



ANNENBERG
CENTER
— PRESENTS —

KUN-YANG LIN/DANCERS

Thursday, April 22 @ 7 PM

Performers Kun-Yang Lin, Evalina Carbonell, Annielille Gavino, Weiwei Ma, Keila Pérez-Vega, Wangbo Zhu, Grace Stern, Sophie Malin (Understudy)

Executive Artistic Director Kun-Yang Lin

Business Director Katie Moore

Assistant Artistic Director Lingyuan (Maggie) Zhao

Technical Assistant Frankie Markocki

Marketing Associate Keila Pérez-Vega

Education Coordinator Sophie Malin

Inhale Curator Evalina Carbonell

Additional Company Members Ariel Isakowitz, Frankie Markocki, Emmanuel Williams

PROGRAM

New Normal?

Choreography Kun-Yang Lin

Costumes Cat O'Callaghan

Music Daniel Rhode

Performers Evalina Carbonell (soloist), Annielille Gavino, Keila Pérez-Vega

Reimagined from the 2016 work, *Moment/s, New Normal?* focuses on snapshots of the moments that constellate our lives, each one never seen before and never repeated, yet part of our eternity.

Inside

Choreography and Costume Kun-Yang Lin

Music Helen Jane Long

Performer Weiwei Ma

Inside is a recreated solo from the evening-length work, *HOME/S. 9th St.*, which premiered in 2015. *HOME* has become a signature "living" work for KYL/D as it continues to evolve, drawing on stories of diverse community members and being shaped by current socio-political themes. *Inside* reflects on today's experiences of isolation during the pandemic.

Renaissance

Choreography and Costume Kun-Yang Lin

Music Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky, Quentin Chiappetta

Performer Annielille Gavino

Renaissance was originally created in 1998 as part of a suite of three solos. The solo focuses on the sense of renewal, rebirth and overcoming darkness. *The New York Times* described the suite as "sleek, focused" with an "imaginative use of its scores."

Spring Duet

(excerpt of *Spring 101*, a 2019 Annenberg Center world premiere)

Choreography Kun-Yang Lin

Costumes Jill Peterson

Music Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* (Spring II. Largo)

Sound Design Cory Neale

Performers Keila Pérez-Vega, Wangbo Zhu

Evoking the joy of spring and the excitement of new beginnings, *Spring 101* breathes new life into baroque music through a pairing with contemporary movement and sound design. The work showcases the "never-ending curiosity and rich artistry of Kun-Yang Lin" (*Phindie*).

The Calling

Choreography Kun-Yang Lin

Costumes Jill Peterson

Music Cory Neale

Performers Evalina Carbonell, Weiwei Ma, Keila Pérez-Vega, Grace Stern, Wangbo Zhu

The Calling is a newly imagined excerpt of KYL/D's previous evening-length work *Faith Project/The Door* (2018). This re-envisioned version focuses on the awakening of our humanity.

Major support for the original creation and performance of *Faith Project* was provided by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts and Temple University.

The Wind (World Premiere)

Choreography Kun-Yang Lin

Costume Jill Peterson

Music Gustav Mahler's "Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen" (I am lost to the world), based on the poem by Friedrich Rückert

Performer Kun-Yang Lin

Second Cast Weiwei Ma

Reflecting on Lin's aging body and artistic journey during the pandemic, *The Wind* marks his first solo choreographed for himself since 2009 and his first public performance in over seven years.



Support for *The Wind* is provided to Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers by the National Endowment for the Arts.

This performance is supported, in part, by the generosity of Jeremy Siegel and Ellen Schwartz.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers

Hailed for its superbly trained dancers and inventive choreography, the internationally active Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers (KYL/D) probes at the limits of national identity. Drawing upon Eastern philosophies while expanding the perimeter of contemporary dance, Executive Artistic Director Lin's Zen-inspired practice of dance manifests in lush works of poetic sensibility that *The New York Times* says, "create and inhabit worlds of their own." Lin draws upon multicultural insights from his ongoing research throughout Asia, creating a personal movement language that is an unexpected hybrid between Western and Eastern cultures, suffused with strong spiritual underpinnings.

KYL/D has performed around the world, including at the Tanzmesse International Dance Festival (Düsseldorf), Busan International Dance Festival (Korea), Jogja

International and AsiaTri festivals (Indonesia), Festival Internacional de Danza in Queretaro (Mexico), Victoria Theatre (Singapore) and HsinChu Performing Arts Center (Taiwan).

In the U.S., KYL/D has performed at Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival, Interlochen Festival, Columbia Festival, Kaatsbaan International Dance Center, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, the Painted Bride Art Center, the Annenberg Center, the Kimmel Center, the Forrest Theatre, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Barnes Foundation and Philadelphia's City Hall.

KYL/D has been supported by numerous funders including the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Jerome Robbins Foundation, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, the William Penn Foundation, MidAtlantic Arts Foundation as well as support from the U.S. Department of State. kyld.org

Kun-Yang Lin (Executive Artistic Director)

