

PRESS RELEASE

14 July 2016 (5 pages in total)

Experimental Dance Theatre

Reveries of the Red Chamber

Outcast from heaven, betrayed on earth

– brought to life in dance

Helen Lai x Yang Yuntao x Hoyingfung



REVERIES
OF THE
RED CHAMBER

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The Hong Kong Dance Company presents **Experimental Dance Theatre *Reveries of the Red Chamber*** at the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Studio Theatre from 5 to 7 August 2016.**

Reveries of the Red Chamber comprises three different reinterpretations of the Chinese literary masterpiece *Dream of the Red Chamber*. Each one is helmed by a different artistic visionary – dance doyenne Helen Lai (*While the Dream Unfolds*), Hong Kong Dance Company Artistic Director, Yang Yuntao (*Blanc*) and theatre artist extraordinaire, Hoyingfung (*The Enigma of a Stone*) – all of whom felt inspired to bring the book to life from contemporary perspectives.

The show features a specially designed set that gives audiences a view of Grand View Garden from two different perspectives: a microscopic view that invites them into the heart of the goings-on from seating surrounding the Garden, and a macroscopic, bird's-eye view from the balcony – as they are to swap places during the intermission.

[Programme Information](#)

[Trailer](#)



***While the Dream Unfolds* by Helen Lai**

Director/Choreographer: Helen Lai

Chinese Opera Performance: Tang Yuen-ha

Music: Sascia Pellegrini

“Twelve actors take on the roles of different women from the Grand View Garden. Will they be able to change these women’s destinies as prophesied in the fifth chapter of *The Story of the Stone*?”

***Blanc* by Yang Yuntao**

Director/Choreographer/Dance solo: Yang Yuntao

“If there were one colour that represented your status in life, which colour would it be?”

The Dream of the Red Chamber ends with the words: “A land desolate and bare”. This phrase thus declares that life, with its many ups and downs, and even the most colourful times, must ultimately come to an end.

It is only upon personal reflection that you can truly comprehend the saying “Doubtless at Forty” as actually meaning to begin to have doubts in life. When you learn to let go and forget, to keep an open heart and mind, then you can rediscover life with the knowledge that your future has yet to be written.”

***The Enigma of a Stone* by Hoyingfung**

Director/Scriptwriter: Hoyingfung

Actor: Ng Wai-shek

Pipa: Lam Tsan-tong

Composer: Kung Chi-shing

“If the author Cao Xueqin believed that even stones from this world had feelings, would they still retain their souls if they were scorched by fire?”

There are over 400 characters in *The Dream of the Red Chamber* but the author did not subject any of them to moral criticism. Instead he taught people like you and me to value every person we meet.

For instance, take the characters Zhen Shiyin (hidden truth) and Jia Yucun (falsehoods exist). If they were to face the flood of information and money politics of the modern age, how would they go about comprehending “illusion” and “truth”?

Nowadays it seems as though our faces are covered with veils and we are surrounded by lies, and therefore we tend to forget about the wisdom of transforming ourselves.”



