

The Current Situation, Problems, and Future of the Development of Chinese Classical Dance

Zhiguo Wu

School of Art, Zhejiang Yuexiu University, Shaoxing Zhejiang 312000, China

ABSTRACT

Chinese classical dance, as a resplendent gem of Chinese culture, boasts rich historical heritage and unique artistic allure. However, under the dual impacts of modernization and globalization, its inheritance and development have encountered unprecedented challenges and dilemmas. This article delves into the current development status of Chinese classical dance, meticulously examining the issues it faces in areas such as inheritance and innovation, education and talent, market and internationalization. On this basis, the article actively looks forward to the future development direction of Chinese classical dance, and proposes targeted strategies and suggestions, aiming to provide solid theoretical support and practical guidance for the sustained prosperity of Chinese classical dance, and help it shine more brilliantly in the world of dance art.

KEYWORDS

Chinese classical dance; Cultural inheritance; Innovative development

1 Introduction

Chinese classical dance, as a dazzling artistic treasure in the long history of the Chinese nation, has undergone thousands of years of precipitation and baptism, and has established a profound and unique dance art system. It is not only an indispensable essence of traditional Chinese culture, but also a shining pearl in the world's dance art treasure house. With its unique rhythmic beauty, profound artistic conception and refined techniques, it has won wide acclaim from audiences at home and abroad. However, with the rolling forward of the times and the rapid development and changes of society, Chinese classical dance has brought unprecedented opportunities and challenges. In the wave of globalization and modernization, how to integrate modern aesthetic elements into the traditional culture while preserving its original charm and characteristics, and achieve a harmonious coexistence of tradition and innovation has become a major issue facing us. Currently, Chinese classical dance is in a critical period of transformation. On the one hand, it needs to constantly explore new expression methods and creative techniques while retaining its original charm and characteristics. On the other hand, it needs to actively respond to changes in market demand, expand the audience base of dance, and promote its internationalization process. This article aims to conduct a comprehensive and multi-level in-depth analysis of the current development status of Chinese classical dance from multiple dimensions such as cultural heritage, artistic innovation, education popularization, and market expansion. By reviewing its development history and summarizing successful experiences, we will try to propose a series of practical solutions to point out the direction for the future development of Chinese classical dance. At the same time, we will also look forward to its broad development prospects. We believe that with the joint efforts

of all dance workers, Chinese classical dance will be able to shine more brilliantly in the new era and continue to shine on the world dance art stage.

2 The Current Development of Chinese classical dance

2.1 Inheritance and Innovation of Dance Art

The origins of Chinese classical dance can be traced back to ancient Chinese court dances, which were an important tool for rulers to enjoy themselves and praise their achievements. These dances were mainly performed by female musicians. From the Zhou Dynasty onwards, through the Han, Jin, and Tang dynasties, specialized music and dance institutions were established in the imperial court to centralize and cultivate professional musicians and dancers. They also sorted out, studied, processed, and developed popular folk dances, religious dances, and even foreign dances, forming court dances. For example, the "Six Dynasties Dance" (including "Yunmen", "Xianchi", "Da Shao", "Da Xia", "Da Bo", and "Da Wu") of the Zhou Dynasty, and the "Nine Music", "Ten Music", "Sitting Music", "Music Music", and "Da Qu" of the Tang Dynasty are all representative of court dances at that time. In addition to court dances, the origins of Chinese classical dance can also be traced back to folk dances from even more distant times. These folk dances were refined, organized, processed, and created by professional workers over the ages, gradually forming dances with classical style characteristics^[1].

The name of this dance genre, Chinese classical dance, was first proposed by the Chinese opera artist Mr. Ouyang Yuqian in 1950. This name was later widely recognized by people in the dance industry and gradually became the official name of this dance genre. Contemporary Chinese classical dance was created by Tang Mancheng, Li Zhengyi and other dance workers from the Beijing Dance Academy after the founding of the People's Republic of China, based on Chinese opera dance and Chinese martial arts, and combined with foreign ballet. This creation process not only draws on the essence of traditional Chinese art, but also absorbs advanced elements of foreign dance, making Chinese classical dance not only inherit traditional characteristics, but also have characteristics of the times and innovative spirit.

