

**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Honorary Awards Ceremony of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts 2024**

(Dec 5, 2024) – The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (the Academy) has conferred Honorary Awards on ten outstanding individuals today in recognition of their significant achievements and contributions to the performing arts, the cultural industry, and the development of the Academy. The ceremony held at the Academy Lyric Theatre was officiated by the Academy Council Chairman, Mr. Charles Yang Chuen-liang *BBS JP*. Academy Director, Professor Gillian Choa, expressed her sincere gratitude for the Honorary Awardees' exemplary services and unwavering support to the Academy and the community.

Recipients of Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*:

Dr. Ann Hui On-wah *BBS MBE*  
Mr. Sammo Hung Kam-po  
Dr. Tony Leung Chiu-wai  
Prof. Frankie Yeung Wai-shing *BBS MH JP*  
Prof. Yuen Siu-fai *BBS BH*

Recipients of Honorary Fellowship:

Prof. Hao Rong  
Ms. Charmaine Ho Mei-chee  
Mr. Akram Khan  
Prof. Lena Lee  
Ms. Lui Lai-wah

Page 3 to 12 : Citations of the recipients of Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa*

Page 13 to 17: Citations of the recipients of Honorary Fellowship

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## About The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) ([www.hkapa.edu](http://www.hkapa.edu))

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), established by The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Ordinance in 1984, is a leading tertiary institution in the performing arts in Asia. It provides professional undergraduate education and practice-based postgraduate studies. The study encompasses Chinese Opera, Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music, and Theatre and Entertainment Arts. Its educational philosophy reflects the cultural diversity of Hong Kong with emphasis on Chinese and Western traditions, and interdisciplinary learning.

Since 2008, the Academy has attained the Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) status awarded by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) to self-monitor and accredit its own undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in the five programme areas of Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music, and Theatre and Entertainment Arts. Since 2016, the PAA status has been extended to cover Master's Degree programmes and below; and since 2023, the programmes operated by the School of Chinese Opera accredited by HKCAAVQ has also received PAA status for its post-secondary and undergraduate programmes.

Besides the main campus in Wanchai, Béthanie, the site of the Academy's Landmark Heritage Campus in Pokfulam, has housed training facilities for the School of Film and Television since 2006.

In the QS University Rankings announced in 2024, the Academy ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in Asia in the Performing Arts category.

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**Dr. Ann Hui On-wah BBS MBE - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa***

Dr. Ann Hui On-wah is a renowned Hong Kong film director, producer, and screenwriter who has made remarkable contributions to the film industry in Hong Kong and across Asia. Dr. Hui's career spans more than four decades, during which she has directed more than thirty films, won numerous awards, and gained international recognition for her impressive work. She is also one of the most important filmmakers representing the Hong Kong New Wave in the 1980s.

Dr. Hui graduated from The University of Hong Kong with a bachelor of arts degree in 1969 and a master of arts degree in English and comparative literature in 1973. She furthered her studies at the London Film School in 1975.

After returning to Hong Kong, Dr. Hui embarked on her career in the Hong Kong film industry, initially as an assistant director for the Shaw Brothers Studio. She made her directorial debut in 1979 with the film *The Secret*, which won critical acclaim while establishing her as a talented, promising filmmaker. Dr. Hui's early film often touched on the complexities of social issues and explored the lives of marginalised groups in society.

In the 1980s, Dr. Hui started to experiment with different genres, including comedy, drama, and action. Her film *Boat People* from 1982 won her the Best Director Award at the Hong Kong Film Awards for the first time, a prize she has now won on a record six occasions. Other notable films from this period included *Song of the Exile* in 1990, and *Summer Snow* in 1995. After the turn into the 2000s, Dr. Hui's films became more introspective, often exploring themes of identity, memory, and loss. Her film *July Rhapsody* from 2002 explores midlife crisis, lost loves, and marriage, proving to be a moving final film performance from Anita Mui. Other important works from this period include *The Postmodern Life of My Aunt* in 2006 and *A Simple Life* in 2011.

