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## Original Research Article

# Analyze the Aesthetic of the Chinese Classical Dance Drama “Ai Lian Shuo”

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## ARTICLE INFO

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## ABSTRACT

This paper aims to analyze the aesthetic of Chinese classical dance drama “Ailian shuo”. This paper takes the classical dance drama “Ailian Shuo” as an example, gives an overview of its creation and performance, analyzes its style characteristics, and finally studies its aesthetic dissemination, hoping to provide reference for the innovation of classical dance, mainly through observation and literature analysis to analyze its aesthetic dissemination characteristics, “Ailian shuo” based on the prose of the same name, it is not only a prose that can make people have infinite reverie, it also provides a lot of inspiration for artistic creation. On the basis of the article “Ailian shuo”, the artist created the classical dance drama “Ailian shuo”, which shows the lotus described in the article in the form of artistic performance, which not only reflects the beauty of the lotus form, but also highlights the character beauty of the lotus flower, which is the spread and development of aesthetic culture and aesthetic spirit.

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## Introduction

Dance is a kind of traditional art in China, and the types are very rich, and classical dance is one of them. In the process of development, classical dance has borrowed many artistic elements, such as martial arts, opera, etc., and also refined the essence of ancient court dance and folk dance, and finally formed the current form. Classical dance after a long time development, and by absorbing a large number of culture and art essence, has now formed a unique aesthetic characteristics, and appeared a lot of new outstanding works, "Ailian shuo" is one of them, is a very representative of classical dance plays, it is in Zhou Dunyi "Ailian shuo" on the basis of the creation, by xiao-gang zhao playwright-director, Shao Junting performance, fully show the love lotus described in the lotus "the mud and not dye, zhuo clear ripple and not demon" noble quality, and dance from multiple aspects to the aesthetic spread.

## Objectives

This paper aims to analyze the aesthetic dissemination of Chinese classical dance drama Ailian Theory, summarize its creation and performance, analyze its style and characteristics, and finally study its aesthetic dissemination.

### Scope

#### Content scope

This paper summarizes the creation and performance of the classical dance drama Ai Lian theory, analyzes its style characteristics, and finally studies the aesthetic dissemination, hoping to provide reference for the innovation of classical dance and provide materials for the future creation and analysis of classical dance repertoire.

#### Population scope

In view of the research objectives of this study, the study objects are the directors of the Chinese classical dance drama Ailian Shuo and the actors in the classical dance performance, who participated in the research and compilation of this play, and guided the actors to perform excellent classical dance works.

#### Regional scope

The Beijing Dance Academy, Haidian District, Beijing, China

#### Time scope

From May 2023-2024.

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## Research Methodology

### 1. Observational method

Researchers are classical dance professional students, and in the work of students learned “love said”, through the analysis of professional classroom learning and teaching process, observe the students grasp the classroom, the research framework and the research content does, in the daily teaching and practice, the accumulation of research materials and data, focus on the classical dance “love said” details and performance methods, for the study of this paper accumulated sufficient practical material and theoretical support.

### 2. Literature analysis

The researchers checked based on the website (<https://www.baidu.com>) and other network resources for many aspects, the literature search and mobile phone. Read a large number of classical dance research literature, including academic journals, dissertations, books and other relevant written materials. The focus is to collect the creation, inheritance and innovative methods of this research, and to explore and build the knowledge framework.

## Research results

### Creation And Performance of The Classical Dance “Ailian Shuo”

The creation of the classical dance is inspired by an article that we are very familiar with, which is Zhou Dunyi’s “Ailian said”. I believe you are deeply impressed by the sentences describing the quality of lotus in the article. The dance shows the description of the quality of lotus in the article.

Lotus, I believe we all know, and it is very popular in Buddhism, the throne of the Buddha is the lotus throne. Zhou Dunyi is the founder of song dynasty neo-Confucianism thought, his thought is mainly advocating people through cultivation improve their mind, he is sincere, for the truth is very firm, under the guidance of this thought he created “love lotus said”, the article center idea is using lotus metaphor, through the description of the lotus and the silt without dye noble quality praise, showed himself not reputation, clean good attitude towards life, to the reader left infinite daydream.

