



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Marketing and Communications**  
**Press Release**  
**February 15, 2019**

*Contact: Angela Daidone*  
*201-684-7477*  
*news@ramapo.edu*

## **Internationally Acclaimed Theater Artist Ping Chong to Speak at Ramapo College**

MAHWAH, N.J. – Award-winning multi-media theater artist, Ping Chong, will be the guest speaker on Monday, February 25 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Sharp Theater of the Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The event, which is free and open to the public, is being presented as part of the Walt Santner Speaker Series.

Chong is an internationally acclaimed director, choreographer and video installation artist. He was recognized with a National Medal of the Arts for his contributions and innovative performances, which “explore race, history, technology and art to challenge our understanding of humanity in the modern world.”

Encompassing puppetry, dance, documentary theater, sound, media and other experimental theater forms, his works have explored a wide variety of subjects from a hidden genocide in Africa to modernization in China to the experiences of Muslim youth in post 9/11 America. Throughout, the common thread has been a unifying commitment to artistic innovation and social responsibility.

Since 1972, as founder and artistic director of Ping Chong + Company, he has created more than 100 productions, which have been presented at major theaters, festivals and museums worldwide. In 1992, he created the first *Undesirable Elements* production, an ongoing series of community-based oral history projects, working with real people to explore issues of culture and identity.

Prior to his presentation, Chong and Ping Chong + Company member Ryan Connaro will offer a workshop on devising documentary theater in the Berrie Center from 1:15-2 p.m. The workshop is open to all students.

The Walt Santner Lecture Series, established in 2016 through an endowment provided by Mr. Santner, an alumnus of Ramapo’s School of Contemporary Arts, is aimed at enhancing the theater majors’ experience at the College.

For more information, please contact Terra Vandergaw, Professor of Theater, at [tvanderg@ramapo.edu](mailto:tvanderg@ramapo.edu)

###

Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college and is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by College Choice, and is recognized as a top college by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger's*, Princeton Review and *Money* magazine, among others. Ramapo College is also distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by CollegesofDistinction.com, boasts the best campus housing in New Jersey on Niche.com, and is designated a "Military Friendly College" in Victoria Media's *Guide to Military Friendly Schools*.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to master's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.