in association with
Ping Chong and Company
presents

Lazarus
1972–2022
by Ping Chong

Back from the dead, again.

LaMaMa Downstairs Theatre
September 29 – October 16, 2022
Lazarus 1972 - 2022
by Ping Chong

For Bruce Allardice and many others

CAST
Christopher Caines…………Lazarus
Jeannie Hutchins…………Woman
Chaesong Kim……………..Figure 1
Nancy McArthur …………Figure 2
Tiffany Tan …………………Figure 3

Voiceovers Performers: Louise Smith and Ping Chong
Voiceover text by Linda Nguyen and Ping Chong

PRODUCTION TEAM
Hao Bai, Lighting Designer
Katherine Freer, Projection Designer
Nitsan Scharf, Projections Associate
Stefani Mar, Consume Designer
Watoku Ueno, Set Designer
Ernesto Valenzuela, Sound Designer
Courtney Golden, Production Associate
Sarah Murphy, Production Manager
Bruce Allardice, Executive Director, Ping Chong and Company
Jane Jung, Managing Director, Ping Chong and Company
Sara Zatz, Associate Director, Ping Chong and Company

Production crew: Destiny Castro (wardrobe), Antigona Gonzalez Diego (Lights/Video operator), Diego Las Heras (Sound Operator), Isabella Olgaard (Lights/Video operator), Tiffany Tan (Production assistant)

Lazarus: 1972-2022 is part of Ping Chong and Company’s celebration of 50 years of Ping Chong’s artistry. It is made possible with the generous support of the Mellon Foundation.

Running time 60 minutes with no intermission
Director's Statement

Fifty years have passed since *Lazarus* was first performed, in a city on the edge of bankruptcy, in a purgatorial state, in what was Soho before it was called Soho. It was the inaugural work of a twenty-six-year-old young man who was still unsure about where his life was leading him. *Lazarus* was first presented in Meredith Monk’s loft, rent free, with a bunch of clip lights, a few sheets of blue gel, a borrowed slide projector, a folding screen, a hot plate, and a few more borrowed and created items. The budget was one hundred dollars. There was no advertising, no PR, and nobody involved got paid. Yet without knowing it, this modest work was the beginning of my life as a writer and director, and of Ping Chong and Company.

The *Lazarus* of 2022 bears a close resemblance to the *Lazarus* of 1972, it uses the same script in fact, and yet they are worlds apart. The world has changed irrevocably in the intervening fifty years and so has the twenty-six-year-old. Time passes, and with time passing the poignancy of loss multiplies, which is to say *Lazarus* has lived the fullness of life through time. By now, it must be obvious that I am Lazarus and Lazarus is me. The theme of *Lazarus*, the theme of Otherness, runs through all my work. Who could be more Other than Lazarus, who, alone of all humanity, has returned from the dead, but finds himself unable to share his experience with the living.

I have chosen to complete my life as an artist with this work that started it all. Coming full circle seemed appropriate. It is my way of honoring the past, honoring the journey that I took, supported by the generosity of so many people in my life, living and dead, to whom I will forever be indebted. I’d like to dedicate this work to all of them. And to you. Thank you, the audience, for being here tonight for my farewell as Artistic Director of Ping Chong and Company.

In gratitude, Ping Chong
PERFORMER BIOS

Ping Chong (Artistic Director) is an internationally acclaimed interdisciplinary artist, and founder of Ping Chong and Company. Since 1972, he has created over 100 original works for the stage in New York City, and around the world. In 1992, Chong created the first Undesirable Elements production in an ongoing series (over 65 productions) of community-based oral history projects exploring culture and identity. Published works include The East West Quartet and a volume on Undesirable Elements. The first comprehensive volume on his body of work, The Interdisciplinary Theatre of Ping Chong: Exploring Curiosity and Otherness on Stage by Yuko Kurahashi, was released in 2019 and Elizabeth LeCompte, Ping Chong, Robert Lepage: Multi-Media Interrogations edited by Claudia Orenstein, was released in 2021. Ping Chong is the recipient of two BESSIE awards, two OBIE awards, a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, and the 2014 National Medal of Arts.

Christopher Caines (Lazarus) first performed with Ping Chong in Nocturne in 1200 Seconds (Hong Kong, 1998), in a role he reprised in the video version of the work (2020). Caines performed as the Seeress and served as assistant director for Chong’s EDDA (2001-2), touring in the US and internationally. He performed several roles as a voice actor for the puppet plays Kwaidan (1998) and Cathay (2005) and in the video The Aleph, de Maistre and Me (2020). He also appears in multiple roles in the video Chinoiserie Redux (2022). I can no other answer make but thanks, / And thanks; and ever thanks.—CC

