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# Neither

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BAM Howard Gilman Opera House  
Oct 5—8 at 7:30pm

Running time: approx. one hour, no intermission

Shen Wei Dance Arts  
Music by Morton Feldman  
Libretto by Samuel Beckett

Concept, choreography, set, and costume design  
by **Shen Wei**  
Lighting design by **Jennifer Tipton**  
Projection design by **Rocco DiSanti**

*Season Sponsor:*

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

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

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

NEITHER

to and fro in shadow from inner to outer shadow

from impenetrable self to impenetrable unself  
by way of neither

as between two lit refuges whose doors once  
neared gently close, once away turned from  
gently part again

beckoned back and forth and turned away

heedless of the way, intent on the one gleam  
or the other

unheard footfalls only sound

till at last halt for good, absent for good  
from self and other

then no sound

then gently light unfading on that unheeded  
neither

unspeakable home

—*Samuel Beckett*

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MUSIC:

Morton Feldman, *Neither*

Libretto by Samuel Beckett

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LIBRETTO:

*Neither*

Music by Morton Feldman. Libretto by Samuel Beckett

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RECORDING:

Recording of Morton Feldman - *Neither* (col legno, WWE 1CD 20081).

An opera with words by Samuel Beckett. Performed by Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, conducted by Kwamé Ryan. Soprano: Petra Hoffmann.

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*to and fro in shadow from inner to outer shadow*  
*from impenetrable self to impenetrable unself*  
*by way of neither*



Photo: Stephanie Berger

## Neither

### DANCERS

**Lilly Balch**

**Cecily Campbell**

**Kate Jewett**

**Cynthia Koppe**

**Janice Lancaster Larsen**

**Russell Stuart Lilie**

**Chelsea Retzloff**

**Jennifer Rose**

**Zak Ryan Schlegel**

**Austin Selden**

**Alex Speedie**

Artistic director **Shen Wei**

Rehearsal director **Kate Jewett**

Executive director **Diane R. Rosenblatt**

Assistant lighting designer **Chaun-Chi Chan**

Costumes, Part I crafted by **Jenny Lai**

Costumes, Part II crafted by **Shen Wei and dancers**

Commissioned by BAM and co-commissioned by the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College.

Lead funding for the creation of *Neither* was provided with funding from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; the US-China Cultural Institute, a Cultural Associate of the Committee of 100, Shirley Young, Chair; the SHS Foundation; the Howard Gilman Foundation; and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional institutional support was provided by the Irwin S. Scherzer Foundation, the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and La Fondazione I Teatri di Reggio Emilia (Italy).

A special thanks to the following individuals for supporting the creation of *Neither*:\*

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\*List as of Sep 15, 2016

Shen Wei Dance Arts gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided to our organization by the SHS Foundation, the Winston Foundation, the Shubert Foundation, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Hyde and Watson Foundation, the Angel Shine Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. We also extend our sincere thanks to the Shen Wei Dance Arts Board of Directors and our many individual contributors.



LILY BALCH



CECILY CAMPBELL



KATE JEWETT



CYNTHIA KOPPE



JANICE LANCASTER  
LARSEN



RUSSELL STUART  
LILIE



CHELSEA RETZLOFF



JENNIFER ROSE



ZAK RYAN SCHLEGEL



AUSTIN SELDEN



ALEX SPEEDIE





Shen Wei, *Untitled No. 1*, oil and acrylic on linen canvas, 86"x196". Courtesy of the artist.

