



Traditional Chinese
Dance at USC
Presents

Ephemeral

Bovard Auditorium
Sunday, March 2nd, 2025
7:30-9:30PM
Doors open at 7PM

A Letter from our Co-Captains

Dear friends and family,

Welcome to *Ephemeral* – USC Traditional Chinese Dance Company's 20th annual showcase!

It has been an honor and joy to lead such a talented group of dancers and choreographers, watching their passion and skills flourish. Since last September, we have worked with dedication and passion to prepare for today's performance, and we are excited to share the results with you. Tonight, we invite you to experience the beauty and richness of traditional Chinese dance with us.

Every performance you see tonight has been brought to life by our student choreographers, showcasing a diverse array of dance styles from various ethnic groups across China. The first act features a collection of performances from our dancers, TCD alumni, and special guests from USC Kung Fu. In the second half, we reimagine the legendary tale of Chang'e and Hou Yi, the story behind China's Mid-Autumn Festival.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show – and don't forget to applaud!

Sincerely,

Jenny Guo and Anna Liu



Jenny Guo
Senior
Computer Science
&
Business Admin

I loved going to Wingstop with E-Board after a rainy photoshoot day



Anna Liu
Junior
Biochemistry

My favorite memory was learning new dance moves like bunny jumps and the worm from team members

Executive Board



Karissa Yan
Junior
Biological Sciences,
Anthropology

Sweating, laughing,
dancing with
everyone

Director of Public
Relations



Director of Arts &
Creativity

Natalie Hsia
Sophomore
Computer Science

Random food runs



Director of Internal
Relations

Kylie Meng-Lin
Senior
Neuroscience

Playing card games
on Catalina Island!

Special Thanks to our *Choreographers*



Leya Li
Alumnus
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Sore legs and back
after spring previews



Yiqi Xiong
Alumnus
Applied Data Science

Happy 4th anniversary
with TCD!



Anna Tung
Graduate Student
PhD Biomedical Engineering

Laughing, jumping,
and galloping on
Lyon grassland!



Benjamin Xie
Senior
Neuroscience

Doing egg rolls

Dancer Bios

and our favorite memories...



Anna Katherine Zhao
Senior
Computer Science

Bowling social with
my TCD
choreography group
<3



Camryn Chun
Junior
Theatre

Our picnic social after
the first practice of the
season!



Catherine Chen
Sophomore
Architecture

The sense of community on show day, and everyone changing and cheering together backstage



Christina Zhang
Senior
Economics,
Accounting

Kylie's dance members went bowling together :)



Cindy Yang
Senior
Economics, Religion,
Finance

Practicing with Anna's team - everyone is so nice :)



Doris Li
Freshman
Physics, Business
Administration

Practicing Dai dance with TCD members



Elaina Xi
Senior
Communication
Management

Finished 2024 showcase and had a barbecue with my lovely dance-mates!!!



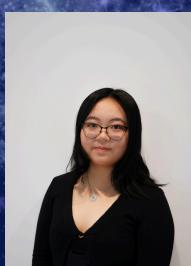
Emily Pan
Graduate Student
M.S. Computer
Science

Practices in PED



George Yang
Senior
Computer Science

Seeing everything come together at the showcase!



Ivy Tan
Sophomore
Public Policy

Weekly practices at Kaufman!



Jacqueline Choi
Sophomore
Psychology &
Business
Administration

Spring preview when everyone's vision & dances come to life!



Jessica Wang
Junior
Computer Science

Getting to meet so many people from different grades and majors who share the same passion as me!



Jia Yang
Guest

Trying out for TCD and slowly gaining the confidence to join different pieces!



Kathy Yang
Senior
Finance &
Accounting

Picnic social after the first practice of the season



Lingyi Dong
Freshman
Neuroscience

Fall preview of the show pieces during practice



Melodie Cai
Graduate Student
M.M. Piano
Performance

bowling :)



Mengjia Xu
Graduate Student
M.M.S.

