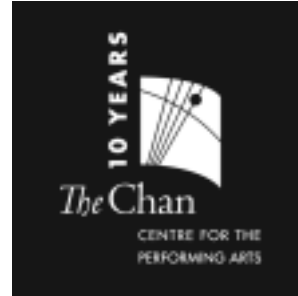


Triaspora



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vancouver's Orchid Ensemble and the Chan Centre present *Triaspora*, featuring Moving Dragon's Jessica Jone & Chengxin Wei

A cultural exploration of the Chinese Canadian experience

Vancouver, BC – The acclaimed musicians of The Orchid Ensemble join forces with choreographer/dancers Jessica Jone and Chengxin Wei of Moving Dragon to perform an exquisite blend of dance, music and multimedia in the anticipated Vancouver debut of ***Triaspora*, September 21 and 22, 2007 at 7:30pm at the Chan Centre at UBC in the Telus Studio Theatre.** Backed by real life stories collected from personal interviews and archives, *Triaspora* explores the Chinese Canadian experience, incorporating Asian traditions with contemporary expression, filling the Chan Centre with an exhilarating mix of style, movement and sound.

Triaspora draws on numerous insightful interviews from different generations of Chinese Canadians, while examining the search for cultural identity and social acceptance.

The collaborative ensemble injects the work with their various artistic talents. Moving Dragon, founded by husband-and-wife team Chengxin Wei and Jessica Jone, punctuates contemporary dance with Chinese thought and movement; The Orchid Ensemble combines Chinese traditional musical instruments with western percussion, performing original scores by Canadian composers Jin Zhang, Mark Armanini and Ya-wen Wang; and leading media artists Kenneth Newby and Aleksandra Dulic punctuate the space with their interactive multimedia exhibit.

Triaspora will be performed on Friday, September 21 and Saturday, September 22 at the Chan Centre at UBC's Telus Studio Theatre, part of the Chan Centre's 10th Anniversary season.

Tickets range in price from \$18 for adults to \$15 for students (with valid ID), plus applicable taxes, and may be purchased in the following ways:

- Through Ticketmaster by phone at 604.280.3311, or online at www.ticketmaster.ca.
- In person at the Chan Centre Ticket Office, 6265 Crescent Road, UBC. (M-F: 12 noon to 5pm, Performance Days: 12 noon to intermission). Info: 604.822.2697, or www.chancentre.com. *The Chan Centre Ticket Office is closed on statutory holidays.

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Triaspora not only reflects the crossing of three disciplines – music, dance and multimedia, but also incorporates the three themes – fire, water and travel. These themes inspire many layers of meaning to the overall collaborative work. In *Triaspora*, water, which at one time used to cover Vancouver’s Chinatown and was also the only medium to carry immigrants to the “new” country, symbolizes their emergence from a repressed world to a new frontier. Like water, which changes its form in natural cycles, the Chinese community continues to transform and renew with each generation. The theme of fire takes inspiration from a major fire that burned Nanaimo Chinatown to the ground in 1960. Fire also represents struggle, hardship and the opportunity for regeneration and rebirth. Traveling is a familiar reality for the immigrant generation. Canada’s economic lifeline - highway 401 and Steve Reich’s famous composition *Different Trains* inspired the music for the final theme in the piece.

Triaspora makes its world premiere in Nanaimo on Saturday, September 15, 2007 at 7:30pm at Malasapina College Theatre, Nanaimo, BC.

Moving Dragon

Jessica Jone and Chengxin Wei founded Moving Dragon in 2004 as a contemporary dance company, focusing on cross-cultural fusion between eastern and western dance styles. Born in Vancouver, Jessica Jone trained in Chinese classical and folk dance with her mother, Lorita Leung, at the Beijing Dance Academy, and the Guangdong Dance School in China. She is also a graduate of the dance program at Simon Fraser University, and has won numerous awards for her performance and choreography. Born in China, Chengxin Wei graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy in 1997, where he studied classical Chinese dance, and worked as principal dancer of the Guangdong Provincial Dance Theatre. Since moving to Vancouver in 2000, Chengxin has danced with companies, including Anatomica, Judith Marcuse Projects, the Lorita Leung Dance Company, Wen Wei Dance and Ballet British Columbia. He has created a number of contemporary works that have appeared at Dances for a Small Stage, the Connecting Community Dance Series and at the Dance Centre. Chengxin was recently announced the recipient of the Iris Garland Emerging Choreography Award, through which he will present a new work for Moving Dragon at Scotiabank Dance Centre in April 2008.

The Orchid Ensemble

Lan Tung – Chinese violin, Gelina Jiang – Chinese zither and Jonathan Bernard – percussion, blend ancient musical instruments and traditions from China and beyond, creating a beautiful new sound that is both original and distinct. The ensemble has embraced a variety of musical styles to its repertoire, ranging from the traditional and contemporary music of China, World Music, New Music to Creative Improvisation. The Orchid Ensemble has been tirelessly developing an innovative musical genre based on the cultural exchange between western and Asian musicians. The ensemble regularly collaborates with musicians from a wide variety of world cultures, and actively commissions new works by Canadian and US composers for its unique instrumentation. The Orchid Ensemble performs regularly in concerts across North America, and at prominent World, Jazz and Folk Music festivals. Recent appearances include The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; Canada Day Celebrations at the National Gallery in Ottawa; the Vancouver International Jazz Festival; and at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.

Listing

Moving Dragon (choreographers/dancers Jessica Jone and Chengxin Wei) joins forces with the acclaimed **Orchid Ensemble** to explore the Chinese Canadian experience through an exquisite blend of dance, theatre and multimedia in *Triaspora*, Sept. 21 & 22 at 7:30pm at the Chan Centre – Telus Studio Theatre. Tickets: Ticketmaster: 604.280.3311 or www.ticketmaster.ca.

Orchid Ensemble – Lan Tung on erhu/Chinese violin, Gelina Jiang on zheng/Chinese zither,
and Jonathan Bernard on percussion
Moving Dragon – Jessica Jone and Chengxin Wei, choreographers and dancers
Media Artists - Kenneth Newby and Aleksandra Dulic
Composers – Jin Zhang, Mark Armanini and Ya-wen Wang
Producer - Lan Tung

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Reference:

Laura Murray
 Media Relations
 Curve Communications
 T: 604.684.3170 ext. 7
 C: 604.306.0027



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Lorita Leung Dance Association, Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission, R.O.C. (Taiwan)