

Study on the Performance Forms of Stagecraft of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration of the Xibes

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Abstract: Xibe people is one of the 56 ethnic groups in China, currently resides in Chabuchar County, Yili, and has a rich and colorful ethnic culture. The Memorial Day of Westward Migration is a commemoration of the historical event of westward migration of the Xibe people and also an important festival to showcase the traditional culture of the Xibe people. This paper analyzes the performance forms of stagecraft of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration of the Xibe people through literature review and field investigation, aiming to inherit and promote the excellent traditional culture of the Xibe people.

Keywords: The Xibes; The Memorial Day of Westward Migration; Stagecraft; Performance forms

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Introduction

The Xibes is one of the ethnic minorities in China, with a long history and rich ethnic culture. The Memorial Day of Westward Migration is a festival to commemorate the historical event of westward migration of the Xibes, and also an important platform for showcasing traditional culture. As an important component of the festival, the performance forms of stagecraft of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration have high cultural value and historical significance. This paper studies the performance forms of stagecraft of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration to provide theoretical support for the inheritance and promotion of the culture of the Xibe people.

1. The Connotation of the Performance Forms of Stagecraft of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration

The performance forms of stagecraft of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration mainly include performance arts such as dance, song, drama, etc. Those performance forms are not only a representative of folk art of the Xibes, but also an important carrier of the traditional culture of the Xibes. This kind of festival activity shows the splendid and longstanding cultural traditions, national psychology, national emotions, folk beliefs, customs, and various crafts and dance arts of the Xibes, with rich cultural connotations and valuable value. The dances of the Xibes have unique style and characteristics, including folk dance and court dance. Its folk dance includes happy dance and hunting dance, etc., which shows the labor, life and custom of the Xibes. Its court dance includes long drum dance and hand drum dance, which shows the splendor and elegance of the court art of the Xibes. Its songs are divided into two categories: folk songs and court songs. The folk songs include hunting songs and fishing songs, reflecting the lifestyle and emotions of the Xibes. The court songs include hymns and carols, which express the respect and worship of the Xibe people towards their leaders and monarchs. The drama of the Xibes, represented by "the Xibe opera", is a comprehensive form of drama that combines music, dance, performance, costumes, and other artistic forms. The performance content of Xibe opera is rich and diverse, including historical stories, folk legends, and topics reflecting real life. The performance form of Xibe opera has unique characteristics, such as singing, performing actions, stage layout, etc., all of which have high artistic value.

2. The Characteristics of the Performance Forms of Stagecraft of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration of the Xibes

2.1 Distinctive ethnic characteristics

The Memorial Day of Westward Migration of the Xibes is the traditional festival of the Xibes in Uygur Autonomous Region and also the national intangible cultural heritage. It is held on the 18th day of the fourth lunar month and it is called the Four One Eight Festival or Huaiqin Festival. The festival is to commemorate the heroic deeds of the ancestors of the Xibes during their border defense period. In 2006, the festival was listed in the national intangible cultural heritage list. The Performance Forms of Stagecraft of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration of the Xibes fully showcase the ethnic culture of the Xibes, including dance, songs and dramas and other performance forms. These performances showcase profound history, rich folk customs, and devout religious beliefs. The dance movements are unique and infectious. The songs all have a beautiful melody and rich lyrics. The theatrical performances are vivid and interesting. They all convey the historical stories of the Xibes and showcase their wisdom and creativity. The Memorial Day of Westward Migration is the treasure of the Xibes, showcases its unique national style and enables us better understand and appreciate the charm of multi-culture of China.

