

CONTACT

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NEWS RELEASE
A DOUBLE HEADER

Theatre Ventures International announces newest stage productions
The US premiere of YULAN and THE TERRACOTTA PRINCE

- Two productions directly from their triumphant performances in China -

•**YULAN**, *World of Love Piece and Harmony* - (SAN JOSE) - October 3 through 13, 2013. The US premiere of **Dennis Nahat's** YULAN (Magnolia) will take place in San Jose. YULAN was created in Dalian, China for the Dalian Acrobatic Troupe and had its premiere on November 28, 2012. YULAN is a theatrical spectacle amalgamating multi-media stagecraft with high wire performers, trampoline artists, acrobats and dancers of distinction, classical ballet and *pointe* dancing (balanced on the head and shoulders of partner). The production integrates 55 performing artists and incorporates a system of five projectors with dynamic scenic changes throughout augmented with state-of-the-art moving lights. YULAN is an collective of creative talent hailing from Beijing, Shanghai, Dalian, and Shenyang in China, Tokyo, Japan, Los Angeles and San Jose, California in the U.S.A.

•**PRODUCERS AND NEW COLLABORATIONS** - In 2012, Dennis Nahat founded Theatre Ventures International Ballet School and Productions. Through an arrangement with Executive Director, **Ann Woo**, of the Chinese Performing Artist of America, TVI's School was invited to hold its programs at the newly named International Center for the Performing Arts in San Jose. TVI's Associate School Director, **Klar-Kristan Picard** is in charge of all classes and all levels of curriculum. Collaborations with Woo and Nahat span now over a decade. Nahat has devoted a better part of his career nurturing collaborations world-wide and YULAN is the latest and freshest of ventures that consummates cooperation among TVI, the Dalian Acrobatic Troupe of China with Executive Director **Qi Chunsheng**, United Star Performing Arts Corp. of San Jose with Chief Planner, **Zhao Bin**. YULAN and THE TERRACOTTA PRINCE are being presented in affiliation with the San Jose/Dublin Sister City Program organization, promoting arts and science scholarships for students in Beijing, Dublin and San Jose. These are the first-of-its-kind Masters level exchange scholarships within the Sister Cities International movement.

•**SAN JOSE/DUBLIN SISTER CITY PROGRAM** - The inaugural opening of YULAN performances will feature a tribute to KRON 4 News' **Catherine Heenan**, as the 2013 Spirit of Ireland Award Recipient. Catherine is a Peabody Award winning reporter/anchor who can be seen on KRON 4 evening newscasts. She has been a long time supporter and spokeswoman of the Arts in the Bay Area as well as the Sister City Program in San Jose. Catherine, whose parents were born in Northern Ireland, grew up spending summers in Ireland and England with family. The mission of the San Jose/Dublin Sister City Program is to develop cultural, economic, educational, artistic and sporting ties between San Jose and Dublin as well as Silicon Valley. The local program encompasses 'Irish Week', education, sporting events, community outreach, and the Arts and business activities. The San Jose/Dublin Sister City Program is one of 2000 sister city programs in the Sister Cities International network of 600 US cities. Dublin is also sister city to Beijing, China where a lion's share of the talent in the DOUBLE HEADER presentation originates. The San Jose/Dublin Sister City relationship was initiated in 1986 by then Mayor of San Jose, **Tom McEnery** and the former **Taoiseach** (Prime Minister) **Bertie Ahern** -- who was at the time Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ireland. The San Jose/Dublin Sister city Program has flourished throughout the years, staging an 'Irish Week' each March in San Jose that is attended by an official Dublin city delegation, comprised of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, a number of Dublin City Councillors; the Dublin city Manager and the CEO of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, along with representatives of the business, educational and artistic communities. Nahat is not a newcomer to the sister city relationship. Last season he visited the Lord Mayor of Dublin and Arts leaders and theater groups there, and while in Beijing last year, he invited the World Delegation to attend a YULAN music recording season. In the founding year of the San Jose/Dublin Sister City relationship, Nahat took the San Jose Cleveland Ballet to Dublin with one of the most celebrated dancers of the 20th century, Russian born **Rudolf Nureyev**. This new dynamic concept for a world-wide sister city affiliation was initiated as an outcome of this tour and with YULAN continues to endure with the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of San Jose/Dublin Sister City Program.

