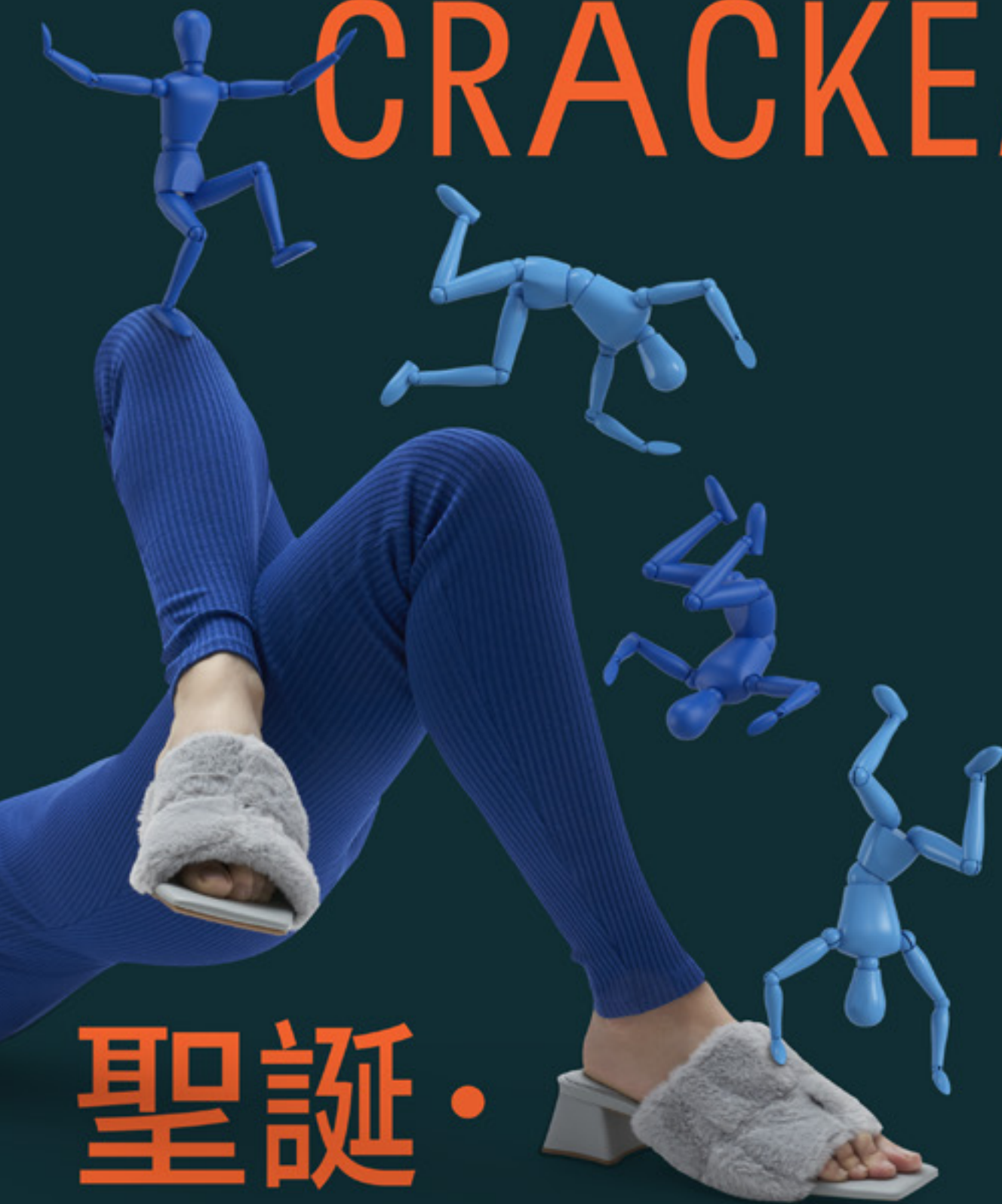


# CHRISTMICE CRACKER



聖誕·

老鼠·胡桃鉗

大館  
TAI KWUN

HOUSE  
PROGRAMME

玩轉大館馬戲季

TAI KWUN CIRCUS PLAYS

TAI KWUN CIRCUS PLAYS

# THE CHRISTMICE CRACKER

24, 27.12.2021 | 4:30PM

25–26.12.2021 | 2PM & 4:30PM

PARADE GROUND, TAI KWUN

Approximately 40minutes without intermission

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# CHRISTMICE CRACKER

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  - **CO-CHOREOGRAPHERS, REHEARSAL INSTRUCTORS & PERFORMERS** | ALAN CHENG, STEVE NG TO CHI SING
  - **DEVISING PERFORMERS** | FONTEYN HO, LEO LAU LAU PAK HONG, GENIE LOK NATASHA SO, LEGO SHUM JOSEPH TSANG (DTT), SIMPSON YAU, YANG HAO, HARRIET YEUNG (HATOU), YU CHUN KIU, SAM YUEN, ZHONG YI CHAO
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## **ABOUT CIRCUS PLAYS**

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It's winter, the season of "Tai Kwun Circus Plays"! During the Christmas and New Year holidays, our city's circus artists will join acrobatic veterans from around the world to present an array of dreamy, exciting, and innovative circus performances and workshops.

Before Santa arrives in town, immerse yourself in the otherworldly journey of *Flotados* by the award-winning Spanish troupe. Performing from a piano hanging at 8 meters high, it tells an enchanting love story through music, acrobatics, dance and video projections. However, Christmas could not be complete without Clara and the Prince. Local physical theatre TS Crew has reimagined the classical ballet *The Nutcracker*, giving it a "Hong Kong touch" featuring parkour and fire-breathing at the innovative *The ChristMice Cracker*.

Our season will conclude with the most anticipated finale – *Ting-koo-ki Mad Skills Battle*! Establishing itself as the ultimate circus gala in the region, 16 electrifying young circus artists from Hong Kong and Taiwan will give their best feats on the outdoor stage in a competitive yet friendly battle setting.

Designed around the performances, a series of family-friendly art workshops echoing the theme of *The Nutcracker* will be offered to the public free of charge. Aspiring performers are invited to join the “Circus Camp for Professionals” to brush up on their techniques.