Jeannie Hutchins (Woman) was a member of Ping Chong and Company from 1977 to 1995, collaborating on and performing in most pieces from Humboldt’s Current (1977) through Elephant Memories (1994). She also created nearly 20 pieces of her own between 1978 and 2004 and worked with Robbie McCauley in Sally’s Rape, in New York and touring from 1990 through 1998. For the past several years, while continuing to maintain a movement practice, she has shifted her focus to writing and to working in various visual media.
김채송 / Chaesong Kim (she/they) (Figure 1) was born and raised by two social activists who were a part of the student-led democratic revolution and labor rights movement in South Korea. Chaesong deeply identifies with the inheritance of “in-between” spaces, and celebrates transcendence through an embodied communal practice. Most recently, Chaesong's work has been hosted at Columbia University’s Lenfest Center for the Arts, Seoul Dance Center, EstroGenius Festival, and La MaMa E.T.C. Chaesong has also performed at The Kitchen and National Sawdust with Constellation Chor, and Danspace for Okwui Okpokwasili’s *Sitting on a Man’s Head*, and Samita Sinha’s *Infinity Folds*.

Nancy McArthur (Figure 2) is an actor, singer-songwriter and teaching artist, based in Astoria, Queens. She considers Ping Chong and Company to be one of the theatrical families that raised her and is honored to be a part of the cast of *Lazarus 1972-2022*. Previous credits include: *Battle of Angels* (Tennessee Williams Theater Festival), *The Fat Lady Sings* (La MaMa), *This is Modern Art* (NYTW), and *Athens on the Half Shell* (LPAC). Film/TV: *Hightown* (Starz), *To All the Girls I Could’ve Loved Before* (Adolfo Mena Cejas). Nancy holds a BFA from the Experimental Theatre Wing at NYU, Tisch. nancymcarthur.com

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

Katherine Freer (Projection Designer) is a multimedia artist, filmmaker, organizer and educator whose artistic practice lives at the intersection of story, technology and civic engagement. Frequent collaborators include Ping Chong, Ty Defoe, Kamilah Forbes, Steve H. Broadnax III, Lux Haac, Porsche McGovern, Liza Jessie Peterson, Talvin Wilks and Tamilla Woodard. She is a proud member of Wingspace Theatrical Design and United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829; Core collaborator in All My Relations Collective. Interim Head of Integrated Media Program, University of Texas at Austin. www.katherinefreer.com

Stefani Mar (Costume Designer) is happy to be working with Ping Chong on Lazarus 1972-2022. An artist and designer, she has lived and worked in NY since 1980, and started working with Ping Chong in 1997. She has collaborated with him on over 12 shows, and feels blessed to have developed this artistic connection and delightful friendship. Stefani’s artwork includes drawings, paintings, sculpture and installations shown in galleries, museums and public spaces. Design work includes clothing, costumes and textile, and as a textile designer for 17 years for a women’s clothing company. Her costumes for theatre, dance and opera have been on stages nationally and internationally.

Watoku Ueno (Set Designer) was born in Kyushu, Japan. He goes back a long way working with Ping Chong. His design credits with Ping include: Deshima, After Sorrow, Pojagi, Secret History and Angels of Swedenborg. Deshima was nominated for an American Theatre Wing award in set design. He is a founding member of the Yara Arts Group. For over 25 years for Yara, he designed sets, lights, and costumes. He was a recipient of a NEA/TCG Design Fellowship. For the last 10 years he created shadow puppet shows and in 2020, 2021 received Jim Henson grants for The Tall Keyaki Tree which premiered in NYC. www.watokuueno.com

Ernesto Valenzuela (Sound Designer) is an audio engineer, sound designer, music producer, and composer. Some of his most notable work includes the Ping Chong and Company productions of ALAXSX/A /ALASKA, Undesirable Elements, Nocturne in 1200 Seconds and Chinoiserie Redux and the Matices production of El Eco de Antigona, where he was honored with the award for the best original music in 2018. In addition, Ernesto has worked as a sound designer and audio engineer for productions such as NYU’s Tales of the Lost Formicans, The Good Soul of SZECHUAN, The Miracle Worker and Love and Information.

Courtney Golden (Production Associate) Courtney met Ping thirty years ago on a show in college. Since then she has worked on numerous
productions for the company, everywhere from a loading dock in Tribeca to a theater in the Faroe Islands, from a circus tent in Korea to BAM’s Next Wave. Many thanks to Ping for everything.

**Sarah Rae Murphy (Production Manager)** is a theater production manager who has been working in downtown NYC theater since 2002. She graduated from Montclair State University with a BA in Theater Production and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland with a Masters of Philosophy in Theater. Favorite credits include running nearly every show in The Club at La MaMa from 2009-2016, stage managing Joseph Keckler’s *I am and Opera*, lighting design for Dane Terry’s *Bird in the House*, and working closely with artists such as Reggie Watts, And Stover, Belarus Free Theater, Nicky Paraiso, and Dan Fishback.

**Tiffany Tan (she/they) (Figure 3/Production Assistant)** is an actor, musician, dancer, and budding stage manager. Her love for the arts runs in the family and started early in life, which led her to attend college at Long Island University, where she received her BFA in Acting. She wants to thank her partner Leo for the support, Ping Chong and Company for the opportunity and Courtney for trusting her as her Production Assistant. You can follow more of Tiffany’s work on Instagram, @tiffanymtan.

