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Asian culture and community

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To submit items, e-mail metro@dallasnews.com.

"Tassels twirled, candles flickered and multicolored silk ribbons swam through the air," wrote one reviewer. Another critic described a performance brimming with "colorful costumes, interesting props, cool lighting, riveting music and arresting images."

The **Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company** garners such reviews as it combines ancient Chinese forms with modern dance in an inventive marriage of styles in its performances.

Lily Cai, a native of Shanghai and former principal dancer with the Shanghai Opera House, founded the San Francisco-based company in 1988. She came to the states in 1983.

Her company tours nationally. Some notable performances over the years include opening a Grateful Dead concert in 1994 celebrating the Year of the Dog, and dancing at the United Nations' 50th-anniversary celebration in San Francisco in 1995.

Next month, Cai comes to Dallas. She'll conduct a two-week residency of workshops in dance at the University of Texas at Dallas. In addition, the company will present *Dynasties and Beyond* at 8 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Eisemann Center in Richardson.

"We're delighted our dance students have this unique opportunity to work with Lily Cai. Her work is a fusion of her Chinese origins and western modern dance, spanning time from the age of dynasties to the 21st century," said Kathryn Evans, associate dean for the arts. UTD dance students will take the piece choreographed by Cai to the American College Dance Festival Association competition at Texas A&M University in March.

Cai's residency will end with a free lecture and dance demonstration at 8 p.m. Feb. 13 in the University Theatre. UTD is at 800 W. Campbell Road. Visit www.utdallas.edu.

For Eisemann Center tickets, call 972-744-4650 or visit www.eisemanncenter.com.

To learn more about the dance company, visit www.lilycaidance.org.

Tomorrow's leaders

The Sun Ray Chinese School, North Texas Youth Honor Society and a few other groups announce the start

of the **2009 Tomorrow's Future Leaders Enhancement Program**. Open to students in grades nine through 12, the six-session program helps youth learn leadership skills.

Officers of the program are Alison Tan, Bonnie Song, Belinda Mok, Jacqueline Lim, Jessica Hong, Katherine Wee, Alicia Young, Emily Marsh and Karen Chen. Student adviser is Esther Liu.

Classes will start Feb. 8 at the Sun Ray Chinese School, 1820 Pearl St. in Carrollton. The program will end with an awards dinner April 4 at the Japan House in Plano.

Registration is \$50 and due by Sunday. Contact Alison Tan at 469-450-8556 or atan75025@yahoo.com.
Upcoming events

Friday and Saturday

Nan Mitchell and Ann McIntyre will hold Ikebana workshops from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. both days at 3439 Westminster Ave. in Dallas. Participants should bring a low bowl, clippers and kenzan. Materials will be provided. RSVP to msannmcintyre@yahoo.com.

Saturday

The Telugu Association of North Texas will hold a Sankrathi Sambaralu celebration from 3 to 7 p.m. at The Colony High School, 4301 Blair Oaks Road. \$6 for members; \$10 for others. www.tantex.org.

A Tarrant County Lunar New Year Celebration will be at 5:30 p.m. at ABC Seafood and BBQ Restaurant, 2420 E. Arkansas Lane in Arlington. Entertainment includes lion dancing from Shaolin Academy, a violin duet by Xiao-Hua Sheng and Bing Wang, a concert by Four Seasons Choral and Chinese Instrument Orchestra, dancing and hand chimes by Chinese Baptist Church of Fort Worth. \$22 for adults; \$12 for children younger than 10. 817-375-3532.

The Organization of Chinese Americans-DFW will hold its Lunar New Year banquet from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at Maxim's Restaurant, 310 Terrace Drive in Richardson. Sponsorships are available. Individual tickets are \$30. Call 214-850-9986 or e-mail wang_meilan@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday and Sunday

The Vietnamese-American Communities of DFW will present a Lunar New Year "Tet-In-DFW" Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at Traders Village, 2602 Mayfield Road in Grand Prairie. Free; \$3 for parking. Visit www.tetindfw.com.

Sunday

The Carrollton Sun Ray Chinese School Youth Organization will celebrate the Chinese New Year from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Carrollton Public Library at Hebron and Josey, 4220 N. Josey Lane. 972-466-4800.

Awakening Heart Community of Mindful Living presents an Interfaith Lunar New Year Celebration of Light at 5 p.m. at Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane. Live music, meditation, readings, dancing and more; potluck vegetarian food will be available. 214-452-8963. www.awakeningheart.org.

Monday through Wednesday

The Divine Performing Arts will present Chinese music and dance performances at 7:30 p.m. at the Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson. The event is part of the group's world tour and is sponsored by the Southern USA Falun Dafa Association. \$30-\$100. Call 972-744-4650.
www.eisemanncenter.com.

Tuesday

The Peking Acrobats troupe will be presented by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. at the Meyerson, 2301 Flora St., Dallas. Gymnasts, jugglers, cyclists and tumblers will perform. \$30-\$60. 214-692-0203.

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