

LCSD to present "A Showcase of Cantonese Opera for a Heart Warming Holiday Season" by Yin Sang Fai Cantonese Opera Troupe

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will present the programme "A Showcase of Cantonese Opera for a Heart Warming Holiday Season" in December, and in January next year, featuring four comic Cantonese operas, namely "The Dunce Attends a Birthday Party", "The Lioness Roars", "The Daughter of the Horse Trader" and "Three Glimpses of the Princess", staged by the Yin Sang Fai Cantonese Opera Troupe to bring warm and joyful performances to audiences during winter season.

Details of the programme are as follows:

"The Dunce Attends a Birthday Party"

Date and time: December 3 (Friday), 7.30pm

Venue: Theatre, Ko Shan Theatre

Cast: Yuen Siu-fai, Wan Fai-yin, Chan Hung-chun, Liu Kwok-sum, Wan Yuk-yu, Chan ka-ming, Kwok Chun-sing and Siu Wing-yee

Synopsis: The ageing Dai is in poor health. His eldest and second daughters, together with their husbands, intend to seize the old man's wealth and contrive to marry their youngest sister to Amao, who has become doltish after an illness. Old Dai decides to distribute his estate by testing the scholarship of his three sons-in-law. With his intelligence recovered accidentally, Amao manages to see that justice is done for his wife. Adapted from Leung Sing-por's signature film of the same title by Yuen Siu-fai, "The Dunce Attends a Birthday Party" will make audiences laugh and cry with its touching and at times funny storyline.

"The Lioness Roars"

Date and time: December 28 (Tuesday), 7.30pm

Venue: Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall

Cast: Yuen Siu-fai, Wan Fai-yin, Chan Hung-chun, Liu Kwok-sum, Ho Wai-ling, Chan ka-ming, Kwok Chun-sing and Siu Wing-yee

Synopsis: Chen Jichang has a wife, Liu Yu'e, who is exceptionally jealous in nature. Jichang meets Qincao, cousin of scholar Su Dongpo, when taking a stroll in the snow on Nanshan. He is totally captivated by Qincao and they quickly fall in love. Yu'e finds out and is livid. She beats Jichang and makes him kneel as punishment. Jichang seeks an audience with the emperor at the palace to obtain his ruling. The emperor decides to stand up for Jichang and orders Yu'e to let Jichang take Qincao as his concubine. This repertory portrays the philandering yet henpecked side of men.

"The Daughter of the Horse Trader"

Date and time: January 4, 2022 (Tuesday), 7.30pm

Venue: Auditorium, Kwai Tsing Theatre

Cast: Yuen Siu-fai, Wan Fai-yin, Chan Hung-chun, Wan Yuk-yu, Chan ka-ming, Lai Yiu-wai, Kwok Chun-sing and Siu Wing-yee

Synopsis: Li Guizhi and her brother Baotong run away from home separately to escape from being abused by their stepmother, Yang Sanchun, and her adulterous accomplice Tian Wang. Guizhi's father Li Qi returns after his business trip to trade horses and starts asking about the missing children. Sanchun seizes the opportunity to frame Qi for an attempted rape and murder of the maidservant. Guizhi marries county magistrate Zhao Chong and discovers that her father has been wrongfully imprisoned. Guizhi asks Chong to petition an appeal to the inspector. It turns out that the inspector is none other than her brother Baotong. Eventually, the adulterous pair are brought to justice. "The Daughter of the Horse Trader" is one of the signature plays of Yuen Siu-fai and Wan Fai-yin, and their performance shows exceptional chemistry.

"Three Glimpses of the Princess"

Date and time: January 5, 2022 (Wednesday), 7.30pm

Venue: Auditorium, Kwai Tsing Theatre

Cast: Yuen Siu-fai, Wan Fai-yin, Chan Hung-chun, Wan Yuk-yu, Chan ka-ming, Lai Yiu-wai, Kwok Chun-sing and Siu Wing-yee

Synopsis: Lady General Liu Jinding is granted the status of imperial princess by the emperor in recognition of her meritorious efforts in suppressing pirates. Jinding is going to offer thanksgiving prayers in a temple. Feng Jiajin, a minister's son, sneaks into the temple to catch a glimpse of the princess. Their love sparks. Jinding becomes lovesick and nobody but Jiajin can cure her. Jiajin disguises himself as a doctor to see her again. When they meet again, they make a pledge to each other. However, Jinding's father strongly opposes the marriage. This repertory is adapted from Josephine Siu's film "Liu Jinding – the Female General" and is staged by Yuen Siu-fai.

"A Showcase of Cantonese Opera for a Heart Warming Holiday Season" is performed by the Yin Sang Fai Cantonese Opera Troupe. Tickets priced at \$140, \$220, \$300 and \$380 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_1217.html.

A pre-performance talk in Cantonese will be held at 7.30pm on November 23 (Tuesday) at AC2, 4/F, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Speakers include Yuen Siu-fai and Ko Yun-kuen, and the moderator will be Barbara Tang. Admission is free. Telephone registration is required and please call 2268 7267 from 10am on November 16 (Tuesday). Limited seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For details, please refer to the above website.

All persons will be required to use the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application to scan the venue QR code before they are allowed to enter LCSD offices and venues except for exempted persons who are aged below 12 or aged 65 or above and those with disabilities that render use of the app difficult.

Exemptions will also be granted to individual persons depending on the actual circumstances. All exempted persons are required to complete a record form to register their personal particulars and the date and time of their visits. As it will take time to verify personal particulars of exempted persons under the new arrangement, their waiting time for using public services or entering the relevant venues may be lengthened. The LCSD suggests members of the public to arrive early and appeals for their understanding. The department also encourages the exempted persons to use the app as far as possible to save time.