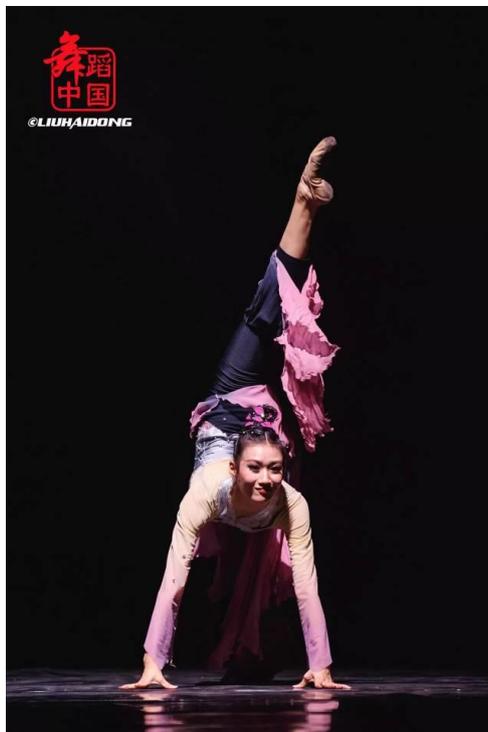
Many classical dance creators like to use traditional poetry as creative inspiration, “lotus said” is one of them, but the biggest difference and other classical dance is not according to poetry behavior, instead using freehand brushwork modelling technique will describe the article for the lotus personification, the image of the lotus to female performers, using classical dance vocabulary on the new display, let the audience enjoy the lotus beauty and good quality of female form. In classical dance “the lotus said” at the beginning and the end of the performers of the static picture is the lotus detached the secular beauty, the audience will see this part of the static beauty of the lotus, and the performance, coherent smooth, the classical dance with the action shows incisively and vividly, the whole performance process is full of rhythm, but also has soft feeling. The performers use their graceful body language to show the noble and tenacious qualities of lotus. It is precisely because of the poetic painting and the use of freehand brushwork, that the dance works can effectively spread the aesthetics and meet people’s high-level aesthetic pursuit. The reason why the classical dance of “Love Lian said” caused a strong response among the audience at the beginning of the performance and

showed the beauty of the end of its movements. In fact, the end is an aesthetic way of communication for the performers to extend their body movements through the waist, so as to expand the beauty of dance movements and enhance the aesthetic value. (Wang Xiwei. 2021: 103-104.)



**Figure 1:** Chinese classical dance “Ai Lianshuo”

Source: Baidu China 2020



**Figure 2:** Chinese classical dance “Ai Lianshuo”

Source: Baidu China 2020

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## **The style characteristics of the classical dance “Ailian shuo”**

### **Theme Image**

In the dance performance of “Love Lotus”, the performers need to put their bodies in a shape similar to the lotus, so that the audience can think of the lotus opening in the water when they see the performers, giving people a lifelike feeling. In addition, the dance creators also used the technique of borrowing personification, which is also the biggest feature of the dance work. The performers need to use their body movements to simulate the lotus flower and show the good quality of the lotus flower.

### **Action Style**

In addition to the characteristics of the theme image, the classical dance “Ailian Shuo” is also different from other classical dances in style in terms of movement. In the performance process, not only the dance body charm is fully reflected, but also the graceful posture of the performers is fully displayed. The dance creation uses not only the common techniques of expression, but also the classic dance movements. Classical dance in China in the process of long-term development learned a lot of the essence of dance culture, including not only the Chinese traditional dance culture, including western dance culture, coupled with the continuous reform of dance creators, which makes the expression of classical dance more has the typical, for people’s aesthetic needs can also better meet, which makes our classical dance contains the national culture connotation, has the advanced skill elements of art form. In the process of creation, the creator of Ailian Theory not only uses the classical dance expression method, but also makes full use of the body charm of the classical dance, so that the aesthetic value of the dance is enhanced and can more fully reflect the traditional aesthetic significance. (Li Shiyu. 2022: 100-102.)

