



Enriching lives through Dance



About Gin Dance Company

Gin Dance Company (GDC) is a Metropolitan DC/Northern VA based performing arts modern dance company that was founded in 2011 to provide a professional environment for artists to learn, grow, and express themselves and to bring refreshing and vitalizing works of Artistic Director Shu-Chen Cuff to the community. Each of GDC's works uniquely reflects Shu-Chen's rich Asian Dance heritage and Eastern philosophy blended with Western fluidity of movement and culture. GDC's works have been recognized and named finalists at the Dance Metro DC Awards in the categories of Outstanding Choreography and Outstanding Individual Performer. GDC has also been selected and invited to several prestigious events and performances reaching out to thousands of people including presenting our 'Deep eMotion' full production at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, The 30th Annual DC Mayor's Arts Awards at the Lincoln Theatre, The Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relation between China and the United States at the Embassy of The People's Republic of China, BUMBO Dance Festival at the Gelsey Kirkland Arts Center in New York, Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival at the Atlas Performing Arts Center, VelocityDC Dance Festival at the Sidney Harman Hall, SoloDuo Dance Festival at the Dixon Place in New York, 'Yes! Dance Invitational' - A National Festival of Contemporary Dance & Theater at the Dogtown Dance Theatre, Taiwan Night Concert at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, the Reston Multicultural Festival, and Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.

We are guided by the philosophy that by spreading the amazing art form of dance, we are building a stronger and closer community. Applying that in practice, GDC has performed and supported many great charitable causes through our Outreach Performance Program including the American Diabetes Association, Child Rescue Center, Benefit Habitat for Humanity, The Angel Fund's Remembrance Cabaret, Johns Hopkins Children's Center, Life After Domestic Violence, Benefit Concert for Wounded Warriors, Catholic Charities U.S.A. in supporting the families at the border, and many others.

Our mission is both to provide a professional environment for artists to learn, grow, and express themselves and to bring refreshing and vitalizing works to the community. Each of Shu-Chen's works uniquely reflects her rich Asian Dance heritage and Eastern philosophy blended with Western fluidity of movement and culture. We are guided by the philosophy that by spreading the amazing art form of dance, we build a stronger and closer community ~ Enriching lives through Dance.

The Artistic Director



Shu-Chen Cuff was born in Kaohsiung, Taiwan where she established a well-rounded background in dance with training in Ballet, Modern, Chinese Opera movements, and various Chinese folk dances. She immigrated to United States to continue her training and pursue her dance journey. Shu-Chen performed numerous classical and contemporary works while dancing with the Miami Ballet and Nevada Ballet Theater. After relocating to the Washington, DC area in 2002, Shu-Chen

worked with Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company and has left her footprints around the world, touring to Asia, Central America, and Europe. Shu-Chen has also performed at the International Dance Festival in Japan, Malaysia, and Taiwan.

With her strong desire of creating refreshing and vitalizing works for the community, Shu-Chen established Gin Dance Company in 2011. Shu-Chen's works have been featured on FOX5 DC News as well as numerous publications including the Washington Post, Washingtonian, Capital Hill Rag Magazine, Washington Flyer Magazine, Northern Virginia Magazine, Reston Connection, MetroDC Theater Arts, and Shu-Chen was a featured model for Summer Chic Fashions at Lincoln Theatre with Washington Life Magazine. In 2017, Shu-Chen collaborated with two-time Grammy nominee, David Taylor. Shu-Chen had an exclusive radio interview with Denise Turney. Shu-Chen also has been a Finalist in the category of Outstanding Choreographer and Outstanding Individual Performer at the Dance MetroDC Awards and is a recipient of the Strauss Artist Grant by the Arts Council of Fairfax County and has served on the Board of Director of Dance MetroDC.

The Executive Director

As our Executive Director, Gary Cuff brings a wealth of proven business experience and success to Gin Dance Company (GDC). Gary spent 12 ½ years heading up the Graphics and Department for Val-Pak Direct Marketing Systems, Inc., the largest direct mail marketing firm in the nation. He left Val-Pak to take on the role of Director of the Digital Imaging Service Center for Cadmus Journal Services, the largest producer of technical, medical, and scientific journals in the world. In a return to advertising and marketing, Gary then spent 7 ½ years as the Senior Vice President for United Marketing Solutions. In these positions, Gary has been responsible for multi-million dollar budgets, development and implementation of new technologies, capital expenditure decisions, direct supervision and full responsibility for hundreds of employees and staff members. Following his entrepreneurial spirit and a desire to own his own business, coupled with his success as a real estate investor and a genuine nature of helping others, Gary transitioned to a career in Real Estate. After 7 years as an Associate Broker with Weichert Realtors and Re/Max Allegiance, Gary launched his own company in 2005. As the Principal Broker/Owner of Cuff & Company Realtors, Gary has enjoyed many successes including being a consistent recipient of numerous awards in recognition of his productivity. He is a well-respected and high-achieving member of the Real Estate & Business communities, known for his rock-solid reputation and high ethical standards. Gary states that he *'Is thrilled to be a part of Gin Dance Company ... Working with such creative people is an amazing experience'* ... In his role as Executive Director, he is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the business side of GDC.



Highlights

2019

- GDC Presented at 'NEXT' at the Arts Club of Washington, Washington, DC
- **DUMBO Dance Festival, Gelsey Kirkland Arts Center, Brooklyn, NY**
- Collaborated in Heidi Latsky's 'ON DISPLAY/RESTON' at the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, Reston Town Square Park, Reston, VA
- Celebration of the Lunar New Year and the 40th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with United State, Embassy of The People's Republic of China, Washington, DC
- GDC 'NEXT', Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival, Atlas Performing Arts Center, Washington, DC
- Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, McLean, VA
- GDC Community Outreach Performance for Children at the KinderCare, Alexandria, VA
- Catholic Charities U.S.A. in Supporting the Families at the Border Benefit Concert, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Falls Church, VA.
- GDC Community Outreach Performance at the Greenspring Village Senior Home, Falls Church, VA

2018

- GDC Presented at 'NEXT' at the Arts Club of Washington, Washington, DC
- **DUMBO Dance Festival, Gelsey Kirkland Arts Center, Brooklyn, NY**
- Collaborated in Heidi Latsky's 'ON DISPLAY/RESTON' at the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, Reston Town Square Park, Reston, VA
- Celebration of the Lunar New Year and the 40th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with United State, Embassy of The People's Republic of China, Washington, DC
- GDC 'NEXT', Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival, Atlas Performing Arts Center, Washington, DC
- Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, McLean, VA
- GDC Community Outreach Performance for Children at the KinderCare, Alexandria, VA
- Catholic Charities U.S.A. in Supporting the Families at the Border Benefit Concert, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Falls Church, VA.
- GDC Community Outreach Performance at the Greenspring Village Senior Home, Falls Church, VA



Repertory



Infinity

This work in which Shu-Chen expresses through movement that we are all spiritual beings having a physical experience, but that our journey to learn, grow, and love continue well beyond our limited time on this earthly plane.

World Premiere: February 21, 2019, GDC's 'NEXT' production at the Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival at the Atlas Performing Arts Center, Washington, DC

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 10:10 Minutes

Dancers: 7

Music: Samuel Barber

Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff

Photo by Ruth Judson

We, The Moon, The Sun

This work is an Asian culturally influenced work combining Chinese Opera movements and modern dance in which Shu-Chen explores the idea that we are One... Our energy flows together constantly just as the earth, the moon, and the sun all depend on each other.