With the help of modern technology, the innovation of Chinese classical dance has become broader. The application of digital technology has brought revolutionary changes to the way of dance creation and presentation, from the construction of virtual reality dance scenes to the recording and dissemination of high-definition images, which has brought unprecedented visual experience to the audience. However, while enjoying the convenience brought by technology, how to balance innovation and tradition, and ensure that the uniqueness and cultural connotation of Chinese classical dance are not diluted or forgotten, has become a problem that needs to be solved urgently. This requires dance creators to deeply explore the inherent spirit and aesthetic value of Chinese classical dance while pursuing novelty and uniqueness, and integrate it with modern aesthetic concepts to create dance works that are both contemporary and traditional.

2.2 Dance Education and Talent Cultivation

In recent years, with the popularization and development of dance education, more and more young people have begun to contact and learn Chinese classical dance. However, the uneven distribution of dance education resources and the shortage of teachers are still important issues facing the development of Chinese classical dance. Therefore, how to cultivate high-level and comprehensive dance talents is also one of the urgent problems to be solved. Dance education is an important way to inherit Chinese classical dance and a key link to cultivate excellent dance talents.

In recent years, with the increasing emphasis on art education by the state and the increasing demand for comprehensive quality training of children by parents, dance education has gradually become popular and penetrated into every corner of society. More and more young people have entered dance classrooms with the encouragement and guidance of their parents, and have begun to contact and learn Chinese classical dance. This not only injects new blood into the inheritance of Chinese classical dance, but also lays a solid foundation for the development of dance art.

However, the uneven distribution of dance education resources and the lack of qualified teachers remain important factors restricting the development of Chinese classical dance. In some economically underdeveloped areas, due to the lack of professional dance teachers and complete teaching facilities, children have difficulty obtaining high-quality dance education; while in some large cities or professional colleges, they face the problems of over-supply of students and fierce competition. In addition, how to cultivate dance talents with high level and comprehensive qualities is also one of the urgent problems to be solved. This requires dance education institutions not only to focus on students' professional skills training, but also to strengthen the cultivation of students' cultural literacy, artistic accomplishment, and psychological quality, and strive to cultivate dance talents who have both exquisite dance skills and broad vision and profound foundation^[2].

2.3 Expansion and Internationalization of the Dance Market

With the rapid development of the cultural industry and the deepening of globalization, the market demand for Chinese classical dance is growing and the process of internationalization is accelerating. On the one hand, domestic audiences' enthusiasm for Chinese classical dance continues to rise, and various dance performances, competitions, and exhibitions emerge in an endless stream, bringing unprecedented prosperity to the dance market. On the other hand, with the increasing frequency of international cultural exchanges, Chinese classical dance has begun to go abroad and move onto the world stage, receiving more and more attention and love from international friends.

However, in the process of market expansion and internationalization, Chinese classical dance is also facing many challenges. Firstly, how to create dance works with brand influence and market competitiveness. This requires dance creators and production teams to have keen market insight and innovative spirit, to accurately grasp market demand and audience preferences, and to create dance works that meet international standards and have Chinese characteristics. Secondly, how to promote the internationalization process of Chinese classical dance. This requires us to actively learn from international advanced dance art concepts and promotion models while maintaining our own cultural characteristics, strengthen cooperation and exchanges with foreign dance institutions, and jointly promote the dissemination and development of Chinese classical dance on the international stage.

In short, the development of Chinese classical dance is complex and changeable, full of opportunities and challenges. Only through continuous exploration and practice in many aspects such as inheritance and innovation, education and talent, market and internationalization can we promote the continuous development of Chinese classical dance and make this ancient and beautiful art form shine with more brilliant glory in the new era.

3 Problems in Chinese Classical Dance

3.1 The Conflict between Traditional Culture and Modern Aesthetics

In the wave of globalization and modernization, Western culture, like a force that cannot be

ignored, has had a profound impact on traditional Chinese culture. Chinese classical dance, as a treasure of Chinese culture, carries profound cultural heritage and historical memory in its traditional elements and forms of expression. However, in the face of rapid changes in modern aesthetic concepts, especially the pursuit of novel and avant-garde art forms by the younger generation of audiences, the traditional charm of Chinese classical dance seems to have encountered unprecedented challenges. Young audiences are unfamiliar with and even alienated by the complex costumes, rigorous routines, and subtle emotional expressions in classical dance, which directly leads to the gradual weakening of the attractiveness of classical dance in the market and the squeezing of market share.