Over the past four decades, Dr. Hui has won numerous accolades recognising her remarkable achievements in the film industry. Besides her six awards as Best Director at the Hong Kong Film Awards between 1983 and 2018, she also won Best Director at the Golden Horse Awards in 1999, 2011 and 2014. To support the local film industry, Dr. Hui served as President of the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild from 2004 to 2006.

Dr. Hui's impressive track record saw her presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Asian Film Awards in 2012, making her the first female recipient, and the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Film Festival in 2020. In 2008, Dr. Hui was awarded the Grand Prize at the Fukuoka Prizes due to her contribution to Asian culture, tackling contemporary issues in an incisive manner. In 2010, she received the Hong Kong Arts Development Council's Award for Outstanding Contribution in Arts. In 2017, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles invited Dr. Hui to become a member.

Dr. Hui is a staunch supporter of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and was a Council member of the Academy from 1993 to 1996. She has been an Honorary Fellow of the Academy since 1997, helping with the institutional advancement of the Academy. Dr. Hui is known for her care for the younger generations of the film industry, and has served as a mentor to many young filmmakers, including students and graduates of the Academy's School of Film and Television. She also advocates for the preservation of Hong Kong's film heritage. She has served as a visiting professor at several universities, sharing her expertise and experience with aspiring filmmakers.

In recognition of her distinguished contribution and strong commitment to the film sector, Dr. Hui was named a Member of the Order of the British Empire (*MBE*) in 1997 and awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2012. She has also received Honorary Doctorates from the Hong Kong Baptist University, The University of Hong Kong, the Lingnan University, the Hong Kong Metropolitan University and The Education University of Hong Kong.

**Mr. Sammo Hung Kam-po - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa***

Mr. Sammo Hung, is a legendary figure in Hong Kong cinema, renowned for his multifaceted talents as a film director, action choreographer, actor and producer. His illustrious career spans over six decades and more than 230 films. It all began when he was nine years old. His training in the Peking Opera School of martial arts and acrobats laid a solid foundation for his extraordinary career in the film industry. His film debut in *Education of Love* (1961) marked the beginning of a journey that would see him become one of the most influential figures in Hong Kong cinema.

His real love of filmmaking began when he was merely a stuntman at the age of 16. Following a long day of intense work, he would return to school all excited and get his younger peers to reenact what he saw and played that day on set. Little did he know this spark of interest would lead him to a career that he came to love. From that point onward, Mr. Hung immersed himself in every aspect of film production, offering his help whenever needed. His humility endeared him to those around him, making him one of the most well-rounded filmmakers of our era.

One of his most distinctive traits is the ability to blend martial arts with humour. By infusing comedic elements into high-octane action sequences, Mr. Hung created a new genre that appealed to a broad audience. A perfect illustration of this unique blend is his series of *Lucky Stars* movies which masterfully combine and create a perfect balance of impressive fight choreography and slapstick comedy.

Another groundbreaking creative work by Mr. Hung was the movie *Encounters of the Spooky Kind* (1980), a film that would later become a cornerstone of the "jiangshi" genre. His ability to seamlessly integrate comedy, horror, and action set a new standard for genre fusion in Asian cinema, influencing numerous filmmakers in the years that followed. His exceptional contributions have garnered recognition through prestigious accolades, including the Best Action Choreography Award at the Hong Kong Film Awards and the Golden Horse Awards, as well as the Best Actor Award at the Hong Kong Film Awards and the Asia Pacific Film Festival.

Venturing beyond Hong Kong, Mr. Hung captivated audiences in the United States with his role in the television series *Martial Law* (1998). Amidst the challenges of filming, which included language barriers and adapting to American production practices, his dedication and innovative approach to action choreography quickly earned him the admiration of both the crew and viewers. True to his nickname, "the most agile fat guy," he consistently showcased his remarkable prowess on screen.

