



音樂芭蕾舞劇場

遇見  
胡桃夾子的  
奇幻  
二部曲

The Ballet Concert :  
Into the Fantasy of  
Nutcracker II

成長就像🍷周遊列國

# The Ballet Concert - Into the Fantasy of Nutcracker II

## Growing through the Wonder Journey

2024.12.21 Sat. 19:30

2024.12.22 Sun. 14:30

Weiwuying Concert Hall

Duration is 100 minutes with a 20-minute intermission.



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

## Synopsis

Learn More



What is your Christmas tradition?

*The Nutcracker*, composed by P. TCHAIKOVSKY in 1892, is a timeless ballet that has captivated Europe for over two centuries. This enchanting work inspired numerous theaters and dance companies to craft their own adaptations. In the story, when the midnight chimes ring, they invoke a ritual that brings the magic of the balls to life, with snowy landscapes and mesmerizing dances that deliver the essence of Christmas. This ballet has grown into a cherished tradition, warming hearts across Europe in every winter season. In 2023, Weiwuying brought choreographers YEH Ming-hwa and CHOU Shu-yi to southern Kaohsiung to continue this festive tradition. YEH Ming-hwa, a talented choreographer and dancer from Kaohsiung, embraced the challenge of adapting and directing the ballet.

YEH draws deeply from the core themes of *The Nutcracker*—dreams and courage—integrating them with the unique growth experiences of Taiwanese children. In the 2023 production, the young protagonist, a little girl, confronts typical school challenges and learning barriers, yet strives to find solace and supports from her friends and teachers. These elements are brilliantly woven into the classic Nutcracker narrative, striking a chord with the audience's own childhood memories. YEH champions the idea that "ballet is an art form that should resonate with and delight audiences from ages 8 to 80."

The narrative continues with the theme "Growing through the Wonder Journey" in this second production. Here, the girl faces increasing academic pressures and setbacks but also discovers richer friendships and dreams. As she overcomes obstacles crafted by the antagonists, her friends rally around and foster her resilience. These bittersweet experiences of growing up turn into the wonder journeys setting out from the Snowflake Kingdom with passion as the original aims of this production. Despite the absence of dialogue, the ballet powerfully conveys the protagonist's emotions and life story through the dance, allowing the audience to engage fully in her transformation at those pivotal festive moments.

This Taiwanese adaptation of *The Nutcracker* offers a compelling reason for families to unite and celebrate during the holiday season. It invites audiences, even in Taiwan's subtropical climate, to dive into the icy realms and fairy-tale festivities that are usually beyond our reach.

(written by Stella TSAI)

## About the Artist

### Production Consultant | CHOU Shu-yi

From a corporeal perspective, CHOU Shu-yi uses dance as a language to communicate with the world and attentively observes the relationship between people and social environments. In his past creations and actions, he maximized the uniqueness of interdisciplinary thinking, which was well reflected in his depictions of the publicness of the arts. His creation focuses on a strong inquiry into the value of life, expresses different statuses of an individual or a crowd within different social contexts, provides a "corporeal lexicon peculiar to Asia," and manifests itself in the forms of theater, non-conventional theater, and dance video art. He continues to travel around different places through artist residencies. Invited to be Weiwuying Artist-in-Residence from 2020 to 2024, he has been appointed as the curator of Taiwan Dance Platform for 2022 and 2024.

### Choreographer & Playwright | YEH Ming-hwa

Born in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Ming-hwa received her BFA in Dance from Taipei National University of Arts in 2006. Ming-hwa maps the dimensions of time and space through the body and senses. In 2019-2020 she was invited in Museum of Human Emotions Project, presented by Centro per la Scena Contemporanea, Bassano del Grappa (IT), La Briqueterie CDCN, Val-de Marne (FR), Saison Foundation (JP), and National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (TW) performed in public space. *The House Behind the Wall* was commissioned by Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan at Wang Da Hong House Theatre in 2020 and won the Grand Prize of 19th Taishin Arts Award in 2021. *Dancing Ballet*, in collaboration with Kaohsiung City Ballet, commissioned the creation of Taiwan Dance Platform, National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) in 2022.

## **Artistic Consultant & Costume Consultant | LIN Ching-ju**

As a renowned senior costume designer in Taiwan, Ching-ju Lin has worked in theatre for more than forty years. The over three hundred productions she has participated in show a great diversity ranging from modern theatre, traditional theatre, opera, dance theatre, puppet theatre, children's theatre, and interdisciplinary collaboration, in which she amazes us with her impressive creativity. Her recent devotion includes training a younger generation of theatre technicians, while she also spends a great amount of time sharing her experiences of art and theatre.

In 1992, Sponsored by Fulbright Scholarship and Cultural and Arts Foundation, Lin studied and traveled in New York that year, while during the trip she also worked in the costume department in productions of New York City Ballet as well as the 50th anniversary production of New York City Opera. She was the recipient of the 10th National Cultural and Arts Award in 2006.

## **Conductor | CHANG Yin-fang**

CHANG Yin-fang served as the assistant conductor and resident conductor of the Taiwan Philharmonic (NSO) from 2006 to 2022. She excels in diverse cross-industry collaborations, which have all been widely acclaimed. In addition, CHANG actively contributes to the publication of contemporary Asian music works. In 2018, she was invited to conduct the opening concert of the Asia-Pacific Music Festival and premiered the works of several composers.

Her recent appearances include conducting notable new productions, such as *The Man with the Compound Eyes* and *Tannhäuser* (chamber version), as well as *Schubert 30* and *The Ballet Concert - Into the Fantasy of Nutcracker I* at Weiwuying, receiving widespread critical praise. In recent years, CHANG has been invited to collaborate with Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, Taipei Chinese Orchestra, Taiwan Philharmonic (NSO), Tainan Symphony Orchestra, and Kaohsiung Symphony Orchestra. In addition to her conducting career, she also teaches at Fu Jen Catholic University, Taipei National University of the Arts, and National Taiwan Normal University.

