

Cinematic Theatre returns
JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power 2018 with
Watching U... (2018 edition)

Explore the topic of ethics of surveillance through the cinematic lens

9 -11 November 2018

Cultural Activities Hall, Sha Tin Town Hall

Ticket Price: \$160

Tickets available on URB TIX: www.urbtix.hk/internet/eventDetail/36129

#JCNewArtsPower #OurTalentsOurPride



Caption : Cinematic Theatre's *Watching U... (2018 edition)*

(Hong Kong, 22 October 2018) Following the previous success of theatre performances and mobile theatre *My Luxurious 50 sqft Life* in the first edition of **JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power**, the local troupe **Cinematic Theatre** introduces another masterpiece this year: ***Watching U... (2018 edition)***. Taking place at Sha Tin Town Hall's Cultural Activities Hall from 9 to 11 November 2018, ***Watching U...*** uses theatre performances and video applications to discuss the ethics of surveillance and voyeuristic behavior with Hong Kong audiences.

Inspired by the post-dramatic theatre play *Time and the Room* written by the famous German playwright Botho Strauss, ***Watching U...*** begins with two young strangers whose lives cross paths, resembling the beginning of a romantic love story. Yet all is not as it seems; a calculated experiment on humanity is taking place behind the scenes. The male protagonist has in fact been observing the female protagonist's private life through a pinhole camera. Through this play, **Cinematic Theatre** explores the ethics of surveillance.

Cinematic Theatre's original plays always explore social issues and challenge problems associated with contemporary society, ***Watching U...*** is no exception. Spying on people undoubtedly invades personal privacy and freedom, but if it's in the name of a social experiment, could this unethical behaviour be justified? Is our judgment fair enough in this world of sorrows? **Carmen Lo, Artistic director of Cinematic Theatre**, explained that the objective of this play is not to debate for a right or wrong answer, but to examine the harm the voyeur inflicts upon the victim. She hoped the

audience will immerse themselves in the theatre production and ponder the questions it raises.

Cinematic Theatre is a multimedia theatre, combining the aesthetics of theatre and cinema to create space for imagination. Video technology in theatre is the highlight of *Watching U...*. Four video cameras are deployed for real-time recording, which enables the audience to follow a voyeur's point of view to pry into the private life of the victim. After countless experiments, the team persevered in showcasing their discipline and dedication to presenting high-quality scenes to local audiences.

Watching U... premiered in Hong Kong in 2016 and was staged at the Performing Arts Meeting in Yokohama (TPAM) and the Performing Arts Market in Seoul (PAMS) in 2017 to bring local art creation to overseas audiences. The drama is staged in Hong Kong once again in *JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power 2018*, presenting *Watching U... (2018 edition)*. Open rehearsals of *Watching U... (2018 edition)* are now open for school registration.

Ticketed shows of *Watching U... (2018 edition)* *:

Date	Time	Venue
9 November 2018	8:00pm – 9:30pm	Cultural Activities Hall, Sha Tin Town Hall
10 November 2018	3:00 pm– 4:30pm 8:00pm – 9:30pm	
11 November 2018	3:00pm – 4:30pm	

*The programme is approximately 90 minutes without intermission. Cantonese programme with Chinese and English Surtitles.

Open rehearsal of *Watching U... (2018 edition)*:

Date	Time	Venue	Target Audience
9 November 2018	11:30am – 1:00pm 3:00 pm– 4:30pm	Cultural Activities Hall, Sha Tin Town Hall	Secondary 3 or above
10 November 2018	11:30am – 1:00pm		
11 November 2018	11:30am – 1:00pm		

For updates about JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power, please visit:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newartspower/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/newartspower/>

High-resolution images can be downloaded here:

Link: <http://gallery.sinclaircomms.com/>

Password: talkofthetown



Caption: Carmen Lo (Middle), Artistic director of Cinematic Theatre and the production team



Caption: Cinematic Theatre's *Watching U...* was staged in the Performing Arts Market in Seoul (PAMS) last year

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About JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power

With a commitment to promoting Hong Kong arts overseas, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) has been actively presenting outstanding local artists in the global arts scene. The 12 groups of artists participating in *JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power* have all been supported by the HKADC in presentations of their work overseas, where they have gained wide international acclaim. The much-anticipated *JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power 2018* showcases 12 groups of brilliant artists from September 2018 to January 2019, featuring some of the finest contemporary Hong Kong artists and celebrate of their contribution to the cultural scene of Hong Kong.

Funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, *JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power* also includes the development of web pages and mobile applications that carry information on the participating artists, so that the general public can learn more about them and their work. To maximise the community impact of the programme, *JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power* has worked with participating artists, non-governmental organisations and governmental organisations to co-organise workshops, customising activities for target participants.

About Cinematic Theatre

Founded in 2002 by acclaimed director and playwright Ms Lo Ching-Man, Cinematic Theatre's name indicates that cinematic language takes an important role in shaping the theatrical style of the productions. It is a "multimedia theatre" which integrates videography and theatre language, and mainly focuses on original plays. Moreover, Cinematic Theatre takes the initiative to explore overseas cultural exchange opportunities. Since 2003, productions have been toured in Scotland, Australia, Japan, Seoul, the Philippines, Singapore and mainland China. In 2016, *Watching U...* premiered in Hong Kong. Then it was staged at TPAM and PAM Link 2017.

About Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC)

Established in 1995, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) is a statutory body set up by the Government to support the broad development of the arts in Hong Kong. Its major roles include grant allocation, policy and planning, advocacy, promotion and development, and programme planning. The mission of HKADC is to plan, promote and support the broad development of the arts including literary arts, performing arts, visual arts as well as film and media arts in Hong Kong. Aiming to foster a thriving arts environment and enhancing the quality of life of the public, HKADC is also committed to facilitating community-wide participation in the arts and arts education, encouraging arts criticism, raising the standard of arts administration and strengthening the work on policy research.

About The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Founded in 1884, The Hong Kong Jockey Club is a world-class racing club that acts continuously for the betterment of our society. The Club has a unique integrated business model, comprising racing and racecourse entertainment, a membership club, responsible sports wagering and lottery, and charities and community contribution. Through this model, the Club generates economic and social value for the community and supports the Government in combatting illegal gambling. It is Hong Kong's largest single taxpayer, one of the city's major employers and one of the world's top ten charity donors.

Working with Government, non-governmental organisations and community partners, the Club is committed to improving the quality of life of Hong Kong people through its Charities Trust donations, and providing immediate relief to those most in need. The Trust also proactively seeks out the root causes of social issues and brings multiple and cross-sector parties together to tackle them, pioneering innovative approaches that transcend disciplines and skills. While the Trust continues to fund a wide range of projects, it is placing special emphasis on four areas of strategic focus, including Youth, the Elderly, Sports, and Arts, Culture & Heritage.

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