

Origin of Lion Dance

Lion Dance began during the Middle ancient times, as certified by the “Tang book”, and also recorded that this started during the “Chu” Dynasty.

Legendary Lion Dance

Legendary Lion Dance originated from Foshan Guangzhou. Few hundred years ago, there was a beast called “Nian” meaning “Year” in Chinese, had terrified the villagers by destroying their farms on the eve of New Year. However an intelligent person used some bamboo and sticks to stage a similar beast, and match with colour cloth for the beast body. When the beast returned a year later, the villagers danced with the props together with all the cymbals to frighten the beast away. Since then every year the villagers celebrate Chinese New Year with Lion dance to ward off evil.

Type of Lion

Lion Dance is well received by the Chinese people. Basically there are two types of Lions: Northern Lion is more popular in the southern province of “Yellow River” and Southern Lion more popular in Guangzhou area. The Northern Lion has golden and red Hair, covers the performer’s filly and its movements resemble those of a real lion. Southern Lion has a multi-coloured head and a long linen tail that drapes over the performers, and the movements are more stylized.



Northern Lion



Southern Lion

Plucking The Green / “Cai Qing”

Lion Plucking the Green is the climax of the southern lion dance. It's not only expressed high pugilistic skills, but also showed the dancers are brave and quick-witted. People who invited lion dance to their homes have to hang a bunch of lettuce with a red packet, while others may place tables and chairs as obstacles to test the skill of the dancers.

“Dot The Eye” Ceremony / Waking Up

Every new lion head must be blessed by a respected figure at a ceremony by dotting the eye of the lion head before the performance. If not, it will be regarded as a “blind lion”. Once the eyes have been dotted, it is believed the lion will have power to chase away evil and bring in good luck.



Plucking The Greens



“Dot The Eye”

舞狮的起源

舞狮乃始源自中古时代,且有书为证“唐书载”大平乐,后周武帝时造,又据“古典风俗丛谈”说舞狮之戏乃始于五代民间艺术。

舞狮的传说

传说舞狮是传自中国广东佛山某地,远在数百年前,民间出现奇兽,身长八尺,头大身小,眼若铜铃,青面獠牙,头生一怪兽之独角,每逢新年除夕便出现、把人们的田禾蔬菜吃光之后就离去、因它每逢过年就出现,于是人们就称之为“年兽”。乡民对年兽感到害怕,只好带着家人到隐密的地方避难。后来有个聪明的人用竹子及纸料扎成与年兽外形一样的道具,另外加各种纸料颜色,并配以布料剪成三角形作兽身,由两人共同舞动,配合各种器具埋伏年兽必经之路,群起敲起响器,同时燃放爆竹,年兽突然遇此类似之怪兽,其声如雷、遂大惊而逃去,自此绝迹民间,从此乡民每年丰收大吉。于是每逢除夕,每村乡民争相扎制怪兽头,同时以“瑞狮”命名。

狮子的形状及其派别

舞狮自传入民间即大受欢迎。中国土大物博,人口众多,在不问语言与性格的影响下,舞狮分起南狮、北狮来。无论在形态、技术方面都有颇大的分别。北狮盛行于黄河以南及四川一带,南狮则以广东、闽、桂等地为主。

从外形色彩来说,最基本的有代表三国时代桃园结义的三位英雄。刘备狮头黄色,白眉毛,白长须,表现得和气友善,一般人称它为瑞狮。关公狮面红,黑眉长须,青鼻紫角,是居第二地位,一般人称它为醒狮。张飞狮面黑,眉毛短,黑须,青鼻铁角,一般人也称它为鬥狮。北狮比较著名的有安徽的青狮,河北保定双狮。以外型来看,北狮造型与真狮酷似,纯粹是兽毛颜色,全身以缨毛作狮背,表演者所穿的服装和鞋子也和真狮子的腿部毛色一样,舞动起来像一头维妙维肖的活狮。有人把南狮比喻为“写意派”,把北狮比喻为“写实派”。

狮子采青

狮子采青是一些多姿多彩的舞狮表演，这是南狮独有的特别节目，它不但表达高度的技巧与武功，并且还充份显示舞狮者的勇敢和机智：基本上耍招狮子上门采青的村民，都会在门前吊起一札青菜与红包，或者在地上放一把生菜或红包之类，好让狮子前来表演采青。青的种类不少，最基本可分为“高青”与“地青”两大类。

狮子开光点睛的意义：

狮子点睛开光是一项庄严的仪式，如没有经过开光点睛的狮头被人舞动的话，将会被视为当作舞盲狮。舞狮者相信新的狮头必须要经过点睛开光的仪式后，狮子才有灵气，才能驱邪镇煞，除疾病，趋吉避凶，由此可见狮子的点睛开光重要性，狮子开光点睛仍是武馆重要节日。必须邀请社会领袖，师父来隆重主持仪式。