



Name in English: Hsueh-Tung Chen

Name in Chinese: 陈学同[陳學同]

Name in Pinyin: Chén Xuétóng

Gender: Male

Birth Year: 1947

Birth Place: Shanghai, China

Current location: New York, NY

Founder of the Chen Dance Center

Profession(s): Choreographer, Dancer, and Arts Advocate

Education:

1965 – 1970, 5 yr program in Chinese Dance and Culture (equivalent to American Bachelor Degree), University of Chinese Culture in Taipei, Taiwan; 1973-76, Diploma from the Dance Division, The Juilliard School; 1976-78, Master of Arts, Dance Education, New York University; American Dance Center; Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance.

Awards:

1980, Grant for choreography, Jerome Foundation; 2002, New York State Governor's Arts Award (H.T. Chen & Dancers is the first Asian-American performing arts organization to have ever received this prestigious award); 2003, Lifetime Achievement Award, Organization of Chinese Americans, Long Island Chapter; 2004, Community Service Award. CUNY Asian Alumni Association; 2005, Bessies Special Citation; Choreographic Fellowships, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); Creative Artists Program (CAPS) award for choreography, New York State Council on the Arts

Contribution (s):

Hsueh-Tung Chen has been an influential and acclaimed leader in modern dance for over three decades. He is renowned for pioneering a distinctly Asian American form of dance, which infuses Western contemporary technique and style with traditional Asian aesthetics. Chen has created original works for numerous professional venues such as: Theater Artaud in San Francisco, Dance Center - Columbia College in Chicago. Miami-Dade Community College, Arizona State University's Public Events Series, ArtsWorld Finance Center, and the Joyce Theater.

A major part of Chen's career as an artist involves providing cultural services and support to the Chinese and Asian American community. He is regarded as "a choreographer with the instinct of a sociologist," whose work presents the experiences of Asians becoming Asian Americans to the broader dance world, while also challenging the still limited perception and value placed on the arts within the immigrant communities themselves.

In 1978, Chen founded his own dance company, H.T. Chen and Dancers, after spending several years choreographing and performing at New York's La MaMa Theatre. H.T.

Chen and Dancers has since received national and international recognition. The company continues to perform throughout the United States, and has completed several international tours. Chen later founded two affiliated programs: the Chen Dance Center School in 1980, a performing arts school providing classes in dance, music, and Wu-Su to over 250 children, and the Chen Dance Center Theater in 1988, which showcases and provides affordable rehearsal space to emerging artists in New York's Chinatown. Along with H.T. Chen and Dancers, these two programs comprise the Chen Dance Center, currently the largest Asian American performing arts organization in the country.

Chen has also involved himself with many national associations such as Dance USA and Dance Theater Workshop to make sure that Asian Americans count as part of professional circles and American society at large. He served as board member for the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre for 20 years, and on panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, California Arts Council, Massachusetts Arts Council, Mid-America Arts Council, Pennsylvania Arts Council, Mid-Atlantic Arts Council, Illinois Arts Council, and was a special consultant for the Pew Foundation.

Philanthropy:

H.T. Chen has been committed to helping young choreographers with the creative process and showcasing their work in a professional setting. In 1994, he established the Newsteps series for emerging choreographers and the Ear to the Ground series for Asian-American choreographers at the Chen Dance Center Theater, mentoring them “to make art from deep in their heart to reflect society.” Chen hopes to give Chinese American children the opportunity to immerse themselves in the arts and “discover the profound joy in dance.”

External Links:

[http://www.chendancecenter.org/index.php/the_company/about ht/](http://www.chendancecenter.org/index.php/the_company/about_ht/)
<http://www.nytimes.com/1996/06/20/arts/in-performance-dance-030449.html>
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2248715743>
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H. T. Chen#cite ref-0](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H._T._Chen#cite_ref-0)