Spanning across three weeks, including Christmas and New Year, join us in this joyful circus party at Tai Kwun!

# CHRISTMICE CRACKER

## **CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE**

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We may not have a dragon, lion, gongs, drums or anything traditional. But, the spirit of the dragon and lion is planted deep in our hearts.

I feel very lucky to be able to continue my creations in Hong Kong, and there are many people and units that I truly need to thank for this. I appreciate everyone's efforts in the team and am grateful to Tai Kwun for their invitation and trust. I also thank the Tai Po Arts Centre for their support and the TS CREW members for their infinite cooperation and tolerance that allowed me to progress further.

**Artistic Director & Choreographer  
Hugh Cho**

# CHRISTMICE CRACKER

## **SYNOPSIS**

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This Christmas, do you long to see the classic ballet performance of *The Nutcracker*?

Inspired by the classic tale, TS Crew has created *The ChristMice Cracker* – taking away the familiar ballet steps and traditional theatre setting, and, instead, opting for a local touch of Hong Kong culture. Enjoy the epic story like never before, this time with xiqu, circus performance, acrobatics and beatboxing. The performance brings Parade Ground audiences to the dreamland of Clara and the Prince. Then, leading them for a walk around the unique outdoor space of Tai Kwun to enjoy the surprises by the epic performance team. Even more exciting, street performance elements have been added, such as balancing ball, stilts and a fire show. This “Hong Kong Style” contemporary performing art piece is ready to meet you during the four-day long weekend of Christmas.

# CHRISTMICE CRACKER

# CREATIVE TEAM AND PRODUCTION TEAM

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Artistic Director &  
Choreographer

| Hugh Cho

Co-choreographers,  
rehearsal instructors &  
performers

| Alan Cheng, Steve Ng,  
To Chi Sing

Devising performers

| Fonteyn Ho, Leo Lau,  
Lau Pak Hong, Genie Lok,  
Natasha So, Lego Shum,  
Joseph Tsang (DTT),  
Simpson Yau, Yang Hao,  
Harriet Yeung (Hatou),  
Yu Chun Kiu, Sam Yuen,  
Zhong Yi Chao

