



Mountains and Seas – Song of Today 山海・今日之歌

PRESENTED BY Xie Rong, Daniel York Loh and Beibei Wang
Commissioned and co-produced with Kakilang

A welcome note from Kakilang

We are delighted to share this bold, genre-defying new commission with you – a performance confronting the urgent crises of our world today.

Created by acclaimed performance artist **Xie Rong (Echo Morgan)** and writer-director-musician **Daniel York Loh** (Off West End Award nominee for *The Dao of Unrepresentative British Chinese Experience*), **Mountains and Seas – Song of Today** 山海・今日之歌 is inspired by the 4th-century BCE *Classic of Mountains and Seas* (山海經). It explores climate crisis, activism, rising global fascism, and existential dread through an electrifying fusion of poetry, movement, music, and visual art.

Kakilang

Registered Office: Suite 342 Linen Hall 162-168 Regent St London W1B 5TE

Registered Charity Number: 1183582 Company number: 06067760

www.kakilang.org.uk

With special thanks to our supporters, the John Ellerman Foundation and Arts Council England, and to Omnibus Theatre for kindly hosting us.

We hope you enjoy this unique, urgent, and thought-provoking experience.

A note from Xie Rong

This work was born from grief and urgency. Over the past two years we have witnessed relentless violence in Gaza, the rise of fascism, and chants of “send them back” echoing across the UK, the US, and beyond. When Dr. Refaat Alareer a Palestinian academic, writer, poet, and activist was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza on December 6, 2023, his poem *If I Must Die* stayed with me — a reminder that when reality offers no hope, we loosen our flesh and only ideas remain.

In that silence, I found myself returning to the *Classic of Mountains and Seas* — a text of mythical creatures and imagined worlds where all beings coexist. Its ancient vision helped me hold the brokenness of today. Sharing these stories with Daniel York Loh, he shaped them into a script both poetic and politically fierce.

I understand that this piece might be described as cross-disciplinary or mixed media, but to me it feels more like an extended body. My practice has always been rooted in personal narrative, where body, voice, and gesture are central.

This production is built around three elements: **text, sound, and visual**. I am grateful for Daniel’s powerful script, Beibei’s dynamic soundscape, the energy of our two fantastic dancers, and the presence of Jennifer Lim, a strong and powerful actor. My body becomes part of this collaborative community — yet each of us carries our own history, heritage, and struggles.

At the heart of Daniel’s text is the search for an ancient tune. That search became the thread that binds us: each artist envisions this tune through their own strength, and it is our honesty and commitment that weave these forms into one theatrical experience. That is exactly what this project aspires to do.

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I would like to say a big thank you to my talented creative team! Thank you for being a part of this journey with me.

Cast & Creative Team:

Xie Rong — Performer & Art Director

Daniel York Loh — Writer, Musician (guitar, harmonica) & Performer

Beibei Wang — Percussion / Composer

Jennifer Lim — Narrator & Performer

Tash Tung — Dancer & Performer

Fan Jiayi — Dancer & Performer

Chen Yu Xiao — Xun/Xiao (Chinese flutes)

He Song Yuan — Beijing Opera vocals, Percussion & Performer

Design Collaborators

Yiran Duan (Yi Craft Studio) — Costumes & Jewellery

Danni Zheng & Ao Lei — Lighting, Visuals & Set Design

Photography and Videography:

Jamie Baker, Mike Skelton and Willow Hazell

Kakilang Team:

- **Howl Yuan** *Artistic Director & Co-CEO*
- **Ruth Holdsworth** *Executive Director & Co-CEO*
- **Katrina Man** *Arts & Community Producer*
- **Sandy Wan** *Head of Marketing & Audience Development*
- **Joey Jepps** *Associate Artistic Director & General Manager*

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Practical Information

Duration: 70 minutes, no interval

Content Advice: Loud music, flashing lights, strobes, lasers, haze, strong language, references to war and racism, brief drug reference.

Should you feel distressed at any point, you are welcome to step out and return when ready.

Age Recommendation: 14+

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/Qm4tiOgOKDg>

Additional Events

Tea Ceremony

2–3 December: Free tea ceremony at 6pm (show begins 7:30pm)

Exhibition

A **Mountains and Seas** exhibition will be displayed in the café throughout December and outside the theatre, accompanied by a short promotional film.

5 December: Post-show discussion with Daniel York Loh, Xie Rong & guests, chaired by Ruth Holdsworth.

6 December: BSL-interpreted performance by Becky Barry.

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