

Professor John Leong Chi-yan SBS OBE JP - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Professor John Leong Chi-yan is currently the Chairman of the Hospital Authority. He graduated from The University of Hong Kong (HKU) with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree in 1965, after which he worked at his alma mater for 38 years. He was Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery from 1981 to 2003. Concomitantly, he headed the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology at Queen Mary Hospital. He was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine from 1985 to 1990, and Director of the School of Postgraduate Medical Education and Training from 1993 to 1999.



As an internationally renowned clinician-scientist specialising in spinal and pediatric orthopaedics, Professor Leong has frequently published papers in top orthopaedic journals and has been invited to deliver eponymous lectures at prestigious overseas universities and orthopaedic associations. He was also elected President of the Société Internationale de Chirurgie Orthopédique et de Traumatologie.

During his term as President of The Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) from 2003 to 2014, OUHK flourished remarkably in many aspects. These include the transformation of the institution into a genuine multi-modal university by offering full-time programmes, and later expanding to provide other teaching mode programmes, on the basis of distance learning programmes. During his tenure, he completed two major campus extension projects which made tremendous contributions to the University's long-term development. He also facilitated several new programmes on the arts including Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Creative Advertising and Media Design, Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Creative Writing and Film Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons) in Animation and Visual Effects, and Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons) in Cinematic Design and Photographic Digital Art. Professor Leong has been conferred Emeritus President upon retirement in April 2014.

With outstanding achievements and contributions in various fields, Professor Leong has received numerous accolades. He was elected as Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and was conferred Doctor of Science, *honoris causa* by HKU and OUHK. In addition, he received the Walter P. Blount Service Award from the Scoliosis Research Society (USA) and the Leader of the Year (Education / Research category) from Sing Tao News Corporation Limited.

Professor Leong demonstrates strong interest in performing arts. Besides his chairmanship on the Consultation Panel of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, he has also supported The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with his expertise in the academia as panelist of the selection boards for the Academy to search and make recommendations on appointment of key positions of Director and Deputy Director (Academic Programmes and Educational Innovation). He has also committed himself to serve on the Academy Professorial Appointments Committee notwithstanding his other heavy commitments to the community at large. The Academy is deeply appreciative of Professor Leong's consummate leadership skills in educational sector which let the Academy benefit a lot.

Professor Leong was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1993, and was awarded an OBE in 1996 and a Silver Bauhinia Star in 2009.

Mr Willy Tsao Sing-yuen BBS - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

A pioneer and a visionary, a doer and not just a dreamer, Mr Willy Tsao Sing-yuen – company founder, choreographer, artistic director – has been in the forefront of developments in contemporary dance in Hong Kong and China for well over 30 years. Driven by a deep and abiding passion for the art form, his achievements will leave a lasting cultural and artistic legacy.



Born and raised in Hong Kong, Mr Tsao attended Pui Ching Middle School in Kowloon, after which he attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington State, completing a degree in business administration. He then returned to Hong Kong and studied a Master of Business Administration degree at The University of Hong Kong.

Introduced to modern dance at Pacific Lutheran University, Mr Tsao's life's journey in contemporary dance began in 1979 when he established the City Contemporary Dance Company (CCDC). He later helped set up the Guangdong Modern Dance Company, becoming its Artistic Director from 1992 to 1998, and its General Manager in 2004; and the Beijing Modern Dance Company where he was Artistic Director from 1999 to 2005. He established the BeijingDance / LDTX in 2005, becoming both its Company Director and Artistic Director. He also established the CCDC Dance Centre (which plays a key role in developing local choreographic talent) as well as founding the Jumping Frames International Dance Video Festival, the China Dance Forward Programme, the Guangdong Modern Dance Festival and the Beijing Modern Dance Festival. All these four projects have gained high international recognition, and have had a significant impact on the development of dance not only in Hong Kong, but also in the wider region.

