

Press Release (2 pages)

For immediate release

21st Hong Kong Dance Awards - Shortlist Announced Dr Tom Brown to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award

28 February 2019 - Hong Kong Dance Alliance (HKDA) is pleased to announce the shortlisted nominations for the **21st Hong Kong Dance Awards**, and the presentation of the **Lifetime Achievement Award** to the late Dr Tom Brown. The awards will be presented at the **21st Hong Kong Dance Awards Presentation & Gala Performance**, to be held on **18 April 2019 (Thursday), 8pm at Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium.**

Since 1999, the **Hong Kong Dance Awards** have celebrated outstanding achievements in the local dance field and recognized artists and organizations for their contribution to the development of dance in Hong Kong. Those honoured in the past include companies such as City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong Ballet, Hong Kong Dance Company, Unlock Dancing Plaza and Passoverdance; choreographers such as Helen Lai, Mui Cheuk-yin and Yuri Ng; and recipients of the 'Distinguished Achievement Award' such as Lau Siu-ming, Willy Tsao and Jean M. Wong.

Shortlist Announcement

This year, 41 outstanding nominees have been shortlisted under 13 award categories (please see full list attached). The shortlists were determined by a ballot of expert panelists held after reviewing all the nominations received this year. A final ballot will be conducted in March to decide the Awards with an expanded jury including all members of the HKDA Executive Committee. Award recipients will be announced during the **21st Hong Kong Dance Awards Presentation & Gala Performance**. (For the list of expert panelists together with all rules and procedures of the shortlisting and final ballot process please see our website <http://www.hkdanceall.org>)

Dr Tom Brown (1948 – 2018) – Recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award

This year the Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to honour the late Dr Tom Brown, whose untimely passing last November at the age of 70 was a huge loss to the Hong Kong dance community. From his arrival in Hong Kong in 1985 until his death, Dr Brown was a tireless pioneer of local dance development as teacher, mentor, scholar and artist. Among many achievements during his 30 years at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts he was Head of Modern Dance, Associate Dean of Dance and the first Dean of Graduate Education, roles in which he played a crucial part in nurturing local choreographers and dancers. He was one of the earliest members of the Hong Kong Dance Alliance, of which he was Emeritus Chair and which he served as an Executive Committee member until his death. He was the long-standing editor of *dance journal/hk*

and steering person for the Dance Awards, both of which celebrate their 21st anniversaries this year. In 2007 he received the Home Affairs Bureau Certificate of Commendation for his outstanding contribution to the development of arts and cultural activities in Hong Kong, in 2015 the Distinguished Achievement Award at the Hong Kong Dance Awards and in 2017 a Doctorate in Dance *Honoris Causa* from the HKAPA.

Tom Brown Emerging Choreographer Award

In memory of the immense contribution made by Dr Tom Brown in nurturing several generations of Hong Kong's finest choreographers, the ***Emerging Choreographer Award*** which recognizes outstanding up and coming choreographic talents has been renamed in his honour as the ***Tom Brown Emerging Choreographer Award***.

Hong Kong Dance Awards Presentation & Gala

This year, HKDA welcomes Anh Ngoc Nguyen as the Artistic Director for the ***Awards Gala***. Born in Vietnam, Nguyen studied at the HK Academy for Performing Arts and returned to Hong Kong after developing his career in Vietnam and the UK. One of Hong Kong's leading choreographers, he received the Dance Award for Outstanding Choreography in 2015 and is now a Lecturer in Dance at the Academy.

Generously sponsored by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the ***Gala*** gives dance lovers a unique opportunity to enjoy performances by a wide range of leading local dance artists in one sparkling evening which showcases the diversity and excellence of dance in Hong Kong. Among groups performing will be the Hong Kong Ballet, Hong Kong Dance Company, City Contemporary Dance Company and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

Tickets for the **21st Hong Kong Dance Awards** will be available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk) from 18 March.

For more information about the ***Awards***, please visit: www.hkdanceall.org.

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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 recognition, development, and mutual understanding of all forms of dance. The Alliance is the official Hong Kong organization of World Dance Alliance and a grantee of Hong Kong Arts Development Council Three Year Grant.