



TRU Life

UNBORN HITS THEATERS

Complex plot and cliché acting leads to poor review

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Design by Design Staff/Index

THE OX REIGNS SUPREME

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff Reporter

The year of the ox has lumbered in and the Society for Sino-American Studies hosted a beast of a celebration for it.

The Society for Sino-American Studies organized a dinner of traditional food, performances and games at King's Buffet Jan. 26, the first day of the Chinese New Year.

The New Year is based on the xia, or lunar calendar. In the agricultural society of ancient China, the traditional celebration would last an entire month — which, according to the lunar calendar, is 15 days.

Professor of history Huping Ling said there are several legends surrounding the celebration of the New Year. In one of them, a monster named Nian lives in a cave until the end of the year when he comes out of his cave, scaring and killing all in his path. Nian was afraid of loud noises, fire and bright lights, so in order to scare Nian back to his cave the people would make a lot of noise and set off fire crackers. Today, they do this at the end of every year to make sure Nian stays away.

A traditional New Year celebration would last the entire month, because farmers had extra leisure time after the harvesting season was over. These days life has become more fast paced. China now celebrates a three-day national holiday, which, combined with the weekend, gives them about a week to get together with close friends and family, Ling said.

"In the U.S. the Chinese community holds the celebration in the weekend before or after the New Year because it's not a national holiday," Ling said. "In smaller towns like Kirksville we usually don't have very elaborate forms of celebration, just some smaller parties and gatherings."

Ling said she usually does not have time for any elaborate parties.

"I do try to make some special food," Ling

said. "Remind my children that it's the Chinese New Year, and in past years I have invited the Chinese families in this community to gather and have a potluck."

Junior Guang Zhao has been involved in the Society for Sino-American Studies for three years. She said the society has been hosting the Chinese New Year party since it started on campus in 2004. Zhao sang at the celebration in the past, but this year stayed behind the scenes, taking charge of ticket sales.

"Usually we have 100 seats and usually all the tickets sell out," Zhao said. "This year we raised it to 150."

King's Buffet has been hosting the celebration since it started. They provide the regular Chinese cuisine as well as some traditional New Year's dishes, like dumplings. Junior Helen Pham, president of the Society for Sino-American Studies, said the restaurant is welcoming and always very friendly and cooperative.

Both Pham and Zhao are no strangers to the New Year celebration. Along with participating every year at Truman, they said they also celebrate at home with their families.

"My favorite part is the red envelopes the children get stuffed with money, and I also like the little snack foods we get, like dried fruit," Pham said.

Zhao said it's usually a big reunion for her family.

"When I was in China we usually watched the celebration on TV, and we would do firecrackers after midnight and eat dumplings," Zhao said.

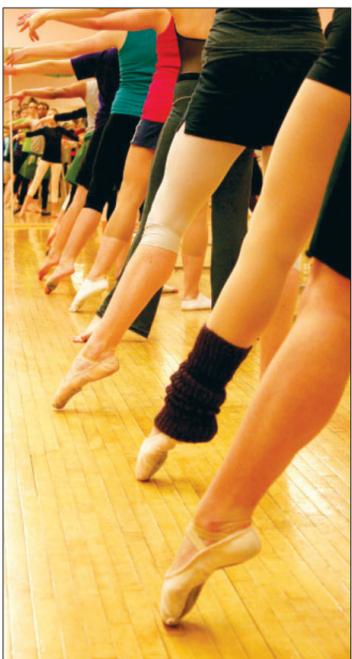
The party at King's Buffet boasted not only good food, but also about 10 different performances, which included traditional Chinese singing, dancing, instrumentals and storytelling. This year's story was about the ox, in honor of the year of the ox. Pham said she really enjoys being a part of the celebration every year.

"It's about unity and coming together to celebrate with friends and family," Pham said.



Krista Goodman/Index

The Society for Sino-American Studies has hosted a Chinese New Year at King's Buffet since 2004. The party includes Chinese dancing, singing, instrumentals and storytelling.



Amy Gleaves/Index

Hubbard Street 2 works with Truman dance groups during a workshop.

Lyceum group teaches dancers

BY JESSLYN TENHOUSE
Staff Reporter

Toes and lights twinkled Tuesday evening as Hubbard Street 2 performed for the first Lyceum event of the semester.

The magic began Monday when the professional dance group hosted a master class for interested dancers.

Melody Jennings, a Lyceum event committee member, said she appreciates the opportunity that Truman students receive by interacting with professional dancers.

"It will be an interesting class for our students, I think, to be exposed to new material and new ways to move their bodies and just see what life for the professionals is like," Jennings said.

She said this was not the first time Hubbard Street 2 came to Kirksville.

"They were well received the last time that we had them here, and it's nice to get really good dance to come in," Jennings said. "I always try to promote dance and to get some good dance groups in, so when we found out Hubbard Street was going to be in the area where we could get them to come and perform for our students and staff and faculty, we were really excited to get them back."

Junior Emily Heard, a member of the High Street dance team and The Society of

Dance Arts, said she enjoyed the opportunity to work with the young professionals, whose ages range from 17 to 25 years.

"[The teachers] really just give you a new perspective," Heard said. "It makes your brain kind of work a little more."

Heard, who came to Truman because of dance opportunities, said the master class was a prospect she could not overlook.

"It's a good way to take advantage of what's out there," she said.

Heard said master classes like the one Hubbard Street 2 provided usually cost a dancer anywhere from \$30 to \$150. The dancers attended Monday night's class for free.

Heard said master classes provide opportunities to hone and revisit skills forgotten over time.

"It's fun to have that technique kind of put back in you," Heard said.

Although Heard said she enjoyed the class, the performance was her favorite part of Hubbard Street 2's visit to Kirksville.

"That's always the most exciting part — getting to see them perform," Heard said.

Senior Michelle Gaasch, president of TSODA, said she was disappointed she could not attend the master class but that she looked forward to watching the group perform. Gaasch said she and other members naturally wanted to attend Hubbard Street 2's perfor-

mance because of its focus on dance. "In TSODA it seems like people are excited to go because we all have that interest [in dance]," Gaasch said. "We don't really have a lot of opportunities to see professional dancers in Kirksville."

Gaasch said she always tries to attend dance performances on campus.

"I think I have been to every Lyceum event that involves dance over the past four years," she said. "I think a lot of the dancers, especially, always try to go."

Hubbard Street 2 performed six pieces that combined an eclectic mix of dance influences including ballet, hip-hop and improvisation. The performance included company pieces as well as intimate duets. The group of seven is a derivative of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, a larger professional dance company.

Hubbard Street 2 members come from various hometowns throughout the United States. The group also boasts one international member from Chile.

Hubbard Street 2 frequently performs in the greater Chicago area but also tours throughout the U.S. and internationally. The group said it reaches more than 35,000 people a year through performances in various venues.

Around the Ville

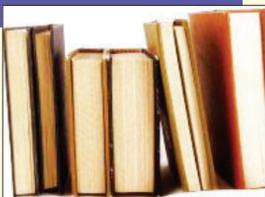
Jan. 29

7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Roger Craik

Introduced by Alexander Shurbanov, poet Roger Craik

University Club
Free



Jan. 31

8 p.m.

Concert

Artist Harper performs music mixing rock, blues, soul and world music.

Journal Printing Building
\$8



Feb. 1

3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

SuperBowl

Watch Super Bowl XLIII with free food and drinks.

SUB Hub
Free

