

## **The heritage and development of Chinese characters in dragon lanterns dance**

### **ABSTRACT**

"Chinese Characters in Dragon Lanterns (or Dragon Lanterns)" is a folk dance originated from Hebei. It is also listed as one of the National Intangible Cultural Heritage in China. Being a traditional entertainment performance for the royal tomb guardians of the Qing Dynasty, the folk dance has a history of more than 300 years. The strokes of the Chinese characters are presented through the dragon lanterns. It is long loved by folk artists and public, as the performance illustrates the essence and deepness of the Chinese characters. This paper focuses on the inheritance and development of the folk dance "Chinese Characters in Dragon Lanterns". Field investigation and interviews are conducted during the research to further understand the history of the folk dance. In this paper, the artistic characteristics and values of the Dragon Lanterns are first analyzed and summarized, to provide inheritance and protection suggestions according to the problems faced during the development of the folk dance. It was found that the lack of performers and promotion channels are some of the crucial issues hindering the development of the Dragon Lanterns. Thus, it is important to cultivate inheriting performers and to market such traditional art through brand building and cultural promotion in campuses to promote its development. As a conclusion, this paper has a high academic value and theoretical significance for the research on "Chinese Characters in Dragon Lanterns". In accordance with the changing times, the inheritance of Dragon Lanterns should also be innovating so that the cultural and historical values of China could be further promoted and displayed today.