

Drama theme: Intangible Cultural Heritage

Fire Dragon Dance

Role: Voice-over (Wong Ka Ching, Vinna), Actor 1 (Xie Wai Hung, Anson), Actor 2 (Sze Hei Man Sharon), Actor 3 (Eunice)

ACT 1

Voice-over(旁白) = V.O.

V.O.: The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the most important traditional festivals in China. Between the 14th and 16th of the eighth month of the lunar year, a traditional event, fire dragon dance is held in Tai Hang (Causeway Bay), which attracts many tourists.

V.O.: On the day after the Mid-Autumn Festival, three students came to Tai Hang to watch the fire dragon dance.

(Actor 1,2,3) Enter

Actor 1: Hurry up, hurry up! Here is the performance of the fire dragon dance!

Actor 2: Oh, what is it?

Actor 3: Over 300 performers carry the 'glowing dragon' and dance through the streets for three nights. During the parade, different ceremonies and performances will be held too.

Actor 1: What can we see in the "fire dragon dance"?

Actor 3: The performance can be divided into three parts: "Fire Dragon Crossing the bridge", "Fire Dragon wrapped around two pillars" and "Fire Dragon Reunion with Lanterns".

Actor 2: Look! The dragon's body is so long!

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Actor 3: I guess it's longer than 5 buses.

Actor 1: Yes! The length of the dragon is about 67 meters.

The fire dragon is made of twine and straw.

Actor 3: Definitely. The dragon's body is fully inserted with the incense sticks, which are sparkling at night.

Actor 2: It is really a highly-skilled masterpiece! I know it has been selected on the National List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage! (Actor 1 and 3 are shocked)

Actor 1: How come they have to hold a fire dragon dance performance at the Mid-Autumn Festival?

Actor 2: The origin of the fire dragon dance can be traced back to the 6th year of Emperor Guangxu's reign.

Jump screen to the Emperor

Actor 2: When a plague broke out in Dakeng Village. One person said Bodhisattva had sent him a message through a prophetic dream. They could drive away the plague by dancing the fire dragon and burning firecrackers simultaneously.

Actor 3: Then people followed the instructions and it worked!

Actor 1: This practice has been passed down from generation to generation. The fire dragon dance is the blessing to everyone with peace.

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Role:

Actor 4 Teacher (Wong Wang Lung, Marcus), Actor 5 Student (Cha Alex), Actor 6
(Tsang Wing Heu, Victor)

ACT 2

(After Mid-Autumn Festival)

V.O.: Students come back to the school. Students are still discussing the fire dragon dance performance.

(History Lesson start)

(Actor4,5,6) Enter

Actor 4 (History teacher): Today we are going to explore Intangible Cultural Heritage. It includes 5 aspects. Can anyone guess?

Actor 5 (Student): (Raise his/her hand) I know! Oral traditions and expressions and Performing arts, such as Cantonese or riddles.

Actor 6 (Student): Social practices, rituals and festive events and Traditional craftsmanship should be included too!

Actor 4: Brilliant! All are correct answers. In Hong Kong, there are about 480 intangible cultural heritage items. In addition, Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe like bone setting and herbal tea are included as well.

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ACT 3

(Second-day history lesson)

V.O.: In the previous history lesson, students have learned about the definition and examples of intangible cultural heritage.

(Actor 1, 2, 3, 4)

Actor 4: Hong Kong-style milk tea, lion dance and fire dragon dance are typical examples of intangible cultural heritage in Hong Kong. Do you guys also know other examples?

Actor 1: Are they related to Hong Kong's history and culture?

Actor 4: Yes, such as the Hakka Kirin dance in Sai Kung, which is a Lunar New Year custom.

Actor 4: However, do you know why the Conservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage was established?

Actor 2: I know; it can help protect intangible cultural heritage and make everyone pay more attention to their importance.

Actor 3: Oh I see! Then we should protect the intangible cultural heritage.

Actor 2: I will help preserve and promote the Hong Kong culture so that more people can learn more about it!

Actor 1, 3: Me too! Me too!

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References

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Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Office

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