We're all dancing together. We're all getting better.



Nanxi Wang
Graduate Student
Financial
Engineering

Dancing with y'all!!!!



Rebecca Wang
Sophomore
Economics & Data
Science

Practicing with everyone!



Vivian Pang
Sophomore
Computer Science

Meeting new people!!



Vivian Tan
Freshman
Business
Administration

The supportive cheers for each other during Fall previews!



Xinrui Li
Graduate Student
M.S. Analytics

Joining this great community



Yanlin Zhu
Graduate Student
Public Relations &
Advertising

Seeing everyone's completed pieces during spring preview



Yiran Tang
Graduate Student
Physical Therapy

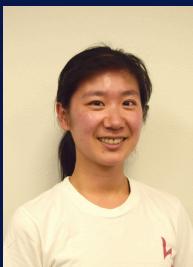
Rehearsing at Kaufman was always a joy. The arched window let in soft, warm sunlight, giving the studio an elegant atmosphere.



Yumeng Zhang
Graduate Student
M.S. Spatial Data
Science

Dance with everyone and chat on the road

Special Thanks to our
Alumni



Annie Yu



Carolyn Song



Jessica Koe



Crystal Guo



Sharon Zhang



Thinh Nguyen

TCD Family



SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Bovard Production Staff & Crew
USC Kung Fu
Annie Yu & the TCD Alumni
Jake Berg (Photographer)
Arpit Sutariya (Videographer)
Professor Yu-Chi Kuo (Faculty Advisor)
USC APASA
USC Program Board
USC Scheduling Office
USG Discretionary Board
SC Dance Community

Act One

TECHNIQUE PIECE 《技术展示》

Our dancers showcase their classical Chinese dance technique in this dynamic piece.

Choreographed by: Jenny Guo, Benjamin Xie

Dancers: All

EVOLUTION - DANCING THROUGH TIME, WOVEN IN MEMORIES

With 20 annual showcases, TCD's rich dance history celebrates growth and change through time. TCD alumni present a look into the past two decades, sharing dances that reflect years of TCD memories and the journey ahead. No matter where life takes us, we will always have the joy of dance.

Arranged by: Annie Yu

Adapted and Choreographed by: Emily Shum, Lily Yin, Jessica Koe, Thinh Nguyen, Jade Gao, Sharon Zhang

Dancers: Annie Yu, Carolyn Song, Crystal Guo, Jessica Koe, Sharon Zhang, Thinh Nguyen

THE IMPRESSION OF TANG DYNASTY 《唐印》

In a quiet night, the Tang San Cai lady figurines silently awaken. Transforming from sculptures to living beings, they gently stretch their bodies, transcending time and space to return to the glorious Tang Dynasty.

Adapted by: Yiqi Xiong

Dancers: Yiqi Xiong, Karissa Yan, Natalie Hsia, Anna Tung, Nanxi Wang, Christina Zhang, Elaina Xi, Xinrui Li, Lingyi Dong, Leya Li

MIDNIGHT SONG 《子夜歌》

The thrill of waking up at midnight, sneaking out to meet a lover, only to find the lover was never there.

Adapted by: Anna Liu

Dancer: Anna Liu

ODE TO THE CORALS 《珊瑚颂》

The dance symbolizes coral standing firm in the ocean, thriving against the waves. It reflects the Dai people's longing for a beautiful life and their reverence for nature.

Adapted by: Leya Li

Dancers: Leya Li, Karissa Yan, Emily Pan, Yumeng Zhang, Anna Katherine Zhao, Mengjia Xu, Rebecca Wang, Yiran Tang, Camryn Chun

SPIRIT OF WATER 《水之灵》

The Dai people, known for their sharp and stylish peacock dances, celebrate their new year with the Water-Splashing Festival, a joyous event that represents cleansing and good fortune.

