

ARC DANCE

MARIE CHONG, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release:
April 29, 2016

Media Contact:
Michele Garcia Havard
micheleg@arcdance.org
Phone: 206 352-0798

ARC DANCE COMPANY OPENS 17th PERFORMANCE SEASON WITH ***SUMMER DANCE AT THE CENTER***

Leo K. Theatre at Seattle Center
Thursday through Saturday, July 21-23, 2016, 8:00 p.m.
www.arcdance.org or (206) 352-0798

SEATTLE, WA: The ARC Dance Company made up of nine professional dancers, returns to the Leo Kreielsheimer Theatre for three performances. Opening on Thursday, July 21, *Summer Dance at the Center* presents an evening of dance that will leave audiences inspired. The program offers one world premiere dance by up and coming dance maker Daniel Ojeda (Ballet Idaho), along with critics' favorites by Edwaard Liang (New York City Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater), Kirk Midtskog (Halby Dance Theater, Pacific Northwest Ballet), Alex Ketley (The Foundry, San Francisco Ballet), Elizabeth Cooper (Nationaltheater Mannheim), and Marie Chong (ARC Director).

Since 1999 ARC has presented mixed repertory work and specializes in producing a wide variety of dance programming by different choreographers. Marie Chong, Artistic Director, has offered accessible and evocative productions to Seattle audiences for the past 17 years. She has fostered collaborations with other artists, combined aerial dance with classical ballet, and merged various performing arts medias, making ARC Dance a prominent contributor to Seattle's dance community.

ARC's annual *Summer Dance at the Center* has been a Seattle fixture since 2008. The dance performances are intriguing, entertaining, and engaging and take place in the beautiful and intimate Leo K. Theatre. The technical diversity of the dancers combined with the eclectic curating of each program showcases an art form full of surprises and beauty. Come see grace and athleticism in *Summer Dance at the Center* and be moved through the intimacy of live performance.

Summer Dance at The Center: July 21 - 23, 2016; (Thursday – Saturday) at 8:00 p.m.

Leo Kreielsheimer Theatre 155 Mercer Street | Seattle, WA 98109

Tickets: \$30 in advance; \$40 door (Adult), \$20 in advance; \$30 door (Student/Senior 65+) all reserved seating. Purchase online at www.arcdance.org. For groups of 10 or more please contact Michele Garcia Havard micheleg@arcdance.org or call: 206 352-0798

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Marie Chong, Director and Choreographer is an accomplished dancer, director, teacher, and choreographer and has worked in parts of Europe, Asia, Canada, and the US. After her work as a professional dancer in both classical ballet and contemporary dance with companies such as Pacific Northwest Ballet, Eugene Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, and Spectrum Dance Theater, Chong founded ARC Dance Productions in Seattle in 1999 and opened Arc School of Ballet in 2004. She was the Artistic Director of Cirque du Soleil's big top touring show *KOOZA* in Japan and the US and has integrated new artists into shows at Cirque du Soleil's headquarters in Montreal. In 2014 she began working for Walt Disney Theatricals based in New York City.

Chong is an active and well-respected director, choreographer, mentor, and coach. Her choreography has been critically acclaimed and she continues to produce and create regular professional dance performances locally in Seattle and abroad.

Elizabeth Cooper, Choreographer is the newly appointed Director of the Hunter College Dance Program in NYC. From 2012 - 2015 she served as Divisional Dean of Arts in the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Washington and directed their Dance Program from 2001 - 2013. Cooper is an artist/scholar who remains active as a performer, choreographer, and dance educator. She was guest faculty at Cornish College and the Pacific Northwest Ballet School as well as a frequent guest lecturer and panel moderator at Seattle's major performing arts venues. Her choreography has been commissioned by Seattle Dance Project, Connecticut Ballet, Bucknell University, Western Washington University, and ARC Dance Company, where she was the resident choreographer from 2007 - 2011. Cooper holds an M.F.A. in Dance from the University of Washington and a B.A. with honors in Archeological Studies from Yale University. She received a Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of Washington in 2004.

