

2014 // 15 SEASON

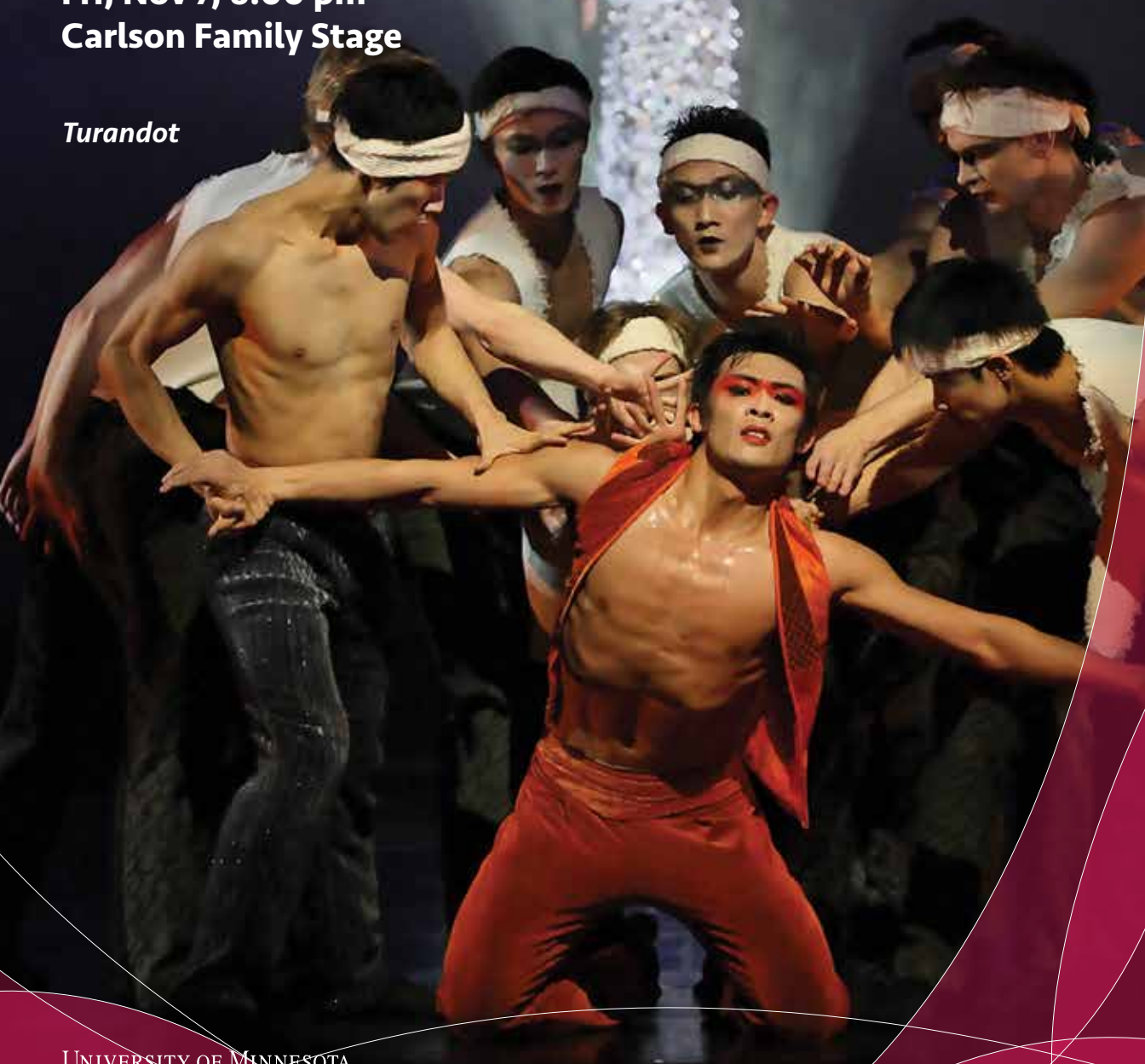
Northrop Presents  
**THE HONG KONG  
BALLET**

Thu, Nov 6, 7:30 pm

Fri, Nov 7, 8:00 pm

Carlson Family Stage

*Turandot*





Christine Tschida. Photo by Patrick O'Leary, University of Minnesota.

Dear Northrop Dance Lovers,

We are thrilled to present The Hong Kong Ballet in their first Northrop appearance. The company is celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and we join them in celebration of this milestone.

In a rare treat for lovers of ballet, and lovers of beautiful music, Hong Kong Ballet has commissioned acclaimed Australian choreographer Natalie Weir to create a dramatic and romantic story ballet from Puccini's famous opera, *Turandot*. Weir's exquisite partnering work and signature dance vocabulary is the perfect choice to bring this story of love and sacrifice to vibrant life.

A passionate tale of ancestral revenge and the transformative power of love, *Turandot* follows the story of Prince Calaf who gambles his life on the chance to win the love of ice-cold Princess Turandot. The princess, whose beauty draws suitors from far and wide, makes each hopeful petitioner answer three riddles. But this is no parlor game: Those who answer incorrectly pay with their lives.

Weir set the ballet to Giacomo Puccini's lush and beautiful original score that audiences will instantly recognize. Puccini (known for such masterworks as *Madame Butterfly* and *La Bohème*) left *Turandot* unfinished when he died, but composer and pianist Franco Alfano finished it a couple years later. It has since become one of Puccini's most famous operas.

Hong Kong Ballet's company of 40+ dancers—each with impeccable classical training—is well-equipped to portray the sweeping emotion and ardor of such a romantic tale. Led by Artistic Director Madeleine Onne (previously a leading ballerina in Sweden) the company is known for their sumptuous mounting of the classics. We'll see examples of their elaborate sets and beautiful costumes, along with their pristine technique, here tonight.

