

I have been taking ballet classes ever since kindergarten. Ten years ago, I became part of the Academy of Chinese Performing Arts, which I met my teacher Chen. Through years of his patient teaching and thoughtful guidance, I had begun to appreciate more than the dance but the culture behind the part form. As much as students like myself may appreciate the cultural value of Chinese folk dance, to truly understand the art of dance is more than a lifetime of work. I remember when Mr. Chen and I were rehearsing for the "Stealing Magical Herbs"; it was an extremely difficult dance that requires a no-hands flip. I spent next few weeks which aching muscles and bruised keens. Mr. Chen would look me in the eyes and said: Dan-Da-Xi". It is a Chinese proverb, which challenges us to be aggressive enough to take risks. At the same time, it cautions us to act with care and attention to detail. I finally conquered my own fear and accomplish this difficulties dance move. Even though I have overcome this difficult task but I will always remember those four words that Mr. Chen once said to me. In just a few more months, I'll be going off to college in search for my career. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Chen who has been a great mentor. And who has also inspired me in not just leaning how to dance but also shared his philosophy about life. I learn to have confidence in myself to be the best that I can be. Perhaps I can never conquer all the doubts I have in myself, but at least I understand what it means to be responsible to my potential. I would also like to thank all teachers of ACPA. I will take these memories along with me as I take my next journey in life.

Sincerely yours

Tina Ting



