



Intermediate

Ballet

Mon / Wed / Fri 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Fri 6:00 - 7:30 pm

A native of Taipei, Taiwan, **LeeWei Chao** is a creative artist who has a passion for many visual art forms such as architecture, interior design, fashion design, painting, and stage design. He originally considered a career as a painter, but, at age 16, decided to turn to dance and entered the High School for the Performing Arts in Taipei.

Mr. Chao was a member of the Milwaukee Ballet Company from 1998 to 2005 after dancing with the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, the Festival Ballet of Rhode Island, Singapore Dance Theater, Taipei City Ballet, and Henry Yu Dance Company. He has performed in works by Balanchine, Choo San Goh, Robert North, Kathryn Posin, David Parsons, Jean-Paul Commelin and Simon Dow. He received his early ballet training from Xiao Lee who brought the Vaganova ballet

method from Russia to Taiwan. He completed his education at the National Institute for the Arts in Taipei, which hosts guest teachers from all over the world. His training there included Chinese folk dance, ballet, modern dance, Spanish, Indian, and Bali dance. After his two years of mandatory army training, he was hired by Singapore Dance Theater. In 1996, he came to NYC to join the Joffrey Ballet Concert Dancers. He was awarded the Outstanding Dancer Award by the Taiwanese Department of the Arts, and was voted Best Male Dancer in Taiwan by Taiwan Dance Magazine.

Since 2001, Mr. Chao has been a regular guest choreographer and teacher for the Milwaukee Ballet School Summer program and for the Milwaukee Ballet II. He also choreographed for the Space Between program at the Milwaukee Art Museum. In 2002 and 2003, Mr. Chao was commissioned for new works by the Milwaukee Ballet Company,



Beyond Invisible and *Edge of Silence*, which premiered in 2003 and 2004, respectively. He also designed the stage sets and costumes, which gave him the opportunity to incorporate other aspects of his creative ability. Mr. Chao was invited to return to the National University of Taipei, Taiwan as guest teacher and choreographer in 2005. Currently based in San Francisco, he is on the faculty of the School of The Arts and San Francisco Dance Center.