

Links Hall

A-SQUARED THEATRE,
ASIAN IMPROV ARTS MIDWEST,
& LINKS HALL PRESENT

**a-squared
asian-american
performing-arts
festival**

THURSDAY, NOV. 9 – SUNDAY NOV. 12, 2017
FESTIVAL PASS: \$40 TICKETS: \$20 GENERAL ADMISSION \$15 STUDENTS & SENIORS

a-squared
theatre

 **Asian Improv aRts Midwest**
AA Arts Incubator Program

Links Hall

Media Reminder: 09/10/2017

Hi-res digital images available on request

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Links Hall, A-Squared Theatre, and Asian Improv aRts Midwest present
A-Squared Asian American Performing Arts Festival
November 9 - November 12, 2017

Chicago, IL – Named one of the Chicago Magazine’s “Five Great Things to Do in Chicago” the **A-Squared Asian American Performing Arts Festival** returns in 2017 for a second edition. Featuring four evenings of local and national artists descended from the Asian diaspora, and working in contemporary dance, music, performance, sound, theatre, and culinary arts; this year’s festival is presented by, A-Squared Theatre, Links Hall, and Tatsu Aoki’s Asian Improv aRts Midwest.

“The artists presented in this festival are musicians, dancers, performance artists, actors, directors, and designers. Their artistic voices represent an intercontinental blend of influences as they bridge their cultural bloodlines from Asia to their personal and artistic upbringing in contemporary American society. In experiencing their work, audiences can see that diversity should be celebrated, that the contributions of immigrants and their descendants are a valuable component of American life, and that art can be a unifying and healing force during troubled times such as these.”

– Hope Kim, Cary Shoda, Giau Truong

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Festival Pass: \$40 / Tickets: \$20 General Admission, \$15 Students & Seniors
Purchase passes and tickets online at www.ticketfly.com

Thursday, November 9 @ 7PM

A-Squared Theatre featuring *Piano* by Hope Kim

Jeff Chan & Suwan Choi

Fujima Yoshinojo (Rika Lin) with Tatsu Aoki's Reduction Ensemble: *Mai Ougi*

Friday, November 10 @ 7PM

Hugh Sato and M Wu

Fujima Yoshinojo (Rika Lin) with Tatsu Aoki's Reduction Ensemble: *Mai Ougi*

Saturday, November 11 @ 5PM

BORDERS: POP-UP DINNER experienced in The Quail Room.

Saturday, November 11 @ 7PM

Jeff Chan & Suwan Choi

Hugh Sato and M Wu

A-Squared Theatre featuring *Piano* by Hope Kim

Sunday, November 12 @ 7PM

Lu Yim: cell foam threshold

Takahiro Yamamoto

ARTISTS

Full artist information: <http://www.linkshall.org/a-squared-festival-2017/>



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A-Squared Theatre

A-Squared Theatre presents *Piano* written by Hope Kim and directed by Wai Yim. Performance by Hope Kim and Dan Lin.

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Jeff Chan and Suwan Choi - Thursday and Saturday

Chicago saxophonist and composer Jeff Chan and performer of traditional Korean drumming Suwan Choi, come together for two evenings of music at the A-Squared Festival.



Yoshinojo Fujima with Tatsu Aoki's Reduction Ensemble: *Mai Ougi* - Thursday and Friday

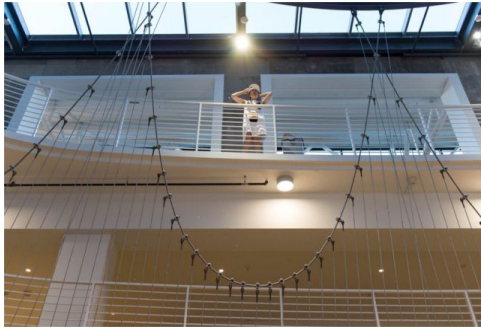
Yoshinojo Fujima joins the creative forces of experimental and classical musicians, Japanese and Classical instruments, and Neo-classical with Nihon Buyo dance to create a new stratum of experience that proclaims its stance for Asian American Artists with the woman as a focal point.



Hugh Sato and M Wu - Friday and Saturday

New media artist Hugh Sato and interdisciplinary artist, and improvisational mover M Wu come together for A-Squared Festival.

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Lu Yim (Portland, OR) - Sunday

Portland-based choreographer, performer and visual artist Lu Yim comes to A-Squared Chicago to present cell foam threshold: a solo performance made for artist run spaces and alternative venues, formed around the idea that the body is holographic.



Takahiro Yamamoto (Portland, OR) - Sunday

Originally from Shizuoka, Japan, Takahiro Yamamoto is an artist based in Portland, working in live performance, sculpture, and photography. In A-Squared Festival Takahiro will present his new work Direct Path to Detour, Single Focus, which just had it's world premiere as a part of the esteemed international Time Based Arts Festival in Portland OR this September.

BORDERS: POP-UP DINNER - Saturday

BORDERS: POP-UP DINNER experienced in The Quail Room (installation).

Borders will have a curated menu of Thai, Vietnamese, and Filipino home cooked meals that are similar between their respective culinary cultures.

Eating can be a personal or communal experience. Food intertwined with religion and cultural practice construe how a person eats in private/public. Borders: Pop-Up Dinner explores fusion and diffusion of borders and migration through the palate.