Thank you for joining us for The Hong Kong Ballet's *Turandot*. I hope you find yourself swept away by this dramatic love story.

Sincerely,

Christine Tschida  
Director of Northrop

**NEXT UP AT NORTHROP: THE SUZANNE FARRELL BALLET** with a sparkling sampling of works by George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins—you will be thrilled to see classical ballet with full live orchestra! Join us on December 4<sup>th</sup> here at Northrop.

Northrop at the University of Minnesota

Presents



香港芭蕾舞團  
HONG KONG BALLET

藝術總監：歐美蓮 Artistic Director: Madeleine Onne

Artistic Director **MADELEINE ONNE**

Senior Ballet Master **LIANG JING**

Ballet Mistress **TANG MIN**

Executive Director **PAUL TAM**

Director of Artistic Planning  
and Touring **JOSEPH MORRISSEY**

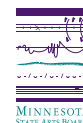
Pianist **NICHOLAS LAU**

Sports Practitioner **ARLENE MACKINLAY**

Tour Partner



HONG KONG ECONOMIC & TRADE OFFICE  
New York



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

**NORTHROP**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>

# CAST LIST

# TURANDOT

NOV 6, 7:30 PM

NOV 7, 8:00 PM

Choreography by **Natalie Weir**  
 Music by **Giacomo Puccini**  
 Set and Costume Design by **Bill Haycock**  
 Lighting Design by **Kim Lee**

*Turandot* LIU YU-YAO

*Liu* LIU MIAO-MIAO

*Calaf* WEI WEI

*Timur (Calaf's father)* RICKY HU

*Executed Prince* SHEN JIE

*Rapist* KOSTYANTYN KESHYSHEV

*Ancestor* SARAH YEUNG

*Guards* FRANK VAN TONGEREN  
 SONG HAI FENG  
 GONG YI WEN  
 MURMAN KIKALISHVILI

*Couples* JONATHAN SPIGNER / GAO SHUAI-NAN  
 LEUNG CHUN LONG / NAOMI YUZAWA  
 LI LIN / JESSICA BURROWS  
 CHARLES ANDERSEN / LIU WEI NAN  
 SHUNSUKE ARIMIZU / GAO GE  
 WILLEM HOUCK / CANDICE ADEA  
 HUI KA CHUN / YURI MORIWAKI  
 JIANG XIN / NICOLE ZADRA  
 LUCAS JERKANDER / FRANCESCA LOI  
 XIA JUN / ERIKA DELPONTE

*Dead Men* FRANK VAN TONGEREN  
 SONG HAI FENG  
 GONG YI WEN  
 MURMAN KIKALISHVILI  
 JONATHAN SPIGNER  
 LEUNG CHUN LONG  
 LI LIN  
 CHARLES ANDERSEN  
 SHUNSUKE ARIMIZU  
 WILLEM HOUCK

ZHANG SI YUAN

DONG RUIXUE

LI JIA-BO

LI LIN

XIA JUN

SONG HAI FENG

GAO GE

FRANK VAN TONGEREN  
 KOSTYANTYN KESHYSHEV  
 JONATHAN SPIGNER  
 MURMAN KIKALISHVILI

GONG YI WEN / PEGGY LAI  
 SHEN JIE / MACHI MUTO  
 JIANG XIN / WANG QING-XIN  
 CHARLES ANDERSEN / YUI SUGAWARA  
 SHUNSUKE ARIMIZU / NINA MATIASHVILI  
 LUCAS JERKANDER / VANESSA LAI  
 HUI KA CHUN / LIANG YONG LIN  
 RICKY HU / NICOLE ZADRA  
 WILLEM HOUCK / IRENE KAM  
 YUH EGAMI / AI WEN

FRANK VAN TONGEREN  
 KOSTYANTYN KESHYSHEV  
 JONATHAN SPIGNER  
 MURMAN KIKALISHVILI  
 GONG YI WEN  
 SHEN JIE  
 JIANG XIN  
 CHARLES ANDERSEN  
 SHUNSUKE ARIMIZU  
 LUCAS JERKANDER

## ACT ONE: CITY OF DEAD MEN

The chorus waits, despairing as a Prince is prepared for execution. It is twilight, there is no hope. The Prince is the one hundredth man Turandot is executing for failing to answer her riddles.

Timur, an old blind man, enters accompanied by the slave girl, Liu. She takes care of Timur because she is in love with his son, Calaf. Timur stumbles and falls to the floor. Calaf—who has been away in exile—suddenly rushes in to help his father.

Turandot enters and announces the death penalty. The Prince is executed.

Calaf sees Turandot, and immediately falls in love with her. It is as if a spell has been put on him. He wants to try to answer her riddles. If he succeeds, he will win her hand in marriage. If he fails, he will be executed.

The phantoms of the suitors who have already been executed try to persuade Calaf not to try, or his fate will be the same as theirs.

Timur and Liu also beg Calaf not to sacrifice himself in this way, as he will surely fail and be executed. Liu weeps—for Calaf and also because her love for him is unrequited. She lets him go.

The crowd tries to stop him, but Calaf strikes the gong three times, indicating he will attempt to solve the riddles.



The Hong Kong Ballet in *Turandot*.  
 Photo © Gordon Wong.



# TURANDOT

## ACT TWO: TURANDOT'S TOMB

Turandot is alone in her chamber remembering the past. Her ancestor was murdered by a man, her sweet voice stilled. Turandot has never forgiven men since. She is sleeping in her ancestor's tomb, in self-imposed isolation.

The Guards bring Calaf into her chamber, and Turandot asks him the three riddles.

**Riddle One:** What phantom rises over infinite, black humanity, but disappears at dawn? Every night it's born, and every day it dies. HOPE is the answer.

**Riddle Two:** What flickers like a flame, but is not a flame? Sometimes it rages, it's feverish and burning. If you are defeated or lost it grows cold. If you dream of winning, it flames. BLOOD is the answer.