Producer

| Andy Lo

Production Manager

| Eva Chau

Set Designer

| Siu Wai Man (Siujiou)

Sound Designer

| Jacyee Kwok

Costume Designer

| Renee Yan

Stage Management Team

| Lee Sin Yee, Lo Wai Lam,  
Nip Wing Tung



## ABOUT TS CREW

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Founded in 2017, TS Crew (TS) is currently a year-grantee of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. TS is a professional performing arts group with members of different backgrounds, including film, drama, xiqu, dance, martial arts and stunting. TS appears in different arts festivals and events both locally and overseas. In 2018, after performing *Along* in the Hong Kong Dance Exchange, a dance festival in Hong Kong with Daniel Yeung as artistic director, TS was subsequently invited to go on a year-round tour in Asia, including Beijing Dance Festival, Tokyo Performing Arts Meeting (TPAM), New Dance for Asia 2018 in Korea, Tottorri Theatre Festival in Japan, SiDance Festival in Korea and Weiwuying Dance Platform in Kaohsiung. Apart from Asia, TS also appeared in the Tanzmesse 2018, an internationally famous dance art market, in Dusseldorf, Germany. With much acclaim, TS performed *Along* at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2019, the world's largest art festival and platform, and was selected as one of the four must-see shows by *The Scotsman*.



**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR &  
CHOREOGRAPHER  
HUGH CHO**

He is the awardee of the Tom Brown Emerging Choreographer of the Hong Kong Dance Award 2019 and Award for Young Artist (Dance), the Hong Kong Arts Development Award 2020. He graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, major in Contemporary Dance.

Cho joined Unlock Dancing Plaza as Artist-in-Residence from 2010 to 2014.

He choreographed, performed and directed dance video *Oh! Million Fist!* screened in the Clermont-Ferrand's Short Film Festival 2018, and was also awarded by International Performing Arts & Movie Awards (IPAMA) with Special Mention Award in the same year.

His work *made in hong kong* from 2014, performed in numerous cities in Asia, also performed in *Tanzmesse* in 2016.

*Along*, a solo work about Bruce Lee's philosophy about Martial Arts, premiered in 2017, and was chosen to be one of the best premier of the year by Europe Dance Magazine. In 2018, Cho developed the piece into a group work, and was invited to different countries and regions in Asia, including the Mainland, Korea, Japan and Taiwan etc.

Cho is the co-founder of TS Studio, and the Artistic Director of TS Crew. With his unique background - started as a street dancer, trained in the academy, practiced Capoeira and acrobatic for years, work as a Cantonese Opera acrobats, he creates his own style of choreography.

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# CHRISTMICE CRACKER

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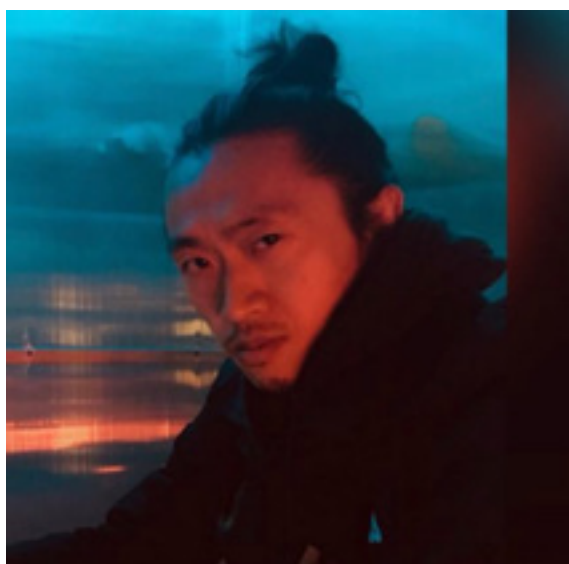
**CO-CHOREOGRAPHER,  
REHEARSAL INSTRUCTOR &  
PERFORMER - ALAN CHENG** →



**CO-CHOREOGRAPHER,  
REHEARSAL INSTRUCTOR &  
PERFORMER  
ALAN CHENG**

Cheng graduated with a degree in Sports Enterprise Management (Honours). He is currently the artist-in-resident of TS CREW, as well as a performer and Taekwondo & Martial Art Tricking coach. He has been heavily involved in different movements and works related to performing arts such as *Made in Hong Kong*, *Along*, *Carefree*, *Gong Wu*, and *Busking everywhere - No Dragon No Life* etc. He has also been engaged in drama production, such as *Starry*, *The Ravages of Time : Heros*, *Yokohama Mary*, *The Only King II*, and *Let's Hunt for a "Tiger" Tonight*, among others.

