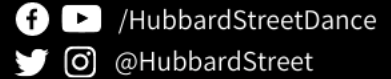




**HUBBARD STREET
DANCE CHICAGO**

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HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO AND FINAL BOW FOR YELLOWFACE PRESENT

UNBOXED

Three Short Works Reimagining *The Nutcracker's* Tea Variation, May 10, 17 and 24, 2021

Chicago, IL — **Hubbard Street Dance** (HSDC) in partnership with **Final Bow for Yellowface** presents *Unboxed*, three works that rewrite the future of a tradition. *Unboxed* features choreographers **Yin Yue, Edwaard Liang, and Peter Chu** using their voices and vocabularies to imagine their own versions of the Chinese Tea variation from *The Nutcracker*. These Asian and Asian-American dance-makers engaged in three-day workshops with Hubbard Street dancers exploring the questions: “What are the traditions we want to protect?” and “What do we want to leave behind?”

Unboxed welcomes viewers to tear free from the confines of tradition and invites audiences to glimpse the promise of a future rewritten. HSDC is challenging what is known as canon, in this case, the Chinese Tea variation from *The Nutcracker* to ask, “Can a dance, only a minute long but fraught with stereotypes, exist within a more inclusive future?”

Hubbard Street Dance Associate Artistic Director, **Jessica Tong** says “the idea for *Unboxed* was always about challenging conventions and stereotypes. But my main focus initially was really to create a fun way for Hubbard Street to interact with great choreographers while playfully researching this one-minute variation. I couldn't have foreseen how meaningful and timely this project would eventually become, as people of Asian descent in this country are now fighting more than ever for acceptance and visibility.”

Founders of Final Bow for Yellowface **Phil Chan** and **Georgina Pazcoguin** share more about this partnership, “At a time when big ballet companies routinely revive orientalist ballets from a European perspective, they seldom include choreographers of Asian descent. With this realization, one of the biggest takeaways for us post-Atlanta shooting was the importance of making space. The *Unboxed* series reimagines a classic dance, *The Nutcracker's* Chinese Tea dance, but on our own terms as Asian American creatives. To see the leadership at Hubbard Street make space for three exemplary Asian American artists to take ownership of this work is not only subversive – but vital for those of us in the trenches who are desperately trying to bring along our Asian families and communities to fall in love with dance just as much as we have.”

Unboxed will be presented on **May 10, 17 and 24, 2021** online at www.hubbardstreetdance.com/unboxed/.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

YIN YUE The founder and artistic director of YY Dance Company (YYDC), Yin Yue is an internationally recognized performer and choreographer. Yin studied at the prestigious Shanghai Dance Academy and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she received her MFA in 2008.

In 2018, Yin founded YYDC, a NYC-based, non-profit contemporary dance company dedicated to the teaching, production and performance of original choreographic works by Yin. Yin's signature FoCo Technique™ represents a dynamic fusion of Chinese folk and contemporary dance. YYDC's mission is to incorporate Yin's signature movement style into live performances and choreographic commissions as well as educational endeavor.

Under Yin's direction, the company has presented its work to live audiences on U.S. and international stages. The company boasts international touring credits, including Schrittmacher Festival (Germany), SummerStage in New York City, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, New York International Fringe Festival, The Open Door Dance Festival in Iowa City, Iowa, DancenowNYC at Joe's pub and many more. In addition, YYDC has performed at venues such as International Choreographic Competition Hanover, BAM Fisher, Joyce SoHo Theater, Peridance Center, Lincoln Center Rose Hall, New York Live Arts and many others. In addition to performance, the company also re-staged repertoires at universities, companies and dance studios around the world.

As choreographer, Yin Yue was the winner of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago 2015 International Commissioning Project, winner of the 2015 BalletX Choreographic Fellowship, and winner of Northwest Dance Project's 5th Annual Pretty Creatives International Choreographic Competition in 2013. Through these high-profile successes, Yin was commissioned by all three widely-recognized companies as well as other companies and organizations namely Pennsylvania Ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Limon Dance Company, Alberta Ballet, Balletto Teatro di Torino, Gibney Dance Company, Peridance Contemporary Dance Company, Whim W'him, Bruce Wood Dance, Ririe Woodbury Dance Company, Boston Dance Theater, 10 Hairy Legs, New Dialect, Backhausdance, Tisch School of The Arts, George Mason University, Rutgers University, Point Park University, West Michigan University and Juilliard School for Dance.

