

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

CONTACT:

Lisle Peterson (510) 643-6714
lisle@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Stefanie Scott (510) 642-9121
sscott@calperfs.berkeley.edu

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS TAIWAN'S
CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE IN *MOON WATER*
OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 1 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, October 1, 2003 – Cal Performances welcomes **Lin Hwai-min's** 24-member modern dance ensemble **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan** performing their internationally acclaimed production *Moon Water* on **Friday & Saturday, October 31 & November 1 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Considered a national treasure in their native country, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre transforms Asian myth and folklore into a contemporary aesthetic. *Moon Water* is a poetic expression of Taoist philosophy based on the art of Tai-Chi, set to nine movements from **Bach's** Six Suites for Solo Cello. “[*Moon Water* is] a deeply beautiful work that makes you appreciate all the praise heaped on Lin Hwai-min as choreographer and artistic director of this outstanding company from Taiwan” (*Sydney Morning Herald*).

MOON WATER

The Tai-Chi based movements and dance of *Moon Water* play under alternating mirrors that appear in mid-air and upstage, reflecting the images of the moving dancers and of the morphing patterns on the floor. Towards the end of the piece, [water gradually floods the floor](#) until the [stage](#) itself becomes a huge mirror reflecting the dancer's bodies. The color scheme of this project is black and white. The set design by **Austin Wang** includes the stage floor covered by black marley, contrasting **Lin Jing-ru's** costume design for the dancers who wear billowy white silk, which eventually, when soaked by the water, reveal the bodies underneath. Lighting design is by **Chang Tsan-ta**.

In the past five years, Cloud Gate dancers—whose training also includes ballet, modern dance and Beijing theater movements—have been practicing meditation and Tai-Chi, which *Moon Water* draws from heavily. The discipline of Tai-Chi was created by master Hsiung Wei, a result of his studies and research in several schools of traditional training. The system involves Tai-Chi, *Chi Kung* and martial arts, with great emphasis on breathing. Movements are initiated from *Dan Tien*

-MORE-

(the center of the torso), and carried out through *Chi* (inner energy.) After years of training with Master Hsiung, Cloud Gate dancers have acquired an unparalleled movement vocabulary, projecting powerful energy from movements as weighty as a stone sculpture to those that are fiercely quick as a martial art attack.

Artistic Director Lin has chosen nine movements from **Bach's** Six Suites for Solo Cello to accompany the production, performed on tape by **Mischa Maisky**, used with permission from Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft.

LIN HWAI-MIN

Founder and Artistic Director of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, **Lin Hwai-min** studied Chinese opera movement in his native Taiwan, modern dance in New York, and classical court dance in Japan and Korea, eventually founding his company in 1973. An internationally renowned choreographer, Lin often draws from traditional Asian culture for inspiration. Lin Hwai-min's choreography "presents a distinct and mature Chinese choreographic language. The importance of this evolution in Asian dance is no less profound than the impact of Forsythe's Ballett Frankfurt on European classical ballet," says *Dance Europe*.

For his artistic achievements, Lin has received many honors, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Department of Culture of New York City in 1996; an Honorary Award of Fellowship by the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 1997; and the Ramon Magsaysay Award (the "Nobel Prize of Asia") in 1999. He was selected "Choreographer of the 20th Century" by *Dance Europe* magazine, cited as the "Best Choreographer" at Lyon Biannual Festival, and was chosen as one of the "Personalities of the Year," along with choreographers Merce Cunningham, Jirí Kylián, Pina Bausch and William Forsythe, by *Ballet International* magazine in 2000. Lin was awarded the National Award for Arts for the second time from the Taiwan National Culture and Arts Foundation in 2002; and in 2003, Lin received an Honorary Doctorate from National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan.

An acclaimed writer, Lin holds an MFA from the Writer's Workshop at the University of Iowa. His novel, *Cicada*, is an all-time best seller in Taiwan, and several of his works have been translated into English and published in the United States. Lin founded the Department of Dance at

Taiwan's National Taipei University of the Arts in 1983 and served as its Chairman for five years. In 1993 and 1994, he was the founding dean of the institute's graduate dance program. In 1999, he gave master classes in Cambodia, assisting local dancers to organize teaching materials of Khmer classical dance for children.

Lin Hwai-min made his debut as an opera director when *Rashomon* received its world premiere in 1996 to at the Graz Opera, Austria. In 2002 he directed a production of *Tosca* with the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan.

CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE

“Asia's leading contemporary dance theatre” (*The Times* London), **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre** of Taiwan takes its name from a 5,000-year-old ritual dance called “Cloud Gate,” the oldest known dance in China according to legend. In 1973, choreographer **Lin Hwai-min** adopted this classical name for the first modern dance company in any Chinese speaking community. While Cloud Gate's roots are in Asian folk traditions, the company brings to these age-old beliefs and stories a contemporary and universal perspective. The company's 24 dancers are trained in Tai-Chi, meditation, Chinese Opera movement, modern dance, and ballet.

Cloud Gate has toured extensively throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, and North and South America, including engagements at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival, the Kennedy Center, the Sydney 2000 Olympic Arts Festival, Lyon Biannual Dance Festival, Melbourne Festival, the festival celebrating the 25th anniversary of Pina Bausch's Tanztheater Wuppertal, Sadler's Wells Theatre London, and Deutsche Opera Berlin. Cloud Gate also regularly performs throughout their home country of Taiwan in venues ranging from the National Theatre in Taipei to mid-sized cultural centers in various cities, to high-school auditoriums in remote villages. The company gives free outdoor performances several times a year, drawing audiences of up to 60,000 per performance.

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre's productions recorded on film include *Songs of the Wanderers*, filmed in the Netherlands; *Moon Water*, filmed in France; and *Bamboo Dreams*, filmed in Germany by RM Associates, London. These productions are available on DVD and have been broadcast on television around the world.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre's *Moon Water* Friday & Saturday, October 31 & November 1 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$26.00, \$36.00, and \$46.00**. Performance tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded).

#

San Francisco Chronicle, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are season media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2003/04 performing arts season.

All Cal Performances programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Performances of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan are sponsored by United Commercial Bank and the UC Berkeley Consortium for the Arts.

Cal Performances is a participant in "Awake: Art, Buddhism, and the Dimensions of Consciousness," a consortium of artists and arts organizations. During 2002-2004, thanks to generous funding from the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and others, a number of organizations are sponsoring programs, exhibitions, performances, and artist residencies to reveal the threads of Buddhist intellectual, psychological, and aesthetic influence that run through the fabric of American culture.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, October 31, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
CONVERSATION

Faculty Club, Seaborg Room
UC Berkeley Campus

“Fusing Dance Techniques from East and West.” A conversation with Lin Hwai-Min, Artistic Director of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre and Jacquelynn Baas, Director Emeritus of the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, and Program Director for the arts consortium, *Awake: Art and Buddhism*. The Institute of East Asian Studies hosts this conversation as part of their conference, *East Asia At Berkeley*. The pre-talk reception begins at 5:00 p.m., the conversation begins at 5:30 p.m., and concludes with a question & answer session. Admission is free, subject to space availability.

###

Friday, October 31, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 1, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Pre-performance talks by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre artistic director **Lin Hwai-min**. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances’ guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience’s experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

###

Fri. & Sat., October 31 & November 1 at 8:00 p.m.
Dance
Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan
Moon Water

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Program:

The innovative modern dance company performs artistic director Lin Hwai-min’s *Moon Water*, a poetic expression of Taoist philosophy based on the art of Tai-Chi, set to movements from Bach’s cello concertos.

Tickets: \$26.00, \$36.00 and \$46.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

-30-