



Youth reach new dance high

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Siu Sai-wo

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Youth Outreach staged its fifth annual street dance show, YO Dancical, at the Sha Tin Town Hall at the weekend.

This year's show, Save the Moment, has richer content than before, with mental well-being one of the issues it addressed. It's clear that the organizer has put a lot more into backstage work.

The performers were great and won rounds of applause as singing and the thoughtful video backdrop created a three-dimensional audiovisual experience. Toward the end, the protagonist walked off stage to hug members of the audience. The expression of the spirit of care and concern among people was moving.

Many top government officials turned up, including Secretary for Labour and Welfare Law Chi-kwong, leisure and cultural services director Michelle Li Mei-sheung and information services director Cathy Chu Man-ling.

Youth Outreach's mission is to help at-risk young people, and the annual dance event is a major fundraiser.

President Au King-chi said a subsidy covers a quarter of annual expenses of HK\$40 million, so it needs to get donations to maintain service. The dance this year raised over HK\$3 million.

A staunch supporter is Chow Tai Fook Jewellery, a sponsor since the beginning.

Fund-raising committee chief Kent Wong Siu-kee noted that for the first time there was an afternoon show for students. It drew an enthusiastic response, and the young audience was thrilled.

The event also had two new partners this year - the Professional Teachers' Union and the Federation of Education Workers.

And instructors from the Youth Outreach School of Hip Hop have started to go out to teach at schools, providing a new extracurricular activity while earning revenue for the organization.

Wong's dedication is obvious from the fact that aside from the time and energy he puts in to lead the fund-raising committee he also made a personal donation of HK\$150,000.

Siu Sai-wo is publisher of Sing Tao Daily