

Margaret Lau to hold "Best Loved Pas de Deux" lecture series on appreciating ballet

Local ballet educator Margaret Lau will host a new chapter of the popular lecture series on ballet appreciation in August and September.

Following the theme "Best Loved Pas de Deux", Lau will select and discuss more than 20 signature pas de deux performed by lead male and female dancers of full-length ballets and dance works in the history of the genre for this series of eight lectures.

All of the lectures, to be conducted in Cantonese and supplemented with video clips of repertoire, will be held at 7.30pm at AC2, Level 4, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Details are as follows:

August 5 (Thursday)

Topic: "Swan Lake", "The Nutcracker" and "The Flames of Paris"

Video clips: Mariinsky Ballet (Russia), Bolshoi Ballet (Russia), Mikhailovsky Ballet (Russia), Staatsballett Berlin (Germany), The Royal Ballet (United Kingdom), Korean National Ballet (Korea), Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo (Monaco) and New York City Ballet (United States)

August 19 (Thursday)

Topic: "The Sleeping Beauty", "Giselle", "Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux" and "After the Rain Pas de Deux"

Video clips: Paris Opera Ballet (France), San Francisco Ballet (United States), Bolshoi Ballet, The Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet and more

August 26 (Thursday)

Topic: "Coppélia", "Afternoon of a Faun" and "Rubies" and "Diamonds" from "Jewels"

Video clips: The Royal Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, New York City Ballet, Mariinsky Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet and more

September 2 (Thursday)

Topic: "Onegin", "The Taming of the Shrew" and "Boléro"

Video clips: Stuttgart Ballet (Germany), the National Ballet of China (China), Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, Bolshoi Ballet and more

September 9 (Thursday)

Topic: "In the Night", "Le Grand Pas de Deux", "Spartacus" and "Carmen"

Video clips: Paris Opera Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet, Mariinsky Ballet, National Ballet of China, Stuttgart Ballet and more

September 16 (Thursday)

Topic: "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Dream" and "Winter Dreams"

Video clips: Teatro alla Scala Ballet (Italy), The Royal Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada (Canada), American Ballet Theatre (United States) and more

September 23 (Thursday)

Topic: "The Little Mermaid", "Sylvia", "Beethoven Project" and "What Love Tells Me" from "Third Symphony of Gustav Mahler"

Video clips: The Hamburg Ballet (Germany), Paris Opera Ballet and San Francisco Ballet

September 30 (Thursday)

Topic: "Hobson's Choice", "Manon" and "La Fille mal gardée"

Video clips: Birmingham Royal Ballet (United Kingdom), Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet and more

Lau is a seasoned dance critic on the subject of ballet in Hong Kong. Her published works include "Twinkle Twinkle Dance Stars" and "Chinese Ballet Sketches". Lau has a passion for ballet and travels extensively to attend and cover dance performances. Her experience and knowledge undoubtedly enhance audiences' understanding for appreciation of ballet performances.

The "Best Loved Pas de Deux" lecture series on appreciating ballet is presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Tickets priced at \$50 (for each lecture, with free seating) are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/dance/programs_1161.html.