

Hong Kong Dance Alliance Limited Annual General Meeting 2020

Chairperson's Report for January to December 2020
By Shirley Loong

OPENING REMARKS

I would like to thank you for joining our Annual General Meeting this evening. I am honored to present my 1st annual report as Chair of the Alliance since I took up the position in December last year.

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. HK Dance Awards, Dance Journals, rehearsals and production of *New Force in Motion* and many activities were disrupted throughout the year. Nonetheless, the Alliance managed to complete a number of projects for which I will report in the following paragraphs.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ADMINISTRATION

There were some changes to the Executive Committee in the past year:

Sylvia Wu resigned in January and Natasha Rogai resigned in June from the Executive Committee after serving the Board for three years and twelve years respectively. Paul Tam had resigned as Treasurer and from the Executive Committee in March. I would like to express our gratitude for their enormous contributions and support for the past years. Meanwhile, we welcomed Heidi Lee, then new Executive Director of HK Ballet to join us from March.

The Alliance's office had gone through a major change as well in 2020. We currently have a new and lively team to serve the dance community: Assistant Project Manager Ho Kai San and the Editorial Trainee of *dance journal/hk* Carol Lau under HKADC Arts Production Internship Scheme joined in October; Tobie Chan joined as Administration and Project Manager in November. I wish to thank the former Alliance team, Yvonne Yau, Charlotte Wong and Sophie Lau for their dedication and effort during their time with us.

GRANTS

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

Project Grants, and LCSD Venue and Ticketing Sponsorship. Two current staff members are supported by the HKADC Arts Production Internship Scheme and Arts Administration Internship Scheme as well. My sincerest thanks to HKADC, LCSD and all other donors for their vital funding and generous support. In addition, we appreciated to have received the one-off subsidy of Anti-epidemic Fund and the Support Scheme for Arts and Culture Sector Fund by the HK government.

ACTIVITIES REPORT (January – December 2020)

22ND Hong Kong Dance Awards

Due to resurgence in COVID 19 cases in April, tighter social distance restrictions were in place and LCSD venues were shut down, the Awards presentation ceremony had been changed to a one hour ten minutes online live-streaming event. It was broadcasted on the Alliance Facebook page and You-Tube channels on 18 July at 8pm, with a total number of 2,986 views while the accumulated views as of 15 September reached 19,362.

This trimmed down version did not affect the objectives of the HK Dance Awards, that is to acknowledge outstanding achievements of dance in Hong Kong dance industry annually and to raise public awareness of the diversity and excellence of local dance scene. I also would like to acknowledge and thank LCSD and HKADC for their tremendous support and sponsorship.

Awards nominations were collected from the dance community, expert panels and the Alliance Executive Committee. The first round of voting was conducted by two expert panels. Chaired by Natasha Rogai and myself, the Production Panel included William Chan, Anna Cheng, Gillian Choa, Daisy Chu, Maurice Lai, David Liu, Wong Hang Fei, Wu Fei-fei and Jacky Yu; while the Community Panel composed of Ronly Kong, Tsang Kam-sing and Stella Lau, was chaired by Allen Lam.

This year, 17 awards were presented in 15 categories, namely the Outstanding Choreography, Productions, Performances, Design in dance, Alternative space production, Dance education, Services to dance, the Tom Brown Emerging Choreographer Award and the Distinguished Achievement Award.

Among the recipients were: Alice Ma for Tom Brown Emerging Choreographer; Helen Lai for Outstanding Choreography in *Winterreise* (City Contemporary Dance Company); Ricky Hu and Yuh Egami were also awarded the Outstanding Choreography in *The Rite of Spring* (Hong Kong Ballet). Outstanding Large Venue Production went to CCDC's *Winterreise - The Rite of Spring*; Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer went to Luis Cabrera in

The Rite of Spring (HK Ballet) and Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer went to Qiao Yang in *Almost 55* (CCDC). Hong Kong Dance Company's 8/F Platform *Jing* and ArtisTree Selects: Moving Pieces – Hook Dance Theatre *Stay/Away* were awarded the Outstanding Small Venue Production. The Distinguished Achievement Award was presented to Daniel Yeung for his immense contribution to the development of dance in Hong Kong.

Special thanks must go to the Awards Artistic Director Dominic Wong for making the event possible under the pressure of various changes within a short period of time. I also would like to thank CCDC for their technical support, Ziv Chun for the live-streaming support, Patrick Ng for music composition as well as Irene Lo and Joe Wong for doing a wonderful job as emcee.

