

Saturday, October 29, 2022, 8pm

Sunday, October 30, 2022, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

13 Tongues

<i>Founder</i>	LIN Hwai-min
<i>Artistic Director</i>	CHENG Tsung-lung
<i>Associate Artistic Director</i>	LEE Ching-chun
<i>Rehearsal Director</i>	YANG Ling-kai
<i>Rehearsal Assistants</i>	HUANG Mei-ya, YEH Po-sheng
<i>Qi Gong Masters</i>	HSIUNG Wei, LEE Guo-wei
<i>Internal Martial Arts Masters</i>	Adam Chi HSU, CHEN Chun-lung
<i>Ballet Teachers</i>	CHUANG Yuan-ting, LIN Li-chuan, WU Ching-yin
<i>Modern Dance Teachers</i>	HUANG Pei-hua, TSAI Ming-yuan
<i>Accompanists</i>	HONG Jia-ling, KUO Tsung-han, LIANG Chun-mei, WU Jia-jin

Dancers

CHEN Mu-han HOU Tang-li HUANG Li-chieh
HUANG Mei-ya LEE Tzu-chun WU Jui-ying YEH Po-sheng

CHEN Lien-wei CHEN Tsung-chiao CHENG Hsi-ling CHOU Chen-yeh FAN Chia-hsuan
HSU Chih-hen HUANG Lu-kai HUANG Po-kai HUANG Yu-ling SHAO Hsing-wen

CHAN Pui-pui CHANG Yu-tzu HUANG Ching-heng HUANG Yen-cheng YEN Hsueh-hsin
CHAO Hsin LAI Wei-chun LIN Pin-shuo

Apprentices

HUANG Hsiang-ting WANG Chun-hung

This tour is made possible, in part, by grants from the Ministry of Culture, R.O.C. (Taiwan).

COVID-19: Masking is required inside the auditorium, and is strongly recommended, though not required, for indoor lobby/waiting areas as well as outdoor spaces. Up-to-date vaccination is strongly recommended, though not required for entry. The latest information on Cal Performances' COVID-19 safety policies is available at calperformances.org/safety.
Photographing and/or recording this performance is strictly prohibited.



十三聲

13 TONGUES

Choreography CHENG Tsung-lung
Music LIM Giong
Art Design HO Chia-hsing
Lighting Design SHEN Po-hung
Projection Design Ethan WANG
Costume Design LIN Bing-hao
Voice Coach TSAI Pao-chang

Cast (in alphabetical order)

CHEN Lien-wei CHEN Mu-han CHEN Tsung-chiao CHENG Hsi-ling
CHOU Chen-yeh FAN Chia-hsuan HUANG Li-chieh HUANG Lu-kai HUANG Yen-cheng
HUANG Yu-ling LAI Wei-chun SHAO Hsing-wen YEN Hsueh-hsin

Premiere
March 11, 2016 – Taiwan International Festival of Arts
at the National Theater, Taipei, Taiwan

Commission
National Theater & Concert Hall (Taipei)

*This performance will last approximately 65 minutes
and be performed without an intermission.*

When he was a child in the 1980s, Cloud Gate Artistic Director CHENG Tsung-lung contributed to the family business by helping his father sell slippers on the streets of Bangka/Wanhua, the oldest district of Taipei. Bangka/Wanhua was known for its vibrantly diverse and bustling street scene, which embraced religious and secular life, rich and poor, work and play, legal and illegal activities. The young CHENG was transfixed by his mother's accounts of the legendary 1960s street artist and storyteller known as Thirteen Tongues who had adopted Bangka/Wanhua for his informal stage. It was said that Thirteen Tongues could conjure up all the Bangka/Wanhua characters—high- and low-born, sacred and profane, male and female—in the most vivid, dramatic, and fluently imaginative narratives. Thirty years later,

CHENG's fascination with Thirteen Tongues became his inspiration as he transformed his childhood memories into dance.

Beginning and ending with the sound of a single hand bell, the music accompanying *13 Tongues* ranges from Taiwanese folk songs to Taoist chant to electronica. The stage is awash with projections of brilliant colors, shapes, and images, and the dancers gather, interact, separate, and re-gather in a thrilling representation of the clamour of street life. As the religious heritage of ancient Bangka/Wanhua fuses with today's secular space, so time appears to dissolve. The spirit realm and the human realm also merge as the audience is taken on an immersive journey—via imagination and storytelling that recalls the art of Thirteen Tongues—through centuries of human endeavor, behaviour, and belief.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Cloud Gate is the name of the oldest known dance in China. In 1973, choreographer LIN Hwai-min adopted this classical name and founded the first contemporary dance company in the greater Chinese-speaking community: **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan**, also known worldwide as Cloud Gate. In 2020, CHENG Tsung-lung succeeded LIN as the company's artistic director.

