

To: Editor of Feature/ Entertainment Division:
Press Release – For immediate release

‘Affection in the Chinese Opera World- Olivia Cheng’s Photo Exhibition’ at Cyberport

Reiterates the act, move and gestures of renowned performers

(Hong Kong, 9 January 2012) Chinese opera, a celebrated style of performing art incorporates Chinese legend, music and drama, has been enlisted as intangible cultural heritage in China. The characters, acting, music, costumes and the make-up, all being the essential elements in this art form, reflect our historical developments as well as regional features. **Affection in the Chinese Opera World - Olivia Cheng’s Photo Exhibition** pays tribute to this fascinating classical art by capturing glamorous scenes during the making of and on stage performance of the operas by her camera. The exhibition will be held at Cyberport from 14 January to end of February this year.

The centerpieces of this exhibition feature a collection of newly shot photos of local Cantonese opera performers, capturing their distinctive moves, gestures, and facial expressions in detail. Some of the best-loved Cantonese operas are included: The Princess Chang Ping, The Tragedy of a Poet King, The Lover’s Rendezvous, Phantom Dream Duet, The Story of Guanyin, De Ling & Empress Dowager Ci Xi, Dream of the Red Chamber and Legend of the White Snake performed by many renowned Cantonese opera performers, including Liza Wang, Franco Yuen, Mandy Mui, Joyce Koi, Lau Wai Ming, Wai Chun Fai, Emily Chan, Chan Ho Kou, Liu Kwok Sum, Chan Hung Jun, and Law Kar Ying.

These stunning photos will be for the first time ever, printed on traditional rice paper used for Chinese painting, and mounted on hanging scrolls - a true show of traditional uniqueness. After the exhibition, these exclusive photos will be donated to The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong (Bar Wo) to use as part of its fund raising event later. Previously, Olivia, with great generosity, donated her photo-book “An Affair with Chinese Opera” to Wai Yin Association for fundraising and all proceeds amounting to HK\$90,500 went to Bar Wo for supporting the development of Hong Kong Chinese Opera. The cheque presentation ceremony will be held on 14 January at Cyberport during Olivia Cheng’s Photo Exhibition Opening Ceremony.

Apart from the new collection of photos, the exhibition also showcased some of Olivia's earlier works last year on Chinese opera, including her amazing experience of shooting at the Beijing Mei Lanfang Theatre and Shanghai Grand Theatre. One of the stage plays she shot, *Lover's Butterfly Concerto* 《蝶海情僧》, a drama presented in 3 different kinds of operatic interpretations, is a breakthrough in Chinese opera. Witnessing these spectacular moments with her own eyes and her camera, she hereby dedicates her works to all the Chinese opera performers.

Olivia, a multi-talented artist herself, enjoys shooting in a natural and inspirational way, without setting. With a broad and diversified background, she enriches her presentation with colours and blends various art features together. Her admiration towards Chinese opera, was however, rooted in her childhood.

"When I was a kid, I lived in the remote rural areas in Hong Kong where occasional Chinese operas held at Tin Hau's Birthday or Cheung Chau Bun Festival were our big entertainment," Olivia recalls. "I believe this is the original concept of 'opera' in my mind. The performers' overstating makeup, the glittering beads and the extravagant embroideries on their costumes, the way they talked and walked, as well as the songs they sang; everything becomes unforgettable in a little girl's mind."

"I am very pleased to have the opportunity to shoot the local Cantonese operas. This valuable art form represents an integral part of Hong Kong's cultural heritage and historical treasures, as well as an important element in Chinese performing art. Through the exhibition, I wish more people will learn to appreciate the beauty of Chinese culture."

A photography sharing session will also be held on 14 January afternoon where Olivia will share her valuable experience and insights on shooting Chinese historical and cultural scenes. Amateurs and professionals in photography, as well as general public interested in Chinese culture and history are all welcome to join.

"Cyberport is honoured to co-host this photo exhibition and photo sharing session with Olivia, especially around the Chinese New Year period," said Mr. Mark Cliff, Chief Operating Officer of Cyberport. "Embraced with Olivia's passion in photography and Chinese culture, the exhibition, together with the photo sharing session, will surely bring our visitors a unique festive experience through the discovery of arts and stunning images."

Olivia Cheng's Photo Exhibition Opening Ceremony

- Date: 14 January 2012 (Saturday)
- Time: 2:00pm
- Venue: Ocean View Court, The Arcade, Cyberport

Olivia Cheng's Photo-vision in Cultural Essence (Sharing Session)

- Date: 14 January 2012 (Saturday)
- Time: 3:30pm
- Venue: Function Rooms, Cyberport 3

Affection in the Chinese Opera World – Olivia Cheng's Photo Exhibition

- Date: 14 January - 29 February 2012
- Time: 10:00 am – 10:00 pm
- Venue: 14 January – 3 February at Ocean View Court, The Arcade, Cyberport & 4 – 29 February at Exhibition Area, Cyberport 3

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For the event-related photos, please visit below link:

<http://www.dropbox.com/gallery/53442502/1/Olivia%20Cheng%27s%20Photo?h=2b1df1>

For enquiry (public): 3166 3111

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For individual press interview or more information, please contact:

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About Olivia Cheng

Olivia was born and educated in Hong Kong. Her professional career to date has reflected her diverse interests in arts and sports. She has been an athlete, a TV actress, a movie actress, a stage performer, a pottery teacher, and is now golf professional. She enjoys traveling, photography, dancing, pottery as well as a wide variety of stage performance.

