



“Avant-garde, creative, and futuristic, the work leads the audience to ever-higher climaxes, yet interspersed Paiwan nursery rhymes spontaneously bring them back to the nostalgic past.”

Lu Yu-chen, *Reviewing Performing Arts Taiwan*

IMAGE | Lee Chia Yeh



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE
DANCE
TAIWAN

tiaen tiamen Episode 1

Bulareyaung Dance Company

DUNSTAN PLAYHOUSE
THU 19 – SAT 21 OCTOBER

DURATION 65 mins

Co-commissioned by
National Taichung Theater,
National Theater & Concert Hall,
and Taitung County Government.

This tour is made possible by
National Culture and Arts Foundation,
Taishin Bank Foundation for Arts and Culture.



Bulareyaung Dance Company

tiaen tiamen Episode 1

Choreography	Bulareyaung Pagarlava
Music Director	ABAO
Music Arranger & Mixer	Wenna
Image Painting	reretan pavavaljung
Lighting Designer	Lee Chien-chang
Projection Designer	Hsu Yi-chun
Costume Designer	Keith Lin Bing-hao

Premiered on
March 24th, 2023
at National Taichung
Theater, Taiwan

Choreographer's note

No encounter is a coincidence. Each and every one of them is meant to be in life.

tiaen tiamen is a phrase in Paiwan, an indigenous language in Taiwan. It means “me and us”. This is a piece that focuses on the Paiwan tribe and a challenge that I gave myself back in 2018. I deliberately set up this plan to half force myself to really examine my own tribal identity. But life has its own way, and you don't always get to do what you want to do. Life has assigned me other challenges since then, and so I did not have a chance to tackle the theme. Maybe it was not time yet.

In 2016, aljenljeng tjaluvie (aka “ABAO”), a Paiwan singer and songwriter, released her first all-Paiwan album *vavayan.Women*. It took my breath away. The design of the album cover and the inside was also impressive. ABAO said to me, “You have to know this guy. He is brilliant!” reretan pavavaljung is a 23-year-old young Paiwan artist. He continued the Paiwan tradition of using patterns and chants to document life and culture due to lack of a writing system, and integrated the song names and what was described in the lyrics into the unique ancient patterns of Paiwan. In 2019, ABAO published another Paiwan album *kinakaian Mother Tongue*, which swept even more people away, and won

a grand Golden Melody Award. I was once again fascinated by the design of the album cover by reretan. “ABAO, hurry! Introduce me to him. I want to know this guy!” The collaboration among the three of us was thus meant to be.

Pulima (youth), *Puqulu* (middle age), and *Puvarung* (old age) are the main core of the *Paiwan Trilogy*. They represent the Paiwan interpretation of the three stages of life, which reretan shared with me when we first met in 2021. We first start off with our hands of youth, move on to a stage during which we gain wisdom, and finally we set off from our heart to venture beyond. *tiaen tiamen* is the first episode. It starts off as *pulima*. Here we take it as the stage of youth, a stage at which we begin to self explore. reretan uses his dexterous hands to depict the universe of Paiwan. Led by ABAO's psychedelic electronic music, the imagination of the dancers towards their bodies is ignited. One starts from oneself, allowing our souls to collide.

In 2023, *tiaen tiamen* Episode 1 is finally to be presented. By then reretan will be thirty, ABAO will be forty, and I will be fifty. Our encounter was at different stages of our lives, but we appreciate and learn from one another. And to have Keith Lin, who has one-eighth of Paiwan blood, to also join the team as a costume designer makes me wonder whether everything is, in fact, really meant to be.

Bulareyaung Dance Company

The Bulareyaung Dance Company was founded in 2015 in Taitung by Bulareyaung Pagarlava, an indigenous choreographer from Taiwan. Creation of dance pieces and dancer training are accomplished by working in the mountains and singing old chants by the waterside. Dancers develop unique body movements and vocabulary by delving into their indigenous heritage and culture through regular field trips.

Since its founding, the company has presented several productions, including *La Song* (2015), *Qaciljay* (2016), *Colors* (2016), *Stay That Way* (2017), *Luna* (2018), *#Yes or No* (2019), *Not Afraid of the Sun and Rain* (2021), *Rustling, Whirring* (2022), and *tiaen tiamen* Episode 1 (2023).

Stay That Way won the Taishin Performing Arts Award in 2017, and *Luna* further won the coveted Taishin Arts Award Annual Grand Prize in 2018. It is the first performing troupe to be awarded in two consecutive years. The Company has been invited to various performances, and has also toured to the United States, Canada, Singapore, Japan, Beijing, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Creative Team

Bulareyaung Pagarlava | Choreographer

Bulareyaung Pagarlava is from the Paiwan tribe of Taiwan. He aspired to become a dancer when he was twelve. After he graduated from the Dance Department, Taipei National University of the Arts, Bulareyaung joined the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre. He was awarded a fellowship by the Asian Cultural Council to study in New York in 1998, and has created dance pieces for the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, Cloud Gate 2, and the Martha Graham Dance Company. His works are highly contagious, pure, and unique, and have received world recognition. Bulareyaung was selected as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Taiwan in 2012 and National Award of Arts presented by the National Culture and Arts Foundation in 2022. He went back to his hometown Taitung and founded the Bulareyaung Dance Company in 2015.

Music Director | aljenljeng tjaluvie (aka "ABAO")

aljenljeng tjaluvie is from the Paiwan tribe of Taitung, a county on the east coast of Taiwan. She has received a total of five Golden Melody Awards. In 2014, ABAO, together with her grandmother and her mother, sang in an all-Paiwan album *The East Payuan Folk and Three Generations*, which recorded ancient folk songs traditionally sung in Paiwan weddings in Taitung. In 2016, she wrote and released her first solo album *vavayan.Women* in her mother tongue to discuss the views of Paiwan women of different generations. In 2019, she published her second written Paiwan album *Mother Tongue*, and fused together electronic music with dialogues from various ethnic groups in Taiwan. The album received eight nominations for the Golden Melody Awards in the following year.

