

National Is International **-- A Review of ACDFFA World Dance Concert**

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Sponsored by American College Dance Festival, World Dance Concert was presented in Wisconsin Union Theater on March 14, 2003, featuring Chinese, Native American, Javanese and African dance. The rich culture, history and characteristics of different nations reflected by the choreography, costume, and props make the concert a wonderful experience. Rooted in more than 5,000 years of history of a vast country, Chinese folk dances and classic dances are characterized by their elegance, implicitness, aesthetics, variety, and refined costumes. The dancers demonstrated stunning techniques in turns, jumps and martial art (For example, the *Warrior Dance* and the *Martial Art Dance*). Inspired by Korean healing ritual, Peggy Choy held and manipulated in her contemporary piece *Seung Hwa* a white cloth in a slow fashion, yet full of great energy and passion. Such effects resulted from Choy's mastering of body connection --Even a nuance movement of her fingers was resonated by her shoulder blade and chest. She vividly created an art figure -- the shaman who cleanses her community of illness, misfortune and negative energies. In contrast with eastern dances, Jessica Gaspar's Puerto Rican folk dance *Bombazo* and Edi Gbordzi's African dance *Aseye* are more free and explicit in expressing emotions. With exaggerated movements of their shoulders, upper bodies and hips, dancing to the rhythm of passionate percussion music, the dancers emanated a strong spirit of freedom and happiness. The world dance concert evidenced the strength of dance as a powerful communication tool without boundary of countries, cultures and languages.