

The Preservation of Yuanping Phoenix Dance in Shan Xi

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Abstract

This paper takes the famous Yuanping Phoenix dance of Shanxi Province as the specific research object, and uses the qualitative research method to study it. The purpose of this paper is as follows: (1) to study Yuanping Phoenix dance. (2) To constructing guidebook of the Yuanping Phoenix dance. (3) To use Yuanping Phoenix dance guidebook for preservation. The author has carried out field investigation in the local area for many times. Through interviews, shooting and visits, I have studied and read the historical background, development track and artistic characteristics of Yuanping Phoenix dance, And write it down in writing, which has played a positive role in protecting this ancient art that is on the verge of extinction.

Keywords: Yuanping Phoenix Dance;; Preservation; China; Intangible Cultural Heritage

Introduction

"Yuanping phoenix dance" is a very representative form of rap widely spread in the northern folk. It is said that it was made by farmers working in the fields at first, and later it was combined with dance and acrobatics to form this unique art form, which is widely spread among the people. Among them, Yuanping Phoenix dance is unique in China with its unique costumes and performance techniques. "Phoenix dance", also known as "portion dance" or "Street Crossing dance", is a folk dance form that only exists in Yuanping North Jia Village, Shanxi Province. Because of its soft performance, distinctive dance style and strong local atmosphere, it is deeply loved by the local people, and has been handed down to this day. Yuanping phoenix dance is a unique form of folk song and dance in Yuanping Beijia Village. This is a kind of national participation activities, people in the village temple fair, drama, thriving, invite each other, gathered all kinds of dance team, perform a variety of wonderful programs, more have their own skills, naturally formed a competition scene, thriving, this unique activities has continued and through inheritance and development, evolving, made today's phoenix dance. However, this kind of dance only exists in Beijia Village, Yuanping City, Shanxi Province, because its time is quite rescue, the region is relatively narrow, the teaching method is relatively single, is generally passed by the old artist in the form of the master apprentice, the teaching time is mostly in the slack or celebrate the festival, social fire activities. With the role of various external reasons, it experienced decline in the process of circulation, and was on the verge of being lost. It was not until after the founding of the People's Republic of China, and it was listed in the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection List in 2008 (Zhang, 2020).

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Yuanping phoenix dance is a part of the Yellow River civilization, which exists to reflect life, is a form of expression of dance culture, and is a concentrated reflection of the local farming life. Its dance content, participation time and expression forms are closely related to farming life. And can reflect the idea of the unity of nature and nature. The unique natural geographical environment makes the local agricultural activities end early, from October of that year to February and March are in the slack season, so people hold various entertainment activities to spend the long and cold winter, "Yuanping phoenix dance" is one of them. Not only can make people busy for a year to drive away the cold, but also sustenance of people's yearning for a better life. Therefore, this dance form was of great significance at that time, and it also became an important means for the villagers to solve their troubles, eliminate their depression and look forward to the future (Tian, 2013).

According to folklore and historical records of the Guangxu period, the Yuanping phoenix dance was produced in the early Qing Dynasty Xu years. At that time, it was in the feudal society period, and this period had various forms of culture and content, dance, as a form of culture and art is no exception, in economy, politics and thought Under the influence, there has also been great progress, folk dance activities are also carried out. The original Yuanping phoenix dance, as a cultural phenomenon, is produced under the premise of conforming to the history and culture, and from each other With a strong regional color of the food, dialect and other culture of the image to remember Being a living book is of great significance to the development of culture.

Phoenix dance has experienced nearly 400 years of ups and downs, and has a long history, from the earliest folk artist Li Zhenghuan, has been passed to the sixth generation. Li Zhenghuan was an old artist during the reign of Tongzhi in the Qing Dynasty. At that time, Phoenix dance was almost a family transmission. After the founding of new China, a master spread from Li to fans of all surnames in the village, but it was only limited to Beijia Village. Because it is only spread locally, the scope is relatively narrow, and the communication mode also has great limitations, with the death of some old artists, many traditional programs have not been found.

In 1955, under the leadership of a famous folk artist, Li Tiejun, he participated in the national folk music and dance performance. The Phoenix dance, which has been performing in the streets and squares, boarded the stage for the first time, and changed the traditional habit of "female horn" dressing up, and began to have the first generation of actresses.

With the development and progress of society and the continuous development and progress of people's aesthetic ability, the expression form of Phoenix dance has also changed a lot. The program form has also become traditional festivals, blessing, temple fair, sacrifice and other performances into singing and dancing on the stage, gathering and assembly. Such an evolution has enhanced the vitality of Phoenix dance, so that the Yuanping Phoenix dance can continue to be inherited healthily and become an indispensable aesthetic content in people's daily life. The cultural heritage reflected by this ancient culture has brought us a great shock.