Beyond Mr. Hung's creative pursuits, his lasting impact goes beyond his on-screen achievements. His willingness to mentor and support emerging talents have played a crucial role in shaping a new cohort of filmmakers and actors within the Hong Kong film industry. For example, the renowned "Sammo Hung Stunt Team" provided a crucial platform for



nurturing new talents and was instrumental in the transition of numerous action professionals into successful actors and directors in their own right. Revered as “Big Brother” by the stuntmen and filmmakers he mentored, this title symbolises not just his seniority but also the profound bonds of trust and loyalty he cultivated within the industry.

Over the course of his celebrated career, Mr. Hung has remained steadfast in his mission to empower and inspire young talents. His resolute spirit, positive attitude, and emphasis on embracing passion, resilience, and humility serve as guiding principles for those endeavouring to forge extraordinary paths in the realm of cinema. His cinematic legacy is preserved in the Academy Library, serving as a wellspring of inspiration for members of the Academy community and perpetuating his professional spirit and enduring influence.

## **Dr. Tony Leung Chiu-wai - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa***

One of the world's finest actors, Dr. Tony Leung Chiu-wai has been making waves in the film industry for over four decades. Through an exceptional devotion to his art, a lifelong passion for film, and relentless hard work, he has evolved from a TV-series actor into a global superstar, who has received some of cinema's leading accolades.

Since the 1990s, Dr. Leung has worked closely with renowned film directors such as Wong Kar-wai, Ang Lee, John Woo and Zhang Yimou, starring in a wide range of films, from critically acclaimed arthouse titles to box-office blockbusters. His stellar acting has won him the Best Actor Award six times at the Hong Kong Film Awards: in 1995 for *Chungking Express*, 1998 for *Happy Together*, 2001 for *In the Mood for Love*, 2003 for *Infernal Affairs*, 2005 for *2046*, and most recently, in 2024 for *The Goldfinger*. Dr. Leung has won Best Leading Actor three times at the Golden Horse Awards, for *Chungking Express*, *Infernal Affairs*, and *Lust, Caution*. The six Best Actor wins at the Hong Kong Film Awards and the three at the Golden Horse make him the record holder in each category. In 2023, Dr. Leung was named Best Actor for *Hidden Blade* at the Golden Rooster Awards, making him the first artist to win the leading-actor award in the Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Dr. Leung's masterful acting and unique charisma have not only brought him personal glory; they have also propelled the development of Hong Kong cinema, placing it firmly on the world stage. In 2000, he became the first and, to date, the only Hong Kong actor to win the Award for Best Actor at the Cannes Film Festival, for his performance in *In the Mood for Love*. In 2015, he was named an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Ministry of Culture of France, in recognition of his tremendous achievements in filmic art, making him the first Hong Kong actor to be recognised in such a way. In 2018, Dr. Leung was presented with the inaugural Chaplin Award for Asia for his outstanding accomplishments in film. In 2021, Dr. Leung starred in the Marvel Studios production *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, the first Marvel movie to depict Asian superheroes. In 2022, he was named Asian Filmmaker of the Year at the Busan International Film Festival in Korea for his remarkable contributions to the advancement of the Asian Film industry and Asian culture.

In 2023, Dr. Leung received the Asian Film Contribution Award at the Asian Film Awards. In the same year, he became the first Asian actor to be conferred with the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice International Film Festival. His decades of contribution to Hong Kong cinema and the culture of the Chinese-speaking world have made him the pride of Hong Kong, where he has been a household name for decades, as well as a truly global star. Importantly, he is someone who has greatly contributed to bringing his city and Asian culture to the global stage.

