



**Yee Hong Community
Wellness Foundation**

頤康基金會

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News Release

For Immediate Release

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MOVIE AND STAGE STAR TONY LEUNG AND HONG KONG REPERTORY THEATRE VISIT SENIORS

SCARBOROUGH – Today, Artistic Director Fredric Mao, Hong Kong star Tony Leung and lead actresses, Louisa So and Alice Lau visited our resident seniors at the Yee Hong Centre – Scarborough Finch. This is part of several events during the week-long celebration of Hong Kong culture culminating on April 28, 2006 with the North American premiere of **Love in a Fallen City**, a war-time love story, set at the historical Repulse Bay Hotel, a famous Hong Kong landmark where East met West and the likes of George Bernard Shaw and Marlon Brando had at one time found refuge among other celebrities and royalty.

Love in a Fallen City is expected to raise \$200,000 for **Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care of GTA**. The Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) are helping bring this huge production of 42 members (set – props, lights, costumes) to Toronto. Bringing a whole theatrical production to Toronto from Hong Kong – more than 40 actors, costumes, the props and set as well as lights to North America – is an enormous undertaking, one the co-organizers Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office are proud to accept.

Love in a Fallen City is relevant to the modern reader or audience for two key reasons, Mao said. One - it is a timeless, universal love story. Is there a happy ending? He replied, "It appears to have a happy ending, but Eileen Chang subtly suggests it may not be a happy ending for all". "Chang's writing always has a bit of the tragedy and darkness". This is also a reflection of Eileen Chang's personal life and tragic ending. Secondly – it is a story about a clash of values between those of the traditional Chinese and the modern West. It is a conflict between values and traditions of the Old World vs adventures and freedoms of the New World.

Love in a Fallen City will go to New York before staging in Beijing next month and is performed in Cantonese with English and Chinese surtitles. The stage production based is on American-Chinese writer Eileen Chang's novel of the same title. Eileen is described by western literary critics as China's "Jane Austen".

Established in October 1994, Yee Hong is changing people's perceptions of nursing homes with our wide range of high quality and culturally appropriate senior services. The Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation is a charitable organization that raises necessary funds to support the facilities, services and programs of the four centres in Scarborough, Markham and Mississauga. For more info, please visit www.yeehong.com.

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Fredric Mao's Biography Artistic Director of HKRep

Fredric Mao obtained his Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts from the University of Iowa, USA. He then launched his acting/directing career with professional theatre companies and film and television works in the States. At the young age of 27, he was appointed Artistic Director of the Napa Valley Theatre Company in California. He made his Broadway acting debut in the original Harold Prince/Stephen Sondheim musical Pacific Overtures in 1976. He undertook further studies with the renowned acting teacher Sanford Meisner in New York.

When the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts was established in 1985, Mao joined its School of Drama as Head of Acting, responsible for training up a new generation of local talents. He directed numerous productions at the Academy including major works of Shakespeare, Moliere, Chekhov, Shaw and Brecht. He has also been a firm believer in supporting and developing original works of Hong Kong. His distinguished productions include The Legend Of A Storyteller, The Kids, The Wind And The City, The Girl Who Turned The World Upside Down, and at the HKRep with Forever And Ever, Secret Of Resurrection, and Love In A Fallen City.

Appointed Artistic Director of the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre in February 2001, Mao sees it as his mission to produce plays of outstanding quality showcasing the "unique flavour" of Hong Kong. His directorial effort, Sweet & Sour Hong Kong, an original musical collaboration among Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and Hong Kong Dance Company in 2003, was then featured at the 7th China Arts Festival in Hangzhou and staged in Shanghai in the following year. Love In A Fallen City, Mao's 2005 version, received not only great applause from the Hong Kong audience but also with resounding success when it was staged in Shanghai as the first total Cantonese drama presented publicly in the city.

In 2004, Mao introduced the "Main Stage" and "Rep2 series" for the company, to encourage more diversity and creativity in their works. These days Mao seeks to further develop some of HKRep's most successful past productions, with the aim of consolidating the Rep's distinctive repertoire.