EDWAARD LIAANG A former dancer with New York City Ballet and Nederlands Dans Theater, Edwaard Liang has built an international reputation as a choreographer. Over the last decade, he has created work for the Bolshoi Ballet, Houston Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Kirov Ballet, New York City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Shanghai Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre and Washington Ballet.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan and raised in Marin County, California, Mr. Liang began his dance training at age five with Marin Ballet. After studying at the School of American Ballet, he joined New York City Ballet in 1993. That same year, he was a medal winner at the Prix de Lausanne International Ballet Competition and won the Mae L. Wien Award. By 1998, he was promoted to Soloist. In 2001, Mr. Liang joined the Tony Award® winning Broadway cast of Fosse. His performance in Fosse was later televised nationally on PBS' Great Performances series – "Dance in America: From Broadway: Fosse," and subsequently released on DVD. By 2002, Mr. Liang was invited by Jiri Kylian to become a member of the acclaimed Nederlands Dans Theater 1.

While dancing with NDT 1, Mr. Liang discovered his passion and love for choreography. Since establishing himself as a choreographer, his works have been performed by dance companies around the world and he has won numerous awards for his choreography including the 2006 National Choreographic Competition.

In 2013, Mr. Liang was named Artistic Director at BalletMet where he continues to choreograph new works for companies both domestically and abroad. In 2017, he received an Emmy® Award for his short dance film, "Vaulted." In 2018, he created a new ballet with Roberto Bolle for the opening of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

PETER CHU Born in the Bronx, NY, & raised in Cocoa Beach, Florida, Peter began his training as a competitive gymnast, later nurturing his artistry at Dussich Dance Studio. Upon graduation from The Juilliard School, he performed with BJM Danse, EZdanza, Aszure Barton & Artists, Kidd Pivot, & in Celine Dion's Vegas spectacular, A New Day.

Peter can be seen as the lead in Christina Perri's Jar of Hearts music video.

In 2008, Peter formed a Las Vegas project based dance company, chuthis., which showcases the work of Chu & his collaborators. chuthis. also provides movement education programs which foster technical & artistic development.

Chu has been an honoured recipient of choreographic awards & commissions, including the Hector Zaraspe Prize, A.C.E. Capezio Award, & Hubbard Street Dance International Commission Project. He was also named a Blodgett Distinguished Artist by Harvard University for 2018. Additionally, Chu has served as the Rehearsal Director for Nederlands Dans Theater 2, and as a Guest Rehearsal Director for NDT1.

Chu has created works for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Charlotte Ballet, Staatstheater Augsburg, Germany, Orlando Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street 2, Giordano Dance Chicago, Charlotte Ballet II, SYTYCD, Houston MET Dance, New Dialect, SALT Contemporary Dance, HSPro, Harvard University, Point Park University, & The Juilliard School, among others.

Last season, Chu premiered works for Giordano Dance Chicago & Gibney Dance Company, and choreographed for Cirque du Soleil's Vitori in Malta. He is currently commissioned to create for Paul Taylor Dance Company, and is developing a new work with his own company, chuthis.

ABOUT FINAL BOW FOR YELLOWFACE

Final Bow for Yellowface (www.yellowface.org) was founded by Georgina Pazcoguin, New York City Ballet soloist, and Phil Chan, arts administrator and educator, with a simple pledge, "I love ballet as an art form, and acknowledge that to achieve a diversity amongst our artists, audiences, donors, students, volunteers, and staff, I am committed to eliminating outdated and offensive stereotypes of Asians (Yellowface) on our stages." Since 2017, almost every major American ballet company has signed the pledge, and Gina and Phil have advised performing arts groups on how to maintain the integrity of works from the classical Western canon while updating outdated representations of Asians. Final Bow for Yellowface was cited in the Paris Opera's diversity report as a contributing factor in their decision to climate blackface and yellowface from their stages. Gina and Phil have presented talks on yellowface and orientalism in dance at 92Y, the Guggenheim's Works & Process, the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, the Museum at FIT, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA), The Washington Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet School, as well

as at higher educational institutions such as Chapman University, Columbia University, Drexel University, Goucher College, Harvard, NYU, Princeton, Purchase College, SUNY Buffalo, UPenn, and Yale among others. Phil published a book in 2020 about their work, "Final Bow for Yellowface: Dancing between Intention and Impact."

www.yellowface.org @finalbowforyellowface

ABOUT HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's mission is to bring artists, art and audiences together to enrich, engage, educate and change lives through the experience of dance. HSDC is committed to keeping its dancers creating and finding innovative ways to share exceptional contemporary dance with the community. Now under the artistic direction of Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago grew out of the Lou Conte Dance Studio in 1977, and Conte served as Artistic Director for 23 years. Hubbard Street offers extensive Education and Adaptive Dance Programs to ensure that residents in every neighborhood of Chicago have access to the benefits of dance. Visit hubbardstreetdance.com for more information.

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