

AWAKENING  
THE ANCIENT  
Dance Show



# AWAKENING THE ANCIENT

## PROLOGUE FLOWING THROUGH MILLENNIA: AWAKENING THE ANCIENT



*Awakening the Ancient* is a dance journey through time. From the present day back to Qing, Ming, Tang and Han dynasties, dancers bring moments of Chinese civilization to life – reviving memories long dormant through light, shadow, and movement. The performance draws inspiration from the spiritual beauty of Dunhuang art and the rich cultural exchanges along the Silk Road, painting a heartfelt portrait of East and West in graceful harmony.

Through gesture and atmosphere, we not only witness the passing of history, but feel its timeless emotional resonance.

Wee Dance Academy was founded in 2025 in Charlotte by dance educator **Leeann Li**, with a mission to bridge cultures through dance. Through professional training and performance, the studio enriches our local community with the spirit of artistic and cultural diversity.

We invite you to experience this feast of movement – and feel the gentle echo of a civilization flowing through a thousand years.



# AWAKENING THE ANCIENT

## CHAPTER 1: FROM MARTIAL ARTS TO DANCE

Wing Chun & Bagua Zhang

Lead Dancer: Sherman Tse, Christy Dickerson Siu

Set against the backdrop of Hong Kong in the 1950s and 1960s, inspired by Grandmaster Ip Man, this segment recounts his struggles and efforts to preserve Wing Chun in a foreign land. Through the flowing, soft movements of traditional martial arts and calligraphy showcasing the characters for "Bagua Zhang," the performance highlights the harmony of martial culture blending with literary elegance, motion with stillness.

## CHAPTER 2: THE CHARM OF QIPAO — ELEGANCE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA PERIOD TO QING DYNASTY

Performance 1: "Strolling Through Life" —  
Shanghai Style Qipao Fashion Show

An elegant fusion of Qipao and dance, showcasing the independence and confidence of women in the Republican era. Accompanied by classic melodies, it narrates a graceful journey through life's experiences.

Performance 2: "The Warmth of Ordinary Life" —  
Qipao Umbrella Dance

Lead Dancer: Jinyu Xu

Depicting the serene life of Jiangnan river town, the dancers dressed in Qipao and holding paper umbrellas portray gentle and delicate daily scenes set against a picturesque backdrop.



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Special Guest Performance: Violin Solo — Wei Lin

Repertoire:

Schubert: *Serenade*

Bach: *Air on the G String (arr. From Orchestral Suite)*

Performance 3: "Dreams of Jiangning" — Qing Dynasty

Lead Dancer: Taotao Chen, Christy Dickerson Siu

Inspired by Dream of the Red Chamber, this piece features dancers in Qing court costumes, holding fans decorated with *Thousand Miles of River and Mountains* and wearing special high heels shaped like flowerpots. The dancers embody grace and balance atop each elevated step, evoking the elegance of ancient China.

Special Guest: Bass—Shi Li

Repertoire:

*Santa Lucia*

*Caro Mio Ben*

## CHAPTER 3: DREAM OF FEATHERS — MING DYNASTY

Performance 1: "Banished Immortal"

Lead Dancer: Sebryna Abdo



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"Banished Immortal" is a mythological dance filled with a dream-like quality, depicting fairy maidens dressed in Ming Dynasty attire, holding peacock feather fans, dancing freely in the celestial realm and singing as they move. They resemble light feathers in the clouds, flowing through the void, symbolizing the carefree and transcendent nature of the spirit world, while subtly expressing a longing for the mortal realm. In this surreal dance, the peacock quietly begins to embrace the idea of Nirvana. Under the glow of the moonlight, it is destined for a transformation—shedding its earthly form and becoming a phoenix.

Performance 2:

"Two Respected Figures of the Mountain Moon"

Performed by Siran Tang

Legend has it that the phoenix's predecessor was a peacock, which must undergo a millennia-long cultivation before achieving ascension. Continuing the mythological storyline from *Banished Immortal*, the peacock in the opening group dance finally completes its transformation into a phoenix, dancing alone beneath the moon. Holding a white feather fan that symbolizes rebirth, the dancer embodies cool, solitary elegance - while quietly revealing a longing for human emotion. Though divine, she longs for mortal love - silently wishing beneath the mountain moon to share a fleeting moment of tenderness with a human soul.

- Intermission -



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## CHAPTER 4: TANG DYNASTY

Solo Dance: "Old Tales of Luoyang"

Performed by Taotao Chen

Inspired by the life of Princess Anle—hailed as the most beautiful woman of the Tang Dynasty—this solo captures the brilliance and impermanence of her time. The Tang era was a pinnacle of cultural openness, where feminine beauty found unprecedented freedom and diversity.