Despite his success, Dr. Leung is famously approachable, humble and down-to-earth. He is passionate about serving the community, attending in particular to the wellbeing of the underprivileged segments in society. As one of Asia's most-influential artists, he has actively promoted the development of performing arts in Hong Kong and been extremely supportive

of the Academy's cultivation of young talent, especially in the fields of acting and drama. Dr. Leung serves as a role model for young artists to admire. His professionalism, diligence and commitment to community service will continue to inspire students to pursue their dreams in the performing arts for many years to come.



**Prof. Frankie Yeung Wai-shing BBS MH JP - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa***

Professor Frankie Yeung Wai-shing is an ardent supporter of the arts and cultural development, as well as community service in Hong Kong. He has made enormous contributions to the local community, particularly through promoting performing arts and film development.

Apart from being a distinguished business leader, Professor Yeung actively engages in public and community service, serving in various positions as a public appointee. Currently, he is the Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and Chairman of the Xiqu Centre Advisory Panel at the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority. He is also a member of the Culture Commission, the Hong Kong Film Development Council, the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society, the Tourism Strategy Committee, the Antiquities Advisory Board and the Harbourfront Commission.

Professor Yeung is a visionary leader who strives to be conscious of the needs of the community, meaning he is willing to take the initiative to overcome challenges. He obtained a master of business administration degree in 2002 from Deakin University in Australia, then received his doctorate in business administration from the City University of Hong Kong in 2016. Professor Yeung is the Senior District Director of AIA and joined the company in 1978. He is currently the Managing Director of Cheung & Yeung Company.

As the Chairman of the Arts Support Committee at the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Professor Yeung helped to execute the Anti-epidemic Fund as part of the Arts and Culture Sector Subsidy Scheme to support performing arts groups, individual arts practitioners and freelancers who were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, under the steer of Professor Yeung, the Arts Development Council has offered a variety of funding schemes to support local arts practitioners and arts groups in pursuing their creative endeavours and implementing their artistic projects, with the goal of nurturing artistic excellence. Professor Yeung is also committed to nurturing local artistic talent with the aim of augmenting their abilities through training, competition, internships and overseas exchange. His commitment, dedication and resourcefulness are invaluable assets to the Hong Kong community and beyond.

Professor Yeung served as Chairman of the Cantonese Opera Development Fund Advisory Committee from 2011 through 2017. Under the leadership of Professor Yeung, the committee launched an efficient and transparent scheme of financial assistance to support the development of the Cantonese opera industry. The scheme has had a profound impact on the advancement of the art form in the region. From 2012 to 2018, Professor Yeung served as the Chairman of the Chinese Traditional Performing Arts Panel at the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, helping to develop the Chinese Opera Festival into a renowned international event. He has also helped develop and direct the execution of the Emerging Artists Development Grant and the Arts Talents Internship Matching Programme, which aim to create more opportunities for rising talent in the performing arts industry.

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts has been very fortunate to have Professor Yeung as a long-term supporter and loyal friend. Serving as the Deputy Council Chairman of the Academy from 2014 to 2019, he has always wholeheartedly devoted himself to serving the Academy community. He was also Chair of various committees of the Academy Council, including the Development Committee and the Staff Retirement Benefit Schemes Management Committee. He has also made it a priority to regularly engage with students and graduates of the Academy, sharing his wisdom and encouraging them to pursue their dreams in the performing arts. Being a firm believer in education, Professor Yeung generously donates to establish scholarships and funds for local universities, including the Academy.

Professor Yeung's tremendous contributions and achievements in many spheres of Hong Kong life, particularly in the sectors of arts and culture have been recognised with several honours and awards. He was awarded a Medal of Honour in 2008, the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2016, and appointed as the Justice of Peace in 2013 by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

**Prof. Yuen Siu-fai BBS BH - Doctorate of the Academy *honoris causa***

Professor Yuen Siu-fai is a maestro of Cantonese opera. Given that he has been acting across a full seven decades, he has progressed from his first appearances as a child prodigy and is now known as a performing arts guru, and master of his craft.