Phoenix dance through rich and colorful dance forms, like we spread the "unyielding" "social virtue" national cultural spirit, is the essence of traditional folk art, has a strong artistic charm, but with the ups and downs of years, the only in the village was threatened, because it produces time is quite long, area is narrow, teaching way is relatively single, generally in the form of the old artist application master apprentice, teaching time is more in or celebrate the festival, social fire activities. More has the role of various external reasons, in the process of circulation experienced decline, on the verge of extinction, phoenix dance this endangered

situation, has caused the attention of the local government and cultural departments at all levels, excavation, rescue work has begun (Wang, 2015).

Research Objectives

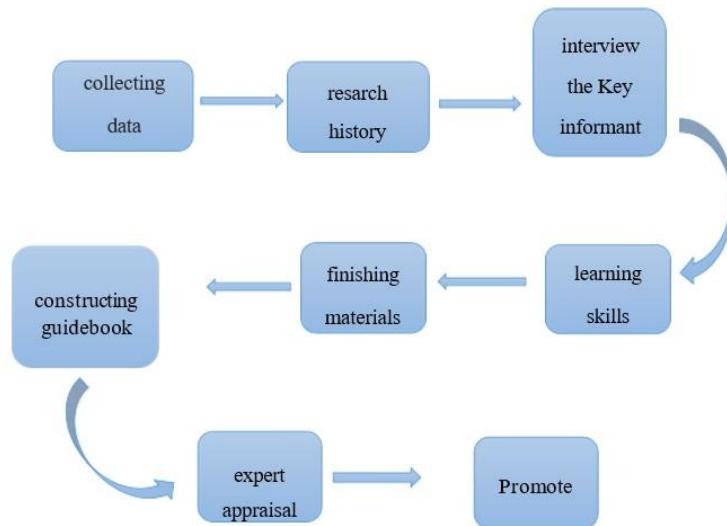
1. To study Yuanping Phoenix dance in Shanxi, China.
2. To constructing guidebook of the Yuanping Phoenix dance.
3. To use Yuanping Phoenix dance guidebook for preservation.

Research Methodology

This study is qualitative research.

Study the history, culture and artistic value and uniqueness of Phoenix dance through collecting and sorting out historical materials, documents and books, in-depth interviews with key informants, observation, learning, description, interpretation and analysis. Then managing the conference for preservation.

Conceptual Framework



Research Findings

1. Artistic expression of Yuanping Phoenix dance in Shanxi Province

The performing team of Yuanping Phoenix dance is as few as ten people, as many as dozens of people, is a collective performance form of singing and dancing. In the early days, the actors of Yuanping Phoenix dance were all male actors, and the female characters were also played by male actors. Later, with the addition of female characters, the movements of male actors were more delicate and charming, so it was more verve. During the performance, the male horn waist flower drum, wearing a straw hat shaped hat, it have elastic and toughness, coiled into a spiral bamboo circle, bamboo circle with a red pompom on the top. During the performance, the actor should not only throw out the elastic bamboo circle on the hat with the

body rotation, but also the waist of the flower drum, so the body parts should be highly coordinated, the head of the circle and the bottom of the foot force, the legs are flexible and stretch, the upper body ripples before and after, the arms beat the drum quickly and slowly, looking rigid and soft, free and easy and interesting. The female corner is holding a small gong, walking and dancing, dancing small light and flexible, like carp swinging tail, but also like butterfly whirling, pleasing to the eye, beautiful.

There are three kinds of performances of the traditional Phoenix dane: Stepping on streets, stepping on circle and Driving wheels.

Stepping on streets is one of the three forms of the Yuanping phoenix dance. It is mainly performed during street marches and fixed squares, with a cymbal in civilian clothes conducting the entire Yangge team. Other characters include the lead actor and four to six pairs of male and female characters (youth) dancing, the male horn wears a hat ring and carries a special flower drum, the female protagonist holds a small gong, and the male and female characters dance forward one-on-one. The formation changes in this part include "Erlong out of the water", "plum blossom array", etc., and dance movements such as "drumming double shaking hands" and "turning steps", etc., and its dance rhythm characteristics have a unique style.

Stepping on circles is another form of the Yuanping phoenix dance. It is one of the three forms of the Yuanping Phoenix dance, following the "crossing the street", the local people commonly known as "Stepping on Circle ", it has a stylized dance before singing. That is, an actor with a fan points out other actresses, and at the same time performs the performance of "wearing robes" and "falling children", and then singing and twisting around the circle, stepping on the circle to sing the song, generally male singing female harmony, male and female duet singing, its performance technique is narrative and endorsement, similar to the form of performance singing.

