

Hawaii Chinese Dancing and Songs Theatre 夏威夷中華民族歌舞劇院

3637 Kanaina Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815; Tell/ Fax: (808)732-3801

e.mail: chinese_dancing@yahoo.com

Mission: To promote awareness of and appreciation for Chinese dance, music and culture in Hawaii.

History: The founder and artistic director of the HCDST is Ms. Juan Huang. Born in Mainland China, Ms. Huang started learning ballet and Chinese dance from experts in her childhood. Her studies continued at the Beijing Dance Institute, the Shanghai Dramatic Institute and Fujian Normal University. In the 1980s, she traveled extensively within China, collecting the folk dance forms of many of China's 56 distinct ethnic groups. In 1990, she founded a Chinese dance school in Sydney, Australia, and then moved to Minnesota in 1997, where she became the artistic director and principal instructor for a Chinese dance theatre. In August, 2000, she founded the Chinese Dancing and Songs Theater (CDST) in San Diego, and in April, 2003, she moved it to Honolulu. She was invited by the State Ethnic Affairs Commission and the Ministry of Culture of the PRC as the only guest of honor from the United States to attend the 2nd National Performing Art Festival of Ethnic Minority Groups (PAFEMG) and the Chinese dance choreographers seminar in Beijing, from September 15-25, 2001.



Mongolian dance performed by the teenage troupe

Activities The CDST participates in artistic, cultural and community events. Dance performance is the primary activity of the Theater. Performances include classical Chinese dance styles, ethnic folk dances, and adaptations of modern dance dramas. Great effort is made to maintain the artistic integrity of the Chinese style in all dances. Costumes are designed to be historically and ethnically accurate for instance, with attention is given to the color, material, adornments, and props for each costume, and choreography is designed to please both Chinese and American audiences. The dance repertoire includes the Tibetan dances "Quomolangma" and "Fragrant Yak Butter", the classical "Lotus Dance", the Yi dance "Rainbow", the Mongolian dance "My Hometown in the Beautiful Steppes", the religion dance "As the Deer Panteth for Water", children's dances "Dream of Butterflies" and "Rice dumplings on May 5th", the Chinese dancecombination "Folkwind", including Uygur, Mongolian, Tibetan and Dunhuang dance styles, and the Fan dance (including Korean, Dai Peacock, and Red Ribbon elements).



Membership: The 30-plus dancers in the HCDST range in age from 5 to 50. They are both ethnically Chinese as well as non-Chinese.

Association presidents

2003–pres. Juan (Jessica) Huang

Sources: HCDST publications and correspondence with Pengcheng Fu.