



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 16, 2009

CONTACT: Jill Chukerman 773-525-3974/jchuk@rcn.com
DIGITAL IMAGES: [Dance Center-Cloud Gate images](#)
VIDEO CLIPS: [Dance Center video](#)

**THE DANCE CENTER PRESENTS CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN
PERFORMING A CHICAGO PREMIERE JAN. 22–23 AT THE HARRIS THEATER**

CHICAGO—In an ongoing partnership between one of Chicago’s most important dance presenters and one of Asia’s most important contemporary dance companies, The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago presents the return of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan with a Chicago premiere.

Performances are January 22 and 23 at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park.

Cloud Gate presents the Chicago premiere of *Moon Water* (1998), choreographer Lin Hwai-min’s signature piece set to selections from Bach’s “Six Suites for Solo Cello.” *Moon Water*, or shui yuei in Chinese, is a metaphor for two things: a Buddhist proverb—“Flowers in a mirror and moon on the water are both illusory”—and a description of the ideal state of Tai Chi practitioners—“Energy flows as water, while the spirit shines as the moon.” The choreographer takes these famous quotes as a springboard to create a poetic rendering of the Taoist philosophy. *Moon Water* is a study of the real vs. the unreal, effort vs. effortlessness, yin and yang and, in the end, a study of time. Performed on a black stage with white brush strokes reminiscent of ripples, the piece features mirrors hung overhead to reflect the dancers in white billowy costumes. Towards the end of the piece, water seeps onto the stage and soaks the dancing bodies.

Moon Water owes its movement motives to Tai Chi Tao Yin, a Chi Kung exercise that can be traced back more than 2,000 years. The choreographer “has extended and transformed the movement of tai chi exercises into an expressive dance vocabulary...Mr. Lin has accomplished what creative artists rarely succeed in doing today: challenging the audience with a work unlike any other.” (*The New York Times*). “The grace of it, in a way, is balletic, but its evasion of the norms of gravity, its total fluidity, suggests that there is a new book of the human dancing body waiting to be written with *t’ai chi* training” (*The Daily Telegraph*). “*Moon Water* presents a distinct and mature Chinese choreographic language. The importance of this evolution in Asian dance is no less profound than the impact of Forsythe’s Ballett Frankfurt on European classical ballet” (*Dance Europe*).

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

As part of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan's residency, Founder/Artistic Director Lin Hwai-min will give pre-performance talks, free to ticket holders, at 7 p.m. prior to each performance. Lee Ching-Chun, Cloud Gate's associate artistic director, will lead a DanceMasters class Wednesday, January 20 at 6 p.m. at the Lou Conte Dance Studio of the Hubbard Street Dance Center, 1147 W. Jackson Blvd. DanceMasters is a series of community master classes presented by The Dance Center's division of Community Outreach and Education (COE), in partnership with the Lou Conte Dance Studio of the Hubbard Street Dance Center and the Museum of Contemporary Art. Classes are for dancers at the intermediate level or higher.

ABOUT CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN

According to legend, Cloud Gate is the name of the oldest known dance in China, a ritual dance of some 5,000 years ago. In 1973, internationally renowned choreographer Lin Hwai-min adopted this classical name for the first contemporary dance company in any Chinese-speaking community: Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan. Cloud Gate's rich repertoire has its roots in Asian myths, folklore and aesthetics, but it brings to these age-old beliefs and stories a contemporary and universal perspective. The 24 dancers of the company receive training from the West and the East, including Tai Chi Tao Yin (an ancient form of Chi Kung), meditation, martial arts, modern dance, ballet and calligraphy. With frequent appearances at international arts festivals, including the Next Wave Festival, Cloud Gate has received high acclaim throughout the world. *Cursive: A Trilogy* was elected as the "best dance choreography" of 2006 by Ballet-Tanz and Theaterheute, Germany, while *Moon Water* topped the list of best dance events of 2003 chosen by *The New York Times*.

THE DANCE CENTER

The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, named "Chicago's Best Dance Theatre" by *Chicago* magazine and "Best Dance Venue" by the *Chicago Reader*, is the city's leading presenter of contemporary dance, showcasing artists of regional, national and international significance. Programs of The Dance Center are supported in part by Alphawood Foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, New England Foundation for the Arts, The Boeing Company Charitable Trust, Arts Midwest, Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, and The Irving Harris Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council. Special thanks to Friends of The Dance Center. All programming is subject to change.

FUNDING

The Dance Center's presentation of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan is funded, in part, by the Alphawood Foundation. Additional support is provided by the MacArthur Foundation Rental Subsidy Program at the Harris Theater. Special thanks to the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Chicago.

TICKET INFORMATION

The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago presents Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan Friday and Saturday, January 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Drive. Tickets are \$30–65. The DanceMasters class on Wednesday, January 20 at 6 p.m. at the Lou Conte Dance Studio of the Hubbard Street Dance Center, 1147 W. Jackson Blvd., is \$15; space is limited. For tickets or more information, **call 312-369-8330 or visit colum.edu/dancecenter**.

###