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對的時間遇見對的人

——林奕華細說他的非常創作 30 年

Meet the Right Person at the Right Time - Edward Lam's 30-year Creative Journey

Edward Lam, Artistic Director and Theatre Director of Edward Lam Dance Theatre, established the “非常林奕華 Edward Lam Dance Theatre” (literal translation, “Atypical Edward Lam”) after he left Zuni Icosahedron in 1991. Since then, he has devoted himself to theatre and directed more than 60 original works. It is rare to name a theatre group after an individual, but the focus should be on the adjective “atypical”; which is the spirit of the theatre group.

Creation is important as it represents the idea of the creator, and we should not view things from a single and passive perspective. We need to rethink our definition of "normal", especially when the world falls into an "extraordinary period." Edward Lam's 30 years of accumulated experience has been of great influence in his works.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, theatres and schools were closed. The Edward Lam Dance Theatre co-presented two online video projects, “On Empty Theatre” and “On Empty Classroom”, based on the idea of emptiness, working with Freespace, West Kowloon Cultural District, and CEDARS-GE, HKU respectively. What's more, the Theatre created the live streaming series “Never Ending Story” to mark the closure of Eslite Dunnan Bookstore. Originally adapted from the movie, “Yi Yi” by Edward Yang, the theatre work, “14 Variations on the Theme of Yi Yi” was shown at theatre in two formats – stage and video, featuring two Taiwanese actors. Moreover, two more experimental works have recently been produced, the 75-min theatre performance, “Hello, Baoyu” at Freespace and a video project named “ Sh(ar)e” featuring three pairs of actresses from different generation.

Edward started his creative journey at secondary school. He started writing for newspapers at the age of 14; doing interviews at 15; worked as a TV script writer at 16 and joined TVB at age 18. However, he soon realised TV was not his interest. At the age of 20, he met Danny Yung who is an experimental art pioneer and one of the most influential artists in Hong Kong. Two years later, he founded Zuni Icosahedron.

From 1982 to 1987, Edward was a core member of Zuni. From 1987 to 1990, he studied in the UK and Germany, living in London from 1990 to 1995, and publishing two works there, one of which was awarded a scholarship by Barclay's Bank. He originally planned to stay in London to further his creative development, but returned to Hong Kong in 1995 to accept a commission to create for the Hong Kong Arts Festival and has remained here since.

Edward has met many people on his creative journey, including Hong Kong scriptwriter, Kam Kwok-leung; his mentor, Danny Yung, Taiwanese director, Edward Yang, Hong Kong film director, Stanley Kwan, and Taiwanese actress, Sylvia Chang Ai-chia. All these encounters have led Edward along a very different path. He is always thankful for meeting the right person at the right time.

Edward believes that life must have a story. In this unusual period of time, he has prepared some unusual encounters to share with you that might illuminate why creation is so important – meeting the right person at the right time can start from the “wrong” one!