



**Palladium, Malmo 27-28 Sep 2011 7.30 pm.**

**BeijingDance / LDTX**

北京雷动天下现代舞团

Artistic Director: Willy Tsao

[www.beijingldtx.com](http://www.beijingldtx.com)

## INTRODUCTION

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The birth of BeijingDance / LDTX (Lei Dong Tian Xia , literally translated as Thunder Rumbles Under Heaven) in September of 2005 not only caught widespread international attention, but also captured the imagination of many artists in China. BeijingDance / LDTX was born out of a controversial and exciting time of rapid cultural change in China, becoming China's first non-governmental and independent professional dance company.

Founded by veteran choreographers and a new generation of dancers in China, BeijingDance / LDTX is a platform for contemporary creations. Under the artistic direction of Willy Tsao, China's foremost figure in modern dance, and deputy artistic director Li Hanzhong, the company boasts an ensemble of technically exquisite dancers and a diverse repertoire. Based in China's capital, BeijingDance / LDTX serves as both a leader and a catalyst for the modern and contemporary dance and dance appreciation movement. By nurturing young talent and working with Chinese choreographers, BeijingDance / LDTX pioneers China's most cutting edge choreography.

Since its creation in 2005, BeijingDance / LDTX has traveled extensively throughout Mainland China, Hong Kong, Europe and North America. The company has participated in many cooperate and commercial engagements in China. In addition, BeijingDance / LDTX hosts the annual Beijing Dance Festival, which brings the world's most innovative work to the nation's capital. Through performance seasons, educational programs, technique classes, and outreach activities, BeijingDance / LDTX attracts aspiring dancers and artists to contemporary dance and serves as an important voice in the evolution of modern Chinese thought and society.

## WILLY TSAO Artistic director

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Willy Tsao has been a major figure in China's modern dance community for over 25 years. Born and educated in Hong Kong, Tsao received his modern dance training in the USA from 1973 to 1977. In 1979, he graduated from the University of Hong Kong with an MBA degree and established the Hong Kong City Contemporary Dance Company (CCDC).

Tsao has dedicated incessant effort towards the development of modern dance in China. In 1986, he was invited to teach modern dance at the Beijing Dance Academy, and served later as the Artistic Advisor for their Youth Dance Company. In 1987, he became an advisor for the Guangdong Dance School and was instrumental in creating the Guangdong Modern Dance Company, the first professional modern dance company in China. He served as their Artistic Director from 1992 to 1998. Tsao has conducted intensive modern dance workshops in many cities in China, including Shanghai, Wuhan, Kunming, Fuzhou, Taiyuan and Daqing. In 1999, he was invited to be the Artistic Director for Beijing Modern Dance Company. In September 2005, he re-established the company under the new name BeijingDance / LDTX.

As a choreographer, his works have been presented in the United States, Canada, Korea, Japan, Israel, Germany, France as well as Beijing, Shanghai, and Taipei in China. Tsao's contribution to modern dance has been widely recognized. In July 1999, he was awarded the "Bronze Bauhinia Star" by the Hong Kong Government for his significant contribution to the development of local arts. Other awards and honors include the "Dancer of the Year Award" from the Hong Kong Artists' Guild (1988), the "Ten Outstanding Young Persons" Award (1990), "The Badge of Honor" from HRH Queen Elizabeth II (1993), and the "Louis Cartier Award of Excellence - Outstanding Choreographer"(1998). His major choreographic works include: Bird Songs, Kunlun, China Wind, China Fire, Wandering in the Realm of Lightness, One Table Two Chairs.

## *One Table N Chairs (excerpt)*

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**Duration:** 44 minutes

**Choreographers:** Willy Tsao, Li Hanzhong and Ma Bo

**Dancers:** The Full Company

**Costume design:** Zhao Jiapei

**Lighting design:** Godzilla Tan

Transition – Music: The Opening segment of the Transitional Music from the Chinese Opera  
(Musical note: The transitional music is mainly made up of various sounds of gongs, drums and chimes, usually very loud to attract audience attention.)

1. FAREWELL --- I Said Good-bye To My Male Schoolmate Who Turned Out To Be A Woman

Music: Excerpt from the Er-Ren Zhuan “Eighteen Miles Farewell” (Musical note: Er-Ren Zhuan is a popular operatic style in the northeast of China, famous for its humorous treatment to the traditional drama.)

