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Rice

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

Sep 16—19 at 7:30pm

Running time: 70 minutes, no intermission

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

Concept and choreography by Lin Hwai-min

Set design by **Lin Keh-hua**

Lighting design by **Lulu W.L. Lee**

Projection design by **Ethan Wang**

Videographer **Howell Hao-jan Chang**

Costume design and execution by

Ann Yu Chien and **Li-Ting Huang**

Creative assistant to Lin Hwai-min **Liang Chun-mei**

Season Sponsor:

**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**

*Leadership support for dance at BAM provided
by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and
The Harkness Foundation for Dance.*

*Major support for dance at BAM provided by
The SHS Foundation.*

*Major support for Taiwan @ BAM provided by
Taipei Cultural Center of TECO in New York and
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China Taiwan.*

*Support for the Signature Artist Series provided by
The Howard Gilman Foundation.*

Rice premiered on November 22, 2013 at the
National Theater, Taipei, Taiwan

SOIL

Yang I-chun

Chen Mu-han Cheng Hsi-ling Fan Chia-hsuan Ko Wan-chun
Kuo Tzu-wei Lee Tzu-chun Liu Hui-ling Yeh Yi-ping

WIND

Ko Wan-chun Su I-ping Tsai Ming-yuan

Chen Tsung-chiao Cheng Hsi-ling Fan Chia-hsuan Hou Tang-li
Huang Mei-ya Huang Pei-hua Liu Hui-ling

Chen Mu-han Huang Hsiao-che Huang Li-chieh Kuo Tzu-wei
Lin Hsin-fang Wang Po-nien Yang I-chun Yeh Yi-ping

POLLEN I

Chen Mu-han Fan Chia-hsuan Huang Hsiao-che Huang Li-chieh
Kuo Tzu-wei Lee Tzu-chun Lin Hsin-fang Wang Po-nien
Wong Lap-cheong Yeh Yi-ping

POLLEN II

Huang Pei-hua Tsai Ming-yuan

SUNLIGHT

Hou Tang-li Huang Lu-kai Huang Mei-ya Liu Hui-ling Su I-ping
Wong Lap-cheong

GRAIN

Chou Chang-ning

Cheng Hsi-ling Fan Chia-hsuan Ko Wan-chun
Kuo Tzu-wei Lee Tzu-chun Liu Hui-ling Yeh Yi-ping

FIRE

Chen Tsung-chiao Hou Tang-li Huang Hsiao-che
Huang Li-chieh Huang Lu-kai Lin Hsin-fang
Tsai Ming-yuan Wang Po-nien Wong Lap-cheong

WATER

Yang I-chun

Chen Mu-han Cheng Hsi-ling Chou Chang-ning Huang Mei-ya
Huang Pei-hua Ko Wan-chun Kuo Tzu-wei Lee Tzu-chun
Liu Hui-ling Su I-ping

MUSIC

Hakka traditional folk songs

Drum music by Liang Chun-mei

"Monochrome II" by Maki Ishii, performed by Ondekoza. By arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., o/b/o G. Ricordi & Co. Bühnen- und Musikverlag GmbH. Clearance: BZ/Rights and Permissions, Inc.

"Casta Diva" from the opera *Norma* by Vincenzo Bellini

"Le Rossignol et la Rose" by Camille Saint-Saëns

Symphony No. 3 in D minor, Fourth Movement by Gustav Mahler



RICE

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

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 European 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 existing Chinese dialects, and operatic arias from the west, as well as the rustling of grain, sighing of wind, and pealing 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—clouds reflected in the water, rice swaying in the wind, 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. It is a work about death and rebirth, devastation and resurrection.

Rice is commissioned by Wen C. KO, and co-produced by the National Theater & Concert Hall, the National Performing Arts Center, Taiwan, R.O.C.; New Vision Arts Festival, Hong Kong; Esplanade –Theatres on the Bay, Singapore; Sadler's Wells Theatre, London; and Hellerau - European Center for the Arts, Dresden, Germany

This tour is made possible by grants from the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan).

