



Annual General Meeting 2018

January to December 2018 Chairperson's Report

By Stella Lau

OPENING REMARKS

I am pleased to present the 2017/18 Annual Report of the Hong Kong Dance Alliance. In the past year, the Alliance continues to forge ahead as the primary support group for dance in Hong Kong, promoting development and facilitating communication among the local dance community. The Alliance completed a number of projects which I will report in the following paragraphs.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ADMINISTRATION

There are several changes of the executive committee in the past year:

First, I would like to express my condolence of losing our Executive Committee Member and Chair Emeritus Dr Thomas Townsend Brown, Jr. on 18 November 2018. An early member of the Dance Alliance, Tom has deeply committed to dance development in Hong Kong for the past 30 years. He was highly respected and esteemed by generations of dance artists, and his tremendous contributions to the Alliance and dance sector in Hong Kong were remarkable.

Besides, Dr. Pearl Chan and Prof. David Steele resigned from the Board in September 2018. Dr. Pearl Chan is a founding member of the Alliance. She dedicated her career to promoting dance education to general public. Prof. David Steele was the former Dean of Dance of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. He is well respected in dance education and arts administration management. I would like to express our gratitude towards their relentless support and contributions to the Alliance over the past years.

The Alliance's office presented a very passionate and vibrant team in the past year under the leadership of Cathy Lau, Administration and Project Manager. Ronnie Lam, who joined in 2016 contributed as the Assistant Editor of *dance journal/hk* under HKADC Arts Production Internship Scheme, while Thalia Wong, who joined in 2017 worked as the Arts Administration Trainee under HKADC Arts Administration Internship Scheme. Chloe Wong, who joined in 2017 continued as Project Assistant. I wish to thank all of them for their dedication and hard work to the Alliance.

GRANTS

We are currently at the Third year of the Three-Year-Grant (2016 - 2019) scheme under the HKADC. Projects over the year were supported by HKADC Project Grants, LCSD Venue and Ticketing Sponsorship, and HKADC Matching Fund. Two current staff are supported by the HKADC Arts Production Internship Scheme and Arts Administration Internship Scheme respectively. I offer my sincerest thanks to HKADC, LCSD and other donors for their vital funding, continuous guidance and support.

ACTIVITIES REPORT (JANUARY – DECEMBER 2018)

20th Hong Kong Dance Awards

The Hong Kong Dance Awards (the Awards) acknowledges outstanding achievements in Hong Kong Dance industry annually and raises public awareness of the diversity and excellence of local dance scene. The *20th Hong Kong Dance Awards* was presented with the generous sponsorship by LCSD and HKADC Project Grant, at Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium on 20 April 2018. The Ceremony and Gala Performance recorded 549 audience, and 37 performers.

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary, we invited Dr. Wilfred Wong Ying-wai, GBS, JP, Chairman of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council as Guest of Honor, and David Liu as the Artistic Director. The technical assistance was generously supported by the Hong Kong Ballet.

Awards nominations were collected from dance community, expert panels and the Alliance Executive Committee. The First Round of Voting was conducted by two expert panels. Chaired by Tom Brown and Natasha Rogai, the Production Panel included Anna Chan, Anna Cheng, Daisy Chu, Carlo Pacis, Cecil Sze, Pewan Chow, William Chan, Jacky Yu and Wong Hang Fai; while the Community Panel included Ronly Kong, Helen Ng, Tsang Kam-sing and Stella Lau, chaired by Allen Lam.

This year 14 awards were presented: Outstanding Choreography, Production, Performance, Design in dance, Education, and Services to dance. The newly-established Emerging Choreographer Award aims to encourage and draw attention to the works of up-and-coming cutting-edge choreographers.

Among the recipients were: KT Yau Ka-hei for Emerging Choreographer and Lai Tak-wai for Outstanding Choreography in *So Low* (Leisure and Cultural Services Department, 'Dance On' Series). Hong Kong Ballet's *Le Corsaire* was awarded the Outstanding Large Venue Production and Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer for Xia Jun as Lankendem. Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer went to Hua Chi-yu as Lady White in *Lady White of West Lake* (Hong Kong Dance Company). Outstanding Medium Venue Production went to CCDC's *Why Not Kill Us All...* The Distinguished Achievement Award was bestowed upon Anna CY Chan, for her innovations in ways to create, present, and sustain dance, and her work in education and promoting Hong Kong dance worldwide.

Under the artistic direction of David Liu, a dazzling gala performance showcased the diversity and high quality of dance in Hong Kong with performances from companies including City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong Ballet, Hong Kong Dance Company, the School of Dance Ensemble of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, K&B Dance Company, Rhythm & Tempo, and Studiodanz.

dance journal/hk (20-1 to 20-6) & the 20th Anniversary Special Feature

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the *dance journal/hk*, the editorial team has launched a series of special articles and videos for publications in 2018, with the support from donors and HKADC Matching Fund Scheme.

To begin with, an *Editor's Note* was published in issue 20-1. A feature on *dance journal/hk*'s establishment and writers in early years were published in issue 20-3 and 20-4 respectively. Issue 20-5 focused on the current local dance scene development, while 20-6 featured dance education in local primary and secondary schools. The features did not only document the past, but also shared the vision and plans in a forward-looking perspective.

dance journal/hk continues to play an important role in local print and online media as a platform for dance. The online platform www.dancejournalhk.com continued to cover wide-range of topics including performance previews/reviews and people interview, which are exclusive from the print *journal*.