Professor Yuen began performing at the age of seven, initially as a film actor before making his first appearance on the opera stage. He was one of the few versatile artists who can perform across different genres of Chinese opera. As his operatic skills blossomed, he began to write scripts as well. Some of his notable works include *Traces in the Snow*, *The Return of Lady Wenji*, and *Havoc at Guang Chang Long*.

Professor Yuen has been involved for many years in the promotion of Cantonese opera, as well as teaching about the art form and ensuring that its legacy is passed down. In the 1970s, he founded the Group of Hong Kong Experimental Cantonese Opera Troupe to promote the development of the art, and later the House of Cantonese Opera to conduct research in education, training, promotion, and heritage conservation. He organised numerous Cantonese opera summer camps to give introductory training to young people.

In 2006, Professor Yuen established the Dawn Radiance Opera Troupe, which tailors operatic works to provide young actors with opportunities to perform. He was also Artistic Director of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre Venue Partnership Scheme for the Cantonese Opera Young Talent Showcase of the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong. What's more, Professor Yuen has had a hand in bringing Cantonese opera to the world stage. He has taken elite stage actors on tour in Asia, Europe and the Americas to perform the bilingual play *Backstage*, which helps bring the joys of Cantonese opera to a non-native audience. He also served as artistic director of the One Table Two Chairs Charitable Foundation, and has promoted Cantonese opera and *naamyam* narrative singing in innovative ways.

In recent years, Professor Yuen has been driving the application of Cantonese opera gongche notation for inclusion on the World Heritage List. He also teamed up with singer Hins Cheung in a *naamyam x Cantopop* crossover; and with Dr. Stephen Tang Shu-wing for both the contemporary Cantonese opera drama *The Old Man and His Sea*, and the Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo Music Theatre *1014 – A fusion of Naamyam and Jazz*.

Professor Yuen has been a staunch supporter of the Academy for many years. In 2011, he was an instructor at the Academy. In 2016, he was invited by the School of Chinese Opera to hold a Yuen Siu-fai Masterclass. He served as supervisor, dramatist, guest director and training instructor for the Young Academy Cantonese Opera Troupe. In 2017, the Academy's event *Yuen Siu-fai x HKAPA: Traditional Cantonese Singing and Music* featured Professor Yuen performing alongside an opera ensemble and Chinese orchestra formed by drama and music students. Last year, he was invited to join, as an industry representative, the Consultative Committee for the Cantonese Opera Scriptwriting Programme at the School of Chinese Opera.

Professor Yuen's remarkable achievements and enormous contributions have garnered numerous accolades over the years. In 1991, he was honoured with the Hong Kong Artist of the Year Award. In 1992, he was bestowed the Badge of Honour. In 2003, he received the Award for Arts Achievement in Xiqu from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council; in 2012, he was made an Honorary Fellow of The Education University of Hong Kong. In 2014, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region conferred on him the Bronze Bauhinia Star. Other accolades include the Hong Kong Arts Development Council's Award for Outstanding Contributions in Arts in 2016; the Golden Phoenix, the highest honour in the RTHK's "Best of Chinese Opera" in 2017; an Arts Achievement Award at the Hong Kong Cantonese Opera Golden Bauhinia Award in 2019; and an Outstanding Contribution Award from the Hong Kong theatre industry in 2024.

Professor Yuen is also a prolific writer. He has co-edited a book on the playwright Tang Disheng's work Princess Chang Ping with Ms. Cheung Man-wai; penned an autobiography in which he details how, aged seven, he dropped out of school and joined an opera troupe. He has also published a book of foundational knowledge for playing male roles in opera, as well as other works examining his life and his undying passion for his art.

