

Rice 稻 禾

CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN



FREE PROGRAMME

DANCER: TSAI MING-YUAN. PHOTOGRAPH: LIU CHEN-HSIANG



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IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Rice 稻 禾

Fri 10 Mar – Sat 11 Mar 8.00pm
Sun 12 Mar 5.00pm

ASB THEATRE, AOTEA CENTRE

POST-SHOW TALK SATURDAY 11 MARCH

PREMIERE: November 22, 2013, National Theater, Taipei, Taiwan



**NAU MAI, HAERE MAI, KI TE AHUREI TOI Ō TAMAKI
WELCOME TO AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL 2017**

Great artists cause controversy, start revolutions and little by little change the world. Festivals like ours are a catalyst for change creating opportunities for artists to communicate with audiences and audiences to respond to artists' work. Throughout the Festival you will find small threads that deal with our world today. We hope that the work in the Festival can make you think, laugh, scream a little and perhaps even cry.

I have admired Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan and their visionary leader Lin Hwai-Min for many years. I have attended performances, workshops and heard Lin Hwai-Min speak. Each time I am mesmerised by his vision of our world and the bringing together of the past with the present and future. With *RICE* we are submerged in the world of nature and we see that we are part of this world. The seasons change, time passes and we must look after our world for the future. Welcome and thanks to all the members of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre.

Thanks to Auckland Live for partnering with us to bring this fantastic show to Auckland.

The Festival's CEO David Inns (my partner and collaborator of many years), our Board and staff, hope you have a fabulous Festival. We hope that you enjoy the beauty and complexity of the art presented and value its importance in our society. Join the revolution.

Carla, David and the Festival Team

THIS TOUR IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GRANTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (TAIWAN)

CONCEPT/CHOREOGRAPHY

Lin Hwai-min

MUSIC

Hakka traditional folk songs

Drum music by Liang Chunj-mei

Monochrome II by ISHII Maki performed by Onedekoza

Casta Diva from opera *Norma* by Vincenzo Bellini

Le Rossignol et la Rose by Camille Saint-Saëns

Im Abendrot from *Vier letzte Lieder* by Richard Strauss

SET DESIGN

Lin Keh-hua

LIGHTING DESIGN

Lulu W.L. Lee

PROJECTION DESIGN

Ethan Wang

VIDEOGRAPHER

Chang Hao-jan (Howell)

COSTUME DESIGN/EXECUTION

Ann Yu Chien, Li-Ting Huang and Department of Fashion Design from Shih Chien University

CREATIVE ASSISTANT TO MR LIN

Liang Chun-mei

COMMISSION

Wen C. Ko

CO-PRODUCTIONS

National Performing Arts Center – National Theater & Concert Hall, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore

New Vision Arts Festival, Hong Kong

Sadler's Wells, London

HELLERAU European Center for the Arts Dresden, Germany

Théâtre de la Ville – Paris

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PROGRAMME

SOIL

YANG I-chun

CHENG Hsi-ling FAN Chia-hsuan HUANG Mei-ya HUANG Yu-ling
KO Wan-chun KUO Tzu-we LU Wen-shan TU Shang-ting

WIND

KO Wan-chun SU I-ping TSAI Ming-yuan

CHENG Hsi-ling FAN Chia-hsuan HOU Tang-li HUANG Li-chieh
HUANG Mei-ya HUANG Pei-hua KUO Tzu-wei YANG I-chun

CHEN Lien-wei CHEN Mu-han CHOU Chen-yeh HSU Chen
HUANG Yu-ling LIN Hsin-fang LU Wen-shan TU Shang-ting

POLLEN I

CHEN Mu-han CHENG Hsi-ling CHOU Chen-yeh FAN Chia-hsuan
HSU Chen HUANG Li-chieh HUANG Yu-ling KUO Tzu-wei
LIN Hsin-fang WONG Lap-cheong