**Riddle Three:** Ice that sets you on fire. If she sets you free, she makes you a slave. If she accepts you as a slave, she makes you a king. What is frost that gives off fire? TURANDOT is the answer.

Calaf solves the riddles.

The Chorus dances, celebrating Calaf's victory. But Turandot refuses to marry Calaf, she will not allow herself to be taken by force. Calaf wants Turandot to love him equally. He proposes that Turandot answer a riddle of his own: if she can guess his name by dawn, he will die for her. If she cannot, she must marry him.

## ACT THREE: NONE SHALL SLEEP

Calaf is alone in the garden. He is visited once again by the Dead Suitors who remind him of the danger of loving Turandot. Calaf dances a solo, thinking of Turandot and how he will win her hand and her passion.

Turandot enters and has the guards bring in Liu, who they torture in an attempt to discover Calaf's name. Liu refuses to say his name and kills herself in order to save Calaf from execution. Her love for him is selfless. All of the city is grief-stricken.

Calaf swears that Turandot must wake from her endless sleep. The purest of blood has been shed for her. He says her iciness is a lie and kisses her passionately. Turandot is transformed and awakens to a life of love and hope.

She now knows Calaf's name: his name is LOVE.

**"One of the best works ever made for the company...  
The entire company performed with passion and vibrancy."**

—Dance Critic Natasha Rogai, *South China Morning Post*



The Hong Kong Ballet in *Turandot*.  
Photo © Conrad Dy-Liacco.

# THE HONG KONG BALLET

The Hong Kong Ballet is one of the premier classical ballet companies in Asia and is becoming internationally recognized as a world-class institution that represents Hong Kong's unique fascination for the dance world. Since 1979 The Hong Kong Ballet has evolved into a vibrant performing arts organization with accomplished dancers, a strong repertoire, and a range of stunning, technically challenging productions.

The company's artistic team of over 40 dancers is led by Artistic Director Madeleine Onne. The dancers, of 11 different nationalities, come from Asia, Europe, and North America. In recent years the company has won recognition from the public and from significant institutions in the ballet world, receiving the 2014 Hong Kong Dance Award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance for its production of Ronald Hynd's *The Merry Widow* and two nominations for the Prix Benois de la Danse, held annually in Moscow at the Bolshoi Theatre.

The company's repertoire encompasses full-length ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Giselle*, as well as the finest classical and neo-classical works of the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries including *Theme and Variations*, *Rubies*, and *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux* by George Balanchine; Christian Spuck's *Le Grand Pas de Deux*; Rudi van Dantzig's *Romeo and Juliet*; and Ronald Hynd's *The Merry Widow* and *Coppélia*. The Hong Kong Ballet also performs acclaimed contemporary ballets, such as William Forsythe's *Steptext*, Nils Christie's *Symphony in Three Movements*, Krzysztof Pastor's *In Light and Shadow*, and Nacho Duato's *Castrati*.

The Hong Kong Ballet is establishing a unique repertoire by regularly commissioning works such as Natalie Weir's *Turandot*, Cynthia Harvey's version of *The Sleeping Beauty*, Terence Kohler's *The Nutcracker*, Stephen Baynes' *The Way Alone*, Peter Quanz's *Luminous*, and Jorma Elo's *Shape of Glow*. The company proudly maintains its position as Hong Kong's cultural ambassador by commissioning many ballets that have a special connection with Hong Kong or China such as *Black on Black* by Kinsun Chan; *A Room of Her Own* by Fei Bo; *Dancing with the Wind* by Li Jun; *The Frog Prince—A Ballet*

*Chinois*, choreographed by Yuri Ng and Associate Choreographers Yuh Egami and Ricky Hu; and *The Dream of the Red Chamber* by Wang Xin Peng.

The Hong Kong Ballet has continued to raise its international profile by conducting more than 30 tours to 10 countries in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. The company represented Hong Kong at the Expo 2010 Shanghai. The summer of 2012 saw the company's debut appearance at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival as well as performances in Aspen, Montreal, and Santa Fe. In autumn 2012, the dancers were back in the U.S. to perform at the renowned Fall for Dance Festival in New York and a year later the company presented two performances of *Swan Lake* at Guangzhou Opera House. In March 2014, ten male dancers made the company's debut in Japan by the invitation of Architanz, one of Japan's most influential and forward-thinking dance organizations, performing Nacho Duato's *Castrati* at the New National Theatre in Tokyo. Three months later, the company was invited to return to the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival receiving critical acclaim.

The Hong Kong Ballet's unique identity embodies the dynamic vitality of its home city and as the company celebrates its 35th anniversary, they are proud of both their past and future as one of Hong Kong's most prominent performing arts groups.

*The Hong Kong Ballet is financially supported by the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.*

*The Hong Kong Ballet is a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.*

# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



## MADELEINE ONNE Dancer of the Swedish Royal Court

Born in Stockholm, Madeleine Onne has established herself as a formidable artistic force to be reckoned with in the international dance world. One of Sweden's leading ballerinas, Onne became renowned for her engaging style and dramatic talent. Since she stopped dancing, Onne has been much in demand as a jury member for international ballet competitions across Europe as well as in the U.S.S.R., U.S., Cuba, Canada, South America, Japan, Korea, and China. Throughout her career she has received a long list of honors including the prestigious Royal medal Litteriset Artibus and The Royal Swedish Opera's Gold Medal of Honour. She is one of only five women to have received the title of "Dancer of the Swedish Royal Court" from HRH King Carl XVI Gustaf.

Onne was Artistic Director at the Royal Swedish Ballet, the world's fourth oldest ballet company, from 2002 to 2008. Since she took up the role of Artistic Director at The Hong Kong Ballet in May 2009, Onne has continually commissioned new ballets from choreographers such as Fei Bo, Kinsun Chan, Wang Xin Peng, Peter Quanz, Yuri Ng, Cynthia Harvey, Terence Kohler, and Jorma Elo.