### **Features Of Clothing And Decoration**

Chinese classical dance performance not only emphasizes the expression of the inner emotions of the characters, but also pays attention to the beauty of artistic conception and costumes. The performers should not only form a unity in the costume decoration style, but also pay attention to the combination with the characteristics of the dance form. Performance “love lotus said” actors need to wear elegant, loose clothes, head with lotus headdress, and their clothing color is close to the real lotus color, so they perform on the stage will give a person a kind of see true lotus, so more likely to cause the audience emotional resonance, more likely to bring the audience into the lotus world, let them produce poetic aesthetic feeling, which can more fully for aesthetic transmission.

### **The aesthetic of the classical dance drama, Ai Lian Shuo**

Use the limbs to show the beauty of lotus morphology

The classical dance of “Ailian Said” is created on the basis of ancient literary works. The dance not only has poetic painting, but also has a sense of beauty. In the process of creation, the creator uses personification techniques to use the female form to show the beauty of the

lotus flower, so as to arouse the emotional resonance of the audience. The aesthetic dissemination of this dance is also realized by using the performers' own body movements to express the lotus form, and the application of the performers is very important.

### **Application Of "Circle"**

When the performance of "Love Lian", the performers need to use the ends of the movements to show the growth process of the lotus, which not only uses the waist, but also the waist and waist. These waist movements need to take the round route, so as to show the state of flowing water and show the "round" art of dance. In the process of performance, the performers need to finger a specific form, to show the lotus bud, then adjust the finger form to say lotus growth, this process is not only to use the market wrist action, but also use the small wrist and point, also need to use the stage space, so that can show real lotus lush growth process. The dance performance process everywhere embodies the artistic characteristics of "circle", for example, in the process of performance, and use the cloud hand, etc., these movements need performers to make circular arc movement, the route changes reflect the art of the "circle", and this is the embodiment of the lotus beautiful image. In the dance performance, under the influence of the combination of the corresponding movements and the charm of the performers, both the form and the rhythm of the performers fully reflect the rhythm of the "circle". Chinese classical dance has always paid great attention to the embodiment of "circle", not only in the physical dancers can reflect the circle, but also constantly show "circle" in the movement performance. Therefore, it can be found that "circle" plays an important position in the process of Chinese classical dance performance and is an indispensable content in dance performance. (Wang Xiaoyu. 2019: 64-65.)

### **Application Of "Spin"**

When the performance of "Ailian Said", the performers' movements need to be relaxed and relaxed, through skill change and flip, so that the whole performance can look round and free. The performer needs to use a lot of rotating movements in the dance performance. The performers need to combine the movement with their own body charm, and show a smooth feeling of flowing water through the smooth performance of the lower body, so that the audience seems to see the lotus flower gently shaking in the wind, presenting a light and graceful beauty. In addition, in the process of performance, it is also necessary to make some difficult movements, such as turning legs, swinging the back, etc., these movements are produced on the basis of the flat turn action. When the dancers make rotating movements, they must pay attention not to give people a stiff and rigid feeling, but should achieve natural coherence, so that the audience can have the feeling of planting lotus flowers in the pavilion. For Chinese classical dance, rotation skill is a very important skill, which can not only be used as an independent means of expression, but also play a role in connecting various movement skills. At the same time, its use can also provide power for shaping the character image and provide help to create a good artistic conception. In the dance performance of Ailian Shuo, the use of rotation skills is not arbitrary, but has a certain pertinence, and the performers need to carry it throughout the dance performance as a part of the aesthetic dissemination. (Zang Lu. 2015: 298 + 182.)

### Reflect The Beauty Of Lotus Meaning From Multiple Angles

“Ai Lian Shuo” dance performance can attract the audience, and the beauty of the lotus implication, and the creator from multiple angles and dance movements also not open relations, which makes the whole dance performance become the lotus personification, artistic conception, rather than a single mechanical dance movement. For “Ai Lian Shuo” creators, need to dance action and literary works for effective fusion, but also the poetic into the dance movements, and with the aid of clothing, dance to enhance the dance implication, so that can better show the lotus image, make dance works aesthetic enhancement, not only can meet the audience’s cultural aesthetic needs, what can also be more effective spread.



