



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE HONG KONG DANCE AWARDS

Since its inception in 1999, the Hong Kong Dance Awards have become a celebrated annual event honoring achievements of the local dance community. Here are some FAQ about the Awards to help more readers understand the Awards' spirit and guiding principles.

What is the purpose of the awards?

The Hong Kong Dance Awards are 'industry awards' presented by the professional dance community in Hong Kong to honour outstanding achievement in, or services to, dance during the year and raise public awareness of the diversity and quality of dance in Hong Kong. They are organized by the Hong Kong Dance Alliance and presented at an annual Gala Performance and Award Presentation Ceremony.

Who can get an award? Do you have to be a member of the Hong Kong Dance Alliance to qualify?

All Hong Kong dance artists and practitioners are eligible for nomination, so are overseas artists who have contributed to Hong Kong dance productions. Nominees do not have to be members of the Hong Kong Dance Alliance. However, nominations must fit the specific categories and criteria for the awards and be submitted under the correct procedure in order to be considered.

How can people be nominated for awards?

Nominations can be made by

- any member of the Hong Kong Dance Alliance, be they Individual, Organizational, Student, or Life members, or part of a group that is an Organizational member, such as people who work for a dance company or dance school;
- any member of the Expert Panels;
- dance professionals working in Hong Kong in any discipline (dancers, choreographers, teachers, designers, administrators, critics etc).

Nominations submitted by only one nominator as well as nominations submitted by artists or groups for their own work must be seconded by at least one member of the Expert Panels in order to be considered.

What about the general public? Do they get any say in who gets the awards?

Like the Oscars, these are industry awards presented to dance practitioners by their professional peers, not people's choice awards, so members of the general public cannot submit nominations or vote. However, in order to take account of public opinion everyone is welcome to submit recommendations for nomination whether or not they are Alliance members. Recommendations are taken into consideration when the list of nominations is finalised at the end of the year.

Who decides who gets the awards and what is the process?

Each year, Expert Panels are appointed to shortlist nominees in particular categories for the coming year. Each panel includes at least one member of the Hong Kong Dance Alliance Executive Committee and at least one member from outside the Committee. The other members can be from either group. To maintain transparency, the names of the panel members are published on the Hong Kong Dance Alliance website and in *dance journal/hk*.

All panel members are expected to see as many productions/events as possible live during the year. At the end of the year they review all nominations and recommendations submitted and produce a final shortlist of nominees in each category through a secret ballot.

These shortlists are then presented to the Award Selection Jury, which consists of all members of the Hong Kong Dance Alliance Executive Committee together with all external members of the Expert Panels. The jury then holds a secret ballot to determine who receives awards.

Can the Expert Panels and Award Selection Jury vote on productions they haven't seen?

No. Members of both the panels and the jury are required to recuse themselves from voting on any award where they have not seen all the shortlisted works. They do their best to attend as many productions as they can during the year and if there are any productions they have not seen live they must watch them on video in order to be able to vote.

How do you prevent conflicts of interest affecting the judgment of panel or jury members?

Members of both the Expert Panels and the Award Selection Jury must recuse themselves from voting on any category where they have a direct conflict of interest, for example if they are nominated themselves or work for an organization with a nominated production. The conflict of interest rule applies only where panel or jury members are directly involved in a work and does not extend to broader areas such as knowing the nominees.

How are the Expert Panels selected?

Members must be experienced professionals working in the dance industry. They may be invited to join the panels or may apply to join. Members of the Production Panel must make a commitment to see as many productions as possible live during the year and to watch all nominated work they did not see live on video. In selecting the members from outside the Hong Kong Dance Alliance Executive Committee, preference is given to former award recipients.

What about awards for amateur dance?

Achievements in the amateur dance sector may be recognized in categories such as Services to Dance, Dance Education or, Community Dance and Alternative Space Production. However, only professionals are eligible for awards in disciplines such as choreography, design, or individual performance. This is in order to maintain a level playing field and apply consistent standards, since amateur and professional work cannot be judged on the same basis. However, work created by

professionals working with amateur groups (e.g. a professional choreographer creating a work for students) is eligible for nomination.

When the awards are decided, are quotas applied to ensure that certain groups or dance genres get an award?

No. There are no quotas of any kind. The aim of the awards is to honour excellence and they are conferred based strictly on merit. If there is no sufficiently outstanding achievement in a category during the year, the Jury may decide no award will be made. In the same way, if there is equally outstanding achievement by more than one nominee, more than one award may be given in that category for that year.

Can people be awarded more than once?

The awards acknowledge excellence in a given year and are based strictly on merit, so if someone produces outstanding work in more than one year, they may receive awards in more than one year. However, the same piece of work or performance cannot be awarded twice.

What prize do the awardees get?

They receive a trophy and are listed in the awards roll of honour on the Hong Kong Dance Alliance website, which may be found at https://www.hkdanceall.org/?a=group&id=award_awardees. There is no prize money or other benefit, financial or in kind, attached to the awards except for the Tom Brown Emerging Choreographer Award, which has prize money sponsored in memory of Dr Tom Brown.

Can visiting groups or artists from outside Hong Kong be nominated for awards?

The purpose of the awards is to honour work produced in Hong Kong, so overseas companies and productions are not eligible. However, visiting artists who have participated in Hong Kong dance productions may be nominated.

Who can attend the awards ceremony?

Tickets to the awards ceremony and gala performance are available for purchase by the general public via Urbtix and everyone is welcome to attend. Proceeds from ticket sales are used to help finance the event, which usually takes place in April.

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION THAT IS NOT ANSWERED ABOVE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO E-MAIL THE HONG KONG DANCE ALLIANCE AT danceawards@hkdanceall.org.