

Hung Ka Po Cantonese Opera Troupe to return to stage in December

The Hung Ka Po Cantonese Opera Troupe will stage two works, namely "Chuncao Breaks into the Trial Court" and "An Official's Promotion – a newly adapted Cantonese Opera", in December and January. Details are as follows:

"Chuncao Breaks into the Trial Court"

Playwright: Law Ka-ying

7.30pm, December 8 (Tuesday)

Auditorium, Tai Po Civic Centre

Tickets: \$140, \$180 and \$240

Cast: Loong Koon-tin, Cheng Wing-mui, Chan Hung-chun, Lui Hung-kwong, Yat Dim-hung, Wang Kit-ching, Lai Yiu-wai, Leung Fei-tung

The Prime Minister's daughter Li Banyue goes to Huashan on an incense-offering pilgrimage with her maid, Chuncao, and is harassed by the son of the Minister of Civil Service, Wu Du. Xue Meiting happens to pass by and comes to their rescue. Unfortunately, Xue kills Wu by accident and is taken into custody and sent to the court. Wu's mother tries to flog Xue to death for revenge. In a desperate attempt to save Xue, Chuncao barges into the court and lies that Xue is the Prime Minister's son-in-law. All officials send gifts and congratulations. Even the Emperor bestows a plaque to mark the happy occasion, and the Prime Minister eventually agrees to the marriage.

"An Official's Promotion – a newly adapted Cantonese Opera"

Adaptation: Loong Koon-tin, Chan Hung-chun, Lai Yiu-wai

7.30pm, January 26 (Tuesday)

Auditorium, Ko Shan Theatre New Wing

Tickets: \$140, \$240 and \$340

2.15pm, January 31 (Sunday)

Auditorium, Yuen Long Theatre

Tickets: \$140, \$220 and \$340

Cast: Loong Koon-tin, Cheng Wing-mui, Chan Hung-chun, Lui Hung-kwong, Yat Dim-hung, Fu Shu-wang, Wang Kit-ching, Vong Seng-pan, Siu Wing-ye

Adapted from the Ping opera and Fujian opera work "The Demotion", the story of "An Official's Promotion" sees Bian Yixiao get demoted by the newly appointed Inspector of Three Provinces, Cui Yunlong, due to Bian's marriage to a courtesan, Zhang Xiuyu. When Bian has a case to investigate, he disguises himself as a fortune teller and goes to a teahouse to gather clues. There he meets Cui, who is also undercover as a doctor. The two become friends, and Bian takes Cui home to stay. Later, Bian lets Cui take his place in presiding at court and Cui deliberately frees a prime suspect. Bian, angry at the misjudgement, sends Cui to jail. His wife also takes Cui to task for not exercising justice. At this point, Cui is finally convinced that Bian and Zhang are a couple of upright principles and feels guilty for demoting Bian.

The performances by the Hung Ka Po Cantonese Opera Troupe are presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Tickets are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7325 or visit

www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/chinese_opera/programs_948.html. Ticket holders of "An Official's Promotion – a newly adapted Cantonese Opera" originally scheduled for March 8 (Sunday) at the Auditorium of the Yuen Long Theatre can keep the original tickets intact (with stubs) to attend the rescheduled performance on January 31.

A pre-performance talk and a post-performance talk in Cantonese will be held. The pre-performance talk will be held at 7.30pm tomorrow (November 17) at AC2, 4/F, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, and the post-performance talk at 2.30pm on March 7, 2021 (Sunday) at Function Room, 4/F, Ko Shan Theatre New Wing. Speakers will include Loong Koon-tin, Cheng Wing-mui and Chan Hung-chun. Admission is free. Telephone registration is required and can be made by calling 2268 7267 after 10am. Limited seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Details can be found on the above website.