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Taiwan's HUNG Dance Brings Acclaimed Contemporary Dance Production *Birdy* to Kelowna

(Kelowna, BC) - Taiwan's HUNG Dance brings its captivating contemporary dance production *Birdy* to the Rotary Centre for the Arts (RCA) on Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the RCA and Living Things, the performance blends the flowing movements of Tai chi with contemporary dance, electronic and traditional Chinese music, and striking visual imagery in an exploration of freedom, identity and the desire to break free from life's constraints.

Theatre Programming Director and BC Live Presenter of the Year, Andrew Stauffer, says, "From start to finish, the forceful choreography of *Birdy* draws in the audience as seven dancers move together and against each other. The dancers are superbly talented and embody the choreography beautifully, the musical score synthesizes traditional and modern sounds, and the work as a whole is a virtuosic and mesmerizing visual feast. Birdy is a great entry point into contemporary dance."

Living Things Artistic Director, Neil Cadger, says, "Living Things is an annual international festival celebrating interdisciplinary performance. While our festival takes place in January, we welcome opportunities to bring exceptional artists to Kelowna throughout the year. We're delighted to co-present *Birdy*, a remarkable dance performance of a calibre rarely seen in our community. It's deeply engaging, full of surprises and absolutely beautiful."

Created by choreographer LAI Hung-chung, *Birdy* draws inspiration from the movements of birds and the relationship between freedom and restriction. Dancers move together like a flock, balancing, twisting and catching one another in remarkable feats of strength and control. Long pheasant feathers sweep through the air, extending their movements and creating striking images on stage.

The production incorporates elements of traditional Chinese performance, including Ling Zi, the long pheasant feathers associated with Peking opera. Traditionally used to symbolize the strength and authority of warriors, the feathers take on new meaning in *Birdy*, becoming extensions of the dancers' bodies and expressions of individuality and freedom.

Set to a mix of electronic and Chinese classical music, the choreography moves between dreamlike beauty and charged physical tension. Sensual and visually striking, *Birdy* draws audiences into the rhythm, precision and sheer physical beauty of bodies in motion.

Through its use of movement, music and theatrical imagery, *Birdy* explores the tension between personal aspirations and societal expectations, inviting audiences to reflect on what it means to find freedom within the structures that shape our lives.

For tickets and more information, visit:
https://rotarycentreforthearts.com/events/event/birdy26/

RCA Theatre Memberships

Become an RCA Theatre Member for $45 and enjoy 20% off tickets throughout the season, plus early access to performances, priority seating, free exchanges, special promotions, and more. Your membership also directly supports professional arts and future theatre upgrades at the RCA.

To learn more about theatre memberships:
https://rotarycentreforthearts.com/get-involved/become-a-member/

HUNG Dance Workshop – Sunday, November 15

Ahead of their performance, HUNG Dance choreographer LAI Hung-chung and two company dancers will lead a workshop on Sunday, November 15, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the RCA's Salloum Studio. Participants will explore the company's unique movement vocabulary, combining body isolation with the flowing, spiraling movements of Tai chi. The workshop is designed for intermediate to advanced dancers with at least three years of dance training.

Register here.

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About the Rotary Centre for the Arts

Located in the heart of Kelowna's Cultural District, the Rotary Centre for the Arts is a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts centre. The RCA improves the economic, cultural, and social quality of life in the community by fostering participation in, and appreciation of the arts. The RCA brings together individuals of all ages and backgrounds to share in the excitement of strengthening art and culture in the Okanagan, celebrating creative expression through diverse art forms and disciplines. The Rotary Centre for the Arts respectfully acknowledges that it is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Syilx/Okanagan People.