EMIL ANDERSON GROUP

SPARK SERIES

CHILLIWACK CULTURAL CENTRE

Birdy

Hung Dance (Taiwan)

Four-foot feathers burst from calm calligraphy into violent arcs—spears, whips, and a blade carving silence in a stunning display!



NOVEMBER 13 · 7:30 PM

HUB THEATRE

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About BIRDY

BIRDY, a captivating dance piece by LAI Hung-chung, explores the interplay of freedom and limitations within Taiwan's communities. LAI delves into the subtle influences of emotions and historical echoes on social harmony through a blend of societal dynamics and personal narratives. Using a cage and dreamer metaphor, LAI bridges personal struggles with broader societal contexts. The deconstruction of traditional Peking opera props, like the spear transformed into a cage-like "rattan pole," symbolizes life's constraints. Incorporating the "Ling Zi" pheasant feathers, traditionally signifying warrior might, LAI reinterprets their meaning to empower individuals to redefine their consciousness. This exploration of freedom and self-awareness is visually depicted through the imagery of the "Ling Zi," subtly suggesting life's delicate balance between limitations and aspirations. Set to an eclectic mix of electronic and Chinese classical music, BIRDY reinterprets percussion and seamlessly blends Tai Chi with contemporary dance. It portrays the journey from tradition to modernity and conveys a powerful message that in this era, we can redefine class, freedom, and limitations while seeking balance and identity.

About HUNG DANCE

HUNG DANCE is a Taiwanese contemporary dance company founded in 2017 by Artistic Director and choreographer LAI Hung-chung. Inspired by the word "Hung (翃)," the company's name reflects its aspiration to soar. Focusing on annual productions, international collaboration, and tours, HUNG DANCE also organizes the Stray Birds Dance Platform to foster choreographers' creativity and connect emerging artists with global resources.

The company has received numerous awards for its exceptional choreographic pieces, including Watcher, BIRDY, and Push and Pull in renowned competitions and festivals world-wide. It has also embarked on an extensive international tour, captivating audiences across Europe, Asia, America, and Africa with over three hundred mesmerizing performances.

HUNG DANCE's performances are a unique blend of traditional and contemporary elements, inviting audiences to interpret, imagine, and embrace dance's timeless beauty. LAI Hung-chung's choreography delves into human emotions and the connection between culture and nature. Byseamlessly blending elements of Chinese opera, mythology, and Tai Chi with contemporary concepts, he has created a unique dance vocabulary and training system that is sure to intrigue and captivate.

Website | hungdance.com
Instagram | @HungDanceTaiwan
Facebook | facebook.com/HungDanceTaiwan

Production Team

Artistic Director and Choreographer
Visual Concept
LAI Hung-chung

Rehearsal Director and Performer

CHENG I-han

Performers

LEE Kuan-ling
LU Ying-chieh
WU Shin-jie
HO Tzu-wen
CHEN Ting-yu
HUANG Li-chieh
WU Tsung-yang

Composer

HSU Chia-wei

Original Lighting Designer

TSAI Chao-yu

Costume Designer

Summer LIN

Touring Lighting Designer

SUNG Yung-hung

Technical Director

CIOU Yu-wun

Stage Manager

TING Yung-tang

Lighting Director

WU Yi-ju

Operations Director

CHEN Wei-ping

Tour Manager

Karina YANG

Agent

Brent Belsher

文化部 MINISTRY OF CULTURE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)
臺灣書院
高雄市政府文化局 Bureau of Cultural Affairs Kaohsiung City Government



Artistic Director & Choreographer / Visual Concept | LAI Hung-chung

LAI Hung-chung

LAI Hung-chung graduated from Taipei National University of the Arts' Department of Dance. In 2016, he participated in the Ministry of Culture's Taiwan Creative Dance Competition, clinching a gold medal, 2 outstanding awards, and one excellent award with 4 dance creations to become the first ever choreographer to receive 4 awards at the same time in the competition's history. In 2025, his work Push and Pull received the First Prize and Audience Prize at the Hannover International Choreography Competition, as well as four partner awards at RIDCC: Nederlands Dans Theater, FORM Dance Projects, Codarts Rotterdam, and TanzLabor ROXY Ulm.

