Rice

Lin Hwai-min, Founder and Artistic Director

COMPANY

Chou Chang-ning, Huang Pei-hua, Tsai Ming-yuan
Huang Mei-ya, Ko Wan-chun, Liu Hui-ling, Su I-ping, Yang I-chun
Hou Tang-li, Lee Tzu-chun, Lin Hsin-fang, Wong Lap-cheong
Chen Mu-han, Kuo Tzu-wei, Wang Po-nien, Yeh Yi-ping
Chen Tsung-chiao, Cheng Hsi-ling, Fan Chia-hsuan
Huang Hsiao-che, Huang Li-chieh, Huang Lu-kai

Cal Performances’ 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.
Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

_Rice_

**Concept/Choreography**  
Lin Hwai-min

**Music**  
Hakka traditional folk songs  
Drum music by Liang Chun-mei  
“Monochrome II” by Ishii Maki performed by Ondekoza  
“Casta Diva” from 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

**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 Co-productions**  
Wen C. Ko National Theater & Concert Hall, the National Performing Arts Center, R.O.C. (Taiwan)  
Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore)  
New Vision Arts Festival (Hong Kong)  
Sadler’s Wells Theatre (London)  
HELLERAU European Center for the Arts Dresden (Germany)

**Premiere**  
November 22, 2013, National Theater, Taipei, Taiwan

_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.”

The music used in _Rice_ is used with permission by Wind Music International Corporation; Nightingale Classics AG; Warner Classics; Universal Music Publishing Group; Victor Entertainment, Inc.; Deutsche Grammophon GmbH, and by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., o/b/o G. Ricordi & Co., Bühnen-und-Musikverlag GmbH.

This tour of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan is made possible with grants from the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan).
The running time of this performance is approximately 70 minutes, with no intermission.
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 (2013), created Rice to revere the land that has nurtured “Asia’s leading contemporary dance theatre” (The Times, London).

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 his 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, soughing 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—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. It is a work about death and rebirth, devastation, and resurrection.

Rice is an international co-production by Sadler’s Wells Theatre (London), HELLERAU European Center for the Arts Dresden (Germany), National Theater & Concert Hall, the National Performing Arts Center, R.O.C. (Taiwan), New Vision Arts Festival (Hong Kong), and Esplanade—Theatres on the Bay (Singapore).
Cloud Gate is the name of the oldest known dance in China. In 1973 choreographer Lin Hwai-min adopted this classical name for the first contemporary dance company in any Chinese speaking community. Its 24 dancers receive training in meditation, Qi Gong, internal martial arts, modern dance, ballet, and calligraphy. Through Lin Hwai-min’s choreography, the company transforms ancient aesthetics into a thrilling modern celebration of motion.

Cloud Gate has toured extensively, with frequent engagements at the Next Wave Festival in New York, 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 acclaim and popularity. In addition to regular seasons in theaters, the company stages annual free outdoor performances in various cities in Taiwan, drawing audiences of up to 60,000 per performance. To perform for grassroots 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, ages 4 to 84.

Lin Hwai-min (Founder and Artistic Director) founded Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan in 1973, and also founded 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.

Among the honors 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 III Award, the award for Best Choreographer at the Lyon Biennial Dance Festival, the Distinguished Artist Award presented of the International Society for the Performing Arts, 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 the “Asia’s Heroes.” In 2013 he was awarded with the First Rank Order of Brilliant Star with Special Grand Cordon, becoming the second artist to receive the highest honor from the government of Taiwan.

Honoring Lin Hwai-min 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 that he “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.
Lee Ching-chun (Associate Artistic Director) earned her M.A. 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 many of Lin Hwaimin’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 she choreographed and performed the solo work Courtyard of Pears. In 2006 she choreographed Blossom and Moonlight for Kaohsiung City Ballet Company.

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

Lin Keh-hua (set design), 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 have also earned him an international reputation. He served as lighting designer in La Biennale di Venezia for Taiwan Pavilion in 2002 and Kris Yao Artech in 2014, was a member of the creative team in the Games of the XXIX Olympiad Beijing in 2008, was Artistic Director of Taiwan’s Centennial Grand Countdown in 2010, and was a member of the creative team for the Taiwan Pavilion Expo at Shanghai in 2010.

Lulu W. L. Lee (lighting design) holds an M.F.A. in Theater Lighting Design from Temple University, Philadelphia, and has worked as the architecture lighting designer at the Lighting Practice, as technical supervisor for the 2001 Taipei Lantern Festival, as resident stage manager at Novel Hall, and as 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. Appointed technical director in 2010, Lee has worked closely with Cloud Gate for many years as project lighting director.

Ann Yu Chien (costume design/execution) received her master's degree in Architecture from the 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 to emphasize liberal arts education in academic architecture departments.
**Li-Ting Huang** (*costume design/execution*) received her Master’s degree in Architecture Design from Bartlett School of Architecture, and her Bachelor’s degree from Chelsea College of Art & Design in London. Since 2001 she has served as assistant professor in the Department of Fashion Design at Shih Chien University. For her own creations, she focuses on the special relationship between the body and clothing, using color and fibers to experiment with space and form.

**Ethan Wang** (*production design*) received his M.A. in Communication Design from Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, University of the Arts London. Wang served as the visual art designer for the Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei, and was guest art designer for the Huashan Art District, Taipei. He founded his own studio Over Quality in 2006, devoted to digital graphic animation. His credits include moving images and multi-media slide shows for Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, Taipei Crossover Dance Company, and the 8th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice, Italy. He serves as the resident artist at Taipei National University of the Arts, and is adjunct instructor at Yuan Ze University and Taipei National University of the Arts.

**Chang Hao-juan** (*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 images, video and photography for music videos, commercials, projection designs, short fiction, and documentary films. In 2007 his short film *BR-14’s April* won the second prize of Imagine Cup hosted by Microsoft in Seoul, Korea. In 2008 his short films were presented in the Taipei Digital Art Festival-TRANS by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei. Chang’s credits include projection design for *The Tempest* and *Media* by Contemporary Legend Theater.

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Modern Dance Teacher  Huang Hsu-hui
Rehearsal Directors  Chou Chang-ning  Tsai Ming-yuan
Rehearsal Assistant  Yang I-chun
Medical Consultant  Chou Ching-long
Accompanists  Kuo Tsung-han  Wu Chia-ching

Dancers
Chou Chang-ning  Huang Pei-hua  Tsai Ming-yuan
Huang Mei-ya  Ko Wan-chun  Liu Hui-ling  Su I-ping  Yang I-chun
Hou Tang-li  Lee Tzu-chun  Lin Hsin-fang  Wong Lap-cheong
Chen Mu-han  Kuo Tzu-wei  Wang Po-nien  Yeh Yi-ping
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Technical Staff on Tour

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International Production Manager  Chen Chih-feng
Stage Manager and Sound Supervisor  Li Chia-nung (Vicky)
Stage Supervisor  Lin Ching-kai
Lighting Supervisor  Lin Szu-chen
Projection Supervisors  Chen Chih-feng  Chen Yi-ling