

## Sun Myung Moon founded the Universal Ballet Company 37 years ago on July 13

Naokimi Ushiroda  
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*UBC performing their signature ballet "Shim Chung" (Photo courtesy of Graeme Carmichael)*

"Every time I watch ballet, I feel that this must be what art in the Heavenly Kingdom is like," wrote Rev. Sun Myung Moon. "When a ballerina stands on her toes and holds her head toward the heavens, this stance strikes me as a perfect pose for the way we should hold God in awe. It has the look of ardent desire. In ballet, human beings can use the beautiful body given to them by God to express their love for Him. It is the highest form of art."

The late Rev. Moon, who wrote about his love of ballet in his [autobiography](#), As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen, shared his deep appreciation of the dance form with the world when he co-founded the Universal Ballet Company 37 years ago. Rev. Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, inaugurated the [Universal Ballet Company](#) on July 13, 1984 at the Little Angels Performing Arts Center in Seoul. They aimed to raise Korean ballet to the world standard, and contribute to better international cultural exchange while leading the globalization of Korean ballet arts.

Originating in the 15th Century during the Italian Renaissance, professional ballet involves years of rigorous training and a fine mastery of movement requiring hours of practice and dedication to the craft. Rev. and Dr. Moon admired the perseverance of ballet dancers whose beautiful artistry is not easily accomplished.

"I am not one to be pressured into giving up my dreams," wrote Rev. Moon in his book. "I have a bullheaded strength of will that I use to pursue dreams that will lead to a world of peace... The creation of our ballet company is a perfect example of the same strength of will. People said it couldn't be done."

"Today more people in Korea are enjoying ballet than ever before," he wrote. "When we first created our ballet company, Korea was like a barren wasteland as far as ballet was concerned. Korea now even has its own world-renowned ballerinas."

The Universal Ballet Company has since gained international acclaim and recognition while instituting a number of world tours. To date, the ballet company has held 487 overseas performances in 25 countries.

"The Universal Ballet receives invitations from the world's most famous venues," wrote Rev. Moon. "Its dancers are credited with adding a uniquely Korean beauty to the energetic moves of Western ballet. They are praised for the way they harmonize Eastern and Western styles in their performances."

The Universal Ballet Company began by performing Swan Lake and the Nutcracker Suite, as well as its own original creations Shim Chung, the tale of a filial daughter, and The Love of Chunhyang, a love story about fidelity and loyalty. Now led by General Director Julia Moon, 70 dancers present well-known full

length classical ballets such as Sleeping Beauty and Don Quixote, as well as contemporary masterpieces such as Na Floresta and Duende, Somewhat Elevated, and All Shall Be.



"Whether performing a stylized Kirov specialty or a home-grown essay... All the dancers embody the identical concept of classical style, the identical sense of placement, line, and technical finesse," wrote Lewis Segal, a dance critic for the Los Angeles Times. "Whatever their individual talent or training, they speak the same movement language - an amazing accomplishment."

As part of the arts, the Universal Ballet Company brings humanity together, a vision long shared by Rev. and Dr. Moon and exhibited in their vast range of peacebuilding work around the world. "The arts enable humankind to reflect the high ideals embodied in God's own creative work," wrote Rev. Moon.

"God poured His entire heart into human beings and the world He created, just as artists invest their entire being into their works... To pour out everything we have, to offer ourselves up completely for the sake of one moment in time - this is how greatness is achieved and how humankind comes to resemble God."

You can get a copy of Rev. Moon's autobiography [here](#), and learn more about the Universal Ballet Company [here](#).





# THE COMPANY

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# About the Company

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## Universal Ballet, since 1984

### Celebrating 36years of breathtakingly beautiful performances



Based in Seoul, Korea with dancers and staff from more than a dozen countries throughout Europe, the US and Asia, Universal Ballet embodies the blending of the grace and harmony of Asian thought and culture with the strength and beauty of western classical ballet. Dedicated to preserving the rich tradition of European classical ballet and at the same time following the trends in contemporary choreography, the company continues to be the leading force of ballet in Korea. Since its founding in 1984, the company, now led by General Director Julia Moon, Artistic Director Brian Yoo, and Artistic Director Emeritus Oleg Vinogradov, has steadily gained fame and recognition.