After founding HUNG DANCE, he placed emphasis on cultivating the dancers' abilities and developing inspirations for dance pieces. He devised innovative ways to train the company based on the creative concept and needs, as well as searched for a balance between contemporary thinking and dance. In addition, he has devoted himself to a wide range of international collaborations and new talent development programs in the hope of expanding the diverse dance scene.



Rehearsal Director and Performer | CHENG I-han

CHENG I-han

A native of Keelung, Taiwan, CHENG I-han graduated from the School of Dance at Taipei National University of the Arts and earned her master's degree from its Graduate Institute of Dance. She joined HUNG DANCE in 2017 and currently serves as a full-time dancer and rehearsal director. She has performed in LAI Hung-chung's BIRDY and Watcher, both of which have received multiple awards at international choreography competitions.

As a member of HUNG DANCE, CHENG has toured nationally and internationally in the company's productions Boundless, Out of Elegant, See You, Formless Erosion, Hug, BIRDY, Glanced Crack, and Feline, as well as MITICI by Italian choreographer Giovanni Insaudo. In addition to performing, she teaches workshops in Taiwan and abroad.

In 2026, CHENG was selected for Young Stars New Vision, a program organized by Taiwan's National Culture and Arts Foundation, and presented her solo work A Mass of Lucky Meat, which toured northern, central, and southern Taiwan. In 2023, she was invited to premiere her solo work Miss Shape at the 5th Stray Birds Dance Platform. The work was subsequently presented in Daegu, South Korea, and at the Hong Kong Dance Exchange, Singapore's cont·act Contemporary Dance Festival, MASDANZA, and VILDANZA in Spain.

In 2020, CHENG premiered her first full-length solo work, No. Me. In 2021, she performed as a featured dancer in Astor Piazzolla's tango operita María de Buenos Aires, co-produced by the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) and City Contemporary Dance Company.



Performer | LEE Kuan-ling

LEE Kuan-ling

A native of Taipei, Taiwan, LEE Kuan-ling graduated from the Department of Dance, College of Performing Arts, at National Taiwan University of Arts. He joined HUNG DANCE as a dancer in 2020.

His performances with the company include LAI Hung-chung's Boundless, See You, Formless Erosion, Hug, BIRDY, The Peter Pan, Glanced Crack, Push and Pull and Feline, as well as MITICI by Italian choreographer Giovanni Insaudo. He has also participated as a dancer in the Cloud Gate Art Makers Project and Young Stars New Vision, and has performed at the Kuandu Arts Festival.

In 2020, LEE collaborated with new media artists to create Order from Chaos, which received the Silver Award and the S-An Aesthetics Award at the Ministry of Culture's Taiwan Creative Dance Competition. In 2021, he performed in Astor Piazzolla's tango operita María de Buenos Aires, co-produced by the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) and City Contemporary Dance Company.

Since 2022, LEE has toured internationally with HUNG DANCE across Asia, Europe, North America, and Australia, performing the full-length works See You and BIRDY. Her international appearances include the American Dance Festival, the Taiwan Season at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Festival Off Avignon, and Adelaide Fringe, as well as performances at leading venues such as NYU Skirball and the Vancouver Playhouse.



Performer | LU Ying-chieh

LU Ying-chieh

A native of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, LU Ying-chieh graduated from the Department of Dance at National Taiwan University of Arts. She joined HUNG DANCE in 2020 and currently serves as a full-time dancer. Since joining the company, she has performed in numerous full-length and short works, including Boundless, See You, Formless Erosion, Hug, BIRDY, The Peter Pan, Glanced Crack, MITICI, Push and Pull, and Feline. She has toured extensively with the company throughout Taiwan and internationally across Europe, Asia, the Americas, and Australia.