Created by Giau Truong (co-creator of the [Sóng](#) cookbook) and Axis Lab

CURATORS

Hope Kim is a company member and board member of A-Squared Theatre for which she has performed in all three incarnations of the *My Asian Mom* series, including *Piano*, her one-person short play. She also co-curated the 2016 *A-Squared Asian American Performing Arts Festival* and produced *American Hwangap*, *Cowboy vs.*

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Samurai, *Ching Chong Chinaman*, and the three editions of *My Asian Mom*. Hope also runs a playwriting workshop for Asian American writers based in Chicago.

Cary Shoda is a co-founder and the current artistic director of A-Squared Theatre, for which he co-curated the 2016 *A-Squared Asian American Performing Arts Festival*, produced *American Hwangap*, *Ching Chong Chinaman*, *The Other Shore* (co-produced with CIRCA Pintig), and *The Wind Cries Mary*. He acted in *Cowboy vs. Samurai* and *Trial By Water*, and directed *My Asian Mom 2014*. He has also collaborated with the following theatre companies in various capacities: Halcyon Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, CIRCA Pintig, American Blues Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Teatro Vista, James Downing Theatre Company, the side project, and others. Cary is also a graphic designer with a portfolio that includes work for McKinsey & Company, Deloitte, Leff Communications, Northern Trust, Spencer Stuart, Rand McNally, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

Giau Truong is a company member of A-Squared Theatre and an at-large artist for various performing arts companies in the Chicago area. For A-Squared, he co-curated the 2016 *A-Squared Asian American Performing Arts Festival*, he directed *Ching Chong Chinaman*, *The Other Shore*, and short plays for *My Asian Mom*, acted in *Trial By Water*, served as technical director for *American Hwangap*, and designed lights for *The Wind Cries Mary*. Giau's other directorial credits include *Downward Facing*, *Lights Out*, *Everybody*, and *Theatre of Women* for Dream Theatre Company. He directed *Sister Outlaw*, *Mr and Mrs LaQuesta Go Dancing*, *My Name is Flor Contemplacion*, and *I Dream Electric* for CIRCA-Pintig, Chicago's long-running Filipino American theatre company for which he served as artistic director from 2007 through 2012. Giau has also directed plays for James Downing Theatre Company and Theatre for a Change. He serves as a teaching artist and program manager for Storycatchers, stage manages with Chamber Opera Chicago and various other companies, and is a resident jack-of-all-trades for Links Hall.

Presenting Partners:

A-Squared Theatre was founded in December 2006 by a collective of Asian American theatre artists based in Chicago. Noting that many important Asian and Asian American plays, both new and old, have never been produced in Chicago, these artists united for the common goal of bringing these stories to the Chicago stage. In doing so, the founders pledged to showcase the talents of Asian American theatre artists who they believe were underrepresented and misrepresented in Chicago theatre. A-Squared's productions and readings also educate the general public on issues relevant to the Asian American community, such as family, immigration, assimilation, social justice, sexuality, mental health, and other pertinent themes. By addressing these important issues, A-Squared creates theatre that reflects the diversity of Asian cultures present in the Chicago area.

Asian Improv aRts Midwest's mission is to build a vital, self-empowered Asian American community in the Chicago area by advancing the understanding and profile of Asian and Asian American cultures through the traditional and contemporary cultural arts. AIRMW is dedicated to creating productive relationships with artists, community and institutions in order to produce high quality arts programs that accurately reflect the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic reality of Chicago and the nation.

About Links Hall

Links Hall encourages artistic innovation and public engagement by maintaining a facility – the collaborative arts venue Constellation | Links Hall – and providing flexible programming for the research, development and presentation of new work in the performing arts.

Links Hall best realizes its mission by functioning as an artistic incubator, a launch pad that partners directly with artists through commissioning residencies and artist-conceived programs in order to achieve outcomes greater

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than either the organization or an individual could accomplish alone.

Links Hall primarily serves artists and audiences in Chicago with its international reputation as a dynamic home for original performance – one of only a handful of organizations in the country that partner with independent artists to provide equal support for all stages of the creative process.

Links Hall is dedicated to making the intentional choices necessary to achieve equity and truly become an inclusive home where artists and audiences of all identities, backgrounds, ages, and cultures can take equal risk.

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Links Hall is located at 3111 N. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60618, in a multi use performing arts venue operated in partnership with music presenter Constellation. We are convenient to the Belmont/Clyburn & Western CTA Bus Stop in Chicago's Roscoe Village neighborhood accessible by the Western Bus (#49, #X49) and the Belmont Bus (#77). For more information call 773.281.0824 or visit [www.LinksHall.org](http://www.LinksHall.org)

Links Hall's institutional and corporate supporters include Alphawood Foundation, Allstate Insurance Companies, Arts Midwest Touring Fund, City of Chicago, Creative Capital Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Boeing Company, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Helios Construction Services, Illinois Arts Council, a State Agency, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley, Jr. Family Foundation, MAP Fund, MidAtlantic Arts Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Performance Network, New England Foundation for the Arts, Puppet Slam Network - supported by the HBH Fund, Revolution Brewing, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, TicketFly, The Weasel Fund, and W.E. O'Neil Construction Co.

In 2016 Links Hall was a recipient of the 2016 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.