

Singapore ETO sponsors Hong Kong Ballet's performances in Singapore to promote cultural exchange (with photos)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Singapore (Singapore ETO) supported and sponsored ALICE (in wonderland) four performances by the Hong Kong Ballet (HKB), one of Asia's premier dance companies, at the Esplanade Theatres on the Bay, Singapore, which the opening performance was held last evening (February 21).

ALICE (in Wonderland) was a magical production by the Artistic Director of HKB, Mr Septime Webre, which combines stunning choreography, captivating storytelling, and world-class artistry. The playful and theatrical costumes, colourful sets and beloved original score brought audiences to revisit the fantastical world of Lewis Carroll's classic tale in the year of its 160th. The well-received performance reflected Hong Kong's unique ability to blend tradition with innovation, creating performances that resonate with audiences worldwide.

About 100 guests, including the Executive Director of HKB, Ms Heidi Li, Mr Webre, representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Singapore, Singapore government ministries, Singapore National Arts Council, business, arts and education sectors, members of Singaporean communities, were invited to a reception hosted by the Singapore ETO before the opening performance.

Speaking at the reception, the Director of the Singapore ETO, Mr Owin Fung, said that "the performance was a testament to Hong Kong's vibrant arts and cultural developments. Through this event, we were showcasing Hong Kong's artistic excellence and promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. Coinciding with the 30th anniversary of Singapore ETO, we will spare no effort to continue bringing Hong Kong's performing groups to Singapore as well as to ASEAN countries, which is essential to help bring our aspiration to become a hub for cultural events and exchange to the forefront".

This event also holds special significance as it recruited around 100 young dancers (aged 7 to 17) from Singapore for training and performance alongside around 50 dancers of Hong Kong Ballet. This not only enriches the cultural experience for both audiences and participants but also strengthens the bond between Hong Kong and Singapore. By nurturing our young talent and fostering collaboration, both places are building a bridge for mutual learning and cultural advancement.

