

FRINGE ARTS

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Images available upon request

Layered, personal stories of immigration and displacement through dance

Kun Yang Lin/Dancers takes a look at itself and its neighbors as it explores Philadelphia neighborhoods and immigration

PHILADELPHIA –Artistic director Kun-Yang Lin – himself an immigrant from Taiwan – and six members of the Kun Yang Lin/Dancers ensemble bring *Home/S. 9th St.* to the FringeArts stage. This exceptional dance performance that explores communal dialogue surrounding immigration runs November 19-21 at 8pm, with one show running at 3pm on Saturday November 21 at the FringeArts waterfront theater, 140 N Columbus Blvd. (At Race St). Tickets cost between \$15-\$29 and are available by phone at 215-413-1318 or online at FringeArts.com.

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers' (KYL/D) newest work *Home/ S. 9th Street* references immigrant journeys, notions of "American-ness" and the meaning of "home". Funded in part by PNC Bank's PNC Arts Alive program, this new work is informed by the stories of diverse community members along Philadelphia's famed South 9th Street corridor, where KYL/D's dance center - CHI Movement Arts Center - is located, and where Artistic and Executive Directors Kun-Yang Lin and Ken Metzner reside. KYL/D has commissioned Cory Neale to compose original music for the piece.

Through *Home*, Artistic Director Kun-Yang Lin - himself an immigrant from Taiwan - and six members of the KYL/D ensemble are working for the first time with community engagement methodologies adapted from the practices of the acclaimed Cornerstone Theater Company of Los Angeles. Cornerstone's co-founder provided on-site training to KYL/D stakeholders in these practices and assisted with KYL/D's first of three "story circles," in which KYL/D's artists and local residents engage in creative, communal dialogue. Through the creative process of "Home," listening becomes a gesture of grace, a way to explore issues of social import, grapple with struggles for justice, and sow seeds for healing and community building through the arts.

In preparation for its premiere at FringeArts, KYL/D shared the piece in a series of work-in-process showings throughout the city. In early January, for example, KYL/D shared excerpts with an audience of over 1,000 at the Philadelphia Museum of Art as complement to the Museum's exhibit of the photography of Paul Strand. Gregory King said of this showing, "Lin's dancers were spectacular at delivering carefully executed steps, but *Home* was not about dance. It was about acceptance, pride, and identity. A research project that has blossomed over time, *Home* shone a light on a topic we often neglect."

This is the first FringeArts presentation of Kun Yang Lin/Dancers.

ABOUT KUN YANG LIN:

Kun Yang Lin is the Artistic Director of Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers & Founder of CHI Movement Arts Center. He is acknowledged as one of Taiwan's finest choreographers. He has received numerous awards in Taiwan, including the National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Award and the Taiwan Outstanding Artist Award. At the age of 12, Lin organized the first all-male dance troupe to perform in his native village of Hsin Chu after having spent the previous seven years directing his three sisters in numerous performances in their shared bedroom. His early training in calligraphy, painting, figure skating and martial arts came to play a significant role in his development as a performer and choreographer. In the U.S., Lin has been widely recognized for his dancing and choreography including, in 2002, by Back Stage, which selected him as "the year's most promising choreographer in NYC. Lin's devotion to artistic excellence, movement research, education and community inspired him to found the CHI Movement Arts Center, described by Gov. Ed Rendell as "a place where the entire Philadelphia community can experience the art multicultural creative dance expression."

ABOUT FRINGEARTS

FringeArts is one of the country's foremost centers for contemporary performing arts, showcasing arts innovators from around the globe and cultivating world-class Philadelphia-based artists. FringeArts plays a vital role in Philadelphia's vibrant artistic community by presenting a year-round programming series of cutting-edge dance, theater, and music performances presented at its striking venue on the Delaware waterfront; the annual Fringe Festival which takes over Philadelphia with hundreds of artistically daring and socially engaging performances; and by providing opportunities for Philadelphia artists to develop and showcase new work. FringeArts believes in art making that tests boundaries—inspiring new ideas, passionate discussion and conceptual thinking, all essential for a healthy and vibrant society.

FACT SHEET FOR *Home/S. 9th St.*

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 19 | 8:00pm

Friday, November 20 | 8:00pm

Saturday, November 21 10 | 3:00 pm & 8:00pm

CREDITS

Director & Writer: Kun Yang Lin

Performers & Co-Collaborators: : Jessica C. Warchal-King, Liu Mo, Evalina Carbonell, Wei Wei Ma, Helen Hale, Annielille Gavino Kollman, Grace Stern and Brian Codova
Apprentice: Muyu Yuan, Kathryn Moore

Home/ S. 9th St is made possible with the generous support of PNC Arts Alive

TICKET INFORMATION

\$29 | \$15 (Student and under-25) | \$20.30 (Member)

Call 215-413-1318 or visit www.fringearts.com to purchase tickets.

CALENDAR LISTING (+/- 100 WORDS)

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To request photos, interviews and more information please contact:
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