## CREATIVE TEAM



### NATALIE WEIR Choreographer

Natalie Weir is an acclaimed choreographer with over 20 years of experience, who is known internationally for her highly physical partner work, her organic movement style, and her touching insight into human nature. Weir has

worked extensively throughout Australia, creating works for most of the country's major classical and contemporary dance companies including The Australian Ballet, West Australian Ballet, Queensland Ballet, Expressions Dance Company, Australian Dance Theatre, Dance North, and Tasdance.

Internationally, Weir has created works for the American Ballet Theatre, American Ballet Theatre Studio Company, Houston Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre, and The Hong Kong Ballet.

Weir has won numerous awards including the Choo San Goh Award, an Australia Council Fellowship, and the Lord Mayor's Fellowship. In 2004, The Hong Kong Ballet's production of *Turandot* created by Weir received a Hong Kong Dance Award.

Weir was appointed Choreographer in Residence for the Queensland Ballet in 1994 and The Australian Ballet in 2000. In 2009, she was appointed Artistic Director of Expressions Dance Company, fulfilling her long-term dream to build an ensemble of dancers and contribute to the future of Australian Dance.

Her works with EDC include *While Others Sleep* with jazz group Misinterprotato, *Where the Heart is*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. Her signature work *Where the Heart is* won Outstanding Performance by a Company at the 2011 Australian Dance Awards and Best Choreography and Best Ballet or Dance Work at the 2011 Helpmann Awards.



### GIACOMO PUCCINI Composer

Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924) was born in Italy in 1858. Puccini's family had a rich history of musical talent which greatly influenced the young Puccini's upbringing and education. At the age of 17, he

walked 30km from his home in Lucca to Pisa, where Verdi's opera *Aida* was performed. He fell in love with opera, and decided to dedicate his life to composing operas.

In 1882, while he was studying at the Milan Conservatory, Puccini entered a competition for a one-act opera. Although it did not win the competition, *Le Villi* would provide Puccini's big break; after a performance of the work, he was commissioned to write a second opera and his career took off. Over the next 40 years, Puccini wrote some of the world's best-known operas including *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, and *La bohème*. *Turandot*, was left unfinished when he died in 1924 of throat cancer, but it was later completed by composer and pianist Franco Alfano.



### BILL HAYCOCK Set & Costume Designer

A graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art, Bill Haycock is a renowned designer from Australia where he has designed for many of the country's best directors and choreographers in drama, dance, and opera.

In a career spanning over 30 years, highlights include many Australian and world premieres of new work. Recently Haycock has also diversified and designed new Judges' robes for two of the Federal Courts of Australia and collaborated on major exhibition designs for the new James Cook Museum in North Queensland.

He has designed *Nightlight*, *Theme and Variations*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Turandot* for The Hong Kong Ballet. Of these, *Turandot* and *Madama Butterfly*

## CREATIVE TEAM AND ARTISTIC STAFF

won Hong Kong Dance Awards in 2004 and 2006 respectively. He also designed the set for the Hong Kong Arts Festival's hit play *The Shape of Things*.



### KIM LEE Lighting Designer

Kim Lee graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with a High Distinction in Lighting Design, and is one of the most highly esteemed lighting designers in Hong Kong. He has designed lighting and acted as lighting

consultant for more than three hundred projects and productions by major performing groups, international brands, commercial organisations, and architectural companies.

## ARTISTIC STAFF



### LIANG JING Senior Ballet Master

Born into a family of professional dancers in Hunan, China, Jing began training at the Attached Middle School of the Beijing Dance Academy at the age of ten, followed by studies at the Beijing Dance Academy. In 1986 he joined the

Shanghai Ballet, and in 1991 he became a Principal Dancer with the National Ballet of China. As a top China National Dancer, Jing was invited to perform at the Oscar® Awards Ceremony in 1994. Jing joined The Hong Kong Ballet in 1997 and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 1998. In 2006, Jing took the dual role of Principal Dancer and Assistant Ballet Master. He was promoted to Senior Ballet Master in 2013.



### TANG MIN Ballet Mistress

A former Principal Dancer of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, and Fort Worth Dallas Ballet, Jilin-born Tang Min graduated from the Beijing Dance

Academy, and she joined the National Ballet of China as Principal Dancer from 1979 to 1988. Min won the Silver Medal at the Osaka International Ballet Competition 1984 and the Varna International Ballet Competition in 1986. Before joining The Hong Kong Ballet as Ballet Mistress in September 2009, she held the same post at Guangzhou Ballet for 4 years.



### NICHOLAS LAU Pianist

Nicholas Lau started as a dance accompanist in 1999 for The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, before joining The Hong Kong Ballet as a full time pianist in 2009. He also played for the

Genée International Ballet Competition in 2006 and 2009. He has participated in large-scale productions including *La Bayadère*, *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Merry Widow*, *Don Quixote*, *Coppélia*, and *Les Sylphides*.



### ARLENE MACKINLAY Sports Practitioner

Arlene Mackinlay holds a degree in Physical Therapy from Emilio Aguinaldo College, Philippines (2001) and a Master's degree in Sports Physiotherapy from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (2011). In addition, she has

completed postgraduate courses including DMA Clinical Pilates and Spinal Manipulation in Australia.

She has worked with a variety of musculoskeletal conditions using manual treatment techniques, core training, exercise rehabilitation, and taping. Mackinlay is a member of International Association of Dance Medicine and Science (IADMS).

# PRINCIPAL DANCERS



## JIN YAO Principal Dancer

Born in Jilin, China, Jin Yao graduated from Beijing Dance Academy and joined the National Ballet of China in 1997. She was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2003, and was later ranked top-grade

China National Dancer. Yao joined The Hong Kong Ballet as a Senior Soloist in 2004 and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2005.