Faced with this dilemma, the development of Chinese classical dance urgently needs to find a balance between traditional culture and modern aesthetics. This is not only a simple adjustment of external forms, but also a profound reflection and reconstruction of internal spirit and aesthetic concepts. On the one hand, we must adhere to the in-depth exploration and inheritance of traditional Chinese classical dance culture, preserving its unique charm and allure. On the other hand, we must also be brave enough to explore new paths that combine with modern aesthetics, and through innovative techniques and forms of expression, make classical dance more closely aligned with the aesthetic needs of modern audiences. For example, we can draw on elements such as the freedom and fluidity of modern dance and the exquisite delicacy of ballet, and integrate them with the traditional rhythms and body movements of Chinese classical dance to create dance works that are both contemporary and yet retain traditional charm.

3.2 Homogenization of Dance Creation and Performance

In the field of creation and performance of Chinese classical dance, the phenomenon of homogenization is becoming increasingly serious, which has become an important bottleneck restricting its development. Many works lack innovation and breakthroughs in content and form, falling into a vicious cycle of repetition and imitation. This homogenization not only makes the audience feel aesthetic fatigue, but also weakens the artistic appeal and market competitiveness of classical dance. How to break this dilemma and create dance works with unique charm and cultural connotation has become an urgent problem to be solved.

The key to solving this problem lies in stimulating the uniqueness and innovation of dance creators. Firstly, creators need to go deep into life, take root among the people, and draw inspiration and materials from rich social practices, so that their works can be more close to the times, life, and audiences. Secondly, creators should dare to break through traditional constraints and be brave to try new expression techniques and creative concepts, so that their works can achieve real innovation in form and content. At the same time, the dance community should also strengthen exchanges and cooperation to jointly promote the innovation and development of Chinese classical dance. By holding dance creation competitions, workshops, seminars and other activities, a platform for creators to showcase their talents and exchange ideas can be provided, which can stimulate the innovation vitality of the entire industry^[3].

3.3 The Lagging Behind of Dance Education and Talent Cultivation

The lagging problem of dance education and talent cultivation has long plagued the development of Chinese classical dance. On the one hand, the uneven distribution of dance education resources has led to children in some areas not being able to access quality dance education; on the other hand, the lack of teaching staff and the imperfect training system have also seriously affected the quality of dance talent cultivation. This lagging situation not only limits the

reserve and delivery of classical dance art talents, but also restricts the sustainable development of the entire industry.

To change this situation, we need to build a sound dance education and talent cultivation system from multiple aspects. Firstly, the government and all sectors of society should increase investment in dance education, optimize resource allocation, and ensure that every child can enjoy high-quality dance education. Secondly, we should strengthen the construction and management of dance teachers, improve their professional quality and teaching level. Through setting up special funds and holding teacher training courses, we can provide more learning and exchange opportunities for dance teachers. At the same time, we should establish a sound training system and incentive mechanism to encourage more young people to join the dance education cause. In addition, we should also strengthen exchanges and cooperation with international dance education institutions, introduce advanced educational concepts and teaching methods, and improve the overall level of dance education in China.

In summary, Chinese classical dance is facing multiple problems in its development process, such as the conflict between traditional culture and modern aesthetics, the homogenization of dance creation and performance, and the lagging behind of dance education and talent cultivation. To solve these problems, we need to explore and practice from multiple aspects. Only by constantly innovating, making bold breakthroughs, and strengthening exchanges and cooperation can Chinese classical dance shine brighter in the new era^[4].

4 The Future of Chinese Classical Dance

4.1 Strengthen the Inheritance and Innovation of Traditional Culture

As an important part of the traditional culture of the Chinese nation, Chinese classical dance carries a thousand years of historical precipitation and aesthetic pursuit. Its future is not only related to the prosperity and development of dance art, but also closely related to the inheritance and innovation of traditional culture. In the wave of globalization and modernization, Chinese classical dance is facing unprecedented opportunities and challenges. How to maintain its unique charm, integrate the spirit of the times, and realize the creative transformation and innovative development of traditional culture is a topic that every dancer and cultural inheritor need to ponder.