POLLEN II

HUANG Pei-hua TSAI Ming-yuan

SUNLIGHT

CHEN Mu-han CHOU Chen-yeh HOU Tang-li HUANG Mei-ya
SU I-ping WONG Lap-cheong

GRAIN

CHOU Chang-ning

CHENG Hsi-ling FAN Chia-hsuan HUANG Yu-ling KO Wan-chun
KUO Tzu-wei LU Wen-shan TU Shang-ting

FIRE

CHEN Lien-wei CHOU Chen-yeh HOU Tang-li HSU Chen HUANG Li-chieh
LIN Hsin-fang LIN Yun-cheng TSAI Ming-yuan WONG Lap-cheong

WATER

YANG I-chun

CHEN Mu-han CHENG Hsi-ling CHOU Chang-ning FAN Chia-hsuan
HUANG Mei-ya HUANG Pei-hua HUANG Yu-ling KO Wan-chun
KUO Tzu-weu SU I-ping

ABOUT RICE

On the occasion of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan's 40th anniversary in 2013, the internationally renowned Lin Hwai-min, who was honored with the prestigious Samuel H. Scripps / American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement that year, created *RICE* to revere the land that has nurtured "Asia's leading contemporary dance theatre." (The Times).

The inspiration for *RICE* came from the landscape and story of Chihshang in the East Rift Valley of Taiwan. Previously tainted by the use of chemical fertilizer, this farming village has now regained its title as the Land of the Emperor's Rice by adopting organic farming and has exported its rice to EU countries.

Awed by the immense waves of grain rolling across expansive fields of rice, and inspired by the environmentally-conscious farmers, Lin took the dancers to Chihshang, where they joined the farmers in harvesting the rice. Out of this experience in the field, Lin has created exuberant yet powerful movements woven through Soil, Sunlight, Wind, Water and Fire, telling the story of the land while contemplating the devastation of Earth.

Folksongs in Hakka, the oldest among the existing Chinese dialects, and operatic arias from the West, as well as the rustling of grain, sighing of wind and peeling of thunder recorded on-site, complete the soundscape.

A cinematographer spent two years on location capturing the cultivation of rice: flooding, sprouting, harvesting and burning of the field. These video images – of clouds reflected in the water, rice swaying in the wind, and fire ravaging the fields – have become the essential visual elements of the production. Immersed in this landscape, the formidable Cloud Gate dancers, trained in Qi Gong and Internal Martial Arts, enact a human drama parallel to the life cycle of rice. A work about death and rebirth, devastation and resurrection.

RICE is an international co-production by Sadler's Wells (London), Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore), HELLERAU European Center for the Arts Dresden (Germany), National Performing Arts Center– National Theater & Concert Hall, R.O.C. (Taiwan), New Vision Arts Festival (Hong Kong), and Théâtre de la Ville – Paris (France).

RICE is inspired by the life cycle of a rice paddy in Chihshang in the East Rift Valley of Taiwan - home of 'Emperor's Rice'.

CO-PRODUCERS



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



LIN HWAI-MIN Founder and Artistic Director

In his homeland, Taiwan, Lin was first known as a critically acclaimed writer. In 1969, he obtained a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Writer's Workshop at the University of Iowa. He also studied modern dance at the University and in New York.

Lin founded Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan in 1973, the Dance Department at the Taipei National University of the Arts in 1983, and Cloud Gate 2 in 1999. Lin often draws his inspiration from traditional Asian culture and aesthetics to create original works with contemporary resonance.

Honouring Lin with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009, the jury of the International Movimentos Dance Prize, Germany, hailed him as "a foremost innovator of dance" and said "Lin Hwai-min ranks amongst artists of the century such as William Forsythe, George Balanchine, Birgit Cullberg". In July, 2013, Lin followed in the footsteps of Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and Pina Bausch to receive the prestigious Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement. He is the first recipient of this award who is based in Asia. Invited by the International Theatre Institute, Lin served as the author for the 2013 International Dance Day Message.

