

SCHOOL OF DANCE HIGHLIGHTS

【Nov 2024】

We are thrilled to share the latest updates from the School of Dance, showcasing our commitment to fostering creativity, excellence, and artistic growth. We are proud of our students' and staff's outstanding performances and dedication to their craft.

School of Dance External Development



Memorandum of Understanding with Hong Kong Dance Company

On 11th October 2024, the School of Dance and the Hong Kong Dance Company signed a three-year MoU. This partnership aims to nurture professional Chinese dance talent in Hong Kong through training, mentorship, and career development. Initiatives will include masterclasses, auditions, internships, and advancements in dance science, enhancing the cultural landscape of the city.

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Joining the World Dance Education Alliance

The Academy was invited as one of the 70 founding members of the World Dance Education Alliance (WDEA) across 30 countries, initiated by the Beijing Dance Academy. Dean Professor Anna CY Chan and other faculty attended the establishment ceremony from 17th - 19th October 2024. Professor Chan also presented at the International Dance Deans/Directors' Forum and attended a spectacular gala performance at the Beijing's National Theatre to celebrate BDA 70's anniversary.





Academy 40th Anniversary Performance

On 26th September 2024, the Academy proudly launched its 40th Anniversary with a spectacular ceremony at the Wan Chai campus foyer. The event was graced by distinguished guests who joined in the celebration of our rich artistic heritage. Highlighting the occasion, our Year 3 and 4 Contemporary Dance students delivered an exceptional performance, specially choreographed by Lecturer Li Yongjing. Their captivating presentation not only showcased their technical skill but also celebrated the remarkable artistic talents that define our student body.

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School of Dance in collaboration with the School of Theatre & Entertainment Arts, presents **School of Dance Fall Performances** 《舞蹈學院秋季演出》

on 22nd & 23rd November 2024 at the Academy Lyric Theatre. We cordially invite everyone to join us and enjoy a dance extravaganza featuring Ballet, Chinese Dance, and Contemporary Dance!

This programme will highlight the School of Dance's signature and unique choreographies from the past, featuring the School's excellent faculty members such as *Three Fingers at Arm's Length* 《對影成三》 (2017) by Leila McMillan, *Eternity Formed by Fragments* (Chuyện thẳng Cuội) 《瞬間永恆》 (2018) by Nguyen Ngoc Anh, and *Tactical Moves* 《奕決·陣》 (2010) by Yu Pik-yim.

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On 19th September 2024, the School hosted the first **Dean's Special Artists Series** of this academic year in collaboration with the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong. Master Juen Wakayagi introduced the aesthetics of Nihon Buyo, demonstrating essential dance pieces.

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The School of Dance and the School of Film and Television recently collaborated on a dance

film titled **Universal Bodies, Universal Souls**. Led by Maurice Lai, an alumnus of the School of Film and Television, and Sharon Vazanna, a former Artist-in-Residence of the School of Dance, this project brought together faculty members, students, and alumni from both schools, as well as alumni from the School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts. The film showcases the synergy of interdisciplinary collaboration and had its world premiere on 26th November 2024, at The Sky Cinema, in partnership with the Hong Kong Dance Alliance. This project was supported by the Academy's Creative Collaboration Project Funding.

AI and Dance Research Project

From 30th September to 17th October 2024, senior lecturer Nguyen Ngoc Anh and others led a research project on AI in dance performance with Year 3 BFA students. The project culminated in a "Work in Progress" showcase during the Academy's *PerformTECH Symposium* at the Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo 2024.

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Financial Assistance for Overseas Activities

The School supported 18 BFA students with funding from the EXCEL fund for self-led overseas summer programs. These students returned to share their experiences from events in the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Italy, and New York.



Graduates Achievements

Recent Graduate Employment

Ballet: Theatre Brun, Hong Kong Ballet

Contemporary: City Contemporary Dance Company (CCDC), Wing Chun contract, TS Crew

Chinese Dance: Hong Kong Dance Company

Notable MFA Graduate Successes

Ji Jie (MFA 2024) has excelled in several prestigious events, including TANZWERKSTATT Europe in Germany, MASDANZA ELLAS in Spain, and the International Choreographic Competition LINKAGE in Bulgaria.

Zhang Yutong (MFA 2024) achieved recognition with her work Miss Puff selected for the Differenti Sensazioni International Art Festival in Italy, and her dance film A Meal selected for the First Filmmaker Sessions.

Faculty International Activities



Dean, Professor Anna CY Chan, elected as President of the World Dance Alliance Asia (WDA) Pacific Region for a three-year term during the WDA AGM in Singapore.



Head of Academic studies, Dr. Maria Salgado Llopis presented her dance-on-screen work iuSui at the Women in Dance Leadership Conference in Los Angeles from 17th - 19th October 2024.



Lecturer in Dance Pedagogy, Ms. Julianna Ho is appointed as the regional representative for daCI (Dance and Children International) from September 2024.



Lecturer in Dance Science, Ms. Heidi Yu was elected as President of HKADMS. She also presented a paper at the HKADMS 34th Annual Conference in Rimini, Italy, on 19th October 2024, and joined as a member of the Meetings and Events Committee.

<http://www.hkapa.edu>

E dance.da@hkapa.edu

T (852) 2584 8541 / 2584 8752

School of Dance, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Unsubscribe, please contact dance.da@hkapa.edu