Performing both at home in Korea and abroad, the 70 dancers in Universal Ballet present well known full-length classical ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Don Quixote*, *Giselle* and *La Bayadère*, as well as contemporary masterpieces such as *Jiří Kylián's Petite Mort and Sechs Tänze*, *Nacho Duato's Multiplicity, forms of silence and emptiness, Na Floresta and Duende*, *William Forsythe's In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated, Hans van Manen's Black Cake, Heinz Spoerli's All Shall Be, Christopher Wheeldon's Variations Sérieuses and Ohad Naharin's Minus-7*. During their 25th anniversary season in 2009, Universal Ballet added John Cranko's dramatic ballet *Onegin* to the repertory and then in 2012, Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet*.



Universal Ballet owes its progress and success to a number of people who have invested in the company during its formative years. These include four American directors - founding Artistic Director Adrienne Dellas, and subsequent directors Daniel Levins, Roy Tobias and Bruce Steival. Universal Ballet inherited much of the rich ballet tradition of St. Petersburg between 1998 and 2007, while under the leadership of Oleg Vinogradov, former Artistic Director of the Kirov Ballet in St. Petersburg. Mr. Vinogradov now serves as Artistic Director Emeritus for the company.

Universal Ballet has won high praise for its success in combining Korean folklore with classical ballet in *Shim Chung*, and has presented this moving story of daughterly devotion worldwide. More recently, two additional Korean works, *The Love of Chunhyang* and Ballet Musical *Shim Chung* have been added to the company's repertory.

## Universal Ballet meets the world

487 overseas performances in 25 countries (1985-2019)

- 2019 Swan Lake in Paris (Palais des Congrès de Paris)
- 2018 The Love of Chunhyang in Bogota, Colombia
- 2017 Contemporary works in Kazakhstan
- 2015 The Love of Chunhyang (Royal Opera House Muscat, Oman)  
Don Quixote (Tokyo, Nagoya, Kobe, Japan)
- 2014 Special Gala in Tokyo (U-Port Hall),  
Shim Chung, This is Modern in Bogota, Colombia (TEATRO MAYOR - Julio Mario Santo Domingo)
- 2013 Swan Lake in Tokyo (U-Port Hall) and Contemporary works at the 11th International Bodrum Ballet Festival, Turkey.
- 2012 Contemporary works in Tokyo (U-Port Hall) and Taipei (The National Theater),  
Swan Lake in Johannesburg (The Joburg Theater),  
Shim Chung in Moscow (The Stanislavsky Music Academy Theatre),  
Shim Chung in Paris (Le Palais des Congrès de Paris / September, 2012)
- 2011 Shim Chung in Taipei (The National Theater), Singapore (The Esplanade),  
San Francisco (The War Memorial Opera House), Vancouver (The Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts) and Muscat (Grand Opening Festival of The Royal Opera House, Muscat),  
Giselle in Tokyo, Yokosuka and Ichikawa in Japan.
- 2010 Contemporary works at the 8th International Bodrum Ballet Festival, Turkey. Shim Chung in 4 cities in Japan.
- 2009 21 performances of The Nutcracker at the Badminton Theater in Athens, Greece.
- 2006 The Nutcracker tour to the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Shim Chung in 11 cities in Japan.
- 2004 US tour to N.Y. (Lincoln Center), L.A. (Kodak Theater) and San Francisco with Romeo & Juliet.
- 2003 Shim Chung and Romeo & Juliet in Paris, Cannes and Tours in France.
- 2002 Swan Lake and The Nutcracker in Thessaloniki, Volos and Veria, Greece.
- 2001 Swan Lake at Place des Arts, Montreal, Canada.  
La Bayadère and Shim Chung in 3 major US Opera Houses: Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center and LA Music Center.
- 2000 Sleeping Beauty and Shim Chung for five weeks in the US and Canada.  
Swan Lake, Don Quixote and Giselle in six European countries:  
England (Sadler's Wells Theatre), Germany, Switzerland, Hungary (State Opera House), Austria and Greece.

