# Coupling Study on Posture Performance and Dance Creation of Hunan Flower Drum Opera

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ABSTRACT. There are various forms of folk dance because of the vast territory and many nationalities in our country. These folk dances are the display of people's daily life and the expression of people's good life, also the art treasure of our country. For Hunan Flower Drum Opera, it is not only a simple opera, but also an opera produced by the fusion of dance and singing of many ethnic groups. This paper will explore the dance part of the Hunan Flower Drum opera. The dance of Hunan Flower Drum Opera is mainly made up of the Tujia Bai Shou dance in Xiangxi, Miao Drum dance and the Maogusi dance. They used singing and dancing to perform the Flower Drum opera excellently. This paper will analyze and study the dance performance characteristics of Hunan Flower Drum Opera, and the creation of Hunan Flower Drum Opera dance works according to the basic overview of Hunan Flower Drum Opera.

KEYWORDS: Flower Drum Opera, Posture Performance, Dance Creation, Research

In addition to the moving tunes in Hunan Flower Drum Opera, the characters' images and posture performances also need to be performed through dance. Through these dances with national style, the audience can feel what the characters feel and think and what emotional characters want to express. At the same time, the uses of dance to a certain extent to supplement the plot, so that the audience can better feel the ups and downs of the story. For the traditional folk opera dance, in the face of the development of modern society, some innovative development needs to be carried out to adapt to the current development.

## 1. A Basic Summary of Hunan Flower Drum Opera Dance

Flower Drum Opera is a comprehensive stage art including literature, opera, performance, music, dance and other forms of art. For the music of Flower Drum Opera, the choice is very national and local characteristics, and dance also has a national and diversified performance. For the dance of Flower Drum Opera, it was originally designed to make the opera have a better performance effect, using

exaggerated expressions and movements to show the character characteristics and story conflict mainly. The dance of Hunan Flower Drum Opera also has a very strong appreciation. The actors use a certain exaggeration to realize the elegant performance of the national dance incisively and vividly, increasing the appeal of the performance, so that the Flower Drum Opera is also loved and supported by more viewers.

## (1) The Origin and Development of Hunan Flower Drum Opera

Hunan Flower Drum Opera is composed of rural folk songs, folk minor and local Flower Drum, which has a history of more than 200 years. Flower Drum opera is based on folk lantern song and dance plus narrative, plot development. According to some local historical records, Flower Drum Opera has been formed in the Qing Dynasty Jiaqing years, and some folk artists began to perform on the street. Hunan Flower Drum Opera is the general name of Flower Drum Opera in Hunan Province. There are different divisions for Flower Drum Opera based on the different regional nature and national cultural characteristics. The theme of Hunan Flower Drum Opera focuses on people's daily life, the main theme of the dance is mainly about people's production labor, emotional events and life contradictions and home affairs. In the process of performing, the tunes and dances of the Flower Drum Opera show the production and life of the working people, and the emotional entanglement of the characters and the home affairs are also displayed. This dance is the forms the local flavor and regional characteristics of Hunan, also represents the expression and output of national culture.

The performance form of Hunan Flower Drum Opera is the Xiao Chou and xiao Dan in the original form of singing and dancing. Later, it develops into the Xiao Chou, xiao Dan and Xiao Sheng, and then develops into multiple roles, which gradually has a certain dramatic nature and storyline. In the beginning, it was the traditional grass-stage group. Then, it gradually integrated some tunes, scene performance and musical instrument accompaniment, and gradually developed into an art form integrating opera, performance, music and dance.

## (2) Dance Elements of Hunan Flower Drum Opera

#### 1) Emotional Expression

There are many kinds of dance performance styles in traditional Chinese opera dance, and it has the hazy beauty of Jiangnan water countryside emotion and the generosity of heroic spirit, as well as the positive and upward spirit of fighting spirit and so on. No matter what kind of dance language can be a certain emotional expression. For example, in the Hunan Flower Drum Opera performance, the most attractive is the beautiful dance with strong folk culture. Not only that, for the Flower Drum opera, although the dance action range is small, the dance of the Flower Drum opera also achieves the rich external image and the inner emotion performance in the limited movement very well. In the aspect of emotional expression, it can also be used as the innovation point of Flower Drum dance and the place that can breakthrough in the face of the social tide at present.

