

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW
MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES

[ISSN 2581-5369]

Volume 4 | Issue 5

2021

© 2021 *International Journal of Law Management & Humanities*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://www.ijlmh.com/>

Under the aegis of VidhiAagaz – Inking Your Brain (<https://www.vidhiaagaz.com/>)

This Article is brought to you for “free” and “open access” by the International Journal of Law Management & Humanities at VidhiAagaz. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Journal of Law Management & Humanities after due review.

In case of **any suggestion or complaint**, please contact Gyan@vidhiaagaz.com.

To submit your Manuscript for Publication at **International Journal of Law Management & Humanities**, kindly email your Manuscript at submission@ijlmh.com.

The Artistic Features of Ordos Chopstick Dance

KEERLUN¹ AND LI JIA²

ABSTRACT

The chopstick dance, originated in Ordos, Inner Mongolia, got its name from dancing with chopsticks. The chopstick dance, which is one of the representative traditional folk dances of Mongolian nationality, is closely related to the natural environment and living customs of people on the grassland. The movements and musical style of chopstick dance complement other Mongolian dances, but also distinguish from others. Following the rhythm of the music, the dancers hold chopsticks hitting each part of the body in kneeling, sitting, standing and other posture. The movement is agile, the rhythm is bright and the emotion is warm, forming a very tense and infectious form of performance. Chopsticks dance expresses the Mongolian people's love for life and it is also a part of the spiritual life of Mongolian people.

Keywords: Chopstick Dance, Folk, Mongolian, Style Features

I. INTRODUCTION

The Mongolian chopstick dance is characterized by its warm and unrestrained emotions, light and clear rhythm, and handsome movements. Its most distinctive features are Agile movement, clean feeling, strong rhythm. Chopsticks dance is a major characteristic dance of the Mongolian nationality, which has special significance to the Mongolian nation and is also one of the representative traditional folk dances. This paper discusses the artistic features of the chopstick dance in detail from three parts: its origin, its action style features and musical style features, and its development.

II. THE ORIGIN OF ORDOS CHOPSTICK DANCE

Ordos is known as “the ocean of songs and the hometown of dance”. The chopstick dance originated in Ordos region and has long been popular in Otok Banner, Otok front Banner and Wusheng Banner.

The chopstick dance is named after dancing with chopsticks. It is closely related to the natural

¹ National Preschool Normal College of Inner Mongolia.

² College of Music, Shanxi Normal University, Linfen, China.

environment and living customs of people living on the grassland, and is also one of the representative traditional folk dances in Mongolian dance. It comes from the life of people on the grassland. Originally, at weddings and festive feasts, men would pick up chopsticks and dance with the melody, accompanied by beautiful string music and melodious Ordos folk songs. Gradually, it has formed the prototype of chopstick dance.

According to interviews with local artist Maxi Jirigala, in his memory he followed his family to visit relatives when he was a child. Everyone gathered in a yurt at night. A male artist knelt in the middle of the yurt, holding a pair of chopsticks and hitting his palm, shoulder, shoulder blades and other parts of his body as people sang Ordos folk songs. Few people in that period performed like this, which made a deep impression on him.

Over time, the chopstick dance spread widely across the grassland. It has developed from the men's solo dance to women's solo dance, duo dance and group dance. At the same time, the herdsmen have integrated the bold and unconstrained character characteristics of the Mongolian nation into the dance style, forming the unique style and characteristics of the chopstick dance, which expresses the hard-working spirit and enthusiastic character of Mongolian.

III. THE STYLE FEATURES OF THE ORDOS CHOPSTICK DANCE

Features of Action Style

The Ordos chopstick dance is performed in various forms. Its basic style is that dancers hold chopsticks, hitting the palm, shoulders, waist, legs and ground, in kneeling, sitting and standing posture. At the same time, the shoulder and wrist turn flexibly, the tapping is crisp, the movement is agile and the rhythm is clear, forming a very tense and infectious form of performance.

1. The dynamic features of chopstick dance

It is often seen that the performers use a variety of dynamic features in the performance of chopstick dance. Mongolian dance has four main dynamic features, which is "horizontal" motion rhythm, "round" motion rhythm, "twist" motion rhythm and "twisting and tilting" motion rhythm. Chopstick dance mainly uses "round" motion rhythm and "twisting and tilting" motion rhythm in performance.

The habits of the Mongolian people advocate circular thinking, such as the shape of the Mongolian yurt and daily utensils. Chopstick dance also contains such circular thinking. The famous Mongolian dancer Schintariha once described the law of "round" motion rhythm as

follows: "The round motion is a motion form formed by the continuous forward movement of the hands, shoulders, chest and waist at the same time in different rhythms of music". In the performance of chopstick dance, it shows the unique "round" motion rhythm by relaxing the upper body and keeping the round movement through the coordination of shoulders, waist and crotch.

Another important features of chopstick dance is the "twisting and tilting" motion rhythm. The "twisting and tilting" motion rhythm was originally extracted from the main movement rhythm in the Mongolian classical religious dance "Chama" and the Mongolian traditional competitive event "wrestling". Performers twist the waist as the force point to turn the body according to the elements of "twisting and tilting" motion rhythm. When performing, dancers open the body widely to show the different sides of the body. At the same time, dancers need to pay more attentions to the details of opening shoulders outward, leaning head backward, and the motion rhythm should be powerful.

2. The movement features of chopstick dance

The special living environment of Mongolian nationality determines the different division of responsibilities between men and women. Men hunt and graze outdoor while women milk and hold housework indoor. The male and female dancers also have different styles and characteristics when performing chopsticks dance.