2. HOMESICK --- I Thought Of My Other Wife Who Lived Thousand Miles Away

Music: Excerpt from the Jing-Ju “Sitting in the Palace” (Musical note: Also known as Peking Opera, Jing-Ju is the youngest and the most sophisticated among the many traditional operatic forms in China. It absorbs the essence of other opera styles and puts equal emphasis on four performing aspects: singing, acting, speaking and acrobatics.)

Transition - Collage of the Transitional Music from the Chinese Opera

3. COMRADESHIP --- Friends Who Used To Be Jealous Of Me Were Coming To My Party

Music: Excerpt from the Jing-Ju “Harmony in the Court”

4. Dying For Love --- We Let Death Do Us Apart While The Enemies Were At The Door

Music: Excerpt from the Yuet-Ju “The Flower Princess” (Musical note: The Yuet-Ju is originated from the Guangdong Province, south of China, famous for its lively singing and acting style.)

Transition - Collage of the Spoken Words in the Chinese Opera

This excerpt is four out of nine scenes that together compose the full evening version of One Table N Chairs. Inspired by the local operas in different parts of China, the nine scenes represent the different sentiments and situations of life. It is estimated that China has over one hundred kinds of local opera, each with its unique singing and acting style. The nine most distinctive types of operas and their highlights are adapted and deconstructed in One Table N Chairs to give a kaleidoscopic picture of contemporary and traditional China.

## *All River Red (Rite of Spring)*

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**Duration:** 38 minutes

**Choreography:** Li Hanzhong, Ma Bo

**Music:** “Rite of Spring”, composed by Igor Stravinsky, performed by Philharmonic Orchestra

**Dancers:** The Full Company

**Lighting Design:** Godzilla Tan

Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring premiered in 1913, signifying the dawn of a new era in music. This music has inspired many western choreographers, and now, BeijingDance/ LDTX’s Chinese choreographers offer their unique version, All River Red. The work reflects how contemporary dance has been developing in 20th century in China against all odds. All River Red shows not so much a comfortable fusion of East-meets-West, but a direct and violent confrontation between those adhering to tradition and those aspiring to innovation.

### The Company - Dancers:

Ma Bo, Song Tingting, Zhao Kexin, Tang Tingting, Li Yue, Liang Yu, Liu Yifeng, Xu Yiming, Zheng Zhi, Zi Wei, Zhaxiwangjia, Qian Kun.

**Artistic Director:** Willy Tsao

**Deputy Artistic Director:** Li Hanzhong

**Technical Director:** Tan Keam Beng

**Administration Director:** Chen Zheng

**Program Manager:** Yin Peng

**Production Manager:** Chen Lin

**Stage Manager:** You Hu

**Wardrobe:** Zhang Yu

### LI HAN-ZHONG Deputy Artistic Director / Choreographer

A native of Yunnan (China), Li Hanzhong graduated with a bachelor 's degree from the Division of Chinese Ethnic Dance at the Beijing Dance Academy in 1991. Upon graduation, he joined the Guangdong Modern Dance Company where he performed as a dancer, and served as an artistic assistant and choreographer. He toured with the company to the United States, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Korea, Singapore, and the Philippines. In 1996, he received the Asian Cultural Council Scholarship to study at the American Dance Festival for three months.

Li has been invited to choreograph new works for a variety of international dance institutions including the Center for the Arts, Adelaide (1998 and 2000), Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, Taiwan (1999), and the American Dance Festival's International Choreographers Showcase (1999). Li joined the Beijing Modern Dance Company as Deputy Artistic Director in March 1999 and continues to serve in that capacity for BeijingDance/ LDTX. Some of his most acclaimed works include All River Red (2000), Undetermined Domain (1997), Rear Light (2002), and The Cold Dagger (2006).

### MA BO Choreographer / Assistant Artistic Director/ Dancer

Born in Mizhi, Shanxi Province, Ma joined Shanxi Provincial Song and Dance Theatre in 1985. She received a bachelor's degree from the Beijing Dance Academy in 1991, and soon after joined the Academy as a faculty member. Ma has performed with Guangdong Modern Dance Company and went on to perform with Beijing Modern Dance Company in 1999. She has collaborated with choreographer Li Hanzhong on previous modern dance works. Her works includes Variation of Red, Helpless, Gone with it in Multi-Color, Garden of Memory, The Cold Dagger and others.



**DANSSTATIONEN**

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