



Chih-Jou Cheng

Freelance movement artist

Chih-Jou Cheng is a Taiwanese movement artist and puppeteer who is dedicated to creating artworks that illuminate the challenges and joys of the human experience through collaborative physical theatre.

Contact

Email

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Website

<https://chihjou-cheng.com/>

Education

2021

MA Devised Performance Practice
Columbia College Chicago, USA

2016

Drama Creation and Application
with a minor on early childhood education
National University of Tainan, Taiwan

2017

BA Theatre
with a concentration on
choreography and directing
Otterbein University, USA



Grants

2023

YNPN Chicago - Professional Growth Grant

2023

DCASE Individual Artist Grant

2023

Chicago Cultural Center Dance Studio Residency

2023

Chicago Arts & Health for Creative Workers Award

PROJECT

2021-present

Project Leader/Choreographer

Arriving at Dawn (PT)

"Arriving at Dawn" is a wordless physical theatre production that delves into the theme of discovering one's sense of belonging by exploring the experiences of immigrants. The narrative draws inspiration from interviews and research

2020-present

Project Leader/Choreographer/Performer

Above the Water (PT)

Above the Water is a poetic physical theatre piece that incorporates poems, movement, and puppetry to allow the audience and performers to walk together through the shifting complexities and landscapes of the five stages of grief.

- Present at the Den Theatre in Chicago 2021
- The project was awarded by the Illinois Arts Council Grant

2023

Project leader/Choreographer/Performer

Unfinished Island Songs (DT)

This is a dance of warmth and sincerity, interweaving the yearning of wanderers who grapple with their forever-changed relationships with Taiwan. A bittersweet ode to the origins and transformations of the land and embodied memories forever cherished.

- Present at Bridge Dance Festival at Links Hall 2023

2015

Project leader/Director

Hold your Hand (T)

An oral history community theatre about the people and history of the Yin-Tong Community in Taiwan.

- I led a team to conduct a 10-week workshop with an elderly community to teach them how to express their life stories through theatre.
- Work with a playwright to create an original play
- Directed and presented at Yin-Tong Community as immersive theatre in Taiwan 2015

2014

Director/Co-Choreographer

Violate.Space (DT)

A Dance Theatre inspired by the abandoned old construction to discuss the stories that intertwined between space and people.

- Present with Move Space Dance Theatre at Hsinchu, Taiwan 2014

* performed as an understudy

DT: dance theatre; MT: musical; PT: Physical Theatre; D: Dance Show



Certificate

Adult Mental Health First Aid Certificate

Malcolm X - City Colleges of Chicago

Storytelling in Teaching Certification

National University of Tainan



Awards

2018

Best Choreography Award

"Night Sky" (Chor.) won the Best Choreography Award and 5 first places, and other awards at the 2018 Ohio dance competition season

2014-16

Scholarship Program of Excellent Teacher Education

Taiwan

2014

Modern Dance – 1st Place

2014 National Students Dancing Competition - Southern Taiwan

Language

Mandarin



English



Taiwanese



Reference

Tom Lee

Co-Director of Chicago Puppet Studio & Puppet Lab,

Email: tlee668@gmail.com

Alice da Cunha

Artistic Director of Chicago Physical Theater Festival.

Email: alice@physicalfestival.com

CHOREOGRAPHING/DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

2021

Newsies

Co-Choreographer

Music House School of Performing Arts
Director: Máire Witt O'Neill

Chicago, IL

2017

My Fair Lady

Asst. Director

Otterbein Summer Theater
Director: Lenny Leibowitz

Westerville, OH

2016

The Addams Family

Asst. Choreographer

Otterbein Summer Theater
Choreographer: Stella Kane

Westerville, OH

2012

Listen

Project Leader/Director

National University of Tainan

Tainan, Taiwan

Performing Experience

2023

The Dream King (PT)

Ensemble/Undercover*

Teatro Vista; Dir. - Alice da Cunha & Sandra Marquez

Chicago, IL

2023

The Hero Within (MT)

Dancer

Chicago Shakespeare Theater; Dir. - Tor Campbell

Chicago, IL

2023

The King and I (MT)

Ensemble, Ballet Dog, u/s Uncle Thomas*

Drury Lane Theatre; Choreo. - Darren Lee; Dir. - Alan Paul

Chicago, IL

2023

Miranda (MT)

Tiger/Stella

Impostors Theatre; music/book -Dominick Alesia

Chicago, IL

2018

A Chorus Line (MT)

Connie Wong (Lead)

Metropolis Theater; Dir.- Robin Hughes; Choreo.- Christie Kerr

Chicago, IL

2019

Anything Goes (MT)

Luke

Metropolis Theater; Dir. - Robin Hughes; Choreo. - Christie Kerr

Chicago, IL

2015

The Promises from the Sea

Rocky (Lead)

Tainan Municipal Cultural Center; Dir. - Rey-Fang Hsu

Tainan, Taiwan

Special Skills

Piano(basic); Dance: Tap(I), Musical Theatre Dance, Chinese Folk Dance, Martial Art Dance, Modern, Ballet, Puppetry, Stage Combat (basic), Living Statue, basic tumbling, Roller Skating, Partner Acrobat