Cloud Gate has set out to engage with local history, culture, and subject matter and draws on classical, folk, and modern dance from both the western and Asian traditions. Its dancers train in meditation; Qi Gong, an ancient breathing exercise; internal martial arts; contemporary dance; and ballet. Under the leadership of CHENG Tsung-lung, their training has further expanded to include studies in various styles of dance, such as street dance. Using these skills, the company transforms ancient aesthetics into a thrilling and modern celebration of motion.

Cloud Gate has received a wide range of international acclaim, including as “Asia's leading contemporary dance theater” (*The Times*), and “one of the best dance companies in the world” (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*). The ensemble was also honored as the “Outstanding Company” at the 2018 National Dance Awards (UK).

The artists have toured worldwide, with frequent engagements at New York's Next Wave Festival, London's Sadler's Wells Theatre, Moscow's Chekhov International Theater Festival, and Germany's Movimentos International Dance Festival and Internationales Tanzfest NRW, at that time directed by Pina Bausch.

Cloud Gate has also danced in many local communities and on numerous campuses. Its annual free outdoor performances—staged in cities and villages across Taiwan—draw a minimum of 30,000 people per performance, and are hailed as some of the world's largest dance events.

LIN HWAI-MIN, *founder*

LIN Hwai-min first achieved fame as a fiction writer. He began his dance training at the age of 23, while working on his MFA degree at the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. He founded Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan in Taipei in 1973.

A self-taught choreographer, LIN often draws from Asian cultures and aesthetics to create works filled with contemporary resonance. In 2013, he received the prestigious Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement. Previous recipients of this award have included Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Pina Bausch, and William Forsythe. LIN is the first recipient based in Asia.

Among his other honors are the John D. Rockefeller III Award, the Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters from France's Ministry of Culture, the Honorary Fellow of Trinity Laban (London), and honorary doctorates from six universities in Taiwan and Hong Kong. He was also selected by the *Time* magazine as one of "Asia's Heroes."

At the end of 2019, LIN retired from the position of artistic director of Cloud Gate. He was succeeded by CHENG Tsung-lung.

CHENG TSUNG-LUNG,***artistic director and choreographer***

Formerly a slipper-selling street hawker and now an internationally recognized choreographer, CHENG Tsung-lung succeeded LIN Hwai-min as artistic director of Cloud Gate beginning in 2020.

CHENG took his first dance class at the age of 8. Upon graduation from the Dance Department of Taipei National University of the Arts, he joined Cloud Gate in 2002, becoming the artistic director of Cloud Gate 2 in 2014.

CHENG has received prestigious prizes for his choreography at international choreography competitions in Germany, Italy, Spain, and Taiwan. He has also worked with companies from all over the world, includ-

ing Sydney Dance Company, Transitions Dance Company at the Laban Centre (London), Expressions Dance Company (Brisbane), and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

CHENG's work is deeply rooted in both ancient and modern Taiwanese culture—he is a strong supporter of Cloud Gate's extensive work with grassroots audiences across Taiwan—yet it also embraces global influences. His *13 Tongues* (2016) integrates folk dance, religious rites, and Taoist chant to vividly conjure the streets where he worked as a child. *Lunar Halo* (2019) is performed to an ethereally haunting soundtrack by Icelandic musicians Sigur Rós and explores the complex area of human connection and technology. *Sounding Light* (2020), was written in response to COVID pandemic-induced isolation and reflects on the precariousness of both the human and the natural worlds. Visually stunning, *Send in a Cloud* (2022) displays in shifting colors a panorama of dancers' life journeys.

CHENG has been a fixture of Routledge's respected annual survey of dance practitioners, *Fifty Contemporary Choreographers*, alongside the likes of William Forsythe, Akram Khan, Hofesh Shechter, and other leading choreographers.

LIM GIONG, *music*

LIM Giong began his career as a singer-songwriter and then moved behind the scenes to work with DJs. Encouraged by director HOU Hsiao-hsien, LIM contributed to the film soundtrack for *Goodbye South, Goodbye*; he has also worked on the soundtracks for various short films, advertisements, animations, and documentaries. After he began collaborating with artists in various fields in 2004, his compositions became more experimental; today, they are increasingly infused with electronic music, evolving drum and bass, breakbeat, ambient, and electronica. LIM composed the music for choreographer CHENG Tsung-

lung's *13 Tongues* (2016), *Full Moon* (2017), *Multiplication* (2019), and *Sounding Light* (2020), his unique music style adding a variety of distinct flavors to the pieces.

HO CHIA-HSING, *art design*

An AGI (Alliance Graphique Internationale) member since 2017, HO Chia-hsing is nourished in his artistic designs by the rich cultural atmosphere of Dadaocheng, an old city district in Taipei.

