

Press Release (3 pages only)

For immediate release



World Dance Alliance
Founding Member

Hong Kong Dance Alliance Leads Delegation to World Dance Alliance Global Summit in Canada

21 July 2017 – The Hong Kong Dance Alliance (HKDA), the official Hong Kong organization of the World Dance Alliance (WDA), will lead a delegation to attend the triennial WDA Global Summit held at Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada from 23 to 28 July 2017.

This year's Summit gathers WDA regional organizations from the Americas, Asia Pacific, and Europe to explore resistance and support of formations of power through dance under the theme of *Dancing from the Grassroots*. The summit includes roundtable discussions, parallel international conferences, masterclasses, performances, a choreographic lab, and digital dance concerts, that will provide delegates from Hong Kong and elsewhere rich creative experiences.

The Hong Kong delegation will present two productions during the Summit – *Babel 3.5* choreographed by Iris Lau and *Never Stop Blooming* by Judy Yiu. In addition, Hong Kong delegates Rex Cheng and Judy Yiu will conduct masterclasses in *Tai Chi Movement* and *Contemporary Dance with Gymnastics*. While attending the Summit, HKDA representatives will make use of the wide-range of networking opportunities to explore opportunities for collaborations and to promote dance in Hong Kong to international participants.

The delegation is financially supported by Hong Kong Arts Development Council. Post-Summit sharing sessions and masterclasses will be conducted by the HKDA in Hong Kong during August and September.

About Hong Kong Dance Alliance - Acting as a primary voice and support group for dance in Hong Kong and Hong Kong dance worldwide, Hong Kong Dance Alliance strives to promote the recognition, development, and mutual understanding of all forms of dance. The Hong Kong Dance Alliance is the official Hong Kong organization of the World Dance Alliance and is a grantee of Hong Kong Arts Development Council Three Year Grant.

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2017 World Dance Alliance Global Summit – Hong Kong Delegation

Yiu Kit-ki, Judy

Judy Yiu will conduct a Masterclass in *Contemporary Dance with Gymnastics*. The class will provide rigorous and demanding physical studio practices that emphasize upper body strength, flexibility, and balance. Yiu will also perform her autobiographical dance – *Never Stop Blooming* during the Summit. In her work, Yiu shares her journey and experiences during her studies in the United States of adapting to a new environment.

Yiu received a BFA(Hons) in Dance from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and an MFA in Dance from Hollins University, with a full scholarship from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund. Her thesis project *Place in Motion* was selected to be screened at the 34th International Festival of Films on Art, Montréal, Canada (2016), American Dance Festival's International Screendance Festival (2015), and Detroit Dance City Festival (2015).

Lau Wing-chi, Iris

Iris Lau will stage her production, *Babel 3.5* at the Global Summit. Inspired by the biblical story of the Tower of Babel, it examines the development and transformation of interpretation in spoken language and movement. It explores the nature of dance from creator, dancer, and audience perspectives. The 'laid bare' process reveals the interior lives of performers and tests audiences perception of performance.

Lau received a BFA(Hons) in Dance from Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and an MFA from Simon Fraser University. She has performed in professional dance and theatre communities in Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Canada, and Paris and currently focuses on dance theatre, is a movement collaborator and dramaturg for theatre productions.

Rex Cheng

Rex Cheng was selected by the WDA to give a Masterclass in Tai Chi movement. The class focuses on the techniques of breathing and unique style that integrates flowing and movement of dancer's body, and interaction amongst dancers and surroundings. Cheng will introduce concepts of internal stillness and equanimity of mind and body in the masterclass.

Cheng received a BFA(Hons) in Dance from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, majoring in Chinese Dance. He started Tai Chi & Choy Li Fut training at 10 years of age, and was awarded the First Runner Up in Traditional Wushu (Choy Li Fut) in 2004 and Gold Metal in Traditional Tai Chi in 2016, by Hong Kong Wushu Union. His choreography includes: *Rehearsal, No.36, To Tear Up, To Gear Down, Bingo?!, On/Off?, and The Butcher*.



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2017 World Dance Alliance Global Summit - Schedule

Date: 23-28 July 2017

Venue: School of Music, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

25 Jul (Tue) 11:00am - 12:30pm @ Suncor Recital Hall

Workshop: Liberation from Perfect Body: Improvisation, Modern Dance, and
Gymnastics

Instructor: Judy Yiu

27 Jul (Thur) 3:30pm – 5:00pm @ Cook Recital Hall

Performance: *Never Stop Blooming*

Choreographer and Dancer: Judy Yiu

Percussionist: Alvin Chan

27 Jul (Thur) 8:00pm - 9:30pm @ LSPU Hall

Performance: *Babel 3.5*

Choreographer: Iris Lau

Performers: Iris Lau and Manuela Sosa

28 Jul (Fri) 11:00am – 12:30pm @ Suncor Recital Hall

Workshop: Exploring the Benefits of Tai Chi Movement to Health & Well-being

Instructor: Rex Cheng

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