### Prof. Hao Rong - Honorary Fellowship

Drama educator Professor Hao Rong is a man of multiple hats. He is President of the Central Academy of Drama (CAD), Deputy Secretary of the party committee of the CAD, and a member of the 14<sup>th</sup> National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Professor Hao graduated from the Department of Acting at the CAD in 1995. In the same year, he became a teacher at his alma mater. In 2003, he obtained a master's degree in Theatre and Traditional Chinese Theatre.

Professor Hao served the CAD in various capacities, from section chief of the Teaching and Research Centre for Speech at the Department of Acting, Vice Dean of the department, then secretary of the party branch of the department, and subsequently dean of the department, before going on to become assistant to the President of the CAD, then Vice President of the CAD. In 2018, Professor Hao was appointed President of the CAD. Besides teaching, he is convenor of drama and film studies for the academic-degrees committee of the State Council of China, and Vice Chair of the Drama and Film-Studies Teaching Steering Committee For Higher-Education Institutions under the Ministry of Education. He is also Vice Chair of both the Beijing Film Association and the China Musical Association; a contract researcher at the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles; secretary general of the World Theatre Education Alliance; and director general of the Asia Theatre Education Centre.

Professor Hao is also a productive artist. He has directed drama productions including *The Butcher*, *Miss Julie*, *Come to A Bad End*, *Weddings and Funerals*, *Vienna Coffee in the Cup*, *Marriage*, *Hamlet*, *The Orphan of Zhao*, and *Xiaojing Hutong*. He has acted in plays such as *Couples in Relationship Crisis*, *The Eldest Son*, and *The Cherry Orchard*. His accolades include the Golden Lion Director Award of Chinese Theatre; second prize (national) from the Fok Ying Tung Education Foundation; first prize in Teaching Achievements of Higher Education in Beijing; and the Prominent Teacher Award of Beijing Universities. Professor Hao has also been named a talent for the "Four Key Projects" scheme at the Beijing Municipal Department of Publicity. The course he taught won the excellent-course prize at the CAD.

Professor Hao and the Academy go back a long way. He has taught at the School of Drama, and spoken at the Cross-Strait and Hong Kong and Macau Art Forum hosted by the Academy. As President of the Asia Theatre Education Centre, he appointed faculty from the Academy as the centre's director and members. He also invited students and teachers of the Academy to take part in the Asian Theatre Schools Festival, where they performed, hosted workshops, and adjudicated contests.



### **Ms. Charmaine Ho Mei-chee - Honorary Fellowship**

Ms. Charmaine Ho Mei-chee is the Joint President of The Society of the Academy for Performing Arts (SAPA), and the Founder and Creative Director of Charmaine Art Consultancy. Through her sustained and multifaceted contributions, Ms. Ho has been a driving force in arts, culture, education, and community development.

Born into a long-established Macanese family, Ms. Ho spent her childhood in Macau, then headed abroad at a young age to study. She graduated from New York University with a bachelor's degree in journalism and economics. She later pursued her passion for arts and design at the Parsons School of Design, earning a degree in fashion design.

In addition to her successful entrepreneurial ventures with her own designer brands, Ms. Ho showcased her commitment to community service by founding a social enterprise focusing on expressive-art therapy to promote an alternative therapy programme for those in need.

Ms. Ho's unstinting devotion to the development of the arts extends beyond her business endeavours. She has devoted more than a decade of service to SAPA, where she has played a pivotal role in organising fundraising galas that have raised more than HK\$20 million. In 2017, she initiated the "Twin Cities" programme to foster collaboration between young talent from Hong Kong and Macau in cross-city performances, in turn enriching the arts and cultural landscape of both cities.

Ms. Ho's contributions to the arts sector and entrepreneurship have been recognised with awards including the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award (2021 and 2022), and the 4th Golden Bauhinia Women Entrepreneur Award (2022).

In addition to her continual support for the interests and welfare of the Academy, Ms. Ho has been a member of The Academy Ball Organising Committee since 2015, and has co-chaired the event three times. She joined SAPA as an Executive Committee member in 2018 and has been Joint President of SAPA since 2023.