World Premiere: October 6, 2018, GDC's 'The Story of Our Lives' production at the Reston CenterStage, Reston, VA

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 12:25 Minutes

Dancers: 7

Music: Enka Aska

Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff

Photo by Ruth Judson



200 Feet

This work was inspired by author Jack Canfield's teachings - "how life tends to unfold before us. If we just trust, the next 200 feet will unfold, and the next 200 feet after that and so on. Your life will keep unfolding and it will eventually get you to the destination of what ever it is that you truly want."

World Premiere: October 6, 2018, GDC's 'The Story of Our Lives' production at the Reston CenterStage, Reston, VA

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 15:15 Minutes

Dancers: 4

Music: Joshua Bell & James Newton Howard, Todd Reynolds, Somei Satoh, Senking



L.E.O.

This work is inspired by the works of Leonardo Bernstein, L.E.O. is an acronym for Listen - listen deeply into your inner beliefs; Enrich - enrich your soul, and Optimize - make the best out of what you have. This work stands behind Leonardo Bernstein's philosophy that we all do our part to make the world a better place.

World Premiere: March 3, 2018, GDC's 'PHENOMENA' production at the Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival, Atlas Performing Arts Center, Washington, DC

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 9:00 Minutes

Dancers: 5

Music: Composed by Johannes Brahms, Conducted by Leonard Bernstein with New York Philharmonic

Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff

Photo by Ruth Judson



The Other Side

This work Shu-Chen delves into various phenomena through movements and expands the audience's imagination – When we leave this world, do we still linger on an earthy plane or do we go somewhere else? Can we connect both worlds?

World Premiere: October 21, 2017, GDC's 'Dance, Champagne & Chocolate with Gin' production at The Fredgren Theater, Falls Church, VA

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 26:45 Minutes

Dancers: 7

Music: René Aubry, Hans Zimmer

Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff

Photo by Ruth Judson



Connect.Disconnect.

This work Shu-Chen explores how technology has increased the pace of our daily lives. We are on the go more than ever and so connected to everyone, everywhere, all the time. Are we becoming addicted to our technology? Can we unplug and let go?

World Premiere: October 21, 2017, GDC's 'Dance, Champagne & Chocolate with Gin' production at The Fredgren Theater, Falls Church, VA

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 3:10 Minutes

Dancers: 1

Music: Bryce Dessner

Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff

Photo by Ruth Judson





Hello! Goodbye!

This piece was inspired by the extraordinary artist Mary Ann Mears's dynamic sculpture 'Reston Rondo' which is installed at Hyatt Park, the gateway to Reston Town Center. 'Hello! Goodbye!' takes a humorous, cheerful, and whimsical look at the role the 'Reston Rondo'. Shu-Chen was commissioned by the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) and Reston CenterStage to create this work.

World Premiere: May 21 & 22, 2016 at Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, Hyatt Park, Reston Town Center, Reston, VA
 Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff
 Running Time: 11 Minutes
 Dancers: 7
 Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff
 Photography: Ruth Judson

Burgundy

This work explores electrifying and energetic modern movements with edgy electronic music.

World Premiere: March 4, 2017, GDC's 'Spring in Your Step' production at the Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival, Atlas Performing Arts Center, Washington, DC
 Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff
 Running Time: 20:40 Minutes
 Dancers: 8
 Music: Joshua Bell & James Newton Howard, Todd Reynolds, Somei Satoh, Senking
 Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff
 Photo by Ruth Judson



Solitaire

This work is about the finding the true You and have your own voice, identity, and thoughts. Be proud & loving of who you really are.

World Premiere: March 5, 2016, GDC's 'Introspections' production at the Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival, Atlas Performing Arts Center
 Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff
 Running Time: 15 Minutes
 Dancers: 4
 Music: David Lang, Isaure Equilbey & Paulin Bundgen, Max Richter, Philip Glass
 Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff
 Photo by Ruth Judson
 Costume: Candy Braden, Shu-Chen Cuff
 Photography: Ruth Judson

1 by 1

This work is an exploration of the herd mentality concept and displays how people tend to blindly follow without much consideration.

World Premiere: October 23, 2016, GDC's 'Inner Voice' production at THEARC Theater, Washington, DC
Choreography: Tiffany Haughn
Running Time: 6:35 Minutes
Dancers: 4
Music: Zoe Keating
Photography: Ruth Judson



Lost and Found

This work reflects upon how we are living such fast paced busy lives, chasing dreams with the thought that once we catch our dream, we will be happy only to learn that we have forgotten to live in present and see and appreciate what's in front of us.

Shu-Chen collaborated her choreography with visual arts artist, Teri Ann LaBuwi.

World Premiere: October 21, 2015, GDC's 'Chasing Horizons' production for the Reston CenterStage's Professional Touring Artist Series, Reston CenterStage, Reston, VA
Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff
Running Time: 25 Minutes
Dancers: 6
Music: Philip Glass, Hans Zimmer, Nico Muhly
Film: Shu-Chen Cuff in collaboration with visual artist Teri Ann Labuwi's paintings – Philadelphia, New York, Detroit, and Estonia
Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff
Photography: Ruth Judson

Six Degrees

This work expresses how we, as individuals, intertwine our lives with those around us, and they with those around them, and so on until we form a network that gives meaning, structure and purpose that any one individual could never have accomplished on their own. Shu-Chen was commissioned by the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) and Reston CenterStage to create this work in response to artist Patrick Dougherty's sculpture 'Bird in the Hand' which installed at the Reston Town Square Park.

World Premiere: May 16 & 17, 2015 at Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, Reston Town Square Park
Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff
Running Time: 15 Minutes
Dancers: 20
Music: James Rhodes, The Album Leaf, Mika Yoshida
Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff
Photography: Ruth Judson





MOTION IN STRING

Motion in String is rooted in Shu-Chen's distinctive East-West fusion.

World Premiere: March 7, 2015, GDC's 'Hear Me Now!' production at the Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival, Atlas Performing Arts Center

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 15 Minutes

Dancers: 8

Music: Joan Jeanrenaud, Max Richter

Costume: Candy Braden, Shu-Chen Cuff

Photography: Ruth Judson

THAT'S MOZART

Shu-Chen created a fun, light-hearted ode to Mozart's humor and playfulness.

World Premiere: October 25, 2014, GDC's 'East Meets West' production at the Atlas Performing Arts Center

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 10 Minutes

Dancers: 10

Music: Wolfgang Mozart

Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff

Photography: Ruth Judson



FACE TO FACE

Shu-Chen humorously takes on how technology has changed our interactions and connections.

World Premiere: October 25, 2014, GDC's 'East Meets West' production at the Atlas Performing Arts Center

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 10 Minutes

Dancers: 4

Music: Shu-Chen Cuff, Mark Dancigers

Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff

Photography: Ruth Judson



THE TELLER

The character of a Chinese fortuneteller is portrayed throughout the dance. This work delivers an awakening message for people to take charge and tell your own story in life and not to let someone else do it for them. That someone can be anyone. He/She ("The Teller") maybe is a parent, friend, or even a teacher. We are masters of our own destiny and we shape our own futures.

World Premiere: September 14, 2013, GDC's 'A Night with GIN' production at Reston CenterStage, Reston, VA
Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff
Running Time: 40 Minutes
Dancers: 9
Music: Christopher Bissonnette, Olafur Arnalds, Nils Frahm, Kroke & Nigel Kennedy, Alexandre Desplat



UNCHAIN

A breaking away and release of the past, something we all must struggle to do at different points in our lives.

World Premiere: September 14, 2013, GDC's 'A Night with GIN' production at Reston CenterStage, Reston, VA
Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff
Running Time: 8 Minutes
Dancers: 1
Music: Arvo Part
Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff
Photography: Lindsay Benson Garrett



DEAR MR. COOPER

Is there someone in your life whom you've been wanting to express something to, but never had chance... They maybe someone you were so inspired by or admired, or someone you greatly appreciated that he/she had been a great help to you once in life. You wish you had kept in touch with that special person... You wished you had expressed your feelings towards them...

