

MICHAEL MAO DANCE





COMPANY PROFILE

Michael Mao Dance is a critically acclaimed New York based modern dance company with an international corps of accomplished dancers. Passionate, yet meticulously crafted, Mao's work is infused with a visceral, elemental power. His dances fill the stage with compelling images and enthrall audiences with their emotional immediacy. Rooted in the traditions of American modern dance, Mao's works are graced with the formal considerations of classical ballet and reveal the choreographer's Asian heritage in their spare yet expansive choreographic means.

Dances by Michael Mao have been performed worldwide. Commissions include original works for the Hong Kong Ballet, Café de la Danse, Paris, Festival Internacional Cervantino, Mexico, and the Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble. He has created over 50 works for his company that have been presented in New York City at the Joyce, Dance Theater Workshop, Kaye Playhouse, City Center Danspace, Symphony Space, Riverside Theatre, Madison Square Garden and at Purchase College. Michael Mao Dance has toured in Europe, throughout the continental US and Mexico, and to the major cities of China.

In addition to presenting concert dance works, Michael Mao Dance also engages in arts learning and outreach programs including the 45-minute interactive performance Multicultural Fusion, and the ESLDANCE: Learning English Through Dance project that enhances the English speaking skills of immigrants and ESL students through the study of modern dance.

"Exquisitely crafted work, very satisfying in its suave beauty."

Tobi Tobias, Village Voice

"A gratifying adventure...an exciting repertoire performed by excellent dancers."

Arbeiderbladet, Oslo, Norway

"Splendid dancers"

New York Times



MICHAEL MAO

Michael Mao, born in Shanghai, now lives and works in New York City. He completed secondary education at Columbia Grammar Prep, attended the College of Idaho, received a BA from Princeton University in Literature, and a MA in Far Eastern Languages at Harvard, where he was a Ford Foundation Fellow. Mao trained at the Rhodes Fencing Academy in Yorkville, the Martha Graham and Joffrey Schools, the Cunningham Studio, with Ted Shawn, Margaret Craske, Manolo Vargas, and Zena Rommett. Michael continued dancing throughout his academic career, performing with the Princeton Ballet, Toby Armour, James Waring, Aileen Passloff, Lotte Gosler, Remy Charlip, Carolyn Brown and Graziela Daniele. Mao has taught at the David Howard Dance Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Princeton University, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and the Boston Conservatory.

Mao has choreographed over 50 works, which have been presented at the Joyce Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, Kaye Playhouse, City Center, LaMama, Riverside Church, Madison Square Garden, SUNY Purchase, and on tour throughout the United States and Mexico, in Europe, and the major cities of China. His works have been commissioned by Café de la Danse, Paris, France; the Hong Kong Ballet, Festival Internacional Cervantino, Mexico, and the Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble. As a dancer he participated and conducted arts education residencies and workshops in residencies for National Touring and New England Touring.

In 1993 Michael evolved an unusual arts-in education project to assist teen immigrants acclimate to American culture, ESLdance: Learning English Through Dance.

Mao continues to create new works, restage repertory, tour and contribute to building young audiences through quality arts education programs in New York City.

"Mao's choreography enters a refined domain of corporeal language, close to the refined subtlety of Alvin Nikolais or Martha Graham." El Nacional, Mexico





CRITICAL ACCLAIM

"An absolute feast for the eyes and ears, with impressive choreography, skilled dancing, and a wide variety of musical pieces." ***Edinburgh Festivals Magazine***

"Both men and women display their power as they command the stage with their physicality and athleticism. The dancers kick, spin, leap and cartwheel to create a frenzy of strength and technique." ***The Skinny, Edinburgh***

"*Weaving* is a quartet set to the rhythms of Kodo drummers...that works clearly with the music but sometimes against it, too, in clever counterpoint...ingenious solutions for moving are discovered, which makes for some fascinating things to watch." ***Dance Europe***

"Dances meticulously put together and well thought out." ***The New York Times***

"The summit of creativity and originality. Mao's choreography enters a refined domain of corporeal language, close to the refined subtlety of Alvin Nikolais or Martha Graham. A performance full of vitality, full of contrasts in its emotional and aesthetic content, but always coherent in its vision." ***El Nacional, Mexico***

"Elastic, expressionist choreography performed with whole-hearted commitment and technical polish." ***Boston Globe***

"Exquisitely crafted work...very satisfying in its suave beauty and control of figures in space." ***Village Voice***

"Mao gave us a ballet that unveiled strata of human emotions not explicit, but deeply felt. It spoke volumes."

South China Morning Post, Hong Kong

"Mao's stark visual imagery demands as much attention as his bold narrative content. There is a symbiosis of rare power.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

"The choreography captures the music's brimming exuberance and Mr. Mao's splendid dancers catch the music's lyrical sweetness."
The New York Times



OUTREACH

Multicultural Fusion Performance

Designed to excite, engage and enlighten K through 12 students with the diversity and raw power of American Modern Dance, Michael Mao Dance's company of international, multi-racial dancers perform a 45-minute interactive program that illustrates the multicultural roots of dance in America and presents, through a simple structure, all strands of learning in dance, as well as a vivid historical perspective.

