

For Immediate Release



City Contemporary Dance Company

Dance Season 2019/20

Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence

The year of 2019 is going to be an exciting one - we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Company. At this special moment, we are thinking ahead, planning how we can further our effort in the service of dance. Therefore, this year, we are making changes to our artistic department, letting our veteran dancers explore roles that develop and consolidate our creative output. Dancers Noel Pong and Qiao Yang will take on the new title of Resident Artist, representing us through performing, creating and teaching around the world. Dancer Bruce Wong is promoted to Rehearsal Master to ensure and improve the quality of CCDC productions. We also have many new faces joining our Company – five new full-time dancers (Chen Yijie, He Min, Christy Poinsettia Ma, Maggie Shen and Zhu Tianyu) and two dancer trainees (Jacko Ng and Zelia Tan). We are certain that they will shine on the stage, sharing heartfelt performances in the coming season with their exquisite skills.

Opening the season is a double bill of a new work and a classic by Helen Lai, one of Hong Kong's foremost choreographers. She took inspiration from Schubert's and Stravinsky's music to create *Winterreise. The Rite of Spring*. The production features our strongest cast ever, not only the entire CCDC company of dancers will take part, we have also invited many guest performers – Taiwan dance artist Chou Shu-yi, local dancers Lai Tak-wai, Li De, Irene Lo, Pansy Lo, Gigi Yang – as well as musicians Colleen Lee, Helen Cha, Apollo Wong, to create a feast of music and dance to kick start our 40th birthday. Dominic Wong, our Assistant Artistic Director, will lead our family programme once more, creating the new work *The Odyssey of Little Dragon* to celebrate the spirit of kung fu legend Bruce Lee. In collaboration with composer Yin Ng, dramaturg Patrick Lee and 20 children dancers, he will bring a joyous contemporary dance drama to Shatin Town Hall in August. The production is part of the International Arts Carnival 2019, for both the little ones and the young at heart.

In 2017, CCDC launched City Contemporary Dance Festival and became a talking point of the international dance industry. City Contemporary Dance Festival will return in November this year, opening with a new multimedia environmental work *Re-Mark* choreographed by our Resident Choreographer Sang Jijia. The piece was first conceived and performed in Italy in May 2018 to great acclaim and he will modify the work to embrace Hong Kong's collective memory for its debut at Freespace, a new venue at West Kowloon Cultural District. Qiao Yang's solo dance *Almost 55* choreographed by Chou Shu-yi will also return during the Festival.

Of course, we are going to celebrate our birthday with a proper party. In January 2020, we will put together an all day celebration – *Dance Day: Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence* – inviting old friends and new. Please stay tuned for the exciting programmes of the 40th anniversary celebration!

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Editor's Note:

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CCDC reserves the right to substitute artists and vary advertised programmes