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Beauty of Asian Art

Scholarship Essay

Ever since I was a little girl, I admired the dancers who performed on the stage. I was first introduced to Chinese folk dance through watching the Annual Chinese New Year Gala that would always appear on the television screen. Due to the Annual Chinese New Year Gala, it triggered my passion for dance. I was then enrolled in a dance academy at the age of three, taking both ballet and Chinese cultural dancing.

As life goes on, I deserted dance to fulfill my selfish desires like the ability to play the Gu Zheng, an ancient Chinese musical instrument, or the Chinese Zither. Like dance, it didn't last long. I would become unmotivated and want to quit, when I approached challenges and boredom. According to my mom, I never took any hobby serious enough for me to actually get engaged to the activity that I once had so much passion for. Collecting experience of my interests was a memorable moment in my life, I truly regret making those childish decisions that didn't get me anywhere in life. That's when I found my way back to Chinese cultural dancing, but not without the help of a ticket to a performance.

My mom came home one day with tickets to the AATF 10th Anniversary Grand Dance Festival in San Gabriel Mission Playhouse that AATF hosted. The title doesn't sound all that interesting but the performance was incredible! The spirit and beauty of

Chinese art encouraged me to return to Chinese folk dancing, therefore, I joined the Asian Arts and Talents Foundation. I couldn't imagine that I'm back on the stage due to the fact I deserted it ruthlessly couple years ago. I seem to treasure the chance of getting back to Chinese dancing more than before, and this time, it's with my new AATF family. I see the ability to Chinese folk dance as a gift, because not many possess it and I am very blessed to be able to dance the native dance of my ancestral root.

Chinese folk dancing means so much to me, not only does it make my life more plentiful, it also feels like as if I'm not only representing myself, but beauty of my culture. I'm proud to be one of the few Chinese descendants in the United States who practices Chinese folk dance. Therefore, as AATF family, we're able to let other races to understand and enjoy the beauty of Chinese culture. The dance itself is usually a fascinating classic folktale or legend expressed through sequence of body motion to express emotion. Accepting the Western culture while retaining the Chinese intrinsic quality is very important.

For most people, their personality needs to develop over time. However, some are born with it. Dance is an option for temperament training, it helps to perfect one's actions and postures. I used to be this naughty, dorky, clumsy child, but that was before dance. It helped me reconnect more with my background and somehow along the way changes were made for the better. I'm glad to be a step closer to have the ideal personality of my dream. In contrast, it's completely normal to have flaws, flaws make one unique because nobody is perfect.

I admit I'm of those stereotypical Asian that can't do American sports. I'm always one of the last ones to be chosen on teams and is usually that one team member that

barely participates. I don't blame them because I know that I have bad hand-eye coordination, and not to mention that I'm a slow runner. I get my exercise done through dance related activities, like color guard, ballet, and Chinese folk dance. Dance helps to improve my strengths, posture, flexibility, and balance; performances helps me to get over stage fright while I can collect staging experiences.

Chinese folk dance is truly an amazing branch of Asian art. It isn't just a hobby of mine, it has become apart of my life. It's my way of exercising that can also correct my postures while learning in depth about Chinese culture which can determine my personality.