Grounded in classical Tang-era movement, the choreography blends ornate bodywork with subtle emotional expression, recreating the inner world of a palace woman amid imperial splendor. The piece becomes a meditation on beauty, fate, and the enduring echoes of womanhood across history.

## CHAPTER 5: HAN DYNASTY

Group Dance: "Zhao Jun Goes to the Frontier"

Performed by Ensemble

Wang Zhaojun – Palace Maid: Siran Tang

Wang Zhaojun – Diplomatic Bride: Angela Chen

This piece portrays the legendary life of Wang Zhaojun—one of the Four Beauties of ancient China—who rose from the quiet corners of palace life to become a diplomatic bride sent beyond the frontier. Once a humble maid, she endured obscurity with grace, her heart unwavering and her spirit tied to her homeland.

The imperial edict, sudden as thunder, transformed her fate. Chosen to bring peace through marriage, she journeyed into the vast northern lands. The choreography traces her emotional arc: from courtly solitude to the sweeping vistas of the steppes. Longing and courage entwine as she steps into history, not only as a symbol of sacrifice, but as a bridge between cultures—a gentle force that carried the weight of diplomacy with quiet strength.



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Special Guest: Cello Solo -- Ankang Dong  
Performance: "The Swan"

### CHAPTER 6: THE SILK ROAD

Performance 1: "Celebration" — Xinjiang Dance

Lead Dancer: Sebryna Abdo

With fiery spins and rhythmic footwork, this Xinjiang folk dance bursts with joy and vitality. Reflecting the vibrant spirit of the western regions, it celebrates the cultural richness and ethnic diversity along the Silk Road. Dance becomes the language of the land—expressing faith, festivity, and freedom through every step.

Performance 2: Solo Dance – Reversed Pipa Pose

Performed By: Jade Davis

Inspired by the murals of Dunhuang, this dance brings to life the iconic back-playing pipa pose – a symbol of elegance and divine beauty.

Performed by a 9-year-old dancer, the piece blends innocence with tradition. Her graceful movement offers a fresh and tender interpretation of ancient art, as if a young celestial figure has stepped down from the wall to dance among us.

Performance 3: Quartet Dance – Kalavinka

Performed by: Taotao Chen, Jinyu Xu, Siran Tang, Sophia Dong

The Kalavinka, a mythical bird from Indian Buddhist scriptures, is said to have the body of a human and the voice of heaven. In this four-person dance, delicate and harmonious movements mirror the flight of these divine beings. Drawing from the imagery of Dunhuang frescoes, the piece invites the audience into a dreamlike world where beauty and faith take wing.



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### Performance 4: "Five Stars Shine East" — Ensemble Dance

Lead Dancer: Christy Dickerson Siu

Rooted in the historic textile inscription “Five Stars Rise in the East, Benefiting China,” this Dunhuang-style dance radiates mystery and grace. Dancers carry glowing lotus lamps—symbols of wisdom and peace—casting trails of light like constellations across the stage. Blending Han and Central Asian aesthetics, the choreography pays tribute to the Silk Road’s spiritual radiance and timeless cultural legacy.

## EPILOGUE: THE ECHO OF CULTURE

From the grandeur of Han and Tang Dynasties to the delicate beauty of Qipao, from the calligraphy and martial arts of the Republican era to flying celestial figures along the Silk Road—this multicultural journey encapsulates the warmth of history and the spirit of today. Through dance, we awaken ancient memories and project our contemporary identity.

Thank you for your presence and witness; let us continue to pass on this rich cultural legacy for generations to come.



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## 序言

### 千年流动 唤醒远古

舞动之间，文明悄然苏醒

《唤醒远古》是一场穿越时空的舞蹈旅程。从当代回到清、唐、汉，舞者用肢体讲述一个又一个中华文明的瞬间，让沉睡的记忆，在光影之间重新苏醒。

舞剧融合敦煌艺术的神韵，穿越丝绸之路的文明交汇，呈现东西文化交融的深情画卷。在舞姿与意境中，我们不仅看见历史的流转，也感受到跨越时代的共鸣与情感。

微澜舞苑由舞蹈教育者李妍老师于2025年在夏洛特创立，致力于用舞蹈连结文化，以专业教学与舞台演出，共同丰富本地社区的多元文化生态。

我们邀请您，透过这一场舞蹈盛宴，感受千年文明的温柔回响。

# AWAKENING THE ANCIENT

## 第一篇章：以武入舞

### 节目一：咏春拳与八卦掌

表演者：Sherman Tse 饰演叶问 萧惠珊 饰演八卦掌门人

以武入舞，讲述了在上世纪五六十年代的香港，以咏春宗师叶问为原型，讲述他在异乡奋斗传承咏春拳，打破门户之见的故事。传统武术八卦掌与现代咏春拳的精髓，由刚入柔、圆转流畅的身法展开演出，同时搭配书法家以小篆书体书写“八卦掌”，展示武与文、动与静的交融之美。

