

## 2007/08年度最佳藝術家獎 Award for Best Artist 舞蹈 Dance

畢業於廣東舞蹈學校，1981年加入香港舞蹈團成為首批主要演員，後擔任排練導師，曾為專業舞蹈團編排多個舞劇、舞蹈，包括：《周璇》、《自梳女》、《胭脂扣》（與舒巧合編）、《易水寒》及《遷界》等。

2005年起，擔任香港舞蹈團助理藝術總監一職，作品包括：《經典回望（一）》、《小熊貓大世界》、《童話之王—永遠的孩子》、《笑傲江湖》等，《笑傲江湖》更出訪上海，獲國內好評。

2007/08年，梁國城為香港回歸十周年創作大型舞蹈詩《清明上河圖》，不但獲邀在北京第五屆藝術節及國家大劇院「相約北京—2008奧運文化活動」等節目中演出，更獲2008年香港舞蹈年獎。

2008年為四川大地震籌款，創作舞蹈《生命的呼喚》，又為北京奧運開幕儀式前之演出編創舞蹈《馬運之都耀香江》，代表香港特區於鳥巢演出。

Graduated from the Guangdong Dance School, Leung joined the Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDC) in 1981 among its first cohort of principal dancers. As a choreographer, he has created a string of acclaimed dance productions, including *The Story of Zhou Xuan*, *Suppressed Romance*, *Rouge* (a collaborative work with dancer/choreographer Shu Qiao), *Parting at the River Yi*, *Evacuation Order*.

Served as Assistant Artistic Director of HKDC since 2005, producing critically acclaimed works such as *Classical Retrospective*, *Big Panda in a Big Big World*, *King of Fairy Tale: The Eternal Child* and *The Smiling Proud Wanderer*, the latter toured Shanghai and received rave reviews from Mainland critics.

In 2007/08 *Qingming Riverside*, the epic dance poem he created to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Hong Kong's unification with China, was staged at the 5th Beijing Arts Festival and included in the line-up of the "Meet In Beijing 2008" Arts Festival held at the National Centre for the Performing Arts. The success achieved by the epic production was further recognised with the 2008 Hong Kong Dance Awards.

Created *The Call of Life* to raise funds for earthquake victims in Sichuan in 2008; he also contributed to the choreography of *The Equine Capital Hong Kong*, Hong Kong's contribution to the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games held in the National Stadium, also known as the Bird's Nest.

## 梁國城 LEUNG Kwok Shing



梁國城的作品《清明上河圖》，被譽為中國舞蹈詩精品；一系列的金庸舞劇，深受本地觀眾的歡迎。這批富有香港特色的中國舞劇，更得到國內專家的認同，獲得高度的評價。

#### 豐收的一年

2007/08年對梁國城來說，是意義重大的一年，除了是創作上的豐收年（共編創5個作品），他在中國舞方面的多年努力，亦終於得到各界的認同。最為梁國城自豪的，是其作品在北京極受歡迎，得到專家學者的高度評價，贈以「古典舞新韻」的美譽。至於在北京奧運開幕儀式前的演出《馬運之都耀香江》，全世界的觀眾都可以通過電視直播看到他的作品，加上代表香港特區在鳥巢演出，那份榮耀真的難以用筆墨形容。梁國城笑說：「舞蹈員在演出以後，紛紛狂跳狂叫狂喜」，而他卻在旁默默領受那刻的滿足，此生難忘。

#### 融「情」入舞

梁國城的作品，無論是《清明上河圖》、《笑傲江湖》或是《生命的呼喚》，均透過舞蹈的肢體語言，將人性、人情雅緻細膩地表達出來。淡雅平素，接近水墨寫意的古雅風格，更是梁國城的創作標誌。

近年來，梁國城更將金庸的武俠作品改編為舞劇《笑傲江湖》、《雪山飛狐》（還有計劃中的《神鵰俠侶》），廣受普羅大眾的歡迎，成功地將香港舞蹈團推廣至更闊的觀眾層面。當問及梁國城金庸舞劇受歡迎的原因時，他解釋：「舞劇所帶出的『情義』，就是掀動觀眾心弦的秘訣。」至於怎樣用舞劇來表現情，梁國城指出：「是演員的舞蹈語言，加上舞劇的結構鋪排，帶動觀眾感受劇中的情義。」金庸先生對《雪山飛狐》的評語是「編舞精采，結構傑出」，將舞蹈受歡迎的原因一語道破。