First of all, the future of Chinese classical dance must adhere to the roots of tradition. This means that we should deeply explore the historical origin of Chinese classical dance, draw nutrition from ancient palace dance, folk dance and Opera Dance, and retain its unique charm, techniques and aesthetic concepts. Through systematic learning and inheritance, Chinese classical dance will become a bridge connecting the past and the future, so that the audience can feel the profound and unique charm of Chinese culture while enjoying the dance. However, sticking to the tradition does not mean standing still. On the basis of inheritance, Chinese classical dance needs to be bold in innovation and realize the modern transformation of traditional culture. This requires dancers to have an open mind and keen insight, be able to capture the pulse of the times and social changes, and integrate modern aesthetic concepts, scientific and technological means and international dance elements into the creation and performance of Chinese classical dance. Through cross-border integration and cross-border cooperation, we will break the boundaries between tradition and modernity, create dance works with both classical charm and modern aesthetic needs, and make Chinese classical dance glow with new vitality and vigor on the international stage.

At the same time, the inheritance and innovation of Chinese classical dance also need to pay attention to education and popularization. As an important way of cultural inheritance, dance education should strengthen the teaching and research of Chinese classical dance, and cultivate

more dance talents with profound cultural heritage and superb skills. In addition, we should also hold dance competitions, performances, lectures and other forms to improve the public's awareness and participation of Chinese classical dance, so that more people can understand and love this traditional art form. Finally, the future of Chinese classical dance needs to strengthen international exchanges and cooperation. In the era of globalization, the increasingly frequent cultural exchanges between countries have provided a broad stage for Chinese classical dance to go to the world. By participating in international dance festivals, art festivals and other activities and exchanging ideas with dance artists from all over the world, we can not only broaden the international vision of Chinese classical dance, but also promote mutual understanding and respect between different cultures, and contribute to the strength of Chinese dance in building a community with a shared future for mankind^[5].

4.2 Promote the Reform and Development of Dance Education and Talent Training

As a treasure of Chinese culture, the unique artistic charm and profound cultural heritage of Chinese classical dance provide rich resources and inspiration for the reform and development of dance education and talent training. In order to better inherit and develop Chinese classical dance, we must promote the innovation and improvement of dance education system, and pay attention to the comprehensiveness and professionalism of talent training.

In the aspect of dance education, we should strengthen the teaching of basic theories and techniques of Chinese classical dance to ensure that students master solid basic dance skills and profound cultural heritage. At the same time, it integrates the concept of modern dance education, pays attention to cultivating students' innovative thinking and practical ability, and encourages them to explore and try on the basis of respecting the tradition, so as to inject new vitality into Chinese classical dance. In addition, we should also strengthen the training and communication of dance teachers, improve the overall quality and teaching level of teachers, and provide a strong guarantee for the high-quality development of dance education.

In terms of talent training, we should establish a diversified talent training mode, and pay attention to teaching students in accordance with their aptitude and personalized development. According to the characteristics and needs of different students, formulate personalized training programs, and fully tap their potential and advantages. At the same time, we will strengthen cooperation and exchanges with dance colleges and art groups at home and abroad, provide students with broader stage and practice opportunities, and help them accumulate rich stage experience and networking resources. In addition, we should also pay attention to the cultivation of students' comprehensive quality and humanistic quality, so that they can become compound talents with both profound dance skills and broad knowledge and vision. In short, Chinese classical dance is an important force to promote the reform and development of dance education and talent training. By strengthening the innovation and improvement of the dance education system and paying attention to the comprehensiveness and professionalism of talent training, we can cultivate more excellent dance talents for the inheritance and development of Chinese classical dance and contribute more to the prosperity and development of Chinese culture^[6].

4.3 Expanding Dance Market and Promoting Internationalization

In the context of globalization, expanding the dance market and promoting the internationalization of Chinese classical dance are key to enhancing its international influence and promoting cultural exchange and integration. Firstly, it is necessary to actively build diversified marketing strategies, using emerging channels such as digital media and social platforms to

broaden the dissemination path of Chinese classical dance. By producing high-quality video content, live performances, online teaching, and other methods, we can attract the attention of global audiences and stimulate their interest and love for this unique art form.

