SCHOOL OF DANCE
HIGHLIGHTS

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts 香港演藝學院

【April 2025】

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.

Upcoming Events

School of Dance in collaboration with the School of Theatre & Entertainment Arts, presents

School of Dance Summer Performances《舞蹈學院夏季演出》

from 8th to 10th May 2025 at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre of the Academy. This event is part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations, we cordially invite everyone to join us.

The original dance choreography, *Into The Blue* 《藍色夜晚》, is choreographed by Ricky Hu Songwei (HK/China) and Mai Jingwen (HK/China), with music composed by Olivier Cong exclusively for this production. This piece will showcase the incredible talent of forty-one dedicated dance students who have poured their hearts into every rehearsal and performance.

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SWEAT Hong Kong International Dance Workshop Festival (SWEAT)

is set to return in 2025, building on the success of its inaugural edition in 2022. Launched by the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the first festival provided a vital digital platform for artists to connect, share best practices, and engage in meaningful dialogue. Over two weeks, SWEAT brought together 640 arts practitioners from 23 countries through research labs, workshops, masterclasses, dance video screenings, and open discussions, establishing itself as a hub for innovation and artistic exchange.

In 2025, SWEAT will focus on the theme 'Cultural Sequences: Asia Pacific Choreographic Discovery' to celebrate vibrant dance expressions that transcend geographic boundaries. The festival will feature four key events:

1. Workshop Series
2. Dance Conference
3. DanceTECH Research Showcase
4. Choreographic Projects Open Studio Presentations

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School Activities

In December 2024, renowned international choreographer **Akram Khan** received the Academy Honorary Fellowship Award. On 6th December 2024, he shared his artistic journey with the students and faculty of the School of Dance, inspiring the next generation of artists.

On 13th and 16th January 2025, the School organised two sessions of the **Dean's Special Artists Series**, titled "Culture for a Sustainable City" featuring Mr. Louis Yu. He shared with us on how culture can contribute to sustainable urban growth. This new talk aimed to engage participants in a meaningful discourse on the intersection of culture, arts, and sustainability.

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On 15th and 16th March 2025, the **Jockey Club Dance Well Project Finale Presentation – Dancing Park** was held at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre of the Academy. Dancing Park summarises "Dance Well" with two choreographies performed by dancers with Parkinson's disease and their families, highlighting their three-year artistic journey. Sharing Sessions of "Dance Well" dancers and teaching artists, along with the presentation of the project's research findings, showcasing the positive impacts of dance on Parkinson's participants' physical functions, mental well-being, and interpersonal relationships.

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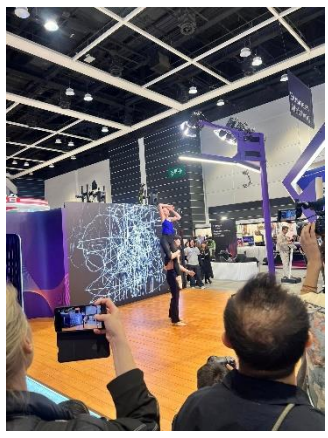

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts shone brightly at Hong Kong **FILMART** as we celebrated our 40th Anniversary!

Although FILMART is traditionally a film industry event, our students had an honour of performing three captivating dance pieces. We showcased two remarkable dance films: *COVEN+*, choreographed and film edited by Mickael 'Marso' Riviere, and *Universal Bodies, Universal Souls*, choreographed by Sharon Vazanna and directed by Maurice Lai. Both films represent a collaborative effort between the School of Dance and School of Film and Television, highlighting our commitment to innovative artistry in the performing arts.

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School of Dance External Development

The School of Dance continued its partnership with the **Hong Kong Dance Exchange (H.D.X.)** for the International Dance Festival, scheduled from 18th to 22nd December 2024. This festival provided students with an invaluable opportunity to showcase their choreographic talents through a morning showcase performance for twelve international festival partners, including representatives from East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. Additionally, staff and students participated in workshops and symposia, where the School of Dance presented its choreography programme philosophy, further enhancing its global reputation.

Under the MoU with the Hong Kong Ballet, five School of Dance students participated in the Ballet's production of **The Nutcracker** in December 2024. Additionally, six BFA students and three first-year MFA students presented their choreographic works at the Hong Kong Dance Exchange Festival on 21st December 2024.

Students Achievement

Congratulations to Vivian Wai-yan Chang, a year 2 student of Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Dance majoring in Choreography, on receiving a scholarship at The 38th Awards Presentation Ceremony of the Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund (SEYMF). Despite having acquired a law degree at The University of Hong Kong, Vivian pursues her dreams of helping those in need with dance.

Congratulations to Professor Anna CY Chan!

We are pleased to announce that Professor Anna CY Chan has been appointed as the new Director of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), with Professor Ou Lu serving as the Acting Dean of the School of Dance, effective on 18th April 2025.

The School of Dance is honoured to have benefited directly from Prof. Chan's exceptional leadership over the past 7.5 years, and we look forward to her guiding HKAPA to new heights.

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