Mr Tsao is also a prolific choreographer. His works presented at arts festivals at home and abroad include *Wanderings in the Realm of Lightness* (1989), *A Letter to Aung San Suukyi* (1993), *China Wind*, *China Fire* (1995), *365 Ways of Doing and Undoing Orientalism* (2002), *One Table N Chairs* (2005, for which he received a Hong Kong Dance Award for Choreography), *Warrior Lanling* (2007), *Dao Extraordinaire* (2009) and *In Search of the Grand View Garden* (2013).

Inspiring young people in dance has been another longstanding passion of Mr Tsao's. He started teaching modern dance at Guangdong Dance School in 1987, and at the Beijing Dance Academy (BDA) in 1988. In 1991 he was invited to be the Artistic Director of the BDA's Youth Dance Company. He has taught many intensive modern dance workshops in different cities on the Mainland, and in 2002 was appointed Guest Professor at the Tianjin Institute of Physical Education.

Mr Tsao's unstinting contribution to dance has been widely recognised. He was awarded a Bronze Bauhinia Star in 1999 by the Government of HKSAR for his extensive contribution to the development of local arts, an Honorary Fellowship from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2000, and the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2014 Hong Kong Dance Awards for his immense and invaluable contribution to dance in Hong Kong. Other notable awards include Dancer of the Year Award from the Hong King Artists' Guild in 1988, the Hong Kong's Ten Outstanding Young Persons award in 1990, the Badge of Honour from the Queen of the United Kingdom in 1993, and the Louis Cartier Award of Excellence – Outstanding Choreographer in 1998.

Mr Cheung Hok-yau - Honorary Fellowship

Mr Cheung Hok-yau was born in Hong Kong. He originally worked for the Trade Development Council and Cathay Pacific Airways. He started his entertainment and arts career when he beat over 20,000 contestants in the Amateur 18-Hong Kong District Singing Contest in 1984 with the song *Fatherland*. He was immediately signed by Polygram Records, now Universal Music Limited.



Not long after that, he gained enormous popularity in Cantopop circles, being dubbed one of the “Four Heavenly Kings”. Two of his solo albums, *True Love Expression* and *Love Sparks*, which were both released in 1992, sold more than 400,000 copies in Hong Kong alone. The Mandopop album *The Goodbye Kiss* was a great success and sold over four million copies in Asia and still holds the record for best-selling album, giving him a place in Universal Music Group’s 1990s’ Hall of Fame in 2000. In 1996, he was chosen by *Time Magazine* as one of the 25 Most Influential People in the New Hong Kong.

Mr Cheung has received numerous other music awards in Hong Kong and overseas. In the 1994 US Billboard Music Awards, he was named the most popular singer in Asia. He also won the titles of the Best-selling Asian Artist in the World and the Best-selling Chinese Singer at Monaco’s World Music Awards in 1995 and 1996, as well as being chosen as one of the World’s Top Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 1999. The first Asian singer to perform at Madison Square Garden in New York, Mr Cheung has performed all over the world, including New York, Europe, India, Singapore, Malaysia and Japan.

While Mr Cheung is best known for his singing, he has also starred in nearly 60 films, bringing many memorable characters to life on the silver screen. He was awarded Best Supporting Actor at the 1988 Hong Kong Film Awards for his performance in Wong Kar-wai’s *As Tears Go By*. In 1990, he won Best Supporting Actor at Taiwan’s Golden Horse Awards for King Hu’s *The Swordsman*. He has subsequently been nominated five times for Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards, and in 2002 won the Best Actor Award at the New Delhi Film Festival for his role in Ann Hui’s *July Rhapsody*.

In 2013’s *A Complicated Story*, Mr Cheung played the role of a rich businessman who hires an undergraduate from the Mainland as a surrogate mother and falls in love with her. This film was the first Thesis Production of the Master of Fine Arts Degree in Film Production at the Academy’s School of Film and Television, and Mr Cheung received no fee in order to assist production. His performance received many accolades.

