

Tiffany Chung

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Ties of Asian Arts

Standing on the bright lit stage, I gaze out to the sea of people I have as my audience, ready to dance my heart out. I have been dancing Chinese cultural dance for about 7 years, and I can't imagine anything else I could have done to fill those times. Dancing with the Asian Arts Talent Foundation (AATF) has taught me many things about Chinese culture, in addition to magnifying my passion and commitment to Asian Arts. Asian Arts has been a great impact in my life. It has constructed me into the person I am today. Not only that, but thanks to AATF increasing my liking towards Asian Arts; it has allowed me to have confidence in myself, taught me to commit to the things I love to do, and to take the chances I get to help others and make them smile.

My heart would race at the thought of having to read in front of a class; never would I have imagined that I would be dancing in front of an audience of hundreds. Yet, I am still able to stand in front of the crowd at every performance I attend. Being able to spread Asian Arts to those who have never witnessed any has created many honorable moments. In fact, with the different faces and numbers in the audience, it has helped me improve my confidence tremendously. Performing for others to watch allowed me to open up to the crowd and be comfortable with thousands of eyes observing my every move. Not only am I able to express my love for Chinese culture, but I am also able to

do it without having any fear. I proudly take my stand in front of the public; like a lion ready to rule it's mighty kingdom, I'm a dancer ready to introduce Chinese folk dance.

With all the performances and practices, there's very little time for me to do much during weekends. Most of my time is devoted to dance. Because of this, I tend to miss out on fun events and family gatherings. Yet, with the lost of these events, it has never effected my dedication to dance. From the moment I united with AATF, I promised myself that I would stay with it until the end, and I have never, will never, regret it. This has taught me commitment, to never give up on Asian Arts, and to always stick with it. Because of the strong commitment and devotion I have to dance, I would try to juggle all the activities I want to undertake around my schedule for dance. I try to fit as many exciting events possible to expose myself to other activities, allowing my range of hobbies to run without end. By teaching myself how to manage my time, dance perfectly molded its way into my life. With this, Folk dance incorporated itself into my identity, being one of the thing that now characterizes me.

Dance has taken me to many places to perform, whether it's at a restaurant, a parade, Disneyland, or even halfway across the world. Each performance I go to, I am never alone; for I have many wonderful friends that would be by my side along the way. Little did I know that the start of my dance life, was also the start of my second family. Together, we travel here and there, trying to spread Asian Arts to those that has never recognized it. And since AATF is a non-profitable organization, the money we raise goes to charity, helping the people that needs it more than we do. With each performance, we bring happiness to those who watch and those who can't afford much. We would put on a show for those who are eating, or just have fun with those who had a

long stressful week. We enlighten many with rhythmic music and hilarious actions. Entertaining the audience, clapping with the crowd; this has become a big part of my life and I am thankful to be supported by the ones I love most.

Asian Arts has tied together my culture and dance, changing my life and shaping me into the a confident person that is committed to entertain others. I will advance to perform for others; to continue what I love for as long as I can. I'm thankful for the love and support I'm receiving and will push on to whatever adventure awaits me. Hoping to perform at many delightful places to come, I will increase the knowledge of Asian Arts around the world. I am proud to have this hobby in my life, ready to see where it would take me in the future as they lead me into the gates of my cherished memories of dance.