

Lily Cai Chinese Dance comes to St. Ambrose

Renowned troupe to be featured as part of intercultural project

By KALLI MARTIN
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Artfully combining modern dance and ancient Chinese forms, the Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company is scheduled to perform at St. Ambrose and will be premiering a new work. On Saturday, September 17, at 7:30 p.m. the Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company will be at the Galvin Performing Arts Center as part of the China Project: The Awakening Dragon on campus.

The Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company was founded in 1988 by Lily Cai who is now the artistic director and choreographer for the group. Since then the dance company has toured extensively and performs many different types of work involving intricate costumes, original music, and props like ribbons, fans and baskets. The show being performed at St. Ambrose is called *Dynasties and Beyond* and the new work to be revealed is called *Shifting*. Cai is of Han descent, and *Shifting* is based on Cai's childhood impressions of the colorful fan dances from the different regions of the Han nationality in China.

While in the area, Cai will also be giving a few academic presentations and will be doing a movement workshop another venue.

"She is going to be doing a presentation in three classes," Eileen Eitheim, Director of Galvin Marketing, said. "She will be looking at Chinese culture and history, particularly focusing on women's roles in Chinese culture. She will also be doing a movement workshop at Gilda's Club which is a program we

often work with on outreach for people who are dealing with cancer. So she will be looking at some of the specific techniques she uses in developing her dance and some of the relaxation techniques she uses as well."

The Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company was first brought to the table by one of the members of the Performing Arts Series Program Committee. This is an advisory committee which consists of students, faculty, staff and community members who help choose performing arts events for each year.

"We knew we were looking for something to fit the China Project: The Awakening Dragon theme," Eitheim said. "I think it is exciting when we can explore another culture through the arts and learn about a different way that people live, create, or express themselves. Also, it is a great journey through history and it looks at another culture's history in a way that most people here on campus or in the community have not had the opportunity to explore."

The Performing Arts Series Program Committee plans year round and a lot of planning and preparation happen for each event.

"The hardest thing about choosing events for each season is that we only get to pick four," Eitheim said. "There are so many things we want our students to be able to see and experience and with this year's series of events Ambrose students can expect to experience things they never have before and to be surprised. This series will also challenge their ideas and thoughts and will



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Tickets to the Lily Cai performance are free to students with valid student ID, \$11 for adults, \$9 for faculty/staff/alumni/seniors, \$7 for non-SAU students and \$6 for groups. For more information visit www.lilycaidance.org. For reservations call (563) 333-6251, visit www.sau.edu/galvin, or use your smartphone and the QR provided below.

help to reaffirm their values through maybe agreeing or maybe disagreeing with something we do. In any case, students will really have an opportunity to look at the world through other perspectives."

In conjunction with the

dance show, a Chinese art exhibit and opening reception will be at the Morrissey Gallery in Galvin and will take place at 5:30 p.m. right before the show. For this exhibit, called *Splendor of China*, Galvin teamed up with the Putnam Museum and will explore the dynasties of China through ceramics works from the Putnam Museum collection.

Oldest known Ambrose alum visits campus

St. Ambrose received a special visitor last week as its oldest alumnus—aged 103—paid a campus visit. Mr. Glenn Brown, a 1929 graduate of St. Ambrose College, granted a few interviews and took a stroll around his old college grounds in a golf cart before having lunch at Cosgrove cafeteria.

A major in economics, business administration and education, Brown briefly taught at Ambrose Academy high school after graduation. He found employment with Goodyear during the Great Depression and then worked throughout the country.

One of the most striking things about the university nowadays, says Brown, is how much it has grown since his time as a student.

"What has transpired since I left here is amazing."

--Buzz staff



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