Olivia was crowned Miss Hong Kong in 1979 and was also voted Miss Photogenic. In the same year, she represented Hong Kong in the Miss Universe contest which was held in Perth, Australia and travelled abroad as an ambassador for the Hong Kong Tourist Board to promote tourism in Hong Kong.

Thereafter Olivia joined the film and performing arts field, soon becoming a full time actress at [the RTV]. She had several leading roles in drama series including “The Young Huang Fei Hong”, “Goodbye Tai Ping Shan”, “Ladder To Heaven”, “A Family of Four” etc.

In 1982, Olivia progressed to film and was cast in a number of comedies and dramas including “Till Death Do We Scare”, “United We Stand”, “Play Catch”, “Why Me?”, “A Family Affair”, “Sapporo Story”, “The Missed Date”, “Mr. Coconut”, “Hong Kong Graffiti”, “Mr. Virgin”, “How to be a Millionaire” etc.

Olivia learned the art of Chinese dance from Miss Lau So Kam and was an avid dancer in her childhood. She won numerous Hong Kong Open dance competitions in the 1970s. In 1987, she was invited to perform as Tanji in the Hong Kong City Contemporary Dance Company’s performance “Myths from a Forgotten Kingdom”. Olivia’s keen interest in stage theatre further developed in New York where she took classes in stage performance at the HB Studio. In 2006, she played “Anna” in the famous play “Closer” in its Hong Kong debut. The show had multiple re-runs and was invited to show in Singapore.

Olivia is very sporty. She was the Hong Kong Schools High Jump Champion and broke the Hong Kong female high jump record in 1978. Olivia was ATV’s anchor-woman at the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing where she partnered with famous Olympic gymnast gold medal winner Mr. Li Ning. Olivia took up golf in 1991 and quickly found success at that. Olivia was the first local-born member of the Hong Kong ladies’ golf team and was voted best Hong Kong player from 1994 – 2000. In order to promote golf in Hong Kong, Olivia established the Hong Kong Chinese Lady Golfers Association (the HKCLGA) in 1993 as well as the Hong Kong Lady Professional Golfers Association (the HKLPGA) following that. She became the first female Chinese member of the Hong Kong Professional Golfers Association (the HKPGA) in 2000 as well as a Master Teaching professional of the United States Golf Teachers Federation (the USGTF). Olivia remains a golf coach in high demand.

Olivia has keen interests in ceramics, sculpturing and photography.

In 1985, Olivia shocked the world with Hong Kong’s first ever body art photography book, “Olivia’s Pictorial”. Her photos were taken by Mr. Kevin Orpin and the artwork was designed by Mr. Basil Pao. She studied pottery under Mr. Lam Ho Kai in Hong Kong, and attended New

York's Parsons School of Design where she focused on photography and marble-carving under the Italian sculptor Mr. Philip Pavia. She furthered her pottery skills at the Greenwich House Pottery and following that she learned portrait art sculpting from the famous Chinese sculptor Mr. Shum Mo.

In 1990, she held her solo exhibition "Olivia's Work of Clay" at the Hong Kong Arts Centre. In 2004, Olivia's work was shown at the exhibition "Art Without Boundaries". In 2006, she published the book "An Affair with Clay". In 1992, Olivia established the "Pinehill Pottery" school for the mentally handicapped students of the Hong Chi Association and taught there as a volunteer teacher for more than a decade. In 1996 she held an exhibition, "A Different Ceramic Art", of her students' work.

In the early 1980's, photography formed an integral element of Olivia's artistic journey and she started to travel extensively around the world with her cameras. In not wanting to limit her artistic creativity, Olivia's chosen subjects were quite diverse and included sports, landscapes, people, plants, birds, insects, animals etc. This meant Olivia needed to master a number of different techniques in order to achieve the results she wanted. Traveling around the globe with her cameras continues to be her favorite past time and it allows her to develop her artistic creativity through photography.

About The Arcade, Cyberport

The Arcade, situated in the core zone of Cyberport, is a 27,000 m² retail and entertainment complex with an international mix of a supermarket, restaurants featuring fine cuisines, a variety of retail shops carrying designer brands, and a state-of-the-art cinema. It is a one-of-a-kind, high-end shopping arcade in the Southern District of Hong Kong.

The Arcade's innovative design and unique architecture integrate nature and technology with retail, entertainment and education/exhibition activities. It offers unparalleled experience for visitors, and provides the community with a place to meet, relax, refresh and do business. In addition, The Arcade is equipped with avant-garde multimedia facilities and Open Wi-Fi, through which visitors can access information at any time and stay connected.