

TAI KWUN ANNOUNCES NEW PERFORMING ARTS SERIES “ON STAGE ONLINE”
6 Online Programmes in September — Free to the Public

Hong Kong, 8 Sep 2020, Tuesday



Tai Kwun—Centre for Heritage and Arts is proud to announce that a brand-new series of performing arts programmes, “On Stage Online”, will launch in September, with over 10 programmes to be presented in phases. The first six programmes will kick off this month. This full line-up of performing arts events in a variety of formats will delight viewers and connect audiences on a variety of platforms.

The arts and society are inextricably bound; they respond and react to one another. In a year when the situation with the pandemic remains painful and unpredictable, the performing arts—and indeed society at large—faces incredible challenges, not least with planning programmes that can resonate and entertain audiences. Nonetheless, many artists and performers are drawing on their reservoirs of strength and are rising to this challenge, responding to a difficult transformation of society and everyday life by making breakthroughs in conventional modes of art-making. Tai Kwun is mindful of this, as its mission is to provide the public with arts and entertainment on the one hand and to support and nurture local artists on the other. When performances were unfortunately interrupted or cancelled, Tai Kwun wants to show its support. Therefore, **dance, drama, music, online interactive theatrical performances, and many other forms of performing arts events in “On Stage Online” will be presented—free of charge—on the internet from 13 September 2020. Registration is open now. Please visit the [Tai Kwun website](http://www.taikwun.hk) for programme details.**

【Dance】 We Are (digitally becoming) Spectacle(s) | 13.09.2020

Co-presented by: Jockey Club New Arts Power

Subsequent to the presentation of *The World Was Once Flat* in Tai Kwun Dance Season 2018, choreographer Joseph Lee continues his inquiry into corporeal language in *Unfolding Images: We are Spectacle(s)*, a piece to be staged next year. Lee and the performers decode bodily postures to experiment with possible relationships of seeing and being seen. Before *Unfolding* is performed on stage, *We Are (digitally becoming) Spectacle(s)* will be hosted by the creative cast in the form of an open rehearsal. When the performers move around and place themselves at different corners of Tai Kwun, they and their cameras embark on a virtual sightseeing tour of the disjointed space. Audience members will interact with the performers by means of the cameras and instant messaging, and will get a glimpse of the prototype of the piece before it is staged. There will be a talk after the presentation, in which the choreographer will share his creative processes with the audience.

Live programme: 13.09.2020, 4pm – 5:30pm

Online registration: now until 11.09.2020*

【Dance】 A Lover's Concerto | 13.09 & 18.10.2020

Presented by: City Contemporary Dance Company

Established 41 years ago, CCDC has created numerous dance pieces and nurtured its fair share of romantic stories over that time. In *A Lover's Concerto*, couples from different generations who all met at CCDC will perform a choreographed piece recreating their lasting memories, leading the audience in an exploration of relationships through interactions and by feeling each other's heart beats. A "meet-the-artists" segment will be held after each duo. *A Lover's Concerto* is a programme that is part of the CCDC Digital Dance Season.

Live programme: 13.09 & 18.10.2020, 8pm – 9pm

Online registration: from now until full *

【Music】 This Victoria Has No Secrets...When It Goes Online | 17.09.2020

This Victoria Has No Secrets first premiered in May 2018 for Tai Kwun's opening, with re-run performances last year earning exciting feedback from audiences as well. It sang along with Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong's celebrated natural landmark with its world-famous night vista, with the harbour having witnessed the city's various metamorphoses. Once, a city called "Victoria" faced Victoria Harbour on Hong Kong island. Victoria City no longer exists; so what will Victoria Harbour be like?

Through the video clips taken inside and outside of Tai Kwun in Central with three melodic songs selected from the production, Yat Po Singers is thrilled to show the audience a sneak peek of *This Victoria Has No Secrets*, the a cappella theatre programme that brings a musical journey of nostalgia in Hong Kong's heritage and cultural icon – before it will be staged at Tai Kwun's outdoor space next year.

Online Programme: 17-30.09.2020

【Dance】 The Creation of Under ∞ Line | 20.09.2020

The recent works of choreographer Rebecca Wong are concerned with the relationship between carnal desire and society, and between culture and power. Her first presentation at Tai Kwun was *Bird-watching* in 2018, and the next one will be *Under ∞ Line* scheduled for next year. Little is publicly known about what the art-maker has undergone before the art-piece greets its audience in the theatre. The “making-of” documentary *The Creation of Under ∞ Line* brings the audience into Wong’s world of creation, allowing a glimpse of the process from conception, researching and interactions among creative collaborators before the work is born; an excerpt of the upcoming work will also be shown.