Dance Journal/hk (22-1 to 22-6)

dance journal/hk had undergone an extensive revamp after some focus groups had been carried out by our editor, William Chan. New sections are introduced including the Editorial, which aims to reach readers in a more intimate way to talk about the goals of *dance journal/hk*; Local New Works; Focus for having one particular theme for each issue; Observation that is to cover reviews of workshops, research projects and program reviews. Also, the new design with a stylish, minimalist layout has been adopted to group articles into sections for a better reading experience. Moreover, there are three brand-new columns: Dance curating in Asia, Dance travelogue and Dialogue on dance while the section of Reviews remains unchanged.

The on-line platform www.dancejournalhk.com continued to have an average of about 2,800 page views and 800 Facebook likes for *dance journal/hk* Facebook page.

However, the printing of *dance journal/hk* dropped from 4,000 to 1,100 eventually over the year due to the suspension in distribution at all LCSD performing venue, universities and HKAPA. We also suffer from a loss of advertising income as most of the advertisements were intended for performing arts events, which were unfortunately eventually cancelled. Despite these challenges, we hope that the readers enjoyed the revamped version of *dance journal/hk* this year and would appreciate all the hard work by our editorial team.

New Force in Motion Series 2020

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

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and collaborative research. This will be the last year for the Alliance to act as a producer to offer production/administration/artistic support to these emerging dance-makers and yet, we will be engaging in a new role to be the presenter in 2021.

This year, Chan Wai Lok, Sudhee Liao and Alice Ma were selected by the LCS Dance and Multi-Arts Panel. Together with their artistic advisors, Joanna Lee, Kevin Tsang and Ata Wong Chun Tat, they will bring three new works in a triple bill performance, namely *Click* by Chan Wai Lok, *Interconnectivity* by Sudhee Liao, and *I don't mean it* by Alice Ma. Four performances and one meet-the-artist-session have been re-scheduled from September to December, with new performance dates being 31 December to 2 January 2021 at the Black Box Theatre in Kwai Tsing Theatre.

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 tried to maintain communication with the dance community around the globe closely via zoom when face-to-face conferences or participation of international dance festivals are not possible because of the travel bans.

We had to cancel three lecture talks related to self-care for dancers, which were originally scheduled in February. Then in March, as a member of the HK Dance Sector Joint Conference, we organized a press conference together with the Association of Hongkong Dance Organizations, HK Ballet Group and HK Dance Federation on 17 March, at the Legislative Council. It was hosted by LegCo Functional Constituency Representative, Hon Ma Fung-kuok, SBS, JP. We announced the survey results on the loss of income in the dance education sector caused by the pandemic, and the government did respond promptly to some of our proposals.

In April, the Alliance held a zoom meeting initiated by Daniel Yeung, Dance Representative of HKADC, to discuss COVID-19 related issues such as the Anti-epidemic fund with dance organizations and independent artists. During the 3rd wave of the disease outbreak, the Alliance implemented a Dance Tutorial Video Testing Ground 1.0 and 2.0 in April and August, offering \$2000 for each project as a research fee to support dance teachers and freelance dancers while they provided on-line tutorials covering a wide diversity of dance genres and content. The Scheme was supported by HKADC direct subsidy from the Government's Anti-epidemic Fund and around 30 dance teachers benefitted from it.

In between August and September, the Alliance held two focus groups on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on dance programmes via Zoom, followed

by a comprehensive study of effects on local dance sector. A questionnaire was sent out to gather information related to income loss and productions being delayed or cancelled.

A Dance Journey – Hong Kong Dance Alliance Fellowship

It was sponsored by the HKADC in the form of an extra activity project grant, aiming 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 certain administration support.

The three fellows selected were Ho Ming Yan, who sought advice on budget control and program planning as producer; Kenny Leung, seeking advice on marketing strategy; and Francis John Chan, seeking connections in HK to do research on local dance scene.

A Dance Journey – Flashback

Also sponsored by the HKADC with the extra activity project grant, the project had been initiated by Tom Brown, intending to select 25-30 articles from early issues of *dance journal/hk* to be translated, digitalized and uploaded in bilingual versions to the website and Facebook page. The project was completed in June with about 4,000 Facebook likes and a total of over 600 article views.

FUTURE EVENTS AND OTHER PROJECTS

- Present ‘*New Force in Motion*’ Series (6-12 September 2021) at Kwai Tsing Black Box Theatre
- 23rd Hong Kong Dance Awards Presentation and Gala Performance (22 or 29 April 2022) at Kwai Tsing Theatre, Auditorium
- World Dance Alliance Global Summit & International Festival of Dance Academies (postponed to June 2022)
- *Dance journal/hk*
- Lecture series

CONCLUSION

This has been a tumultuous year brought by the Pandemic, I take pride of our administration team who demonstrated resilience and adaptability under the circumstance. Once again, I would like to thank the Executive Committee for your tremendous support over the year and we together, 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.

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