World Premiere: March 27, 2013, GDC's 'Deep eMotion' production at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC
Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff
Running Time: 7 Minutes
Dancers: 2
Music: Goldmund
Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff
Photography: Paul Emerson





THE CORE

In 'The Core' Shu-Chen explores through dance the interconnectivity between all things in the universe. Our inner strength, emotion, and energy can affect the people around us. We are not alone... We are all connected.

World Premiere: October 25, 2012, GDC's 'Deep eMotion' production at Reston CenterStage, Reston, VA

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 14 Minutes

Dancers: 5

Music: Patrick Burke and R. Luke DuBois

Costume: Candy Braden, Shu-Chen Cuff

Lighting Design: Shu-Chen Cuff

Photography: Ruth Judson

Déjà vu

Ever got so lost you ended up right back where you started?

World Premiere: October 25, 2012, GDC's 'Deep eMotion' production at Reston CenterStage, Reston, VA

Choreography: Shu-Chen Cuff

Running Time: 7 Minutes

Dancers: 3

Music: Nadia Sirota

Costume: Shu-Chen Cuff

Photography: Ruth Judson





NEW WORK

Gin Dance Company Presents Our full evening production '*Unveil*' at the 11th Anniversary of Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival at the Atlas Performing Arts Center

Join us and find out how the shocking news twists and turns with GDC Artistic Director, Shu-Chen Cuff's new work '*Breaking News.*' In addition to this innovative and meaningful works, we will also present a unique cultural experience with '*We, The Moon, The Sun*' - an Asian culturally influenced work combining Chinese Opera movements and modern dance and a meaningful and elegant contemporary ballet '*Infinity*'



PRESS QUOTES

"Cuff definitely has the astute eye of a good choreographer and director, and she knows how to achieve a vision." - Carmel Morgan, Critical Dance

"Founded in 2011, Gin Dance Company has taken leaps and bounds in the area's professional dance scene."

- David Siegel, Connection Newspaper

"It was delightful to see well-crafted, well-trained dancers sharing their spunk, individuality, and creativity with the audience. In all four pieces, the music acted as inspiration for the rhythms and energy of the movements."

- Michelle Hayes, Dance MetroDC

"...There was a precise, clear quality to the movement, yet the dancing was remarkably pliant. The dancers extended themselves into each moment. Their timing and theatricality were exquisite, their technique polished..."

- Carmel Morgan, Critical Dance

"Gin Dance Company, from Northern Virginia, featuring choreography by Shu-Chen Cuff ... opened the show, immediately placing audience expectations high..."

- Sheena Jeffers, Richmond Times-Dispatch

"Each piece seemed to honor and highlight the individual dancers within the context of the group through individual movement, gestures, and personality..."

- Michelle Hayes, Dance MetroDC

"What a beautiful dance. It starts like an old faded "Family Portrait" photograph with one woman seated on a chair and the other standing next to her. From the first few moves the duet establishes its profoundness, and never loses it. The wonderful vocabulary consists of small and sharp arm gesture. Those punctuate beautiful syncopated rhythm, and seem to materialize the dancer's thoughts and aspirations. The dancers are deeply invested in progressing their agenda, and they are gifted performers. I like the restrained attitude of the dancers, suggesting a world defined by restrictions. It seems like they are in a process of letting go, which finally enables them to move forward..."

- Zvi Gotheiner, ZviDance

"The show began with Gin Dance Company's The Core, an almost meditative piece full of preciseness and delicacy..." - Rebecca Ferrell, Gay Richmond News

"The sharp isolations and angles contrasted with smooth, long lines revealed intelligent and creative dance composition..." - Sheena Jeffers, Richmond Times-Dispatch

AUDIENCE TESTMONIALS

"The Core is moving piece that highlights each dancer's skill, while emphasizing their incredible group dynamic. Each movement triggers another movement, in perfect timing and synchronization. Every dancer moves in response to another naturally and with ease, without seeming to anticipate what is about to happen. It is mesmerizing to watch the performance as each dancer has her own movements, while still matching the rhythm of the group. It is rare to watch a piece that is composed of so many parts, so expertly combined into one phenomenal performance." - Sandra

"The Core," was absolutely the highlight. What a brilliant, gripping piece!
"Mesmerizing." I came away still thinking about the fluidity and energy of the piece and the moving and poignant way you explore relationships. From our own center we reach out to others, and indeed, are connected." - Jim

"You and your company are absolutely beautiful. Your concert was sophisticated, creative, well thought out, well rehearsed. Your talent amazes me and the way you use your talent is an honor to the world of dance." - Candy

@GinDanceCo Thank you for 2 fantastic performances! We loved "Dear Mr. Cooper"! - <https://twitter.com/WPASinDC/status/389759665439252480> WashPerfArtsSociety @WPASinDC

"Fabulous job last night at VelocityDC! Shu-Chen, amazing arm dancing as The Teller. I'm gonna have to try and incorporate some of that :)" - Mike

"SO many people were talking about how beautiful the work was after the show! Congrats [Gin Dance Company](#) and thanks for participating in #velocitydc." - CityDance

"Such a great time with an extremely talented crew that takes their craft seriously and equates to a beautiful show. Looking forward to the next performance." - Jeremiah

"The program was excellent and the dancers were superb. With Shu-Chen's unique Chinese dance training, she shared Asian ascents with modern western sensibility. Each piece is an individual jewel and yet complimented each other and created a captivating performance. Greatjob!!" - Shwee

I do want you to know how much I thoroughly enjoyed it - the dancers, music, choreography, costumes - all were wonderful! I felt myself smiling many times during the performance, and left in an upbeat mood. On my drive home, I started thinking about how you mesh everything together: each dancer has many

Contact and Booking

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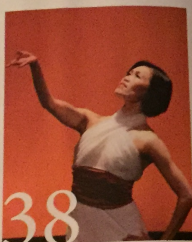
Keith Loria interviews dancer, Shu-Chen Cuff.

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State

FRIDAY JULY 1ST
CLARKS

SATURDAY JULY 2ND
90s
DANCE PARTY

THE PINK FLOYD LASER SPECTACULAR!
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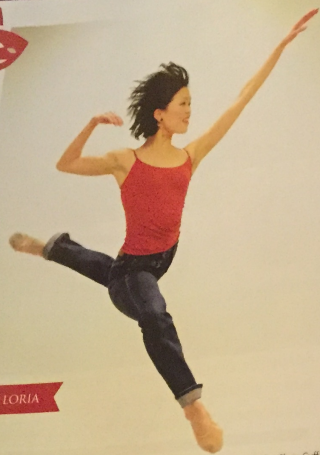
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TO ENJOYING CRAFT BEER

ARTS & THEATRE

BY KEITH LORIA



Shu-Chen Cuff

DANCING
Through Life

Growing up in Taiwan, Shu-Chen Cuff knew at an early age that she wanted to perform.

"I wanted to be on stage but didn't know in what art form. I just knew that I wanted to perform," she says. "It was just a very natural thing for me."

When she learned her elementary school offered a dance class after school, she wanted to join but her family couldn't afford it and her dad didn't think dancing was a good idea for her.

"My friends were really encouraging me to join, so in the second grade, I went to take the class even though I had no dance socks," Cuff says. "The teacher even came up to me and asked about the tuition and I had to tell my dad. He came to the class and saw me, and he agreed to let me continue, paid the money, and got me proper dance gear."