**Bruce Allardice (Executive Director, Ping Chong and Company)** has been Ping Chong’s producer since 1988. *Lazarus 1972-2022* is his last production in that capacity. Bruce wishes to thank the staff, board and artists of Ping Chong and Company- past and present. Special thanks to Victoria Abrash, Barbara Dufty, Alyce Dissette, Deirdre Valente, and Ping, of course.

**Jane Jung (Managing Director, Ping Chong and Company)** leads general management, financial, and operational areas of the Company; and oversees the Creative Fellowship program. Previous positions held include Managing Director of The Civilians and General Manager of Ping Chong and Company. She is a board member of Musical Theater Factory, Radical Evolution, and Network of Ensemble Theaters and Producing Fellow for the upcoming Broadway musical KPOP. Jane is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and Mount Holyoke College. Thank you to Ping, Bruce, Sara and Courtney for your commitment, kindness and generosity of spirit!

**Sara Zatz (Associate Director, Ping Chong and Company)** started her professional theater career as an intern with Ping Chong and Company in 1997 (while living in the dorms at La MaMa), and has now worked
with the Company for over two decades. She oversees the company’s community engagement and training programs, and is the lead-artistic collaborator with Ping Chong on the interview-based Undesirable Elements series. She has spoken and presented workshops on community-engaged theater at many conferences and universities. She holds an M.Phil in Irish Theatre Studies from Trinity College, Dublin, and an AB from Bryn Mawr College. Immense gratitude to Ping and Bruce for everything, always.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Ping Chong and Company (PCC) creates theater and art that reveal beauty, invention, precision, and a commitment to social justice. Founded in New York City in 1975 by leading theatrical innovator and National Medal of Arts recipient Ping Chong, the company's work centers innovation, collaboration, and community engagement, and amplifies underrepresented voices. Since 1975, PCC has created over 100 original works for the stage ranging from intimate interview-based works to large-scale multidisciplinary projects featuring puppets, performers, and full sound and projection scores. In 2022, Ping Chong and Company will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ping’s artistic career with a season of new works, including Lazarus 1972-2022, as well as the 30th anniversary of the Undesirable Elements series. pingchong.org/@pingchongco

MUSIC/MEDIA CREDITS:
“Spaceship”, Composed by Meredith Monk, Performed by Bang on a Can Allstars
“Fauré's Pavane” Performed by the 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic
20 Million Miles to Earth (1957), directed by Nathan Juran

STAFF
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Executive Director: Bruce Allardice
Managing Director: Jane Jung
Associate Director: Sara Zatz
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As a nonprofit organization, Ping Chong and Company relies on generous donors to keep our mission strong. Your tax-deductible gift fuels our support of artists, and the vital interdisciplinary arts, engagement, and education initiatives of PCC, making them accessible to more communities, for generations to come. Donations can be made at pingchong.org
Following the performance of "Lazarus 1972-2022" on Sunday, October 9, at 4pm, Chong will reunite with late 1970s and 1980s members of his company, then called the Fiji Theater Company, for a discussion of the evolution of his work and the changing climate in the downtown performing arts scene. They will share personal memories of their time creating work and touring work together. Moderated by Sara Farrington, editor of The Lost Conversation: Interviews with an Enduring Avant-Garde, the event will feature Ping Chong, John Fleming, Brian Hallas, Louise Smith, and Jeannie Hutchins. Smith and Hutchins both won Bessie Awards for their work with Chong.

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 25, 2023: 
A CELEBRATION OF PING AND BRUCE!
Join us to toast Ping Chong and Bruce Allardice, honor their extraordinary partnership, and celebrate the next chapter of Ping Chong and Company. A festive evening of performances, tributes, and surprises. Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at the Chelsea Factory. Watch pingchong.org for more details.

Additional Thanks:
Kayla Killiebrew, Nadia Kim, Maryanne Kuzniar, Ugne Tumonyte
A full program with information on this production can be found on the *Lazarus 1972–2022* page of the La MaMa website.

In addition you can scan the QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for access to the digital program.
La MaMa’s historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld
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Sept 29 - Oct 16, 2022
The Downstairs

Coffeehouse Chronicles #166:
Celebrating George Bartenieff
Oct 1, 2022
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Poetry Electric: Alexandra Tatarsky
Oct 3, 2022
The Downstairs

Last Gasp: A Recalibration
Oct 14 - Oct 30, 2022
Ellen Stewart Theatre

La MaMa Kids: Let’s Celebrate the Harvest Festival Together!
Oct 15 - 16, 2022
The Downstairs

COMING SOON

Posaka
Oct 23, 2022
The Downstairs

The History of Empires
Oct 27 - Nov 6, 2022
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Remake a World Gala
Nov 10, 2022
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Betsy
Nov 12 - 20, 2022
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Once Upon El Barrio
Nov 18 - 20, 2022
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Jump Start: A Presentation of Puppet Works in Progress
Dec 1-4, 2022
The Downstairs