Artistic Adviser: Lau Siu-ming

Set Designer/Digital Images Designer: Hoyingfung

Costume Designer: Lin Ching-ju

Lighting Designer: Bert Wong

Sound Designer: Anthony Yeung

Associate & Deputy Set Designer: Jan Wong

Post-performance Meet the Artists Session

6 & 7 August (Sat & Sun) 3:00pm - To be held after the performance

Helen Lai, Yang Yuntao, Hoyingfung

Helen Lai

Helen Lai is one of Hong Kong's foremost choreographers. Since training at the London School of Contemporary Dance, Lai has choreographed for many local and international performing arts companies, and presented numerous classics. Lai was a founding member of City Contemporary Dance Company (CCDC), and was Artistic Director of CCDC from 1985 to 1989 and Resident Choreographer from 1991 to 2011. Lai's works are cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary. Fond of literature, Lai's ideas span Chinese classics, Kafka, Italo Calvino and Greek tragedy, creating subtle, exquisite and moving dance. Her major works include *Nine Songs*, *The Rite of Spring*, *Invisible Cities*, *Loose Pages from a Woman's Diary*, *Revolutionary Pekinese Opera (Millennium Mix)*, *In the Beginning*, *Plaza X*, *The Tragedy of Mr O*, *The Comedy of K*, *Testimony*, *HerStory*, and *Tales of Two Cities – Hong Kong • Shanghai • Eileen Chang*, etc. She has won many awards for her choreography, earning her a prominent position in the Hong Kong dance scene. At the 2016 Hong Kong Dance Awards, Lai's latest production, *Soledad*, took awards for outstanding production and ensemble performance, as well as for her stunning choreography.

Hoyingfung

Hoyingfung is a Hong Kong-based theatre practitioner and cultural educator dedicated to incorporating stage and poetry from multiple angles. From Theatre Resolu, co-founded with Tang Shu Wing, to Theatre Fanatico and Ho Bit Goon, Ho responds to social phenomena through theatrical creations.

After studying theatre at Houston University for seven years and then applied social sciences in Hong Kong, Ho concentrated on researching the relationship between the body and culture in his doctoral dissertation. He emphasizes the importance of artistic creation for self-development and cultural exploration. In recent years, Ho has been dedicated to promoting in-depth cultural exchange between Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Yang Yuntao

Yang Yuntao joined the Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDC) in 2002 as Principal Dancer. He was

HKDC's Assistant Artistic Director from 2007 and was promoted to Artistic Director on 1 November, 2013. Yang graduated from the Minzu University of China's Faculty of Dance, and has been a dancer with the Guangdong Modern Dance Company, the Beijing Modern Dance Company and the City Contemporary Dance Company. He has won numerous prizes at various national dance competitions in China, and won the Hong Kong Dance Award in both 2003 and 2006. He also received the Award for Best Artist (Dance) at the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards in 2009.

Yang has choreographed for various dance companies. His choreographic works for HKDC include *Border Town*, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *Spring Ritual • Eulogy*, *Pop Classics: Joseph Koo's Dance Melodies 2013*, *The Legend of Mulan*, *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Storm Clouds* and *L'Amour Immortel*. *Spring Ritual • Eulogy* won Outstanding Achievement in Production at the 2013 Hong Kong Dance Awards and was presented in Beijing and Taipei in 2013. *The Legend of Mulan* won two awards at the 2014 Hong Kong Dance Awards and was presented in New York and Sydney in 2015. *The Butterfly Lovers* was presented in Korea in 2016. *Storm Clouds* and *L'Amour Immortel* won three awards at the 2015 and 2016 Hong Kong Dance Awards respectively.

Experimental Dance Theatre <i>Reveries of the Red Chamber</i>	
Date & Time	5 -7 August 2016 (Fri – Sun) 7:45pm 6 -7 August 2016 (Sat – Sun) 3:00pm
Venue	Hong Kong Cultural Centre Studio Theatre
Ticketing	\$250 (Free seating/standing*) Tickets available NOW at URBTIX 50% off - Full-time students#, people with disabilities and their minder, senior citizens aged 60 or above and CSSA recipients ✧ Standing (balcony) and seated (stalls) audiences are to swap places after the intermission ✧ Audiences who need to be seated throughout the performance please contact HKDC directly to reserve seats Tel: 3103 1805 E-mail: ella@hkdance.com #Tickets for full-time students are available on a first-come-first-served basis
Internet Ticketing	www.urbtix.hk
Mobile Ticketing App	My URBTIX
Telephone Credit Card Booking	2111 5999
Enquiries	3761 6661
Programme Enquiries	3103 1805 hkdance@hkdance.com
Website	www.hkdance.com
<p>Suitable for aged 6 or above. Programme duration is about 1 hour and 45 minutes with an intermission. Audiences are strongly advised to arrive punctually as late comers will not be admitted until the intermission. No admission after commencement of the second half of the performance.</p>	



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.

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 have been 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. *The Butterfly Lovers* was showcased at the Korea Dance Festival in April 2016.

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