### SHEN WEI

Hailed as “one of the most expansive, creative minds in the arts,” (Pia Catton, *The New York Sun*), choreographer, director, and painter Shen Wei



Photo: Stephen Xue

is internationally renowned for the breadth and scope of his artistic vision. Admiration for his talent has earned Shen Wei numerous awards, including a 2007 MacArthur Fellowship, the US Artists Fellow award, and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. Other accolades include: Australia's Helpmann Award, the Nijinsky Emerging Choreographer Award, the Algur H. Meadows Prize, Les Étoiles de Ballet Award (*Ballet2000* magazine), and a 2012 New York City Center Choreography Fellowship. Most recently, he was honored with the Audi-China 2012 Artist of the Year Award; GQ-China 2013 Artist of the Year Award; and the 2013 Chinese Innovator Award from *The Wall Street Journal*-China. Shen Wei has received 23 commissions from major presenting institutions to support his creative work, including multiple commissions from the American Dance Festival, Het Muziektheater, Lincoln Center Festival, and the Kennedy Center, as well as from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Park Avenue Armory, Hong Kong's New Vision Arts Festival, Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, Edinburgh International Festival and, most recently, BAM and the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College. Born in China's Hunan province in 1968, the son of Chinese opera professionals, Shen Wei was trained from youth in the rigorous practice of Chinese opera performance and traditional Chinese ink painting and calligraphy and was a performer with the Hunan State Xian Opera Company from 1984 to 1989. During his student years, he studied Western visual art, which propelled an interest in modern dance. In 1989, he began modern dance training at the American Dance Festival's (ADF) program at the Guangdong Dance Academy in China. In 1991, at the age of 23, he became a founding member of the Guangdong Modern Dance Company, the first such company in China. Upon receipt of a fellowship, he moved to New York City in 1995 to study with the Nikolais/Louis Dance Lab and, in the same year, was invited to create work at the American Dance Festival. In July 2000,

he founded Shen Wei Dance Arts (SWDA) and his company quickly entered the international touring circuit. The lead choreographer for the Opening Ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Shen Wei has also created dances for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal and Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo and choreographed the Rome Opera's production of Rossini's *Moïse et Pharaon*, conducted by Riccardo Muti. In 2013, Shen Wei was commissioned to create a new work for the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam, and he choreographed, directed, and designed a new production of *Carmina Burana* for the chorus, orchestra, and ballet of Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, Italy, with his company performing in leading roles. Recently, his work as a visual artist and choreographer has entered into a new dialogue in a series of performative installations and site-specific works which have been presented at a number of museums and galleries including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, North Carolina Museum of Art, Collezione Maramotti in Italy, Mana Contemporary, the Forum at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Rockbund Museum of Art in Shanghai, MDC Museum of Art+Design in Miami, Guggenheim Museum, and Asia Society Hong Kong Center. As a painter, Shen Wei has had solo exhibitions in leading galleries and museums: Chambers Fine Art Gallery (New York); Crow Collection of Asian Art (Dallas); Hong Kong Cultural Center; and Tucson Museum of Art. This past fall, he participated in a group show at London's Fine Art Society: *Performance & Remnant*. Shen Wei's recent large-scale painting series has received significant acclaim in the art world. *Shen Wei: In Black, White and Gray*, a solo exhibition featuring 11 of his large-scale paintings, was shown at the MDC Museum of Art+Design during Art Basel/Miami Beach (December 2014). *Shen Wei: Dance Strokes*, an exhibition of Shen Wei's painting and site-specific performances, opened at Asia Society Hong Kong Center during Art Basel/Hong Kong (March, 2016).

### SHEN WEI DANCE ARTS

One of the premier international dance companies, Shen Wei Dance Arts has won worldwide acclaim for “amassing a body of works so strikingly original they defy categorization” (*The Boston Globe*). The dances Shen Wei makes for his company utilize his Natural Development Technique, which is a unique amalgamation of Western contemporary