In 2021, LU was invited to perform as a guest dancer with HORSE in FreeSteps – Sunlight, Trajectory, Figures. That same year, she performed in Astor Piazzolla's tango operita María de Buenos Aires, co-produced by the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) and City Contemporary Dance Company.

In 2026, LU was invited to participate in HORSE's improvisational performance series Primal CHAOS – Dance × Sound Improvisation.



Performer | WU Shin-jie

WU Shin-jie

A native of Chiayi, Taiwan, WU Shin-jie graduated from the Dance Division at Tsoying Senior High School and the School of Dance at Taipei National University of the Arts. She joined HUNG DANCE in 2020 and currently serves as a full-time dancer.

Her performances with the company include LAI Hung-chung's BIRDY, See You, Formless Erosion, Hug, The Peter Pan, Glanced Crack, Push and Pull, and Feline, as well as MITICI by Italian choreographer Giovanni Insaudo. She has toured extensively with the company throughout Taiwan and internationally.

WU also performed in CHIEN Lin-yi's Eight Pains, which received the Silver Award at the Ministry of Culture's Taiwan Creative Dance Competition, and in CHIEN's Still Tomorrow, presented as part of Chiayi New Style Choreography. In 2021, she performed in Astor Piazzolla's tango operita María de Buenos Aires, co-produced by the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) and City Contemporary Dance Company.



Performer | HO Tzu-wen

HO Tzu-wen

A native of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, HO Tzu-wen graduated from the Dance Division at Tsoying Senior High School and the Department of Dance, College of Performing Arts, at National Taiwan University of Arts. She joined HUNG DANCE in 2021.

Her performances with the company include LAI Hung-chung's Formless Erosion, See You, Resist, Hug, BIRDY, The Peter Pan, Glanced Crack, and Feline, as well as MITICI by Italian choreographer Giovanni Insaudo. HO also premiered her solo work Wander in Shallow at the inaugural Stray Birds Dance Platform.

During her studies, she performed in SU Wei-chia's FreeSteps at the DAGUAN International Performing Arts Festival and in Island Through Time at the Greater Taipei Biennial of Contemporary Art. She also performed in CHIEN Lin-yi's Eight Pains, which received the Silver Award at the Ministry of Culture's Taiwan Creative Dance Competition.

Since 2022, HO has toured internationally with HUNG DANCE across Asia, Europe, North America, and Australia, performing the full-length works See You and BIRDY. Her international appearances include the American Dance Festival, the Taiwan Season at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Festival Off Avignon, and Adelaide Fringe, as well as performances at leading venues such as NYU Skirball and the Vancouver Playhouse.



Performer | CHEN Ting-yu

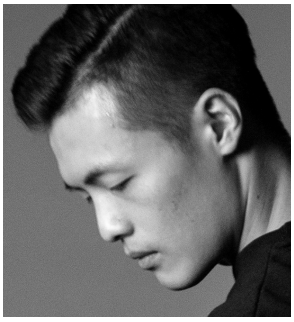
CHEN Ting-yu

A native of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, CHEN Ting-yu graduated from the Dance Division at Tsoying Senior High School and the School of Dance at Taipei National University of the Arts. She joined HUNG DANCE in 2023 and currently serves as a full-time dancer.

Her performances with the company include LAI Hung-chung's BIRDY, The Peter Pan, Glanced Crack, Feline, and Push and Pull. She has toured with the company throughout Taiwan and internationally, and has also performed in MITICI by Italian choreographer Giovanni Insaudo.

As both a choreographer and performer, CHEN co-created and performed in Somewhere over the Rainbow, which was selected for the 3rd Stray Birds Dance Platform in 2021. In 2023, she was invited to participate in Kaohsiung City Ballet's Dance Shoe, where she co-created and performed the work Daytime.