Driving wheels is the third form of the Yuanping phoenix dance, it is also called Dayangge, which is the singing part after the previous form. Through singing folk operas with characters and narrative plots, there are characters, narrative segments, contradictions and conflicts, combined into a duan type folk drama. There are many pieces of the Yangko dance, most of which have a story. Dance variety, sometimes ugly silly, sometimes flexible handsome, see people dazzled, loud applause. Open the wheel is the most characteristic of the plot of the performance, the daily life of the masses in the labor or custom of trivial events, character contradictions and other plots written for Yangko content. The Yangko dance has various plots and varieties. These are the daily events of Shanxi working people or the beautiful scenery around them. After the Yangko dance is performed, it creates an atmosphere and allows the audience to have a deeper artistic experience.

The above three parts of content, not only have a certain connection, but also can exist independently. No matter what form of Yangko dance, it is a set of horse and horse alternate performance. Generally speaking, the dancing in "Stepping on streets " is light and slow, while the dancing in "Stepping on circle" is warm and cheerful, and the singing in the "Driving wheels" part includes solo singing, chorus singing, talking singing and singing, singing mainly and dancing as companions.

2. A guidebook of the Yuanping Phoenix dance

After the study of this subject, I finished writing the guidbook of the Yuanping Phoenix dance, The guidbook is divided into an overview of the Yunaping Phoenix dance, Costume props introduction, Dance movement analysis, Formation introduction, music analysis and introduction of folk artists. Through this manual, this traditional art form can be truly and effectively recorded completely in order to better protect and promote it.

2.1 costume

The "male actor" dress is full of masculine, wearing a blue jacket with floating clouds pattern, and the lower body is wearing blue fabric pants with wide legs. Most of the costumes of the "female actor" are the appearance of the ancient village girl, dressed with a red cheongsam collar. He wears a colorful crested head and flowers on his forehead.

2.2 Musical instruments

There are only three kinds of instruments that accompany the Yuanping Phoenix dance: big drums, gongs and cymbals. Generally, there is one drum, two gongs, one large and one small, and several pairs of cymbals.

The big drum of the original flat Feng Yangge is famous. It is about one and a half meters in diameter. It has a wooden drum body and a cowhide drum top. Drumsticks fall, like the sound of gold, and like thunder. All the routines of Yuanping Phoenix dance are changed by his drumbeats.

A cymbal player flips a pair of cymbals to the beat of a drum, sometimes spinning into the air like a flying saucer, Now and then out of his crotch, dazzling, cheering.

Gongs have no fixed pitch. Its sound is low, loud and strong, and the aftersound is long and lasting. Usually, the sound of gongs is used to express a tense atmosphere and ominous omen, which has a very unique artistic effect. Perform Yuanping Phoenix dance accompaniment with drums and cymbals.

2.3 Music

Most of the songs sung in Yuanping Phoenix dance are long narrative songs with special melody style, which has the characteristics of both folk songs and folk art. The most popular and representative song is "Celebrate the lunar New Year". In the singing of "Celebrate the lunar New Year", because a large number of function words are used, the singing words are mixed in the middle of the function words, so it sounds different.

3. To use Yuanping Phoenix dance guidebook for preservation

3.1 Protect the written records of the Yunaping Phoenix dance. Through field investigation, the detailed content of Yuanping Phoenix dance is compiled into a manual, which truly and completely records the background, development, dance movements, costumes, Musical Instruments, music and performance forms of Yuanping Phoenix dance. On January 18, 2024, at 9 am, a lecture was delivered to 233 people via the Internet. The participants were teachers and students from the dance department of Taiyuan Normal University.

The results of the questionnaire survey after the lecture showed that 64.38% were very satisfied with the overall quality evaluation of this manual, 32.19% were satisfied, and 3.43% were average. 28.33% considered the historical background of the Yuanping Phoenix dance the most valuable, 38.63% considered the description and introduction of performance techniques and forms in the manual the most satisfied, 18.03% considered the discussion on the protection and inheritance of the Yunaping Phoenix dance, and 14.16% considered the

explanation of the Yuanping Phoenix dance's connotation and significance the most satisfied. Through this lecture, we learned the details of the Yuanping Phoenix dance and achieved the effect of dissemination. This is not only conducive to the protection of this endangered art form, but also plays a positive role in the inheritance of this intangible cultural heritage.

3.2 Protection through exchanges with professional institutions. The Yuanping Phoenix dance actors will be invited into the school to perform and explain it to students in professional colleges, so that students in art colleges can understand it and learn it. To spread this art in the school, expand its influence, and create conditions for its development of more inheritors.

3.3 Protection through the support of government departments. The village will form a professional Yangko team of actors who perform while farming, and give corresponding remuneration, so that the actors have life security, no longer worry about livelihood, and can go all out to perform and teach, ensuring that this art form can flourish.

