

ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CIRCUS ARTISTS AT TAI KWUN

Circus Plays is back in December with a three-week Circus Party

Hong Kong, 12 November 2021, Friday



Tai Kwun is pleased to announce the return of the acclaimed Circus Plays this December, in time for the Christmas and New Year season. Showcasing exhilarating circus performances, alongside a series of fun family workshops, Circus Plays offers a diverse range of events for all ages to share three weeks of festive joy and circus parties with the compound's visitors.

Tai Kwun Circus Plays will be staged from 15 December 2021 to 2 Jan 2022, site-wide in Tai Kwun; tickets are available at art-mate.net and URBTIX, free registration is available online. Please visit the Tai Kwun website for programme details.

Flotados (Spain) | 15–19.12.2021

Created by the prize-winning Spanish troupe David Moreno Cia. & Cristina Calleja, *Flotados* is an otherworldly outdoor circus performance that will take over the Parade Ground during Tai Kwun's Circus Plays. Performing from a grand piano suspended a gravity-defying 8 metres overhead, two performers tell an enchanting love story through music, dance, acrobatics and video projections. Take a step back and look into the night sky, follow the elegant moves of the performers and immerse yourself in a universe of dreams. A romantic and holistic aerial dance is set to kick start an amazing Christmas for Tai Kwun guests.

Date & Time: 15–19 December 2021, 7:30pm

Venue: Parade Ground, Tai Kwun

Free Admission

The ChristMice Cracker (Hong Kong) | 24–27.12.2021

Inspired by the classical ballet *The Nutcracker*, Hong Kong's own, home-grown physical theatre troupe TS Crew expands its most dramatic "battle" scene to create *The ChristMice Cracker*. With local flavours sprinkled to this classic, the exhilarating outdoor performance features lion dance, Chinese Opera, circus, acrobats, and beatboxing, as well as street performance spirits including unicycles, stilts and fire-breathing. Performed by a dozen of highly skilled local artists, this hybrid work of theatre, gala and contemporary circus is set to

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The Jockey Club CPS Limited
香港中環荷李活道10號
大館 14 座 2 樓
2/F Block 14, Tai Kwun
10 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong

www.taikwun.hk

turn the Parade Ground into the dreamland of Clara and the Prince with a unique “Hong Kong” twist over the Christmas long weekend.

Date & Time: 24–27 December 2021, 4:30pm; 25–26 December 2021, 2pm
Venue: Parade Ground, Tai Kwun
Free Admission

Only Bones v1.0 (New Zealand) | 25–27.12.2021

The award-winning solo performance created by New Zealand’s physical theatre and mime artist Thom Monckton and Parisian school Lecoq LEM graduate Gemma Tweedie bring their unique combination of humour, playfulness and astonishing skill to put a smile on every face.

Only Bones v1.0 uses a contemporary approach to clowning and makes challenging criteria by involving only one light, one chair, one performer, no text, and a mini stage area of 1.2 metres. While playing with a low-tech aesthetic, Thom manipulates different tiny parts of the body to create detailed physical movements beyond the audience’s imagination. These funny, quirky, and laugh-out-loud moments will surprise audiences of all ages.

Date & Time: 25-27 December 2021, 3pm & 8pm
Venue: JC Cube, Tai Kwun
Ticket: \$220 (Tickets will be available on art-mate.net & URBTIX)

PLI (Czech) | 31.12.2021–02.01.2022

This festive season, Czech multi-disciplinary artist Viktor Černický gifts to Hong Kong audiences his award-winning solo performance *PLI*. Honoured by multiple awards including the “Audience Award” and “Total Award” at the 2019 Czech Dance Platform, *PLI* is all about bringing together 22 conference chairs, an obsessive rhythm and one devoted man to create a clever and playful solo piece. Turning the most ordinary objects with his contemporary circus techniques, *PLI* illustrates the physical metaphor for endless human dynamics, patience and strive; where words and emotions are never spoken but communicated.

Date & Time: 31 December 2021–2 Jan 2022, 4:15pm; 1-2 January 2022, 2pm
Venue: Prison Yard, Tai Kwun
Free Admission

Ting-koo-ki Mad Skills Battle (Hong Kong x Taiwan) | 31.12.2021–02.01.2022

Returning to Tai Kwun for the third year, Ting-Koo-Ki Mad Skills Battle and Gala are the most exciting circus party to showcase local and Taiwanese circus talents on the outdoor stage in the Parade Ground. Taking place over the New Year, the Gala celebrates each individual performer’s edgiest acts, before they participate in the Battle to win the audience’s vote in one-on-one challenges.

A co-produced circus movie, *Isabella* by Tai Kwun and Hsingho Co., will also be presented online in the New Year. Directed by Portuguese circus artist Ricardo S. Mendes, the film features circus talents from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Portugal, Italy and France along with their unique props. The film presents a touching story of circus performers’ lives as they exist as both human beings and artists.

Date & Time:

TKK Mad Skills Gala | 31.12.2021-01.01.2022, 3pm;

TKK Mad Skills Battle | 02.01.2022, 3pm;

Circus Movie *Isabella* | from 30.12.2021, online

Venue: Parade Ground, Tai Kwun

Free Admission, registration needed (Circus Movie excluded)

CircusCracker Workshops | 24.12.2021–02.01.2022

From Christmas Eve to the New Year, a series of workshops echoing the theme of “Nutcracker” will be available to the public, free-of-charge. Participants will first enjoy the demonstration by the professional artists, before they learn and experience the crafts and tricks first-hand. Designed for families, the CircusCracker Workshops encompass crystal ball, Kendama, puppet-making and more. Join and challenge yourself this season to unleash the untapped potential within you!

Date & Time: 24.12.2021–02.01.2022

Venue: Site-wide, Tai Kwun

Free Admission, registration needed

Circus Camp for Professionals | 01–02.01.2022

Returning with critical acclaim, the world’s leading juggling company Gandini Juggling will host another year of advanced training workshop for local jugglers and choreographers. Sean Gandini and Kati Ylä-Hokkala, the Artistic Directors of the company, will take their recent work *LIFE*, inspired by Merce Cunningham, as the lead to explore the concept of “layering” as well as the relationship between choreography and contemporary circus.

Date & Time: 01–02.01.2022

Venue: JC Cube, Tai Kwun

Free Admission, registration needed

‘Tis the Season of Tai Kwun

The festive season will soon be in full swing at Tai Kwun, as Christmas décor and jolly activities tinsel the grounds of Hong Kong’s centre for heritage and arts. Visitors can find themselves immersed in a fabulous Christmas environment thanks to The Hong Kong Jockey Club, as a 12 metre tall “The Giving Tree” is hoisted in the centre of Parade Ground. So cosy up and embrace the Christmas spirit at Tai Kwun!

Visitor information

Tai Kwun adopts social distancing measures in compliance with the latest safety regulations. Visitors are required to wear surgical masks, undergo temperature screening, and either scan the “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.

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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 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>.



For more information, please contact:

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

Nancy Au
Tel: +852 9028 0990
Email: NAu@golin.com

Silver Yim
Tel: +852 2501 7925 / 5138 2497
Email: SYim@golin.com