Yao's extensive repertoire includes *Don Quixote*, *La Bayadère*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Cinderella*, *The Merry Widow*, *Serenade*, *Allegro Brillante*, *Theme and Variations*, *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Who Cares*, *Spartacus*, *Madama Butterfly*, *The Red Detachment of Women*, *Etudes*, and *Raise the Red Lantern* directed by movie director Zhang Yi-mou.

She won the Award for Best Artist (Dance) at the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2010 and in 2007, she was awarded Hong Kong Dance Award by Hong Kong Dance Alliance in recognition of her superb performances in *Giselle* and Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*. Yao also won the Gold Medal at the Varna International Ballet Competition in 2002, a Career Outstanding Contribution Award from the Chinese Ministry of Culture in 2001 and 2002, and the Bronze Prize at the Shanghai International Ballet Competition in 2001.

Yao is in demand as a guest artist. To date, her engagements include the 1<sup>st</sup> Beijing Dance Festival in 2013; the International Ballet Gala in Malaysia in 2012; a guest appearance in *The Merry Widow* with The Australian Ballet in 2011; the International Dance Gala in Wiesbaden, Germany in 2011; the International Balletgala XI in Dortmund, Germany in 2010; the 4<sup>th</sup> International Ballet Festival in Cali, Colombia in 2010; the Youth America Grand Prix Gala "Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow" in New York, U.S.A. 2008; and The World Ballet Star Gala in Seoul, Korea 2004.



## TAN YUAN YUAN Guest Principal Dancer

Born in Shanghai, China, Tan Yuan Yuan trained at Shanghai Dancing School and the John Cranko School in Stuttgart, Germany. She joined the San Francisco Ballet as a Soloist in 1995 and became a Principal

Dancer in 1997. She was recognized as one of the 101 best ballet dancers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the Japanese *Dance Magazine* and named a "Hero of Asia" by *Time Magazine* in 2004. Since 2008 Yuan has been a Guest Principal Dancer with The Hong Kong Ballet.

Yuan's extensive repertoire includes lead female roles in Helgi Tomasson's *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Nutcracker*; Tomasson/Yuri Possokhov's *Don Quixote*; Mark Morris' *Sylvia*, and Lar Lubovitch's *Othello* to name a few. She created roles in Liam Scarlett's *Hummingbird*; Tomasson's *The Fifth Season*, *Chi-Lin*, *Silver Ladders*, and *7 for Eight*; Possokhov's *Magritomania*, *Damned*, and *Study in Motion*; Christopher Wheeldon's *Continuum* and *Quaternary*; and Stanton Welch's *Tu Tu*. Additional repertoire includes Frederick Ashton's *Thais Pas de Deux*; George Balanchine's *Symphony in C*, *Theme and Variations*, *Concerto Barocco*, *Prodigal Son*, and *Apollo*; Nacho Duato's *Without Words*; Jerome Robbins' *In the Night*, *Dances at a Gathering*, and *Dybbuk*; and Natalia Makarova's *Paquita* and *La Bayadere Act II: The Kingdom of Shades*.

Yuan is in great demand as a guest artist. She has danced in many places all over the world—at the International Gala in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2012; a Charity concert in Shanghai 2006, performing the full-length ballet *Magpie Bridge* at a benefit promoting harmony between China and Japan; "Yuan Yuan Tan and Eight Ballet Stars", a gala in Nara, Japan 2003; and "Yuan Yuan Tan and Friends Gala" in Shanghai 2000. She received an invitation to dance for former U.S. President Bill Clinton and former China Premier Zhu Ronji at the White House in 1999.

She has won many accolades and awards—the 2013 *Dance Magazine* Award; 2013 Outstanding Female Classical Performance Award at the Critics Circle National Dance Awards; Gold Medal and the Nijinsky Award at the 1<sup>st</sup> Japan International Ballet and Modern Dance Competition in 1993; and Gold Medal in the 5<sup>th</sup> International Ballet Competition in Paris, 1992. In 2014, Yuan published a book, *Ballet and I*.



## LIU YU-YAO Principal Dancer

Born in Sichuan, China, Liu Yu-yao graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy in 2005. She joined The Hong Kong Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet in the same

year and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2014. During her time with the company, Yu-yao has danced the Ballerina in *The Nutcracker*, Princess Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Swanhilda in *Coppélia*, Queen of the Wilis in *Giselle*, and Lin Dai Yu in *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, as well as roles in *A Room of Her Own*, *Allegro Brillante*, *Le Grand Pas de Deux*, and *In Light and Shadow*.

In 2014, she was nominated for the prestigious Prix Benois de la Danse for her performance as Valencienne in *The Merry Widow*. She won the Hong Kong Dance Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer in 2010, and the Silver Prize in the Junior Section of China National Peach & Plum Cup in 2003. Yu-yao's guest appearances overseas include the Prix Benois de la Danse Gala performance at the Bolshoi Theatre, the 5<sup>th</sup> International Ballet Festival in Cali, Colombia, and the Queensland Ballet's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Gala in Brisbane, Australia.



## LI JIA-BO Principal Dancer

Born in Shanghai, China, Li Jia-bo commenced his ballet training at the Shanghai Far East Ballet School and went on to study at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

After graduating in 2005, he joined The Hong Kong Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet. He was promoted to Soloist in 2012 and to Principal Dancer in 2014.

During his time with the company, he has danced Prince Désiré and Blue Bird in *The Sleeping Beauty*, The Prince in *The Nutcracker* and in *Cinderella*, Pao Yu in *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, Prince Calaf in *Turandot*, and the male lead in *A Room of Her Own*, as well as roles in *Steptext*, *Le Grand Pas de Deux*, and Nacho Duato's *Castrati*. Jia-bo's guest appearances overseas include the Prix Benois de la Danse Gala performance at the Bolshoi Theatre, the 1<sup>st</sup> Beijing Dance Festival, the International Dance Gala in Wiesbaden in Germany, and the 4<sup>th</sup> International Ballet Festival in Cali, Colombia.