•**ABOUT YULAN** - Dennis Nahat was invited by longtime acquaintance Chief Planner, **Zhao Bin** to create a new work of international scope for the Dalian Acrobatic Troupe of China. After visiting and exploring their artistic realm, Nahat began to conceive an appropriate vehicle for the Dalian troupe to 'blossom' onto the international circuit, and committed to creating a full-scale two-act work for the stage. YULAN is the Magnolia flower, the white variety of which is the flower of Shanghai, noted for its early blooming every year. The Magnolia holds a special significance to Nahat as from his childhood on out, his mother spoke of the Magnolia as one of her favorite flowers and she kept one pressed from her wedding throughout her life. Early on, in preparation of a yet untitled production, in the presence of the entire Dalian Acrobatic Troupe team, Nahat asked choreographer **Song Xiaoxue** how she felt about the artists she coached and trained, to which she replied, "I watch them bloom like flowers each day." Nahat then enjoined, "What is the most famous flower in China?" Everyone at the table unaimously exclaimed "YULAN!"... Nahat followed, "Right, then that's the name of our new production!..." To the astonishment of everyone, creation began to take place and within two days Nahat presented a scene-by-scene dissection of the show. Immediately Executive Director **Qi Chunsheng**, Chief Planner **Zhao Bin** and Nahat instructed all departments; Costume Designer, **Xu Zeng** and Set Designer, **Wang Bo** of Shenyang, China were brought in and Nahat flew to Los Angeles where Composer **Paul Chihara** was engaged along with Synthesrator **Jeff Kryka**. Many weeks were spent in Shanghai planning the lighting plot with designer **Xie Yuxi** and Video Graphics Designers, **Jin Xin** and **Zhao You** at place at Tokyo Butai Co. Ltd. The character of each section of the work was determined and the task of creating movement assigned to the appropriate choreographer. The performers often rehearsed in seven-day weeks with the three choreographers. Nahat traveled from San Jose to Dalian each month for two weeks at a time to instruct rehearsal, devise and plan program copy, graphics and theater scheduling. Nahat explained, "We did not have the luxury of surplus financing to build a show spread out over a year or more, as is the normal practice." Instead it was expeditiously completed within six months, record time for the Troupe. Chihara poured out music every week, decidedly ahead of schedule and staging was completed the next. Set and costume drawings came in and costume fittings began. From San Jose, Los Angeles, Shanghai, Shenyang, Beijing, and Tokyo all artists, technicians and staff assembled in Dalian where the show was completed. Delays in the theaters both in Dalian and in the San Jose, CA postponed the opening and the curtain for YULAN finally went up on November 28, 2012 in Dalian, China. Nahat explained, "YULAN uses the art of dance, acrobatics and theatrical poetry to express a caressing, encouraging message for global harmony and for such concerns as our environmental responsibility as it relates to us today. Yet, it is performed without political comment. Rather, it is meant to remind us of the fragility of our planet and the beauty we possess on earth."

•**THE COMMISSIONED SCORE** for YULAN was brilliantly composed and orchestrated by internationally acclaimed **Paul Chihara**. Chihara was born in Seattle, Washington, to Japanese immigrant parents in 1938. He received his doctorate degree (D.M.A.) from Cornell University in New York State, also studied with the renowned pedagogue **Nadia Boulanger** in Paris, **Ernst Pepping** at the Hochschule fur Musik in Berlin, and with **Gunther Schuller** at Tanglewood. He was composer-in-residence at the San Francisco Ballet from 1973-1986, as well as the first composer-in-residence with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, under **Neville Marriner**. In addition to his many concert works, Mr. Chihara has composed music for over 100 motion pictures and television series, including work with directors **Sidney Lumet**, **Louis Malle**, and **Arthur Penn**. Mr. Chihara has been awarded the 2008 Composer-of-the-Year by the Classical Recording Foundation in New York. He is a Professor of Music at UCLA, and the Chair of Visual Media film music program. Chihara directed the 80 musicians for the recording of YULAN, utilizing the International Chief Philharmonic Orchestra of Beijing. The YULAN music recording will be commercially released on the Albany Record label later this year.