Adapted by: Anna Liu

Dancers: Anna Liu, Doris Li, Anna Tung, Nanxi Wang, Vivian Tan, Lingyi Dong, Jessica Wang, Cindy Yang

ETERNAL YEARNING 《长相思》

The dance conveys the relentless pursuit of love and the sorrow of eternal separation.

Adapted by: Leya Li

Dancer: Leya Li

USC KUNG FU 《武术表演》

Demonstrating the power, grace, and versatility of 武术, a Chinese martial art, through hand and weapon routines.

Choreographed by: Eric Yeh

ECHOES OF FORGOTTEN SPRING 《遗春之音》

A soul wanders through the remnants of spring, caught between the warmth of love once held and the chill of its inevitable passing. This dance navigates the delicate space between longing and release, where unspoken emotions are left to float away, like petals in a forgotten breeze.

Adapted by: Natalie Hsia

Dancers: Natalie Hsia, Karissa Yan, Jenny Guo, Anna Liu, Kylie Meng-Lin, Anna Tung, Melodie Cai, Yanlin Zhu, Christina Zhang

SCHOLARLY ASPIRATIONS 《儒生抒懷》

A full moon illuminates the grounds of a Han Dynasty palace. Young Confucian scholars, garbed in rich, elegant robes, gather to seek inspiration from the heavens. In the quiet evening, they conjure masterful works of prose, their noble bearing evident through their movements.

Adapted by: Benjamin Xie

Dancers: Benjamin Xie, George Yang, Catherine Chen, Emily Pan

REDISCOVERING HOPE 《重燃希望》

Amid a tumultuous world, nine young individuals grapple with emotions of loneliness and uncertainty as they struggle against the currents of a world filled with fleeting chaos and unfulfilled dreams. This traditional-lyrical fusion piece explores the power of renewal and resilience, reminding us that even in our darkest moments, hope and strength can be reclaimed.

Choreographed and Adapted by: Kylie Meng-Lin

Dancers: Kylie Meng-Lin, Jenny Guo, Anna Liu, Natalie Hsia, Yiran Tang, Vivian Pang, Melodie Cai, Anna Katherine Zhao, Christina Zhang

A BRANCH OF WILLOW 《折柳》

In ancient China, it was tradition to break a branch of willow to offer as a parting gift to a loved one who was leaving, symbolizing the reluctance to let them go and serving as a reminder that someone is missing them. This piece expresses the hopeful anticipation and soft yearning one feels awaiting a loved one's return, as well as the exuberant joy of reunion.

Choreographed and Adapted by: Karissa Yan

Dancers: Karissa Yan, Leya Li, Nanxi Wang, Catherine Chen, Ivy Tan, Kathy Yang, Vivian Tan, Mengjia Xu, Jacqueline Choi

FLYING TIMES 《流光》

流光 represents both the shimmering light and the passing of time, like flowing water. It captures the innocence and joy of childhood, reflecting life's most beautiful moments. This dance tells the story of two sisters happily playing by a gently flowing creek. As they laugh and play, light and shadows dance around them, and time quietly slips away—like water, fleeting yet beautiful.

Adapted by: Yiran Tang, Yiqi Xiong

Dancers: Yiran Tang, Yiqi Xiong

GALLOPING ACROSS THE ENDLESS PRAIRIE 《天涯馳騁》

This spirited Mongolian dance depicts the journey of growth, soaring to new heights and galloping freely across the vast grasslands, celebrating strength, freedom, and triumph.

Adapted by: Anna Tung

Dancers: Anna Tung, Anna Liu, Natalie Hsia, Emily Pan, Xinrui Li, Yumeng Zhang, Jia Yang, Rebecca Wang

THREE INCHES OF HEAVEN 《三寸天堂》

This dance is about embracing the bittersweet beauty of a fleeting love, savoring every moment – the three inches of heaven – before it slips away.