Cheng has performed in many countries and regions, including the Mainland, Japan, Scotland, South Korea, Germany, and Taiwan. Cheng is also a member of the Hong Kong Stuntman Association and joins different movies, TV and commercials as an action stuntman!



**CO-CHOREOGRAPHER,  
REHEARSAL INSTRUCTOR  
& PERFORMER  
STEVE NG**

A Capoeira professor and the associate artistic director of TS Crew, a year grantee of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. Ng is active in different media of performance.

Ng was also an action choreographer and movement instructor of *Big MK Day*, *The Only King II*, *Starry* and *Monkey Man*.

He was also involved in different dance works, include *No Dragon No Lion*, *Spinning*, *White Ginger Lily*, *Ring*, *Made in Hong Kong* (Guangzhou and Dusseldorf, Germany), *Along*, *Gong Wu* (Incheon, Jiju and Seoul, South Korea), *Care Free* etc.

Among those dance performances, *Along* has been invited to perform at different international platform and festivals, include Tokyo Performing Arts Meeting (TPAM) in Japan, Beijing Dance Festival in the Mainland, Bird Theatre Festival in Japan, The NDA International Festival in South Korea, Taiwan Dance Platform at Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts (Weiwuying) in Taiwan and Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland.



## **CO-CHOREOGRAPHER, RE- HEARSAL INSTRUCTOR & PERFORMER TO CHI SING**

An action actor and artist-in-resident of TS Crew. He has been involved in different movies, advertisements and microfilms. In recent years, he has started performing in drama and contemporary dance production, bringing different acrobatic elements into theatre performance.

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# CHRISTMICE CRACKER





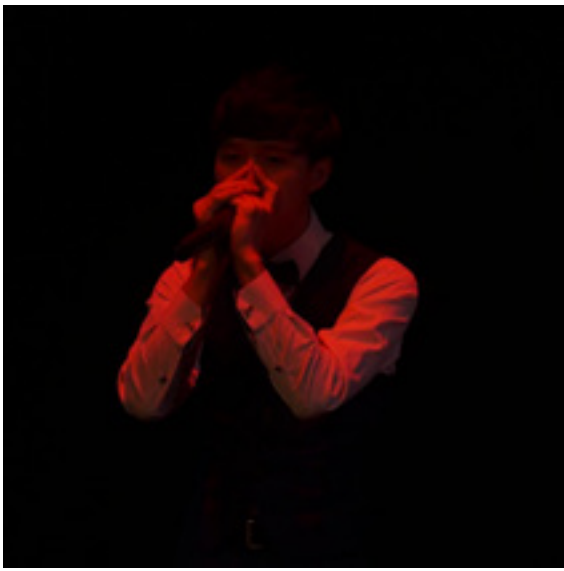
## DEVISING PERFORMER FONTEYN HO

Ho Fong Ting Fonteyn graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), majoring in Contemporary Dance. Second majoring in choreography.

She was also the recipient of the Contemporary Dance Faculty Scholarship 2020/21. During her time at the academy, she has worked with numbers of emerging artists and performed in a wide range of dance performances. Choreographers in cooperating are Marso Riviere (France), Christina Mertzani (Greece), Raewyn Hill (Australia), Jaime Redfern (Australia), John Utans (Australia), Richard Causer (Australia), Dominic Wong (Hong Kong), Li Yong-jing (Hong Kong).

In Hong Kong, she has worked with City Contemporary Dance Company, Unlock Dancing Plaza and E-side Dance Company.

Not only that, Ho also a Latin dance teacher. As she has experience in various dance style, she can be more flexible and she's developing her unique style. She is now focusing on Contemporary dance and enthusiastic to bring positive message to the society with her artistry.



