

Cross-generation dancers to discuss “3 Decades of Dance in Hong Kong”

Presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department's "Beyond Multi-arts Series" for dance enthusiasts, a set of five talks (conducted in Cantonese) will be curated and hosted by veteran arts critic Dr Lo Wai-luk on the theme of "3 Decades of Dance in Hong Kong". Sharing the podium with Dr Lo will be local dance practitioners, including Anna Chan, Willy Tsao, Pewan Chow, Lau Siu-ming, Stella Lau, Yuri Ng, Paul Tam, Dick Wong, Miranda Chin, So Kwok-wan and Lau Tin-ming.

Opened in November 1989, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre (HKCC) has become an important cultural landmark in Hong Kong by offering performing platforms for artists and dance companies, both local and visiting, while enhancing the viewing experience of the local audience and enabling international cultural exchanges. Over the past 30 years, the HKCC has witnessed the development of dance in the city. Generation after generation of leading dance artists have delivered their humanistic, social and contemporaneous concerns through their works. The talk series on one hand reviews dance history of Hong Kong, while on the other hand forecasts the path ahead.

Details of the talks are as follows:

September 3 (Tuesday)

Topic: The Venue, Its Space, and Their Dance Stories

Content: This talk will look back on landmark performances over the past three decades and recall how choreographers and dancers have been inspired by the various spaces of the HKCC to create their dance works; from the Grand Theatre to the Foyer, from the Studio Theatre to the Piazza and from the stage to the special corridors.

September 10 (Tuesday)

Topic: On the Ecological Development and Vista of Dance in Hong Kong

Content: The emergence of local professional dance companies in the late 1970s and early 1980s changed the ecology of the dance sector in Hong Kong. By the 1990s, the opening of the HKCC not only provided new performance venues for local dance companies but also created new forms of partnerships. These developments, together with the impact brought about by visiting international dance companies, have created a healthy environment for dance in Hong Kong to flourish.

September 24 (Tuesday)

Topic: Dance Appreciation – Art and the Urban Experience

Content: Leading dance companies of the world in the genres of modern dance, ballet and folk dance have performed at the HKCC. What sort of impact and novel viewing experiences did their diverse and quality productions have on the local audience to make art an important part of the urban experience of cosmopolitan Hong Kong?

October 8 (Tuesday)

Topic: Hong Kong Dance: Personality, Style and Character

Content: In the 30 years since the HKCC opened its doors to the arts community and audiences, the programming and content of dance shows have changed a lot. Local dancers have also kept themselves abreast of the times. It's time to see if Hong Kong has its own dance, or whether there is such a thing as "Hong Kong Style".

October 15 (Tuesday)

Topic: "For the Times They Are A-changing" – On the Reciprocal Relationship between Dance and Epochs

Content: Each era has its own form of art. In the past 30 years, what eras had Hong Kong gone through? What sort of experiences had Hongkongers gone through? How did social issues influence the creative concepts and directions of choreographers? When confronted with the predicaments of the times, how did dancers play a part in the future by expressing through physical movements and opening up new spiritual journeys?

Each talk will be held at 7.45pm at AC2, 4/F, Administration Building, HKCC. Tickets priced at \$60 per session (free seating) are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and various discount schemes of the "Beyond Multi-arts Series", please call 2268 7323 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi_arts/programs_832.html.