CHEN was previously a dancer with Dance Forum Taipei, performing in collaborations with Japanese choreographer Toru Shimazaki, including Blood and Steel, Shattered Moon, and South. She has also performed in SANG Jijia's Matchstick Man and ZHANG Xiaoxiong's The Floating Life.



Performer | HUANG Li-chieh

HUANG Li-chieh

A native of Taipei, HUANG Li-chieh is a dancer and performing artist who graduated from the School of Dance at Taipei National University of the Arts.

HUANG currently performs with HUNG DANCE on an ongoing basis. His performances with the company include BIRDY, Glanced Crack, and Feline, and he has toured with the company throughout Taiwan and internationally.

From 2014 to 2023, HUANG was a full-time dancer with Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, performing under the artistic directorships of both LIN Hwai-min and CHENG Tsung-lung. He toured internationally with the company and frequently performed major roles. His repertoire included LIN Hwai-min's Pine Smoke, Rice, and Legacy; CHENG Tsung-lung's 13 Tongues and Send in a Cloud; and TAO Ye's 12.

Since leaving Cloud Gate, HUANG has remained active as a dancer and performing artist while expanding his practice into dance education, rehearsal direction, circus performance, and event hosting. In recent years, he has served as a contemporary dance instructor with FOCASA Circus and as a rehearsal coach and performer in LIN Hwai-min's One to One Hundred: A Brave Journey. He also performed in Puzzle, a work by FOCASA Deputy Director CHEN Kuan-ting.

Other notable collaborations include Belgian dance-theatre company Peeping Tom's Diptych, contact Gonzo × yang02's jactynogg zontaanaco, and KUO Chueh-kai's Straight.



Performer | WU Tsung-yang

WU Tsung-yang

WU Tsung-yang graduated from the Seven-Year Program in the Department of Dance at Taipei National University of the Arts. In 2024, he joined Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan as a dancer.

His performance credits include TSAI Po-cheng's Flowing (2025); WANG Yeu-Kwn's BE THERE (2024); Ihsan Rustem's Boléro (2023); TSAI Po-cheng's Dreaminess (2023); ZHANG Xiaoxiong's Sleepless Night (2022) and Lament (2021); TSAI Hui-chen's Forking Path (2022); LO Man-fei's Breaking Through (2022); and GOH Boon-ann's Dreaming – 2019.

In 2022, WU presented his choreographic work Biyi Island at TNUA's Northern Dance Creation Platform, where it received the Excellence Award. The work was subsequently presented at Za-Koenji Public Theatre in Japan in 2023.

PRESS QUOTES

"It has no language barriers,..., It's just a remarkable piece of work. And gorgeous, gorgeous. It's really the whole package."

- Meg Booth, Performing Arts Houston President & Chief Executive Officer (quoted in Houston Chronicle)

"Lit like an oil painting, the new work from Taiwan's Hung Dance makes endless, sophisticated play with the feathered headpieces of ancient Chinese opera, recasting them as living contemporary artworks. Polished and visually stunning, the work has sold out at festivals around the world."

- Stir Arts & Culture

"The themes of Birdy—freedom and oppression, and the impact of individual actions on society's equilibrium—are more timely and essential than ever … The piece was created in Taiwan's specific cultural context, but it's universally relevant as we grapple with global conflicts, the climate crisis, and our own personal responsibility."

- Gillian Jones, Dance Victoria Executive Director (quoted in Victoria News)

"Birdy, une sublime chorégraphie" (BIRDY, sublime piece of choreography.)

— La Provence

"Birdy, le chorégraphe taïwanais LAI Hung-Chung explore les limites de nos désirs, et de notre sensation de liberté." ("In BIRDY, Taiwanese choreographer LAI Hung-chung explores the limits of our desires and our sense of freedom.")

— Zone Critique