

TAI KWUN TO DEBUT NEW SPOTLIGHT: A Season of Performing Arts in Autumn
Seven multi-disciplinary local programmes give a timely response to the present

Hong Kong, 10 August 2021, Tuesday



Tai Kwun is pleased to announce an all-new performing arts season of SPOTLIGHT, which will showcase seven programmes uniquely created for Tai Kwun from September until October 2021; offering performances and a cultural feast of Hong Kong talent for Tai Kwun audiences.

Carrying on the mission to explore the uncharted areas of performing arts, SPOTLIGHT will present six newly commissioned works. The site-specific theatre production *The Inner Études* takes us on an intimate journey beginning from a granite found near Prison Wall. Meanwhile, two new music productions – *LauZone*, a Hong Kong-style cabaret created by the team of the sold-out *Tri Ka Tsai* – will give a humorous account of the city’s unique cultural values; while *The Happy Family* presents a concert featuring an original novel and score, as it tells the story of a middle-class Hong Kong family.

Three distinctly different dance works will demonstrate the breadth of movement. These include the innovative *Minute Moonshine* that takes you from the virtual online world to Tai Kwun; *Diary VII • The Story Of.....* by the celebrated choreographer Mui Cheuk Yin; and *No. 60: Back to Basic*, a lecture performance by Thai choreographer Pichet Klunchun on contemporary and Thai Khon dance. Our partner Unlock Dancing Plaza will present free public workshops and performances to explore the relationship between body and methodology of choreography. **SPOTLIGHT will be staged from 16 September to 17 October 2021, site-wide in Tai Kwun; tickets available at art-mate.net and URBTIX now.** Please visit the Tai Kwun website for programme details.

“Although Tai Kwun opened its doors only a little more than three years ago, we have been tremendously fortunate to establish several deep, creative partnerships with leading Hong Kong performing artists, some of whom are firmly established, others poised to become

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major players in this city's thriving performing arts scene. We are immensely proud to present several of these artists in SPOTLIGHT 2021, especially as each one of them has immersed themselves in the unique, distinctive and occasionally eccentric performing spaces of Tai Kwun and allowed the special character of this place to influence their work," said Timothy Calnin, Director of Tai Kwun Arts.

Eddy Zee, Head of Performing Arts at Tai Kwun, noted, "Since its opening, Tai Kwun's 'Theatre Season' and 'Dance Season' have evolved into 'SPOTLIGHT: A Season of Performing Arts', encouraging local artists to explore the breadth and depth of performing arts. In addition to creating space to nurture the artists' continuous growth, we strive to connect the audience with performing arts."

"These seven outstanding multi-disciplinary programmes showcase the creative imagination and forward-looking vision of local artists as well as their ability to delve into the subject. Under the influence of the pandemic, the performing arts season also reflects the artists' responses to the present, and more importantly, enables the audience to relate themselves to every performance"

【Dance】 *Diary VII • The Story Of.....* | 16–19.09.2021

One of Hong Kong's most iconic dancers and choreographers, Mui Cheuk Yin began the *Diary* project in 1986. Over time, it has developed into a series of intimate and autobiographical dance works that see Mui navigate her illustrious career and, more importantly, making a connection with the world through dance. In her latest work, *Diary VII • The Story Of.....*, Mui chronicles her stories with stray cats through text, images, sounds, and her agile moves to find subtle parallels between feline traits and her philosophy in life. The shrewd and astute gazes of the cats seem to penetrate beyond the ephemeral nature of the city over the years. With their delicate steps and gentle moves, the cats appear to caress the wounds suffered by the fading city.

Date & Time: 16–19 September 2021, 8pm; 18–19 September 2021, 3pm

Venue: JC Cube, Tai Kwun

Ticket: \$300

【Hong Kong-style cabaret】 *LauZone* | 23–26.09.2021

Tackling the bittersweet relationship between Cantonese speakers and their ancestors is *LauZone*, co-created by Yuri Ng, Anna Lo and Rick Lau. As the same creative team behind the critically acclaimed and hit production *Tri Ka Tsai* also showcased at Tai Kwun in 2019, the multi-talented trio presents another poignant yet playful performance highlighting the rich variety of Chinese dialects. Prepare yourself for the euphony of dialects, music, and laughter as Rick Lau and Anna Lo shine in a cabaret show that sings a tribute to the lives and memories of the melting pot known as Hong Kong, as well as our roots and inherited legacy.

