

A Brief Discussion on the Application of Fans in Chinese Classical Dance

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ABSTRACT

Fan is one of the commonly used props in Chinese classical dance. The coordination and cooperation of technical techniques such as opening, closing, shaking, and rotating fans with movements not only enriches the vocabulary of movements, but also extends arm movements and expands the expressive tension of movements. The use of fans in works can enhance the shaping of character images, have a positive effect on expressing emotions, and improve the expressive power of works. The perfect combination of fan culture and Chinese classical dance highlights the cultural connotation of dance and makes it one of the cultural symbols of Chinese classical dance.

KEYWORDS

Chinese classical dance; Fans; Dance props

1 Introduction

Fan culture is an important culture with Chinese ethnic characteristics. Fans, as a cultural carrier, are often used in dance to give certain emotions and thoughts, thereby enhancing the connotation and ornamental value of works, and becoming an iconic prop in classical dance. This article takes the dance "Ruyan" as an example and uses the use of fans as a starting point to analyze the application of fans in Chinese classical dance. This article analyzes and elaborates on the types of fans in Chinese classical dance and their cultural background, and specifically analyzes the use of fans in the play "Ruyan" from the perspectives of action, emotion, and character shaping. Elaborated on the role of fan culture in expressing the aesthetic consciousness and national characteristics of Chinese classical dance. The use of fans in classical dance not only makes it a cultural symbol of classical dance, but also plays an important role in enhancing the expressive and ornamental value of works.

2 Decoding the Cultural Genes of Fan Props

Fans are one of the commonly used props in classical Chinese dance. According to the production materials, there are mainly paper fans, bamboo fans, feather fans, silk fans, etc. They play an important role in shaping the character image of the work and creating a dance atmosphere. For example, fans are often used for elderly women in daily life, so when fans are applied to dance works, the characters they create are often matchmakers, elderly women, and other roles. Due to its light and elegant nature, silk fans can create a light and soothing dance atmosphere when used in dance. For example, in the dance "Ruyan", silk fans are selected as dance props, and the light and elegant characteristics of silk fans are used to create a relaxed and comfortable dance atmosphere, highlighting the open-minded and peaceful inner state of the characters.

According to the shape of fans, there are mainly folding fans, round fans, square fans, etc., which also have different effects on shaping dance images. In Chinese classical dance, when shaping the characters of ancient palace maids, round fans are often used, which are more in line with the historical background of the characters. This is because the character images are determined by the characteristics of the times, and the use of round fans can more intuitively reflect the historical background of the characters. Folding fan is the most commonly used prop in classical Chinese dance, and the silk fan used in the dance "Ruyan" is also a folding fan. Through various technical techniques such as opening and closing the folding fan, it helps dancers express the psychological activities and emotional changes of characters.

Fans have a long history of development and have carried a profound cultural heritage. Fan culture has also become a cultural symbol of the Chinese nation. In the performance of Chinese classical dance, fans are often used, forming different characteristics in different periods.

During the Western Han Dynasty, fans were called "palace fans" and symbolized power in the palace, so fans were often seen in palace dances. After the Yuan Dynasty, traditional Chinese opera and dance fully took shape, and fans were also used to express the status and emotional state of characters. These are the early stages of fan application. In the 1950s, after the establishment of classical Chinese dance, a large number of works emerged. Fans of different shapes and materials such as silk fans, ball fans, and paper fans were used in dance to shape character images and express character emotions. The dance "Ruyan" uses skillful performance techniques such as opening, closing, rotating, and shaking silk

fans to create a light and elegant dance charm, expressing the theme of human beings maintaining inner peace and openness in the face of life, and conveying a relaxed and peaceful attitude towards life to the audience.

3 Expansion of Body Language for Fan Props

After the application of fans in classical dance, they form a carrier of expression with dancers and coordinate with movements, thus forming a complete vocabulary of movements. So, the coordination and cooperation between fans and movements not only extends the lines of body movements, but also expands the space of the body, enriches the vocabulary of body movements, and fans are both props and part of body movements. They have a way of movement that is unified with or in contact with the body. Taking the Chinese classical dance "Ruyan" as an example, it fully utilizes the slender characteristics of fan silk. In the process of coordinating and cooperating with movements, it seems to become the dancer's arm, greatly extending the lines of the arm, enhancing the sense of extension of the movements, and enriching the forms of expression of the movements. Moreover, the skillful techniques of shaking, turning, opening, and closing the silk fan enhance the expressive form of the dance "Ruyan" and reflect the technical difficulty of the work. For example, during the performance, the combination of opening, closing, and rotating the fan not only enhances the technical difficulty of the movements, but also improves the ornamental value of the movements. The coordination and cooperation between these techniques and movements enrich the changing routes of the movements, increasing the amplitude and intensity of the movements. When these fan techniques are combined with techniques such as turning, flipping, jumping, etc., the dance performance becomes more diverse and exciting, and the movement route is smoother and more natural, thus highlighting the texture of the movements.

