

New Vision Arts Festival offers 30 per cent off early bird discount until September 5 for pioneering artistic programmes (with photos)

The biennial New Vision Arts Festival (NVAF), celebrating its ninth edition this year, will be held from October 19 to November 18, featuring an array of pioneering shows by overseas and local performing groups. An early bird discount of 30 per cent off all full-price tickets for 10 selected programmes will be offered from today (August 6) to September 5.

Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the NVAF showcases innovative interdisciplinary collaborations, new talents and cutting-edge commissions, offering a range of new experiences for audiences.

The opening programme "Tree of Codes" is a cross-boundary creative work that draws together world-class dancer Wayne McGregor, visual artist Olafur Eliasson and musician Jamie xx in a production combining literature, sculpture, architecture and space design with performing arts.

Other shows are equally transformational in their merging of different disciplines and forms. The world's first underwater ensemble Between Music will present the Asia premiere of its underwater concert "AquaSonic", a novel integration of the arts and science that resulted from the concerted efforts of physicists, vocalists, audio engineers, neuroscientists, deep-sea divers and musical instrument makers. Choreographer Michael Keegan-Dolan has turned Tchaikovsky's classic work "Swan Lake" upside down to create the dance theatre performance "Swan Lake/Loch na hEala" with a searing original score by Slow Moving Clouds that gives voice to people on the margins of society.

Grammy and Academy Award-winner Tan Dun will lead a group of world-class vocalists including Shen Yang, Maria Chiara Chizzoni, Zhu Huiling, Wang Kang and Tan Weiwei, as well as instrumentalists Batubagen and Chen Yining, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, and the International Choir Academy Lübeck of Germany, in the Asia premiere of "Buddha Passion", a tribute to the legends of Dunhuang.

Composed by noted American Chinese composer Du Yun, "Angel's Bone" is a powerful combination of opera, electronic rock and cabaret that spotlights the dark problem of human trafficking. Du won the Pulitzer Prize for Music for this work.

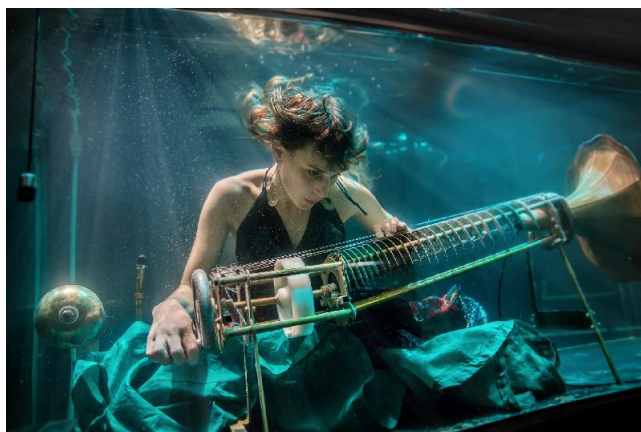
The immersive theatre work "The Living Room" directed by Thomas Richards, a disciple of Jerzy Grotowski, will break the boundary between performer and spectator. Richards will also relive Fyodor Dostoevsky's words through comedy, tragedy, the grotesque and ancient songs of tradition in "The Underground: A Response to Dostoevsky".

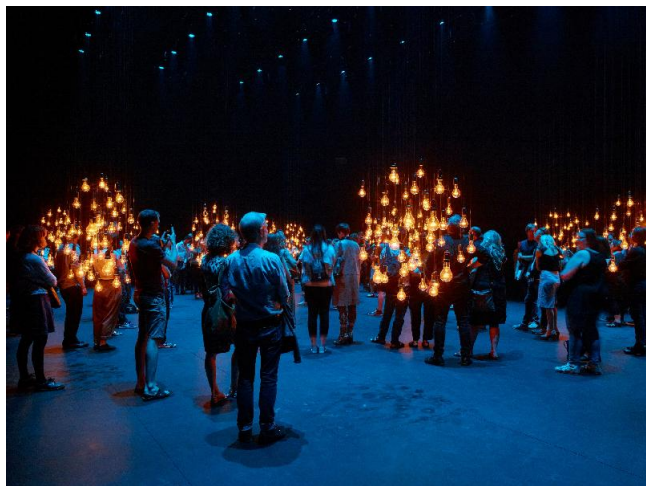
"Negotiation" is a cross-cultural dialogue between the royal Khon dance tradition and street hip-hop by the award-winning Khon artist Pichet Klunchun and Laotian dancer-choreographer Olé Khamchanla. Hong Kong choreographer Daniel Yeung will bring together local artists and a lion dance team for the experimental multimedia lion dance theatre work "Guan Yu's Ride of 1,000 Miles" that combines lion dance with contemporary dance.

