



**H O N G
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L I M I T E D**

香港舞蹈聯盟有限公司

World Dance Alliance
Founding Member

Hong Kong Dance Alliance Limited Annual General Meeting 2021

Chairperson's Report for January to December 2021
By Shirley Loong

OPENING REMARKS

Thank you for joining our Annual General Meeting this afternoon. It is my pleasure to present the 2020/21 Annual Report of the Hong Kong Dance Alliance.

Twenty months into the pandemic, we are still grappling with some of the same issues, and wondering when will we see the light at the end of the tunnel. In the past year, we continue to move forward, adapt and adjust, striving to promote dance and to give support to the dance community. To accomplish this, we had carried out a number of projects and events, which will be reported in the paragraphs to follow.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ADMINISTRATION

For the first time in many years, there was no change at all in the Executive Committee, I would like to thank our Committee members for giving me support like steel and always quick in response to my seek of advice from time to time.

On the contrary, keeping the Alliance office in a stable condition has remained to be a challenge. The resigned staffs were Claudia Law and Cecile Ng in the post of Editorial Trainees, Atti Au and Joanne Choy in the post of Arts Administration Trainees, Ho Kai San and Elaine Ngan in the post of Assistant Project Manager and Senior Project Officer respectively. I appreciated much of their hard work and effort to the Alliance; while giving round of applause to our Administration and Project Manager, Tobie Chan who has been on board for more than a year, holding onto the principle works and running of the office firmly for us. We hope that with a team of new members joining, Kristine Tse, our Fundraising Project Leader; Amy Lee, the contracted Project Coordinator; and Natalie Yeung, the Arts Administration Trainee will be able to bring the Alliance to another year of success.

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On 1 August 2021, the Executive Committee held a company retreat led by Louis Yu for a full day of discussion at the conference room of Hotel Stage. Our Committee members worked extremely hard to review the Alliance's vision, mission and objectives and we are pleased to announce that one of our initiatives would be a three-year plan to work towards the 30th Anniversary of the HK Dance Alliance in year 2024.

In September, the Alliance office was relocated from San Po Kong to Sheung Wan district. I would like to express my gratitude to our Founding member and Chair Emeritus, Willy Tsao for his generosity on sponsoring the working space in San Po Kong in the past few years. Sheung Wan office marks a new milestone for the Alliance as an independent unit to look after our office financially.

GRANTS

We are currently at the Third year of the Three-Year-Grant (2019-2022) scheme under the HKADC. Projects over the year were funded by LCSD and HKADC. Two current staff members are also supported by the HKADC Arts Production Internship Scheme and Arts Administration Internship Scheme. The Alliance would like to take this opportunity to thank Sky Sum from HKADC who had kindly guided us through all the process of the grant period and had given us support whenever needed.

ACTIVITIES REPORT (January – December 2021)

Dance Journal/hk (23-1 to 23-6)

Several changes occurred in the 23rd series of *dance journal/hk*. First of all, the articles under Focus section have been published in both Chinese and English in order to widen readership and sharpen the publication's competitive edge. While the column 'Dance Travelogue' had been put on hold given the reduced amount of travelling worldwide amidst the pandemic, two new columns were introduced – 'Choreo-Word-graphy' by Independent choreographer and dancer Ivy Tsui to share her unique viewpoints on dance productions; and 'Optimizing Dancers' Performance' as a collaboration with the HKAPA School of Dance to advocate and promote about the significance of dance science. 'Dialogue on Dance' and 'Dance Curating in Asia' continued to provide a platform for diverse voices and to display curation insights.

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More distribution points have been added for the printed publication, including Blank Space Studio, Beyond Bollywood, Beyond Dance Theater Book Punch and Dynamic Dawn, to name a few. The printing quantity of *dance journal/hk* increased from 2,600 to 3,500 copies from April due to the re-opening of performance venues.

The page views of the on-line journal - www.dancejournalhk.com had an encouraging increase of 100% from 2,800 to 5,600 on average and a 20% increase on Facebook likes from approximately 800 to 1,000 for *dance journal/hk* Facebook page.

Last but not least, my most sincere thanks to William Chan, our Dance Journal Editor, for his two years and three months of dedicated work and endeavor. He has decided to move on to a new level of challenge in his career development and I wish him all the best. In the mean time, I would like to welcome our new collaborator, the International Association of Theatre Critics (Hong Kong), IATC to give us support for the continuation of the Dance Journal.

