Young Friends of the Hong Kong Arts Festival
2018-19 University Arts Appreciation Campaign

Young Friends (YFS) of the Hong Kong Arts Festival aims to promote multi-art experiences through diverse programmes and activities to secondary and tertiary students, stimulating students’ interest in and ability to appreciate performing arts.

This year, the well-acclaimed University Arts Appreciation Campaign has returned, bringing a variety of arts appreciation packages which specially designed for tertiary students. The campaign is divided into two streams: 1) PLUS X Uni Package and 2) Pre-Performance Workshop Package. Workshops and special events are hosted by local professional and passionate tutors, and some with HKAF artists! We are hoped to provide a fruitful arts appreciation journey and insights to students. Please check out the SIX highlighted performance packages below!

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Robert Lepage – “887”  [Theatre]

Package: [Pre-Performance Workshop + Robert Lepage Sharing Talk + Performance]

Celebrated theatre-maker Robert Lepage returns to Hong Kong with an autobiographical journey through his childhood in a Quebec just beginning to awaken to its own promise. Unable to memorize a poem he must recite, Lepage uses the “memory palace” technique, assigning stanzas to the familiar rooms of his childhood home. But re-opening the doors to each room reveals more inside than just the poem he put there. With stagecraft that will take your breath away, 887 recreates the world of a young boy growing up in 1960s Quebec.

Ref: https://youtu.be/kYswTsuzDFQ

Huang Yi and KUKA  [Dance]

Package: [Pre-Performance Workshop + Huang Yi Sharing Talk + Performance]

From a young age, dancer, choreographer and inventor Huang Yi has been interested in the partnership between humans and robots. Renowned for his velocity and precision, Huang blends dance, dynamic visuals, technology and machines into Huang Yi & KUKA, a work that reveals humanity through new concepts and technologies, exploring the grey area between humans and robots.

Ref: https://youtu.be/Q-sK-s_TzNQ
Ontroerend Goed £¥€$ (LIES) [Interactive / Immersive Theatre]

Package: [Early Bird Experience + Post-Experience Workshop]
Rehearsal: November 2018 & 11th March 2019
Time: Evening, 11th March 2019

After Fight Night in 2015, HKAF will present another innovative theatre piece in a special game setting by the renowned Belgium director Ontroerend Goed. Entitled £¥€$ (“Lies”), the show is an interactive theatre that simulates the mechanism of financial world and monetary system through playing a ‘game’ of high-stake capitalism in an alternate performance venue with the look and feel of an underground casino. A strong team of bilingual cast would be engaged to perform the original English version as well as the adapted Cantonese version.
Pre-Performance Workshops Package

A Fuel, Bristol Old Vic, Royal Lyceum Theatre, and Royal & Derngate Northampton co-production – “Touching the Void” [Theatre]

Package: [Pre-Performance Drama Workshop + Performance]

One of the greatest true stories of adventure and survival comes to the stage in this thriller directed by Tony Award-winner, Tom Morris. Two men attempt a dangerous Andean mountain ascent climbing on the same rope in appalling weather when disaster strikes. For any chance of survival, one must cut the other free; beneath them, a terrifying void of ice and snow.

Staged by Tony Award-winner and Bristol Old Vic Artistic Director Tom Morris (The Grinning Man, War Horse, Swallows & Amazons) and adapted for the stage by award-winning writer and Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh Artistic Director David Greig (The Events, The Lorax, The Suppliant Women), this almost unbearably tense drama will have you clinging to the edge of your seat.

Ref: https://fueltheatre.com/projects/touching-the-void
Hong Kong Arts Festival commission and production –

“Gangsters of Hong Kong”

Package: [Pre-Performance Drama Workshop + Performance]

Loong Man-hong’s powerful drama about triad gangs explores human relationships, unification tensions, law and order, and the power struggles between generations, locals and immigrants, and new and former hegemonies. Cleverly plotted and staged by an award-winning production team and cast, Gangsters of Hong Kong unfolds as a powerful story and fascinating lesson in social history.

Kiu Kiang Street in 1970s Sham Shui Po is a tough neighbourhood where law-abiding citizens and crooks live cheek by jowl. Three friends grow up there together, then go their separate ways. But they remain in touch, their lives and jobs – journalist, policeman, triad member are interconnected in a rapidly changing Hong Kong, each needing something from the others.

Commissioned and produced by HKAF, multi-award winning playwright and screenwriter Loong Man-hong’s powerful new drama shines a light on fifty years of Hong Kong sub-cultures and the fortunes of triad gangs. Lee Chun-chow directs and performs with a first-rate Hong Kong cast. Social history has never felt so gripping.
Huge audiences flocked to view Cantonese operas across Southeast Asia in the 1950s and 1960s. The artform's popularity spread even to Cuba, where the legendary "Havana Divas" Caridad Amaran and Georgina Wong Guitierrez staged their home-grown shows.

These extraordinary Cuban stars of yesteryear will share the stage with Malaysian "diva" Choy Yim-Heong and Hong Kong veteran Cantonese opera specialist Danny Li. The artists will showcase their lives’ work across Asia and the Americas through talks, performance excerpts and film clips.

Throughout the Traces and Stages programme, both Li and renowned Cantonese Opera performer Law Kar-ying will serve as artistic directors on full-length works and highlight excerpts from popular repertoires of Yam Bak and Bak Yuk-tong that toured overseas during the mid-20th century.