HO established a graphic design studio called Timonium Lake in 2006. In 2019, with partners at work, he created the Monsoon Plasticizing Culture Work Team, focusing on the rapid changes in the design industries of Taiwan and East Asia. His team uses the calligraphic line of traditional Chinese scripts as a means to create modern designs. In collaboration with artists in different fields, his team fuses local Taiwan culture with aspects of spiritual nourishment in their plastic arts and design works.

SHEN PO-HUNG, *lighting design*

A graduate of the from Institute of Drama and Theater at National Taiwan University, SHEN Po-hung has developed his contributions to lighting design through in-depth reading into interdisciplinary fields. SHEN currently works as a freelance designer, his designs encompassing works in dance, drama, concerts, and special events. He has collaborated with CHENG Tsung-lung for many years, with designing credits including *Send In A Cloud* (2022), *Lunar Halo* (2019), *Dream Catcher* (2017), *13 Tongues* (2016), *Beckoning* (2015), *Dorian Gray* (2014), *Blue Hour* (2013), and *On the Road* (2011).

ETHAN WANG, *projection design*

One of the most active projection designers in Taiwan, Ethan WANG has received numerous awards, including honors for his projection designs for Cloud Gate's *Water Stains on the Wall* and *RICE*. For his projec-

tion design for CHENG Tsung-lung's *13 Tongues*, he won the Silver Award at the World Stage Design Calgary (2017); for *Lunar Halo*, he was nominated in 2022. He also served as the visual art designer for the Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei and as guest art designer for the Hua-shan Art District, Taipei. In 2006, he founded his own studio, Over Quality, devoted to digital graphic animation creations.

LIN BING-HAO, *costume design*

LIN Bing-hao started learning dance at the Taipei National University of the Arts. In 1998, when he discovered his true passion for costume design, he dropped out of school to serve as an apprentice to the renowned designer LIN Ching-ju. He opened his own costume shop in 2001, and soon launched Taiwan's first professional brand of leotards, KeithLink.

LIN has collaborated with important performing arts groups and artists in Taiwan, including Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, Cloud Gate 2, Ju Percussion Group, and GuoGuang Chinese Opera Company.

Acclaimed by critics as a promising artist, in 2011, LIN was invited to design for the opera *La Dame aux Camélias* directed by the renowned Japanese theater director Todashi Suzuki.

TSAI PAO-CHANG, *voice coach*

TSAI Pao-chang graduated from National Taiwan University with a BA in drama and theater and received his MA in music theater from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London. With a grant from the Asian Cultural Council, he pursued voice and speech training in 2011 at the America Repertory Theater at Harvard University; he then continued his theater work at the Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT). He is actively involved in various international artist-in-residency programs, including in the US, France, Iceland, Denmark, South Korea, and Germany.



LIU Chen-Hsiang

Known as an accomplished playwright, director, and actor, TSAI collaborates with many performing arts companies in Taiwan. From 2009 to 2018, he served as the co-artistic director of Tainaner Ensemble, one of the most established theater companies in Taiwan.

LEE CHING-CHUN,
associate artistic director

LEE Ching-chun obtained her master's degree in dance studies in 1999, from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London. In 2004, she received the National Award for the Arts from the Taiwan National Culture and Arts Foundation, the highest award for artists in Taiwan.

Joining Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan in 1983, LEE took leading roles in most of LIN Hwai-min's choreographies, including his signature works *Cursive: A Trilogy*, *Songs of the Wanderers*, and *Nine Songs*.

Appointed Associate Artistic Director in 2003, she has often represented Lin Hwai-min, restaging his works for international dance companies such as Zurich Ballet.

LEE's other dance credits include Helen LAI's *The Rite of Spring*, *Invisible Cities*, *La Vie en Rose*, and *Frida*. In addition to performances, she has also been invited to choreograph for Cloud Gate, Spotlight Dance Company, and Kaohsiung City Ballet Company. In 1999, collaborating with Canadian stage designer Tania Etienne, she choreographed and performed her solo dance work *Courtyard of Pearls*.

Also serving as Chief Consultant for Cloud Gate Dance School, LEE has helped to create and develop class syllabuses for students ages 4 to 84.

YANG LING-KAI, *rehearsal director*

Beginning to learn dance at a very young age, YANG Ling-kai toured internationally during her adolescence with Taiwan's Lan Yang Dancers Troup. Immediately after graduating from Taipei National University of the Arts in 1999, she joined Cloud Gate 2, serving as one of its founding members and taking on major roles in works by renowned choreographers such as LIN Hwai-min, Helen LAI, LO Man-fei, WU Kuo-chu, Bu-

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

lareyaung Pagarlava, HUANG Yi, and CHENG Tsung-lung. YANG has been Rehearsal Director for Cloud Gate since 2014.

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