



Haiyan Dance Studio will spend 45 minutes introducing and delighting you with stories and legends told through movement and choreography.

Take in these stories at the Odyssey Stage on Saturday, August 17th from 1pm-2pm.

ACT 1: Journey Through Ancient Chinese Culture

1. Dunhuang Impression

This traditional Dunhuang Dance originates from Dunhuang, a city situated in northwest China, which flourished as a trading hub for the Silk Road and major religious center for Buddhism during the Tang dynasty. Nestled around this city are the renowned Mogao Caves which form a system of 500 caves that were first constructed in the 4th century AD and used as sites of Buddhist worship. These caves contain over 400,000 square feet of Buddhist art, including murals and sculptures. Notably, rows of small seated Buddha figures and celestial beings adorn many caves, giving rise to the name “Caves of the Thousand Buddhas”.

Among the murals, the “Rebound Pipa” in Cave 112 has become an iconic representation of Dunhuang which is recognized by people across China. The “Rebound Pipa” depicts a woman playing the *pipa*, a Chinese lute, in an uncommon position behind her shoulder. The pipa is a musical instrument that appears over 600 times in the Dunhuang murals, often with figures dancing while playing. The Dunhuang dance style draws inspiration from the graceful movements captured in the artwork in the Mogao cave murals, allowing ancient artistry to shine anew in the modern era.

The “rebound pipa” is the main movement of the dance “Dun Huang Impression”. The lead dancer holds the pipa and dances while playing, and the movements and formations of the group dances match with the movements of the lead dancer. Each formation creates a beautiful picture.

2. Happy Wrangler - Mongolian Dance

In Mongolia, horses and horse culture are integral to daily and national life, and the grassland is considered the homeland of the Mongolian people. The pastoral life of Mongolian herdsmen and wranglers inspire this dance. In this dance, the movements mainly involve shoulder shakes and wrist flips, showcasing the joy and grace of Mongolian girls. The shoulder shake movements to different rhythms express various emotions and states. Our dancers embody this with movements that mimic a horse’s leisurely gallop, rearing jumps, and the spirited essence of horse riding, creating an impressive performance.

3. Yearning From Afar - Mongolian Dance

In the traditional culture of the Mongolian people, the grassland is the homeland, and the wind is their companion. The dance "Yearning from Afar" incorporates the classic Mongolian soft arm movements, showcases a scene of geese returning to their homeland and soaring in the sky.

The dancers' movements resemble the graceful and affectionate flight of the geese. Their large arm movements paint a picture of the bird's wingspan stretching out in a boundless sky. Let us immerse ourselves in this beautiful and mysterious grassland world together, and experience the warmth and emotion of "Yearning from Afar" lingering in our hearts

ACT 2: The Story of the Peacock Princess

In the forest of Xishuanbana, there is a fresco of this story, and the Dai people who manage the forest and who provide dances for the tourists, dance the Peacock dance. There are flocks of Peacocks in the forest who fly down from the trees in the morning to eat food scattered in the grass.

The Peacock Dance is the most famous dance in the Dai Minority area. Of all the traditional Chinese folk dance, the Peacock's Arrival is one of the most traditional dances performed.

1. The Peacock's Arrival

The Peacock is a cherished animal to the Dai people, representing wisdom and artistry. It is a sacred creature in Buddhism, and thus there are many dances that tell the legend of the Peacock Princess through traditional and ancient forms.

This solo dance showcases the celebrated peacock's beautiful awakening from its nest, roaming the wild and looking for food. This dance captivates with movements that mimic a graceful and majestic creature becoming familiar with its surroundings and making its way to a nearby river.

The Peacock's Arrival tells the first story in this magical legend told through dance.

2. The Peacock Princess

This second dance brings to life the lively scene of the Peacock Princess and her sisters playing, dancing, and swimming by the golden lake. They combed their gorgeous feathers, took off their beautiful Peacock coats to bathe, and were intoxicated by their own beautiful reflections in the water.

Legends go on to tell the story of how the Peacock Princess - the youngest of all the Maidens - falls in love with a prince. This dance elicits joy, playfulness and pleasure while the Peacock and her Dai Maiden sisters spend their time by the stream. A prince, who lives in a nearby kingdom, falls in love with her and quietly steals her Peacock cloak from the riverbank, thereby preventing her from flying away.

On their wedding night, the evil wizard puts a spell on Prince's Father, the King, and starts a war. The young prince leaves for battle and while he is gone his princess is sentenced to death by the King. Before she was executed, Dai Maidens flew thousands of miles to give her a beautiful peacock dress. The Peacock Princess put on the beautiful peacock dress and danced the peacock dance. She flew away while dancing. When the prince returns from battle, he kills the evil wizard and releases the king from the spell, but begins a long quest to the Peacock Kingdom to regain his wife. Fortunately, he finds his wife again, and everyone lives happily ever after.

Thank you to the Dancers from Haiyan Dance Studio:

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