

Dancing 'Made in Taiwan'

A heritage of song, self-defense and dance

By Mary Jo Rummel
Battalion Staff

About 600 people went on an "Adventure in Chinese Songs and Dance" Monday in Rudder Auditorium as the Youth Goodwill Mission from Taiwan performed martial arts and Chinese songs and dance.

Part I of the show featured demonstrations of Chinese boxing, or martial arts. The Chinese method of self-defense began by imitating the flying and jumping of animals. Different motions represent different animals. The group performed the "Mantis Ch'uan," "Tiger Ch'uan," the "Crane Ch'uan," the "Eagle Ch'uan" and the "Snake Ch'uan." The animals seemed to come alive in the motions of the dancers.

The only decorations on stage were the U.S. and Taiwan flags at the wings, signifying the goal of the Mission — a gesture of friendship between the nations.

The curtain opened to an Oriental tapestry-covered podium with a brass urn sitting atop it. The members of the group entered the stage individually, gracefully exhibiting the flowing, meticulous boxing motions.

During the Chinese classical

and folk dances, the stage was bare, but the mood of the dances was accented by lighting and elaborate costuming. Red, orange, blue and green lights changed the stage to fit the dance, expressing the excitement of the stories told in the dances. Each dance told its own story.

The traditional dances such as "The Lass of Tribe Miao," "Love Songs of Shin-Kiang," and the "Love Songs Kang-Ting" told the universal story of love and the courting ritual.

In the third part, the dancers presented "Taiwan the Beautiful," a dancing portrayal of the everyday life of the Chinese people — flying kites, farming and celebrating the harvest.

The group ended their performance by singing several popular Chinese and American songs.

The dancers were not professionals, but the audience could tell that they enjoyed what they were doing.

Most of the audience was Oriental and thoroughly enjoyed the trip back to their native land. But the rest of the audience did not need to speak Chinese to understand the universal language of music and dance.



Photo by Dave Einsel

Kwan-Jin Lui, from the National Taiwan University, and Chin Ko of the National

Political Science University perform a Chinese love dance in Rudder Theater.

Aggie leads Taiwan dancers

By Mary Jo Rummel
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"Once an Aggie always an Aggie."

Wang, Chih-Kang, director of the Youth Goodwill Mission from Taiwan, the Republic of China, received his Master's degree in 1975 and doctorate in 1978 from Texas A&M University. Besides serving as director of

the tour, he is associate professor of business at the National Taiwan University, the largest in the country.

Wang first heard about Texas A&M from a friend. "I recommend Texas A&M to all my students who are interested in studying in America," Wang said. "I'm proud to be an Aggie."

At the performance, Wang re-

ceived a Texas A&M shirt and Aggie wall hanging from the International Affairs Department and Chinese Student Affairs.

Monday's performance in Rudder Auditorium was the twenty-first presented by the group. The group finishes its tour in El Paso at the end of the week.

It was good to come back, Wang said. "The tour is almost over, but we saved the best for last."

"The purpose of the Goodwill Mission is to extend the warmest friendship to the American people through the youth of Taiwan," he said.

The dancers are all college students in Taiwan, majoring in a variety of fields.

Liao, Kuang-Hsin, a medical student at China Medical College, never danced before competing for the Goodwill Mission but has studied Kung-fu. Liao, 24, is the second-oldest member of the group. He will study one more year before interning in Taiwan.

He described America as a "rich country" and the American people as "aggressive and hard-working."

Liao said he has enjoyed the tour but is ready to go home.

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