Lin has received numerous awards in his native Taiwan and has been widely recognized in the U.S. for both his dancing and choreography including, in 2002, by *BackStage*, which selected Lin as "the year's most promising choreographer." Before moving to Philadelphia in 2003, Lin performed the works of numerous European post-modernist choreographers on tour world-wide with the London-based Transitions Dance Company. In New York City, he continued his body research in the sources of American modern dance including in the companies of Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey Repertory Dance Company, Mary Anthony Dance Theatre, Anna Sokolow, Jennifer Muller/The Works, Kevin Wynn Collection, Paula Josa-Jones and Janis Brenner & Dancers, and in improvisation projects with renowned musician John Zorn and award-winning artist Lynn Shapiro. Lin has been called "an extraordinary dancer" (*The New York Times*) and a "theatrical visionary...outstanding choreographer and a compelling performer" (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*). Lin's devotion to artistic excellence, movement research, education and community building inspired him to found the CHI Movement Arts Center (CHI MAC), described by former Governor Ed Rendell as "a place where the entire Philadelphia community can experience the art of multicultural creative dance expression." In 2009, Lin was named an "Artist of the City" for his outstanding contributions to the arts and culture of Philadelphia by the Painted Bride Art Center. In 2010, the Mayor of Hsin-Chu, Lin's hometown, honored him as a "son of the City" for his cultivation of artistic excellence at the international level and in 2011, he was named a "Creative Connector" through a nomination process coordinated by Leadership Philadelphia. In 2017, Lin was also selected by NBC News from a pool of over 1,600 nominees as one of 30 LGBTQ "changemakers, innovators and rising stars" for its inaugural Pride Month list of leaders nationwide.

Lin's choreography, described as "deeply spiritual, remarkable" (*Dance Magazine*), has been presented throughout the U.S. as well as in Asia, London, Vienna and Mexico. Lin's choreography has been commissioned by numerous companies including Dance Ensemble Singapore, Ballet Nacional de México, Ballet Philippines and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance.

Highly sought as a teacher, Lin is regularly invited to offer masterclasses and workshops throughout the U.S. and abroad. Since 2003, Lin has been a professor at Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance in Philadelphia.

Evalina Carbonell (Dance Artist)

Carbonell, known affectionately as "Wally," is a Philadelphia-based dance artist. She received her early training at the National Ballet School in Maryland. She went on to earn her BFA in dance from Florida State University, studying with luminaries such as Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and Suzanne Farrell. Upon graduation, Carbonell joined the Roxey Ballet Company, dancing as a principal artist from 2005-2011. As a freelance artist, she has worked and choreographed extensively, and continues to be an active performer as a guest artist nationally and locally. She teaches dance, GYROKINESIS® and GYROTONIC® in addition to creating her own work. A passionate performer, creator and teacher, Carbonell joined Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers as a dance artist in 2012.

Weiwei Ma (Lead Chinese Dance Artist)

Ma is a Chinese dancer, teacher and choreographer who started professional Chinese dance training at age 11. She studied choreography at The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Academy of Arts where she graduated with a BFA degree. Before coming to Philadelphia, Ma taught Chinese classical dance and choreography at Beijing Contemporary Music Academy. She graduated with her MFA degree from Temple University in Philadelphia in 2016. In 2015, one of her works was selected for performances at Temple's Boyer College of Music and Dance, which she represented at the 2016 American College Dance Association (ACDA) conference in Brockport, NY. Ma has been a member of Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers since 2013 and is the lead Chinese dancer for its cultural programs.

Annielille Gavino (Dance Artist)

Gavino is a native of the Philippines and attended the University of the Philippines before pursuing training at the Alvin Ailey School. She danced professionally with Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble and Dallas Black Dance Theater. She has worked with legendary choreographers Katherine Dunham, Donald McKayle, Eleo Pomare, Diane McIntyre, Alonzo King, Ronald K. Brown, Chuck Davis and others. She continues her journey as a political artist and choreographer through her company, Malayaworks (named after her daughter). Gavino's works have been commissioned by Dance Place, Dance Canvas, Richmond Dance Festival, Detroit Dance Race by ArtLabJ and Appomattox Governor's School for the Arts (VA). She produced *La Migra, Let's Run* in 2016 and *HERstory* in 2017 for the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. In 2018, she revived *HERstory*, presented by Fleisher Art Memorial. Choreography highlights include the Koresh Artist Showcase, ETC Performance Series, Inhale Performance Series, Dumbo Dance Festival and Velocity Dance Festival. She has also choreographed Philippine Folk Dances in Richmond. Gavino is the proud mother of Malaya Kollman. She joined Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers in 2015.

Keila Pérez-Vega (Dance Artist)

Pérez-Vega is a 2015 BFA University of the Arts graduate. In 2012, she became a principal dancer at Eleone Dance Theatre where she remained for three years. Post-graduation, Pérez-Vega worked as a freelance artist and was part of Dance Iquail in its 2015 season. Soon thereafter, she worked with numerous local artists and companies such as 10HL Projects (New York City), Melissa Rector & Dancers (Philadelphia) and ARTolerance (Philadelphia),

among others. Outside of concert dance, Pérez-Vega is a passionate social salsa and bachata dancer, instructor and performer. She is on staff at Koresh Dance Company and is the recent founder of Artsi, an events organization that prides itself in transforming spaces to connect different audiences to the arts through artistic nightlife experiences. She joined Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers in 2016.

Wangbo Zhu (Dance Artist)

Zhu is a dancer, choreographer and teacher from China. He received his BA in Chinese dances from Beijing Dance Academy in 2012. While working as a dancer at China National Opera & Dance Drama Theater after graduation, he performed most works of the dance company such as *Confucius*, *Orphan of Zhao* and *Silk Road*. He toured with the company nationally and internationally, including the U.S., Europe, Australia and beyond. Zhu completed his MFA in dance from Temple University this year. He joined Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers in 2019. This show marks Zhu's last performance with KYL/D as he travels back to China. We wish him continued success.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

28 Colewell

MAY

- 1** Virtual Magic Academy
- 6** Ayodele Casel
- 7** Eddie Palmieri Afro-Caribbean Jazz Quartet
- 27** Matthew Neenan



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