## DEVISING PERFORMER LEO LAU

Leo Lau is from Hong Kong and he is the core member of FM96.8 and Saliva Music for many years. With more than 6 years of practicing beatbox and A cappella, he is now an instructor for beatbox for more than 2 years. Lau has been involved in different scales of performances, include *Concert in the Dark*, *Vocal Asia Festival Big city* and *Hong Kong a cappella parade* etc. He is also the champion of the singing contest of the Youth College in 2017.

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# CHRISTMICE CRACKER





## DEVISING PERFORMER LAU PAK HONG

Lau Pak Hong is a freelance dance artist graduated from the Cologne University of Music and Dance majoring in contemporary dance. He collaborated with different artists and ensembles including Y-Space, Folded Paper Dance and Theatre, E-Side Dance Company, Passover Dance, Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection, Make a Move Collective, MichaelDouglas Collective and Kammeroper Köln.

Lau participated as a chorus member in productions with Opera Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. He also taught in organisations including Boys' and Girls' Club Association and New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association to share his movement philosophy and somatic practices. He is an accountant, a certified POLESTAR® Pilates Mattress trainer and holds a bachelor and master degree in Physics.



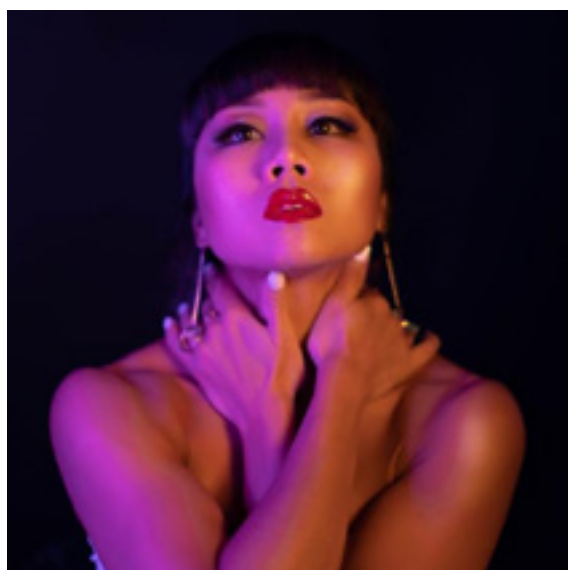
## DEVISING PERFORMER **GENIE LOK**

Genie Lok is currently studying in The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, majoring in Contemporary Dance. She has collaborated with Jaime Redfern, Yong Jing Li, Cho Si Wong, Mao Wei, Mickaël 'Marso' Rivière. She also participated in the performance of Hong Kong Airport, E-side company, City Contemporary Dance and TS Crew.

\*By kind permission of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

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# CHRISTMICE CRACKER



## DEVISING PERFORMER **NATASHA SO**

NATASHA "T'SHDB" SYNA, a fierce icon with different characters of "SHE". A charismatic artist, aerialist, fire girl, stilts, influencer, dancer, choreographer, show producer....

Natasha is deeply influenced by foreign cultures, with background in dancing, she pulls from a wide variety of dance style, predominantly in Waacking. She is the mother of Imperial House Of Waacking Hong Kong. One of the waacking pioneer based in Hong Kong who started the leading local waacking scene, also a well-known Asian waacker in worldwide, been travelled around the world working with many famous dancers from different countries since 2009. Founder of iconic brand "BATTLECAT", "STAR-WAACK", "ALL ASIA WAACKING FESTIVAL HKMO".

She starts her journey of circus acts since 2013 and naturally gravitated toward aerial arts afterwards.

Now she is currently a professional multi-skill performer. In the past many years, she has often gone abroad for training. She has studied in Dance and Circus Project (Moscow), Mid Air Circus Arts (Phuket), Vancouver Circus School (Vancouver BC), West Coast Flying Trapeze (Vancouver BC).

She will always be a student to discover and explore the world.

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# CHRISTMICE CRACKER



## DEVISING PERFORMER **LEGO SHUM**

Shum Lok Man Lego was a self-taught musician percussionist circus performer actor and composer artist for variety style from urban to grand theatre for past 10 years. He has kept searching and exploring his curiosity from music to circus performing art since 2017. Shum fell into the black hole of fire dance art first, but there was no one he could learn from in his local area, but this did not stop his journey of exploration. He first started doing fire dance on fire poi and dragon staff and then “fire eating” after a while. In 2018, he went to a fire circus camp festival representing Hong Kong alone in The Netherlands, then he started his first real fire dance performances with over 300 hundred fire artists! He went back to Hong Kong and was even thirstier to learn more circus skills, especially those balance acts, such as ROLABOLA, CYR WHEEL, UNICYCLE and 2 metres height stunt unicycle CIRCUS WALKING GLOBE all by himself!!

