

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (JANUARY – DECEMBER 2022)

29 December 2022

The year 2022 has not been completely devoid of face-to-face activity but it was a delight to finally return to something approaching normality when we held our Executive Committee Meeting in June in a hybrid format. Since then we have already enjoyed three inspiring Dance Hub lectures which had been attended in person as well as online and the New Force in Motion 2022 was well received. It has been highly gratifying to see new members both willing and eager to join Hong Kong Dance Alliance. It was also a pleasure to welcome Yuri Ng, Ricky Lam and Joycelyn Choi as our new Executive Committee Members. We very much enjoyed having such dynamic new force in our Alliance. As announced at our Executive Committee Meeting in March, after a period of transition, it was proposed that Shirley Loong would lead our administration as Executive Director since April this year to ensure that everything runs smoothly on the day and assist in driving our alliance forward. Allen Lam and Natasha Rogai are the co-chairs for the Production Categories, Stella Lau is the chair for the Community Categories and Angela Hang is the chair for the Online Production Category of the Dance Awards. We are having the Hong Kong Dance Awards 2023 to look forward which will take place on April 22 at Kwai Tsing Theatre with Ricky Hu being the Artistic Director. We are already in the process of putting together a programme for 2023-24 which will be kickstarting the 30th Anniversary of Hong Kong Dance Alliance.

Our committee continues to meet regularly during this challenging year, as it did throughout the period of the pandemic, and there has been many changes of admin staffs, some reorganisation of our duties and responsibilities as things have moved forward.

We are at present in the first year of the Three-Year-Grant (2022 - 2025) scheme under the HKADC. The Project Grant for the World Dance Alliance Global Summit and 23rd Hong Kong Dance Awards have been approved with revised budgets as both events were presented online due to COVID 19. The Alliance would like to take this opportunity to thank Sky Sum and Rachel Wu from HKADC who had guided us through all the process of the grant period and had given us support whenever needed.

The Alliance's office presented an energetic team in this period, it has hired two Part-Time Officers on project base, Amy Lee and Sonia Szeto, and Carrol Ho to assist the upcoming 24th Hong Kong Dance Awards. Currently, Phoebe Mo has been the Arts administration Trainee, and Mark Choi has just joined us as an Editorial Trainee, which is supported by Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) Internship Scheme. I wish to thank each and everyone of them for their dedication and hard work to the Alliance.

There are other changes of the executive committee in the past year: Dominic Wong, Shirley Loong resigned from the Board. The Board appointed Angela Hang as Vice-Chairperson, and Stella Lau took over fully from David Tsui as Interim Treasurer. Once again, I would like to express our appreciation of all the work that David has done over the last few years in keeping our finances in such good order. We are very grateful to Stella and Angela for agreeing to take on this considerable responsibility. The Alliance welcomed new members joining us this year and look forward to their contribution to the development of Hong Kong Dance Alliance.

Hong Kong Dance Awards 2022

The 23rd Hong Kong Dance Awards was presented with the sponsorship by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, streamed live online on 16 April. Instead of the usual calendar year, the eligibility period for nominations ran from January 2020 to December 2021; this is because very few productions were staged in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new category, Online Production, has been introduced to reflect the strong trend towards online work and the excellence of such work being created in Hong Kong. An oversea guest panelist, Janine Dijkmeijer, Creative Director of New Zealand Dance Company was invited for this category. We invited Angela Hang as the Artistic Director of the Award Ceremony. The technical support was provided by HK Media Production, as recommended by the Hong Kong Dance Company. Professional practitioners were invited to join panels to shortlist nominations and recommendations for nominations gathered from the Alliance Executive Committee, the panels, and the dance community and, together with all members of the Executive Committee, took part in the final vote to decide the Awards. A total of over 50 outstanding nominations have been shortlisted under 15 award categories:

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to two remarkable women who have made an immeasurable contribution to the development of dance in Hong Kong over many decades: Tania Tang and Professor Shen Shir Ming.

Hong Kong Dance Company's co-production with Freespace of Helen Lai's classic *Nine Songs* was honoured as Outstanding Large Venue Production and for Outstanding Ensemble Performance, with Huang Lei receiving his third Outstanding Male Performance Award and his wife, Hua Chi-yu, receiving her fourth Award for Outstanding Female Performance. The company also became the first recipient of the new Online Production Award for *Convergence*.

Two awards were presented for Outstanding Choreography: to Hong Kong Ballet's artistic director, Septime Webre, for his spectacular new *The Nutcracker* and to Hong Kong icon Mui Cheuk-yin for *Diary VII ° The Story of.....* which also received Outstanding Small Venue production.

The prestigious Tom Brown Emerging Choreographer Award went to Kelvin Mak, artistic director of Beyond Dance Theatre whose powerful *Remnants* was named Outstanding Medium Venue Production sharing that award with City Contemporary Dance Company's *Days Are Numbered*, which featured choreography by Justyne Li, Bruce Wong and Jennifer Mok.

Among the other awards Male Performance went to Shen Jie as Romeo in Hong Kong Ballet's *Romeo + Juliet*. Like Huang Lei, with whom he shares the award, Shen is a third time recipient and one of Hong Kong's most respected dancers. Hong Kong Ballet also received the award for Alternative Space Production for *Five Tiny Dances* at M+, while Gabriela Tylesova and Albert Au received the Set and Costume Design Award for the company's *The Nutcracker*.

City Contemporary Dance Company Dance Centre, which has continued to provide invaluable support to the dance community received the Award for Services to Dance for its Partnership Programme Venue Sponsor, while Passoverdance received the Dance Education Award for Jockey Club *In Search of Voice in a Cramped City*.