## WEI WEI Principal Dancer

Born in Liaoning, China, Wei Wei was granted entry to the Attached School of Shenyang Conservatory of Music (Dance School) at the age of 12, then to Shenyang Conservatory of Music (Dance Major) in 2000.

He received a scholarship from the Conservatory in 2002 and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in 2003. Wei joined The Hong Kong Ballet in 2003 as a member of the corps de ballet and was promoted to Soloist in 2007 and to Principal Dancer in 2013.

His repertoire highlights include Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Count Danilo Danilowitsch in *The Merry Widow*, Prince Siegfried in *Swan Lake*, Hilarion in *Giselle*, Pao Yu in *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, Carabosse in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Prince Calaf in *Turandot*, The Nutcracker in *The Nutcracker*, as well as *Le Grand Pas de Deux* and *Castrati*. His artistry has been recognized by several awards: 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in the Male Ballet Dancers' Category of China National Peach & Plum Cup, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize for Ballet in the Liaoning Juvenile Dance Competition in 2000, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in the Male Ballet Dancers' Category of China National Peach & Plum Cup in 2003. As well as performing in Hong Kong, Wei has danced at the International Ballet Gala in Malaysia in 2012 and at Queensland Ballet's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Gala in Brisbane, Australia in 2010.



## SOLOISTS



**CANDICE ADEA**  
Soloist

Born in the Philippines, Candice Adea graduated from Philippine High School for the Arts with a major in ballet in 2003 and joined Ballet Philippines the same year. She received her Bachelor's degree in Perform-

ing Arts (majoring in Dance) from De La Salle—College of Saint Benilde in 2008. In 2010, she was promoted to Principal Dancer at Ballet Philippines. Adea joined The Hong Kong Ballet as a Soloist in 2012. Adea's extensive repertoire includes Kitri in *Don Quixote*, Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Swanilda in *Coppélia*, and Clara in *The Nutcracker* as well as roles in *Peter Pan*, *Snow White*, *Diana and Acteon*, Vicente Nebrada's *Our Waltzes*, and Alvin Ailey's *Night Creature*. She has won numerous accolades; the Silver Medal at the 2010 U.S.A. International Ballet Competition (senior women's division), The Maris Liepa Award for Outstanding Artistry and Lead Role in Russian Ballet Performance Award at the Boston International Ballet Competition in 2011, the Bronze Medal at the Seoul International Dance Competition in 2011, and First Prize at the 7<sup>th</sup> Helsinki International Ballet Competition (senior women's division) in 2012.



**DONG RUIXUE**  
Soloist

Born in Shaanxi, China, Dong Ruixue graduated from the Secondary School of the Beijing Dance Academy and joined the National Ballet of China in 2006. During her time at National Ballet of

China, her repertoire highlights included *The Peony Pavilion* and *The Butterfly Lovers*. In 2011, Ruixue joined The Hong Kong Ballet as a member of corps de ballet and was promoted to Soloist in 2014. With The Hong Kong Ballet, she has performed the role of Lin Dai Yu in *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, Clara in *The Nutcracker*, and *Valencienne* in *The Merry Widow* as well as the Peasant Pas de Deux in *Giselle*, and roles in *Swan Lake*.



**LIU MIAO-MIAO**  
Soloist

Born in Sichuan, Liu Miao-miao graduated from the Secondary School of the Beijing Dance Academy, majoring in ballet. She joined The Hong Kong Ballet in 2005 and was promoted to Soloist in 2014. Her repertoire

highlights include Liu in *Turandot*, Pao Tschai in *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, and the White Cat in *The Sleeping Beauty*, as well as the pas de trois from *A Room of Her Own* and roles in *Firecracker*, *Luminous*, and *Shape of Glow*.



**ZHANG SI YUAN**  
Soloist

Born in Henan, China, Zhang Si Yuan graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy and joined the National Ballet of China after her graduation in 2006. She joined The Hong Kong Ballet in 2010 as a Soloist.

She has danced major roles in many ballets, including Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, the title role in *Giselle*, the Ballerina in *The Nutcracker*, the title role in *Cinderella*, *Valencienne* in *The Merry Widow*, Pao Tschai in *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, Olga in *Onegin* and Gulnare in *Le Corsaire*, as well as the pas de deux from *La Bayadère*, the pas de deux from *Sylvia*, and roles in *Don Quixote*, *There, Memories*, *Goodbye Dance God*, *Little Blue Flower*, *The Rite of Spring*, and *Flower Festival in Genzano*. Yuan has won several awards internationally and in China—the Silver prize (Junior Section) at the Varna International Ballet Competition in Bulgaria in 2010; the Silver prize (Junior Section A) at the China National Peach & Plum Cup in 2006; Award of excellence (Junior Section) at Shanghai's 3<sup>rd</sup> International Ballet Competition in 2004; and the Silver prize (Junior Section B) at the China National Peach & Plum Cup in 2003.

## SOLOISTS AND CORYPHÉES



**LI LIN**  
Soloist

Born in Zhejiang, China, Li Lin joined The Hong Kong Ballet in 2010 after graduating from the Beijing Dance Academy. Since then he has performed many major roles including Camille in *The Merry Widow*,

the Lead Jester in *Cinderella*, von Rothbart in *Swan Lake*, the Shadow in *Firecracker*, Timur in *Turandot*, as well as dancing in the Peasant Pas de Deux in *Giselle* and in Nacho Duato's *Castrati*. He was promoted to Soloist in 2014.



