



asian  
cultural  
council

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***Asian Cultural Council Supports***  
**Yang Yuntao for Residency Program**  
**With Shen Wei Dance Arts**

The Asian Cultural Council has announced an unprecedented creative collaboration between two distinguished choreographers from Hong Kong and New York.

Yang Yuntao, assistant artistic director of the Hong Kong Dance Company, has been awarded the 2011 Jean Ho Fellowship to launch a four-month residency with the acclaimed Shen Wei Dance Arts, now celebrating its tenth anniversary season at the New York Park Avenue Armory which is considered one of the most coveted spaces for large-scale avant-garde productions in the city. The world premiere of Shen Wei's newest creation will take place at this venue at the end of November 2011.

Shen Wei, age 43, has achieved virtually unprecedented major international recognition as a modern dance choreographer from China. Hailed by the *Washington Post* as "one of the great artists of our time", he was awarded a MacArthur "genius" Award in 2007.

Shen Wei received a grant from the Asian Cultural Council in 1995. In 2000 he established Shen Wei Dance Arts which has toured 27 countries around the world, appearing in leading festivals in Edinburgh, Berlin, Venice and Lincoln Center. He has choreographed thirteen original works, including the well-known calligraphic dance piece which was featured as part of the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and seen by 2 billion people worldwide.

Yang Yuntao is a rising star in contemporary Chinese dance on the other side of the world whose work is well known to contemporary dance audiences in mainland China. He has created works for the Beijing Modern Dance Company and the Guangdong Modern Dance Company as well as the Hong Kong Dance Company and City Contemporary Dance Company.

Originally from Yunnan Province, Yang is a member of the Bai ethnic minority and was trained in Chinese folk and classical dance at the Central University of Ethnic Minorities in Beijing. Following his graduation in 1992, he leapt into the less prescribed world of modern dance and joined the Guangdong Modern Dance Company where he performed as soloist from 1993 to 1999. He became a freelance choreographer in 2000 and landed the position of resident choreographer with the Hong Kong Dance Company in 2007. His full-length works *Everlasting Love* (2009) and *The Three Kingdoms* (2010) received high praise from the Hong Kong dance community.

His position at the Hong Kong Dance Company provides a platform to experiment with the ongoing challenge of finding alternative directions for modern Chinese dance which can speak to today's society. "The Hong Kong Dance Company is at a turning point in seeking a new vision," Yang explained in a recent interview in Hong Kong. "I need to observe and absorb more from outside to make the most of this opportunity."

Despite his important status in Hong Kong's only government-funded dance company, Yang doesn't conceal a boyish excitement about his upcoming adventure. "Creative artists need to explore new perspectives and experience different environments" he explained. "Our work becomes too limited if we don't take time to expand our world view. We get stuck in our own narrow outlook."

Yet one wonders why a choreographer from China would travel to New York to shadow another Chinese artist.

"My purpose is not to imitate or even learn Shen Wei's technique. Of course I must express my own sensibilities and find my own direction. Yet Shen Wei shares my cultural background and concern about Chinese tradition. He gives me a special window to explore modern dance in America. This is very important to me as a Chinese artist."

Yang Yuntao will leave for New York on September 20<sup>th</sup> and will engage himself in the rare experience of observing the creative process of Shen Wei's new extravaganza production from beginning to end. Shen Wei Dance Arts' new commissioned work at the Park Avenue Armory will be performed from from November 29 to December 4, 2011 at the Park Avenue Armory. Ticketing information available at <http://www.armoryonpark.org>.

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## 香港舞蹈團助理藝術總監楊雲濤即將赴美取經 留駐著名沈偉舞蹈藝術舞團 探索現代中國舞發展新蹊徑

亞洲文化協會宣佈一項連繫紐約和香港之間兩位編舞的新計劃。香港舞蹈團助理藝術總監楊雲濤獲協會頒發「何晶潔獎助金」，留駐紐約著名沈偉舞蹈藝術舞團，為期四個月。適逢沈偉舞蹈藝術舞團創團十周年，舞團將於被視為現代視覺及表演藝術重鎮的紐約公園大道軍械庫博物館中演出因應場地而特別編作的最新舞蹈劇目，作世界首演。

楊雲濤是現代中國舞的新星，他的作品在國內外都備受讚賞。他曾為北京現代舞團、廣東現代舞團、香港舞蹈團，以及城市當代舞蹈團編導作品。

楊雲濤是雲南白族人，於北京中央民族大學舞蹈系習舞，專研中國民族舞。1992年畢業後加入廣東現代舞蹈團任獨舞員，後於2000年離團作自由舞者，至2007年加入香港舞蹈團任駐團編舞。楊雲濤的近作《天上人間》(2009)及《三國風流》(2010)都是深入民心和備受舞蹈界讚賞的佳作。

他在香港舞蹈團的職位使他可以在一個有利的位置試驗現代中國舞蹈的時代性。「香港舞蹈團正尋找一個合宜的、具前瞻性的轉折點。我需要向外多聽多看。」楊雲濤說。

對於這次留美學習的機會，楊雲濤難掩興奮之情，他說：「藝術家需要探索新的藝術視野，從不同的角度去體驗世界，放眼世界有助我們跳出固有狹隘的創作空間。」

可是一個土生土長的中國編舞家，遠赴文化大熔爐紐約，卻還是追隨另一個來自中國的編舞家，會有甚麼樣的得著呢？

「沈偉和我擁有同樣的文化背景。作為一個旅美的中國舞蹈家，我可以從他這個獨特的文化藝術身份，探索現代舞或具中國色彩的現代舞在美國，以至世界舞壇上的位置和影響，我不是要模仿或學習沈偉的技巧，我卻可以觀察他領團和導演作品的手法，再加上自己對舞蹈的感覺和香港的獨特文化藝術環境，為舞團尋找新的發展方向。」

現年四十三歲的沈偉是享譽國際的中國編舞家，他於2007年獲頒麥克阿瑟基金會天才獎，更被華盛頓郵報評為當今「最偉大的藝術家之一」。沈偉於1995年獲亞洲文化協會頒發獎助金於美國舞蹈節學習，2000年時創立個人的沈偉舞蹈藝術舞團，迄今共創作了十三齣震撼非凡的原創舞目，並已巡迴世界27個國家演出，又曾於愛丁堡、柏林、威尼斯及林肯藝術中心等重要藝術節中演出。沈偉在2008年為北京奧運會開幕式所創作的以書法為題的舞蹈，全世界觀賞人數更高達二十億人次！

楊雲濤將於本月二十日啟程前往紐約，展開這獨特的藝術體驗旅程，並親身參與沈偉舞團在紐約公園大道軍械庫博物館中特別編導的最新舞蹈劇目。演出將於2011年11月29日至12月4日公演。可瀏覽 <http://www.armoryonpark.org> 查詢票務詳情。

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