

The *International Human Rights Art Festival* presents an ongoing series of art-advocacy events, festivals, workshops and community programs at the intersection of art, spirituality and society. We open up space to hear different points of view, to listen to unique stories and perspectives. We believe that beauty, sincerity, vulnerability and engagement are the most powerful tools in the activist's toolbox. We offer open-hearted creativity and discourse with politicians, social leaders and others as partners, not adversaries.

Producer: Tom Block

Assistant Producer: Dr. Layla Zami

Honorary Co-Sponsors

Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator, NY

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator, NY

Honorable Benjamin Cardin
United States Senator, MD

Honorable Bernie Sanders
United States Senator, VT

Honorable Keith Ellison
U.S. House of Representatives, MN

Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator, MD

Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senator, ME

Mr. Norman Lear
National Medal of Arts

Ms. Kathleen Turner
Actress

Ms. Barbra Streisand
Actress/Singer

Ms. Amy Poehler
Actress

Honorable John Lewis
U.S. House of Representatives, GA

Honorable Nydia Velazquez
U.S. House of Representatives, NY

Honorable Jamie Raskin
U.S. House of Representatives, MD

Honorable Jim McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives, MA

Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives, IL

Honorable Ted Lieu
U.S. House of Representatives, CA

Honorable Norma Torres
U.S. House of Representatives, CA

Mr. Wei Jingsheng
Chinese Democracy Activist



Elements

The *International Human Rights Art Festival* presents a multicultural evening of dance performances, exploring the five elements underlying human experience:

Spirit (Oxana Chi), *Fire* (Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company), *Water* (Davalois Fearon Dance), *Air* (Open Dance Ensemble), and *Earth* (Sheldon Raymore).

June 18, 2018

7:30-9:00 pm

Playroom Theater
151 West 46th Street
8th Floor
New York, NY 10036

*Today's program generously supported by a grant from the
Lyn and Norman Lear Family Foundation.*

ihraf.org

Program curated by Layla Zami



Oxana Chi presents *Psyche* (excerpt), a choreographic exploration of her body memory searching for the affinities between the Spirit, the Psyche and the Soul. Choreography, Dance: Oxana Chi; Music: Sylvestre Soleil; Costume: Mel Simon Brooklyn Lab Oxana Chi is a Nigerian-German choreographer, dancer, writer, filmmaker, curator, currently in residence at Abrons Arts Center. She created 18 productions including two commissioned works for Humboldt-University, Berlin. With her self-developed *Fusion* style, Oxana Chi fascinated audiences at theaters, universities and festivals across NYC and across the globe. Chi has received several awards and grants. oxanachi.de

Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company presents the *Fire* excerpt from *Way of Five*, based on the Chinese Taoist belief that the ever-changing cycles of creation and destruction in nature can be viewed in terms of the five elemental forces. The dances of Nai-Ni Chen, presented in twenty national tours and seven tours abroad, fuse the dynamic freedom of American modern dance with the grace and splendor of Asian art. The Company received more than fifteen awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and numerous Citations of Excellence and grants. Choreography, Costumes: Nai-Ni Chen; Music: Tan Dun; Dancers: Greta Campo, Candace Jarvis, Yuka Notsuka, Jerard Palazo, Patrick Piras. nainichen.org

Davalois Fearon presents *Consider Water* (excerpt). The piece was inspired by domestic and global water issues, such as water scarcity, water contamination, water quality, and water-related natural disasters. Davalois Fearon is a Bessie award-winning dancer, teacher, and choreographer born on the island of Jamaica and raised in The Bronx, New York. She is a Professor of dance at Purchase College. She danced with the Stephen Petronio Company (2005-2017) and presented her own choreography nationally and internationally. Choreographer: Davalois Fearon; Dancers: Morgan Anderson, Davalois Fearon, and Mikaila Ware; Music: Mike McGinnis; Projections: André Zachery davaloisfearon.com

Open Dance Ensemble, founded in NYC in January 2017, has developed a new form of dance choreography in which the movers not only improvise but also conduct each other as the performance unfolds. Today's program will interpret the element of "air" with *June Wind* and be created as a never before/never again dance performance, following in the footsteps of Merce Cunningham's Signals of 1970, and inspired by Karl Berger's conducted music improv which began in 1974 at Creative Music Studio. Concept/Director: Philip Ellis Foster. Music: Ghost Ensemble Dancers: Juliana Garber, Nathan Gebhard, Meredith Mulligan and Riley O'Rourke. **FB: [Opendanceensemble](https://www.facebook.com/Opendanceensemble)**

Sheldon Raymore performs a Native American *Grass Dance*: a fast paced dance consisting of sweeping motions and symmetry, mimicking waving grass. Sheldon Raymore is a Native American Storyteller, Visual Artist, Actor, Choreographer, Cultural Consultant, and an award winning Grass Dancer for his brilliant technique and spellbinding execution. The Lakota Artist is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. He toured with Heather Henson's "Ajijaak on Turtle Island" theatre production (2015-2018) and received the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Community Arts Fund "Performance Art" Grant. prepahhontoz.com

NEXT UP:

Found in the Street: an evening at the intersection of creativity, spirit and the NYC subway system, highlighting NYC street performers. July 22, 7:30 pm @ this very Playroom Theater.

SAVE THE DATE!

International Human Rights Art Festival takes place November 12-18 at the **Wild Project**, 195 East 3rd Street in NYC's East Village.