



## **Contemporary Dragon KungFu Company Biography**

Founded by famous movie star and kung fu legend, Jackie Chan, in October 2006, the Contemporary Dragon KungFu Company consists of some of the most talented young martial artists from across China. Hand-selected by Chan himself, the artists were all under the age of 18 when the group was formed (with the youngest being only 11), and came from some of the country's most prestigious martial arts groups including the Shaolin Kungfu Monk Corps and Chinese Shenwu Cultural Communication Company.

Early on, the group performed mainly traditional showcases of kung fu and *qigong*, a Chinese system of physical exercises and breathing control, and could be seen on the big screen in films such as *The Karate Kid*, *Taichi 2*, and *Dragon Blade*, with Jackie Chan.

As years went by, the group started to incorporate elements from different disciplines into their martial arts, studying traditional Chinese dance, music, speech, and writing to expand their general knowledge of the humanities. Phoenix TV Director and choreographer from the Beijing Academy of Dance, Liu Lu, was brought in to teach the group ballet and modern dance, producing their first show titled *Gateway* in 2007.

In 2009, the group added more technical and dramatic elements into their performance, including the use of video projection and complex lighting schemes. These performances received national and international acclaim after being broadcast on *한중가요제*, a Korean-Chinese Music Festival supported by CCTV (China Central Television) and KBS (Korean Broadcasting System).

In 2014, the group was invited to make their US debut at the Dance Salad Festival in Houston, TX. That same year, they produced another show, titled *11 Warriors*, that was premiered at the Chang'an Grand Theater in Beijing. The group took this production on their very first Eastern European tour of five countries in September 2014, and most recently returned from tours and performances in Macedonia, Berlin, and Jerusalem.

*"11 Warriors is real Chinese kung fu that not only inherits tradition, but also innovation,"* praised PAN Zhitao, dance professor at the Beijing Dance Academy.

Currently, the group has four productions: *Water Sleeves Kungfu Show*, *Kungfu & Beats*, *Kungfu Dance GATEWAY*, and *11 Warriors*. The group has also produced two self-directed movies, *Legend of Five Elements* and *The Lady and Her 11 Sons*.

Dedicated to spreading China's five-thousand year old culture and traditions, the Contemporary Dragon Kungfu Company continues to work as ambassadors to the world through their new art form, bringing the vision of Jackie Chan to life in impressive and moving performances.