

Chinese Cultural Night In Westwood



Dance Revelasian brings Fragrant Magnolia, a dance from the Dai minority featuring young maidens as they celebrate the beauty of Magnolia flowers. (Paul Goldberg/Hometown Weekly)

BY JAMES MAIMONIS

• Wed, May 15, 2013

Last Saturday, the Westwood Chinese Culture Association hosted its 6th Annual Westwood Chinese Cultural Night in the Westwood High School Auditorium.

The event featured fire breathing, martial arts, dancing, drum teams and this year's headlining performance, a professional mask changer.

Mr. Zhao Nai-Yi wowed the crowd with his magic, and more impressively, his mask-changing abilities, an art that is a Level 2 national secret in China.

"It is really such an honor to have him perform for us," said senior Kimberly Huang, president of Westwood High School's Asian Cultural Club. "Within literally a blink of an eye and in plain sight, he could change his mask into something completely different and it's really an art that has to be seen live. It was phenomenal and every member of the audience was enthralled."

Year after year, the incessant hype that builds up the event combined with the enthusiasm of each performer, helps draw massive crowds young and old and makes for a night to remember.

Huang, whose father Eric is the president of Westwood Chinese Cultural Association, was heavily involved with the organization of the event and is so grateful not just for her culture, but of the openness and willingness of her community to embrace it.

"The Chinese culture is so intricate and multi-faceted; and there's really so much to explore. Our community is so fantastic and I feel so fortunate to live in a town that so eagerly embraces cultural diversity."

"I really want to express my deepest gratitude to Superintendent Dr. John Antonucci and Westwood High School Principal Mr. Sean Bevan, and Westwood High School for being so supportive of this show," Huang added. "Holding the Westwood Chinese Cultural Night shows has been such a journey, and I will miss everyone dearly next year when I go to college. I'd also like to thank Westwood Community

members for all your love and support; and it's been such an honor for us to bring these performances to everyone." — *Hometown Weekly Staff*