2.2 Deep emotional expression

The Memorial Day of Westward Migration of the Xibes is a historic festival to commemorate the ancestors of the Xibe people who bravely defended the border and also the carrier to inherit and promote ethnic culture. During the festival, the Xibes express their deep respect for their ancestors and nostalgia for their homeland through various artistic forms. In these art performances, dances are the main forms of expression. The dancers are dressed in bright Xibe costumes, interpreting the indomitable and tenacious spirit of the Xibes during their westward migration with elegant dance movements. These dances have traditional ethnic characteristics and incorporate modern stage techniques of expression, allowing people to appreciate the rich ethnic customs and appreciate the charm of modern stagecraft while enjoying them. The songs are another important component of art performance in the Memorial Day of Westward Migration of Xibe People. These songs are usually sung in the Xibe language, and the lyrics are rich, which showcase the respect for their ancestors, a strong attachment to their hometown and a longing for a better life. These songs are with beautiful melody and sincere emotions, allowing people feel the hardships in the westward migration of the Xibes and their deep longing for their hometown while listening to them. The Art Performances of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration of the Xibes include dances, songs and dramas, recitation besides. The art performances usually used historic stories as the theme, which use vivid character portrayal and plot presentation to allow that the audience can not only understand the history of the Xibes, but also feel the wisdom and courage of the Xibes while appreciating them. The recitation mainly focuses on the poetry and prose of the Xibes, which uses the passionate interpretation of the reciters to allow the audience feel the charm of Xibe language and experience the emotions in the hearts of the Xibes while appreciating them. The art performances of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration of Xibe People is not only a historical review of the Xibes, but also an inheritance of the Xibe culture. In these performances, the Xibes deeply express their respect for their ancestors and their strong attachment to their hometown in their own ways. The deep emotional expression not only makes people feel the perseverance of the Xibes during their westward migration, but also makes people feel their deep longing for their hometown. Nowadays, the memorial festival of westward migration of the Xibes has been included in the national intangible cultural heritage list and has become a treasure in the cultural treasure trove of the Chinese nation. During the festival, the Xibes use various art performances to inherit and promote their ethnic culture and showcase their ethnic spirit.

2.3 The combination of inheritance and innovation

The combination of inheritance and innovation in the performance forms of stagecraft of the Memorial Day of Westward Migration not only preserves traditional ethnic characteristics but also injects new vitality into it.

The performance forms continuously absorb excellent elements from other ethnic groups and cultures in the development of the new era, making the stagecraft of the festival more diversified and rich. In terms of inheritance, the performance forms of stagecraft of the festival uphold traditional ethnic characteristics and emphasizes the protection and inheritance of traditional culture. The dances, songs and dramas and other performance forms all come from its history, customs and religion and are the important parts of its ethnic culture. Artists pass on traditional performance skills and cultural knowledge to the new generation through oral transmission, apprenticeship and other means to ensure the inheritance and development of the performance forms of stagecraft of the festival. In terms of innovation, the artists of the Xibes continuously explore and try to absorb the elements from other ethnic groups and cultures, which has enriched and developed the performance forms of the festival. They have not only learned musics, dances, dramas

and other performance forms of other ethnic groups, but also incorporated those elements into the performance forms of the festival and formed new performance forms with unique styles. At the same time, the artists of the Xibes also use the modern technological means, such as stage lighting, sound, multimedia, to enhance the visual effect and appreciation of the performance, making the stagecraft of the festival more modern and attractive. In addition, the inheritance and innovation of it is also reflected in the reinterpretation and recreation of the traditional themes. The artists take the history, customs and religion of the Xibes to create many new songs and dramas and others, which makes the performance forms of stagecraft of the festival have a strong sense of the times and modernity. At the same time, they have pushed the performance forms of stagecraft of the festival to a broader stage through cross-cultural cooperation and exchange, enhancing the influence and popularity of the Xibe culture.

3. The Inheritance and Promotion of the Performance Forms of Stagecraft of the Memorial Festival of Westward Migration

The government should strengthen the protection and support for the performance forms of stagecraft of the memorial festival of westward migration and develop relevant policies to provide guarantees for the inheritance and development of the Xibe culture. The government should strengthen education on the culture of the Xibes to train a group of professional talents who are familiar with the language, writing and art of the Xibes for the inheritance and development of the performance forms of stagecraft of the festival. The government should integrate the performance forms of stagecraft of the festival with modern art to innovate the performance forms and content to enhance the attractiveness and influence of the Xibe culture and enhance the visibility and reputation of the Xibe culture, and increase the publicity efforts for the performance forms of stagecraft of the festival to improve the visibility and reputation of the Xibe culture.

4. Conclusion

The performance forms of stagecraft of the memorial festival of westward migration are the important component of the culture of the Xibes, with higher cultural value and historic significance. In the new era, we should strengthen the study and inheritance of the performance forms of stagecraft of the memorial festival of westward migration to promote the traditional culture of the Xibes, making contributions to the prosperity and development of Chinese culture.

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