

# Cantonese opera virtuoso Yuen Siu-fai collaborates with theatre master Tang Shu-wing to present cross-boundary work "The Old Man and His Sea" (with photos)

Yuen Siu-fai and Tang Shu-wing, who are esteemed in their respective fields of Cantonese opera and theatre, will present the groundbreaking collaboration of "The Old Man and His Sea", a cross-boundary production adapted from Nobel laureate Ernest Hemingway's classic "The Old Man and the Sea", fusing contemporary theatre with Chinese opera. The programme, which is part of the New Vision Arts Festival (NVAF), will be staged from November 10 to 12 at the Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium.

Crowning seven decades in Cantonese opera, virtuoso Yuen realises his life-long dream to adapt Hemingway's masterpiece, writing a new libretto for the novel and playing the title role in costumes of Cantonese opera and present times. Audiences can appreciate Yuen's artistic finesse and prowess as well as his interaction with young actress Cassandra Tang. "The Old Man and His Sea" has a stripped-down stage setting, showing the abstract minimalist aesthetics of the Chinese opera tradition while emphasising the essence of Chinese classical arts.

Theatre master Tang and Yuen are long-time friends. After tracing the roots of theatre in both East and West, Tang combines physical theatre, Chinese opera, abstract expressionism, stream-of-consciousness monologues, installation art and stage technology into an amalgamated whole, and directs the programme which envelops a play within a play.

"The Old Man and His Sea" is a story traversing time and space. It tells of a young woman who receives a gift from her estranged grandfather after his passing. She discovers that her grandfather wanted to adapt the classic "The Old Man and the Sea" into a Cantonese opera when he was young but never had the chance. So she tries to fulfil his lifelong dream.

"The Old Man and His Sea" will be held at 8pm on November 10 and 11 (Friday and Saturday), and at 3pm on November 12 (Sunday) at the Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium. Tickets priced at \$200, \$280, \$380 and \$460 are now available at URBTIX ([www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288, or use the mobile ticketing app "URBTIX". Various discount schemes, including the newly introduced weekend package booking discount, are being offered.

"The Old Man and His Sea" is performed in Cantonese with Chinese and English surtitles. A meet-the-artist session will be held after each

performance at the Auditorium.

Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the NVAF is running from October 20 to November 19, showcasing an array of interdisciplinary programmes by overseas and local performing groups and artists. For programme enquiries, please call 2370 1044 or visit [www.nvaf.gov.hk](http://www.nvaf.gov.hk).

