

Gansu Song and Dance Theater

Silk Road, Flower Rain (new), China's Forever Classic

The classic dance drama *Silk Road, Flower Rain* was created by Gansu Song and Dance Theater (used to be Gansu Song and Dance Group and Gansu Dunhuang Art Theater) with the world-renowned Dunhuang frescos and the Silk Road as its materials, and peace and friendship as its theme. It successfully moves the magnificent Dunhuang frescos onto the stage through the story of friendship and love among Shenzibizhang, his daughter Yingniang and Yunus in a unique artistic style. It has well presented the richness of Dunhuang culture, extolled the glorious working people who generated the Dunhuang culture, and narrated the tear-driving story of the long-lasting friendship between Chinese people and people from abroad.

Silk Road, Flower Rain was chosen to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the National Holiday in 1979, and received the 1st place in creative and performance. In 1982, the dance drama was put on the screen by Xi'an Movie Studio. The same year, it was performed on the most glorious theater in the world, La Scala Theater, becoming the first Asian group performing in the world-top theater of art. In 1994, *Silk Road, Flower Rain* received the “Golden Award” during the competition of Classic Dance Dramas of China in the 20th Century, and was crowned the

milestone of dance dramas in China.

Since its debut in 1979, *Silk Road, Flower Rain* was put on the stage for around 1600 times, appreciated by 3.2M person-time. In October, 2004, it was recorded by Shanghai World Jinisi as the “Best Dance Drama in China”. For all these years, *Silk Road, Flower Rain* had been put on stages in more than 20 countries and regions including North Korea, France, Italy, Japan, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Spain, Turkey, Hongkong, and Macao. It was well received wherever it went, and can be crowned as “the role model of China folk dance drama” undoubtedly.

From 2008-2009, we adapted *Silk Road, Flower Rain* for the 29th Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. It was performed for 5 times in Tianqiao Theater in Beijing from August 3rd-7th, 2008, displaying again the extensive Dunhuang culture to the China and to the world. With the successful completion of the mission of performing for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the drama had won glory for Gansu, for the classics, and China’s dance drama.

As chosen by Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the CPC and the Ministry of Culture, *Silk Road, Flower Rain* was again invited to Beijing to perform for the 60th Anniversary of the National Holiday. The again renewed performance was performed in the National Centre for the Performing Arts from July 29th to August 2nd, 2009, with

a total number of 5 performances, harvesting great success. We brought with us the best wishes from Gansu people and Gansu artists, and in return, we received high recognition from Cai Wu, the Minister of the Ministry of Culture.

Silk Road, Flower Rain has generated profound influence on the history of dance in China, becoming a big brand name in China and the rest of world as well. In 2009, it was awarded by the Ministry of Culture the “Award of Excellent and Classic Repertoire”, and the new edition performed for the 60th Anniversary of the National Holiday won the title as the “Best Play” and 1st place in 26 other awards. *Silk Road, Flower Rain* will be carried on through generations as the pearl of the dance dramas in China.