2) Special dance skills and a variety of steps

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The main special dance skills in Flower Drum opera are pagoda of bowl lamp and cushion work and so on. Cushion work is that Xiao Dan tied small shoes at the tip of the foot, to imitate the small foot woman walking, which is the specific life scene for artistic expression. Pagoda of bowl lamp, literally consciousness, performs with a lighted oil lamp. Flower Drum opera play in the performance process, with the help of these stunts to make the dance performance richer, but also to the audience to bring more comfortable and smooth feelings. Except for the special dance skills that there are varieties steps, which performers according to the needs of the relative plot of the corresponding step performance, and the audience can also according to their performance, to understand the development of the plot. You can also understand the personality characteristics of relevant characters.

## 3) Performer's Manner

In the Flower Drum opera dance performance, the eyes of the actor play an important role in interpretation and expression management. In the Flower Drum opera, good playing with eyes also is the essence of dance art very good performance. The use and training of the eyes in the Flower Drum opera are mainly staring, blink of an eye, long look, close look, focus and so on. These are the basic expressions of the Flower Drum opera. This part is also a place where the Flower Drum opera play can be strengthened and broken through.

## 2. Characteristics of the Dance Performance of Hunan Flower Drum Opera

# (1) The form of a combination of musical and dance performance

The performance of Hunan Flower Drum Opera is often a form of singing and dancing. Song and dance also express the daily life of the working people and their emotional expression. For dancing with Hunan Flower Drum Opera, the actors perform in the form of opera dialect and play with traditional national musical instruments to give people a lively scene. For the performance of Flower Drum opera, the corresponding dance of actors will be relatively simple, which mainly through the eyes and the form of the transmission of the plot. If the performance is a large-scale dance that the actors will use the dancing body and dance to supplement the plot, as well as stage emotional expression to show personal dance; corresponding emotional expression; and dance in the fierce musical instrument accompaniment. Meanwhile, dance movements also based on the content of the lyrics to a certain display, and the performance of the body express the content and plot of the story; a good expression of the characters in the opera emotion, action, language, fully emotional expression, which brought a strong artistic visual effect.

(2) The integration of a large number of folk dance props enriches the performance of the stage

In the process of dance performance, some stage props are often used to perform the dance content and emotional display on the stage. The Chinese fans and towels are the most frequently used in the Flower Drum opera, and these two important props are also used in the classic Flower Drum opera *Liu Hai Cut Firewood* to

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perform. While the process of performing, the actresses hold it in this hand; sometimes inserted in the waist; sometimes in the hands of random swing; and sometimes Chinese fans cover themselves. These life content and elements are very detailed in the dance, and these life details of the dance movements also enhance the image of the dance. For the Chinese fan, it also has certain emotional expression and sustenance in the Flower Drum opera, not only Xiaodan, Xiaosheng will take the Chinese fan, and the Xiao Chou also will hold the Chinese fan sometimes. Moreover, this time a Chinese fan is also a form of expression for these characters to carry out emotional changes, Chinese fan strength, and dance movements. It well reflects the emotional changes of the characters. For example, the action of holding the Chinese fan is light and bright when the mood is happy; the action of holding the Chinese fan is heavy and slow when the mood is depressed; the Chinese fan will become the tool of the character's emotional vent when the mood is irritable. Therefore, in the process of using props, props are also a way for performers to express their emotions. They will be different according to the emotional changes of the characters and the development of the plot, and better shape the changes of character and thought and emotion, which play a more important role.

## (3) A large number of folk dance elements with distinctive characteristics

Dance is the art of limbs, which need to be completed with a variety of elegant and difficult movements, and a large number of expression management will be used in a large number of folk dance Flower Drum opera. Meanwhile, the use of pace linked with a dance together closely, which reflects the curve of dance beauty, and the use of eye emotion also reflects the inner beauty of dance performance. In the Flower Drum Opera, the actor will make eye contact with the audience during the performance. The audience can also better understand the inner emotional changes of the character through the actor's eye performance, and make the character full of vitality. To achieve well emotional communication with the audience. In addition to the use of eyes, the dance of Hunan Flower Drum Opera also uses a large number of specific dance movements, which can well express the singing words of Flower Drum Opera. However, step elements also used a lot in folk dance such as the familiar scene of Liu Hai Cut Firewood, the use of climbing steps when they walking on different roads, the actor used different pace. Through the performance of this image and the range of steps, the image shows the difficulties encountered in mountaineering and the rugged mountain road, so that the audience meets with the actors' emotional feelings, also has a strong breath of life.

