

Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts
Presents

“Sound of the Ocean” by U Theatre

優人神鼓:聽海之心

Saturday, March 27, 2010, 8 PM
Cutler Majestic Theatre (www.MAJ.org)
219 Tremont St. Boston, MA
Tickets: \$20-\$100

Order online: www.ChinesePerformingArts.net, www.MAJ.org, www.Telecharge.com

A great and complex beauty to the drumming, sounds, and silence...
The New York Times

A synthesis of theatre, percussion, martial arts and meditation.
The Times, London

There is a great and complex beauty to the drumming, sounds and silence and simple beats and intricate meshes of precisely articulated rhythms.
The New York Times

Tickets:

\$100: VIP

\$45, \$35, \$25 (students \$5 off) (same ticket will be \$50, \$40, \$30 at door)

100 free student tickets for age 14 and up with valid ID are available at

www.ChinesePerformingArts.net only. One ticket per request. The best available seat will be given on the concert day in the order of online requests received.

Children under 6 not admitted.

Cutler Majestic Theatre box office: 617-824-8000, www.MAJ.org

World Journal Book Store: 617-451-1309, Ip Piano School: 617-542-9129

Online ticket:

www.ChinesePerformingArts.net, www.MAJ.org, www.Telecharge.com

Information: 781-259-8195, Foundation@ChinesePerformingArts.net, www.ChinesePerformingArts.net

Lecture Demonstration:

Sunday, 3/28/2010, 7 PM at Harvard Paine Hall

Admission Free. Donation Accepted

Sound of the Ocean (first performed in 1998)

A compelling, seamless work of rhythm and movement in 100 minutes, *Sound of the Ocean* was created by U-Theatre under the direction of Liu Ruo-Yu and master drummer Huang Chih-Chun. An intense physical and emotional experience, the work traces the cyclical journey of water from a drop to

a stream, from a river to the ocean.

Five distinct yet beautifully interwoven sections evoke the sounds and sensations of water, its elemental cool surges, gentle ebbs, and insistent rat-a-tat-tats. The five are animated by a theatrical tension devoid of explicit narrative. It is propelled by rhythms beat out on temple bells, gongs, and skinned drums large and small. The collective expressive power of the group is made possible by the extra-ordinary technical and athletic prowess of the individual performers. Daring feats of speed and precision create huge dynamic arcs as the piece moves from section to section.

The instruments themselves, some enhanced by large driftwood structures, create a striking visual as well as sonic landscape. At once hypnotic and electrifying, *Sound of the Ocean* expresses the ongoing search for an artistic form that captures the essence, the preciousness, of life. With a spare grace and clarity, it illuminates U-Theatre's creative process which centers on the concentric relationships of individual to the collective, and the larger natural and spiritual environments.

Since its premiere in 1998 at Avignon Festival, *Sound of the Ocean* has been performed more than 120 times around the world including engagements at the Venice Biennale, Lyon Biennale, Spain's Millenia Festival, the Sao Paulo Arts Festival, Singapore Arts Festival, Bergen international Festival and BITE: 02 at the Barbican, London, Next Wave Festival (BAM), New York, Chekhov International Theatre Festival, Moscow.

U Theatre of Taiwan

The 'U' of U-Theatre is a phonetic transcript of a Chinese character meaning 'superior, excellence'. In ancient China, this word also referred to 'professional actor'.

U-Theatre was founded by Ms Liu Ruo-Yu, the artistic director. Ms Liu had studied theatre in New York University, and had attended professional workshops led by the Polish master Jerzy Grotowski (1933-1998). When she returned to Taiwan, she decided to dedicate herself to the exploration of the body and mind of performers. In order to reach this goal, she founded U-Theatre on Laochuan Mountain on the outskirts of Taipei.

Founded in 1988, U-Theatre may be best described as philosophy in motion. For this company, performance is not an end in itself, but an aspect of a holistic way of life oriented in the "Tao"(the way). In its works, the relationship of the individual to the whole community – and by extension, of the group to its audiences worldwide – is portrayed without explicit narrative or the creation of imagined characters. The result is a fascinating and unique mode of contemporary theatre that is process-based finely tuned and performer dependent. It is grounded in a collective experience predicated on each member's personal search for enlightenment and balance.

U Theatre's rigorous aesthetic depend on disciplined training in various forms – acting, martial arts, drumming, Tai-Chi, dance, meditation – some drawn from the East, and some from the West. "Like monks preparing themselves for a grand ceremony...their virtuosity is spectacular," □ said France's *Le Figaro* of U-Theatre's awe-inspiring performance at 1998 Avignon Arts Festival.