

SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS

Every great movement begins with an idea. Rarely, however, are audiences privileged to get a front-row seat to the party.

A few years ago, a few artists got together with a single purpose: to revive ancient traditional arts and once again bring them to the people. But this movement was different.





Performances by Shen Yun Performing Arts

One cannot truly understand the magnificent success of Shen Yun Performing Arts without comprehending first its belief in a Divine Mission: the belief that there is a fundamental truth to the Universe, and that the path to seeking that Truth can best be expressed through Art.

Following the Cultural Revolution, the last flickering embers of Chinese traditional culture seemed to be on the verge of dying out once and for all. It's always difficult for people living under tyranny to create thriving Art. What the regime could not destroy, however, was the inner spirit of the Chinese people who no longer lived under their tyranny: the Chinese diaspora, who remembered the tales and dances on which they had been nurtured – the dances of their ancestors and homeland. Eventually, a group of these

descendant artists – imbued with indomitable spirit – banded together in New York City with the unified purpose of resuscitating these lost arts and repurposing them for a modern world.

The idea finally took shape in 2006 with the birth of the first Shen Yun Performing Arts ensemble. By the time they set out for their first tour, the troupe numbered ninety; only three short years later, the troupe had expanded to three distinct touring entities – and a 300-date worldwide tour that spans the globe from Australia to Berlin. In a climate of severe economic distress, against all odds, Shen Yun succeeded – and the group is still in its veritable infancy.

So what makes Shen Yun so special?

From the very beginning the shows were spectacular: a colorful blend of graceful movement,



Shen Yun World Tour 2012
For further information please visit:
<http://www.shenyunperformingarts.org>

sublime orchestrations and indomitable spirit celebrating thousands of years of Chinese culture and traditions by combining elaborate handmade costumes, technologically dazzling backdrops, and breathtaking set-pieces. Choreographed teams waltzed on stage to the harmonious ministrations of trained musicians utilizing both Eastern and Western instruments to create an innovative classical sound, as they communicated to rapt audiences the legends, tales and history of their people – stories that only a few short years ago were on the verge of being lost forever. It should come as no surprise that world-weary modern audiences ate it up, embracing the profound spirit at the heart of every show.

It's no coincidence. All of the dancers and performers painstakingly train themselves to harness both their physical and inner spiritual energy; for them, one without the other is incomplete. Each member of Shen Yun assiduously practices spiritual enhancement in addition to their rigorous physical training.

The Shen Yun performers are only adhering to the principles they believe deep in their souls: that by performing honestly, they are communicating the essence of the truthful inner spirit all capable people of the world are better off knowing and

sharing.

On its website the group notes proudly that China has long been known as the “Celestial Empire” for the Motherland’s profound philosophical embrace of the mortal and the divine. It is this profound mix that Shen Yun hopes to reach through its performances. “Man and nature must be in balance,” as they say, their belief system imbued with a highly moral mix of the principles inherent in the pillars of their culture: Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism.

Through their performances, Shen Yun attempts to tap into the spirit of the Cosmos – the universal essence that predates civilizations. As such, they are reaching out to the spiritual consciousness of humanity – humanity’s soul – and projecting this universal truth through each performance.

Eventually, they believe, consciousness merges with the physical. It is this state of being that the performers of Shen Yun hope to share with willing audiences through a spectacular mix of vision and sound that communicates their vision of virtue and enlightenment.

And whether witnessing the epic battle of plucky Mulan or a whirling dance of Mongolian shepherd girls, every lucky audience member gets the chance to witness history in the making. ✱