Among the honours Lin Hwai-min has received are honorary doctorates from six universities in Taiwan and Hong Kong, the Taiwan National Award for Arts, the Ramon Magsaysay Award, the John D. Rockefeller 3rd Award, the award for 'Best Choreographer' at the Lyon Biennial Dance Festival, "Distinguished Artist Award" presented by International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA), and the Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French Ministry of Culture. In 2005, he was honored by *Time* magazine as one of "Asia's Heroes." In 2013, he was awarded by President Ma Ying Jeou with the First Rank Order of Brilliant Star with Special Grand Cordon becoming the second artist to have received this honor from the government of Taiwan. In 2015, he was honored with the first Tsai Wan-tsai Taiwan Contribution Award, for his relentless efforts in sharing dance performances with grass-roots audiences.

Lin has been the subject of television documentaries, including *Portraits Taiwan: Lin Hwai-min* (Discovery Channel), *Floating on the Ground* (Opus Arte), and *Lin Hwai-Min - Interface Between Worlds* (ARTE/ZDF). From 2000 to 2014, he served as the Artistic Director of "Novel Dance Series" for the Novel Hall for Performing Arts, Taipei, introducing contemporary dance to audiences in Taiwan. Choreographers featured in the series include Eiko and Koma, Meredith Monk, Susanne Linke, Akram Kahn, Ea Sola, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Jerome Bel.



LEE CHING-CHUN

Associate Artistic Director

Lee earned her MA degree in Dance Studies from City University of Laban Centre, London, in 1999. In 2004, she received the National Award for the Arts from Taiwan National Culture and Arts Foundation, the highest award for artists in

Taiwan.

Since joining Cloud Gate in 1983, Lee has performed leading roles in Lin Hwai-min's works. Her choreographic works include *Woman and Man*, *Man and Woman* for Cloud Gate and *While White Is Revealing* for Spotlight Dance Company. In 1999, collaborating with Canadian stage designer Tania Etienne, she choreographed and performed the dance solo work *Courtyard of Pearls*. In 2006, she choreographed *Blossom* and *Moonlight* for Kaohsiung City Ballet Company.

After serving as Rehearsal Director for 9 years, Lee was appointed as the Associate Artistic Director in 2003. Lee is also the Chief Consultant for Cloud Gate Dance School and has helped to create and develop class syllabuses for students aged from 4 to 84.



LIN KEH-HUA Set Design

Lin, one of the most celebrated designers in the Chinese-speaking diaspora, has served as principal designer for Cloud Gate since 1974. In 2003, Lin published *Lighting and Scenery for Stage: An Aesthetics*, reflecting on his many years as a leading set and lighting

designer. Lin's designs employ Western aesthetics and technology, as well as Oriental philosophy and perspectives. His designs are well-regarded among international choreographers and performing artists, such as Lo Man-fei, Helen Lai, Lo King Man, David Jiang, Mei Chu Yin, Charlotte Vincent, Wu Kuo-Chu and Akram Khan. He is a major set designer for several leading performance groups, including U Theatre, Taipei Crossover Dance Company, Hang Tang Yue Fu, and Contemporary Legend Theatre.

Lin's designs have also earned him an international reputation. He served as lighting designer in the La Biennale di Venezia for *Taiwan Pavilion* in 2002 and *Kris Yao Artech* in 2014, a member of the creative crew in the Games of the XXIX Olympiad Beijing in 2008, the Artistic Director of the creative crew in Taiwan's Centennial Grand Countdown, and a member of the Taiwan Pavilion Expo at Shanghai in 2010.

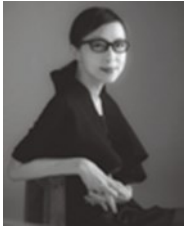
Lin is the founder of the first theatre technology training program in Taiwan and has completed over 70 facilities in Taiwan.