Dance New Motion

Initiated following the cancellation of 'New Force in Motion Series 2020'. This project created an alternative showcase platform for Chan Wai Lok, Sudhee Liao and Alice Ma who lost the opportunity to stage their choreography in live performances in December 2020 at the Kwai Tsing Theatre because of the pandemic.

With the support of LCSD, video shooting of *POV* by Chan Wai Lok; *Interconnectivity* by Sudhee Liao; and *I don't mean it* by Alice Ma took place in April to June 2021. Their videos were published on the Alliance's YouTube channel from 25 June to 24 July 2021 for the public's viewing.

New Force in Motion Series 2021

For the first time ever, the Alliance has taken up the role of presenter for this series, with LCSD being the sponsor. It aimed to open up the opportunity to choreographers of more diverse dance genres including street dance, contemporary dance, ballet, Chinese dance and multi-art experimental forms.

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After a preliminary shortlist session, we have invited Angela Hang, Noel Pong and Ricky Hu to conduct online interviews with a pool of potential candidates. In the final round of selection, Dick Wong, Yang Yuntao and Xing Liang handpicked three choreographers through in-person interviews and they were Vivian Luk, Natalie Mak and Poon Chun Ho.

-ology by Vivian Luk; $\frac{1}{2}$ *TBC* by Natalie Mak; and *Before...* by Poon Chun Ho. Their Artistic Advisors were Rebecca Wong Mei Yuk, Ho Ying Fung and KT Yau. Tickets were all sold out for the four performances together one meet-the-artist session staged on 10 to 12 September 2021 at Black Box Theatre of Kwai Tsing Theatre, under 85% capacity regulation as a Covid-19 prevention measure.

DanceHub

DanceHub is a service provided by the Alliance with a combination of consultancy desk, lecture/workshop series and dance information & exchange centre.

This year, lecture series titled 'Practical Handbook for Dance Practitioners' were presented in May through to June. We have invited Dr. Francis Law on the topic: *Win-win resolution of disputes*; Mr. Freddie Si to give a talk on insurance: *Comprehensive protection & planning for your future*; and Mr. Alex Fan, our Honorary Legal Advisor for *Legal issues for online performances*. There were about fifty attendants participated in the 3 lecture talks.

On 7 May 2021, Daniel Yeung, Chairman of the Dance Art Form Group of HKADC, chaired a meeting with members of the dance sector to discuss long-term support plans and development. He also introduced the new HKADC grant category 'Research/Archiving/Critique/Publication in Dance'. There were over thirty people attended the event held at the Studio 1, CCDC Dance Centre in Wong Tai Sin.

23rd Hong Kong Dance Awards

Due to the various impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided that the Awards in 2021 would be merged with the edition of year 2022 to acknowledge outstanding achievements in the local dance industry for the period from January 2020 to December 2021. In order to reflect the ongoing trend of dance created for online viewing, a new category 'Outstanding Online Production' has been launched.

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The 23rd Hong Kong Dance Awards is scheduled on 16 April 2022 at the Auditorium, Kwai Tsing Theatre. The title theme is: Inheritance, we are honored to have Angela Hang to be the Artistic Director for the event.

World Dance Alliance Global Summit and International Festival of Dance Academies 2022

Co-presented with the HKAPA, the World Dance Alliance Global Summit and International Festival of Dance Academies was another postponed event from June 2021 to 22-25 June 2022, which will be held at the Amphitheatre, HKAPA, and online for global participation. Sessions will include paper presentation, book launch, dance film, and networking etc.

FUTURE EVENTS AND OTHER PROJECTS

- *dance journal/hk*
- 23rd Hong Kong Dance Awards (16 April 2022)
- World Dance Alliance Global Summit and International Festival of Dance Academies 2022 (22-25 June 2022)
- Present 'New Force in Motion' Series (tbc)
- Dance Hub: Lecture series

CONCLUSION

This has been another challenging year for us, for our dance community and our society. I am thankful to have a group of supportive Committee members by my side to offer timely assistance and advise to propel forward with the Alliance's work, I must not forget to thank all our working partners, whether they are freelancers or companies for their great effort as well as our sponsors including the HKADC and LCSD. I would also like to thank Tobie Chan for managing the entire office independently and in orderly.

The Alliance shall continue to strive to uphold our missions– to connect, promote and advocate dance in Hong Kong and Hong Kong dance worldwide. Thank you !

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