Dance conveys emotions through the actions of actors, and every subtle movement is imbued with profound emotions. Every breath and every gaze is filled with the emotions and inner activities of the characters. When dance props are used in a work, they are no longer individual entities, but become a part of the work along with movements, expressions, breathing, etc., possessing the function of conveying emotions and meanings. The silk fan in the dance "Ruyan" is an important carrier for expressing the emotions of the characters and the ideas of the work. The film 'Ruyan' aims to depict the comfort and ease of life, reflecting the open mindedness and calmness of the characters' inner state. The light and elegant characteristics of the silk fan have a significant advantage in expressing emotions in the work. During the shaking process of the silk fan, the slender fan silk slowly drifted away like wisps of green smoke, symbolizing the characters' inner thoughts and emotions, that is, to view the past world as if letting it drift away with the wind, thus expressing the characters' open-minded thoughts and emotions. Through the use of silk fans, 'Ruyan' presents the abstract emotional states of characters in a more three-dimensional and intuitive way, fully utilizing the function of silk fans as carriers of character emotional expression.

In any dance work, the actors' movements, costumes, props, music, and makeup are all designed to create more vivid and full character images. Therefore, in dance works, dance vocabulary, music, costumes, props, etc. are selected based on the characteristics of the characters, in order to strengthen their image and shape more vivid characters. Taking the work 'Smoke Like Smoke' as an example, the clothing is mainly white to highlight the elegance of the characters in the work; The movements are mainly light, slow, and gentle, in order to express the character's broad mindedness and calmness; And use silk fans to enhance the character's image. Firstly, the silk fan is characterized by its lightness and elegance, creating a graceful and peaceful atmosphere during the dancing process, which is consistent with the basic image of the characters being calm, relaxed, and open-minded. Secondly, through the swinging and swinging movements of the silk fan, a state of leisure is presented, which can enhance the character's image of being relaxed and happy; Finally, by utilizing the elements of the Chinese classical dance body rhyme, such as the movement of the upper body driven by the thrust and reliance, and with the coordination of the silk fan covering the surface, a leisurely living state is presented, enhancing the character's image characteristics.

4 Cultural Symbol Construction of Fan Imagery

Chinese classical dance is influenced by Confucianism and Taoism, and has a unique way of expressing emotions and expressions. The expression of emotions is more introverted, using a certain object to express a certain emotion or imply a certain spiritual pursuit. For example, people's longing for a happy life or the expression of inner emotions are all integrated into the object of attachment. As a material carrier for people to express their thoughts and emotions, fans are no longer just symbols of status and cooling tools, but a spiritual object infused with the author's feelings and emotions, condensing and embodying the emotions of the characters. In dance, props are used to shape character images and deepen the work's ideas, so props themselves are also endowed with certain thoughts and emotions. Therefore, during performance, props that give ideas and emotions will attract the audience's attention, and coupled with the special

performance style of props, greatly enhance the expressive power of dance. For example, in the work "Ruyan", the flat and leg sucking turns are surrounded by light and slender fan silk, forming a continuous circle of light gauze around the dancers, like a fairyland, deepening the carefree thinking in the work and strengthening the free and natural atmosphere in the dance. Moreover, during the dancer's turning process, the silk fan presents complex and intricate changes through techniques such as rotation, winding, and coiling, which enhances the expressive and ornamental value of the work.

In fact, there are many successful cases like this. For example, "Fan Dance Danqing" also uses a silk fan to turn the meaning of the silk fan into a paintbrush, expressing the mysteries of calligraphy through the dance of the silk fan. For example, in 'The Paper Fan Scholar', paper fans are used to reinforce the image of 'scholars', and in the performance, paper fans are used to depict the play between scholars and the scene of reading, enhancing the ornamental value of the work.

Fans are an important carrier of Chinese culture, and Chinese classical dance is an art based on traditional Chinese aesthetics. Therefore, when fans are applied to Chinese classical dance, their cultural connotations also permeate into the dance and have a significant impact on its style. The combination of fan culture and dance has made fans an important cultural symbol of Chinese classical dance, indicating that Chinese classical dance contains traditional aesthetic concepts and consciousness.

The formation of fan culture is attributed to the love of literati and poets. Most literati and poets enjoy a leisurely and comfortable life, pursue spiritual satisfaction, and transform these mental states into poetry, which is inscribed on the fan surface. Therefore, fans have become a symbol of their identity. The dance "Ruyan" incorporates the carefree thoughts of the Chinese Taoist school into the dance, expressing the characters' inner peace and carefree thoughts, which are extremely similar to the thoughts of literati and poets. Therefore, after the use of fans in "Ruyan", they integrated with the work's ideas, deepened the cultural meaning of the work, strengthened the expression of this theme, and reflected the profound significance of fans as cultural symbols of Chinese classical dance.

5 Conclusion

As a carrier of national culture, fans have played a positive role in shaping characters and expressing themes in Chinese classical dance, enhancing the aesthetic and artistic value of classical dance. Fans have their own unique artistic characteristics and expressive techniques in the application of classical Chinese dance. The specific changes play an important role in enriching the structure of the works, which is also a direction worth further exploring in this article. However, fans have been endowed with too many emotions in dance applications and have become a special way of expressing emotions.

About the Author

Shichun Qin, male, born in October 1996, is from Liaoyuan City, Jilin Province. He is currently a teaching assistant at Zhejiang Yuexiu Foreign Language Institute, mainly engaged in teaching and research in the field of dance choreography.

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