The music used in *Rice* is used with permission by Wind Music International Corporation; Nightingale Classics AG; Victor Entertainment, Inc.

CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN, the first contemporary dance company in the greater Chinese-speaking community, was founded by Lin Hwai-min in 1973. Its name is drawn from the oldest-known Chinese dance. The 24 dancers comprising Cloud Gate receive training in meditation, Qi Gong (an ancient breathing exercise), internal martial arts, modern dance, ballet, and calligraphy. Through Lin's choreography the company transforms ancient aesthetics into a thrilling and modern celebration of motion. The company made its BAM debut in 1995 with *Nine Songs*; since then it has appeared at BAM with *Songs of the Wanderers* (2000 Next Wave), *Moon Water* (2003 Next Wave; recognized as one of the best dance events in 2003 by *The New York Times*), *Wild Cursive* (2007 Next Wave), and *Water Stains on the Wall* (2011 Next Wave). Cloud Gate has also toured extensively with frequent engagements at Sadler's Wells Theatre and Barbican Centre in London, the Moscow Chekhov International Theatre Festival, the Movimentos Festival (Germany), and the Internationales Tanzfest NRW directed by Pina Bausch. In April, 2015, the company opened its brand-new headquarters in Taipei. It is the first and only complex built for and by a performing arts organization in Taiwan.

LIN HWAI-MIN (concept and choreography), a writer-turned-choreographer, often draws inspiration from Asian cultures and aesthetics to create works with contemporary resonance. He founded Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan in 1973 and Cloud Gate 2 in 1999. Honoring him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009, the jury of the International Movimentos Dance Prize (Germany) said Lin is "a foremost innovator of dance" and that he "ranks among artists of the century such as William Forsythe, George Balanchine, Birgit Cullberg..." In July 2013, he received the prestigious Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement. The festival stated that Lin is "one of the most dynamic and innovative choreographers today... his choreographic brilliance continues to push boundaries and redefine the art form." Previous awardees include Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Pina Bausch, and William Forsythe. Lin is the first recipient based in Asia. He also served as the author for the 2013 International Dance Day Message. Lin Hwai-min has received honorary doctorates from six universities in Taiwan and Hong Kong, the John D. Rockefeller 3rd

Award, the Distinguished Artist Award from the International Society for the Performing Arts, the Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French Ministry of Culture, and the First Rank Order of Brilliant Star with Special Grand Cordon from the government of Taiwan.

LIN KEH-HUA (set design) is one of the most celebrated designers in the Chinese-speaking world. In August 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 perspective. He combines lighting design with set design, applying his experiences from projection and image design, theater space design, and architectural lighting design to create a unique space and lighting aesthetic of his own. Lin has served as the principal designer for Cloud Gate since 1974 with lighting and/or set credits in *Rice*, *Cursive II* (now known as *Pine Smoke*), *Burning the Juniper Branches*, *Portrait of the Families*, *Nine Songs*, *Listening to the River*, *Whisper of Flowers*, *Lost Shadows*, *Wind Shadow*, *Cursive*, *Requiem*, *Dreamscape*, *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, and *Legacy*. His design for *Nine Songs* was praised by the world-renowned lighting designer Jennifer Tipton as a "masterpiece."

LULU W.L. LEE (lighting design) holds an MFA in theater lighting design from Temple University and has worked as the architecture lighting designer at the Lighting Practice (US), technical supervisor for the 2001 Taipei Lantern Festival, resident stage manager at Novel Hall, and technical manager for Taipei Arts Festival. Lee's lighting design works encompass operas, dance works, and theater productions for various performance companies, including Ping-fong Acting Troupe, Guo Guang Chinese Opera Company, Golden Bough Theatre, Creative Society, and Cloud Gate. Her design credits with Cloud Gate include *White Water*, *DUST*, *Rice*, *How Can I Live On Without You*, *Water Stains on the Wall*, *Listening to the River*, *Oculus*, *Lost Shadows*, *The Road to the Mountain*, *Cursive II*, and *Bamboo Dream*.

