

Zuni Icosahedron
Life Insight Theatre's Two Shows
Integrating Art and Religion
Buddhist Chants in Scent and Light, Hūa-Yen Sūtra 4.0
Purification Practices
Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
Cultivating Merit and Wisdom

Buddhist Chants in Scent and Light - Life Insight Theatre
Rewriting Life Scripts with Merit and Virtue
Amassing Merit and Virtue with Buddhist Vocal Heritage



Venerable Sik Hin Hung × **Venerable Sik Tsang Chit** × **Mathias Woo** ×
Yu Yat Yiu × **anothermountainman**

Scent and Light means the Adornment of Scent and Light. Buddhist followers enjoy adorning the mind and body with the scent of the Buddha's teachings and the light of wisdom, hence the Adornment of Scent and Light.

Chanting can bring relief to anxiety, fear and worry, allowing oneself to calm and purify the mind; develop equanimity; and learn and practise the art of letting go. The Wuhui Five Assembly Buddhist Chanting, a Pure Land Buddhist practice, is done in five parts of different vocals and tempos, conveying the tranquility and sincerity of the chanters. The practice is believed to have been developed by the Tang Dynasty Master Fazhao who, upon entering the Pure Land (Western Paradise) during meditation, heard some wondrous sounds. He then devised the practice of the Wuhui Five Assembly Buddhist Chanting based on a line in the *Infinite Life Sūtra of Buddha Amitabha*: "a breeze wafts over the jewelled trees, producing sounds of the pentatonic scales". Unfortunately the musical scores were lost over time.

It was until much later that Master Kuan Pen (1868-1945) re-discovered the notation from the *Buddhist Canon (The Taishō Tripiṭaka)* published in Japan, and rearranged it into a new version in 1931 and compiled *The New Wuhui Five Assembly Buddhist Chanting Score*. Owing to his efforts, a number of Buddhist chanting centres were set up in Hong Kong and Macau to help spread the new version. The research and creative work have been collected in his book *Chamber of Scent and Light*. With reference to *The New Wuhui Five Assembly Buddhist Chanting Score*, the performance reveals the practice of Buddhist chanting, hence its title Buddhist Chants in Scent and Light.

Buddhist Chants in Scent and Light is an experimental integration of the art of contemporary theatre and traditional Buddhist rituals. Through earnestly chanting Namō Amitufo by the Tong Lin Kok Yuen monastics, the performance explores the heritage and innovation of the art of Buddhist vocal practices, opening up the gateway to spiritual practice for the modern world. Whilst introducing the Buddhist teachings and Buddhist vocal work, the performance pays homage to sages who have contributed to keeping alive the heritage and virtue of traditional culture, art and religion.

Creative Team

Advisor (Script & Text): Venerable Sik Hin Hung

Advisor (Chanting): Venerable Sik Tsang Chit

Artistic Director & Director: Mathias Woo

Music Director: Yu Yat Yiu

Graphic Designer: anothermountainman

Academic Advisor: Dr. Li Kwok Fu

Performers: Venerable masters from Tong Lin Kok Yuen

Running time approximately 90 minutes with no intermission

Programme Information:

Venue: Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Date: 22 Sept 8:15pm, 25 Sept 3:00pm

Ticketing: \$1,000 (Charity Tickets), \$480, \$280, \$180, \$100 (Student Tickets)
Advance booking with up to 15% OFF discount!
Tickets are available at URB TIX. From now till 28 June with 15% OFF discount. (not applicable to Charity Tickets and Student Tickets)

Zuni Icosahedron 2016 Theatre Season: The Strength of Emotions

www.zuniseason.org.hk

Programme Enquiries: 2566 9696

Ticketing Enquiries: 3761 6661

Hūa-Yen Sutra 4.0 Purification Practices - Life Insight Theatre

Practising the Art of Wisdom in Daily Life



**Thich Nhat Hanh × Venerable Sik Hin Hung × Venerable Sik Tsang Chit ×
Mathias Woo × Yu Yat Yiu × Lin Xi × Tong Yang-tze × William Chang × Yuri
Ng × another mountain man × Eman Lam**

