

UW World Series

At Meany Hall on the UW Campus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 22, 2011

Shen Wei Dance Arts to Perform *Limited States* at Meany Hall

Thursday-Saturday, February 2-4, 2012, 8 PM

Meany Hall on the UW Campus

Tickets: \$42; students \$20

Seattle, WA— Hailed by *The New York Times* as “startlingly imaginative,” Shen Wei Dance Arts creates interdisciplinary, cross-cultural performance for forward-looking audiences. Each work by Artistic Director Shen Wei develops an original dance vocabulary incorporating visual and storytelling elements from the theater, Chinese opera, Eastern philosophy, traditional and contemporary visual art, and sculpture. The result, at turns figurative and abstract, combines performance with strong scenic elements to create dance that the Sydney Herald Sun called, “fascinating fantasy in movement.” For their return to Seattle, Shen Wei Dance Arts will perform *Limited States*, a piece that received its world premiere at the American Dance Festival in July. Contains partial nudity throughout the program.

Shen Wei Dance Arts performs at Meany Hall Thursday-Saturday, February 2-4, 2012 at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$42 (\$20 for students). Tickets may be purchased by phone at 206-543-4880, online at www.uwworldseries.org, or in person at the UW Arts Ticket Office. Meany Hall is located on the Seattle campus of the University of Washington. To learn more about this event, visit www.uwworldseries.org.

About Shen Wei

MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship recipient Shen Wei, who was lead choreographer for the Opening Ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, has been widely celebrated for his sophisticated choreography, lighting designs and minimalist costumes, recognized for his abstracted paintings and, most recently, for his work in film. Praise for the breadth of his artistic versatility, vision and talent has earned Shen Wei numerous commissions and awards, including the U. S. Artists Fellow Award, the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a Nijinsky Award, Australia’s Helpmann Award for Best Ballet or Dance Work, and two recognitions from *The New York Times* for creation of one of the year’s best dance performances. *The Washington Post* has called Shen Wei “One of the great artists of our time” and *The New York Times* writes that his work is “Overwhelming . . . If there is something to write home about in the dance world, it is the startlingly

imaginative work of the Chinese-born choreographer Shen Wei."

Born in Hunan, China, Shen Wei studied Chinese opera from the age of nine. In 1991, he became a founding dancer and choreographer of the Guangdong Modern Dance Company, the first modern dance company in China. In 1995, he received a scholarship from the Nikolais/Louis Dance Lab and moved to New York City, where in July 2000 he formed Shen Wei Dance Arts. After premiere performances of *Near the Terrace* at the American Dance Festival, Shen Wei's work was soon seen in Taiwan, at New York's Asia Society, The Space in London, the Stockholm Dance House, the Brighton Arts Festival, the Festival Theatre Edinburgh, and the Millennium Moves Festival in Germany.

Since forming his company, Shen Wei has received eleven commissions from the American Dance Festival, and others from Het Muziektheater Amsterdam, Lincoln Center Festival, Park Avenue Armory, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Edinburgh International Festival, and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal. Shen Wei was the first choreographer ever commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art to create a work specifically for one of its galleries, which was performed by his company this past June.

About Shen Wei Dance Arts

Shen Wei Dance Arts is internationally recognized for its interdisciplinary cross-cultural performances, which have been described as "breathtaking, powerful, and riveting" (*The Boston Globe*) and celebrated for their "gorgeous visual imagery" (*The London Times*). Each work unveils an original movement vocabulary combined with elements of film, theater, new media, and visual art.

The company has toured extensively on five continents, performing at such premier festivals and venues as the Venice Biennale, Het Muziektheater, and the Hong Kong New Vision Festival. In the U.S., the company has been presented five times by the Lincoln Center Festival; enjoyed a unique five-year performance residency at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; and given the first dance performances on the concert stage at Frank Gehry's Disney Hall in Los Angeles.

Shen Wei's acclaimed touring repertory includes *Folding* (2000), *Connect Transfer* (2004) and the company's most recent program-length touring work, *Limited States* (2011). In addition to his touring repertory, Shen Wei is known for his site-specific creations, including his choreographic response to Ernesto Neto's serpentine art installation, built in the Park Avenue Armory's Drill Hall (2007) and *Connect Transfer II*, installed at New York's historic Judson Memorial Church, using paint-strewn bodies to create traditional ink paintings on a vast canvas used as the dancing floor (2008).

Recently, SWDA was featured at the Edinburgh International Festival, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in London. Shen Wei has also been commissioned to create a site-

specific work within the Maramotti Gallery in Reggio Emilia, Italy, for performances on October 21 and 23, during the company's fall tour to Italy and Slovenia. Shen Wei is currently the first choreographer to be honored as a Park Avenue Armory Artist in Residence (2010–11). This residency culminated in the creation of a new site-specific work, *Undivided Divided*, generously commissioned by the Armory, and the restaging of two of the choreographer's most renowned pieces, *Folding* and *Rite of Spring*, which was performed in the Armory this past November.

For its 2012 season, Shen Wei Dance Arts has been selected for New York City Center's inaugural Choreography Fellowship Program, a new initiative being launched in conjunction with the theater's reopening season.

About Our Sponsors

Special Thanks to this event's Title Sponsor **The Boeing Company** and Media Sponsor **KUOW**.

The UW World Series 2011-12 Season is generously supported by **Microsoft, Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, 4Culture, ArtsFund** and **Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs**.

Artist Interviews and Photos

To download images for publicity use, visit uwworldseries.org/press/images/

Password for the 2011-12 Season: **20112012**

For artists' interviews, contact Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Teri Mumme, 206-685-0995 or tmumme@uw.edu. For more information about artists and programs in this series, please visit uwworldseries.org.

About the UW World Series

The UW World Series is one of Seattle's leading performing arts organizations, presenting innovative, provocative and diverse international artists in music, theater, and dance. More than 450 visiting artists from around the world have performed as part of the UWWS. The eclectic mix of programming has given Northwest audiences a broad view of the world of performing arts, from sampling unique cultural traditions to experiencing innovative new works that expand the scope and direction of contemporary performing arts. The UW World Series' mission includes supporting the educational goals of the University of Washington by providing extensive arts learning opportunities for area school children and teachers, members of the community at large,

and UW students and faculty.

Tickets, Meany Hall, and More Information

Purchase tickets: Call 206-543-4880. Or order online at uwworldseries.org. Tickets also may be purchased in person at the UW Arts Ticket Office, located at 1313 NE 41st. Or fax your order to the Ticket Office at 206-685-4141. Tickets are subject to availability. Artists, dates, programs, and prices are subject to change.

Student and senior discounts: Students with valid student IDs may purchase \$20 advance student tickets to any UW World Series event, balcony seating only, subject to availability. Half-price rush tickets are available to students and seniors (age 65 and up) one hour before curtain at the Meany Hall Box Office, limited to 2 per senior, 1 per student, also subject to availability.

Location and parking: Meany Hall is located on the Seattle campus of the University of Washington, on 15th Avenue NE between NE 40th and 41st Streets. Parking for Meany Hall is available in the Central Parking Garage (entrance at 15th Avenue and 41st Street). On-street metered parking is also available.

Special needs: The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity, and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the Disability Services Office at least 10 days in advance of the event you are attending: 206-543-6450 (voice), 206-685-7264 (fax), or dso@u.washington.edu.