That was just the beginning of her dance journey. Cuff trained all the way through high school and planned to continue dancing through college, with the dream of one day dancing for Taiwan's prestigious Cloud Gate company.

Her dream started to change when her Aunt and Uncle visited from Texas and convinced her parents to apply for visas and come to the U.S. for the chance at a better life. It took 10 years, but when Cuff was in high school, the family was approved, and she began thinking about dancing in the United States.

"Because both my parents had steady jobs, they stayed in Taiwan, but I came here to go to college to study dance," she says. "I went to the University of Florida's New World School."

After graduating, she went on to perform numerous classical and contemporary dance works while working with Dina Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company, Miami Ballet, and Nevada Ballet Theatre, and has toured in Asia, Central America, and Europe. In 2002, she relocated to the Washington, D.C. area.

In 2011, Cuff founded Reston-based Gin Dance Company, which provides artists the opportunity to learn, grow, and express themselves through dance. Currently, there are eight dancers in the company—Falls Church's Alison Grant, Northern Virginia's own Therese Gahl and Lindsay Benson Garrett, Michelle Conroy, Samantha Greymont, Julia Hellmick, as well as Maryland natives Kaitlin Madeline and Jane Rabinovitz.

"Our mission is both to provide a professional environment for artists to learn, grow, and express themselves while bringing refreshing and vitalizing works to the community," she says. "We have had a lot of great opportunities since we started."

Cuff serves as artistic director for Gin Dance and regularly performs with her dance company in Fairfax County and the Washington metropolitan area.

Over the last five years, the company has been invited to perform at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, VelocityDC Dance Festival at the Shakespeare Theatre Company, the DC Mayor's Arts Awards at the Lincoln Theater, and the Yes! Dance Invitational, The National Festival of Contemporary Dance & Theater at the Dogtown Dance Theatre.

Over that time, Cuff has also been named a finalist at the Dance Metro DC Awards in the categories of both Outstanding Choreography and Outstanding Individual Performer.

"Utilizing both visual art and movement is an impactful way to deliver narratives and reach audiences at a deeper level. I am thrilled about the recognition and delighted to be able to continue sharing my art with performing arts enthusiasts," she says.

For those interested in joining her company, Cuff will invite them for an audition and look at their technique, training, and style.

"I also like to see their energy and personality and try to understand them a little," she says. "I like to find a group that can work together really well, who have the same passion and energy. It's hard work. I've developed such a variety of repertoires and new works, that it's very demanding physically."

Each of the company's works uniquely reflects a rich Asian Dance heritage and Eastern sensibilities blended with Western fluidity of movement.

"We really do some innovative, very uplifting and inspiring pieces," she says. "This has been a dream come true for me. It's amazing to have all these artists—each with a unique style. I am so fortunate."

For more information on the Gin Dance Company, visit www.gindance.org.

AUTHOR: Keith Loria is a freelance writer who writes regularly about sports, business, entertainment, and the arts. When he's not writing, the Oakton work-at-home dad can be found playing with his daughters Jordan and Cassidy.



Shu-Chen Cuff



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「Initiative 77」原定10月9日起實施 公聽會激辯16小時夭折

記者羅曉媛／華盛頓報導

今年稍早由華府選民投票通過的小費工漲薪案「Initiative 77」，2日在華府市議會遭駁回，該案原本從10月9日起實施，規定在2026年之前，把華府小費員工的最低時薪從現在的3.33元提高到普通最低時薪標準的15元，但因餐飲業者強烈反彈而引來市議會二次討論；駁回後市議會會議繼續考慮替代方案。

「Initiative 77」提出後，華府餐飲業老闆及行業組織曾籌款35萬元，發動「救救我們的小費」(Save Our Tips)活動來反對提案，並在餐館門口貼出「Vote No on 77」的標語，不過該案還是在6月以55%的支持率獲得通過；其中華府西部富裕區的選民幾乎都投反對票，而阿納克斯蒂亞河(Anacostia River)以東的貧困區，六成選民投支持票。

該案計畫消除華府的最低時薪雙軌系統，將小費工與普通勞工的時薪標準均提高到15元，但華府餐館協會及業主乃至許多小費工

，擔心「Initiative 77」將導致價格升高、解僱潮和門店倒閉，表示原先小費工特有的時薪系統，才能幫助原本利潤微薄的餐飲業良好運轉。

但支持「Initiative 77」的維權團體引述行業審計表示，部分小費工因為這一特殊時薪系統，未能獲得法定支薪，尤其女性應生有為時為了小費，還得忍受食客騷擾；支持者說，統一提高時薪，就能最大限度規避這些行業不規範。

經過激烈辯論和長達16小時的「Initiative

77」公聽會，市議會終在2日以8比5的投票駁回該案。

支持駁回的市議員表示，該法案的用詞極具誤導性，許多投了贊成票的選民可能因為誤導，而未發覺「Initiative 77」會加重小商業主負擔，迫使他们提高餐飲價格，或通過裁員來支付高昂的勞工成本。

同時，駁回案也需市長包瑟(Muriel Bowser)簽字才能生效，但包瑟此前多次表態反對「Initiative 77」，拒簽駁回案的可能性極低。

上山下鄉50周年 知青團圓憶當年

記者陳小青／馬州報導

「小小的聯歡會，開成了一部史詩。」在「上山下鄉」50周年之際，曾見證這段歷史的大華府知青們聚集一堂，紀念活動

知識青年「上山下鄉」是1968年底因著毛澤東指示「知識青年到農村，接受貧下中農再教育」而全國展開，當年在學的初、高中生幾乎全前往農村，總計，文革中上山下鄉的知識人數達到1600多萬人，包括了華府知青協會的200多會員。

他們在中秋節週末舉行的團聚紀念活動以「青春的記憶」為題，演出的15個節目，全是知青們獨創，圍繞「回顧知青上山下鄉50周年」這個軸心。第一首大合唱「知青的歌」，全場唱出當年青春風華、時代之重；緊接著是宋劍耕創作的「知青50年大事記介紹」，將人們記憶帶入半世紀以前的中國。

從1955年8月30日首批知青，到知青總數、高達2萬5000多知青的死傷、受迫害知青案件超過6萬，其中女知青被姦污案更高達近5萬案件，直到1978年雲南農場3萬知青血指簽名、大罷工、絕食、赴京請願……成為中國知青運動的終結者，宋劍耕記下的點滴，讓知青們記憶再度鮮活。



華東地區知青「全家福」。(記者陳小青／攝影)

其他節目還包括詩朗誦「知青老屋」，以哀傷情深的口琴樂曲為背景，回顧了一個個知青當年的小屋；「萬泉河水」四支舞蹈組合、知青組歌「歲月甘泉」第六樂章，「九兒」等三曲的樂器聯奏……，支支都是耳熟能詳的曲子。劇中「鄉下的生活」完全以動作演繹當年某事由台下的猜是何意，當年的共同經歷而個個都被台下猜中。

觀眾互動最多的是「知青之最」節目，舉凡去下鄉最遠的路程是10天、在座最小知青當年14歲、最早下鄉的是1965年、插隊最久的長達10年。別出心裁的節目是「歲月留痕

」老照片回顧。

聚會中也進行理事會改選、新舊交接。甫卸任會長李時哲與新任的商張梅先後發言，也介紹新屆兩位副會長梁平、殷炎和八位理事：陶家琪、周楓、馬開宗、鮑啓新、遲紹瑜、陳曉亮、黃雪樵、高岩。

知青協會近年資助的鄉村科學夏令營活動也在聚會中匯報，這項捐款累積的捐款已逾萬。最後的節目是「全家福」，知青們按當年上山下鄉的地點，分華北、東北、西北、華東、西南、中南六大區，再加知青之友共七大組合留紀念。