•**SYNTHESRATOR AND ADDITIONAL ORCHESTRATIONS** for YULAN are by film and concert composer, **Jeff Kryka**. Mr. Kryka has been awarded by Turner Classic Movies, ASCAP, the RMA L.A., the Henry Mancini Foundation, and has been performed and recorded by virtuoso violinists **Anne Akiko Meyers** and **Maria Bachmann**, the Hollywood Studio Symphony, The Hollywood Reporter Key Art Awards, Pacific Serenades, and the Heartland Symphony Orchestra. Kryka studied music composition at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with composers **Stephen Dembski** and **Laura Schwendinger** and at the University of California-Los Angeles with composers **Paul Chihara**, **Roger Bourland**, **Ian Krouse**, and **David Lefkowitz**. At UCLA he also studied film music with composers **Charles Fox**, **Laura Karpman**, and orchestration with **Bruce Broughton**. Aside from his own music, projects include the Fox TV shows: *Fringe*, *Almost Human*, *Alcatraz*, and *UnderCovers*. Video games: *SimCity*, *Kung Fu Panda 2*, and *Kinect Disneyland Adventures*. His films credits are *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *Jupiter Ascending*, *Super 8*, *John Carter*, and *Let Me In*.

•**THE DALIAN ACROBATIC TROUPE** was established in 1951 and lead by Chief Executive Director, **Qi Chunsheng** through half a century of performing. With Chef Planner, **Zhao Bin**, the troupe has formed its own artistic style. On the foundation of inheriting an excellent cultural tradition, the Dalian Acrobatic Troupe has created many works with bold innovation, such as the likes of YULAN. The Troupe has performed in more than 60 countries and has received over 240 awards and prizes in both domestic and international acrobatic competitions. It has been in the forefront of new trends and has created many of the new forms of acrobatics enjoyed around the world today. There are over 300 students who live and train with the Troupe at the Dalian headquarters each day. YULAN is the first production to have been created with private funding in China and is regarded by the Ministry of Culture of China as “The Production of the Season to watch for..”

•**YULAN** - Scene 1: *Filaments of Galaxies - Before Time*, Scene 2: *Winds of Fire*, Scene 3: *The Flood*, Scene 4: *The Freeze*, Scene 5: *Photosynthesis*, Scene 6: *Mating*, Scene 7: *Metamorphosis*, Scene 8: *Wild Destruction*, Scene 9: *New Green*, Scene 10: *Natural Shades of Complexion*, Scene 11: *Flowering*, and Scene 12: *YULAN Flower of Love Piece and Harmony*.

All Performances of YULAN are 2 hour with one intermission.

Performance Dates

October 3,	7:30pm
October 4,	7:30pm
October 5,	1:30pm
October 5,	7:30pm
October 6,	1:30pm
October 7,	NO PERFORMANCE
October 8,	7:30pm
October 9,	7:30pm
October 10,	7:30pm
October 11,	7:30pm
October 12,	1:30pm
October 12,	7:30pm
October 13,	1:30pm

YULAN
<i>Music & Orchestration:</i> Paul Chihara
<i>Synthistration & Additional Orchestration:</i> Jeff Kryka
<i>Choreographers:</i> Song Iaoxue / Zhang Hongfei / Dennis Nahat
<i>Costumes:</i> Xu Zeng
<i>Scenery:</i> Wang Bo
<i>Lighting:</i> Xie Yuxi
<i>Lighting Programmer:</i> Li Qinyang
<i>U.S. Technical Director / Lighting Supervisor:</i> Kenneth Keith
<i>Video Designers:</i> Jin Xin / Zhao You
<i>Video Production:</i> Luo Youfu
<i>Technical Engineers:</i> Xue Yihua / Shi Jun
<i>Scenery Coordinator:</i> Sun Jianfei
<i>Recorded Music Supervisor:</i> Liu Yan
<i>Costume Production:</i> Shimin Wardrobe House
<i>Scenery Production:</i> Gao Ming, Dalian Hau Xia Stage Arts Garment Factory
<i>Mr. Nahat’s Assistant and Translator:</i> Lin Quan
<i>Photography:</i> John Gerbetz
<i>Recording:</i> International Chief Philharmonic Orchestra of Beijing
<i>Recording Studio’s:</i> The Film Studio of China
<i>Lighting and Video coordinators:</i> Tokyo Butai Showmei Engineering Consulting Co. Ltd.
<i>Dalian Acrobatic Troupe Executive Director:</i> Qi Chunsheng
<i>Chef Planner:</i> Zhao Bin
<i>Concept, Staging & Direction:</i> Dennis Nahat

All Performances at the
California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San Jose, California 95113

FOR TICKETS CALL: 408.792.4111

Or Click: Yulan



.THE TERRACOTTA PRINCE - (SAN JOSE) - December 18 through 29, 2013 is the North American premiere of THE TERRACOTTA PRINCE. Ushering in the Holiday spirit, this innovative and exciting performance by the Dalian Acrobatic Troupe is directed and presented by Dennis Nahat of Theatre Ventures International Ballet School and Productions of San Jose, United Star Performing Arts Corp. of and the San Jose/Dublin Sister City Program.

