



**Media release**

**\*\*STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 2016\*\***

## **RICE**

**CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN**

**VENUE:** ASB THEATRE, AOTEA CENTRE

**DATES:** 10-12 MARCH, 2017

**CHOREOGRAPHY/CONCEPT:** LIN HWAI-MIN

---

In a rare visit to New Zealand, the prestigious Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan and its exquisite dancers will transform the ASB Theatre stage into an expansive choreographic and visual panorama of Taiwan's living, breathing rice paddies from 10-12 March.

*RICE* is a devotion in dance, a choreographic odyssey of the grain that has become a symbol of Asia. It's an astounding and elemental depiction through dance of the life cycle of rice and humankind.

Folksongs in Hakka, the oldest among the existing Chinese dialects, and operatic arias from the West, as well as the rustling of grain, sighing of wind and pealing of thunder complete the soundscape in this sublime contemporary dance work about death and rebirth, devastation and resurrection.

The Cloud Gate dancers are masters of abstract modern dance, famous for their stillness and poise along with acrobatic and internal martial arts skills.

The inspiration for *RICE* came from the landscape and story of Chihshang in the East Rift Valley of Taiwan - home of the "Emperor's Rice." Previously tainted by the use of chemical fertilizer, this farming village has now regained its title as the Land of the Emperor's Rice by adopting organic farming.

On the occasion of Cloud Gate's 40th anniversary in 2013, the internationally renowned choreographer and artistic director Lin Hwai-min, who was honoured with the prestigious Samuel H. Scripps / American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement that year, created *RICE* to revere the land that had nurtured the company for so long.

Awed by the immense waves of grain rolling across expansive fields of rice, and inspired by the environmentally-conscious farmers, Lin took the dancers to Chihshang, where they joined the farmers in harvesting the rice. Out of this experience, Lin created an exuberant yet powerful contemporary dance opus that tells the story of the land while contemplating the devastation of Earth.

Cinematographer Chang Hao-jan spent two years on location in Chihshang capturing the cultivation of rice: flooding, sprouting, harvesting and burning of the field. These video images – of clouds reflected in the water, rice swaying in the wind, and fire ravaging the fields – have become the



essential visual elements of the production’s projection design by Ethan Wang. Immersed in this landscape, the formidable Cloud Gate dancers, trained in Qi Gong and Internal Martial Arts, enact a human drama parallel to the life cycle of rice.

RICE is contemporary dance at its very best.

*When you’re talking about Cloud Gate, magic is not too strong a word.* — Time Out, UK

*A sharply moving synthesis of man and nature, east and west, death and rebirth...Lin Hwai-min’s own song of the earth* —The Guardian, UK

## PERFORMANCE DETAILS

<b>TICKETS</b>	Premium \$89   A Res \$75   A Res Conc \$69   B Res \$59   B Res Conc \$53   C Res \$45
<b>WHEN</b>	Friday 10 March – Saturday 11 March, 8pm Sunday 12 March 5.00pm Talk: Sat 11 March
<b>WHERE</b>	ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre
<b>BOOKINGS</b>	Ticketmaster.co.nz   09 951 2501
<b>DURATION</b>	1 hour 10 mins, no interval
<b>IMPORTANT INFO</b>	In association with Auckland Live
<b>MORE INFO</b>	RICE is an international co-production by the National Theater & Concert Hall, the National Performing Arts Center, Taiwan, R.O.C.; New Vision Arts Festival, Hong Kong; Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore; Sadler’s Wells Theatre, London; Hellerau European Center for the Arts Dresden, Germany; and Théâtre de la Ville, Paris, France.  With support from the Ministry of Culture, Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan)
<b>FOLLOW</b>	@aklfestival #aklfest
<b>ABOUT THE AAF</b>	Taking place annually in March, the Auckland Arts Festival is a globally recognised event that celebrates people and culture, and showcases the unrivalled location, cultural diversity and vibrant energy of New Zealand’s largest city.  Over 1.6 million people have attended the Festivals to date.  Auckland Arts Festival is governed by the Auckland Festival Trust. Trustees are John Judge (Chair), Rick Carlyon, Evan Davies, Sarah Judkins, Tarun Kanji, Margaret Kāwharu MNZM, Jim Moser, Ben Taufua and Fred Ward.  The Trust receives core funding from Auckland Council through the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act, and Creative New Zealand through the Toi Tōtara Haemata programme.  Significant support for AAF 2017 is received from Foundation North, Pub Charity, NZ Community Trust and The Lion Foundation.