dance and Eastern movement techniques and practices. His works draw on influences as varied as traditional Chinese culture and arts, European Surrealism, American high modernism, and the ritual power of ancient drama. Celebrated for its “gorgeous visual imagery” (*The London Times*), the company’s dances reflect the compositional rigor of Shen Wei the visual artist—incorporating striking design and imaginative use of space into mesmerizing kinetic stagescapes. The company’s dancers have been hailed as, “a breed apart: lissome, precise, expressive—and totally at one with Shen’s choreographic vision” (*The Herald*, Scotland). Since its founding in 2000, Shen Wei Dance Arts has performed in 138 cities, in 33 countries, on five continents, and has appeared at prestigious festivals and venues worldwide, including the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, frequent performances at the American Dance Festival, the Los Angeles Music Center, Venice Biennale, Sadler’s Wells, the Barbican Centre, Het Muziektheater, the Edinburgh International Festival, the Berliner Festspiele, and the Sydney Festival. In the US, Shen Wei Dance Arts has performed in 25 of the 50 states, gave the first dance performances at Frank Gehry’s Disney Hall in Los Angeles, and recently completed a unique five-year performance residency at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The company performs annually in NYC, where it has been presented by the Lincoln Center Festival (five times), the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Park Avenue Armory, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, The Joyce Theater, Asia Society, and Fall for Dance at City Center. Recent company highlights include performances at the Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogotá in Colombia; Festival de Danse in Cannes, France; performances at Stanislavsky Theatre in Moscow, Russia; MDC’s Museum of Art+Design, in conjunction with Art Basel/Miami Beach; a four-city tour of Italy, including Milan; performances at Lincoln Center, as part of the inaugural season of Paul Taylor’s American Modern Dance; and the premiere of *Untitled No. 12-2* at the 2015 Spoleto Festival USA. Most recently, the company performed at the Guggenheim Museum in NYC, premiered a site-specific work at Asia Society Hong Kong Center during Art Basel-Hong Kong, and toured to Germany, Austria, and Luxembourg. Upcoming engagements include a three-city tour of China with performances at Shanghai’s Grand Theatre, Beijing’s National Centre for the Performing Arts, and Zhuhai’s

Grand Theater. Shen Wei Dance Arts provides workshops and classes for pre-professional and professional dancers at its new home studio on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. Since 2008, Shen Wei Dance Arts has presented arts-in-education programs in NYC public schools, relating dance and visual arts to curriculum-based goals, serving hundreds of students annually. At home and on tour, Shen Wei Dance Arts engages in cultural diplomacy and activities promoting intercultural understanding, often leading talkbacks and participating in symposia.

### DANCERS

**KATE JEWETT** (rehearsal director/dancer) received her BFA from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She joined Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2005 and has been the company rehearsal director since 2009. Jewett has conducted master classes and performed all over Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas with SWDA. She has worked with such notable choreographers as Merce Cunningham (RUG), Helen Simoneau Danse, and Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener. As a choreographer, her works have been performed at DeSales University, the United Nations, Park Avenue Armory, Milan, Fabbria Europa, and Performatica festivals. Jewett is the founder and co-curator of Watusi Regime, a site-specific collaborative performance series in NYC. Named Director of Education and Outreach for Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2008, she created the company’s dance-in-education program for New York City schools.

**LILLY BALCH**, originally from Vero Beach, FL, is a recent graduate of the Boston Conservatory where she received her BFA in dance. During her time at the conservatory she performed works by Mark Morris, Adam Barruch, Anna Myer, Colleen Thomas, Omar Carrum, and Claudia LaVista. Balch joined Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2015.

**CECILY CAMPBELL** is from Santa Fe, NM and attended New York University Tisch School of the Arts, where she attained a BFA in dance in 2006. She has continued to base her life and work in New York, first as a company member with Shen Wei Dance Arts from 2007 to 2013 and currently as a member of the Trisha Brown Dance Company, which she joined in 2013. Campbell is thrilled to return to Shen Wei’s work for the creation and performance of *Neither*.

**CYNTHIA KOPPE** was born in Singapore and graduated with honors from Cornell University with a double major in dance and sociology. She has danced with Shen Wei Dance Arts since 2009. In addition to working with Shen Wei, she currently works with Liz Santoro and Pierre Godard and teaches Pilates, yoga, and bodywork. She would like to thank all of her many teachers as well as her students, from whom she has learned so much.

