

A NIGHT OF STORYTELLING

Reviving the Traditions of Classic Chinese Storytelling through Modern Interpretations



EVENT SUMMARY

A Night of Storytelling is dedicated to the preservation of the unique tradition of Chinese storytelling, striving to not only educate but to present the topic in an entertaining manner. This event will take place the week of Chinese New Year in 2007 in the city of San Francisco, California.

This event will feature several storytellers of the Chinese tradition performing pieces inspired by the classics of Chinese storytelling. The performances will be presented in a mixed English and Mandarin language format so that the audience can comprehend the stories without loss to the energy and style of the traditional storytelling experience.

STORYTELLING HISTORY

Chinese storytelling is an artform that has been in existence for nearly three thousand years and combines the practice of performance art with aspects of Chinese religion and folklore. The earliest storytellers in China were everyday citizens that used stories as a form of entertainment or Buddhist monks using colorful stories to spread the ideals of Buddhist doctrines. Over time storytelling became a respected profession, with professional performers hired to entertain at parties and other social events.

These stories were not only fascinating to listen to but also designed to instill the audience with the moral ideals and values of Chinese culture, whether they be a social, religious, or even political. Filial piety, respecting the government, the importance of having a good marriage, and being a good person are common themes often found in these stories.

EVENT GOALS

The tradition of Chinese storytelling is a slowly disappearing artform. Aside its decline due to the many different forms of popular entertainment, the current government in China is slowly reinterpreting many of the classic Chinese stories to strengthen their own political ideals.

Thus it is more important than ever before to insure the preservation this tradition. This event wishes to present Chinese storytelling the way it is intended: to instill the masses with the moral values of the people rather than the ideals of a political regime. While the actual values themselves will differ than those presented in the stories created hundreds of years ago, the purpose of spreading these values through the use of storytelling will remain the same.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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