

**OAKLAND BALLET PRESENTS THE SECOND ANNUAL
DANCING MOONS FESTIVAL**

Featuring the world premiere of *Exquisite Corpse* choreographed by
Phil Chan, Seyong Kim and Elaine Kudo

Plus Phil Chan's *Ballet des Porcelaines* or *The Teapot Prince*,
Caili Quan's *Layer Upon Layer* & more

March 16 – 18: Asian Cultural Center, Oakland

April 7 – 8: Presidio Theatre, San Francisco

April 22: Tower Theatre, Fresno



From left, Aidan O'Leary, Karina Eimon and Lawrence Chen in Ballet des Porcelaines. Photo credit: John Hefti.

oaklandballet.org/dancing-moons-festival

OAKLAND, CA, February 2, 2023 – Oakland Ballet Company's 2022-23 Season continues this spring with the second annual **DANCING MOONS FESTIVAL**, a celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander choreographers. The company will premiere a new work choreographed jointly by **Phil Chan, Seyong Kim** and **Elaine Kudo**. By popular demand, the festival will also include the return of Chan's *Ballet des*

Porcelaines or The Teapot Prince and **Caili Quan's** *Layer Upon Layer*. Rounding out the program is *Amber Waves*, also by Chan.

The festival will take place over three separate weekends: March 16 – 18 at the **Oakland Asian Cultural Center**, April 7 – 8 at the **Presidio Theatre** in San Francisco, and April 22 at the **Tower Theatre for the Performing Arts** in Fresno. Tickets, starting at \$20, are now on sale via direct links at oaklandballet.org/dancing-moons-festival.

"I'm honored to return to Oakland Ballet to participate in another *Dancing Moons Festival*," said Chan. "Building on the success of last year, I am enjoying the chance to collaborate with Elaine Kudo and Seyong Kim on a new work in the round, an unusual experience for audiences and a welcome challenge for us choreographers. I'm also looking forward to seeing the fantasy of *The Teapot Prince* come to life again this season. It will be a program with surprises and welcome contradictions!"

Chan, co-founder of **Final Bow for Yellowface**, a call to action to diversify ballet companies while working to divest the field of offensive stereotypes, is currently in residence at New York University and the Manhattan School of Music, and a "Next 50" arts leader at The Kennedy Center. In 2021, the Metropolitan Museum of Art commissioned him to create a work inspired by a lost 18th-century ballet, reimagining its story from a new perspective. Titled *Ballet des Porcelaines or The Teapot Prince*, the original story is an Orientalist fairy tale created for European consumption. Oakland Ballet presented the West Coast premiere of Chan's ballet last spring.

The highlight of this year's *Dancing Moons Festival*, however, will be a new work co-choreographed by Chan in collaboration with Seyong Kim and Elaine Kudo. Titled *Exquisite Corpse*, the work borrows its name from a parlor game invented in 1925 by a group of artists and writers including André Breton and Marcel Duchamp. Participants took turns drawing sections of a body, then folding the work to hide their contributions. The next player added to the whole without knowing how the final result would appear. By emphasizing free play, unpredictability and collaboration, the game was quite popular in Surrealist circles in the 1920s and 30s.

Playing off this concept, Chan, Kim and Kudo will create three works each: a solo (the head), a group piece (the torso) and a duet (the legs), and the nine sections will be woven together to create an "exquisite corpse."

Two additional works round out the program: a remount of Caili Quan's razor-sharp trio, titled *Layer Upon Layer*, originally commissioned by Oakland Ballet for last year's inaugural *Dancing Moons Festival*, and *Amber Waves*, choreographed by Chan and set to music by Chinese American composer **Huang Ruo**. The music is a selection from a wide-ranging project comprising reinterpretations of "America the Beautiful" from 75 diverse composers.

The opening weekend of the *Dancing Moon Festival* is co-presented by the Oakland Asian Cultural Center (OACC). "OACC is honored to host the *Dancing Moons Festival* again this year. The festival showcases diverse, creative APIA talents, and we are proud to be part of it," said **Saly Lee**, OACC executive director.

"Following the success of the inaugural *Dancing Moon Festival* last year – named by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as one of 'the Bay Area's best dance moments of 2022' – Oakland Ballet is thrilled to share

with audiences the extraordinary creations of this year's cohort. We are grateful to all of our generous sponsors for their support," said **Graham Lustig**, Oakland Ballet artistic director.

For more information, visit oaklandballet.org/dancing-moons-festival.

UPCOMING

April 15: Oakland Ballet Company Gala

@ BLOC15 in Jack London Square, Oakland

May 4 – 6: *Rainbow Dances*, a celebration of LGBTQ choreographers

@ Laney College, Oakland

CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS

Phil Chan is currently a '21/'22 Visiting Scholar at the A/P/A Institute at New York University, and the Manhattan School of Music's '21/'22 Citizen Artist. He is a graduate of Carleton College and an alumnus of the Ailey School. As a writer, he served as the Executive Editor for *FLATT Magazine* and contributed to *Dance Europe Magazine*, *Dance Magazine*, *Dance Business Weekly* and the *Huffington Post*. He was the founding General Manager of the Buck Hill Skytop Music Festival, and was the General Manager for Armitage Gone! Dance. He served multiple years on the National Endowment for the Arts dance panel and the Jadin Wong Award panel presented by the Asian American Arts Alliance. He serves on the International Council for the Parsons Dance Company, the Advisory Board of Dance Magazine and he was a 2020 New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division Research Fellow. He was just named a Next 50 arts leader by the Kennedy Center.

