

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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

**UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK AWARDS CAL PERFORMANCES SPONSORSHIP
FOR CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN**

Berkeley, October 2, 2003 – Cal Performances is pleased to announce sponsorship from **United Commercial Bank** for the 2003 presentation of **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre**. The innovative 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 the Bach cello concertos. "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," says *The Sydney Morning Herald* of *Moon Water*.

"In April 2002, Cal Performances hosted Yo-Yo Ma's remarkable *Silk Road Project* under the generous corporate sponsorship of United Commercial Bank," comments director of Cal Performances **Robert Cole**. "Without their support, the three months of educational and community activities and two weeks of *Silk Road* music and dance performances would not have been possible here. Following that success, we are extremely pleased that United Commercial Bank has chosen to join Cal Performances again this season in sponsorship of Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, presenting *Moon Water*. Thanks to United Commercial Bank, we are able to share this dynamic company with Bay Area audiences this September. We look forward to our continued partnership with United Commercial Bank."

Thomas S. Wu, President, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of United Commercial Bank, adds: "As a bank with many customers who have close ties to Asia, we are pleased to have this opportunity to sponsor this wonderful program from Taiwan. We see similarities between the art of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre and the work that our bank does, which is extracting the best from traditional values and placing them in a modern context."

-MORE-

CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN

“Asia’s leading contemporary dance theatre” according to *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 contemporary dance company in any Chinese speaking community. While Cloud Gate’s roots are in Asian myth, folklore, and aesthetics, 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.

CAL PERFORMANCES

Cal Performances presents over 100 performances annually, bringing the work of traditional and non-traditional artists to Bay Area audiences, including artists such as **Mikhail Baryshnikov, Cecilia Bartoli, Mark Morris, Yo-Yo Ma, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Merce Cunningham, Pina Bausch, Bill T. Jones, Peter Sellars, John Adams, and Lou Harrison;** and, such Bay Area artists as **Margaret Jenkins, Kronos Quartet, Joe Goode, Jon Jang, and Gamelan Sekar Jaya,** which has aided and encouraged their national touring. Cal Performances has been instrumental in facilitating the touring of large ensembles from abroad, and has hosted such esteemed companies as the **Grand Kabuki Theater of Japan, the Lyon Opera Ballet and Orchestra, the Berliner Ensemble, the Gate Theatre of Dublin, Les Arts Florissants, Ballet Nacional de Cuba, and Nederlands Dans Theater,** among others.

Cal Performances annually programs as many free education and humanities programs as there are performances on stage in a calendar year. Based on the UC Berkeley campus, the institution is a conduit for artist-community interaction, where over 30,000 Bay Area residents participate in dynamic activities designed to foster meaningful relationships between the artist's work and the diverse communities served. These include: *SchoolTime*, which serves a vital part of public and private school education with specially scheduled, one-hour daytime performances by world-class performing artists on the Zellerbach Hall stage; "**Cal Performances in the Classroom**," professional development workshops for teachers; **community programs**, such as free classes, lectures and symposia offered throughout the year in schools, senior centers, to cultural organizations and on the campus; and **AileyCamp**, a six-week camp combining dance instruction with personal development and creative communication classes, designed to develop self-esteem, self-discipline, and critical thinking skills in youths ages 11 – 14.

UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK

United Commercial Bank, a subsidiary of UCBH Holdings, Inc., is the leading California bank specializing in serving the Chinese community. The bank has 46 offices located in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento, Stockton, and the Greater Los Angeles area, as well as an office in Brooklyn, New York and an office in Hong Kong. United Commercial Bank is a full-service bank offering a wide range of consumer banking services to individuals and commercial banking services, to small- and medium-sized businesses, and professionals in a variety of industries. The company's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ under the symbol "UCBH." The website address is www.ibankunited.com.

United Commercial Bank is pleased to be a sponsor of Cal Performances presentation of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre. Headquartered in San Francisco, United Commercial Bank understands the importance of contributing to the arts and cultural activities which make the Bay Area a vibrant and culturally diverse place. United Commercial Bank also sponsored this season's performances of the U Theatre of Taiwan September 26 & 27 at Cal Performances.

#

San Francisco Chronicle, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are 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.

#

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 the Bach 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.