

Press Release
Immediate Release (5 pages in total)

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Dance Poem
Shan Shui : An Ode To Nature
A Waltz of Nature's Timeless Charm



The premiere of ***Shan Shui: An Ode to Nature*** will raise the curtain on Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDC)'s 40th anniversary celebrations this year. A new work directed and choreographed by Yang Yuntao, Artistic Director of HKDC, the dance poem will be staged from 21 to 23 May 2021 at the Grand Theatre of Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

Shan Shui (landscape) paintings are an important vehicle for art and philosophy in traditional Chinese culture. Through depicting the external environment, artists give expression to the internal human world, revealing the relationship between man and nature.

Sense the power of nature through the body

Hong Kong Dance Company's Artistic Director draws on the image of nature under the brush, painting an inner world beyond the confines of time or space through dance. The dancers' bodies become the brush's dots, dashes and vigorous strokes; they are the artist's eye for rhyme, rhythm and internal beauty.

Sense the power of nature through the body, take in worldly beauty and meditate on the origins of life. Pass through mountains and over waters, and with a full heart, let the limits of the self and the physical world dissolve.

A-list creative team

An A-list creative team is assembled to build a timeless space on stage replete with poetic imagery. They include award-winning set and costume designer **Tsang Man-tung** and lighting designer **Gabriel Fung**, acclaimed film and theatre music composer and Nada Yoga sound therapist **Paul Yip**, and notable digital image designer **Oliver Shing**.

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Abstract (app. 140 words)

The premiere of *Shan Shui: An Ode to Nature* will raise the curtain on Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDC)'s 40th anniversary celebrations this year. This dance poem is the latest brainchild by Yang Yuntao, Artistic Director of HKDC, who draws on the image of nature under the brush, painting an inner world beyond the confines of time or space through dance. An A-list creative team is assembled to build a timeless space on stage replete with poetic imagery. The dancers' bodies become the brush's dots, dashes and vigorous strokes; they are the artist's eye for rhyme, rhythm and internal beauty.

The audience will be mesmerized by sensing the power of nature through the dancers' bodies. Pass through mountains and over waters, and with a full heart, let the limits of the self and the physical world dissolve.

21-23.5.2021 (Fri to Sun) Grand Theatre of Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Friday 、 Saturday 7:45pm \$480 、 \$380 、 \$280 、 \$180 、 \$80

Saturday 、 Sunday 3:00pm \$440 、 \$340 、 \$240 、 \$140 、 \$80

Tickets available now at URBITIX | URBITIX internet ticketing : www.urbtix.hk

Ticketing Enquiries : 3761 6661 | Programme Enquiries : 3103 1842 | www.hkdance.com

Programme Plus

Culture Talk I: Experiencing Shanshui Paintings with Dance Poetry

Guest speakers: Mr Tang HingSun, Curator(Art)Chih Lo Lou of Hong Kong Museum of Art, Mr Yang Yuntao, Artistic Director of Hong Kong Dance Company

Date & Time: 1 May 2021 (Sat) 3:00pm - 4:30pm / Venue : Studio 1, 8/F, Hong Kong Dance Company

Culture Talk II: In Search of Shanshui – A Dialogue Between Dance and Visual

Guest speakers: Mr Yeung Chun Tong, Director of Sun Museum 、 Mr Yang Yuntao, Artistic Director of Hong Kong Dance Company

Date & Time: 8 May 2021 (Sat) 3:00pm-5:00pm / Venue : Sun Museum

Pre-performance Exhibition

Date: 3-20 May 2021 / Venue: Foyer, Hong Kog Cultural Centre

After Show Session

Meet the Artists

23 May 2021 (Sun) To be held after the Matinee performance. For ticket holders of this performance only.

Performance information

The grand original dance poem <i>Shan Shui: An Ode to Nature</i>	
Date and Time	21-22 May 2021 (Fri - Sat) 7:45pm 22-23 May 2021 (Sat - Sun) 3:00pm
Venue	Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
Ticket Price	Evening performances on Fri and Sat \$480 \$380 \$280 \$180 \$80 Matinee performances on Sat and Sun \$440 \$340 \$240 \$140 \$80 Tickets available now at URBTIX Full-time students, Senior Citizens aged 60 or above (50% off, with quota) People with Disabilities & the Minder/Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Recipients (50% off)
Internet ticketing	www.urbtix.hk
App	My URBTIX
Telephone Credit Card booking	2111 5999
Ticketing Enquiries	3761 6661
Programme Enquiries	3103 1842 hkdance@hkdance.com
Presenter's website	www.hkdance.com
Age Limit : 6 (Person below this age not admitted) HKDC reserves the right to change the programme and dancers without prior notice	