## Stage Designer | CHEN Wei-kuang

Born in Tainan. Graduated from NTU Drama Department and obtained M.F.A. in the Taipei University of the Arts. Nominee of the Taishin Arts Award and winner of a bronze award at a stage design competition in South Korea. In 2017, he was nominated for the W.S.D. (World Stage Design) of the World Theater Competition with the stage design of Persistence of Memory. CHEN has served as a stage specialist at National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts(Weiwuying) since 2018 and has participated in the design and technical planning of Weiwuying's productions and outdoor performances.

## Lighting Designer | KUO Chien-hao

KUO Chien-hao discovered his first lighting design at the National Taiwan University of Arts where he graduated in drama, and later received his MFA degree. He holds over 20 years' experience as a professional lighting technician and designer. His lighting design works include *Summer Jazz*, Opera-Studio series for NTCH, TEDx Taipei, Kaohsiung Spring Arts Festival -Verdi's *La Traviata*, *The Hero Academy I & III*, 2017-2021 Concert of the Presidential Office, Weiwuying opening season - *Bernstein's Candide*, and National Symphony Orchestra Opera Concert - *Lehar's Die lustige Witwe*, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. KUO's work "*La traviata*" and dance production "*Identity*" were selected for 2017 and 2022 World Stage Design, Professional designers-Lighting design category. He is now the head of the lighting team in National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying).

## **Creative and Production Team**

Production Consultant | CHOU Shu-yi

Choreographer & Playwright | YEH Ming-hwa

Artistic Consultant & Costume Consultant | LIN Ching-ju

Conductor | CHANG Yin-fang

Stage Designer | CHEN Wei-kuang

Lighting Designer | KUO Chien-hao

Costume Design Coordinator\* | Wang You-zheng

Costume Design and Production\* | CHEN Yu-jen, Tneh Shi-yun, Liu Bi-sheng

Costume Supervisor\* | YEN Liang-su

Ballet Master | Liyin CHEN, CHUNG Chang-hung

Rehearsal Pianist | TSAUR Ming-tsang

Rehearsal Assistant | CHUNG Chang-hung, CHENG Tzu-tung

Dance Teacher, Sugar Plum Fairy | HUANG Yu-mien

Fencing Teacher, Nutcracker, Nutcracker Prince | SHIUE Ren-kai

Little Girl | CHENG Tzu-tung

Little Boy | KE Gui-ting

Art Teacher, Mouse King, Snowflake, Flower Petal | TANG Wan-yu

Music Teacher, Mouse Queen, Snowflake, Flower Petal | LIN Chia-chun

Etiquette Class Senior, Spanish Dance, Snowflake, Flower Petal | LEE Ting-yu

Math Class Senior, Arabian Dance, Snowflake, Flower Petal | HSU Wen-hsuan

Student, Chinese Dance, Snowflake, Flower Petal | HSU Shih-ching 、 TSAI Yi-tsen

Student, Arabian Dance, Snowflake, Flower Petal | SHEN Pei-yin 、 HSU Chih-yen

Student, Spanish Dance | ZHOU Ting-jia

Due to unforeseen circumstances, HUANG Yen-lin will be unable to perform. The role of the Little Boy will be played by KE Gui-ting.

## Musicians

Violin | TSAI I-yun 、 TSAI Mu-Ying

Viola | HSIEH Yi-chen

Cello | HSUEH Ya-wen

Double Bass | HSU Tzu-yun

Oboe / English Horn | CHEN Pin-Hui

Flute | LIN Shang-jung

Clarinet | LIN Yu-chien

Clarinet / Bass Clarinet | LUO Zhi-yuan

Bassoon | CHEN I-wen

Horn | WANG Yu-zu

Trumpet | LIU Yu-chun

Trombone | CHEN Yu-huey

Harp | KUANG Yi-wen

Timpani / Percussion | LIN Wei-chen

Percussion | HUANG Tzu-ting

Celesta | TSAUR Ming-tsang

Programming Coordinator | Joanna WANG 、 Peggy WU 、 TU Chiou-shiang

Production Coordinator | CHEN Mei-lin 、 HUANG Chin-chih

Stage Manager | Yui LEE

Assistant Stage Manager | LEE Zhuan

Technical Coordinator | HUANG Chin-chih

Set Designer | CHEN Wei-kuang

Stage Crew | WU Chung-liang 、 CHEN Yi-xien 、 HUANG Shin-guan 、 Maru CHEN

Master Electrician | WEI Po-han

Board Operator | CHU Hsin-hung

Lighting Crew | Nge Shin-wei 、 KU Ming-chen

Head of Audio & Video | Slash HSU

Audio Crew | CHEN Wei-tsung 、CHEN Yan-ru

Wardrobe | LIAO Chia-yi 、CHIU Yi-hui

Ensemble Project Coordinator | Daisy CHEN

Marketing Coordinator | CHU Yi-chun 、CHEN Ji-zhen 、JEN Li-yu

Graphic Designer | Roxanne TING

Original Illustration Designer | Little Oil Art

Marketing Coordinator(Ticketing) | LEE Yu-ling

Film Editor | CHANG Ya-chieh 、Bluesten Studio

Photographer | CHEN Wei-sheng

Rehearsal Venue Support | HORSE

\*Costumes are co-produced through the Project of Ballet Costume Design and Produce, by the collaboration between National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) and Dept. of Theatrical Design & Technology, TNUA.

The performance is produced by National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying).

About the Dancers



Weiwuying Online Questionnaire