A widely acclaimed work:

"As if having ice cream in the seething summer heat, the tranquility is beyond words."
Professor Ou Fan Leo Lee, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

"A significant milestone in Hong Kong's performing arts history..." Venerable Sik Jue Zhen

"The show reveals a state of compatible ease between the mind and the world."
Performance Art (Taiwan)

Since its premiere in 2007, *Hūa -Yen Sutra* has been developed into two other versions: *Hūa-Yen Sutra 2.0 – Minds as Skillful Painter* (2008); *Hūa-Yen Sutra 3.0 – Pu Xian's Virtuous Actions for Awakening* (2013). In this upcoming 4th version, the key creative element is Light that comes from multiple sources in real-time interaction with language, calligraphy, music and multimedia installation, bringing forth the glittering light of wisdom and the Avatamsaka realm as described in the Sūtra; endless in time and space. The performance this time welcomes a new member - singer-songwriter Eman Lam, and is focused on the chapter "Practice of Purification", giving life to the 4th version *Hūa-Yen Sutra 4.0 Purification Practices*.

The performance will begin with Cedric Chan's rendering of one of the theme songs The Ten Directions are But One Thought. Part of the contents and doctrines of the *Hūa-Yen Sutra* will be revealed through the lyrics. Guided by the text of Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh * and the multimedia approach, the audience will experience the world of the Avatamsaka realm. Based on the chapter "Practice of Purification" of the Sūtra, *Hūa-Yen Sūtra 4.0 Purification Practices* details the 141 daily practices devised by Bodhisattva Manjushri for wisdom seekers to carry out mindfully in their daily lives at all times, awake or asleep. A practical guide to experiencing how the enlightened conduct their lives in wisdom. The chanting session of the Hua-Yen Siddham Alphabets by the Tong Lin Kok Yuen monastics will help to plant the seed of ultimate enlightenment for all sentient beings. The theme song *Purification Practices* will be sung by singer-songwriter Eman Lam, hoping that the audience will find a sense of joy and haven in the Buddha's teachings.

* Original text by Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh
Extracted from the book *Cultivating The Mind of Love*

Creative Team

Original Text: Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh
Advisor (Script & Text): Venerable Sik Hin Hung
Advisor (Hūa-Yen Siddham Alphabet Chanting): Venerable Sik Tsang Chit
Director, Scriptwriter & Designer: Mathias Woo
Music Director & Composer: Yu Yat Yiu
Creative Writing: Lin Xi
Chinese Calligraphy (Digital Images): Tong Yang-tze

Costume Designer: William Chang
Movement Design: Yuri Ng
Creative Music (Composition and Lyrics): Eman Lam
Graphic Designer: anothermountainman
Text Editor: Ng Lai Chun, Theresa Leung
Performers: Yuri Ng, David Yeung, Dick Wong, Cedric Chan, Eman Lam
Special Appearance (Hūa-Yen Siddham Alphabet Chanting): Venerable masters from Tong Lin Kok Yuen
Live Musician: Edgar Hung (Piano), Ho Yi On (Percussion), Cheng Shing Tai (Dong Xiao/Dizi), Mavis Lam (Plucked Strings), Alan Pang (Sheng)
Performed in Cantonese & Mandarin, with Chinese & English surtitle
Running time approximately 90 minutes with no intermission

Programme Information:

Venue: Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
Date: 23,24 Sept 8:15pm
Ticketing: \$1,000 (Charity Tickets), \$480, \$280, \$180, \$100 (Student Tickets)
Advance booking with up to 15% OFF discount
Tickets are available at URB TIX. From now till 28 June with 15% OFF discount. (not applicable to Charity Tickets and Student Tickets)

Zuni Icosahedron 2016 Theatre Season: *The Strength of Emotions*

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Media Enquiries

Mr. Luka Wong

Office Tel: 852-2893 8704 | Mobile: 852-6301 6569

Fax: 852-2838 7527 | email: luka@zuni.org.hk