

The Valdosta Daily Times

Fun Channel to air folk dance event

By Dean Poling
May 24, 2007

— VALDOSTA — The Azalea International Folk Dance Competition is scheduled to be aired Friday through Monday on the local-access Fun Channel, says Serena Huang, the festival's founder and organizer. The festival's dance competition is also available for viewing at the Fun Channel's Web site (www.funchannelamerica.com).

"It is most meaningful to some of our students whose parents serve overseas that (they) may also watch their children's performance from the Internet," Huang notes. Held the first weekend of March, the dance competition featured performers presenting dances from across the globe as well as dancers from around the region and world. This was the second year for the international dance competition, and the first year that the festival used the name Azalea International. Sponsored by Valdosta Asian Cultural Association, it had formerly been known as the Asian Cultural Experience. The name was changed to reflect the growing festival's inclusion of all of the world's nationalities.

The program started several years ago as a series of dance lessons which Huang taught her children's classmates in Hahira Middle and Dewar Elementary schools. These classes became recital programs which grew into multiple-day events of dance, culture, education, food and more.

Taiwanese and other Asian media regularly follow the South Georgia event. Numerous corporate sponsors support the event, including The Valdosta Daily Times, UPS, Georgia Power, Pepsi, Target, Sam's Club, Park Avenue Bank. Azalea International has also won funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, Georgia Humanities Council, Georgia Council for the Arts, National Endowment of the Humanities, Southern Arts Federation and Valdosta State University.

Copyright © 1999-2008 cnhi, inc.