## 第二篇章：旗袍之韵—— 跨越民国至清代的东方女性风华

### 节目一：海派旗袍走秀舞《漫步人生路》

融合旗袍与舞步的优雅展现，以“海派”风格呈现民国时期女性独立、自信的身姿。走秀舞蹈配合经典旋律，缓缓铺陈出一段从容不迫的人生旅程。

### 节目二：江南旗袍伞舞《人间烟火》

领舞：徐瑾瑜

描绘江南水乡烟雨人家、温婉女子的日常情景。舞者身着江南旗袍，成群起舞，展现小桥流水间的人间烟火气息与生活美感。动作轻柔婉转，仿佛漫步于青石巷陌之间，品味人间最真挚的温暖与细腻。

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特邀嘉宾：小提琴独奏——林威

曲目：

舒伯特：《小夜曲》

巴赫：《G弦上的咏叹调》

节目三：清朝旗袍群舞《梦回江宁》

领舞：陶陶，萧惠珊

## 【清代背景】

改编自舞剧《曹雪芹》片段，灵感源自作家曹雪芹童年在江宁织造府的回忆。曹雪芹是中国古典小说《红楼梦》的作者，出身世家，少年时生活于清代宫廷织造环境中。舞者身着清宫盛装，重现盛世风华，亦象征现代旗袍源自清代满族服饰。手持《千里江山图》羽扇、足穿“花盆底”高鞋，在高跟之上展现柔美与平衡，尽显古典雅韵。

特邀嘉宾：李石

男低音独唱：

《桑塔露琪亚》

《我亲爱的》

## 第三篇章：羽梦明辉——明代

节目一：谪仙 领舞：曾雯婵

《谪仙》是一支充满梦幻色彩的神话舞蹈，描绘仙女们手执孔雀羽毛扇，在天界自由起舞、载歌载舞的奇幻景象。她们如云中轻羽，流转于虚空之间，象征着仙界的逍遥与超脱，也隐含着对尘世的微妙眷恋。就在这如梦似幻的舞中，孔雀悄然生出涅槃之念。随着月光洒落，它即将迎来命运的转折——蜕变为凤凰。



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## 节目二：山月两樽 领舞：唐思然

传说凤凰的前身是孔雀，修炼千年后方能羽化登仙。《山月两尊》承接《谪仙》的神话脉络：前段群舞中的孔雀终于完成蜕变，化身凤凰，在月下独舞。舞者手执一柄白色羽毛扇，展现出重生的清冷孤傲，同时流露出她对人间情感的憧憬。她虽贵为仙灵，却向往凡尘的爱情，愿在山月之下，与凡人共度片刻柔情。

--- 中场休息 ---

## 第四篇章：盛唐之韵——唐代

### 独舞：《洛阳旧事》

表演者：陶陶

本舞灵感取自盛唐安乐公主之生平——一位被誉为“最美公主”的历史人物，其短暂而璀璨的命运映照出大唐盛世的荣光与幻灭。唐代是一个包容多元的文化高峰期，女性的美呈现出前所未有的自由与多样。舞蹈以唐代古典舞步为基，融合华丽的身法与婉转的情感表达，重现一位宫廷女子在盛世中的风华与思绪，也寄托了对女性命运与文化记忆的深切追问。

## 第五篇章：汉韵悠长——汉代

### 群舞：《昭君出塞》

表演者：唐思然 饰演宫女王昭君 陈金晶 饰演远嫁王昭君

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本舞生动再现了“四大美人”之一王昭君的传奇人生：从深宫寂寂、岁月无声，到肩负和亲重任、远嫁塞北。她本为宫中幽兰，卑微劳作、苦中作乐，却心怀傲骨，志系家国。舞者以婉转细腻的身姿刻画她的挣扎与坚韧，展现女性在命运洪流中的沉静力量。一纸皇命，宛如惊雷，使她脱离凡尘，成为肩负和平使命的使者。舞蹈后段描绘她出塞途中所见所感：大漠孤烟，黄沙千里，风雪作伴，心念长安。对故土的眷恋与对异域的初见交织成诗，象征着丝路起点上文明的交汇与延展。这不仅是命运的写照，更是一段以柔胜刚、连接古今的文化之旅。

特邀嘉宾：董安康

大提琴独奏：

《天鹅之死》

由特邀嘉宾董安康先生倾情演绎的《天鹅之死》，以深沉悠扬的琴声，将舞台氛围引向一片静谧与深邃，为古今情感搭建起一座跨越时空的桥梁。

### 第六篇章：丝绸之路

节目一：新疆舞《欢庆》

领舞：曾雯婵

热情如火的旋转，跃动如泉的节奏，新疆舞以浓郁的民族风情与鲜明的节奏感，展示西域繁荣与文化交流的热情。

节目二：独舞《反弹琵琶》

表演者：安安

灵感源自敦煌莫高窟壁画中的经典舞姿，本舞通过“反弹琵琶”这一极具造型张力的动作语言，呈现代乐舞之美与神性的交融。而本次演出尤为特别，由年仅9岁的小演员倾情演绎。她以稚嫩却坚定的舞步，轻盈翻转之间，勾勒出丝绸之路的瑰丽想象，仿佛壁上飞天跃然舞台之上。