Professor Han Sheng - Honorary Fellowship

Professor Han Sheng is the President of and a professor at Shanghai Theatre Academy (STA). He is also the Vice Chairman of the China Stage Art Association, the Vice Chairman of the Research Association of Modern Drama in China, the Deputy Director of the Committee of Experts for Shanghai Creation Industry Association, the Chairman of the Shanghai Scenography Association, the Deputy Director of the Advisory Board of the Shanghai Creative Industry Association and a member of the Shanghai Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.



Professor Han began his studies at STA's Stage Design Department in 1981, obtaining his master's degree in 1988. He started his teaching career for his alma mater in the same year. Among the key posts he has held are Deputy Director and Director of STA's Stage Department. Professor Han became the Vice President of STA in December 2004 and undertook the administrative responsibilities of Vice President in April 2006. Since September 2009, he has been President of STA. Under the leadership of Professor Han, STA has been maintaining close working relationships with The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Collaboration included the Shanghai International Experimental Theatre Festival, projects of the UNESCO International Theatre Institute's Asia Pacific Bureau, and exchange activities on performing, teaching and learning.

Professor Han has extensive experience in stage design for dramas, television and films, and in arts creation for new media and tertiary teaching. Among his best known designs are those for modern drama *Great Bridge*, Shaoxing opera *Family* and *The Butterfly Dream*, and Jiangxi opera *Peony Pavilion*. He also provided the arts direction for the film *Warrior Lanling* and large scale scenic opera *Aida*, and was invited to work as stage designer on the modern drama *Jesus, Confucius and Lennon* in Toronto, Canada in 1988. Apart from stage production, Professor Han is very enthusiastic about absorbing new ideas to hone his aesthetic skills. Professor Han is an alumnus of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. During his studies from September 1993 to July 1994 at the Academy, Professor Han hosted the well-received *Hong Kong Impression*, a painting exhibition organised by the Academy to display his work. In addition, Professor Han plays an active part in the arts and design industry around the world. He was invited to take part as a designer in the Singaporean drama *Soul* in 1997 and 1999. He was also the general designer for the APEC theatrical performances in 2001 and a designer for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. In 1985, 1999 and 2015, his work was featured in Prague Quadrennial.

Keen on experimental performances, Professor Han is the Director of the Shanghai Virtual Performing Art Lab, Director of the Ministry of Culture's Key Laboratory of Digital Integrated Innovation for Performing Arts, and the manager of the national project *Digital Drama Museum*. He is also the author of a number of publications such as *Creation and Expression of Stage Design*, *Digital Art and Performance Creation*, and *Art Creation and Experiments of Digital Performances*. In 2012, he found and embarked on the editorship of *E Performances*, a journal about theatre and entertainments arts.

In his journey in the arts industry, Professor Han has won numerous accolades including the 2nd and 4th Wenhua Stage Design Prizes, the Gold Lion Prize for Modern Drama Stage Design, the Excellent Design Prize in the 2nd China Stage Arts Exhibition, the Bao Steel Art Prize, the Bao Steel Prize for Excellent Teachers, the National Second Prize for Teaching Achievements, the Shanghai First Prize for Teaching Achievements, and the Excellent Work Prize for the 2008 Beijing Olympics Games. He is also recognised as Excellent Expert of the Ministry of Culture, Excellent Drama Practitioner of China, Shanghai Dawn Scholar and Shanghai Leading Talent. Along with these titles, he receives a special allowance for experts from the State Council in recognition of his remarkable achievements in his field.

Dr David Jiang - Honorary Fellowship

In an extensive and distinguished career, Dr David Jiang, former Dean of Drama at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, has worked as a theatre practitioner, educator and researcher in mainland China, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, the United States and Hong Kong. He has directed over 40 productions including classic and contemporary plays, musicals and music theatre, traditional Chinese operas, and TV films, winning a number of accolades and awards. He is in demand at international conferences to present keynote speeches and papers, is active in international connections and exchange activities, and has published a number of theatre academic works in both Chinese and English.



