



Shimmering Production

# ***Islands by WANG Yeu -kwn***

2024.3.22 Sat. 14:30

2024.3.23 Sun. 14:30

Weiwuying Playhouse

Duration is 55 minutes without intermission. Latecomers will not be admitted.

The performance contains haze effects on stage. Viewer discretion is advised.



National Kaohsiung  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WEI WUYING

衛武營 國家藝術文化中心  
國家表演藝術中心 National Performing Arts Center

## **Program**

### **A Dual Encounter Between Two Islands**

#### **The Legend of a Fisherman Seeking His True Self**

On a quest to unearth the story of his own name, Wang Yeu-kwn sets sail for the southeastern island nations, where he engages Indonesian dancer Danang Pamungkas in a dialogue through body and life experiences. They explore the weight of bodies anchored to land and air, where identity, like the shifting shores, ebbs and flows with the tides. From solitary striving to kindred companions, we glimpse the island's strength that carries its people with a balance of gentleness and resilience. Perhaps, only when we venture beyond the island do we begin to know ourselves.

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### **Choreography, Concept and Performer Wang Yeu-kwn**

Artistic Director of Shimmering Production and a certified fisherman, WANG Yeu-kwn has been selected as a 2025–2026 Artist-in-Residence at the National Theater & Concert Hall of Taiwan.

WANG is the first Taiwanese artist to receive three Awards at the Yokohama Dance Collection in Japan. He is also the first Taiwanese choreographer to be a finalist for The Rose Prize 2025 at Sadler's Wells in London. His work has been highly acclaimed, with Dance Magazine Japan recognizing him as a choreographer to watch.

His "A Trilogy - Question of Relationships" project, including the dance works *Beings* and *Islands*, has been invited to renowned theaters in France and the UK, as well as multiple touring engagements across Europe. His creations have sparked significant discussions in the international dance scene.

## Performer Danang Pamungkas

Dancer, Choreographer and Artistic Director of Dan's Dance Studio Solo. Danang Pamungkas was a professional dancer at Cloud Gate 2 in Taiwan. After returning to Indonesia in 2011, he has continued his dance career and has actively studied traditional Javanese dance, using it as a basis for dissecting and exploring the realm of contemporary dance choreography. He is a frequent artist at the Theater Arena Surakarta and Jakarta Salihara Theater in Indonesia. In addition, he has been invited to perform at international festivals and stages including the Indonesian Dance Festival, Salihara Festival and Salihara Festival in Indonesia, the Artquake in Autumn Festival in Taiwan, Welt Museum in Vienna, Austria, the National Museum in Singapore, and Boston Arts Center.

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## Shimmering Production

Facing the Body, Where Light Emerges.

Founded in 2019 by WANG Yeu-kwn and LEE Yin-ying, Shimmering Production focuses on exploring and questioning the body while creating contemporary dance works. They also launched the *Hand in Hand, We Dance* arts initiative, advocating that everyone has a body, and through breathing, we can create our own light through movement.

Since 2020, Shimmering Production has been developing "A Trilogy – Quest of Relationships", focusing on exploring the relationships between the body and the world on different scales. The first episode, *Beings*, is a duet performed alongside paper and ink, which has gained international attention. It has been invited to perform in Japan, Greece, Germany, Portugal, Spain, and France. *Beings* has also been selected as a finalist for The Rose Prize 2025 at Sadler's Wells in London. The second episode, *Islands*, premiered at the 2024 Artquake in Autumn at the National Theater & Concert Hall, followed by performances at the Weiwuying National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts and The Place Theatre in London.

Shimmering Production continues its creative journey, touring internationally, while staying connected to its core purpose—dancing with every individual and creating a subtle glow that radiates from the body.

# **Spirits of the Black Current and Struggles of Island Bodies - An Interview with WANG Yeu-kwn, Choreographer of *Islands* (Excerpt)**

Written by CHEN, Pin-hsiu

## **A Journey of Spiritual Transformation**

Through creating *Islands*, WANG Yeu-kwn also mended his own life, transforming personal experiences into relationships between islands and archipelagos.