**JANICE LANCASTER LARSEN** joined Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2005. She received her BFA in dance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and an MFA in dance from Hollins University/American Dance Festival. She is a certified Hatha Yoga and Relax and Renew® Restorative Yoga instructor. As a choreographer, Larsen has received commissions from the Bard Music Festival, Robert Wilson's 19th Annual Watermill Center Summer Benefit, the Bessie Schönberg Choreographers Residency on the Yard, Hubbard Street 2 Dance Company, the Black Mountain College Museum + Art Center, and many from VIA Dance Collaborative (NYC). She has taught and staged work at Universidad de las Américas (Puebla, Mexico), City Dance Center (Bethesda, MD), Roger Williams University (Bristol, RI), North Carolina School of the Arts (Winston-Salem, NC), and SUNY (Fredonia).

**RUSSELL STUART LILIE** graduated from Idyllwild Academy in 2008 and completed his BFA in dance at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 2011. Lilie joined Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2011 and has also worked with Greene Lilie, Dai Jian Dance, Sara Du Jour, Jordan Isadore, and others. His works have been presented at NYU, Danspace, La MaMa, Gibney Dance Center, and Bennington College. He also teaches dance, dance composition, and improvisation in New York City, and at colleges nationally and internationally.

**CHELSEA RETZLOFF**, originally from Eureka, CA, holds degrees in dance and chemistry from UC Santa Barbara, where she graduated with distinction in chemistry, and as the Daniel G. Aldrich Outstanding Senior for the Class of 2007. Retzloff joined Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2011 and leads the company's arts-in-education programming at New York City's PS 5 and IS 311; she was recently appointed SWDA's company manager. She has worked with

Santa Barbara Dance Theater, David Dorfman Dance, MacArthur Dance Project, Christopher Williams, and Glitter Kitty Productions. Retzloff is a founding member of the Round Table and recently produced a sold-out run of *The Gunfighter Meets His Match* musical in NYC. In addition to dancing, she tutors math and chemistry throughout NYC.

**JENNIFER ROSE** received her BFA in dance from Temple University in 2006. She also attended the Ailey School and the American Dance Festival and worked with Philadanco II. She has danced professionally with Kun-Yan Lin/Dancers and toured internationally with him for six wonderful years. She has also worked with Keith Thompson's Dancetactics, Bill Young, Erick Montes, Olive Prince Dance, and Manuel Vignoulle and currently dances with Company Stephanie Batten Bland. Rose joined Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2013.

**ZAK RYAN SCHLEGEL** is a choreographer, teacher, and dance artist. He holds a BFA in Dance Performance from Chapman University in Orange County, CA. Schlegel has performed a diverse range of work in collaboration with LA-based Ryan Heffington, Kitty McNamee, WIFE, and Backhausdance. He has trained with Rafael Bonachela at Sydney Dance Company, Sarah Slipper, and Lucas Crandall at Northwest Dance Project. Schlegel is co-artistic director of LA-based AXIOM Dance Theatre where he creates and presents original work with partner Denna Thomsen. He is the proud recipient of the 2014 Youth America Grand Prix Outstanding Choreographer Award. Schlegel joined Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2015.

**AUSTIN SELDEN** holds a BFA in dance from the University of Michigan and a certification in Pilates. He has shown his collaborative work with Sarah Konner over the past six years at such venues as the Detroit Institute of Arts, Berkshire Fringe Festival, Judson Church, Triskelion Arts, and the Kennedy Center, among others. They have been lucky to collaborate with artists including ChavasseDance&Performance, Median Movement, and Megan Kendzior. He has recently collaborated with Jessica Harris, Anneke Hansen, and Jordan Isadore. He has taught at Oakland University, University of Michigan, Bennington College, and the American Dance Festival. Selden joined Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2011.

**ALEX SPEEDIE** is a native of Austin, CO and received his BFA from North Carolina School of the Arts. He has danced for Mark Dendy and Oliver Steele and has performed works by Lar Lubovitch, Merce Cunningham, and Larry Keigwin. He studies capoeira, yoga, and enjoys participating in downhill racing sports. Speedie joined Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2011.

