



Contact

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Education

2025

Lize Puppet Art Colony puppetry
The Puppet and Its Double company

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

2024

Ragdale Residency USA

2023

YNPN Chicago - Professional Growth Grant

2023

DCASE Individual Artist Grant Chicago

2023

Chicago Cultural Center Dance Studio Residency

2023

Chicago Arts & Health for Creative Workers Award



Certificate

**Community Health Worker
Certificate**

Malcolm X - City Colleges of Chicago

**Adult Mental Health First Aid
Certificate**

Malcolm X - City Colleges of Chicago

**Storytelling in Teaching
Certification**

National University of Tainan

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.

PROJECT

Project leader/Director

Lost & Found (T)

Chicago, USA

A devised community theatre show featuring four immigrant artists sharing their stories through their chosen media.

- Conducted workshops with the community to foster connection and storytelling.
- Collaborated with the artists to create an original, multi-disciplinary performance.
- Directed and presented at Links Hall as an interactive and immersive theatre experience in Chicago, 2024.

Project Leader/Choreographer

Arriving at Dawn workshop (PT)

Chicago, USA

"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

Project Leader/Choreographer/Performer

Above the Water (PT)

Chicago, USA

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.

- Presented at the Den Theatre in Chicago 2022
- The project was awarded by the Illinois Arts Council Grant

Project leader/Choreographer/Performer

Unfinished Island Songs (DT)

Chicago, USA

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

Project leader/Director

Hold your Hand (T)

Tainan, Taiwan

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 20215

Director/Co-Choreographer

Violate.Space (DT)

Tainan, Taiwan

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

Project Leader/Director

Listen (P)

Tainan, Taiwan

An oral history play that explores the ensemble's collective memories, focusing on the pivotal turning points in their lives through shared stories and lived experiences.

* performed as an understudy

DT: dance theatre; MT: musical; PT: Physical Theatre; D: Dance Show; P: Play; PP: puppetry



Awards

2024

Princess Grace Fellowship US national

2024

3 Arts Award - Dance Chicago

2024

Princess Grace Honoraria US national

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 for Bartelt dancers

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

The Little Mermaid (MT)

puppet movment coaching

Chicago, IL

Drury Lane Theatre; Director: Scott Weinstein; Choreo.: Kasey Alfonso

Comfort Women/Silent Clamor(PT)

Choreographer

Chicago, IL

Alien Theater Company; Director: Ji Won Jeon

Newsies (MT)

Co-Choreographer

Chicago, IL

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

The Addams Family (MT)

Asst. Choreographer

Westerville, OH

Otterbein Summer Theater; Choreographer: Stella Kane

My Fair Lady (MT)

Asst. Director

Westerville, OH

Otterbein Summer Theater; Director: Lenny Leibowitz

Performing Experience

RHYNOCERON (PP)

Puppeteer

NYC, USA

Puppetopia 2025 at HERE Art Center: created by KT Shivak

Little Amal the Walk (PP)

Community Lead Puppeteer

Chicago, USA

Chi. International Puppet Theater Fest; Dir. Blair Thomas

The King and I (MT)

Ensemble, Ballet Dog, u/s Uncle Thomas*

Chicago, USA

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

The Dream King (PT)

Lead Puppeteer/Undercover*

Chicago, USA

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

Little Handsome Devil (PP)

Heart Puppeteer

Cancun, Mexico

Chi. International Puppet Theater Fest; Dir. - Tom Lee & Rowan Magee

The Hero Within (MT)

Dancer

Chicago, USA

Chicago Shakespeare Theater; Dir. - Tor Campbell

Miranda (MT)

Tiger/Stella

Chicago, USA

Impostors Theatre; music/book -Dominick Alesia

A Chorus Line (MT)

Connie Wong (Lead)

Chicago, USA

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

Anything Goes (MT)

Luke

Chicago, USA

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

The Promises from the Sea (P)

Rocky (Lead)

Tainan, Taiwan

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

Special Skills

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