



## **Annual General Meeting 2019**

### **January to December 2019 Chairperson's Report**

#### **By Stella Lau**

#### **OPENING REMARKS**

I am pleased to present my last annual report as Chair of the Alliance since I took up the position in December 2014.

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 was a change of the executive committee in the past year:

Allen Lam Wai Yuen re-joined the board as executive committee member in June 2019. Allen has been dedicated to lead the Community Panel of Dance Awards for many years before re-joining the board and will continue in 2020. I would like to express our gratitude towards his support to the Alliance.

The Alliance's office had gone through a major change in 2019. Currently we have a new and vibrant team to serve the dance community: Charlotte Wong joined as the new Editorial Trainee of *dance journal/hk* in May under HKADC Arts Production Internship Scheme; Administration and Project Manager Sophie Lau and Art Administration Trainee Atti Au under HKADC Arts Administration Internship Scheme joined in August. I wish to thank the former Alliance team, Ronnie Lam, Chloe Wong and Thalia Wong for their dedication and hard work during the time with us. My sincere thanks to Cathy Lau, the former executive manager for her leadership and contribution to the Alliance for the past four years.

#### **GRANTS**

We are currently at the First year of the Three-Year-Grant (2019 - 2022) scheme under the HKADC. Projects over the year were supported by HKADC Project Grants, LCSD

Venue and Ticketing Sponsorship. 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 2019)**

### **Springboard Showcase 2019**

Springboard Showcase 2019: ‘*Linear*’ by Chen Kai, ‘*III*’ by KT Yau Ka Hei was presented after the five-month residency of Creative Space 2018: Residency for Mid-Career Choreographers started in September 2018. CCDC Dance Centre was the venue partner of the residency. As the presenter, the Alliance provided the selected choreographers administration, production and artistic support. Two public performances were presented on 11-12 January 2019 at Ko Shan Theatre New Wing Auditorium. The performance venue was generously sponsored by LCSD.

### **21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> *Hong Kong Dance Awards* was presented with the generous sponsorship by LCSD and HKADC Project Grant, at Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium on 18 April 2019. The Ceremony and Gala Performance recorded 401 audience, and 51 performers.

We invited Mrs. Cherry Tse Ling Kit-ching, JP, Permanent Secretary of the Home Affairs Bureau as Guest of Honor, and Anh Ngoc Nguyen as the Artistic Director. The technical assistance was kindly supported by the Hong Kong Dance Company.

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 Shirley Loong and Natasha Rogai, the Production Panel included William Chan, Anna Cheng, Gillian Choa, Pewan Chow, Daisy Chu, Maurice Lai, David Liu, Carlo Pacis, Wong Hang Fai, Wu Fei-fei, Jacky Yu and Anna Chan; while the Community Panel composed of Ronly Kong, Tsang Kam-sing and Stella Lau, chaired by Allen Lam.

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

Among the recipients were: Hugh Cho for Tom Brown Emerging Choreographer and Yuri Ng for Outstanding Choreography in *Requiem HK* (City Contemporary Dance Company). *Requiem HK* was also awarded the Outstanding Large Venue Production. Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer went to Shen Jie as Albrecht in *Giselle* (Hong Kong Ballet). Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer went to Chen Zhiyao as Alice in *ALICE in Wonderland* (Hong Kong Ballet). Outstanding Medium Venue Production went to Hong Kong Dance Company’s *Waiting Heart*. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to honor the late Dr. Tom Brown, in recognition of

his immeasurable contribution to the development of dance in Hong Kong for the past thirty years.

Under the artistic direction of Anh Ngoc Nguyen, a dazzling gala performance showcased the diversity and high quality of dance works in Hong Kong with performances from companies including City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong Ballet, Hong Kong Dance Company and the School of Dance Ensemble of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Anna CY Chan, Master of Ceremony of the event, also led other guest dancers for a performance titled *Moment* which was a tribute to late Dr. Tom Brown.

### **dance journal/hk (21-1 to 21-6)**

*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](http://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 more than 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: Dick Wong, Chang Xiao Ni, Wen Hui, Mui Cheuk Yin, Yuri Ng, Daniel Yeung & Dick Wong (Yin, Yu Chun and Fai), Yoann Bourgeois and Chou Shu Yi.