THE TERRACOTTA PRINCE is an acrobatic stage show utilizing the Chinese spirit and sensibility. The main theme is of a Xian Terracotta Warrior and is expressed with movement rooted in Chinese acrobatics and dance. The production is choreographed and staged by Dalian Executive Directors, **Zhang Yongqiang, Jin Yunjiang** and **Su Wei** in collaboration with Nahat. The scenario is written by General Director of the Dalian Troupe, **Qi Chunsheng**. Lighting for this production is by **Kenneth Keith**. It is the newest in Holiday enchantment for the entire family. THE TERRACOTTA PRINCE is performed to **Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's** evergreen masterpiece *The Nutcracker* and includes incidental Chinese traditional percussion music. With everything from magic to daring aerial flying acts, bicycle wire acts, colorful characters on stilts, synchronized hat juggling and snowflake dancers on roller skates hurling starshaped boomerangs out over the audience - the Holiday will never be the same after experiencing this production!

THE TERRACOTTA PRINCE is a modern stage presentation incorporating acrobatic with expressive pantomime and highlighting some of the most famous art forms of China. This production created a sensation when it was first performed in three European countries in 2008 and 2009. In reviving the production, Nahat has retained all the elements of the original for a new Holiday extravaganza to emerged afresh with many vivacious and colorful characters, comprising a cast of fifty artists bringing a new rendition of a warrior's tale of plight and rescued by his heroine. Flaunting high fashion design and instantly recognizable characterizations such as the Panda Bear Dance, spectacular toe acrobatics atop a Christmas tree; an inebriated guest appearing out of a magic pool of smoke, offering an impromptu show balancing precariously on a tiny wooden plank over huge, side-stacked Champaign bottles; a contortionist writhing with several lit candelabras; snowflake dancers flying through the air and the now famous on-the-head *pointe* dancer, cap off the performance! This modern take, imbued with Tchaikovsky's classic music, will delight the entire family, young and old.

All Performances of THE TERRACOTTA PRINCE are 2 hour with one intermission.

Performance Dates

Dec. 18,	7:30pm
Dec. 19,	7:30pm
Dec. 20,	7:30pm
Dec. 21,	1:30pm (Children's Mat. 1 hr. show)
Dec. 21,	4:30pm (Children's Mat. 1 hr. show)
Dec. 21,	7:30pm
Dec. 22,	1:30pm
Dec. 22,	7:30pm
Dec. 23,	7:30pm
Dec. 24,	1:30pm (Children's Mat. 1 hr. show)
Dec. 25,	NO PERFORMANCE
Dec. 26,	1:30pm
Dec. 26,	7:30pm
Dec. 27,	7:30pm
Dec. 28,	1:30pm
Dec. 28,	7:30pm
Dec. 29,	1:30pm

THE TERRACOTTA PRINCE

Music: **Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky**
Adapted Script Writer /General Director /Producer: **Qi Chunsheng**
Chef Planner: **Zhao Bin**
Choreographers and Stagers: **Zhang Yongqiang, Jin Yunjiang, Su Wei**
Music Editors: **Liu Yan, Jiang Dahai**
Set Designer: **Xu Xiaodi**
Costume Designers: **Xu Shimin, Zhang Shuxun, Xu Zeng, Pan Liya**
U.S. Technical Director / Lighting Designer: **Kenneth Keith**
Cosmetician: **Liang Yi**
Program Photographers: **Sun Dejun / Cao Gang / Shi Xianfeng**
Photography Editing and Supervision: **John Gerbetz**
Assistant and Translator to Mr. Nahat: **Xu Juan**
Direction and Presenter: **Dennis Nahat**

All Performances at the
California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San Jose, California 95113

FOR TICKETS CALL: 408.792.4111

Or Click: Terracotta