**Figure 3:** Chinese classical dance “Ai Lianshuo”

**Source:** China Art Network 2021

### Display Of Poetic Images

The dance creation of “Ailian shuo” was inspired by the classical articles. Through the analysis of the spiritual connotation of the article, the dance action vocabulary embodies the spiritual connotation of the article, and achieves the poetry to run through it. The reason why the dance can be loved by people and its attention to freehand brushwork, the creator uses the freehand brushwork to show the noble quality of lotus, and the new interpretation of the description of lotus quality in the article. The Performers need to use the dance movements to show the noble and refined form of lotus and arouse the emotional resonance of the viewer.

Classical dance often contains profound meaning and beauty, and also contains strong spiritual connotation. These are the embodiment of dance images, which need to be reflected through dance language symbols, or through dance images. In the dance performance of “Ailian Shuo”, the beginning part and the end part are static shapes. The reason why this form is designed is to remind the audience of the graceful lotus form, and let the audience feel its noble quality that is not disturbed by the secular world. The beauty of artistic conception is

noble, but also pure and holy, and also the embodiment of the highest level of artistic beauty.

The dance of “Ailian Say” not only reflects the creators’ personal subjective thoughts and emotions, but also combines with the natural and objective artistic conception of life, thus forming a better musical aesthetic and artistic realm. The scene beauty of the dance performance has also been enhanced, and its aesthetic dissemination has also been assisted. The dance performance not only pays attention to the aesthetic ideal of the subject, but also pays great attention to the image situation, constructing an elegant, elegant and noble situation. (Han Citron. 2016 (37): 109-110.)



**Figure 4:** Chinese classical dance “Ai Lianshuo”

**Source:** China Art Network 2021

### **Clever Fusion of The Music**

The prelude to the classical dance “Ailian Shuo” uses “Shenyu-Xishi washing silk”, an erhu ensemble music mainly played by Seinfeld Chi, and more than a dozen performers. This piece of music is composed of four paragraphs, the whole sound gives people a sense of babbling water, feeling the melody can make people imagine the young woman, the music creates a melancholy atmosphere, and provides a great promotion for the emotional construction. In music, the first using the guzheng and harp joint, the artistic conception of beauty and create the atmosphere for the audience seem to see a lotus quietly standing in the water, it is not completely open, after music melody rhythm changes, the movements of the performers also changed, the audience seems to see standing lotus blossom slowly. In the second part of the music, the pipa and erhu are played together, followed by the increase of the performers, the audience seems to feel the purity and beauty of the lotus. In the third part of the performance, the tone of the music increases, and the rhythm of the music becomes more and more intense, the audience seems to see the strong standing of the lotus. On the whole, the prelude of

“Ailian Shuo” has a strong emotional impact, which is not only in line with the refined and noble character of lotus, but also consistent with the theme of dance. During the performance of “Love Lian said”, the performers danced with the melodious music, just like a lotus standing quietly in the bright moonlight, it stood tall and exudes a faint fragrance, it attracted the eyes of all people. In the process of performance, the sound of the musical instrument and the movements of the performers are well integrated together, effectively carrying out aesthetic dissemination.

### **The Ornament of Dance Costumes**

In dance performance, the role of clothing cannot be ignored, and can even play the role of finishing point. For example, the appropriate dress color can increase the expression of dance performance. “Love lotus said” dance performers wear clothing color and lotus, clothing shape and similar lotus shape, which increased the artistry of the dance, but also the Chinese painting implication is very good into among them, more fully embodies the original article want to express the lotus noble quality, but also increased the literary significance of dance. During the dance performance, the costumes similar to the color and shape of the lotus flower can make the audience think of the lotus flower standing quietly in the water, and can create an elegant atmosphere on the stage. And some dancers clothing will use irregular arrangement technique on lotus design, at the same time will also in the clothing neckline position use flounces as ornament, sleeve and trousers will also use flounces, so that you can better cooperate with dance performance, prompting dance performance enhanced aesthetic effect and aesthetic propagation.