ETHAN WANG (projection design) received his MA degree in communication design majoring in New Media Pathway from Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, University of the Arts





London. In 2006 he founded his own studio, Over Quality, devoted to digital graphic animation creation. His credits for moving images and multimedia slide shows for Cloud Gate include *White Water*, *DUST*, *Rice*, *Water Stains on the Wall*, *Listening to the River*, *Wind Shadow*, and *Cursive*. Wang has won numerous awards, including the Grand Prize of the More Than a Face graphic competition in 2000, hosted by the National Association of Architects R.O.C., and was among the Selected of Macromedia Digital Graphic Design in 2002. He is also the winner of the 2013 World Stage and the Theatre Award of 2014 British Knight of Illumination Awards for his projection designs of *Water Stains on the Wall* and *Rice*, respectively.

ANN YU CHIEN (costume design/execution) received her master of architecture from University of Pennsylvania and worked for many years as a registered architect in Pennsylvania for projects at the Hillier Group, TKLP, and other architecture firms in Philadelphia. Since returning to Taiwan in 1991, Chien has devoted herself to the evolution of design education and the campus renovation for two decades. Respected as one of the pioneers in Taiwan emphasizing liberal arts education in an architectural design department, she has served as the dean of the Design School, chairperson of the Space Design Department, and director of the Campus Master Plan for SCU Taipei campus at Shih Chien University.

LI-TING HUANG (costume design/execution) received her master's degree in architecture design from Barlett School of Architecture, and a bachelor's degree from Chelsea College of Art & Design in London. Serving as an assistant professor in the department of fashion design at Shih Chien University since 2001, Huang was appointed chairperson of the department and curated many important exhibitions for Shih Chien University. In her own work, she focuses on the special relationship between the body and clothing, using colors and fibers to create and experiment on space and form. Her works have been exhibited in museums and numerous art fairs.

HOWELL HAO-JAN CHANG (videography) holds a master's degree from the Graduate School of Applied Media Arts and a bachelor's degree from the Film Department of National Taiwan

University of Arts. His works encompass graphic imagery, video, and photography, and comprise music videos, commercials, projection designs, short fiction, and documentary films. In 2007, his short film *BR-14's April* won the second prize of the Imagine Cup hosted by Microsoft in Seoul. In 2008, his short films *BR-14's April*, *Planet La Roue*, and *Circle* were presented in the Taipei Digital Art Festival—TRANS by Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei. Chang's credits with performing arts groups include projection design for *Water Stains on the Wall* by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan and *The Tempest*, and *Medea* by Contemporary Legend Theater. His documentary filming credits, among others, include *Between Two Worlds: Lin Hwai-min* produced by Moving-Angel Production Company from Germany.

LEE CHING-CHUN (associate artistic director) obtained 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. Joining Cloud Gate in 1983, Lee has taken leading roles in Lin Hwai-min's works including *Wild Cursive*, *Cursive II* (now known as *Pine Smoke*), *Cursive*, *The Road to the Mountain*, *Smoke*, *Bamboo Dream*, *Burning the Juniper Branches*, *Portrait of the Families*, *Songs of the Wanderers*, *Nine Songs*, *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, and *Legacy*. She has also danced in Helen Lai's *The Rite of Spring*, *Invisible Cities*, *La Vie en Rose*, and *Frida*. Her choreographic works include *Woman and Man*, *Man and Woman* for Cloud Gate and *While White Is Revealing* for Spotlight Dance Company, both of which premiered in 1996. In 1999, collaborating with Canadian stage designer Tania Etienne, she choreographed and performed the dance solo *Courtyard of Pearls*. In 2006, she choreographed *Blossom* and *Moonlight* for Kaohsiung City Ballet Company. Serving as rehearsal director for nine years, Lee was appointed as the associate artistic director in 2003. In 2004 and 2005, she represented Lin Hwai-min to re-stage his works, *Smoke* and *White*, for Zurich Ballet in Switzerland and Introdans in the Netherlands, respectively. Lee is also the chief consultant for Cloud Gate Dance School and has helped to create and develop class syllabuses for students ages 4 to 84.

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

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