Adapted by: Jenny Guo

Dancer: Jenny Guo

ODE TO THE BAIYIN JULIHE MOUNTAIN 《白音居日和山颂》

This is a Mongolian folk song that was originally performed during mountain god worship ceremonies. It celebrates the majesty and abundance of Baiyin Julihe Mountain while also expressing a plea for the blessings of the mountain god.

Adapted by: Leya Li

Dancers: Jia Yang, Yiqi Xiong, Anna Tung, Leya Li

GRAIN IN EAR 《芒种》

芒种 is a day in June that represents one of the busiest days in the Chinese agricultural calendar, where the crops from the first planting season are harvested and the seeds for the second planting season are sowed. Grain in Ear represents the celebration of hearing the crops ready to harvest sway in the wind as well as the preparation for the hard work that will ensue.

Adapted by: Anna Liu

Dancers: Jenny Guo, Anna Liu, Karissa Yan, Kylie Meng-Lin, Natalie Hsia

Act Two

TO THE MOON AND BACK 《嫦娥奔月》

CAST

Chang E: Anna Tung

Hou Yi: Rebecca Wang

Bunny: Anna Liu

Xiwangmu Queen Goddess: Vivian Pang

Goddess Handmaidens: Karissa Yan,

Jenny Guo

Villain: Eric Yeh

Parent: Jia Yang

Child: Melodie Cai



LOVE UNDER THE SKY

Hou Yi, the mighty archer, meets Chang E, a beautiful and graceful woman, and they fall deeply in love.

Adapted by: Natalie Hsia

Dancers: Anna Tung, Rebecca Wang

A HERO'S SHOT

To save the world from scorching heat, Hou Yi bravely shoots down nine of the ten suns that once burned the Earth. His heroic act earns him the admiration of the people and the gods.

Adapted by: Natalie Hsia

Dancer: Rebecca Wang

ELIXIR OF IMMORTALITY

A magical rabbit brews the elixir of immortality for the queen goddess.

Adapted by: Anna Liu

Dancer: Anna Liu

A DIVINE GIFT

The Celestial goddesses present Hou Yi with the elixir of immortality as a reward for his bravery.

Adapted by: Jenny Guo

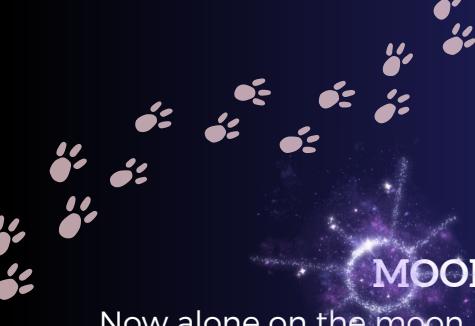
Dancers: Vivian Pang, Karissa Yan, Jenny Guo

DUEL OF FATE

While Hou Yi is out hunting, a treacherous villain, driven by greed and envy, tries to steal the elixir from Chang E, seeking to gain immortality for himself.

Choreographed by: Anna Liu, Natalie Hsia, Eric Yeh

Dancers: Anna Tung, Eric Yeh



MOONLIT LAMENT

Now alone on the moon, Chang E mourns her lost love, forever separated from Hou Yi.

Adapted by: Anna Tung

Dancer: Anna Tung



A LOVE REMEMBERED

Reunited in the afterlife, Chang E and Hou Yi mourn their lost dreams and the separation forced upon them. Their connection endures even in sorrow, as they recall happier times.

Adapted by: Jenny Guo

Dancers: Anna Tung, Rebecca Wang



CELEBRATION

Every year during the Mid-Autumn Festival, people gather to celebrate the eternal love of Hou Yi and Chang E. As the moon shines brightly, families reunite, share mooncakes, and honor the celestial bond that transcends time.

Adapted by: Jenny Guo, Anna Liu, Kylie Meng-Lin

Dancers: Melodie Cai, Jia Yang



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