Shum keeps pushing his limits and by chance he was invited by Lowell Lo's music video director to perform in one of Lowell's classic canton pop MV, also he spread his wings to the Ocean Park, Hong Kong Sevens (rugby tournament), AIA Carnival on a high stilt walking and balloon twisting juggling !! Shum makes all his audience smile and breath stop with him with his great performance skills. And he keeps on going !!

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# CHRISTMICE CRACKER



## **DEVISING PERFORMER JOSEPH TSANG (DTT)**

DTT is now a Beatboxer and has more than nine years of Beatbox experience, and nearly five years of teaching experience. He's now teaching Beatbox in primary and secondary schools, institutions and community centers. He's currently a member of the Hong Kong a cappella group Groundbreaker, and also an arranger for the Hong Kong Beatbox group-saliva music. He participated in many major competitions and got excellent results, including the 2016 HKBC singles runner-up and double champion, 2017 World Beatbox camp solo battle top 8, 2018 Guangdong showcase battle vice-champion. He also attended various major performances, including the 2019 International A cappella music festival and the Ocean Park "Hello Full Day Festival" a cappella theatre performer, the 2020 Hong Kong Museum of Art, one of the exhibitions "The Breath of Landscape", Hong Kong Tourism Board European Tour of the Year of the Rat Dinner, including: London, Paris, France, Brussels, Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, Berlin and Frankfurt.

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## DEVISING PERFORMER SIMPSON YAU

Born in Hong Kong. Yau was graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, majoring in contemporary dance. He is currently working in City Contemporary Dance Company as full-time dancer. And he was the recipient of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Scholarship and The Gifted Young Dancer Programme scholarship. He was a member of CCDC's scholarship scheme "612 mini dancers", "Teens of Colors" and "WuDaoQingNian". He has worked with many renowned choreographers, including Kuik Swee Boon, Rick Nodine, and Christina Mertzani. Simpson has participated in numerous dance festivals, such as Gaga Winter Intensive, International Dance Week Budapest, Centre National de la Danse Camping 2019, Henny Jurriens Studio Summer Intensive, and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance Summer School.

\*By kind permission of the City Contemporary Dance Company





## DEVISING PERFORMER **YANG HAO**

Yang Hao was born in Chongqing and based in Hong Kong now. He received dance training in Beijing from age 12- 16. He has performed for companies such as: The Chinese National Opera and Theatre Dance Troupe, Guangdong Modern Dance Company, etc. He has received a full scholarship to study at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (BFA) in 2007, and joined the City Contemporary Dance Company as a dancer from 2009-2012. He was an artist-in-residence in SIDance Festival Dance Exchange 2013, and a Dance WEB scholarship recipient for ImpulseTanz 2014. In 2015-2016 he was the first Arts Fellow at Yale University supported by Yale China and Hong Kong ETO.

[www.hihaohao.com](http://www.hihaohao.com)

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## DEVISING PERFORMER **HARRIET YEUNG** **(HATOU)**

Graduating from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts majoring in Directing and Acting, Yeung has participated in the productions of various performing arts groups and won the Best Actress (Comedy/Farce) in the 16th Hong Kong Drama Awards. The dramas she has recently participated in include *My Very Short Marriage*, *Let's Hunt for a "Tiger" Tonight*, as well as *No Place Like Home* and *COME BACK. I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!* by Windmill Grass Theatre. These shows were all well received by the audience and had a full house.

Yeung was a full-time actress of PIP Theatre from 2007 to 2013 and participated in the productions and performances of a number of signature dramas, for example, *MicroSex Office*, *When Sushi meets Wasabi*, *on LINE in LOVE*, and monodrama *Miss Q Day Day Love*. She has also been active in the film and TV industry, recent works include *Port of Call*,

*Lazy Hazy Crazy* and *The Grand Grandmaster*. Yeung was known by the public by starring steamed pork patty master Laura Law Na in *Bounty Lady* (2013). With the role of Sister Ha, a leader of extras in *A General, A Scholar and A Eunuch*, she was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress in the TVB Anniversary Awards to show her recognition by the audiences.