- **1999** Swan Lake and Giselle in Italy, Spain and Hungary (Hungarian State Opera House)
- **1998** Six week tour of Shim Chung and Swan Lake in the US and Canada, including New York City Center.
- **1996** Giselle and mixed program in 22 cities in Japan, 10 performances of Shim Chung in 4 cities in Taiwan (Sun YatSen Memorial Hall).
- **1995** 10 performances of Swan Lake in 4 cities in Taiwan (Sun Yet Sen Memorial Hall), Shim Chung in 16 cities in Japan.
- **1985~1994** 126 performances on 7 tours in 8 countries.

## Universal Ballet's Korean Performances

- **2019** Swan Lake / Minus 7+Imperfectly Perfect / Giselle / The Love of Chunhyang / Shim Chung / The Nutcracker
- **2018** Special Gala / Giselle / The Love of Chunhyang / Don Quixote / La Bayadère / The Nutcracker
- **2017** Giselle / Don Quixote / Shim Chung / This is Modern / Swan Lake / Onegin / The Nutcracker
- **2016** Swan Lake / Shim Chung / Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo & Juliet / Giselle / The Sleeping Beauty  
This is Modern / The Nutcracker
- **2015** Nacho Duato's Multiplicity / Graeme Murphy's Giselle / La Bayadere / The Nutcracker
- **2014** 30th Anniversary Special Gala / Nacho Duato's Multiplicity / Giselle / The Love of Chunhyang / The Nutcracker
- **2013** Swan Lake / Shim Chung / Onegin / This is Modern / Nutcracker (Seoul - 45 perfs. / Tour - 19 perfs.)
- **2012** This is Modern / Sleeping Beauty / Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo & Juliet / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 35 perfs. / Tour - 13 perfs.)
- **2011** Don Quixote / This is Modern / Onegin / Nutcracker (Seoul - 38 perfs. / Tour - 4 perfs.)
- **2010** Swan Lake / Shim Chung / This is Modern / La Bayadère / Nutcracker (Seoul - 46 perfs. / Tour - 20 perfs.)
- **2009** Don Quixote / La Bayadère / The Love of Chunhyang / Onegin / This is Your Life / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 50 perfs. / Tour - 22 perfs.)
- **2008** Giselle / Ballet Musical Shim Chung / Modern Ballet Project / Nutcracker (Seoul - 46 perfs. / Tour - 19 perfs.)
- **2007** Swan Lake / Julia Moon's Brunch Ballet / The Love of Chunhyang / Ballet Musical Shim Chung / Romeo & Juliet  
(Seoul - 34 perfs. / Tour - 31 perfs.)
- **2006** Sleeping Beauty / An Evening of Contemporary Ballet V / Nutcracker (Seoul - 21 perfs. / Tour - 22 perfs.)
- **2005** Don Quixote / Contemporary Ballet Celebration / Giselle / Nutcracker (Seoul - 27 perfs. / Tour - 31 perfs.)
- **2004** La Bayadère / An Evening of Contemporary Ballet IV / Shim Chung / Nutcracker (Seoul - 25 perfs. / Tour - 21 perfs.)
- **2003** Peter & the Wolf / Allure: Four Colors of Contemporary Ballet / Don Quixote / Giselle / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 51 perfs. / Tour - 7 perfs.)
- **2002** Swan Lake / Romeo & Juliet / Sleeping Beauty / Nutcracker (Seoul - 25 perfs. / Tour - 22 perfs.)
- **2001** An Evening of Contemporary Ballet / Carnival of the Animals & Get to Know Ballet with Julia Moon / Shim Chung /  
Contemporary Ballet: Freedom from the Tutu / Nutcracker (Seoul - 30 perfs. / Tour - 11 perfs.)
- **2000** Sleeping Beauty / Shim Chung / La Bayadère / Swan Lake / Don Quixote / Giselle / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 29 perfs. / Tour - 5 perfs.)
- **1999** Requiem & Classic Ballet Masterpieces / Giselle / Swan Lake / Shim Chung / Carnival of the Animals  
and Get to Know Ballet with Julia Moon / La Bayadère / Nutcracker (Seoul - 50 perfs. / Tour - 7 perfs.)
- **1998** Harlequinade & Classic Ballet Masterpieces / Requiem & Contemporary Ballet Masterpieces / Don Quixote /  
Nutcracker (Seoul - 23 perfs. / Tour - 13 perfs.)
- **1997** Don Quixote / Paquita, Handel Celebration, Pulcinella / Napoli Divertissements & La Sylphide / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 26 perfs. / Tour - 13 perfs.)
- **1996** Sleeping Beauty / Giselle & Contemporary Works with SueJin Kang / A Midsummer Night's Dream /  
An Evening with Balanchine and Choo San Goh / Nutcracker (Seoul - 30 perfs. / Tour - 19 perfs.)
- **1995** Balanchine Evening / A Tribute to Roy Tobias: Coppelia & Triple Bill Raymonda, Handel Celebration, In the Mood /  
Shim Chung / Nutcracker (Seoul - 2 perfs. / Tour - 6 perfs.)
- **1994** Carnival of the Animals, Cakewalk / Sleeping Beauty / Shim Chung / Swan Lake / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 27 perfs. / Tour - 15 perfs.)
- **1993** La Sonnambula, Paquita, Pulcinella / Carnival of the Animals, Graduation Ball / Swan Lake / Giselle /  
Serenade, Gloria Celebris, Wedding Party / Nutcracker (Seoul - 39 perfs. / Tour - 19 perfs.)
- **1992** Serenade, Prometheus / La Fille mal Gardee, Carnival of the Animals / La Sylphide / Swan Lake / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 48 perfs. / Tour - 9 perfs.)
- **1991** Lady of the Camellias / Coppelia / La Sonnambula, Paquita, Festival Variations / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 39 perfs. / Tour - 4 perfs.)
- **1990** Spring Ballet Festival / Giselle / Shim Chung / Nutcracker (Seoul - 38 perfs. / Tour - 6 perfs.)
- **1989** Marche Joyeuse, La Fille mal Gardee / Serenade, Firebird, Cakewalk / Lady of the Camellias / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 23 perfs. / Tour - 2 perfs.)
- **1988** Concert Waltzes, Raymonda Pas de Dix, Swan Lake Act II / La Sylphide / Princess Aurora, Le Combat, Cakewalk /  
Shim Chung / Nutcracker (Seoul - 44 perfs. / Tour - 3 perfs.)
- **1987** Giselle / Les Sylphides, Allegro Brillante, Graduation Ball / La Fille mal Gardee / Shim Chung / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 42 perfs. / Tour - 2 perfs.)
- **1986** Requiem, A Time There Was, Spanish Twilight, Angels Descending / La Sylphide / Shim Chung / Nutcracker  
(Seoul - 28 perfs. / Tour - 3 perfs.)
- **1985** Giselle / Apollo, Joie de Vivre, Proust, Flames of Paris Pas, Paquita Serenade, Le Corsaire Pas de Deux,  
Joie de Vivre, Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux / Coppelia (Seoul - 10 perfs.)
- **1984** Cinderella / Serenade, Black Swan Grand Pas, Ulysses - His Return / Romeo & Juliet - Fantasy Overture,  
Paquita Grand Pas de Deux (Seoul - 10 perfs.)

