

Queensland**Ballet**

Media Release

17 September, 2015

Li Cunxin Recognised in International Game Changers Award



Queensland Ballet Artistic Director, Li Cunxin, will be recognised as an international 'game changer' at an award ceremony at the United Nations in New York next month.

Named as one of the Asia Society's 2015 Asia Game Changers, Mr Li said he was honoured to be acknowledged alongside some extraordinary individuals in this year's awards.

"These awards recognise some truly remarkable people who have made a real difference in the world and it will be a privilege to stand alongside them," Mr Li

said.

The Asia Game Changer Awards recognise those making a transformative and positive difference for the future of Asia and the world.

Asia Society President Josette Sheeran said Mr Li was being acknowledged for his art, his courage and his cultural diplomacy.

"The Asia Game Changer Awards address the lack of recognition for Asians who are transforming ideas into action and improving lives," Ms Sheeran said.

"This year's honorees could not be more different from one another. They include a group of scientists, a comedian, a dancer, a fighter pilot and a boxer. What they have in common is that they all fight for a better today and inspire the world to do things differently.

"This is the first time an Australian has been acknowledged in our awards."

The 2015 honorees are:

Manny Pacquiao (The Phillipines)

Humanitarian, world-famous boxing champion, and member of the Phillipines House of Representatives.

Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano and Shuji Nakamura (Japan)

2014 Nobel Laureates in Physics and inventors of a new energy-efficient light source (the blue LED)

Chanda Kochhar (India)

CEO of ICICI Bank and the first woman to head an Indian bank

Lei Jun (China)

Founder & CEO of Xiaomi, China's leading smartphone vendor

Li Cunxin (Australia/ China)

Artistic Director of Queensland Ballet and of *Mao's Last Dancer* fame

Aasif Mandvi (United States/ India)

Comedian, activist and powerful spokesperson for Muslims and Asian Americans.

Mariam al-Mansouri (United Arab Emirates)

Fighter pilot, UAE Air Force and role model for women throughout the Arab world.

Kiran Bir Sethi (India)

Founder, Design for Change and The Riverside School, and champion of youth volunteerism.

Ms Sheeran said that while all the honorees received widespread support, Manny Pacquiao would be recognised as the overall Asia Game Changer for 2015.

All the honorees will attend the Asia Game Changer Awards Dinner and Celebration at the United Nations on October 13, 2015.

The honorees are selected through a global survey of more than 1,000 thought leaders. The awards are run by the Asia Society, which was founded in 1956 by John D Rockefeller 3rd to promote mutual understanding and strengthen partnerships between Asia and the United States in a global context.

Mr Li said it would be an honour to attend the celebration in New York in October.

"It will be an absolute thrill to stand with these wonderful individuals who have achieved extraordinary things in their lives and continue to impact people every day," he said.

"It's very humbling to be honoured in such a way for something that I am passionate about. I love sharing the beautiful art-form of ballet with people and hope that this in some way inspires others to dream big and set their hopes high."

Media Enquiries:

Kendall Battley
Publicity Manager
kbattley@queenslandballet.com.au | 0401 739 159

FOLLOW US



Contact us

PO Box 3791 South Brisbane QLD 410
Phone 07 3013 6666 | Fax 07 3013 6600
mail@queenslandballet.com.au | queenslandballet.com.au

Photography**

Artistic Director Li Cunxin. Photo Georges Antoni

© 2015 Queensland Ballet | Thomas Dixon Centre. Cnr Drake St & Montague Rd. West End, Queensland, 4101

[Subscribe](#) [Forward](#) [Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by **Mad Mimi®**
A GoDaddy® company