



Chinese dancers visit UNL

By Susanne Schafer

A shy Chinese maiden and a hero-warrior danced ritualistic steps Wednesday afternoon in the South Crib of the Nebraska Union.

Lan-fen Chao, 24, the maiden, and her companion Kuang-chi Tu, 23, are two members of the Nationalist Chinese Opera Theater troupe that is currently touring the United States. Their 80-member group will perform in Omaha Oct. 12.

Both are graduates of Chinese opera schools in Taiwan which begin to train students at eight years of age, according to the director, Edward C.H. Yang.

Yang is a professor of Linguistics at Soochow University in Taipei, Taiwan. He was asked to direct the troupe because of his language ability, he said.

Silk, embroidery and golden thread are the primary materials for the dancers' costumes, Yang explained. The dancers' dress and costumes are based on

traditional character. Miss Chao, attired in red silken pants, was dressed for the role of a maiden-warrior in the ribbon dance in "Heavenly Angels Scattering Flowers."

Tu and Chao have been acting in Taiwan theater since their graduation five years ago.

The green suit with yellow flowers worn by Tu was the costume of the hero-warrior in the story of the "Cowherd and the Village Girl," Yang said.

The red streak on the forehead of the male dancer is the symbol for his great heroic status, he said.

The dancers in the troupe will be in the United States for three months.

Although American food is strange to those who have never visited the United States, Yang said, they like it much better than the "pseudo-Chinese food they find in all the American Chinese towns."



Photos by
Gail Folda

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