**SHEN JIE**  
Soloist

Born in Zhejiang, China, Shen Jie started his ballet training at Zhejiang Vocational Academy of Art. He then went on to study at Guangzhou Dance School and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

He joined The Hong Kong Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet in 2007. He was promoted to Coryphée in 2012 and Soloist in 2013. His major roles include Fritz in *The Nutcracker*, Blue Bird in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Young Uncle Tak in *Firecracker*, the male lead in *Castrati* by Nacho Duato, Peasant Pas de Deux from *Giselle*, the title role in *The Frog Prince – A Ballet Chinois*, Camille in *The Merry Widow*, and Pao Yu in *The Dream of the Red Chamber*. Jie was nominated for the prestigious Prix Benois de la Dansein 2014 for his performance as Pao Yu in *The Dream of the Red Chamber*.



**GAO SHUAI-NAN**  
Joined 2005  
Born Heilongjiang, China



**NINA MATIASHVILI**  
Joined 2014  
Born Tbilisi, Georgia



**CHARLES ANDERSEN**  
Joined 2014  
Born California, U.S.A.



**KOSTYANTYN KESHYSHEV**  
Joined 2007  
Born Odessa, Ukraine



**LEUNG CHUN LONG**  
Joined 2011  
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Joined 2011  
Born Shanghai, China



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Born Haarlem, Holland



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Born Wuhan, China



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Joined 2014  
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Joined 2012  
Born Liaoning, China



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Joined 2012  
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**VANESSA LAI**  
Joined 2013  
Born Hong Kong, China



**WANG QING-XIN**  
Joined 2013  
Born Jilin, China



**LIANG YONG LIN**  
Joined 2014  
Born Shenzhen, China



**SARAH YEUNG**  
Joined 2010  
Born Hong Kong, China

## CORPS DE BALLET AND APPRENTICES



**NAOMI YUZAWA**  
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Born Tochigi, Japan



**LUCAS JERKANDER**  
Joined 2014  
Born OrgrYTE, Sweden



**NICOLE ZADRA**  
Joined 2014  
Born New York, U.S.A.



**JIANG XIN**  
Joined 2014  
Born Shandong, China



**SHUNSUKE ARIMIZU**  
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**MURMAN KIKALISHVILI**  
Joined 2014  
Born Poti, Georgia



**YUH EGAMI**  
Joined 2002  
Born Okinawa, Japan  
Répétiteur



**XIA JUN**  
Joined 2013  
Born Jiangsu, China



**GONG YI WEN**  
Joined 2012  
Born Hunan, China

### APPRENTICES



**WILLEM HOUCK**  
Joined 2011  
Born Oostende, Belgium



**IRENE KAM**  
Joined 2014  
Born Hong Kong, China



**RICKY HU**  
Joined 2008  
Born Jiangxi, China



**HUI KA CHUN**  
Joined 2014  
Born Hong Kong, China

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### UPCOMING EVENTS WITH 2014 McKNIGHT INTERNATIONAL ARTIST OSNEL DELGADO



Voice of Culture drummers. Photo © Pix (Studio Zaïgo).

*An Evening with Osnel Delgado and Voice of Culture Drum and Dance*  
 Tue, Nov 18, 6:30-10:00 pm  
 Newspace at the Capri Theater

Tickets: Free and open to public.  
 For more information, please visit:  
[northrop.umn.edu/events](http://northrop.umn.edu/events)



Delgado with Zenon Dance Company. Photo © Bill Cameron.

**World premiere of McKnight International Artist Osnel Delgado's new work:**  
*Coming Home*  
 Zenon Dance Company  
 Nov 21-30  
 The Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts

Tickets: [thecowlescenter.org](http://thecowlescenter.org)  
 For more information, please visit:  
[northrop.umn.edu/events](http://northrop.umn.edu/events)



The Hong Kong Ballet in *Turandot*.  
 Photo © Gordon Wong.




The McKnight Artist Fellowships for Dancers and Choreographers and the McKnight International Artist programs are funded by The McKnight Foundation and administered by Northrop.



