

OAKLAND BALLET PRESENTS THE FIFTH ANNUAL **DANCING MOONS FESTIVAL**

World premieres by Phil Chan and Wei Wang, plus two special performances May 8 - 9 of *Angel Island* in collaboration with the Del Sol Quartet and Volti

April 30 - May 2

Great Star Theater, San Francisco

May 8 - 9

Herbst Theatre, San Francisco



Lawrence Chen photographed by John Hefti.

OAKLAND, CA, April 3, 2026 – Oakland Ballet Company's annual **Dancing Moons Festival**, a celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander artists, continues for two weekends April 30 - May 9 in San Francisco. The Great Star Theater will host the first weekend's program featuring world premieres by **Phil Chan** and **Wei Wang**. Over the second weekend the company moves to Herbst Theatre for two special

evening-length concerts of *Angel Island* performed in collaboration with the **Del Sol Quartet** and **Volti**. Tickets for both weekends, \$30 - \$158, are now on sale via direct links at oaklandballet.org/performances-events/dancing-moons-festival.

Oakland Ballet Company (OBC) collaborator Wang and OBC Artist-in-Residence Chan return this month with a pair of new works “designed to bring a smile to your face,” said OBC Artistic Director **Graham Lustig**. Wang carries the distinction of being the first Chinese male principal dancer at San Francisco Ballet. As a choreographer, he has made works for the San Francisco Ballet trainee program, Napa Valley Festival, Festival Mosaic, as well as OBC. His newest, *Child’s Play*, is inspired by the game of musical chairs.

Chan is perhaps best known as the co-founder of Final Bow for Yellowface, an organization that works with ballet companies to eliminate offensive depictions of Asians in their repertoires. This year’s festival marks his fourth commission for OBC, a work titled *Double Happiness*. Rounding out the program is **Elaine Kudo**’s fast-paced dance *Opposites Distract* plus a revival of Chan’s elegant duet, *Amber Waves*.

Angel Island is a profoundly poignant and inspiring interpretation of **Huang Ruo**’s 90-minute oratorio of the same name. The piece portrays the anguish, aspiration and hopes experienced by hundreds of Chinese immigrants detained at Angel Island Immigration Station in the decades between 1910 and 1940. With choreography by AAPI artists **Natasha Adorlee**, Phil Chan, **Lawrence Chen**, Elaine Kudo, **Ashley Thopiah** and Wei Wang, *Angel Island* is a tribute to the fortitude of the human spirit.

With live musical accompaniment by the Del Sol Quartet alongside members of San Francisco-based choral ensemble Volti, under the direction of **Robert Geary**, *Angel Island* is a major artistic event.

"With captured imaginations, we take flight on a journey of discovery and storytelling shaped by a beautiful score by Chinese American composer Huang Ruo, and the inspired poetry that was carved into the walls by detainees at the Angel Island Immigration Station," said Lustig. "*Angel Island* helps trace who we all are today by remembering our origins and the many perilous journeys made by our ancestors."

ABOUT OAKLAND BALLET COMPANY

For over 60 years, Oakland Ballet Company has inspired the East Bay community and beyond by keeping the art of ballet exciting, relevant and accessible, primarily through the presentation of works of the Diaghilev repertoire and modern masterpieces. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Graham Lustig, the Company has renewed its commitment to artistic excellence with imaginative programs that engage contemporary audiences through close relationships with living choreographers, the commissioning of new works, innovative collaborations with diverse artists and communities, and compelling educational programs that cultivate the next generation of dance lovers.

A cornerstone of Oakland Ballet Company’s legacy has been engagement with the community. Oakland Ballet’s Discover Dance outreach program features educational programs at East Bay schools, educational in-theater performances, free performances throughout the community, ticket donations to season performances and scholarships to company training programs.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

Oakland Ballet Company presents the fifth annual ***DANCING MOONS FESTIVAL***, a celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander artists, featuring world premieres by **Phil Chan** and **Wei Wang**, and the remount of *Angel Island* (2025).

Choreographers:

Natasha Adorlee, Phil Chan, Lawrence Chen, Elaine Kudo, Ashley Thopiah, and Wei Wang

Musicians:

Del Sol Quartet and Volti choral ensemble

WHEN:

April 30 - May 2 at Great Star Theater

Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

May 8 - 9 at Herbst Theatre

Friday at 7:30pm

Saturday at 2:30pm (reception to follow)

WHERE:

Great Star Theater

636 Jackson Street
San Francisco, CA 94133

Herbst Theatre

401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

TICKETS:

\$30 - \$158

Direct link for April 30 - May 2 at Great Star Theater:

tickets.greatstartheater.org/events/greatstartheater/2046021

Direct link for May 8 - 9 at Herbst Theatre:

<https://www.cityboxoffice.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=3268>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

oaklandballet.org/performances-events/dancing-moons-festival

For all press inquiries please contact John Hill at john@johnhillpr.com.