Mao has received numerous awards, among them the "Best Director" title for five times at the Hong Kong Drama Awards and "Artist of the Year 1999" (Stage Director) from the Hong Kong Artists' Guild. In 2004, the Government of the HKSAR conferred upon Mao the Bronze Bauhinia Star in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Hong Kong performing arts scene. In July 2005, he was awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts for his distinguished achievements and contributions to the performing arts.





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Mr. Tony, Ka Fai Leung's Biography

Mr. Leung Ka Fai, Tony is a popular and talented movie actor who received numerous awards since he joined show business. He won his first Best Actor Award with his first movie "Reign Behind A Curtain" in the Hong Kong Film Awards in 1984, and his brilliant performance in "Farewell China" brought him another Best Actor Award in the 28th Golden Horse Award of Taiwan, R.O.C. Seven years later.

1992 was a year of remarkable success for Mr. Leung as he won the Hong Kong Artist's Guild Film Actor of the Year and successfully entered international show business by breaking the French box-office record with "The Lover". In 1993, he was awarded the Best Actor prize again in the Hong Kong Film Awards with the comedy "92 Legendary La Rose Noire". In November 1994, he was invited by Miss World Pageant 1994 as one of the judge. In 1995 he was the winner of the Best Actor prize in Louis Cartier Awards of Excellence. With the release of his debut CD album "Tempt Me For Life" in 1996, Mr. Leung's singing talent also won him reputation in this field.

In 1999, the film "Love Will Tear Us Apart" in which Mr. Leung is Producer and Actor enter the Official Selection of Cannes Film festival and become the focus in the competition. In 2000 to 2001, Mr. Leung participating in the stage plays "the Red Boat" in Hong Kong. One of his new movie "Double Vision" breaking the Taiwan box-office record in 2002. In the year 2003, he was awarded the Best Supporting Actor prize in the Hong Kong Film Awards with the comedy "Men suddenly in Black".





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Hong Kong Repertory Theatre

Established in 1977, the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre (HKRep) became an independent company in 2001. It is a duly recognized non-profit arts institution and a major professional theatre company in Hong Kong which enjoys financial support from the HKSAR Government's Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

The HKRep has grown immensely under the artistic directorship of Dr Daniel SP Yang and Dr Joanna Chan in the past and under Mr Fredric Mao since 2001. Mr Mao is a multi-awarded and widely respected theatre veteran who is committed to further consolidating the HKRep's leading position in the Hong Kong arts scene. Combining and synchronizing various talents from different areas, Mr Mao injects life and energy into the Company's repertoires, driving the development of the HKRep towards a new and more powerful platform.

The HKRep's traditional, mainstream productions are counterbalanced by a delightful mix of repertoires derived from different genres and production styles. The Company also possesses an insatiable appetite for experimentation and an uncompromising quest for innovation, both of which are amply demonstrated in its productions - covering, but not limited to, adaptations of foreign plays, modern theatre classics as well as original local plays. Indeed, the HKRep strives for not only a high standard of professionalism and performance quality, but also a high degree of creativity and versatility, with the end-goal of achieving a delicate balance between market viability, artistic merits and audience demands.

Over the past 28 years, the HKRep has staged over 200 plays on different scales. The majority of these programmes have been in Cantonese, with Putonghua used for select productions. To enable non-Cantonese speaking audiences to have a fuller appreciation of the stage proceedings, however, the HKRep provides both English and Chinese surtitles.

The HKRep also goes beyond its performance venues to foster drama education, in keeping with its corporate mission of bringing the joys of theatre into the public's everyday life. This it accomplishes through different outreach and educational activities such as summer drama camps and student matinees, providing youths with more opportunities to understand drama, and enhancing their appreciation of the arts in general.

Besides growing audience sizes and enhancing the cultural life of Hong Kong, the HKRep is committed to further exploring cross-border cultural exchange and sourcing more performance opportunities in China as well as other territories, to ultimately forge a stronger, more distinguished and truly world-class identity for the Company.