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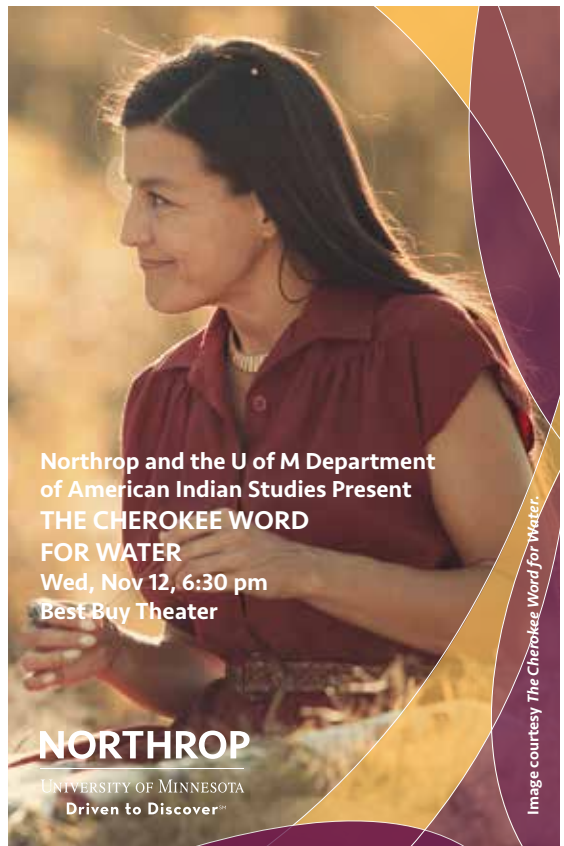
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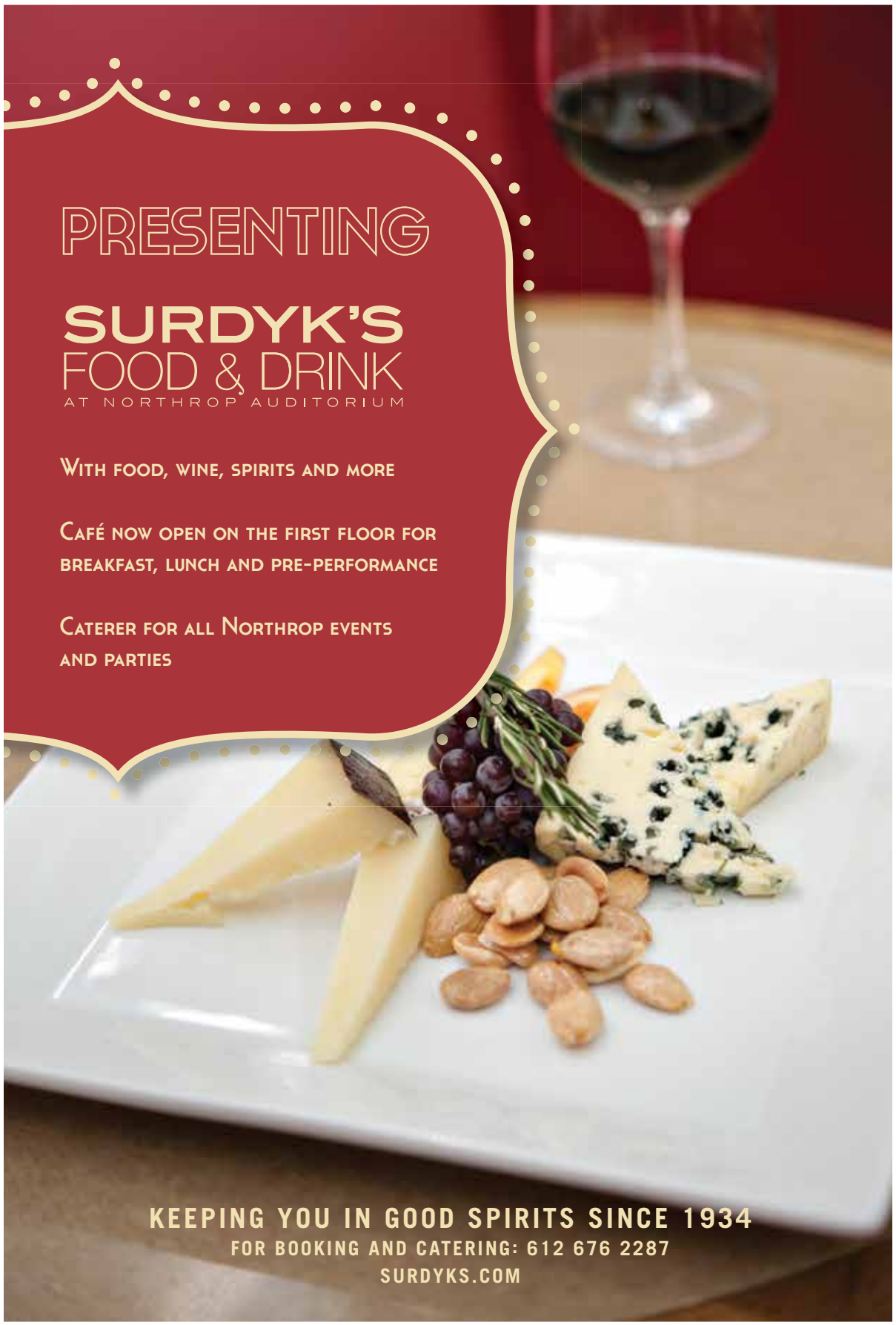
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Martha Graham Dance Company's Xiaochuan Xie in  
*Diversion of Angels*. Photo © Hibbard Nash Photography.

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## 2014 // 15 SEASON

### DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

Tue, Feb 17, 7:30 pm

Celebrate Black History Month with this beautifully diverse classical ballet company, founded by Arthur Mitchell, the first African American principal dancer in the New York City Ballet.



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Dance Theatre of Harlem in *Far But Close*.  
Photo © Rachel Neville.

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Surdyk's Café is on the first floor, west side of Northrop. Hours: 7:30 am–7:00 pm, Monday–Friday and 10:00 am–3:00 pm Saturday. Surdyk's concessions (including wine and beer) are located on the east and west sides of each level before and during performances happening on the Carlson Family Stage.

### Restrooms

Restrooms are located on every level and side of the building, including family restrooms (except on the fourth floor, where there is a women's restroom on the east side, and a men's restroom on the west side only).

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For any ticketing questions, visit U of M Tickets and Events on the ground floor of west and east sides of the building or visit [northrop.umn.edu](http://northrop.umn.edu) for the most current listing of events.

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Northrop has accessible seating; please ask an usher for assistance. Elevators are located on both the east and west sides of the building. Accessibility services, including parking information, are available upon request.

If a guest wishes to transfer from their wheelchair to fixed seats, the wheelchair will be taken to the outer lobby to comply with local fire code regulations. At the end of the performance an usher will return the wheelchair to the guest.

### Cameras and Cell Phones

Use of cameras and recording equipment are not permitted in the theater. Please be considerate and turn off your cell phones or other electronic devices during the performance.

### Motorist Assistance

University of Minnesota provides free jump starts, vehicle unlocking, and flat tire changes to vehicles in University parking facilities Mon–Fri, 7:00 am–10:00 pm. Call 612-626-PARK (7275) for assistance.

### Campus Security Escort

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### Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask an usher or anyone with a Northrop name tag.

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## 2014 // 15 SEASON

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*Allegro Brillante*  
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With live orchestra

A sparkling sampling of George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins from this highly lauded ballet company.

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Tue, Feb 17

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Tue, Mar 10

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Fri, Apr 10 & Sat, Apr 11

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