There are six categories of the *journal*: News, Reviews, Feature Articles, People, Columns, and Events. Among these six categories, dance reviews remained the major focus of the *journal*. In the past year, the *journal* printed almost 60 pieces of dance reviews, majority of them were local dance productions. Cover stories were in-depth interviews with outstanding dance artists, educators and practitioners from various backgrounds: Daniel Yeung, Yang Yuntao, Septime Webre, KT Yau Ka Hei, Jennifer Mok, Gabbie Chan Hiu Ling, Joey Ho and Lina Lin.

In addition, to better archive the *journal* and local dance history, the team uploaded over 100 *dance journal/hk* issues from 1998-2018 to www.dancejournalhk.com. The new *Online Directory* listed out titles and contributors of all previous articles, and details of the past over 100 issues were also compiled and published. This documentation aims to offer readers and researchers a foothold into the *journal*'s history and dance development.

The editorial team strives to discuss trends and news of the current local dance development, and continues to facilitate discussions among artists, readers and critics.

New Force in Motion Series 2018

Presented by the LCSD, 'New Force in Motion' Series aims to offer a professional platform for young choreographers to showcase choreography, encourage development, and stimulate creativity through artistic mentoring and collaborative research. For the second year, the Alliance acted as the Producer to offer professional support to these artists.

Two local young choreographers, Gabbie Chan Hiu-ling and Jennifer Mok were selected by the LCS D Art Form Panel (Dance and Multi-Arts). Together they brought two new works in a double bill performance, namely ‘*New Force in Motion*’ Series: *Lördagsgodis* by Gabbie Chan and *Moha* by Jennifer Mok. Four performances were presented at Black Box Theatre, Kwai Tsing Theatre from 28 to 30 September.

Dancers auditions were held as early as in March for these two new works. Cyrus Hui and Chan Lok-hin were selected for Gabbie Chan’s work, while KT Yau Ka-hei, Pansy Lo and KaspY Ma were selected for Jennifer Mok’s work. Dick Wong was invited to be the Artistic Advisor of the production. Rehearsals started in May at venues generously sponsored by CCDC Dance Centre, HKAPA and LCS D.

Creative Space 2018: Residency for Mid-Career Choreographers

Creative Space 2018: Residency for Mid-Career Choreographers is a five-month residency program targeting local mid-career choreographers by providing arts administration and production support. The residency started in September 2018, followed by the ‘*Springboard Showcase*’ in January 2019 to perform their world premiere.

Open call for choreographers’ proposals was held in April, the proposals were reviewed by the Selection Panel including Yang Yuntao, Angela Hang, Daniel Yeung and Joanna Lee. Chen Kai and KT Yau Ka Hei were selected amongst 14 proposals.

A dancer audition for KT Yau Ka Hei’s piece was held in July. Among 40 applicants, Kingsan Lo, Chan Lok Hin and Tsang Wing Fai were selected. Rehearsals for Chen Kai’s solo dance started in August, while KT Yau Ka Hei started in October. The Residency will be followed by the production – Springboard Showcase 2019: ‘*Linear*’ by Chen Kai, ‘*I.I.P*’ by KT Yau Ka Hei. It will bring two public performances on 11-12 January 2019 at Ko Shan Theatre New Wing Auditorium.

DanceHub

DanceHub is a service provided by the Alliance with a combination of Consultancy Desk, Lecture/ Workshop Series and Dance Information & Exchange Centre. In the past year, we adopted a more active role in reaching out to potential beneficiaries.

We provided Proposal Writing and Consultancy Services to independent artists and local dance groups in applying funding schemes offered by HKADC, LCS D and HAB. Lecture/ Workshop Series had a wider coverage this year, including Dramaturgy and Dance workshop co-presented by West Kowloon Cultural District, Proposal Writing Talk in June by Joanna Lee, and four Law Seminars for Arts Practitioners in July, August and November.

The Alliance also sent representatives to attend international dance happenings. For instance, Cathy Lau joined the Hong Kong delegation to the *international Tanzmesse* in Dusseldorf, Germany in August to represent numerous local independent artists and promote Alliance’s works. Thalia Wong led delegates of the ‘*Unmixed*’ production to

participate in *Shanghai Dance Stages Festival* in September. The premiere of ‘*Unmixed*’, choreographed by KT Yau Ka Hei was produced by the Alliance in 2017. The delegates performed at the Magnolia Theatre, Shanghai. Ronnie Lam attended *Taiwan Dance Platform*’s Writing on Dance Project in November. She participated in the dance writing workshops and introduced the *dance journal/hk* to foreign delegates.

FUTURE EVENTS AND OTHER PROJECTS

- DanceHub Talk Series: *How to Write Dance?* by Arnd Wesemann (3 January 2019)
- Springboard Showcase 2019: ‘*Linear*’ by Chen Kai, ‘*I.I.I*’ by KT Yau Ka Hei (11-12 January 2019)
- 21st Hong Kong Dance Awards Presentation and Gala Performance (18 April 2019)
- ‘*New Force in Motion*’ Series (13-15 September 2019)
- World Dance Alliance Annual General Meeting & International Festival of Dance Academies (WDA AGM & IFDA, June 2020)

CONCLUSION

I am proud of what the Alliance has accomplished in the past year through the efforts of our supportive Executive Committee members and our administration team. We shall continue to strive to uphold the missions of the Alliance – to connect, promote and advocate dance in Hong Kong and Hong Kong dance worldwide.