THE CHINESE FINE ARTS SOCIETY

中華才藝協會

Sherwood Conservatory Building • 1312 South Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60605-9953
Telephone: 312-369-3197 • Fax: 312-369-3199
www.chinesefinearts.org

For Immediate Release
Contact: Peter McDowell; Peter@petermcdowell.com; 773.484.8811
Photos, CD, DVD available upon request.

SITE-SPECIFIC SPECTACLE "QI XI: A CHINESE LOVE STORY" FEATURING 150+ PERFORMERS TO BE HELD AT MILLENNIUM PARK AUGUST 22, 2010

Chinese Fine Arts Society to partner with Adler Planetarium on August 15 preview event.

The Chinese Fine Arts Society (CFAS) presents a colorful and dramatic reenactment of the Chinese legend – Qi Xi (pronounced "Chee Shee") on Sunday, August 22nd, 2010, from 2:30-4pm. CFAS has been invited by Millennium Park to reprise a site-specific spectacle in four acts in honor of the 7th Eve Festival, also referred to as "Chinese Valentine's Day," through music, martial arts and dance. (Qi Xi originally had its premiere on July 19th, 2009 in Millennium Park. Images, audio and video from last year's performance are available at www.chinesefinearts.org/QiXi.)

CFAS is pleased to partner on this project with the Adler Planetarium, who will host a special topic mini-exhibition of their largest Chinese celestial chart throughout the summer in anticipation of the spectacle performance. A presentation about the connection between the Qi Xi myth and astronomy will take place at 3 pm on August 15 at the Adler (1300 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago) and will include performance excerpts.

Qi Xi is the story of Niulang and Zhinu – the cowherd and celestial princess, whose forbidden love caused the creation of the Milky Way. These stars are Altair (Cowherd) and Vega (Weaver Fairy). The Heavenly Queen allows the lovers to meet once a year (the date of the Seventh Eve festival). On this day, all of the of magpies in the world come together to make a bridge on which Niulang and Zhinu can meet.

Dancers and Chinese opera singers portray major roles and martial artists play the soldiers. The event begins with a colorful procession of lion dancers, musicians, ribbon dancers, and all other performers who move between sites in throughout the park between acts.

Key architectural elements in Millennium Park serve as the backdrop for this story - beginning at Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate; continuing to the northern end of the Park at the Wrigley Square fountain basin and continuing to the southern end of the park, where the two towers of the Crown Fountain are a dramatic place to express the separation of the two lovers. In the final act, all return to Cloud Gate where the smallest child dancers play magpies and origami birds are handed out to onlookers.

A partial list of Qi Xi performers and directors include: Skyland Chinese Opera Troupe, All Star Kung Fu, Championship Martial Arts, Chicago Chinese Cultural Center's Lion Dancers, Little Star Dance Troupe, Alexander Li, erhu; Yue Hou, pipa. Artistic Direction, Nina Chen Sobota; choreography, Jin Qiu Yue.

The Chinese Fine Arts Society is dedicated to promoting an understanding of Chinese culture through music and arts programs and events. For further information, visit www.chinesefinearts.org

Millennium Park is located in the heart of downtown Chicago. It is bordered by Michigan Ave. to the west, Columbus Dr. to the east, Randolph St. to the north and Monroe St. to the south. Convenient parking is located in the Millennium Park Garage (entrance on Columbus at Monroe or Randolph) and at the Grant Park North and East Monroe Garages, all located within a short walking distance of Millennium Park. For more information about all of the events in Millennium Park, visit www.millenniumpark.org or call 312.742.1168.

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