ESLdance™ Project

ESLdance: Learning English Through Dance enhances the English speaking skills of immigrants and ESL (English as a Second Language) students. This arts-in-education immersion project teaches students the rudiments of American Modern Dance and uses its dance movements to illustrate the nature and structure of American English in its spoken form. The project's use of physical learning strategies helps students conquer the obstacles of translation and shyness when speaking English. Research in early speech development and second language learning has shown that when language instruction is joined with movement, both comprehension and usage are accelerated. Early intervention in language training can make a real difference in English acquisition, cultural acclimation, career opportunities and overall lifestyle.

ESLdance has been endorsed by the National Endowment of the Arts as a "National Model Program," supported by the New York State Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Philip Morris Companies Inc., and other foundations and trusts. The program receives praise from students, teachers, school administrators, and leading educators for its innovative approach to language learning. Madeleine Holtzer, former Director of Arts in Education at the New York State Council on the Arts remarked, "ESLdance is unlike anything I have observed in any other program funded by the Council."

Multicultural Dancemaking Residency

Designed for middle and high schools, the Multicultural Dancemaking residency emphasizes the multicultural roots of American Modern Dance and the art of making dances. It consists of a variety of activities that target students, teachers, and the school-wide student body. Students learn at least one form of traditional dance, one fusion dance, one dance with athletic and pedestrian movement, and then begin composing their own works mentored by dancers and directed by Mao. The project concludes with students performing the dances they have created.

"We cannot say enough wonderful things about Michael Mao Dance. The performance was of the highest quality and the program accessible to new audience members while engaging our regular dance audience. The community response to their visit here was tremendous. We highly recommend them."

Director, Performing Arts Series, Shepherd University, West Virginia





TOURING PROGRAMS

MULTICULTURAL/INTERNATIONAL Repertory Program

Tours with 8 or 12 dancers

WEAVING

4 dancers / 10 minutes

Ritualistic patterns of energy intertwine in this propulsive motion powerhouse driven by Kodo's taiko drums.

LORCA LIBRE

6 dancers / 13 minutes

Three dances set to evocative songs written by Spanish poet and playwright Federico Garcia Lorca during his stay in New York and Cuba in 1930, and sung by *Flamenco Cantaores*.

CHINA MOVES

I. Sound of Hand (Huang Ruo Drama Theater 1)

1 dancer / 7 minutes

II. Shifting Shades: a composition for piano, cello, percussion, and eighteen beer bottles (Huang Ruo Drama Theater 2)

8 dancers / 17 minutes

III. Written On the Wind (Huang Ruo Drama Theater 3)

3 dancers / 14 minutes

Spatial, aural and kinetic forces intercept and diverge in this collaboration between Michael Mao, composer Huang Ruo, and visual artist Shawn Duan.

IV. To the Four Corners (Huang Ruo Drama Theater 4)

5 Dancers / 22 minutes (NEW 2014)

VERDI REQUIEM (NEW 2014)

12 dancers / 46 minutes

A choreodrama to the first half of Giuseppe Verdi's masterpiece

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PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Selected Performance History

UNITED STATES

Joyce Theater, New York City
New York City Center, New York City
Chelsea Art Museum, New York City
Merce Cunningham Studio, New York City
Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse, New York City
DUMBO Dance Festival, Brooklyn, New York
Goodwill Games, Madison Square Garden, New York City
Webster Hall, New York City
PepsiCo Theater, SUNY Purchase, Purchase, New York
Symphony Space, New York City
McCarter Theater, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey
Asian Contemporary Dance Festival, La MaMa, E.T.C, New York City
Kaatsbaan International Dance Center, Tivoli, New York
Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia
Harlem School of the Arts, New York City
St. Mary's College, South Bend, Indiana
University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee
Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Lock Haven University, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania
Lake Placid Center for the Arts, Lake Placid, New York
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Florence Gould Hall, New York City
Drake Theater, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Theater of Riverside Church, New York City
Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, Massachusetts
Edison Theatre, Dance St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri
Loeb Drama Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts

INTERNATIONAL

Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Shanghai Art Theater, Shanghai, China
Century Theater, Beijing, China
Huang Hua Gang Theater, Guangzhou, China
Zijin Theater, Nanjing, China
Theater of International Conference Center, Suzhou, China
Sala Miguel Corvarrubias, Festival Internacional Cervantino, Mexico City, Mexico
El Teatro de la Ciudad, Festival Internacional Cervantino Monterrey, Mexico
 (First foreign company to inaugurate Festival Cervantino Monterrey)
El Teatro Principal, Festival Internacional Cervantino, Guanajuato, Mexico
El Teatro de los Horos, Jornados Culturales de Otoño, Chihuahua, Mexico
El Teatro de la Opera, Festival Otoño, Zacatecas, Mexico
Cafe De La Danse, Paris, France
Black Box, Oslo, Norway





US RATE SHEET

Repertory Program

Tours with 8 dancers

1 Performance \$10,000 all inclusive

1 Week \$12,000 all inclusive

Firecracker

Tours with 24 dancers

1 Performance \$25,000 – 30,000 all inclusive

1 Week \$65,000 all inclusive





INTERNATIONAL RATE SHEET

INTERNATIONAL/MULTICULTURAL Repertory Program

Tours with 8 dancers

1 Week \$20,000 plus expenses

Firecracker

Tours with 24 dancers

1 Week \$50,000 plus expenses



MICHAELMAO DANCE

“A confection of the intellectual and the sensual.”

