

China Week celebrations in Newcastle highlight the arrival of the Chinese Ballet Legend of Dunhuang in early October

China Week in Newcastle heralds the imminent arrival of China's Swan Lake Ballet to Novocastrians. Hosted & Produced By CAEG | Presented By Ausfeng. China Arts and Entertainment Group (CAEG) will produce the classic Chinese dance story The Legend of Dunhuang performed by Gansu Dance Troupe as its Australian debut to thrill Australian audiences with colourful pageantry, stunning choreography and an unforgettable tale of honour, love and hope. Hailed as "The Oriental Swan Lake", The Legend of Dunhuang is an enthralling blend of Chinese classical dance with other modern dance forms, which includes the well-known dance thousand hand bodhisattvas and backward Pipa playing. Originally created in 1979, this exquisite production transports the audience to the height of the Silk Road trade with impressive backdrops of breathtaking sceneries, Buddhist art and dazzling costumes. This piece is more than a story, it is a living history of Dunhuang, a city in northwest China's Gansu Province and the grottos that have become a UNESCO heritage site. The story follows a wealthy Persian trader lost in a swirling dust storm in the middle of the Gobi Desert, until the beautiful Yingniang and her father Shenbi Zhang, a frescoes painter comes to rescue..... The Legend of Dunhuang has travelled the globe in the role of cultural ambassador. It has been performed more than 2,800 times for over 4,000,000 audiences in the past 39 years. It was reinvigorated in 2008 to celebrate the Beijing Olympics, which is its current form. The show portrays the magnificent cultural splendours of the Tang Dynasty, presenting ancient China to its modern audiences with energy and flair. Performing group: Gansu Dance Troupe Established in 1961, Gansu Dance Troupe is widely regarded for upholding the culture of Dunhuang, a city renowned for its natural beauty and historic ties to the Silk Road. They have won numerous national awards and toured nearly 40 countries, making The Legend of Dunhuang, a milestone masterpiece in the history of Chinese dance. About China Arts and Entertainment Group CHINA ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT GROUP (CAEG) is the first large state-owned cultural enterprise in China. It was founded in 2004 based on the merger of the China Performing Arts Agency (CPAA) and the China International Exhibition Agency (CIEA). With a history of more than 60 years, CPAA and CIEA have gained international acclaim by undertaking thousands of governmental cultural exchange projects and commercial stage performances and arts exhibitions both at home and abroad. Booking Information Venue: The Star Gold Coast Date: 28-29 Sep at 7:30pm Prices: premium \$109/ A \$89/ B \$69/ C \$49 Venue: Civic Theatre Newcastle Date: 2-3 Oct at 7:30pm Prices: premium \$89/ A \$69/ B \$49 Venue: Darling Harbour Theatre, ICC Sydney Date: 5-6 Oct at 7:30pm Prices: premium \$129/ A \$99/ B \$79/ C \$59 Bookings: ticketek.com.au More information: dunhuang.com.au About The Legend of Dunhuang Show Storyline (in Acts) About the performers About the crew Images are available on dropbox; <http://ow.ly/Cc1730kRa3l> For interviews and further information contact Thurnham Teece 4961 6010; Lyn Thurnham lthurnham@thurnhamteece.com.au Tara Fohmsbee tfohmsbee@thurnhamteece.com.au

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