Ms. Ho has also played a crucial role in offering educational opportunities within the Academy community through various SAPA scholarships. These have benefited both local and non-local students pursuing bachelor's degrees programmes.

In support of SAPA's initiatives, Ms. Ho has made generous contributions through table sponsorship, opening-performance sponsorship, at auctions, and so forth. Her unwavering support has not only enriched the arts community but also inspired future generations to engage with the advancement of the arts and cultural development of the Society.

### Mr. Akram Khan - Honorary Fellowship

Having undertaken a journey spanning 24 years of extraordinary artistry, Mr. Akram Khan emerges as a revered figure in the realm of global dance. The bedrock of his artistic identity rests on the Indian classical dance form Kathak as an intrinsic layer alongside his background in contemporary dance forms. His work is widely recognised for its emotional depth, seamlessly blending intimacy and magnificence curating a diverse and impactful repertoire, he has created renowned productions such as *Jungle Book reimagined*, *Outwitting the Devil*, *XENOS*, *Until the Lions*, and *Kaash*.

Mr. Khan's choreography at the London 2012 Olympic Games opening ceremony stands out as a universally acclaimed achievement, demonstrating his ability to captivate audiences on a grand scale. As an instinctive and natural collaborator, he has been a magnet for world-class artists and companies across a range of cultures and disciplines, including the National Ballet of China. As a choreographer, he has developed a close collaboration with the English National Ballet. Mr. Khan's piece *Dust*, created for the *Lest We Forget* programme, led to an invitation to craft his highly acclaimed interpretation of the iconic romantic ballet *Giselle*.

Mr. Khan has received numerous awards throughout his career including the Laurence Olivier Award, the Bessie Award, the ISPA Distinguished Artist Award, the Fred and Adele Astaire Award, the Herald Archangel Award, the South Bank Sky Arts Award and ten Critics' Circle National Dance Awards for his company, Akram Khan Company. In 2005, Mr. Khan was awarded an MBE for services to dance. His dedication to arts and education is further demonstrated by his installation in 2022 as the chancellor of De Montfort University, along with recognition as an honorary graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, University of London as well as Roehampton and De Montfort Universities, and an honorary fellow of Trinity Laban.

Through an enduring partnership with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Hong Kong, Mr. Khan has showcased multiple outstanding productions in this city, leaving a lasting impact both globally and within the local community. Mr. Khan has been instrumental in nurturing the next generation of dancers by offering internship programmes to the Academy's students. In 2021, his company selected eight students for an internship in London following a 3-day audition at the Academy. As keynote speaker at the SWEAT Hong Kong International Dance Festival, hosted by the Academy in 2022, he shared his expertise and insights with the Academy community and international participants. For the 2023/24 academic year, his company extended internships in Singapore and Macau to students of the Academy's School of Dance, enriching the educational mission with performance opportunities and international exposure.

Mr. Khan's longstanding association with and support for the Academy, demonstrated through his active participation in its endeavours, advocacy for educational goals, and significant contributions to the performing arts, establish him as a role model and a respected figure for aspiring artists.

### **Prof. Lena Lee - Honorary Fellowship**

Professor Lena Lee is a pioneering educator in performing arts management and a strong advocate for community arts in Hong Kong. For 29 years, she served as an Academy faculty member, leading the stage management programme until 2014. During her tenure, she introduced initiatives that made the programme one of the most prestigious in Asia, and globally. Her innovative vision to expand the curriculum to incorporate arts and entertainment management aligned with the growing demands of the industry, especially with the opening of Hong Kong Disneyland and the West Kowloon Cultural District. A notable accomplishment was the first Shoppertainment project, which set a Guinness World Record in 2003, and elevated the management programme to new heights.