Dr Jiang's artistic choices were very much influenced by his family. His parents were lovers of both Western music and Peking opera, therefore when he was a child he used to listen to music quite often and go to the theatre and to Hollywood movies with them. Dr Jiang began his working life in China and from the mid-1960s to 1989 he was a professional actor and director in both theatre and television, and during the 1980s taught at the Shanghai Theatre Academy.

Dr Jiang won a prestigious Asian Cultural Council grant to observe theatre activities in the United States, in particular drama education at Yale University and New York University, where he was a Visiting Scholar in Performance Studies at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University from 1989 to 1991. As recipient of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Fellowship, he was a Research Fellow at the University of Leeds in England from 1992 to 1995, receiving his doctorate in 1997.

From 1997 to 1998, Dr Jiang taught at the Theatre Department of National Taipei University of the Arts, followed by a period of teaching at the Theatre Department of Barnard College of Columbia University in New York from 1998 to 2000.

Coming to Hong Kong in 2001, Dr Jiang served as Dean of the School of Drama at the Academy until his retirement in 2009. Among his outstanding contributions to the School were his productions as director of Cao Yu's *Thunderstorm* and *Romeo and Juliet* (with Dr Sam Lam). Dean Jiang was and still is regarded with great affection by the School of Drama. Instead of calling some teachers they respected as "Sir" (like "King Sir", "Mao Sir", "Poon Sir", etc.), students endearingly

addressed their Dean as "ah-Jiang", a very common Hong Kong way to call a familiar friend. Dean Jiang was most pleased and touched to hear this term of affection.

Dr Jiang holds a number of visiting and honorary professorships including Visiting Professor of the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing, Visiting Professor of the Shanghai Theatre Academy, Honorary Professor of The University of Hong Kong, and Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Leeds.

Up to present, Dr Jiang continues to enjoy a busy professional life in China and the United Kingdom working for academies and theatre companies.

Ms Wang Yuanyuan - Honorary Fellowship

Born and raised in Beijing, Ms Wang Yuanyuan is one of China's leading modern dance choreographers. She prides herself on being rooted in Chinese traditions, while at the same time producing innovative, authentic, and thought-provoking contemporary dance works for the world stage.

She began her dance journey at the age of ten as a dancer in the Affiliated Middle School of the Beijing Dance Academy, and continued to study choreography at the Academy, where she later served as a teacher. She furthered her studies at the prestigious California Institute of Arts School of Dance in Los Angeles, where she completed a Master of Fine Arts in 2002.



In 1998 Ms Wang was named Resident Choreographer of the National Ballet of China and successively staged *Butterfly Lovers*, *Rainbow of the Night*, *Attraction*, *Lost Emotion*, *Fate*, and a Chinese version of *Nutcracker*. In addition, she choreographed a ballet version of *Raise the Red Lantern* for film director Zhang Yimou, and the dance sequences for Tan Dun's music in the film *The Banquet* for director Feng Xiaogang. She also choreographed for the Hong Kong Handover celebrations in 1997, and was one of the main choreographers for the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.

In 2008, Ms Wang founded the Beijing Dance Theatre with veteran lighting designer Han Jiang and set designer Tan Shaoyuan. Their first creation – *Diary of Empty Space* – was premiered the same year, followed by *Stirred from a Dream*, a dance-drama adapted from the Kunqu *Peony Pavilion*, *Haze*, *Prism*, *The Color of Love*, *Martlet*, *Harvest*, *Wild Grass*, *Hamlet*, and *Golden Lotus* which was commissioned by the Hong Kong Arts Festival in 2011. Her works have been staged around the globe – in the United States, Russia, Korea, France, Bulgaria, Denmark, Singapore, Australia, Greece, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Columbia and Mexico.