蒙郡7教委候選人 19日見面會談政見

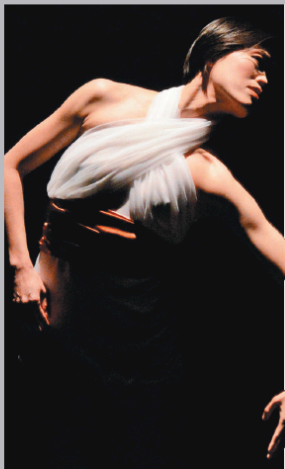
【馬州訊】馬州蒙郡華裔家長聯合會(CAPA-MC)將於10月19日(周五)晚7時至9時，在克堡高中(Clarksburg HS)舉行蒙郡公校教委候選人政見會，將邀請七名教委候選人就華裔關心的問題闡述政見並答覆。

七名候選人包括競選不分區教委的Julie Reiley、Karla Silvestre，競選第一區教委的Maria Blauer、Judy Docca，第三區的Lynn Amana、Patricia O'Neil，以及第五區的Brenda Wolff，11月6日的選舉日將有四人當選教委。

CAPA-MC提醒，公校教委投票不受黨派限制，華人無論來自蒙郡哪個選區，都應在選舉日當天積極投票。

政見會分為三階段：7時開始入場，與會者可與候選人私下交流；7時30分至9時為主持人提問及候選人辯論環節；餘下半小時則是與會者提問。

CAPA-MC為非營利組織，更多詳情：www.capamc.org，政見會地址：22500 Wims Rd, Clarksburg MD 20871。



「真舞團」創辦人陳淑真。(Gin Dance Group)

陳淑真舞200呎 映照來時路

特派員許惠敏／華盛頓報導

台灣奠基、美國淬鍊、發光，身兼「真舞團」(Gin Dance Group)創辦人、舞者、編舞與教學於一身的陳淑真(Shu-Chen Cuff)，將於10月6日推出第八季秋季公演，其中一支新創作群舞舞碼「200呎」由陳淑真擔任主角，也是她個人習舞寫照。「夢想、希望、理想看來很遙遠，但我總是以汽車遠光燈為指標，車燈只能照200呎，從看得到的路一步步往前，按部就班，理想也就咫尺天涯。」陳淑真說。

幼稚園就選定舞蹈路

生長自南台灣，從小喜歡跳舞的陳淑真從幼稚園就知道自己要走舞台表演之路，小二那年懇求爸爸讓她考進楠梓油廠國小舞蹈班後，一直跳到現在。陳淑真後來考入左營高中舞蹈班，芭蕾舞、現代、國劇、民族舞，接受全面訓練，而校方經常延請美國舞蹈專家來編舞，加上看了很多西方古典芭蕾舞劇，如「睡美人」、「

胡桃鉗」的DVD，加深她來美習藝渴望。

左中畢業後以依親移民來美，陳淑真進入佛州州大的新世界藝術學院(New World School of the Arts)舞蹈系就讀。「差人家太多，技術系和藝術性都是！」更讓她感到挫折的是，原以為自己強項是芭蕾舞，陳淑真到了美國才發現自己遠遠落後，從此，每堂課都穿硬鞋，立志考進舞團，校外舞團面試我都不放過，急起直追，畢業前終於當上「胡桃鉗」女主角。

畢業後，陳淑真加入內華達州芭蕾舞團，參與柴可夫斯基的「睡美人」、「唐吉柯德」、「天鵝湖」、「羅密歐與茱莉葉」及不少現代芭蕾舞演出。2010年，陳淑真搬來華府，加入丹那·泰石·保加斯現代舞團(Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company)，隨團在亞洲、歐洲及中南美洲巡迴演出。

舞團耕耘八年受矚目

2011年創立真舞團，也在華盛頓芭蕾舞學校(The Washington Ballet School)、芭蕾舞瓦

(BalletNova Center for Dance)及都會藝術學校(Metropolitan School of the Arts)擔任芭蕾舞專任老師和客席編舞、演出，舞作曾入圍華府都會舞蹈獎(Dance MetroDC Award)年度最佳編舞者及最佳獨舞者決賽。

「真舞團」腳踏實地耕耘八年，已受到主流藝界矚目，除了每年舉行專場公演，也經常受邀請至甘乃迪劇院(The Kennedy Center)、哈門劇院(Harman Theater)、林肯中心(Lincoln Center)及各藝術節演出，10月6日秋季公演後，她將率團至紐約參加十月中的DUMBLE舞路季。

「我對舞蹈很執著，只要能演出，就不會停下來。」陳淑真享受創作的過程，熱愛教學，也經常回到自己故鄉台灣傳藝。

真舞團秋季專場公演「我們的人生故事」(The Story of Our Lives)將於10月6日晚7時30分在北維爾斯頓中央舞台(Reston CenterStage)舉行，地址：2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston, VA 20191，訂票入口網站：<https://bit.ly/2ZssMMB>。

Meet this local immigrant artist

■ Enriching lives through dance

BY SHU-CHEN CUFF
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES



PHOTO BY RUTH JUDSON

Shu-Chen Cuff: "I was so drawn to Western culture and, most particularly, Western dance."

I came to this country because I was so drawn to Western culture and, most particularly, Western dance. All the beautiful and elegant classical ballets: "Swan Lake," "Sleeping Beauty," "Romeo and Juliet" and the wide range of styles of modern dance, from Martha Graham and Jose Limon to Paul Taylor and so many other unique styles of movement. Coming from Taiwan, where I had been trained in all different types of Chinese folk dances and Chinese operatic movements, I had the same desire... I wanted to come to the U.S. to do it all: ballet, modern dance and jazz. My amazing parents made my dream come true! I came to the U.S. to study dance at the University of Florida's New World School of the Arts. Upon graduation, I was fortunate to be offered a position at Nevada Ballet Theatre, where I danced for five years. After relocating to D.C. in 2002, I began a 9-year affiliation with DTSB Dance Company, which toured internationally. In 2011, my husband, Gary Cuff, and I started our own dance company called Gin Dance Company (GDC). As the artistic director of Gin Dance Company, I began creating work that reflected my unique dance heritage, a kind of East/West fusion. My work blends Eastern philosophy and gesturing with Western fluidity of movement. It wasn't a conscious decision; it's just what comes out of me when I start choreographing. The most challenging obstacle I faced when I first came to U.S. was the language barrier. The most helpful source

was meeting my husband, Gary. Prior to that, even after I went to college and later danced with professional dance companies in the U.S., my language skills were still not very good. In retrospect, I think it was because all that time I was mostly using body language - dance - to communicate. There were some occasions when I didn't know that the words I was saying didn't make sense or might even come across as rude to others. I was just simply translating words from Chinese to English in my head and saying them. Often people were too polite to correct me, but Gary really helped me in this area. He taught me so much about American communication and culture. Good communication is so important, and I feel fortunate to have been helped to grow in that area. Cuff celebrates GDC's 8th season on Oct. 6, with her newest work, "We, The Moon, The Sun", an Asian cultural influential work combined with Chinese Opera movements and modern dance, in which Cuff explores the idea that we are One. Cuff has a series of upcoming performances. To learn more, visit <http://www.gindance.org>

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In The Moment: An interview with Choreographer Shu-Chen Cuff of the Gin Dance Company on Appearing at Intersections at Atlas

by [David Siegel](#) on February 26, 2015

Over the past several years, Shu-Chen Cuff and the Gin Dance Company have been making impressions on the DC area dance scene. Established in Reston, Virginia, the award-winning [Gin Dance Company](#) has been performing throughout Virginia and DC, including at the Atlas Performing Arts Center located on the lively, burgeoning, H Street, NE. in Washington.