In recent years, ABAO often integrates indigenous culture into different performance art forms, in the hope of allowing more ethnic groups to have a better understanding of the current cultural status of Taiwan indigenous tribes. In 2021, she made her first compilation album *N1: Nanguaq No.1* on indigenous originals, which features singles written by seven indigenous young singer-songwriters. Through collaboration, she hopes that the voices of the younger generation could thus have a broader and more diverse cultural representation.

Music Arranger & Mixer | Wenna

Wenna is a record producer from the new generation in Taiwan, known professionally as ń7ă. Notable for creating an unfettered sense of time and space with electronic music, like flowing water. She often records the daily life sounds and makes them into music, or blends Foley sounds into her works, matching analog synthesizers to highlight the human side of electronic music.

Her first album *Panorama* (2019) is released under the stage name ń7ă, with the concept of "water" including all kinds of different types (like liquid, mist or ice), telling the undercurrent relationship between people, and won the 11th Golden Indie Music Awards for Best Electronic Album; the following year the single *zaljum*, in collaboration with the singer ABAO (aljenljeng) and the Amis rapper R.fu, won the Best Electronic Song at the 12th Golden Indie Music Awards again. Other collaborators include YELLOW, No Party For Cao Dong, *Black Swan* dance consultant Francesca Harper, etc.

Image Painting | reretan pavavaljung

reretan pavavaljung is from the Paiwan tribe of Pingtung, the southernmost county of Taiwan. His works show strong personal style and mainly include oil paintings, graphic designs, digital paintings, and murals. He gets his inspiration from life experiences living in both cities and tribal villages, and records and satirizes relevant issues from a unique perspective, using his works to reflect the process of how indigenous people find their identity in this modern world. In 2017, he created his personal brand Atitan Art, which showcases his creative works in addition to marketing product categories.

reretan pavavaljung was the graphic designer for ABAO's albums, *vavayan.Women* and *Mother Tongue*. In 2020, he designed the poster for Yo-Yo Ma's Bach Project in Taipei; in 2021, he was invited to the LunarFest in Canada to present his audio-visual installation artwork *Coastal Lunar Lanterns - Family Ties*; in 2016, he was invited to be an artist-in-residence at the indigenous Riddu Riddu Festival in Norway.

Lighting Design | Lee Chien-chang

Graduated from the Theater Department of Taipei National University of the Arts, Lee Chien-chang majored in directing. He is the founding artistic direction of the Off Performance and one of the founders of 363 Small Theatre.

Since 2015, he has been the technical director and lighting designer of the Bulareyaung Dance Company. His lighting design for the Company include *Song* (2015), *Qaciljay* (2016), *Colors* (2016), *Stay That Way* (2017), *Luna* (2018), *#Yes or No* (2019), *Not Afraid of the Sun and Rain* (2021), *Rustling, Whirring* (2022), and *tiaen tiamen* Episode 1(2023).

Projection Design | Hsu Yi-chun

A visual artist, Hsu Yi-chun obtained his DNSEP (National Superior Diploma of Visual Arts) from the Paris-Cergy National Graduate School of Art in France, and attended the courses of Laboratory of Movement Study at the École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq. Hsu focuses on video installations, theater projection designs, and projection planning at major events, and his works have been exhibited at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum in Taipei and the Hôtel de Ville in Paris. Hsu was involved in several dance pieces produced by the Bulareyaung Dance Company, including *Rustling, Whirring* and *Not Afraid of the Sun and Rain*. He was also in charge of the projection planning in various major events in Taiwan, including the environmental theater

Revisualizing the Old City in Zuoying in 2016, the opening event of the Taipei Fashion Week SS19 in 2018, and the *T.A.P. Project* projection mapping show of the National Taichung Theater in 2022. Among others in 2022, Hsu was the projection designer for the environmental theater of the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts for *Maritime Glow*, which won the 2022 MUSE Design Golden Award for Conceptual Design.

Costume Design | Keith Lin Bing-hao

Keith Lin received his B.F.A. from the Dance Department at Taipei National University of the Arts in Taiwan and M.F.A. from the School of Visual Arts in New York City, USA. Lin took a sharp turn into costume design in 1998, and is a specialist in classical ballet costume design and production. In 2001, he founded KeithLink, a company specializing in fashionable dancewear, and is currently also the creative director at 2Orange International. His designs for dance performances include *Whisper of Flowers* and *How Can I Live on without You* by Lin Hwai-min's Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, *On the Road* and *13 Tongues* by Choreographer Cheng Tsung-lung, and *Dance Forum X Tan Dun Project HUI* produced by the National Theater & Concert Hall in Autumn 2015. He was also the costume designer and style director for the opening ceremony of the 29th Summer Universiade in Taipei in 2017.

Production Team

Artistic Director	Bulareyaung Pagarlava
Technical Director	Lee Chien-chang
Executive Director	Erin Liao Yung-wei
Administrators	Luo Rong-sheng, Kuo Yi-jung
Stage Manager	Chang Chih-yu
Projection Operator	Weng Yi-hsuan
Rehearsal Assistant	aulu tjibulangan
Dancers	aulu tjibulangan, giljigiljaw tjaruzalum, Kwonduwa Takio, Siyang Sawawan, Chen Sheng-chih, Kaniw Panay
Guest Dancers	Hsu Ting-wei