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## DEVISING PERFORMER YU CHUN KIU

Yu is currently a Tricking coach. He has been involved in the stunt performances in theme park and different mega events.

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# CHRISTMICE CRACKER

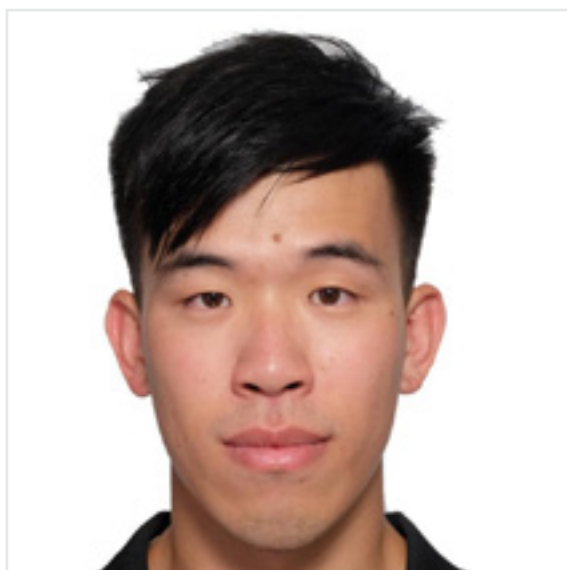


## DEVISING PERFORMER SAM YUEN

Sam Yuen graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2021, majoring in Contemporary Dance. He has established himself as a major force in Contemporary Dance. Yuen participated in different projects as a dancer, such as *Deep Edge* from the E-Side Dance Company, *Coven* from The School of Dance Summer Performances 2021, The Box 2.0, music video recording and Hong Kong Airport's show etc. Other than theatre and commercial in dance performance, he also participated in different areas like drama, dance therapy, juggling, balloon twisting and decoration. He also choreographed “無氧份” as his final year Independent Study Project.

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# CHRISTMICE CRACKER



## DEVISING PERFORMER ZHONG YI CHAO

He is an experienced Dragon and Lion Dance performer, also a member of Kwok's Kung Fu & Dragon Lion Dance Troupe. He always takes part in different Lion and Dragon Dance performances and competitions in Hong Kong as well as Asia with Kwok's. Recently, he participated in the show *No Dragon No Lion*, which was a cross-over project between TS Crew and Kwok's.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Kwok's Kung Fu and Dragon Lion Dance Team  
Han Yanming

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# TAI KWUN CIRCUS PLAYS PRODUCTION TEAM

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Artistic Director	Timothy Calnin
Head of Performing Arts	Eddy Zee
Producers	Frieda Ng, Mimi Lam, Grace Kwok, Phoebe Cheng, Bridget Cheung
Technical and Production	Juk Cheung, Mike Ho, Joel Ma, Shandy Leung, Juno Tam, Dang Hung, Irene Cheung, Bobby Lai, Myra Cheung, Terrence Choi, Selina Tse
Marketing and Communications	Kitty Wong, Gillian Leung, Chris Wong, Piku Luk, Harriet Chan, Stephanie Mak, Esther Lui, Tinko Lee, Joey Leung, Kyle Yim, Rachel Kung, Kayla Kong, Ching Lam, Topaz Chiu

## LEARN MORE ABOUT TAI KWUN CIRCUS PLAYS



## **SURVEY**

We value your feedback. Please fill in this survey and share your thoughts about this performance with us.



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## **HOUSE RULES**

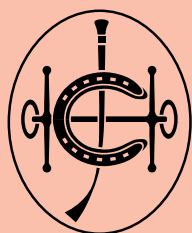
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- 1** Eating and drinking are strictly prohibited in the auditorium
- 2** Mask must be worn throughout the entire performance
- 3** Always keep social distancing

Thank you for your cooperation.

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保育活化  
Conserved and  
revitalised by



香港賽馬會  
The Hong Kong  
Jockey Club