Alex Ketley, Choreographer is an independent choreographer and the director of The Foundry, a contemporary dance company based in San Francisco. Ketley has been commissioned to create original pieces for companies and universities throughout the United States. For this work he has received acknowledgement from the Hubbard Street 2 National Choreographic Competition, the International Choreographic Competition of the Festival des Arts de Saint-Saveur, the National Choo-San Goh Award, the inaugural Princess Grace Award for Choreography, the BNC National Choreographic Competition, two CHIME Fellowships, and two Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography Residencies. In 2009 his work, *To Color Me Different*, won an Isadora Duncan Award for Best Ensemble Performance and was considered one of the Top Ten Performances of the Year by both Voice of Dance and the San Francisco Chronicle. In 2009 he received one of six prestigious Gerbode Hewlett Choreographer Commissioning Awards and created the new work *Please Love Me* which premiered for The Foundry in May of 2010. In addition to commissions from Ballet Leipzig and the Juilliard School, his AXIS Dance Company work *To Color Me Different* was presented on national television through an invitation from the show *So You Think You Can Dance*. With The Foundry in 2012, he worked on "No Hero", which explored the meaning of dance and how it is experienced by people throughout more rural parts of the American West. The video projection Ketley created for "No Hero" was nominated for a 2012 Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Visual Design.

In early 2013 he was a visiting professor and artist at Florida State University and in the fall began an appointment as Lecturer at Stanford University's Department of Theater and Performance Studies. He was also awarded the first Princess Grace Foundation Choreography Mentorship Co-Commission Award (CMCC), a MANCC Media Fellowship, and a Kenneth Rainin Foundation New and Experimental Works Grant, which he used on a collaborative project with Miguel Guterrez exploring rural communities in the deep south. In 2014 he created and premiered the dance film "The Gift (of impermanence)" which, has continued to screen internationally and won the 2015 Artistry Award from the Superfest International Disability Film Festival. In addition to his direction of The Foundry and his independent projects, he helped create The San Francisco Conservatory of Dance in 2004, an organization where he still serves as an advisor, teacher, and the Resident Choreographer. www.alexketley.com

Edwaard Liang, Choreographer, a former dancer with New York City Ballet and Nederlands Dans Theater, 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, 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, Edwaard 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, Liang was invited by Jiri Kylian to become a member of the acclaimed Nederlands Dans Theater 1. While dancing with NDT 1, Liang discovered his passion and love for choreography. Since establishing himself as a choreographer, dance companies around the world have performed his works and he has won numerous awards for his choreography including the 2006 National Choreographic Competition. In 2013, Liang was named Artistic Director at BalletMet where he continues to choreograph new works for companies both domestically and abroad. www.edwaardliang.com

Kirk Midtskog, Choreographer since 1984, Midtskog has created works in dance genres as diverse as classical ballet, modern, neo-classical, and "Dance Theater" for companies such as Mt. Baker Ballet, Eastside Dance Theater, and ARC Dance Company. He performed with Halby Dance Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Balletacoma, Mt. Baker Ballet, and Northwest Chamber Dance Theater. Midtskog received his formal training from New York Conservatory of Dance, Joffrey Ballet School, Neubert Ballet, and The Dance Lab and he was a 4Culture grant recipient for choreography in 2007.

Daniel Ojeda, Choreographer grew up in Queens, New York training in musical theater with Teresa and Mark Aubel. At twelve, he began classical ballet training with private coach, Barbara Walczak, and continues to this day when he returns to NYC. He attended Professional Children's School and The School of American Ballet in NYC and after re-locating to Seattle, the Pacific Northwest Ballet School professional division. Ojeda has choreographed several ballets for Ballet Idaho. He has choreographed a total of five pieces for their NewDance, Up Close series, as well as several pieces for Ballet Idaho's special event fundraisers. Ojeda has premiered two works on the Morrison Center stage: *Qualia* and *This Mortal's Mosaic*, the second to critical acclaim. His most recent ballet, *Viewers Like You*, was set to the live music of local band *Thick Business* and enjoyed a five show sold out run to standing ovations. It was presented a second time at the Boise music festival, Treefort, as the premiere crossover event on the first night of the festival. It received critical acclaim. www.danielojedachoreography.com

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