At the same time, we should strengthen cooperation with international dance institutions, art festivals, competitions, etc., participate in international cultural exchange projects, and provide more platforms for Chinese classical dance to showcase and exchange. By holding international dance festivals, workshops, master classes, and other activities, we should invite internationally renowned dancers and scholars to participate, promote in-depth dialogue and integration of Chinese and foreign dance art, and enhance the popularity and influence of Chinese classical dance on the international stage. In addition, promoting the internationalization process of Chinese classical dance also requires attention to cross-cultural communication and innovation. On the basis of maintaining its traditional essence, we should explore the integration of different cultural elements and create dance works with universal language and universal value. Such works can not only cross cultural boundaries and attract a wider audience, but also inject new vitality and creativity into Chinese classical dance, promoting its sustainable development and innovation^[7].

5 Conclusions

Chinese classical dance, a treasure deeply rooted in the fertile soil of China and shining on the top of the world dance art, its development process is a vivid portrayal of the intertwined collision between traditional culture and modern civilization. On the balance of inheritance and innovation, Chinese classical dance not only carries a heavy historical memory, but also constantly explores new ways to resonate with the times. Faced with the dual challenges of inheritance and innovation, as well as many difficulties in the market and education, Chinese classical dance shows its tenacious vitality and endless creativity^[8].

We know that only by adhering to the essence of traditional culture and continuous innovation can Chinese classical dance glow with new vitality and vigor in modern society. Therefore, strengthening the inheritance and innovation of traditional culture is not only the respect for history, but also the expectation for the future. Through in-depth excavation and arrangement of traditional dance resources, combined with modern aesthetic concepts and technical means for re creation, Chinese classical dance will continue to produce excellent works with both profound cultural heritage and modern aesthetic needs. At the same time, the reform and development of dance education and talent training is also the key to promote the sustainable prosperity of Chinese classical dance. Through the implementation of measures such as optimizing the allocation of educational resources, strengthening the construction of teaching staff, improving the training system and incentive mechanism, we will provide more young people with the opportunity to contact and learn Chinese classical dance, and cultivate more excellent dancers with international vision and innovation ability. Finally, expanding the dance market and promoting the internationalization process will bring broader development space for Chinese classical dance. Through the implementation of measures such as strengthening marketing and brand promotion, and actively participating in international exchanges and cooperation, Chinese classical dance will gradually enter the world stage and receive more attention and recognition. This is not only an affirmation of the artistic value of Chinese classical dance, but also an important embodiment of the improvement of the soft power of Chinese culture. To sum up, we have every reason to believe that with the joint efforts of all dancers and all sectors of society, the future of Chinese classical dance will be brighter and better. It will continue to shine in the hall of world dance art with its unique artistic charm and profound cultural heritage, and become a cultural bridge connecting the past

and the future, and connecting China and the world.

About the Author

Zhiguo Wu , Professor, Research direction: Art Education and Cultural Communication.

References

- [1] Li Y. The development direction and innovation path of Chinese classical dance in contemporary society[J]. Art Research, 2024, 1: 113-115.
- [2] LI S M. Development of contemporary Chinese classical dance and cultural value[J]. The House of Drama, 2023, 24: 133-135.
- [3] OU Y Y. The status quo and development of Chinese classical dance works[J]. Art Panorama, 2021, 4: 99-101.
- [4] LI Y Y. Research on the contemporary development of Chinese classical dance drama performance[D]. Jinan: Shandong University, 2019.
- [5] GUO C M. From the perspective of the beauty of yin and yang in traditional Chinese culture, focusing on the current development of Chinese classical dance[J]. Journal of Shenyang Conservatory of Music, 2016, 34(2): 148-150.
- [6] WANG J J. Knowing the "roundness" and knowing the reason for its "roundness" - cultural retrospection of the aesthetic features of Chinese classical dance "roundness"[D]. Beijing: Beijing Dance Academy, 2015.
- [7] ZENG X L. Reflections on the current situation and future development of Chinese classical dance creation: taking the "taoli cup" dance competition as a case study[J]. Song Sea, 2010, 6: 88-89, 93.
- [8] QIU X L. A micro-exploration into the "initial emergence" of the body charm in Chinese classical dance[J]. Popular Literature and Art, 2014, 11: 187-188.