With incandescent lamps taking centre stage, "LightSpace" is a production of Sadler's Wells Theatre created by internationally renowned British lighting designer Michael Hulls, taking visitors on a unique immersive journey through light and shadow.

Tickets for the NVAF early bird offer are available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk) from today until September 5. For credit card telephone bookings, please call 2111 5999.

For programme enquiries, please call 2370 1044 or visit www.newvisionfestival.gov.hk.





SCMA to visit Shenzhen

The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, will visit Shenzhen tomorrow (August 7). During his stay in Shenzhen, he will visit some high-technology companies as well as an eye hospital established by Hong Kong people.

He will also meet with the Vice Mayor of Shenzhen Municipality, Mr Ai Xuefeng, to exchange views on matters relating to Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation.

Mr Nip will return to Hong Kong in the evening on the same day.

HAD to open temporary night heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 18 temporary night heat shelters tonight (August 6) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's enquiries hotline before midnight on 2835 1473.

The 18 night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall

3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex,

2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern/Wan Chai –

Causeway Bay Community Centre

Waiting Lobby, 3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –

Lei Tung Community Hall

Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall

Multi-purpose Room, 1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices,

42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre

71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –

Shek Kip Mei Community Hall

G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate,

Nam Cheong Street, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –

Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre

Hall, G/F, 45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –

Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre

60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands –

Tung Chung Community Hall

G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,

39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –

Kwai Shing Community Hall

Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –

Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –

Hang Hau Community Hall
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,
38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –

Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –

Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –

Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –

Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –

Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Yuen Long –

Tin Yiu Community Centre
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai

The temporary night heat shelters will resume their functions as either community centres or community halls in the daytime for hire by the local community and cannot continue to be open as heat shelters. People may choose to take refuge from the heat during the daytime in the common areas in any of the 21 designated community centres or community halls. Their opening hours are from 9am to 10pm. For addresses of the community centres or community halls, please browse the following webpage:

www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf.

FS to visit two cities of Guangdong-

HK-Macao Bay Area

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, will visit two cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, namely Shenzhen and Dongguan.

Mr Chan will depart for Shenzhen tomorrow (August 7) and return in the afternoon on the next day (August 8). While in Shenzhen, he will call on senior officials of the Shenzhen Municipal Government, visit local innovation and technology companies, meet with Hong Kong youths there and attend a dinner hosted by representatives of the Hong Kong business sector in Shenzhen. During his absence, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, will act as Financial Secretary.

He will then visit Dongguan on Thursday (August 9) and return to Hong Kong in the evening on the same day. Apart from meeting with senior officials of the Dongguan Municipal Government, he will visit Songshan Lake Xbot Park and local enterprises.

Soft ice-cream sample detected with coliform bacteria exceeding legal limit

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (August 6) announced that a soft ice-cream sample was found to contain coliform bacteria exceeding the legal limit. Follow-up is in progress.

"Following up on a food complaint, the CFS collected the above-mentioned soft ice-cream sample from a restaurant in Quarry Bay for testing. The test result showed that the sample contained coliform bacteria of 180 per gram, exceeding the legal limit," a spokesman for the CFS said.

Under the Frozen Confections Regulation (Cap 132AC), each gram of frozen confection for sale should not contain more than 100 coliform bacteria. The maximum penalty for offenders is a fine of \$10,000 and three months' imprisonment upon conviction. The fact that the coliform bacteria exceeded the legal limit indicated that the hygienic conditions were unsatisfactory, but did not mean that consumption would lead to food poisoning.

"The CFS has informed the vendor concerned of the irregularity and instructed it to stop selling the affected product immediately. The CFS has also provided health education on food safety and hygiene to the person-in-charge and staff of the vendor concerned, and has requested them to carry out

thorough cleaning and disinfection. Should there be sufficient evidence, prosecution will be initiated," the spokesman said.

The CFS will continue to follow up on the case and take appropriate action to safeguard food safety and public health. Investigation is ongoing.