#### 多重的肯定

在談及未來的計劃時，梁國城興奮地說：「仍有很多創作的衝動，創作就是生命，創作的激情從不間斷。」除了金庸舞劇第三部曲《神鵰俠侶》外，他正在構思一套以蘇東坡為題材的舞劇。

今次得到獎項，對他來說有多重的意義。首先，獎項是對他多年追求中國舞的肯定；其次，這亦標誌着他的創作被香港人所接受和認同，而最重要的是他富有香港特色的中國舞蹈創作，得到香港和內地各界人士的肯定。梁國城深信中國舞要向前發展，不一定要固守傳統。他的想法得到實踐、肯定後，也成為他不斷創新、精益求精的原動力。



#### 評審意見

2007/08年，梁國城繼承他在前幾年的工作基礎，編排了多個舞蹈，如《清明上河圖》、《馬運之都耀香江》等，做了大量對香港舞蹈事業有突出貢獻的成績，並獲香港舞蹈界的肯定。同時，有利中國舞於本港發展。梁氏在編舞方面有一定的成就，其作品也有香港的特色，而且在保持民族特色外，又加以再創造再發展，擴大香港舞蹈的影響力，是一個出色的編舞家。



*Qingming Riverside* was hailed as an exquisite piece of Chinese dance poem; Leung Kwok-shing dance renditions of Jin Yong classics were well received by the local audience. Imbuing Chinese dance theatre with a distinct Hong Kong flavour, Leung's work fared well with Mainland experts and garnered critical industry acclaim.

### **A Bumper-Harvest Year**

The year 2007/08 holds a special significance for the dance choreographer. Not only did he reap a bumper harvest (a total of five choreographic works), his dedication to Chinese dance was finally rewarded with industry-wide recognition. He is particularly pleased with the rapport he established with the Beijing audience and the critical acclaim bestowed on him by experts and scholars of the arts discipline, who anointed his work as the "New Rhyme of Classic Dance". He is overwhelmed with honour to have choreographed *The Equine Capital Hong Kong*, the Hong Kong segment of the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, which was watched by billions of audiences and captured the imagination of people all over the world. "You should have seen the dancers erupting into a euphoric celebration after the performance," remembered Leung, who himself stepped aside and took a quiet moment to savour the experience.

### **Distilling Emotions into Dance**

With fluent strokes of the body language, Leung paints a rich and delicate portrait of human nature and sentiments in *Qingming Riverside*, *The Smiling Proud Wanderer* and *The Call of Life*. The calm, rustic elegance of Chinese ink painting beautifully illustrated by his choreography has become his signature style.

Finding inspiration in the martial arts novels of Jin Yong, he impressed viewers with the dance renditions of *The Smiling Proud Wanderer*, *Snow Fox* (with the production of *Condor Hero* on the horizon) and brought HKDC works to a wider audience. When asked to explain the secret of the popularity of his Jin Yong adaptations, Leung said, "A twinge of love and staunch loyalty that tugged at heartstrings." In what ways, then, does love and loyalty find its expression in his dramatic dance? "The sentiments are conveyed to the audience by the language of dance and a well-crafted plot," he explained. Jin Yong praised the play's "brilliant choreography and exceptional structure", which sums up the very reason for its popularity.



### Multiple Recognition

Leung talked about his future plans with a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation: "My heart is throbbing with the desire to create. To create is life, and the fire inside me never burns out." In addition to *Condor Hero*, the last instalment in the Jin Yong trilogy, Leung is contemplating a dance drama based on the Song poet Su Shi.

The award bears significance on several levels. First and foremost, it is a firm recognition of his lifelong pursuit of Chinese dance; second, it represents acceptance and embrace by the local audience; last and most importantly, it symbolises a nod of approval from across industry in Hong Kong and the Mainland for his choreography – Chinese dance imbued with a distinct Hong Kong flavour. In taking Chinese dance forward and to the next level, he stresses the importance of weaning away from the tradition. The achievements and recognition received will drive the choreographer to create and better his vision of theatrical dance.

### Panelists' opinion

After several years of foundation work, Leung Kwok-shing will be remembered in 2008 for his hugely important contributions to the dance world and to the popularisation of Chinese dance in Hong Kong. In 2007/08, he choreographed several works including *Qingming Riverside* and *The Equine Capital Hong Kong*. Leung is especially noted for his choreographic work that oozes with local character while maintaining its ethnical roots. His ability to reinvent and expand the roles that Hong Kong dance plays is the mark of a truly exceptional dance choreographer.