Shu-Chen Cuff, James Fredrickson, and Elizabeth Lucrezio. Photo by Ruth Judson.

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When I first interviewed **Shu-Chen Cuff** a few years, she said that “through dance, we deliver our ideas, stories, and emotions across without saying a word. Regardless what country you are from and what language you speak, the audience can hear your voice by watching the body movements expressing with a different rhythm, different energy, and different dynamic.”

When I asked why audiences hunger for dance, Cuff described it this way; “We all live in a stressed filled world. Watching dance is a great way to unplug for a couple of hours and lose ourselves in the moment. A moment filled with beautiful and intricate movement set to music that touches our soul. It reminds us of dreams that we once had and possibilities that still lie ahead.”

Her words made quite an impression on me.

Gin Dance will be returning to **Atlas' Intersections Festival** this year for a performance of an imaginative dance program called *Hear Me Now* on March 7th at 4:30 p.m. The 2015 Intersection Festival is bringing together over 100 performing arts groups in a multi-week arts festival through March 7th.

I interviewed Shu-Chen Cuff, the Artistic Director of the Gin Dance Company.

David Siegel: For those not familiar with Gin Dance Company, how would you describe your choreography “style”?



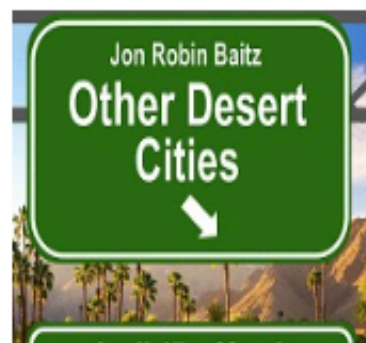
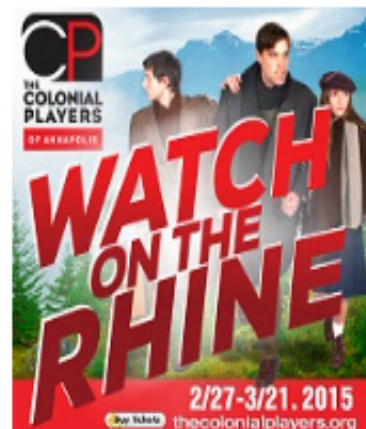
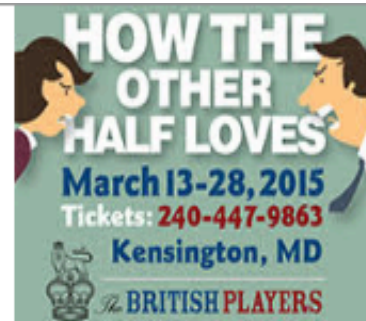
Shu-Chen Cuff.

Shu-Chen Cuff: I've had some big influences in my dance life that have certainly contributed to and helped shape my choreographic style. In Taiwan, where I was born and raised, I studied Chinese Folk Dance and Opera Movements along with Ballet and Modern Dance. From that heritage, it would be hard to deny a strong Eastern influence in my choreography. In the States, I went much deeper into Ballet, Modern, and Jazz.

The short answer to the question is that my Choreography style is a fusion of eastern gesturing with western fluidity of movement and, while modern in styling, certainly with a contemporary balletic feel to it. I work very hard to do very different types of works to continually challenge myself and my dancers as well as maintaining a fresh new look for audiences.

What do you look for in dancers for your Gin Dance Company compositions?

Besides having strong technique, I also look for the dancers who have the drive and passion to keep learning, growing, taking on challenges and who can easily adapt to the new style of the piece and can offer their unique artistry to each work and make it their own. Character development is just as important as strong technique in creating a fulfilling rich experience for the audience.



What inspired development of your newest work *Motion in String*?

For some of my works, I have the inspiration for the piece, a particular story, message, or movement first. For *Motion in String*, the inspiration started when I first heard the music. This recomposed score from Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* by Max Richter kept the classical feel from the original, but enhanced it with a strong edgy tone giving it a unique modern flavor that I really fell in love with. The music is rich and expressive with emotions and feelings. When I first heard the music, the movements and the vision of the work had penetrated my mind. I had to create the piece.

How would you describe the score for *Motion in String*?

Motion in String is assembled with four sections with very different rhythm and dynamics to the music in each moment. The score is recomposed from Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* by Max Richter. The 1st section is *Emergence*, the 2nd section is *Segregated*, the 3rd section is *Unceasing*, and the 4th section is *Explosive*. It was the inspiration for the new work.

What has the rehearsal process been like for this new work?

A new work like *Motion in String* requires several months of hard training and rehearsals. In the first 6 to 8 weeks, I work on creating the movements and teaching the choreography to the dancers. The following 6 to 8 weeks leading up to the performance, we focus extensively on the details of the flow and quality of the movements as well as constantly developing characters. I want the dancers to be able to execute the work comfortably and dance freely on the stage.

It was such a fun process to choreograph *Motion in String*. The music is constructed with so many layers to it that creates great opportunities for me to develop different dynamics and quality of movements and to form characters and relationships that connect between the dancers.

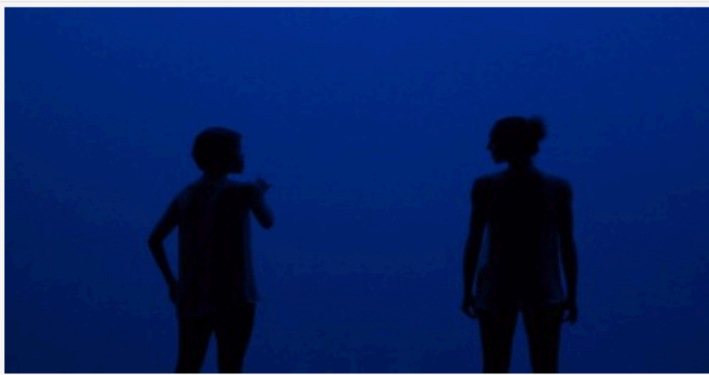
Why did you select the title *Hear Me Now!* for the overall performance?

We're doing 4 very different works and *Hear Me Now!* seems to work with them all. A couple of the pieces have important messages that we all need to 'Hear' that can make a significant impact on the audience, while others are fun and delightful like a piece taking a light-hearted look at how we are all addicted out our smart phones. *Hear Me Now!* just works!

What do you want audiences to come away with from *Hear Me Now!*?

Hear Me Now! is a gathering of four very distinctively different works. Some works are enriched with their own depth, ideas, and meanings. Others are packed with humor and playfulness. We hope the audience will leave the performance feeling inspired and uplifted and find their own way to interpret and translate the works, seeing their own lives reflected it.

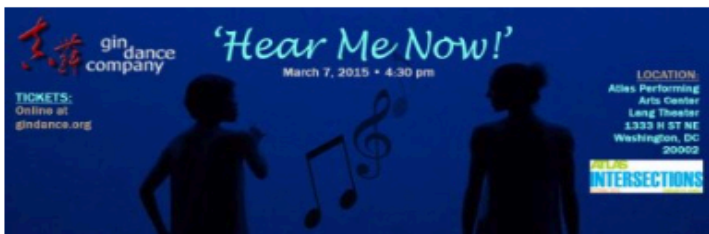




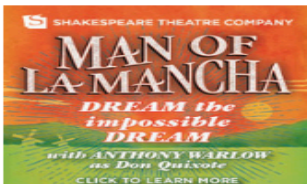
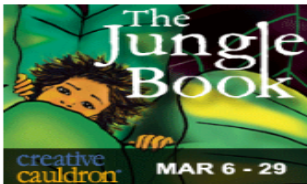
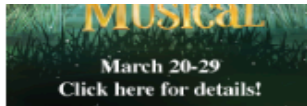
Shu-Chen Cuff and Elizabeth Lucrezio. Photo by Ruth Judson.