### **Highlight The Aesthetic Spirit of Lotus Character**

The word “lotus” and the word “Lian” have the same pronunciation, so the ancients often used lotus to describe a gentleman. Moreover, many Buddhist classics also mention that lotus has the good quality of not being polluted, keeping clean, soft but tough. By describing the noble image of the lotus, it praises the noble character of the lotus out of the mud. Although the whole article does not have too many words, the whole article fully embodies the author’s aesthetic thought and neo-Confucianism concept. For Zhou Dunyi, a Neo-Confucianism, the beauty of Neo-Confucianism is the dominant part of his aesthetic thoughts, while the natural beauty is the external embodiment of his aesthetic thoughts. The analysis of the theme of the article “Ailian Shuo” can find that personality beauty is the essence of the theme of the article. The author uses a lotus to express himself. In his writing, he not only uses the science of life science, but also uses the social aesthetic concept, and the ultimate goal is to praise the lotus. By the article extends to “love lotus said” dance can be found, dance creators using female image shows the lotus image, the dance creation using the anthropomorphic expression, but also using the freehand brushwork technique, which makes the aesthetic works of dance enhanced, performers need to use their own body movements to show the lotus good quality and works of inner affection, make it can dance for lotus, convey the lotus quality. With the help of the dance movements, the dance shows the lotus flower the good quality of “the world is muddy and I am clear, the world is drunk and I wake up alone”, and shows the noble image of the lotus and the indifferent attitude of the world. Through the help of dance movements to show the quality of lotus externally, not only reflects

the connotation of lotus culture, but also spread the good spiritual quality. The dance not only has the classical dance culture aesthetic value, also use the traditional culture idea, through the combination of the two, let the dance can better inheriting Chinese dance culture characteristics, at the same time to further develop the traditional dance art form, which can contain the aesthetic spirit better passed to the audience, can better infection audience, this is the dance can be one of the important reasons of the audience. Dance works want to be handed down, want to endure spread must pay attention to the national spirit, but also need to have cultural virtue, "love lotus said" dance can have widely spread, and the use of Chinese female image to interpret the lotus culture character, and it also spread the Chinese aesthetic connotation, national spirit is also integrated into it. (Kang Qi. 2022: 186-188.)

## **Conclusion**

The biggest difference between classical dance and other classical dance is that it not only contains the classical beauty, but also adopts a novel way of expression, which well meets people's aesthetic needs. Many classic dance works pay great attention to the pursuit of freehand brushwork, which reflects the positive spirit, which is also the main reason why these works can become classics. The success of dance works is not only because of their aesthetic nature, but also because of their used creative techniques and ideas for good aesthetic dissemination. Chinese classical dance works are produced by the creators on the basis of a large number of traditional dance works, which is not only full of the creator's personal style, but also contains a strong national background. Chinese classical dance is a form of dance, is a rich charm of art form, but also the important carrier of national traditional culture, national spirit, in the new era of globalization, Chinese classical dance creators need to aesthetic dissemination and aesthetic requirements of contemporary people, using dance performances to spread the aesthetic spirit of Chinese traditional art.

## **Discussion**

Art creation is always moving forward. The development of culture and art is not invariable, it presents different historical significance with the continuous development of The Times. In practice, colleges and universities should fully understand the importance of Chinese classical dance, and take effective measures to continuously improve Chinese classical dance while upholding innovation and exploration and seeking new ways. The gradual development of the students' skills can increase the range of the movements, make the dance movements lighter and smoother, increase the beauty of the dance movements, and greatly improve the students' ability to express the Chinese classical dance. The pursuit of diversified development in modern society requires us to move forward and innovate constantly towards art, and encourage art performance and creation to combine history, integrate the characteristics of The Times, and create a socialist culture with Chinese characteristics. The former is not difficult to achieve, and each culture has its own essence, and the latter needs the precipitation of cultural history and careful consideration.

Although China advocates the integration of classical culture and modern culture, it is based on the national culture. Therefore, the positioning of the performance and creation of art works is the key to promote the classical culture. First of all, the dance type and expression form of Chinese classical dance repertoire are defined, the connection with aesthetic effect and

national characteristics is retained, and the main link of artistic dance positioning is realized. Secondly, the origin and historical significance of Chinese classical dance are clarified, and it is presented and modified as the cultural background of the creation and performance of classical dance repertoire. At the same time to retain its unique characteristics, it is our contemporary dance creators and performers should study and analyze more.

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