"At one point I was in a slump, my health deteriorated. I drank. Danang stayed beside me as I faced myself. He teased me, dared me, and encouraged me." During his trip to Indonesia, WANG didn't find "that fish as heavy as himself," but through the rehearsal process he discovered: perhaps Danang was that great fish, equal in weight to himself, he had been searching for all along.

"He saw me at my least confident, most irritating, and most vulnerable moments, yet still wanted to dance with me."

Now WANG seems like a changed person: "I've established many rituals over the past year or two." He no longer drinks and eats lightly. Dinner is often just boiled vegetables with two eggs. In the mornings, he burns incense, listens to music, and meditates. He warms up at home for an hour before heading to rehearsals. Rather than frantically seeking external answers, he maintains "creative discipline" through his personal rituals.

WANG reflects: "Throughout the creative process, I experienced three stages of self-confrontation: from initially being unable to face myself, to having to face myself, to finally being able to live comfortably with myself."

## Heart-Stirring Moment in the Theater

The theater WANG pursues “is a place where anything is possible. It stimulates people’s imagination. In an era where AI technology has developed to the point of deceiving your senses and brain—making you believe ‘you’re in outer space right now’—I keep asking myself, ‘what else can theater do?’”

“Do you believe in pet whisper?” WANG asks with a hint of mystery.

“I believe humans have other communicative energies or senses beyond language (like skin). And this state probably isn’t something we can feel while scrolling through our phones on the subway.”

He recalls being moved by certain performances in his youth—feeling every breath on stage, feeling the theater enveloping him: “This unique theatrical experience is precious and singular to me; through my work, I hope to get closer to that moment when my spirit ‘trembles.’”

WANG has infused all his discoveries, learning, and feelings about islands from recent years into *Islands*. He says:

“We’re truly fortunate to perform at Weiwuying both at the beginning of this work and after its completion. I especially want to share *Islands* with audiences in Kaohsiung—with people who also live on this island of Taiwan.”

In Sizihwan in Kaohsiung, you can only see sunsets, not sunrises. In *Islands*, WANG creates a sunrise with sea of clouds in the theater, guiding the audience’s eyes to witness nature’s miraculous scenery. Rather than merely showing “nature,” he helps us see the warmth of our spiritual origins, allowing us to experience anew the island on which we live.


Excerpt from Weiwuying's blog. Click for the full article



## Artistic and Production Team

Choreography and Concept | WANG Yeu-kwn  
Performers | WANG Yeu-kwn, Danang Pamungkas  
Dramaturgy | WANG Shih-wei  
Set Design | CHEN Guan-lin  
Lighting Design | Joanne SHYUE  
Music Design | LIN Yu-de  
Rehearsal Director | LEE Yin-ying  
Stage Manager | SUN Wei-chen  
Installation Execution | FAN Li-ying, CHEN Jie-liang, CHENG Chou-lung,  
KUO You-wei, Raymond HO  
Technical Director | LIOU Bor-yan  
Stage Technician | CHOU Kuan-chih, CHEN Guo-lin, Fu Min-hsun, FAN Li-ying,  
HUANG Yun-xin, LU Chung, LIN He-fang, LIN Yu-yi,  
LIN Ching-feng, LIU Yi-hsiang, LI Ming-jiang, SHIH Yu-chi,  
SHEN Chen-yu, WU Yu-sheng, WEI Ling-chieh  
Master Electrician | TSAI Jia-jing  
Lighting Technician | GAN Dong-ni, LIEN Ssu-yun, WU Kuan-hsuan  
Audio Technical Director | CHEN Yu-chien  
Audio Technician | LIU Po-chang, SHAO Ko-han, TSAI Yao-ting  
Producer | Ann WU  
Still Photographer | LEE Chia-yeh, LIN Chun-yung  
Documentation Photographer | LUO Sih-wei, CHEN Wei-sheng  
Logotype Design | xiao chi fen fen X Ars Association Ltd.  
Production | Shimmering Production

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Weiwuying Online Questionnaire