Why did you want to perform at the Atlas Intersections Festival?

Atlas *INTERSECTIONS* Festival is an extraordinary collaborative presentation of music, dance, theater, and film that showcases so many different types of art forms and cultures. We are exhilarated to offer/share a captivating and diverse program for the audience to discover. It's an electrifying and fun celebration of the arts. We are so thrilled to be part of this festival and be able to connect with other outstanding artists.



The Gin Dance Company performs *Hear Me Now!* on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at 4:30 PM at the Atlas Performing Arts Center's Intersections Festival in the Theresa and Jane Lang Theatre – 1333 H Street, NE, in Washington, DC. The show is recommended for ages 5 and up, and runs 60 minutes. Purchase your tickets at the box office or online.





Uplifting, Magical Dance

Reston's Gin Dance Company making impressions.

Votes 0

By David Siegel

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

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"Through dance, we deliver our ideas, stories and emotions across without saying a word," said Shu-Chen Cuff, artistic director of the Reston-based Gin Dance Company. "Regardless what country you are from and what language you speak, the audience can hear your voice by watching the body movements expressing with a different rhythm, different energy and different dynamic."

Founded in 2011, Gin Dance has taken leaps and bounds in the area's professional dance scene. Gin Dance has performed at the Reston Multicultural Festival, at benefits such as the "Angel's Fund" held at Westfield High School and for the Child Rescue Centre at George Mason University's TheaterSpace as well as at Reston's CenterStage and the VelocityDC Dance Festival in Harmon Hall to name a few.

Gin Dance Company's choreography reflects Cuff's Asian heritage blended with contemporary Western dance; a graceful artistic fusion. Born in Taiwan, she now resides in Reston.

Describing Gin Dance, Board member Liza Eller, of Springfield, noted that "Shu-Chen works in such detail and with such passion and commitment".

Why the name "Gin"? The pronunciation of "Gin" means "real," "truthful," "sincere" in Mandarin.

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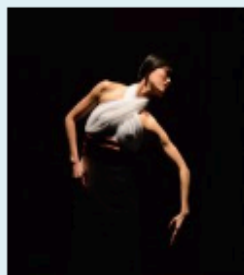


Photo courtesy of Gin Dance Company

Shu-Chen Cuff in performance of "The Core."

Where and When

Atlas Performing Arts Center,
1333 H Street, N.E.,
Washington, DC. Performance:
Oct. 25, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: Adult: \$28, Child
(12&Under): \$22. Call: 202-
399-7993 or visit atlasarts.org
and gindance.org/GinDance.

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Atlas' Intersections Festival Provides One-Stop Shop for Arts

Posted by [Editorial](#) / Friday, February 13th, 2015



Photo courtesy of Gin Dance Company.

By [Michael Balderston](#)

Dancers and actors and poets—that is what's in store for those who attend [Atlas' Intersections Festival](#) in D.C. from Feb. 20 to March 7, which connects audiences with the most exciting new forms of community-inspired art. Among the variety of performers will be a number of Northern Virginia art groups including the [Gin Dance Company](#) and [Arts on the Horizon](#).

The Gin Dance Company was founded by [Shu-Chen Cuff](#), a Taiwanese immigrant who came to the United States to study dance. After relocating to the D.C. area and dancing in professional groups for years, Cuff decided to set out on her own.

"I like to create my own things and my own styles and share them with the audience," says Cuff. "Hopefully it can help a lot more people appreciate art and open up their vision."

With her experience in both modern ballet and traditional Chinese dance and movements, Cuff certainly will be bringing that unique style to audiences at Intersections.

Arts on the Horizon is also creating new opportunities for its audience, but the audience itself is what makes the group an interesting component to the festival. Taking a page from European groups, Arts on the Horizon is the first theater company in the U.S. that performs plays exclusively for children from 0-6.

"There's just nothing here in the area with a full focus on this age group, and there are so many kids who I think would benefit from programs such as these," says [Michelle Kozlak](#), founder and producing art director for Arts on the Horizon.

Each of the company's shows, which are all original productions, centers on themes important to children's development and introduces them to new forms of art. Its show for Intersections, "Sunny and Licorice," teaches the kids how to live with others and features two orangutans and a tap-dancing number. Many of the plays are also nonverbal to make sure they suit the varying levels of language development of young children.

Having performed at last year's Intersections Festival, both Gin Dance Company and Arts on the Horizon know the potential value for audiences.

"To be able to give an opportunity for families, especially with young children, to be able to participate in the festival," says Kozlak. "Hopefully they'll come back as their kids get older or even the parents themselves come to the shows for adults."

"It can be really inspiring after seeing the performance and go back to your normal life," says Cuff. "You never know how art can change people's lives."

Atlas' Intersections Festival
Feb. 20-March 7,
The Atlas Performing Arts Center
1333 H St NE, Washington, DC 20002
202-399-7993
Times and ticket prices vary



Dancing to Lift Spirits Gin Dance Company to perform in Reston.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

"Dance is an amazing art form that you can deliver stories, ideas, meanings and emotions through body language. It's a very powerful thing," said Shu-Chen Cuff, artistic director of the Fairfax County-based Gin Dance Company. The company will be performing in the coming weeks at Reston's CenterStage and then at the Reston Multicultural Festival.

Gin Dance Company's original works reflect Shu-Chen's Asian heritage melded with contemporary Western dance movement: a flowing fusion of Asian and Western cultural artistry. She was born in Taiwan and resides in Reston.

"Choreographing a dance is like making a cake. You have an idea or image in your head of how it should look and taste, then you start adding layers and decorations onto the cake to complete the product. As choreography, the movements, the music, the costume, and the props/sets are the layers and



Gin Dance Company dancers in "The Core."

PHOTO BY
RUTH JUDSON
COURTESY OF GIN
DANCE COMPANY

decorations on the cake," said Shu-Chen. "Inspirations come from everywhere."

Sometimes listening to an interesting piece of music such as Arvo Part's classically inspired, minimalist piano work "Spiegel im Spiegel" can bring an idea for her work. Other times, she has a dance vision and then searches for the right music.

At the CenterStage performance,

the Gin Dance Company will perform original works such as "The Teller," a work about fate and destiny.

It was created "to deliver an awakening message for people to take charge and tell your own story in life and not to let someone else do it for you. ... We are masters of our own destiny and we shape our own futures," continued Shu-Chen.

The thought provoking "The

Core" was inspired by lights; their design and their impact on the mind. "I explore through dance the interconnectivity between all things in the universe. Our inner strength, emotion, and energy can affect the people around us.

We are not alone. ... We are all connected." Another piece, "Dear Mr. Cooper," is about giving oneself the "second chance" to express appreciation to someone special,

Where and When


"A Night with Gin Dance Company" at Reston Community Center CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Woods, Reston. Performance, Saturday, Sept. 14, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$30. Call 703-476-4500 or visit: www.restoncommunitycenter.com or www.gindance.org. Note: Post show discussion moderated by local news reporter Surae Chinn, WUSA9

*Gin Dance Company at 2013 Reston Multicultural Festival, Global Stage, Lake Anne Village Center 1609 Washington Plaza N Reston. Performing, Sept. 28, 2013 at 3:15 p.m. Non-ticketed free community event.

when the first opportunity was missed, noted Shu-Chen.

Jane Rabinovitz, a Gin Dance troupe member and Fairfax County native, described Shu-Chen's choreography as telling a story. "Sometimes it is a specific story that she wants people to see or hear and other times it is a story offered up for interpretation by any and all audience members."