3.4 Protection by attending the show. Active participation in various competitions and performances can not only promote the performers' performance skills, but also greatly improve the popularity of the Yuanping Phoenix dance. While increasing the performers' performance ability, it can improve the influence of the Yuanping Phoenix dance and let more people know it and understand it.

To sum up, the implementation of government protection, written records, learning exchanges and performance exchanges can effectively protect the Yuanping Phoenix dance and make this precious intangible cultural heritage continue to be passed on.

Discussion

Through the study of the Yuanping Phoenix dance, the existing problems emerged, there are basically the following three points:

1. Defects of cultural ecological environment

As a symbolic art of village culture in Yuanping City, Shanxi Province, Yuanping Phoenix dance spread and integrated all the experience of villagers, thus achieving local cultural recognition. However, the lack of cultural ecological environment has changed the whole state of cultural ecology. Due to the establishment of modern market economy, Beijia village ignored the development of traditional culture and the reconstruction of local cultural atmosphere. In order to meet the needs of the development of modern market economy, folk culture has gradually transformed into commercial activities to entertain the audience, and folk activities are gradually reduced to pure entertainment tools under the influence of the outside world. The maintenance and restoration of traditional intangible cultural heritage is not a priority.

2. The fading of traditional folk activities

When the Yuanping Phoenix dance was first formed, it was regarded as a popular folk activity to drive away ghosts and diseases, and was accepted and passed down. Making use of the simple traditional habits of the villagers, the culture with the local characteristics of the Han nationality's traditional cultural customs came into being. It integrates the rich folk life customs. With the continuous progress of science and technology, local residents no longer rely on witchcraft to deal with the difficulties they face in life. The identification and development of folk culture is due to local residents' respect for traditional customs and culture, and its entertainment role is gradually prominent (Wang, 2010).

3. Weak awareness of protecting local culture

The inheritors are not good and have no fixed economic sources. Inheritors use farming and part-time jobs to stabilize their sources of living, resulting in a gradual decrease in the number of folk performances. If all kinds of folk songs and dances are fully taught to the next generation, more spare time is required for teaching. The main difficulty is that young people think it is too hard to learn arts and do not want to learn, resulting in a lack of performers, resulting in the overall age of performers belonging to the elderly, the cultural heritage needs to be passed from person to person, if the carrier is lost, it will lead to the phenomenon of lost. Beijia Village has not organized performances for at least four years, the performers and bands are lazy, the performance technology is immature, and there is a phenomenon of mistransmission and forgetting of some ancient characteristic elements of folk culture and their inherent meanings. The performance is more casual, there are problems such as the dress is not rigorous, the lack of clothing accessories, which will lead to the deviation of the traditional cultural connotations of the future generations (Niu, 2004).

Recommendation

1. Practical Recommendations

1.1 Popularize the original plain Yuanping Phoenix dance

Traditional culture is the prerequisite for the existence and development of a nation. If the traditional culture disappears, a nation will disintegrate. First of all, we should popularize the importance of intangible cultural heritage to human development and raise people's awareness of it. Once this kind of folk dynamic culture disappears, it cannot be regenerated.

1.2 Strengthen the research on the Yuanping Phoenix dance

To strengthen the study of the Yuanping Phoenix dance by using the comprehensive method of multidisciplinary crossing. In the long history of its emergence and development, the Yunaping aphoonix dance is bound to be influenced by the historical background, lifestyle, economic conditions and people's ideas at that time. Therefore, its research value lies not only in the dance itself, but also in the exploration of the formation of traditional culture at that time.

1.3 Create a favorable atmosphere

Create a favorable atmosphere for protecting and inheriting the Yuanping Phoenix dance. If we have our own unique historical and cultural heritage, we will form a unique style that is different from other regions. The development of our local cultural resources is conducive to enhancing local visibility, and it is more likely to bring new growth points for economic income. In recent years, folk art festivals and Yangko competitions held across the country have not only developed traditional arts and culture, but also used this traditional culture as a medium to promote economic and other aspects of exchanges and development.

1.4 Care for Yuanping Phoenix dance inheritors

The carrier of dynamic culture is the inheritor, and only with inheritance can there be protection. In order to protect intangible cultural heritage, we should first protect its inheritors, encourage them to teach each other, and also take them into school classes, so that Yunaping Phoenix dance can become a unique course in local art schools, and form teaching materials for promotion.

2. Recommendation for future research

2.1 In the future, the manual about the original Yangko will be made into a monograph, and spread in bookstores, schools, cultural centers and even on the Internet, so that more people can know the original Yangko.

2.2 The performance of Yangko can be recorded into a video and promoted on the Internet.

2.3 The original Yangko can be formed into teaching materials and characteristic courses, and taught in professional colleges and universities to achieve the effect of dissemination.

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