Creative Team

Director & Choreographer: Yang Yuntao
 Artistic Coordinator: Carolyn Yip
 Composer & Music Director: Paul Yip
 Set & Costume Designer: Tsang Man-tung
 Lighting Designer: Gabriel Fung
 Digital Image Designer: Oliver Shing
 Sound Designer: Anthony Yeung
 Live Music Performance: Wan Xing

Mr Yang Yuntao (Artistic Director of Hong Kong Dance Company)

Winner of two Hong Kong Dance Awards in 2003 and 2006 for his outstanding dance performance, and awarded Best Artist (Dance) at the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2009, Yang Yuntao is an accomplished dancer and choreographer. He joined the Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDC) in 2002 as Principal Dancer. He was the company's Assistant Artistic Director from 2007 and has been its Artistic Director since November 2013.

Yang has choreographed for various dance companies. His award-winning choreography credits for HKDC include: *Spring Ritual · Eulogy*, winner of Outstanding Achievement in Production at the 2013 Hong Kong Dance Awards and presented in Beijing and Taipei in 2013; *The Legend of Mulan*, winner of Outstanding Production and Outstanding Ensemble Performance at the 2014 Hong Kong Dance Awards and presented in New York and Sydney in 2015, London in 2017 and Minsk in 2019; *Storm Clouds*, winner of three awards at the 2015 Hong Kong Dance Awards; and *L'Amour Immortel*, winner of three awards at the 2016 Hong Kong Dance Awards and presented in Beijing, Guangzhou, Taipei, Shanghai and Hangzhou from 2017 to 2019. His other works for HKDC include *The Butterfly Lovers* (presented in Seoul in 2016), *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *Voices and Dances of the Distant Land*, *Blanc in Reveries of the Red Chamber*, *Chinese Hero: A Lone Exile*, *In the Beginning in Vipassana*, *Lady White of West Lake*, *Waiting Heart*, *Dance of Strings*, *A Tale of the Southern Sky* and *Convergence*, a culminating work created through a three-year interdisciplinary research study on Chinese dance and Chinese martial arts traditions.

Mr Tsang Man-tung (Set & Costume Designer)

Tsang Man-tung was a special research fellow at the Yale School of Drama in 2010/11. Renowned for his conceptual and minimalist style, his ritual theatre works include *The Heart Sutra* and Hong Kong Dance Company *Vipassana*.

Tsang has received numerous awards, including Best Set Design, Best Costume Design and Best Make-up and Image Design at the Hong Kong Drama Awards and Award for Best Artist (Theatre) (2007/08) at the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards. Tsang was a three-time winner at the Hong Kong Dance Award for Outstanding Set Design for Dance (2012, 2016 & 2017). In addition, he was among the awardees in the "Secretary for Home Affairs' Commendation Scheme" in 2015 for his contribution to the development of arts and culture. He received the Silver prize for Set Design at the World Stage Design 2017 for his work *Storm Clouds* this year.

An accomplished musician, Tsang is an expert on meditation through singing bowls, having performed many times around the world. Tsang has released his first album *The Seed of Sound* in 2018.



Hong Kong Dance Company

“Dancing across East and West, Moving to the Tempo of Hong Kong”

Mission Statement

We are nurtured in the cultural tradition of China, combining with the creativity of contemporary art, to impress the world with Chinese dance of Hong Kong character.

Established in 1981, the Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDC) was incorporated in 2001 as a charitable and non-profit-making institution, and is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. As one of the nine flagship performing arts companies in Hong Kong, our mission is to promote Chinese dance with contemporary artistic visions and Hong Kong character. Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, HKDC has staged over 200 productions over the decades, many of which were highly popular with critical acclaim. Recent productions include *The Legend of Mulan*, *Red Poppies*, *Spring Ritual-Eulogy*, *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Storm Clouds*, *L'Amour Immortel*, *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*, *Reveries of the Red Chamber*, *Chinese Hero: A Lone Exile*, *Vipassana*, *Lady White of West Lake*, *Tale of Three Cities*, *Waiting Heart*, *Liu Sanjie*, *Ode to the Silk Road*, *Dance of Strings*, *A Tale of the Southern Sky*, *Mazu the Sea Goddess*, *The Moon Opera*, as well as *Convergence*, a culminating work created through a three-year interdisciplinary research study on Chinese dance and Chinese martial arts traditions.

As a cultural ambassador of Hong Kong, HKDC constantly brings the city's unique artistic style to the world by touring to different cities across the globe, engaging local audiences and encouraging cultural exchange. In recent years, we have brought our award-winning productions to the Lincoln Center in New York, Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Sony Centre in Toronto, the Concourse Theatre in Chatswood, Sydney, the Southbank Centre in London and The Belarusian State Academic Musical Theatre in Minsk, among others.

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