Seyong Kim is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Western Michigan University. He is also a Certified Movement Analyst from Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies, a Registered Somatic Dance Educator, a Progressing Ballet Technique Certified Teacher, and a Certified Teacher through the American Ballet Theatre training program. As a professional dancer, Kim has danced with the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center, Albania National Ballet Theatre, Baltimore Ballet, Traverse City Dance Project, Neglia Ballet, TAKE Dance and Oakland Ballet Company. In addition, his choreographic works have been performed or screened at Landestheater Coburg in Germany, Florence Dance on Screen Festival in Italy, International Contemporary Dance Festival of Mexico City, Taiwan JueDai Taipei International Dance Festival, ProArteDanza in Canada, Seoul International Dance Festival in TANK and Movement Research at Judson Church in New York, among many others.

Elaine Kudo was a member of American Ballet Theatre company from 1975 to 1989. She danced soloist and principal roles in a wide range of works mostly in the contemporary repertory. She has had the honor of working with choreographers Anthony Tudor, Jerome Robbins, Glen Tetley, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Eugene Loring and Sir. Kenneth MacMillan, Twyla Tharp, Lynn Taylor-Corbett, Chu San Gogh and David Gordon. Directly after her retirement from the stage in 1990, Kudo began staging the works of Twyla Tharp, nationally and abroad, and she continues to be one of the primary stagings of Tharp's repertory. Kudo also served as ballet master for the New Jersey Ballet, American Repertory Ballet and most recently Washington Ballet. Together with Buddy Balough, she founded and directed Theatre Arts Dance. Among her other credits, Kudo served on the faculty of American Ballet

Theatre's summer intensive program, Ballet Tech, the Contemporary Traditions Program at Jacob's Pillow, Princeton Ballet School and Steps on Broadway.

Caili Quan is a New York-based choreographer who danced with BalletX in Philadelphia from 2013 to 2020. She has created works for BalletX, The Juilliard School, Nashville Ballet, Owen/Cox Dance Group, Columbia Ballet Collaborative and Ballet Academy East. She served as an Artistic Partnership Initiative Fellow and a Toulmin Creator at The Center for Ballet and the Arts at New York University. With BalletX she performed in world premieres by Matthew Neenan, Nicolo Fonte, Gabrielle Lamb, Penny Saunders and Trey McIntyre at venues from Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival to the Kennedy Center. *Mahålang*, a short documentary that wove familial conversations of her Chamorro Filipino upbringing on Guam with scenes from BalletX's *Love Letter*, was shown at the Hawai'i International Film Festival, CAAMFest and Dance on Camera Festival. Quan is currently a creative associate at The Juilliard School.

ABOUT OAKLAND BALLET COMPANY

For 58 years, Oakland Ballet Company has inspired the East Bay community and beyond by keeping the art of ballet exciting, relevant and accessible, primarily through the presentation of works of the Diaghilev repertoire and modern masterpieces. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Graham Lustig, the Company has renewed its commitment to artistic excellence with imaginative programs that engage contemporary audiences through close relationships with living choreographers, the commissioning of new works, innovative collaborations with diverse artists and communities, and compelling educational programs that cultivate the next generation of dance lovers.

A cornerstone of Oakland Ballet Company's legacy has been engagement with the community. Oakland Ballet's *Discover Dance* outreach program features educational programs at East Bay schools, educational in-theater performances, free performances throughout the community, ticket donations to season performances and scholarships to company training programs.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

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WHEN:

March 16 – 18 at the **Asian Cultural Center, Oakland**

Thursday at **7:30 p.m.**

Friday at **7:30 p.m.**

Saturday at **2:30 p.m.** and **7:30 p.m.**

April 7 – 8 at the **Presidio Theatre, San Francisco**

Friday at **7:30 p.m.**

Saturday at **2:30 p.m.** and **7:30 p.m.**

April 22 at the **Tower Theatre for the Performing Arts, Fresno**

Saturday at **5 p.m.**

WHERE:

Oakland Asian Cultural Center

388 Ninth Street

Suite 290

Oakland, CA 94607

Presidio Theatre

99 Moraga Ave

San Francisco, CA 94129

Tower Theatre for the Performing Arts

815 E. Olive Ave

Fresno, CA 93728

TICKETS:

For the Oakland dates: \$45 - \$60

Discounts available for seniors, young children and groups of 10 or more.

To purchase tickets: [eventbrite.com/e/dancing-moons-festival-tickets-511089230647](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dancing-moons-festival-tickets-511089230647).

For the San Francisco dates: \$20 - \$55

To purchase tickets: presidiotheatre.org/show/2023oaklandballet.

For the Fresno dates: pricing TBD

Tickets on sale soon: towertheatrefresno.com

Box office: 559-485-9050, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

oaklandballet.org/performances-events

For all press inquiries please contact John Hill at johnhillpr@gmail.com.