

**[Press Release: For Immediate Release]**

To: General News/Feature/Culture and Arts – Assignment Editors/Editors/Reporters

**French May Arts Festival 2022 Successfully Concluded  
Breaking Boundaries and Unleashing Imagination through Arts  
Fabulous Programmes for the Coming 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

(15<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Hong Kong) Under the theme “Art Unboxed”, over 70 diversified programmes were presented by the French May Arts Festival 2022. Programmes on music, dance, theatre, circus, exhibition, cinema and more conveyed extensive French arts and cultural experiences to over 200,000 people in Hong Kong, unleashing the imagination of audiences, breaking the boundaries of location, time and sensation, allowing audiences to enjoy a splendid feast of arts and culture. Hong Kong-based artists and arts communities were largely involved in a number of programmes, continuing the longstanding cultural ties between Hong Kong and France. Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, French May will present a series of exceptional programmes, including the “Virtually Versailles” immersive exhibition, bringing the world heritage, the Palace of Versailles to Hong Kong.

The performing arts presented were well-received. Multi-genre music concerts and operas including “Je t'aime... moi non plus”, a tribute concert to the world-famous French music icon Serge Gainsbourg, Hong Kong premiere of Jacques Offenbach’s romance operetta “Pomme d’Api” and “Cities of Light: A love affair between France and Hong Kong” with renowned Hong Kong composer Leon Ko as artistic and music director received overwhelming responses by Hong Kong audience. In addition, “Carte Blanche to Christian Rizzo”, curated by French choreographer extraordinaire Christian Rizzo, broke the boundaries of dance performance, allowing Hong Kong-based performing artists to showcase their performances blended into the specific surroundings at Freespace, the West Kowloon Cultural District. Integrating arts and technology, the interactive digital sculpture *Intraverse* by French artist Ophelia Jacarini evoked a unique interactive experience with audiences by transcending the space of artistic creation.

Online play reading “The Breast Man”, adapted from the classic surrealist work “The Breasts of Tiresias”, as well as “Théâtre sans animaux”, directed by renowned Hong Kong theatre director Chan Chu-hei and performed by 16 local actors, first-ever on show in Hong Kong without cuts, made the theatre programmes a great success.

Exclusively sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the **French Rendervous@Tai Kwun** series brings Hong Kong audiences an unexpected journey to France. Extraordinary online contemporary circus performance “Excellence in Contemporary Circus” amazed the audience with French romance by two professional circus groups, while the heritage talk “Notre Dame – How to Rebuild a Masterpiece of Gothic Architecture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” and talk series “World Heritage: Grand Palace in the East and the West”, which under “Jockey Club Community Outreach and Arts Education Programmes”, offered audiences

a heritage journey on the cultural exchange of the West and the East, travelling through the past and the future.

French Traditional Gourmet Market presented by French GourMay at Central Market and NINA MALL unboxed the sensations of French gastronomy. The “Marché” (traditional outdoor market) is deeply rooted in French “art de vivre” (lifestyle). The Market gave visitors an enjoyable grocery shopping experience beyond limitations and offered a memorable journey of French culture and delicacies.

“The success of French May Arts Festival 2022 relies on the continuous support of our values partners, supporters, sponsors, as well as art industry contributors and the society,” said Mrs. Mignonne Cheng and Ms. Pansy Ho, Co-Chairman of the Board of French May Arts Festival. “Look forward to the Festival’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, French May will continue to bring the best of French creations to Hong Kong, fostering the exchange of Hong Kong and French artists.”

French May Arts Festival – the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023 will present a series of exceptional programmes with the “Virtually Versailles Hong Kong” immersion exhibition as one of the highlights, taking visitors on a journey to the wonders of the Palace of Versailles, encapsulating the visions, tastes and melodies of the historic monument and region.

**“French May Arts Festival 2022” Photo Caption:**

Photo  
1a



1b



Exclusively sponsored by FIF, renowned Hong Kong composer Leon Ko, singers Gin Lee and Talie Monin bring us the well-received concert “Cities of Light: A love affair between France and Hong Kong”, charmingly integrated the musical element and language of Hong Kong and France, bringing audiences a music fest filled with iconic Hong Kong songs and their French counterparts.

Photo  
 2a



2b



2c



Co-presented by Dance Reflections by Van Cleef and Arpels and Freespace, French choreographer Christian Rizzo collaborated with five Hong Kong-based performing artists, “Carte Blanche to Christian Rizzo” brought about multi-dimensional arts elements and interactive experiences through installation, dance film screenings and pop-up dance performance at Freespace, the West Kowloon Cultural District, prompting audiences to reimagine the many possibilities of arts.

Photographer: Sophie Bonnin-Rocher

Photo 3



“Théâtre sans animaux”, directed by renowned Hong Kong theatre director Chan Chu-hei and performed by 16 local actors, eight seemingly independent sketches are strung together to form a vivid collage depicting the everyday lives of the common French people. The drama was filled with satire and absurd elements, allowing audiences to taste the unique approach of French theatre, exploring the existence and nature of human beings.

Photographer: Fung Wai Sun

Photo  
4a



4b



4c



The extraordinary contemporary circus performance “Excellence in Contemporary Circus” under the **French Rendervous @ Tai Kwun** series, exclusively sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, was filled with French romance, bringing arts into the community.

Photo  
5a



French GourMay unboxed the sensations of French gastronomy through French Traditional Gourmet Market at Central Market and NINA MALL, offering visitors a memorable journey of French culture and delicacies.

5b



5c



Photo 6



The “Virtually Versailles” immersive exhibition will be presented in 2023 alongside the many fabulous arts programmes on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the French May Arts Festival.

High-resolution photos: <https://bit.ly/3OchVvq>



*merci*



### **About French May Arts Festival**

Established in 1993, French May is one of the largest cultural events in Asia. With about 100 programmes presented across 2 months, we showcase the most diversified art forms: from heritage and contemporary arts, paintings and design, to classical music and hip-hop dance, cinema and circus. It has become an iconic part of Hong Kong's cultural scene reaching out to 20 million visitors since its inception.

French May brings the arts to everyone, not only in cultural venues, but also in public spaces, shopping malls and more, inviting everyone across Hong Kong to enjoy art in their daily lives.

In the aim of promoting accessible-arts for all, French May places a strong emphasis on education through outreach programmes, guided tours, workshops, masterclasses and free performances.

The festival strives to reach the widest possible audience and contribute to the education of the young and less-privileged, working closely with over 50 local institutions and organisations to establish barrier-free arts access.

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