Mongolian men are bold and forthright, with strong and straight posture. In their performance, they present more of the characteristics of man's broad mind, adventurous spirit and rugged character. Men's movements are brisk, powerful and large, which fully shows the characteristics of the male living on the grassland. Mongolian women are cheerful, generous and flexible, and their performance in chopstick dance is characterized by a warm, generous, calm and strong style. Compared with the strength of men's movements, women's movements show more elegance.

When performing the chopstick dance, the movements vary in form. The dancer holds the chopstick in both hands, holding the thin end of the chopstick and striking the thick end. The action includes as follows: one hand hits shoulder, while another hand hits leg, Beating the ground at the same time or separately, Both hands hit shoulders at the same time or in turn, One hand hits shoulder, while another hand hits waist, One hand hits shoulder, while another hand hits hip, Kneeling, one hand hits shoulder and another hand hits calf, Tap the chopsticks in front of the chest with both hands, then tap the shoulder with one hand and cross the thighs,

after that tap the chopsticks in front of your chest again with both hands and cross your shoulders with the other hand. As to dance steps, there are forward and backward walk, but also a variety of rotation and jump. Generally speaking, the slow dance is steady and deep, while the fast dance is vigorous and powerful. When the rhythm is quick, chopsticks can strike various parts of the body rapidly in various movements. The scene is lively and enthusiastic, with distinctive national characteristics.

Features of Music Style

Ordos chopstick dance is characterized by its bright rhythm and light steps. Therefore, Ordos short-tone folk songs are generally selected as background music.

Ordos Mongolian folk songs generally have fixed words, songs and song titles. According to the tune, it is divided into long tune folk songs and short tune folk songs. The short tone folk songs are short and concise in structure, clear and powerful in rhythm, cheerful and lively in mood, concise in lyrics, distinctive in music feature. These characteristics make short tone folk songs the best choices for chopstick dance. For example, Bayanhanggai and West of Otoki are two of the most famous music for chopstick dance. (See Appendix 1 for original score of Folk song bayanhanggai, and Appendix 2 for original score of Folk song West of Otoki)

IV. THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORDOS CHOPSTICK DANCE

The chopstick dance originated from impromptu performances at banquets. Later, with the continuous modification and innovation of folk artists such as Jigden, Regan Jurzab, Chagan Chaolu and Badma, the dance gradually developed from waving chopsticks while sitting, standing and moving to hitting various parts of the body in various movements and rhythm.

Jigden, the late folk artist of Otoki Front Banner, processed the chopstick dance and created a chopstick dance with more complete content and rich movements on the basis of the original dance form. In 1964, Jigden performed the chopstick dance in the national minority amateur art performance, which was deeply loved by artists across the country. Since then, chopstick dance has received a lot of attention.

In 1983, Badma, a dancer in Wulan Muqir, Wusheng Banner, reprocessed and innovated the chopstick dance by learning the strength of other dancers. In 1984, she performed a solo chopstick dance in the national performance in Beijing. Her performance left a deep impression on the audiences with bright rhythm and beautiful movements. From then on, Ordos chopstick dance became famous at home and abroad.

Inheritor of chopstick dance: Badmazqig (1955-), female, Mongolian nationality. Native of

Wushen Banner, Ordos City, Inner Mongolia. National first-class actor and National first-class choreographer. Now she is the deputy head of Ordos Song and Dance Troupe, member of Chinese Dancers Association and director of Inner Mongolia Dancers Branch.

In 1969, when Badmazqig was only 15 years old, she was recruited in the Wulan Muqir as a dancer. She has been touring and performing with Wulan Muqir in the grassland for many years and accumulated a large number of dance creation materials. During this time, she has created several ballets and has been acting as the leading role of opera, dance programs, and other programs. The dance programs she created and performed have won more than 10 national awards and more than 90 regional awards. She has performed her dance in Japan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Bulgaria, Poland, French Reunion, Hungary, Singapore, Mauritius, Hong Kong and other countries and deeply loved by people around.

V. CONCLUSION

The vast grassland is the birthplace of Mongolian nationality. For a long time, the Mongolian nation has formed a forthright, enthusiastic, open-minded character. These personalities are perfectly integrated into the chopstick dance. In the banquet, people beat their body parts with chopsticks by singing, so as to add to the fun. It reflects the warm and forthright character of Mongolian. The dancers interact with each other by holding chopsticks and moving shoulders and legs, showing a strong emotion of Mongolian and expressing the infinite love for their hometown. The dancers keep changing the movements with the rhythm of the music. Sometimes they move softly with the soothing music, and sometimes they hit their shoulders, legs, hips and ground with chopsticks in the light rhythm, which makes people fully feel the unique features of the chopstick dance. Art comes from life, but higher than life. Now, chopstick dance has stepped out of the grassland and entered into the palace of art. With the efforts of countless dancers, chopstick dance is always in the process of continuous communication, supplement, integration and development. It has formed a complete and unique dance system. Practice has proved that Mongolian chopstick dance plays an important role in the development of Chinese folk dance.

Appendix I: Original score and translation of Bayanhanggai, ordos folk song.

巴音杭盖

在那巴音杭盖山后
降生长的骏马哟
在那虎年出征的时候
就要骑乘的骏马哟

在那弯弯的草滩上
奔跳撒欢的骏马哟
坏了心眼的盗马贼
是否骑上遁入天涯

在那平平的草梁上
奔驰撒欢的骏马哟
没有人样的盗马贼
是否牵上逃走天涯

在那青青的草滩上
飞奔大走的骏马哟
心眼可恨的盗马贼
是否偷走跑到天涯

云青色的骏马哟
行走如云的骏马哟
高高的铁青马哟
可惜呀跑到哪里哟

在那绒绒的草滩上
奔驰如流的骏马哟
相貌丑陋的盗马贼
是否偷上走向天涯