Put away stress and worries and let the Gin Dance Company let you feel uplifted and moved.



D.C.'s best,
brightest arts
events run
the gamut —
and aim to
entertain.

BY PHILIPPA P.B. HUGHES

Arts District

A dance
performance
from D.C.'s annual
Intersections
multimedia event.

World-class museums aside, there's a prevailing assumption that arts don't play a vital role in Washington's cultural and social life. When, in fact, the arts have helped breathe life into many once-ailing communities — and its diverse landscapes and populations provide copious inspiration for its many artists and arts producers.

The pantheon of arts-related events held throughout the year in D.C. reveals the depth and breadth of creativity that rolls just beneath the surface of the city, outside of the stately institutions that draw most visitors.

How best to experience this local arts explosion? Put all 10 of these arts events — our personal favorites — on your calendar.

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Celebrates
Black History Month



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VIRGINIA WINE EXPO Taste 500+ Virginia & South African Wines at the Virginia Wine Expo THIS WEEKEND

Dance review: Yes! National Dance Invitational

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Yes! National Dance Invitational

Dance review

When: Friday and Saturday

Where: Dogtown Dance Theatre, 109 W. 15th St., Historic Manchester District

Posted: Sunday, October 20, 2013 12:00 am

BY SHEENA JEFFERS Special correspondent

Dance is ephemeral. One minute you are absorbing the movement, lights, costumes and sound, and the next it is all gone. But K Dance's 15th annual Yes! National Dance Invitational leaves you with visual images you won't soon forget.

Kaye Weinstein Gary, producer and artistic director of K Dance, had a clear focus for this show: to create, to exist, to bring into being.

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Featuring choreographers from Northern Virginia, Philadelphia, Houston, Los Angeles and Richmond, the show truly exhibits its focus and achieves its goal with the highlights being Chisena Danza and BodyTraffic.

Gin Dance Company, from Northern Virginia, featuring choreography by Shu-Chen Cuff set to music by Patrick Burke and R. Luke Dubois opened the show, immediately placing audience expectations high.

The sharp isolations and angles contrasted with smooth, long lines revealed intelligent and creative dance composition. The sporadic fidgets of the dancers were a welcomed surprise, and there was just enough unison and variation throughout the piece.

Shu-Chen Cuff's beautiful facial expressions and detailed finger movements reminded the audience how lovely details can be.

Chisena Danza, from Philadelphia, featured choreography by Melissa Chisena, who also performed the piece flawlessly. The music was created live on stage where the audience watched Jonathan Cannon tap out rhythms with his hands and feet while Katonya Mosley used breath, words and sounds to accompany the dancing.

The collaboration was stunning — from the way the lights struck Chisena's bare back revealing a dancer's sculpted muscles to the way Mosley inhaled and exhaled the breath-work score while intertwining sounds and words. You simply cannot look away.

S/OAP, from Richmond, featured choreography by Vanessa Owen and Gavin Stewart, a dancer with Richmond Ballet II. The physical movement was demanding, and it



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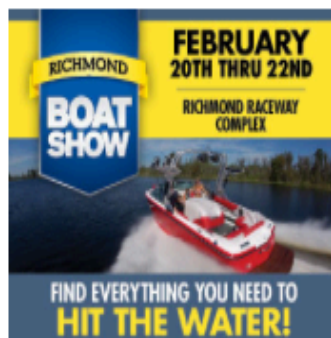
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PUBLIC NOTICES



Shu-Chen Cuff in performance of "The Core."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GIN DANCE COMPANY

Uplifting, Magical Dance

Reston's Gin Dance Company making impressions.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

"Through dance, we deliver our ideas, stories and emotions across without saying a word," said Shu-Chen Cuff, artistic director of the Reston-based Gin Dance Company. "Regardless what country you are from and what language you speak, the audience can hear your voice by watching the body movements expressing with a different rhythm, different energy and different dynamic."

Founded in 2011, Gin Dance has taken leaps and bounds in the area's professional dance scene. Gin Dance has performed at the Reston Multicultural Festival, at benefits such as the "Angel's Fund" held at Westfield High School and for the Child Rescue Centre at George Mason University's TheaterSpace as well as at Reston's CenterStage and the VelocityDC Dance Festival in Harman Hall to name a few.

Gin Dance Company's choreography reflects Cuff's Asian heritage blended with contemporary Western dance; a graceful artistic fusion. Born in Taiwan, she now resides in Reston.

Describing Gin Dance, Board member Liza Eller, of Springfield, noted that "Shu-Chen works in such detail and with such passion and commitment".

Why the name "Gin"? The pronunciation of "Gin" means

Where and When

Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H Street, N.E., Washington, DC. Performance: Oct. 25, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: Adult: \$28, Child (12&Under): \$22. Call: 202-399-7993 or visit atlasarts.org and gindance.org/ GinDance.

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Mohiniattam and Manipuri, representing var-

2



Courtesy of The Washington Ballet

On Saturday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m., **East Meets West at the Atlas Performing Arts Center on H Street.** **3** This special evening will premier the Gin Dance Company Artistic Director Shu-Chen Cuff's newest works "Face to Face", which explores how technology has changed the way we all interact and connect with each other in and "That's Mozart," a fun and light hearted piece in which Shu-Chen creates and shapes the movements into Mozart's humorous and playful music notes. This work delivers an awakening message for people to take charge and tell their own story.

The Atlas is becoming the performing arts venue for new music, experimental dance, off-beat humor and performance art. Tickets are \$28. East Meets West is performed by the Gin Dance Company of Northern Virginia. Read more at gindance.org.

Part fact, part fiction, and set in the harsh backstage world of the **Paris Opera**

Ballet, Little Dancer at the Kennedy Center **4** is

a musical inspired by the story of Marie van Goethem, a young ballerina who posed for Edgar Degas and became, inadvertently, the most famous dancer in the world. Torn by her family's poverty, her debt to the artist, and the lure of wealthy men, she struggles to keep her place in the corps de ballet—a girl on the verge of womanhood, caught between the conflicting demands of life and art. Little Dancer is at the Kennedy Center, Oct. 25-Nov. 30. In conjunction with Little Dancer, the National Gallery of art presents Degas's Little Dancer

Aged Fourteen will be presented with 14 additional works from the Gallery's collection. nga.gov

The Cuban Dance Social with DC Casineros at Dance Place in Brookland **5** is an opportunity to dance—not just watch other people. On Friday nights Oct. 17, Nov. 7, Dec. 19 and Jan. 16, 8 p.m.-midnight, enjoy all levels of Latin dancing. This is Brookland's great new chance to dance, meet new people and appreciate the richness of Latin dance and art. Join the DC Casineros' company of community DJs and dancers for an evening of Son,

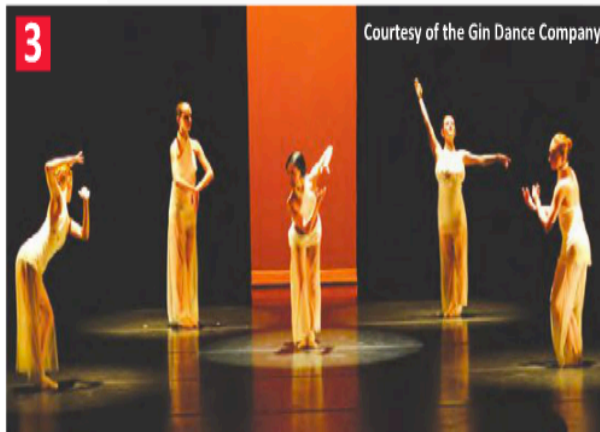
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Courtesy of the National Gallery of Art

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Courtesy of the Gin Dance Company

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