With the passing of our former chief editor Dr. Tom Brown, veteran Hong Kong art critic William Chan joins the team as editor. Focus groups led by Chan were held in October and November 2019. Dance sector fellows, art administrators, art critics and dance lovers were invited for in-depth discussion on the positioning, content and design revamp of the journal for coming Issue 22. The editorial team strives to discuss trends and disperse news of the current local dance development, and continues to facilitate discussions among artists, readers and critics.

### **New Force in Motion Series 2019**

Presented by the LCSO, '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 third year, the Alliance acted as the Producer to offer production/administration/artistic support to these emerging dance-makers.

Three local young choreographers, Joseph Lee, Terry Tsang and Tsang Wing Fai were selected by the LCSO Art Form Panel (Dance and Multi-Arts). Together they brought three new works in a triple bill performance, namely 'New Force in Motion' Series: *Drifting* by Joseph Lee, *Mo Ngan Tai* by Terry Tsang and *Infiltrated* by Tsang Wing Fai. Four performances were presented at Black Box Theatre, Kwai Tsing Theatre from 15 to 17 September.

Dancers auditions were held as early as in December for Joseph Lee's and in the end of January for Terry Tsang and Tsang Wing Fai's new works respectively. Holmes Cheung was selected for Joseph Lee's work; Jessica Ho, Poon Chun Ho, Pak Wei Ming, Sabrina

Wong were selected for Terry Tsang's work; and Blue Ka Wing, Cheung Tsz Kwan, Helen Ko and Carman Li were selected for Tsang Wing Fai's work. Dick Wong was invited to be the Artistic Advisor of the production. Rehearsals started in January at venues generously sponsored by CCDC Dance Centre and LCSD.

## **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, LCSD and HAB. Also, the Alliance continues to lead her roles to cultivate dance critics. Lecture Series: *How to Write Dance?* By Arnd Wesemann was held in January, supported by Goethe-Institut Hong Kong and partnered with International Association of Theatre Critics (IATC) Hong Kong for promotion.

The Alliance also sent representatives to attend international dance happenings. For instance, Choreographers Pak Wai Ming and Ho Ming Yan, and local performers including Chan Chun Wai, Lo King San, Lo Pan Chi Pansy, Ma Sze Nga, and Wing To Yu represented the Alliance to attend the **Ocean Dance Festival of Bangladesh 2019**. Pak's performance of the work *Toilet Pump* took place at the Festival on 25 November, while Ho's performance of the work "*Mammalistic*": *What Make us Human?* was presented on 24 November. Pak also participated in the pre-event Chore Lab as the representative of the Alliance on 7-21 November.

The Alliance also provided administration support to local choreographer Terry Tsang for an audition in October to recruit performers/collaborators for developing his dance work in the future.

A dance sector gathering was also organized in December at CCDC Dance Centre for the council member elect of HKADC Daniel Yeung to meet stakeholders of dance sector. They included representatives from CCDC, Hong Kong Ballet, Hong Kong Dance Federation, R & T, E-side Dance Company, DanceArt HK and independent artists.

## **A Dance Journey - Hong Kong Dance Alliance Fellowship**

Hong Kong Dance Alliance Fellowship started the call for application from local choreographers in December until 31 January 2020. It aims to match new choreographic talents with senior dance practitioners as their mentor to provide guidance and advice in artistic development, in-kind publicity, brand building and administration support to projects which these selected artists are planning to engage in. This fellowship allows them to clarify their goal, vision, hone their skills and obtain in-depth knowledge to advance their careers and broaden their artistic development.

Selection and first review meeting of the fellowship will be held in early February. It will run until the end of June 2020.

## **FUTURE EVENTS AND OTHER PROJECTS**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong Dance Awards Presentation and Gala Performance (17 April 2020)
- A Dance Journey - Hong Kong Dance Alliance Fellowship (February to June 2020)
- ‘*New Force in Motion*’ Series (25-27 September 2020)
- World Dance Alliance Annual General Meeting & International Festival of Dance Academies (WDA AGM & IFDA, postponed to June 2021)

## **CONCLUSION**

It has been an honour to serve as the Chair of the Alliance for the past five years. I am proud of what we have accomplished together all these times. I trust members of the Executive committee and the Alliance Admin team will continue to strive to uphold the missions of the Alliance – to connect, promote and advocate dance in Hong Kong and Hong Kong dance worldwide.