In recognition of the excellence of her choreography, Ms Wang has been invited to serve as Guest Choreographer at New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute, the Royal Danish Ballet, the Shanghai Ballet, and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts where she created *Reminisce*

in 2004 and *Crossing* in 2008 for the Ballet Department. She restaged the latter for a cross-stream ensemble in 2012 for performance at the International Festival of Dance Academies.

Aside from her early award as a dancer in the Paris International Dance Competition, Ms Wang has won Best Choreographer awards at the Varna International Ballet Competition in Bulgaria, the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi, and the Moscow and Shanghai International Ballet Competitions respectively, making her the one to win the most Best Choreographer Awards internationally among Chinese choreographers.

Ms Wang is dedicated to inspiring choreographers' creativity, encouraging them to break the constraints of stereotypes, so as to constantly explore innovative choreographic ways and means. She has been invited to give masterclasses in China and abroad, at venues and institutions including the Mark Morris Dance Center, the Kennedy Center, Columbia College Chicago, Sadler's Wells, Theatre Bonn, the National Theatre of Iceland, the Cervantino International Festival, Israeli Opera, Beijing Dance Academy, and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, among others.

Ms Ruby Yang - Honorary Fellowship

Ms Ruby Yang is a Chinese American filmmaker. Originally from Hong Kong, Ms Yang has worked on a range of feature and documentary films exploring Chinese themes as director and editor. She is the first Hong Kong born Chinese filmmaker to win an Oscar for Documentary Short Subject for *The Blood of Yingzhou District* (2006). Other awards received for her achievements in documentary filmmaking include an Emmy Award, a DuPont-Columbia Journalism Award, as well as two IDA Pare Lorentz Award nominations.



In 1977, Ms Yang moved to the States. She worked on director Wayne Wang's *Eat a Bowl of Tea* (1989) and *The Joy Luck Club* (1993) and edited the first two films directed by award-winning Chinese actress Joan Chen, *Xiu Xiu: the Sent Down Girl* (1998) and *Autumn in New York* (2000), starring Richard Gere and Wynona Ryder.

In 2003, along with filmmaker Thomas F. Lennon, Ms Yang founded the Chang Ai Media Project to raise HIV/AIDS awareness in China. Since then, her documentaries and public service announcements have been seen by hundreds of millions of Chinese viewers. These include a trilogy of short and medium-length documentaries about fringe communities in modern China. They are *The Blood of Yingzhou District*, which records the impact of AIDS on families in Yingzhou District of Fuyang in Anhui Province; *Tongzhi in Love* (2008), which portrays the lives of homosexuals in China; and *The Warriors of Qiugang* (2010), which tells the story of a group of villagers in Qiugang in Anhui Province who take on a chemical company that is poisoning their land and water. *The Warriors of Qiugang* was nominated for an Oscar in the Best Documentary Short Subject category in 2011.

In 2013, Ms Yang relocated to Hong Kong, where she was appointed by The University of Hong

Kong as Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Fellow in Humanities the following year. Her latest feature documentary *My Voice, My Life* (2014), featured a group of under-privileged Hong Kong youngsters who underwent vigorous training to produce a musical on stage. It was distributed by the company of actor Andy Lau (who was made an Honorary Fellow of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2007) and is one of only a select number of documentaries that has received wide theatrical distribution in Hong Kong. It has received critical acclaim from fellow filmmakers and critics and achieved a box-office gross of over HK\$5 million, which is almost unprecedented for a documentary in the local film industry.

Ms Yang has been a member of the Advisory Board of the Academy's School of Film and Television for the past six years. She has given a number of documentary, editing masterclasses and workshops to our students, which proved to be inspiring and fruitful. She has provided internships for a number of our students at her Beijing production office, and our recent graduate has worked on *My Voice, My Life* as Assistant Editor for 18 months.