Online Programme: 20.09 – 3.10.2020

【Theatre】 A Poem in Jail (in progress) – Happy Together Till the Next Century Comes | 24.09.2020

Since Tai Kwun’s opening in 2018, playwright and director Yan Pat To has been an active collaborator. His new work *A Poem in Jail*, an immersive theatre inspired by a bed-board with a love poem found in a women’s cell at Victoria Prison, will be staged next year. The ground-breaking immersive production features artists across disciplines—Kingsley Ng (media installation), Adrian Yeung (video artist), Jass Leung (dramaturg) and Chow Yiu Fai (lyric artist)—together they reimagine a theatrical experience with lyrics, sounds, images and drama, bringing the audience to tread a path that explores Central then and now. *A Poem in Jail (in progress) – Happy Together Till the Next Century Comes* - carries a fragment of the time and space of *A Poem in Jail*, revealing short episodes that will not be unveiled in the future work. In this prelude to the main story, Yan offers his intimate insight to the creation of the new work to the public. Looking forward to next year’s performance, audience may receive a surprise access to the exclusive preview of the new work.

Online Programme: 24.09-7.10.2020

【Online Interactive Theatre】 See You Zoom Again | 29.09.2020

See You Zoom Again is a creative work conceived during the ups and downs of COVID-19 in Hong Kong, as a response to society and as a way of coping with the new trend of online theatres. Inspired by the practice of ethnotheatre, a theatre-making method based on ethnographic research, the See team creates this work via Zoom and will share different Hong Kong stories and invites the audience to join in on real-time interactions. Together they give shape to the ongoing adaptations and struggles of people’s lives in Hong Kong. The audience becomes both spectator and participant, experiencing the dissolving boundaries of the stage in online performance.

The premiere of *See You Zoom* at the beginning of this year was so well-received that the registration was full to the brim. Its return to Tai Kwun’s “On Stage Online” series will allow a larger audience and feature a stronger creative team, with new additions such as Frankie Ho (Composer) and Tsang Man-tung (Scenographer). Audience can take part in post-performance workshop of selected shows and convert their reflections into personalized artworks.

Online Performance:
29.09 – 04.10.2020, 8pm;
01-04.10.2020, 3pm
Online Registration: now until 2 days before performance*

See You Zoom Again Post-Performance Workshop
30.09, 02 & 04.10.2020, 10pm;
02 & 04.10.2020, 5pm
Online Registration: now until 2 days before performance*

*In first-come-first-serve basis with limited quota

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Editor's notes:

Please [click here](#) to download hi-res images with captions.

About Tai Kwun — Centre for Heritage and Arts (Tai Kwun)

Tai Kwun is Hong Kong's Centre for Heritage and Arts — a cultural destination for inspiration, stimulation and enjoyment. We aspire to offer the best heritage and arts experiences, and to cultivate knowledge and appreciation of contemporary art, performing arts and history in the community.

Tai Kwun invites all visitors on a journey of discovery that fuses multiple genres of arts, heritage, culture and lifestyle in Hong Kong. Here, visitors will discover the rich heritage of the site through the thematic exhibitions and immersive public programmes that explore Hong Kong's history and culture, alongside a multitude of vibrant and inclusive contemporary art presentations and performing arts offerings all year round.

Opened in May 2018 and operating on a not-for-profit model, Tai Kwun is the fruition of a joint partnership between The Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Government of the HKSAR to conserve and revitalise the buildings of the historic Central Police Station compound, which represents one of the most significant revitalisation projects in Hong Kong. The site comprises three Declared Monuments of Hong Kong — the former Central Police Station, Central Magistracy and Victoria Prison — all having been meticulously conserved, with unflinching attention to authenticity. The site also includes two new buildings — JC Contemporary and JC Cube — by renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron; and several outdoor spaces — Parade Ground, Prison Yard and Laundry Steps — providing an exciting venue for the public programmes presented by Tai Kwun and its partners.

Tai Kwun, which means “big station” in Chinese, is the colloquial name used by Hong Kong people to refer to the former police headquarters and the surrounding compound. The name has been adopted as a reminder of the historical importance of this living heritage site.

In 2019, Tai Kwun received the Award of Excellence in the 2019 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. This is the highest honour of the prestigious Awards, which bestows an international recognition of the outstanding achievement in the conservation and revitalisation efforts of Tai Kwun.

For more information, please contact:

Stephanie Mak
Tel: +852 3955 8373 / 9430 2263
Email: stephanie.mak@taikwun.hk

Lam Ching
Tel: +852 3559 2641 / 97127939
Email: ching.lam@taikwun.hk