kong Dance Company,<br>Sheung Wan Civic Centre |
| Fee                      | \$200 (Reservations are required)  |
| Enquiries & Reservations | 3103 1806  |

#### **Meet the Artists**

After the performance of 27 February 2016 (Sat) 3:00pm

#### **Autograph Session with Dancers**

After the performance of 28 February 2016 (Sun) 3:00pm

## **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 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; Storm Clouds* and *L'Amour Immortel*.

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, and in Sydney in September 2015.

**Media Inquiries:**

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