LULU W.L. LEE Lighting Design

Lee has a MFA in Theatre Lighting Design from Temple University, Philadelphia and has worked as the architecture lighting designer at The Lighting Practice, as technical supervisor for 2001 Taipei Lantern Festival, as resident stage manager at Novel Hall, and as technical

manager for Taipei Arts Festival. Lee's lighting design encompasses operas, dance works, and theatre productions for various performance companies, including Ping-fong Acting troupe, Guo Guang Chinese Opera Company, Golden Bough Theatre, Creative Society, and Cloud Gate. Appointed as technical director in 2010, Lee has worked closely with Cloud Gate for many years as project lighting director.



ANN YU CHIEN Costume Design/Execution

Chien, architect, received her Master of Architecture from University of Pennsylvania and worked for many years as a registered architect at architecture firms in Philadelphia. Since returning to Taiwan in 1991, she has devoted herself to the evolution of design education,

recognized as one of the pioneers in Taiwan emphasising liberal arts cross disciplinary education in architectural design departments.



LI-TING HUANG Costume Design/Execution

Li-Ting received her master's degree in Architecture Design from University College London and bachelor's degree from Chelsea College of Art & Design in London.

Since 2001, she has served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Fashion Design, Shih Chien University. For her own creations, she focuses on the special relationship between the body and clothing, using color, fibers to create and experiment on space and form.



ETHAN WANG Projection Design

Wang received his MA in Communication Design from Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, University of the Arts London.

A recipient of the 7th Knight of Illumination Awards 2015 and World Stage Design 2013 New Media Award for his projection designs on Cloud Gate's *RICE* and *Water Stains on the Wall* respectively, Wang also won the Grand Prize of More Than A Face graphic competition in 2000 hosted by The National Association of Architects R.O.C.

In 2016, he was once again selected as the finalist for World Stage Design 2017 in Projection and Multimedia

both for his projection designs on Cloud Gate's *RICE* and Cloud Gate 2's *13 Tongues* (winners to be announced in July). He currently serves as the Visual Design Supervisor for the opening ceremony of 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade.

In 2006, he founded his studio Over Quality, devoted to creating digital graphic animation. Wang's key credits on moving images & multi-media slide shows encompass *White Water and Dust*, *RICE*, *Water Stains on the Wall*, *Wind Shadow*, and *Cursive* by Lin Hwai-min; *13 Tongues* and *On the Road* by Cheng Tsung-lung; and the Next Exit at the 8th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice, Italy. His talents also extend to graphic designs for Taishin Arts Award, and Taipei Crossover Dance Company; multi-media designs for the opening ceremony of 2010 Taipei International Garden and Horticulture Exposition; visual art designs for Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei, and the Hua-shan Art District Taipei. Wang currently is a board member at OISTAT as well as an instructor at Taipei National University of the Arts and National Taiwan Normal University.



HOWELL HAO-JAN CHANG Videography

Chang Hao-jan holds a Master's from the Graduate School of Applied Media Arts and a Bachelor's from the Film Department of National Taiwan University of Arts. His works encompass graphic image, video and photography comprised of music videos, commercials,

projection designs, short fiction and documentary films. In 2007, his short film *BR-14's April* won second prize in the Imagine Cup hosted by Microsoft in Seoul. In 2008, his short films were presented in the Taipei Digital Art Festival-TRANS by Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei.

Chang's credits include projection design for *The Tempest* and *Media* by Contemporary Legend Theater.

