

Media Release**SINGAPORE'S OLDEST CHINESE DANCE GROUP
CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF PERFORMANCES*****Singapore, 29 June 2017***

On 28 July, more than 70 dancers will take the stage as Singapore's longest running Chinese dance group, NUS Chinese Dance, celebrates forty years of award winning stage productions.



Muted Colours of Rochor
(photo by Kinetic Dance Expressions)

Formed in 1977, NUS Chinese Dance is one of Singapore's earliest Chinese dance groups. With a cast of students and alumni drawn from across the group's history, *Memories of the Past; Dreams of the Future* will be a celebration of creation, movement and culture.

"NUS Chinese Dance while rooted in longstanding traditions, has also embraced the contemporary interpretations of the form," says NUS Centre for the Arts Director, Sharon Tan. "It has trained generations of students and has been a key platform, even from their earliest performances in the seventies, for the expression of a rich heritage and the development of culturally distinctive Singapore content."

Memories of the Past; Dreams of the Future will feature award winning pieces from the group's repertoire, along with brand new choreographies.



space.time.mind
(photo by Kinetic Dance Expressions)

First grade choreography

Key to the success of NUS Chinese Dance year-on-year has been the group's drive to work with a wide range of creative partners in the development of their productions. In recent times, this has included the outstanding stagecraft of the Beijing Dance Academy Youth Dance Company and the irrepressible creativity of guest choreographers from Singapore and beyond.

In celebration of their 40th year, NUS Chinese Dance will once again be working with First Grade Beijing choreographer Wang Cheng. Acclaimed at the highest levels of the craft, Wang Cheng is known for his choreography that represents society, and works that are inspired by life. His previous work with NUS Chinese Dance includes the award winning production *Mirror.Moon* in 2013.



Mirror.Moon

“Working with Wang Cheng again is a wonderful opportunity,” says dancer and former President of NUS Chinese Dance, Choo Wee-Lin. “With him come the standards of the China’s Anhui Dance Association and this is a technical and creative challenge for our university dance group.”

NUS Chinese Dance previously worked with Wang Cheng in the development of *Mirror.Moon* in 2013. This performance took the group to the Macau International Youth Dance Festival in 2014 and also won Production of the Year at the Tan Ean Kiam Arts Awards.

“When our work takes us to different regions, we get to experience different aspects of the craft. It’s an approach that has really helped us develop a varied repertoire,” Choo Wee-Lin continues.

Sharing the development of this comprehensive performance will be the group’s Resident Choreographer, Ms. Ding Hong and Technique Tutor, Mr. Zhou Lei.

“I’ve tutored this group since 2001, and bringing back generations of dancers to share the stage is what excites me the most,” says Ding Hong. “Contrasting our choreography with our great friend Wang Cheng, and reprising our greatest achievements will make this a very special performance.”

Award winning highlights

Key to the celebration will be the contrast of new choreography with past successes from the group's illustrious repertoire. Excerpts from nine past productions will be featured in the performance, including highlights from *Mirror.Moon* (2013), *Rhythm of Sleeves* (2011), the opening performance of the 2016 NUS Arts Festival *Space.Time.Mind*, and the highly topical *Muted Colours of Rochor* (2016).



Muted Colours of Rochor
(photo by Kinetic Dance Expressions)

"Chinese dance has been a huge part of the university experience for every generation involved in this production. It unites us all as part of the NUS community," says Choo Wee-Lin. "Reprising the performances that have won us such acclaim over the years makes this production feel like a celebration of our history as a group."

Performance details

Date and time: 8pm, Friday, 28 July 2017

Location: University Cultural Centre Hall,
50 Kent Ridge Crescent, 119279

Ticketing: Visit cfa.nus.edu.sg for tickets
Early bird tickets (15% off) are available until Sunday, 9 July

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About NUS Chinese Dance

Founded in 1977, NUS Chinese Dance has earned a reputation for excellence as an accomplished dance group through the development and performance of a highly challenging repertoire of works, from technically demanding traditional Chinese dance to fresh and evocative Chinese contemporary pieces.

As part of a continued mission to raise the standards of Chinese dance, the dancers are given firm grounding in traditional Chinese dance aesthetics while encouraged to explore contemporary styles and choreography as part of their dance development.

Through a combination of performances within NUS and various external engagements, NUS Chinese Dance aims to foster expertise and experience not just in Chinese dance, but an appreciation for Chinese culture and to bring this unique art form to the masses.

Recent awards

Year	Award	Competition
2011	Gold Award (<i>Rhythm of Sleeves</i>)	Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging of Dances
2012	2nd runners up, Overseas Category, (<i>Rhythm of Sleeves</i>)	Tao Li Cup Competition, China
2012	Group of the Year	Tan Ean Kiam Arts Awards, Singapore
2012	Third Grade (<i>Rhythm of Sleeves</i>)	Tao Li Cup Competition, China
2013	Production of the Year (<i>Mirror.Moon</i>)	Tan Ean Kiam Arts Awards, Singapore
2013	Bronze award (Arts and Culture)	NUS Students Achievement Awards
2015	Silver award (Arts and Culture)	NUS Students Achievement Awards
2016	Production of the Year (<i>space.time.mind</i>)	Tan Ean Kiam Arts Awards, Singapore

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Media information

Hi-res images of past productions, interviews with the creative team and rehearsal footage are available at: <http://bit.ly/2szwPuD>

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About the Centre For the Arts

Established in 1993, NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA) is a vibrant space for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit. We support student engagement with the arts and the integration of the arts into the life of the University.

We comprise the NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent and Development arm that oversees 22 student arts excellence groups. Through our myriad of programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, such as NUS Arts Festival and the ExxonMobil Campus Concerts, we enrich the university experience and contribute to the building of knowledge and transformation of students.

We also manage facilities such as the University Cultural Centre, with its 1600-seat Hall and 450-seat Theatre, and rehearsal spaces in Runme Shaw CFA Studios and University Town.

For more information, visit cfa.nus.edu.sg