



# PERFORMANCE

The 39th Hong Kong Arts Festival begins later this month with an A-list of talent taking to the stage. ISBN prefaces a selection of the event's spectacular and infinite variety

## SERENADE

America's foremost dance company New York City Ballet makes its inaugural visit to Hong Kong with some of its greatest work - landmark ballets by George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. Founded by the flamboyant Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein in 1948 the company helped establish the traditions of ballet in America. The performances feature a tribute to Balanchine, including his first American work *Serenade*, with *Concerto DSCH* by Balanchine's compatriot and former Bolshoi Ballet Artistic Director Alexei Ratmansky. NYCB will also perform *West Side Story Suite*, *Dances at a Gathering* and *Symphony in Three Movements*.



NYC - PAUL ANDERSON

## PICCADILLY GIRL

"One of the truly great films of the silent era," director Martin Scorsese says of *Piccadilly*, a 1929 tale of jealousy set amongst the sultry dancers of a London West End nightclub, starring Anna May Wong. Part of the Festival's New Stage Series - which aims to provide a platform for emerging artists to create innovative work - *Piccadilly Revisited* presents the film with a new musical score co-written by British-Chinese composers Ruth Chan and Suki Mok.



BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE

## FONG SONG

Fong Yim-fun is celebrated for her groundbreaking singing style and prolific output during the 1950's, having starred in over 140 films. She specialised in heartfelt portrayals of socially disadvantaged women and helped bring their plight into the public realm. She touched generations of filmgoers and remains one of the most influential and enduring figures in the world of Cantonese Opera. For this performance, celebrated singer Nam Fung and three veteran male opera singers will reprise extracts from some of Fong's most memorable roles.



## THE PIPER

Pennsylvania native and graduate of New York performing arts conservatory Juilliard, Cameron Carpenter plays the humble organ in high style, besuited and sometimes Swarovski-besequinned, mixing church and state in musical styles at will; piping Bach and Messiaen one moment, jazz the next. The virtuoso showman Carpenter resembles nothing you've seen - or likely heard - before.

## ROGUE LOVE

Rock melodies, pop rhythms, hipster outfits and kung-fu fighting are blended with a dash of Beijing Opera in *108 Heroes: Tales from the Water Margin*. This Taiwan, China, Hong Kong collaboration sees the classical 100-chapter novel distilled into a two-hour spectacular featuring acrobats, martial artists and musicians in a compelling display of physical and musical theatre. For seven centuries, the 108 heroes of the *Water Margin* have been cherished throughout China. Like Robin Hood and his Merry men, they live as outcasts in an unjust society standing up against oppressors and corrupt government during the Song Dynasty [960-1279]. *Heroes* represents a unique chance to see Chinese literature's most infamous gang of bandits, rogues and vagabonds.



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: KUO CHENG-CHANG



LUCAS ALLEN

## SIREN SONG



Expect these three divas to work their performance wonder over Hong Kong audiences; Marianne Faithfull, (right and above) swinging 60's icon and 2009 *Q Magazine* Icon of the Year, whose 40-year singing and recording career is best remembered for her 1979 album *Broken English* and her four-year relationship with Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger. She continues to enthral audiences with her poignant live performances and *Eternity* marks her stage debut in Hong Kong. Italian mezzo-soprano opera singer Cecilia Bartoli (below) is one of the most popular - and best-selling - contemporary opera singers; she came to prominence as a student, catching the eye of conductors like Herbert von Karajan and Daneil Barenboim and has since sold more than eight million CD's worldwide. Bartoli will display her artistry over two concerts, including the Festival Opening performance of 19th-century works by Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti and Bizet. The second showcases some of the most difficult arias ever written, originally intended for 18th-century castrati. Chameleon German chanteuse Ute Lemper (left) has won international acclaim as a recording artist with edge, in the realm of theatre, cabaret and film. She evokes the world of Buenos Aires in *Lost Tango*, with the Piazzolla Sextet, a band featuring the legendary tango composer Astor Piazzolla's grandson Pipi on drums. The concert concludes the Hong Kong Arts Festival on March 27.

CECILIA BARTOLI: ULI WEBBER/DECCA; MARIANNE FAITHFULL, TOP: JEAN-BAPTISTE MONDINO; FAR RIGHT: UNIVERSAL/DECCA



## ABOUT FACE

Beijing Opera is renowned for the combination of power, control, grace and agility it demands from its performers. And then there's the *jing*; distinctive roles enacted with face paint - a cosmetic dressing which take years to master and an art form unto itself. Red suggests loyalty and bravery, black uprightness, blue unruly and obstinate, and white cunning or wicked. Two acclaimed *jing* performers, Meng Guanglu from Tianjin Youth Peking Opera Troupe and Yang Chi from the Dalian Peking Opera Troupe will dazzle Hong Kong audiences with their mastery of Beijing Opera technique.



## TWO IN BLOOM

Hong Kong indie music phenomenon Chet Lam (right) with his progressive approach to words and tunes, art guru Shen Wong's (left) visionary themes, Pichead Amornsomboon's sensual directing and pop producer Alex Fung combine to realise *Requiem for Flowers*, a sensorial journey which takes the listener to a higher state of grace. From ancient poetry to contemporary pop, a fundamental belief in love has prevailed and this Hongkongglomeration of sight and sound opens its heart.



TWO IN BLOOM: DAN PARK