Professor Lee's influence in education extends beyond Hong Kong. Since 2006, she has been a Visiting Professor at the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing, where her students have gone on to take leadership roles in theatre and cultural management. Her introduction of the stage management system during her residency brought significant changes to the theatre industry in the Mainland. Today, many of her former students hold prominent positions as educators, producers and theatre managers in Asia and beyond. In 2023, the Academy invited her to teach in the "Creative Arts Management and Leadership Training for the Greater Bay Area" programme, supported by the National Arts Fund, inspiring young arts managers from the region.

Professor Lee's commitment to community service through the arts has been a cornerstone of her teaching for decades. In line with her beliefs, she has held positions in numerous organisations, including Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Theatre Technicians & Scenographers (2004-2008), Council Member of the Academy (2003-2009), Member of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (2013-2019), Consultation Panel Member of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (2015-2023), Founding Chairman of Four Gig Heads, Founding Chairman of Theatre Noir Foundation, Advisor for PLK Young Artist in Residence@V54, Board Member of the Hong Kong Arts Administrators Association, and External Advisor for the HKUST technical theatre arts course.

With her extensive experience in education, arts and culture, Professor Lee joined the Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong in 2016 as an Arts Specialist, focusing on the design and implementation of, as well as advocacy for, arts accessibility. Her recent research interests include "Capacity Building for the Young Old as arts service providers", and "Arts Accessibility through Technology". She continues to mentor Academy students in community arts and arts accessibility as a guest speaker, part-time teacher, and project supervisor, sharing her networks and resources to encourage students to utilise their talents to build an inclusive society. Professor Lee's contributions to the Academy and Hong Kong are invaluable and enduring.

### Ms. Lui Lai-wah - Honorary Fellowship

Ms. Lui Lai-wah is a master of movie film print and colourist whose skills have contributed significantly to the aesthetics of Hong Kong cinema. She received the Professional Achievement Award in the Hong Kong Film Awards in 2013 in recognition of her contribution to the film industry over the past forty years.

Ms. Lui started her career as an apprentice in a film-laboratory company, and gradually worked her way up to become a professional colourist. In the 1980s to 2000s, she was involved in the post-production and colour grading of a string of classic Hong Kong movies, including *Days of Being Wild* (1990), *Fallen Angels* (1995), *In the Mood for Love* (2000), *Infernal Affairs* (2002), *Running on Karma* (2003), *Dumplings* (2004) and *Mad Detective* (2007). She is trusted by renowned Hong Kong film directors including Wong Kar-wai, Johnnie To, Wai Ka-fai, Andrew Lau Wai-keung and Peter Chan Ho-sun, and art director William Chang Suk-ping and is also well-respected by industry professionals across Asia. Ms. Lui serves as the current Chair of the Hong Kong Association for Pictures and Sound Production, and is also the current committee member of the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers.

A pioneer in bringing digital innovation to the Hong Kong film industry, Ms. Lui facilitated the transition from traditional film processing to telecine and scan, then progressed to computerized colour grading. By the late 2010s, she was spearheading the shift towards digitalised post-production. Ms. Lui's unwavering dedication to her craft ensured she became a pivotal force pushing innovation in Hong Kong film production.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Ms. Lui has applied her colour-grading expertise to new technologies. She joined One Cool Group Ltd. in 2013 to be in charge of One Cool Production and One Cool Sound. She was also appointed as a consultant for film restoration, working on a series of works directed by Wong Kar-wai (*In the Mood for Love*), Johnnie To (*Throw Down*), Andrew Lau Wai-keung (the *Infernal Affairs series*) and Yonfan (*Peony Pavilion & Last Romance*).

Ms. Lui's support for the Academy has been significant. For more than a decade, she has provided professional film-colouring services and post-production supervision. She shares her expertise with students of the School of Film and Television by conducting workshops, tutorials, and tours of professional facilities. Ms. Lui has also visited the School regularly to impart her professional insight into film-output processes. Given her illustrious career and dedication to arts instruction, Ms. Lui is well-respected by faculty members and students of the School.