## 3. A probe into the creation of dance works in Hunan Flower Drum Opera

## (1) The enrichment of materials for living creation

In the Hunan Flower Drum Opera, most of the creative content comes from the stories in life, so some elements of life can be carried out in the creation of Hunan Flower Drum Opera dance. During the understanding of the excellent Hunan Flower Drum Opera, people prefer to create things related to themselves closely, and most of them are related to pastoral life when they create materials, also hit by love.

Therefore, in the work creation and topic selection, the life detail content will be carried on as the work creating content. In addition to the creation of living materials, the storyline of life also needs to be written while having the details of life, and certain drama and conflict also very necessary. In this way, the process of creation will not flatten, and then later dance choreography also has a certain role. For example, life and emotion always are the people's favorite themes in the opera, and love is an everlasting material. In the creation of the love theme, performers can be expressed through dance can meet in the process of some contradictory conflicts. At the same time, some of the details of life can also be expressed through dance. To better analyze and summarize the content of these materials, the relevant dance elements are refined and innovative development and creation, the character image is accurately molded; the character emotion is expressed; and the dance is given a certain life and emotion.

## (2) Grasp the dance style and strengthen the characteristics of the dance itself

In the process of creating dance works, it is necessary to retain the dance elements of Flower Drum Opera, also to highlight the art form of dance. Hunan Flower Drum Opera can be widely spread because of its unique artistic charm, which requires in-depth research on the content, thought and artistic characteristics of the Flower Drum opera. Moreover, the essence of the Flower Drum opera into the dance creation, so that the creation of dance works can reflect the style of the Flower Drum opera to lay the tone of the dance creation. At the same time, it is necessary to design some dance language to better show the inner world and character of the characters and the characteristics of dance art. Therefore, in the dance creation, Flower Drum Opera's dance elements and dance creation ideas are closely combined which based on the plot theme creation, to make clear the main body and complete structure of the work, to express the certain emotional expression, and make most people love these works. For example, in the process of creating dance works related to modern emotion, we can combine the dance elements of Flower Drum opera with modern dance, find the common ground of the two dance types, and make further creation. It can modernize, innovate and diversify, also attract more audience to enjoy. Only by continuously expanding the art market and letting more people have a certain understanding of Flower Drum Opera, and dance can it better integrate into the new audience environment in modern popular society.

## (3) Giving full play to the choreography techniques to enhance artistic appeal

For the choreographer, the choreography of the dance is also the means and method of the dance form, which not only embodies the expressive ability of dance, but also highlights the way of thinking of dance as the main body. For example, in the selected section of the work *Playing Gong and Filling Pot* and *Wild Chrysanthemum*, it shows the change of emotion, and perfectly displays the inner emotion through events and related contents. Therefore, in the process of creating dance works, we also need to talk about these contents and make a certain montage combination to become a feasible dance segment. Then according to the needs of the work through music, service and other related elements to shape the character image. This requires dance choreographers to create works, dance creation also needs to be

based on the emotional corresponding to see, highlight the characteristics of dance works. At the same time, the connection of dance also needs to link smoothly, pay attention to the plot and dance movements and emotional conflict expression, grasp the rhythm; also need to reflect the beauty of dance art; to better dance theme performance and their style characteristics of expression.

#### 4. Conclusion

Hunan Flower Drum Opera has been popular and widely spread because of its unique characteristics and the use of dance elements. However, the current popular elements wiled spreading makes the inheritance and innovative development of Flower Drum Opera are very urgent, some subjective and objective factors of the current development can be focused, and certain innovative thinking on the dance itself also can be concerned. While analyzing the dance elements and characteristics of Flower Drum Opera, we also need to think and organize these contents. We can also integrate these elements into modern dance. Flower Drum dance can be well performed through the script and character settings. The innovative development of Flower Drum dance needs to maintain its inheritance and development, also promote the sustainable development of Flower Drum dance through its innovation and more audience expansion.

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