## What the press has to say about Universal Ballet ★★★★★

### Anna Kisselgoff, New York Times

" . . . astounding precision and attention to stylistic detail . . . the corps [moving] in riveting unison . . . can put even internationally ranked companies to shame."

### Clive Barnes, Dance Magazine

"Universal Ballet, which this past summer had considerable success in a European tour through Hungary, Italy and Spain, is emerging as a major player in world dance."

### Lewis Segal, Los Angeles Times

"Whether performing a stylized Kirov specialty or a home-grown essay . . . Universal Ballet of Korea has one impressive advantage over nearly every American company. All the dancers embody the identical concept of classical style, the identical sense of placement, line, technical finesse. Whatever their individual talent or training, they speak the same movement language - an amazing accomplishment."

**Roger Salas, El Pais, Madrid**

"An Unforgettable Night. The presentation of Giselle by the cast of Universal Ballet was, without a doubt, a surprisingly unforgettable night of great ballet. . . . The public gave a standing ovation to the ballerina and to the entire company."

**Zsuzsa Kaan, Art of Dance, Budapest**

"The miracle in the history of dance has occurred: the ideal beauty conceived in the Russian ballet theater at the end of the 19th century is adopted and shown to the world by Koreans at the end of the 20th century."

**George Jackson, The Washington**

"The women aim for lyricism and extended linearity, and the men for heroic strength. It is unusual to see a male corps with such cohesion and cushioned power as this company's."