这不仅是一场对敦煌艺术的致敬，更是一次童心与传统对话的尝试——在最纯真的年纪里，唤醒千年文明的灵光。

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## 节目三：四人舞《迦陵频伽》

表演者：陶陶，徐瑾瑜，唐思然，董华彬

“迦陵频伽”源自印度佛教中的神鸟，身姿似人，鸣声如天籁。此舞借敦煌壁画中的灵禽幻象，以四人共舞，展现超脱凡尘的空灵意境与精神升华。舞姿柔和婉转，宛若四羽神鸟腾空掠影，引人遐想古代信仰与艺术共生的奇境。

## 节目四：群舞《五星出东方》

领舞：萧惠珊

这支舞蹈以敦煌舞蹈风格为核心，呈现出浓郁的异域风情与多元文化的交融之美。舞者们身着华美而富有民族特色的服饰，手中捧着象征光明的莲花灯，在舞台上宛如流动的星光，照亮探寻古老文明的道路。

“五星出东方利中国”这句铭文源自于汉代尼雅遗址中出土的织锦，距今已有两千多年的历史。这一考古发现不仅是历史的瑰宝，更象征着古代丝绸之路上文化与文明的辉煌交汇。在这支舞中，我们以舞者手中的光芒致敬那段辉煌的历史，也引领今人踏上探寻与传承的光明之路。

## 尾声：文化的回响

从汉唐的辉煌，到旗袍的婉约；从民国的书法武艺，到丝绸之路上的飞天神鸟——这一场跨越千年的文化之旅，凝结了历史的温度与时代的情感。微澜舞苑借舞蹈之形，唤醒古老记忆，亦投射当代精神。感谢您的陪伴与见证，让我们共同将这份文化的余韵延续，代代相传。

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## Special Guest

Cello Solo: Mr. Ankang Dong



A licensed chiropractor currently practicing in Lancaster, South Carolina, Dr. Dong received his early musical training under Mr. Zuo Ruchang, former principal cellist of the China National Film Orchestra. Deeply influenced by classical music, he has remained an active presence in Charlotte's cultural scene, using his cello to bridge healing and artistry in the community.

Bass: Mr. Shi Li



Shi Li is an acclaimed bass who has performed with The Metropolitan Opera, Portland Opera, Aspen Music Festival, and major festivals in Italy, Germany, and China. He is a prizewinner of international competitions, including the Ricardo Zandonai International Competition and Shanghai Spring International Music Festival. A former resident artist at Portland Opera, Shi Li holds master's degrees from Shanghai Conservatory and Manhattan School of Music.

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Violin Solo: Mr. Wei Lin



A violinist and music educator based in Charlotte, North Carolina, with international performance experience across Italy, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, China, and the U.S.. He has performed with notable ensembles such as the Charlotte Symphony and the China Oriental Symphony and appeared at festivals including Mendocino and Green Mountain. Wei has won awards at major competitions like the Hong Kong International String Competition and serves as a judge for the Charleston International Music Competition. He holds a DMA from the University of Texas at Austin and teaches as Artist-in-Residence at Steinway Piano Gallery-Charlotte.

## Lead Dancer

The performers are listed in the order of their appearance.



Sherman Tse



Christy Dickerson Siu



Jinyu Xu



Sebryna Abdo



Siran Tang



Taotao Chen

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Angela Chen



Jade Davis

## Cast List

### Qipao Fashion Show:

Sabrina Dai, Hailan Gong,  
Xiaosong He, Flora Lai, Jessie Sun, Nancy Zhang

### Group Dance Ensemble:

Si Blake, Wendy Blumers, Taotao Chu, Amy Du,  
Jingmiao Gao, Ruth Gao, Helen Ji, Guojian Men, Lynn Ryan,  
Carolyn Song, Mingli Sun, Sarah Sun, Yuan Shen, Kitty Tang,  
Li Tao, Yin Wang, Wen Xiao, Jing Yang, Alice Zhang, Xinyu Zhang

### Producer and Choreographer:

Leeann Li

### Animation and Art Designer:

Sophia Zhang



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## Acknowledgements & Copyright Notice

### Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank all the performers and behind-the-scenes contributors whose talent and dedication brought this cultural journey to life. Special thanks to our lead dancers and guest performers for their exceptional artistry.

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<http://weedance.org>