World Dance Alliance Global Summit 2022

WDA Global Summit is under the umbrella of SWEAT Hong Kong International Dance Festival, a partnership with the HKAPA started from 17 to 25 June, through our jointly owned virtual platform, Aventri (US based company for event management). Four-day Global Summit Schedule (22-25 June). We have scheduled 11 sessions of Paper Presentations and 4 sessions of Pecha Kucha, engaging 13 moderators in this project. Prior to the event, we also had invited 3 panelists to screen over 100 paper and dance films submissions, Maurice Lai was one of the panelists in the dance film judging panel.

Highlights of the events include:

- WDA 5-minute opening video, produced by the HK Media Production
- Dialogue with the 3 flagship dance companies, HK Dance Company with the topic on career development and challenges for dancers in the 21st Century; CCDC on contemporary dance in the new normal for Hong Kong and Hong Kong Ballet on global trends in improving the health and wellness of professional dancers.
- Keynote speakers; Akram Khan on 22 June and Prof. Sara Houston on 24 June.
- 11 students' short films screening titled: "Begin Again"
- Dialogue with 3 Hong Kong independent artists: Wayson Poon, Judy Yiu and Ivanhoe Lam, hosted by Allen Lam.

dance journal/hk

In 2022, dance journal explored the **role of sound/music** and **musicality of movements** in dance productions, **costume** in dance productions and **support and management** of a wardrobe department and the role of lighting from the designer's perspective, how lighting sensibilities, and performing arts to a larger extent, were developed in Macau, and a historical analysis of lighting dramaturgy. In the coming issue, the perspective of stage design on how dance and space in performing art are being explored with stage design and the idea of freedom of dance space. There is the return of "**Curating in Asia**" that explored the challenges of **dance festivals in Thailand**; the regular columns by HKAPA on **dancer's health** and Ivy Tsui's **Choreo-word-graphy**; and a conversation between Ivy Tsui and Rooftop Productions about their collaboration on mobile application ***We Still Dance*** – extending previous discussion on **dance and technology**. Two critics, Dong Yan and Joanna Lee, were engaged in a Dialogue on Dance to discuss SWEAT. There are a total of 19 Review articles that covered the productions and programmes in the first 3 quarters of the year.

New Force in Motion 2022

8 proposals were selected from 1st round of discussion in May. Two weeks later the 2nd round of judges unanimously agreed to invite Kammy Lau with ballet background, Duncan Tung with drama/dance background and Ching Chun with contemporary/commercial dance experience to present their works for the series. Open auditions for the 3 choreographers to recruit dancers and actors was held in July.

We invited Tony Wong, Senior Lecture of APA Drama Faculty as our artistic advisor and Lau Tin Ming to be the workshop instructor.

'New Force In Motion' Series 2022:

Date: 9-11 December 2022 (4 performances, with 1 meet-the-artist session)

Venue: Black Box Theatre, Kwai Tsing Theatre

Choreographer: Pang Chun

Title: None of my business

Dancers

Chun Wui Chun

He Yunchi

Ho Hiu Me

Ngan Ching Cheong

Wong Nok Ching

Choreographer/Dancer: Kammy Lau
Title: Observing incorrect correctness
Dancers
Chung Carol
Leung Shun Yin
Ng Cheuk Fung

Choreographer: Tung Chung Can
Title: 01 Waiting
Dancers
Hui Ze
Lai Tsz Yan Ruby
Ma Yat Ha
Wong Jing Nam Wesley
Wong Yuk Ting Tina

Dance Hub: Lecture Series

The immediate reason for these three lecture/talks *under the Title: Pandemic. Moving Forward. New Direction* was the Covid pandemic with all its restrictions but there were reservations before then about whether they should continue. It has become increasingly difficult to attract sufficient numbers to make them possible. The connections created with the series have been valuable.

Session 1 : Battle Your Way Out (Street Dance)

Date & Time: 27 July 2022 (Mon) 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Venue: Studiodanz
Host: Angela Hang
Speaker: Louis Pong

Session 2: Great Tips for Running Online Dance Classes

Date & Time: 28 July 2022 (Tue) 11am - 1pm
Venue: Hong Kong Dance Federation
Host: Shirley Loong
Speakers: Christina Lai (ballet), Chen Jun (Chinese dance), Sean Ng (jazz), David Leung (improvisation & contemporary)
**Co-organized by Hong Kong Dance Sector Joint Conference

Session 3 : Behind the Scenes of Online Performances

Date & Time: 29 July 2021 (Wed) 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Venue: HangOut!
Speaker: LoWing (Media Art Designer & Director)

DanceHub: Consultancy

On 6th September, the Dance Alliance was invited to join a special arranged meeting with the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Board, Kevin Yeung Yun-hung to share our expectations for the Board and give opinion on the upcoming Policy Address 2022 on cultural aspects.

On 7th September, the Dance Alliance joined a consultation session organized by the LCSD in response to the increase of safety measures for all their performance venues. They are determined to implement the safety measures in the next month.

The Dance Alliance have sent out a questionnaire in relation to the Mirror Concert Accident, gathering information about the current practice in the dance industry from presenters, producers, and dancers.

We hope to have a better understanding of the current situation in order to improve on stakeholders' rights, safety matters and possibly future policies on performing arts.

I have been so grateful and learned so much in my first few months as a real, rather than a virtual chairperson, and thank all the board members of an excellent committee for their help and support. The move to the new format for our meetings and programme is challenging but will, I think, ultimately prove to be a change for the better and our organization will continue to flourish into the future. I am proud our dedicated administrative team. We shall continue to connect, to promote dance locally in Hong Kong and worldwide.