



## **Ballet Austin II Brings *Quiet Imprint* to Orange County**

***Thang Dao's Award-Winning Story of the Vietnam "Diaspora"***

***Makes its California Debut October 8-9, 2011***

- WHO:** Ballet Austin II and Thang Dao Dance Company  
Choreography by Thang Dao  
Music composed by Trinh Cong Son  
Vocals by Khanh Ly
- WHAT:** *Quiet Imprint*
- WHEN:** October 8, 7:30 pm; October 9, 4 pm and 8 pm
- WHERE:** The Rose Center Theater  
14140 All American Way, Westminster, CA 92683
- TICKETS:** Purchase online at [BulsaTickets.com](http://BulsaTickets.com)  
Or call The Rose Center Theater at 714.793.1150, ext. 1

**AUSTIN, TX – September 13, 2011** –Ballet Austin II, in collaboration with the Thang Dao Dance Company, makes its Orange County debut in October to present *Quiet Imprint*, a critically acclaimed work from *New American Talent/Dance* winner (2006) Thang Dao. The Rose Center Theater in Westminster, California, will be home to the production, slated for October 8 at 7:30 pm and two performances on October 9 at 4 pm and 8 pm.

*Quiet Imprint* interprets personal narratives based on the displaced Vietnamese community, specifically those dispersed from Vietnam (the "diaspora") during and following the conflict from 1959 to 1975. The project is a direct result of the prestigious Princess Grace Foundation Special Project Award and was nominated by the Austin Critics Table for Best Choreographer (Dao) and Best Ensemble (Ballet Austin II).

*Quiet Imprint's* depiction of the arduous journey experienced by countless displaced Vietnamese men and women draws inspiration from first-hand accounts. Dao led an open dialogue with Vietnamese elders: documenting their journey of exile, and then creating the work through integration of their folk dance movements and stories.

Dao's production is inspired by, and grounded in, Vietnamese singer Khanh Ly's soulful and transcendent performances of beloved composer Trinh Cong Son's music. Ly has long captured the hearts of her worldwide audiences by conveying the mournful, yet poetic lyrics expressed in Son's

music. The late Trinh Cong Son, who was an iconic figure known as the “Bob Dylan of Vietnam,” wrote many songs for Ly, his close friend and musical muse.

### **About Thang Dao**

Thang Dao is currently the director of Thang Dao Dance Company (TDDC) based in New York City. After receiving the Audience Choice Award for Stepping Ground for all four performances in Ballet Austin’s New American Talent/Dance choreographic competition, Dao returned to create Printemps Perdu for Ballet Austin II. In 2009, he created new work for Boston Conservatory as well as Mendelssohn Violin Concerto for Ballet Austin II and was awarded the 2009 Princess Grace Fellowship Special Projects Award.

Thang Dao was born in Danang, Vietnam. He received his formal dance education from the Juilliard School and the Boston Conservatory, and he holds a BFA in dance from The Boston Conservatory and an MA from New York University. He danced for the Stephen Petronio Company from 2001-2006 and worked for the Metropolitan Opera and Little Orchestra Society. Dao has presented his works in Boston, New York City, and Austin, with acclaimed reviews by *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, and the *Austin American-Statesman*.

### **About Ballet Austin II**

Established in 1999, Ballet Austin II is Ballet Austin’s apprentice program and second company. The 10 apprentices, ranging in age from 18-23, are employed for 34 weeks. They perform with the main company in larger productions as well as presenting their own roster of repertoire and educational programming throughout Texas. Choreographers represented in the Ballet Austin II repertoire include Stephen Mills, Gina Patterson and New American Talent/Dance finalists Thang Dao, Thaddeus Davis and Viktor Kabaniaev.

Apprentices are contracted with Ballet Austin II for up to 2 years during which time they receive artistic guidance, career management counseling and job placement assistance. Ballet Austin II apprentices are recruited through Ballet Austin’s Summer Intensive Program and the year-round Professional Division (Trainee Program). Nearly 70 percent of the main company’s current roster includes graduates of Ballet Austin II. Additionally, former Ballet Austin II dancers have joined the ranks of both ballet and modern dance companies, including Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Smuin Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Washington Ballet, Nai-Ni Chen, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Ballet Met, Kansas City Ballet, Kim Robards Dance Company, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, Wideman/Davis Dance and Thang Dao Dance.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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*This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division, by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts, and by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.*