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Cantonese Opera 'Sleepless Moon' to Premiere in Hong Kong

The first East-West fusion opera, 'Sleepless Moon,' premieres Oct. 1, 2026 at Hong Kong's East Kowloon Cultural Centre, blending Cantonese opera with martial arts and modern dance.

BY GRACE KIM SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 2 MIN READ



New Cantonese Opera 'Sleepless Moon' to Premiere in Hong Kong
AI-GENERATED

PROGRAMME

- 01 "Sleepless Moon," described as the first East-West fusion opera, premieres Oct. 1, 2026 at the East Kowloon Cultural Centre in Hong Kong.
- 02 The opera follows Prince Wumian and Princess Biyue through a thousand years of reincarnation to a present-day AI scientist and opera diva.
- 03 Alis Lin and Henry Ngan lead the cast; Lora Chow is music director, Jeff Leung conducts, and Tang Wai Kit stages the production.

A new Cantonese opera billed as the first East-West fusion opera, "Sleepless Moon," will have its world premiere on Oct. 1, 2026 at the East Kowloon Cultural Centre in Hong Kong.

The work combines Western operatic styles with traditional Cantonese opera, and folds in Chinese martial arts and modern dance. Its creators are Lora Chow, Ivy Tse, Man Wah and Serena Tong.

The story follows Prince Wumian of Empire Ha and Princess Biyue of Empire Leung through a thousand years of reincarnation. The two lovers resurface in the present day, where they meet again — one as an AI scientist, the other as an opera diva. The premise places the production squarely in a contemporary conversation about how centuries-old performance traditions can absorb the languages of modern technology and staged spectacle.

Alis Lin and Henry Ngan lead the cast. They are joined by Michelle Yim, Vivian Yau, Wong Chi Leung, Marco Tang, Hailey Mak and Sum Cheuk Yiu. Chow herself serves as music director, with Jeff Leung on the podium as conductor. Tang Wai Kit directs the staging.

The creative team extends across design and movement. Moon Yip serves as scenographer, with Lo Man Hong as video designer — a role that suggests the production's contemporary settings will carry visual weight alongside the traditional stagecraft. Fung Kwok Kee Gabriel designs lighting. Can Ha handles sound, Icey Lam and Gigi Yiu serve as choreographers, and TwinnY Cheng designs costumes.

The premiere runs for five performances in total, from Oct. 1 to 4, 2026. The Fringe Club presents the production, with the Bank of East Asia and Central Asset Investments as title sponsors. Amore Xiqu produces.

For Hong Kong's cultural calendar, the premiere signals continued investment in hybrid forms that treat Cantonese opera — inscribed on UNESCO's intangible heritage lists as a regional tradition — as a living, expandable medium rather than a preserved one. Whether "Sleepless Moon" can hold its martial arts, modern dance and Western vocal idioms together will become clear when the curtain rises next October.

Source: [Opera Wire](#)

cantonese-opera, hong-kong, world-premiere, performing-arts, chinese-culture

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