### DESIGNERS

**JENNIFER TIPTON** (lighting designer) is well known for her work in theater, dance, and opera. Her recent work in opera includes Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette* directed by Bartlett Sher at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Her recent work in dance includes Alexi Ratmansky's *Shostakovich Trilogy* for American Ballet Theater. In theater her recent work includes Richard Nelson's first Gabriel Family play *Hungry* at the New York Shakespeare Festival in New York. Tipton teaches lighting at the Yale School of Drama. She received the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize in 2001, the Jerome Robbins Prize in 2003, and in April 2004 the Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture in New York City. In 2008 she was made a United States Artists "Gracie" Fellow and a MacArthur Fellow.

**ROCCO DI SANTI** (projection and video designer) has worked on productions including, on Broadway: *The Snow Geese*, *The Columnist*, *Wit*, *Collected Stories*, and *Time Stands Still*. Off-Broadway: *Pip's Island* (upcoming), *Incident at Vichy* (Signature), *Desire*, *Lift*, *Inner Voices* (59E59), *Completeness* (Playwrights Horizons); *A Second Chance* (The Public), and more.

Regional: *Kansas City Swing* (St. Louis Rep and Cincinnati Playhouse), *The Threepenny Opera*, *Spin*, *Company*, and *A Second Chance* (Signature Theatre). He was nominated for a 2012 Henry Hewes Design Award for *Completeness*.

**JENNY LAI** (costume fabrication), under the label Not Aligne, creates ready-to-wear collections, custom performance-wear for musicians and dancers, and collaborative projects around the world as a mobile studio. The brand was founded with the goal of making the physical experience of dressing a surprising and playful experience within itself. Transformation and movement are built into the design, engaging the wearer in the creative process. Lai is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and has worked around the world from Amsterdam to Mexico City to South Africa. [notaligne.com](http://notaligne.com)

### PRODUCTION

**JESSIE KSANZNAK** (production stage manager) is thrilled to be working with Shen Wei Dance Arts. She currently splits her time between New York and Vancouver working for dance, television, circus, and special events. Career highlights include New York Fashion Week, *The House of Dancing Water* (Dragone Entertainment, Macau), *Voyage de la Vie* (Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore), *Queen of the Night* (Diamond Horseshoe, NYC), Twyla Tharp's 50th Anniversary Tour, Trisha Brown Dance Company, Martha Graham Dance Company, The Joffrey Ballet, and Ailey II.

**DIANE ROSENBLATT** (executive director) is an arts administrator and development professional with two decades of experience. She served as a fundraising consultant to several dance organizations, including Shen Wei Dance Arts, prior to joining the company. She served as executive director of the Armitage Foundation/Armitage Gone! Dance (2007—10), where she oversaw a 32% growth in the company's operations. She was the executive director of Doug Varone and Dancers for 10 years, where she produced more than 20 new Varone works and guided the organization's growth from a small company to a million dollar operating budget. She has also served as the marketing and public relations director of the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor and acting executive director of the Michigan Dance Association. She completed graduate coursework as a PhD candidate in history at the University of Michigan and holds a BA from Boston University. She has published several articles on dance for Michigan publications.

**OUR HEARTFELT THANKS** to the Shen Wei Dance Arts Board of Directors and Advisory Council for its invaluable support.

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## **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

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A very special thanks to Richard Feldman and the SHS Foundation; Jan Krukowski and Nancy Harrow; and Lawrence W. Greene, Esq. Enormous thanks to Chair Emerita, Helen Little, for her five years of dedicated service and Board Chair David Brown. Our sincerest thanks to our Sponsor Committee Chair and Co-chairs: Shirley Young, Chair; Helen Little, Mei Wu Stanton, and Maria Pырros Vergos, Co-chairs.

Our deepest gratitude to the following artists who have lent their support to our art auction: Cai Guo Qiang, Xu Bing, Zhang Huan, Wei Jia, Margaret Evangeline, Ernestine Ruben, Sohyun Bae, Dongfan Chen, Phillippe Cheng, Tracie Cheng, Anesta Le, Guno Park, Bastienne Schmidt, and Yan Shanchun.

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## Shen Wei Dance Arts

Shen Wei Dance Arts is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and may be made payable and sent to:

SHEN WEI DANCE ARTS  
165 West 86th Street, 4th fl.  
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