ARTIST PHOTOGRAPHS: LIU CHEN-HSIANG



PHOTOGRAPH: GIA TO

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Yeh Wen-wen

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre

<i>Founder/Artistic Director</i>	Lin Hwai-min
<i>Associate Artistic Director</i>	Lee Ching-chun
<i>Music Consultant/Creative Assistant to Mr. Lin</i>	Liang Chun-mei
<i>Qi Gong Masters</i>	Hsiung Wei Lee Kuo-wei
<i>Internal Martial Arts Master</i>	Adam Chi Hsu
<i>Ballet Teachers</i>	Lee Shu-hui Wu Ching-yin
<i>Modern Dance Teacher</i>	Huang Hsu-hui
<i>Rehearsal Directors</i>	Chou Chang-ning Tsai Ming-yuan
<i>Rehearsal Assistants</i>	Huang Pei-hua Yang I-chun
<i>Accompanists</i>	Kuo Tsung-han Wu Chia-ching

Dancers

Chou Chang-ning Huang Mei-ya Huang Pei-hua Tsai Ming-yuan
Hou Tang-li Ko Wan-chun Su I-ping Yang I-chun
Chen Mu-han Kuo Tzu-wei Lin Hsin-fang Wong Lap-cheong
Cheng Hsi-ling Chou Chen-yeh Fan Chia-hsuan Huang Li-chieh
Chen Lien-wei Huang Yu-ling

Apprentices

Hsu Chen Lin Yun-cheng Lu Wen-shan Tu Shang-ting

Administrative Staff on Tour

Director of International Programs Joanna J.H. Wang

*Senior International Project
Manager* Janice S.C. Wang

Project Assistant Dan Han-yin

Technical Staff on Tour

*Technical and Lighting
Director* Lulu W.L. Lee

Production Manager Chen Chih-feng

Deputy Stage Manager Lai Liang-chia

Stage Supervisor Lin Ching-kai

Lighting Supervisor Lin Szu-chen

Projection Supervisor Chen Yi-ling

Wardrobe Mistress Hsu Wen-wen



DANCERS: HUANG PEI-HUA, TSAI MING-YUAN. PHOTOGRAPH: LIU CHEN-HSIANG

CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN

In 1973, choreographer Lin Hwai-min adopted Cloud Gate as the name for the first contemporary dance company in any Chinese speaking community. Its 24 dancers receive training in meditation, *Qi Gong*, an ancient form of breathing exercise, internal martial arts, modern dance, ballet, and calligraphy. Through Lin Hwai-min's choreographies the company transforms ancient aesthetics into thrilling modern celebration of motion.

Cloud Gate has toured extensively with frequent engagements at the Next Wave Festival in New York, the Sadler's Wells Theatre and Barbican Centre in London, the Moscow Chekhov International Theatre Festival, and the Internationales Tanzfest NRW directed by Pina Bausch.

At home, Cloud Gate also enjoys high acclaim and popularity. In addition to the regular seasons in theatres, the company stages annual free outdoor performances in various cities in Taiwan, drawing audiences of up to 60,000 per performance. To perform for grass-roots communities, and to foster young choreographers in Taiwan, Cloud Gate 2 was founded in 1999. In 1998, Cloud Gate Dance School was founded to bring the joy of dance to students, aged 4 to 84.

Most of Cloud Gate's productions have been made into videos. Among them, *Songs of the Wanderers*, *Moon Water*, *Bamboo Dream*, and *Cursive II* (now known as *Pine Smoke*) were filmed in Europe.



Cloud Gate Theatre stands on a hill, adjacent to the Hobe Fort built in 1886 and Taiwan's first golf course from 1919. With four performing spaces—a 450-seat main theatre, two studio theatres, and a 1500-person capacity outdoor theatre — along with a café and a restaurant, it not only presents performances by the two home-based companies and visiting troupes, but also functions as a production theatre and a cultural hub of the Tamsui district.

Since its opening on April 24, 2015, Cloud Gate Theatre had presented more than 100 performances and greeted nearly 100,000 visitors from worldwide. For 2016, a year-round program of performing arts and art exhibitions, including the Rustavi Choir from the Democratic Republic of Georgia, was scheduled. *Moon Water*, Lin Hwai-min's signature work, was also revived at the Theatre.

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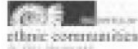
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