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**THE JOYCE THEATER FOUNDATION
PRESENTS
JIN XING
PERFORMING IN NEW YORK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 20 YEARS WITH
JIN XING DANCE THEATRE SHANGHAI**

**THE JOYCE THEATER
JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 5**

The Joyce Theater Foundation is pleased to present the long-awaited, highly anticipated New York return of choreographer and artist **Jin Xing**, with her company **Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai** – after a 20-year absence and for the first time as a woman – from **January 31 – February 5, 2012**. For this engagement, the company will perform *Shanghai Tango*, a collection of ten works created by Jin Xing over the last 25 years. Tickets for Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai range in price from \$10-\$39 (\$10 - \$29 for Joyce Members) and are available through JoyceCharge at www.Joyce.org or by calling 212-242-0800. Please note: ticket prices are subject to change. The Joyce Theater is located at 175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street, in Chelsea.

One of the most fascinating choreographers and artists performing today, the beautiful “prima ballerina” **Jin Xing**, who was born a boy, discovered a passion for dance when he was 6. After many years of ballet school (without the support or encouragement of his family), he joined the People’s Liberation Army and danced in the army’s ballet company. Although suffering from continuous confusion about his identity and discomfort during the aggressive military training, he successfully advanced to the rank of Colonel while also dancing in many of the nation’s top ballets.

In 1995, while in his mid-twenties, he began the process of becoming a woman, which included three surgeries, several months spent wheelchair-bound, a strong regiment of hormones and very little public support. After regaining her strength, she began performing again with the surprising support of some journalists and Communist Party officials. Her dance pieces became more extravagant and technically challenging and featured different dance styles. Although initially supportive of her ballets, the Chinese government did not approve of her desire to create modern dance works. After a bitter battle with the government over a new production of her “Carmina Burana,” she was allowed to present only one performance. The production next went to Paris, where it played for several sold-out months.

Now, almost 20 years later, married and with three adopted children, Jin Xing returns to New York with *Shanghai Tango*, ten works that she created over the last 25 years. Set to an eclectic collage of music from Astor Piazzolla to Johann Strauss, the piece uses the sometimes sleazy, sometimes playful, but always sensuous, rhythmic, and passionate components of the tango as a conceptual framework to explore

contemporary Shanghai culture. This wondrous movement landscape is striking in its visual melding of Eastern and Western artistic threads.

The Joyce Theater Foundation presents **Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai** from January 31 – February 5. Performances are Tuesday – Wednesday at 7:30pm; Thursday – Friday at 8pm; Saturday at 2pm & 8pm; Sunday at 2pm. Tickets range in price from \$10-\$39 (\$26 - \$29 for Joyce Members) and are available through JoyceCharge at www.Joyce.org or by calling 212-242-0800. Please note: Tickets prices are subject to change. **Dance Chat**, a free post-performance discussion, will take place on Wednesday, February 1. This free discussion is open to all patrons attending that evening's performance. The Joyce Theater is located at 175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street, in Chelsea.

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Jin Xing started her remarkable life journey in 1967, when China was caught in the throes of the Cultural Revolution. Born male to parents of Korean descent, Jin Xing joined the People's Liberation Army at age nine and enrolled in the famous military dance ensemble in Shenyang. There she received training from China's leading ballet teachers, and at age nineteen, Jin Xing traveled to New York to study the dance techniques of dance luminaries Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and Jose Limon.

After performing and teaching in the United States and throughout Europe, Jin Xing returned to China in 1993 and elected to have sexual reassignment surgery, the first such operation to be officially approved by Chinese authorities. In spite of the Chinese government's initial reluctance to acknowledge Jin Xing after her surgery, it now considers her a "cultural leader." Her story has garnered extraordinary interest both within China and abroad: a documentary on Jin Xing's life, entitled *Colonel Jin Xing*, was released by French filmmakers in 2001, and Jin Xing published a memoir in 2007 describing her time in the People's Liberation Army, her sexual transition, and her career as a dancer. As articulated in a recent *Newsweek* article, "hers is not simply a tale of individual struggle and perseverance, but also a story of how Chinese society – while still constrained politically – has liberalized further in terms of art and culture than many in the West might expect."

Throughout her career, Jin Xing has received international acclaim and awards, including the Best Dancer of China award at age 17, the prestigious "Wenhua Prize" of the Chinese Ministry of Culture, and the "Best Choreographer Award" at the American Dance Festival in 1991. Jin Xing has also been named an honorary member of the European League of Institute of the Arts and received an honorary doctorate degree from Dartington College of Arts in the United Kingdom.

Founded in 1999 as China's first independent modern dance company, Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai has come to embody and expand on its leader's artistic vision. The company has sustained international recognition for outstanding artistry with performances throughout the world, including appearances at festivals such as the Adelaide Festival in Australia, La Biennale di Venezia in Italy, Dance Umbrella London in the UK, Impulstanz Vienna in Austria, and Steps in Switzerland.

About The Joyce Theater Foundation

The Joyce Theater Foundation, a non-profit organization, has proudly served the dance community and its audiences for three decades. The founders, Cora Cahan and Eliot Feld, acquired and renovated the Elgin Theater in Chelsea, which opened as The Joyce Theater in 1982. The Joyce Theater is named in honor of Joyce Mertz, beloved daughter of LuEsther T. Mertz. It was LuEsther's clear, undaunted vision and abundant generosity that made it imaginable and ultimately possible to build the theater. One of the only theaters built by dancers for dance, The Joyce Theater has provided an intimate and elegant home for more than 320 domestic and international companies. The Joyce has also commissioned more than 130

new dances since 1992. In 1996, The Joyce created Joyce SoHo, a dance center providing highly subsidized rehearsal and performance space to hundreds of dance artists, as well as special residency opportunities for selected choreographers to support the creation of new work. In 2009, The Joyce opened Dance Art New York (DANY) Studios to provide affordable studios for rehearsals, auditions, classes, and workshops for independent choreographers, non-profit dance companies, and the dance/theater communities. New York City public school students and teachers annually benefit from The Joyce's Dance Education Program, and adult audiences get closer to dance through informative Dance Talks, Joyce Pre-Show gatherings, and post-performance Dance Chat discussions. The Joyce Theater now features an annual season of approximately 48 weeks with over 340 performances for audiences in excess of 135,000.

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Leadership support for The Joyce Theater's 2011–2012 season has been received from the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust.

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This presentation of Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai is made possible by the MetLife Community Connections Fund of the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project. Major support for NDP is also provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation with additional funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Boeing Company Charitable Trust. Additional support provided by The R. Britton Fisher and Family Gift for International Dance.

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Major support for The Joyce has been provided by Alphawood Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, First Republic Bank, The Hearst Foundations, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Open Society Foundations and the Fund for the City of New York, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, and The Shubert Foundation.

The 2012 national tour of the Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai is part of a major, multi-year cultural exchange with Minneapolis-based Arts Midwest, the Chinese Ministry of Culture, and the US Major University Presenter's consortium. Support for the tour has been provided by the Ministry of Culture, People's Republic of China.