

International Arts Carnival opens in July with martial arts theatre performance "Soul of Shaolin" (with photos)

The celebrated Henan Provincial Shaolin Wushu Center will perform a martial arts theatre production, "Soul of Shaolin", from July 11 to 13 to open the International Arts Carnival (IAC), a summer arts festival presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Fusing masterful kung fu techniques with sophisticated stagecraft, the programme unleashes the very essence of Shaolin martial arts while delivering a heartwarming story of family bonds.

"Soul of Shaolin", featuring more than 30 kung fu masters, will showcase breathtaking martial arts scenes consisting of boxing, weaponry and qigong to demonstrate the harmony between the spiritual wisdom and physical strength of Chinese kung fu. The theatre production has earned both Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations since its Broadway debut in 2009. After more than two decades of world touring, it is finally coming to Hong Kong and is not to be missed.

The story revolves around young Huiguang, who has mastered kung fu skills at the famous Shaolin Temple. He has been working hard on his martial arts training and practicing kindness, but has always missed his long-lost mother. Unexpectedly, a woman he saves from danger is his mother, who he has been searching for all along.

The Henan Provincial Shaolin Wushu Center was established in 1988 and is affiliated with the Culture and Tourism Department of Henan Province. Its performing troupe consists of over 200 kung fu masters, has performed in more than 80 countries and regions, and is gaining popularity among audiences both domestically and internationally.

"Soul of Shaolin" will be held at 7.30pm on July 11 and 12, and 3pm on July 12 and 13 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre. Tickets priced at \$250, \$350, \$450 and \$520 are now available at URBIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288, or use the mobile ticketing app "URBTIX".

The matinee at 3pm on July 12 is an accessible performance with audio descriptions in Cantonese. A touch tour will be provided prior to the performance for people with visual impairment and their companions. A meet-the-artist session, conducted in Putonghua with Cantonese interpretation, will also be held after this performance.

The programme contains loud sound effects and action scenes. Performers

have been professionally trained, and the audience is advised not to imitate their acts. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2370 1044 or visit www.hkiac.gov.hk.

This year's IAC will run from July 11 to August 17, featuring a wide array of fun-filled educational programmes by overseas, Mainland and local art groups and artists. In addition to martial arts, acrobatics, dance, music, theatre and multimedia, the IAC will also offer film screenings, parent-child workshops, an online programme, an outreach performance and an exhibition.

"Soul of Shaolin" is also one of the programmes of the Chinese Culture Festival 2025.