Date & Time: 23–25 September 2021, 8pm; 25–26 September 2021, 3pm

Venue: JC Cube, Tai Kwun

Ticket: \$300

【Dance Theatre x ARG】 *Minute Moonshine* | 01.10–03.10.2021

Five Hong Kong artists based both locally and in London will immerse *Minute Moonshine* audiences in the rich historicity of Tai Kwun, as they invite spectators to enter a surreal world traversing between a dance performance, visual images and installations. Through the form of contemporary experimental theatre and an alternate reality game (ARG), *Minute Moonshine* seamlessly blends ARG, performance and authentic Hong Kong elements in a number of simulated realms that deconstruct and reorganise familiar imageries of Hong Kong.

Date & Time: 1-2 October, 8pm; 2-3 October 2021, 3pm
Venue: F Hall Studio, Tai Kwun
Ticket: \$280

【Music X Literature X Projection】 *The Happy Family* | 01–03.10.2021

With Hong Kong ranked 77th in world happiness, is having a warm and perfect family a foregone conclusion? After the chamber opera *Women Like Us*, composer Daniel Lo and novelist Wong Yi have collaborated once again with *The Happy Family*. The contemporary music composition ponders the intimate topic of “family” through a typical middle-class Hong Kong household of five and their dog. *The Happy Family* features an all-new riveting score for a seven-player instrumental ensemble, narrator Yau Chung Wai, as well as video and animation by media artist Yu Wing Yan. This beautiful encounter of music and literature is a nuanced portrait of the intricate entanglements and inevitable sacrifices made by Hong Kong families.

Date & Time: 1–2 October 2021, 8:15pm; 2–3 October 2021, 3:30pm
Venue: JC Cube, Tai Kwun
Ticket: \$300

【Dance】 *No. 60: Back to Basic* | 07–10.10.2021

One of Thailand’s crowning and scared artistic treasures, Khon is a form of dance theatre that combines elements including dance, drama, music, poetry, and shadow play into an art form traditionally performed in the royal courts. In *No. 60: Back to Basic*, Pichet Klunchun will lead four Hong Kong dancers from different disciplines and training to an exploration that transcends culture and countries. Through a lively combination of demonstration and lecture, Klunchun contemplates the meaning of maintaining the artistic legacy and its transformation. *No. 60: Back to Basic* breaks the conformity and translates the spirit of Khon into a contemporary context, allowing Hong Kong dancers to showcase their uniqueness by deconstructing the fundamental Khon techniques.

Date & Time: 7–9 October 2021, 8pm; 9 October 2021, 3pm; 10 October 2021, 5pm
Venue: JC Cube, Tai Kwun
Ticket: \$280

【Site-specific Theatre】 *The Inner Études* | 07–17.10.2021

Presented by the creative team behind the highlight programme *Property Guide* at Lou Kau Mansion in the 2021 Macao Arts Festival, *The Inner Études* is a rock-themed immersive theatre inspired by Victoria Prison and the geological history of Hong Kong rocks. Wearing

headsets, the audience ventures into the century-old prison built with granite and connects with the emotions and experiences of those imprisoned a century ago, by being immersed in a collage of projections, lighting, soundscape and performance.

Date & Time: 7-10, 12-17 October 2021, 7pm & 9pm
Venue: Site-wide, Tai Kwun
Ticket: \$300

【Partner Programme】#DANCELESS complex | 16.09-16.10.2021

Our partner Unlock Dancing Plaza will present free public workshops and performances to explore the relationship between body and methodology of choreography.

Drink and Dance

Drink and Dance literally means to drink and to dance – imagine yourself at a party, immersed in the throbbing and excessively loud music – what is left on your mind? Perhaps it is simply a blank state, what is left is the pure joy of overindulgence.

Date & Time: 16-19 September 2021, 6:30pm
Venue: Prison Yard, Tai Kwun
Ticket: Free Admission

FreeSteps Workshop by Su Wei Chia

The workshop employs some of the methodologies into education, leading the participants to explore their body movements, and dance freely to search for and to create endless possibilities of the body.

Date & Time:
15 October 2021, 7:30pm
16 October 2021, 10:30am & 3pm
Venue: JC Cube, Tai Kwun
Ticket: Free Registration Online

Visitor information

Tai Kwun adopts social distancing measures in compliance to the latest safety regulations. Visitors are required to wear surgical masks, undergo temperature screening, and either scan “LeaveHomeSafe” QR code or register personal particulars. Eating and drinking in public areas is temporarily not allowed. The frequency of cleansing is being stepped up for high contact surfaces throughout the day, and hand sanitiser stations are available throughout Tai Kwun. Visit the Tai Kwun website for more details:
https://www.taikwun.hk/en/visit/visiting_tai_kwun.

Programme details are subject to change, please refer to the Tai Kwun websites for news and updates.

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 unites across 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 have 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 visit our website: <https://www.TaiKwun.hk>.

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