

## Modern dance to be celebrated soon

By Delgermaa Ganbat

Looking at the historical recordings, they say the Mongols have developed their own unique performing arts for thousands of years enriching it diversely by clans and generations. The kings used to enjoy performances of a music and dance ensemble at their palace and the ensemble consisted of over 30 dozens of musicians and dancers.

Our ancestors have celebrated dance and music festival after their victory in a war or collaborative work, which was a good chance for musicians, singers and dancers to gather together. Coming from different areas, most often representing different tribes, people had the opportunity to perform, to learn from others and to



take home a new melody or song. In this way, the ancient patterns of various corners of Mongolia have been preserved by local masters for the whole nation and it becomes the basics of Mongolian dance choreography in traditional, classical and modern dance technique and repertoire.

Modern dance is quite new for Mongolians and certain institutions and individuals have dedicated their efforts to introduce this new genre to Mongolia including the ensemble established in 1998. D.Enkhgerel, Ex-member of the ensemble and one of the pioneers of modern dance in Mongolia is going to hold a modern dance performance at the Opera and Ballet Theater in March, 2006. “Modern dance is for me expression of freedom through physical movement. Although I’m professionally a folk dancer, choreographer and balletmeister, I fell in love with modern dance for years. Our ensemble, at the time, made several attempts but it wasn’t really successful as the audience was not ready to accept it. Recent two years, the ACM and “Arabesque” Modern Dance Center have organized “Feel Wind” modern dance training in collaboration with American Dance Festival, which has big impact on modern dance development. Thanks to the training, I and Kh.Gansuren, dance teacher of MUCA, were selected to participate in the ADF Six Week School in Durham, North Carolina in July, 2005 and it was a great chance for us to learn from other dancers from over 50 countries. This training inspired us to choreograph this modern dance performance” Enkhgerel says.

She also said that Mongolian dancers have great skills to perform, but they lack understanding and inside energy to express own feelings and to move freely. “In my experience of dancing for years, I’ve never felt my inside thoughts, energy and my physical

ability and I got it from my practice from the training. I wished our dancers to learn modern dance and its freedom of expression and that's why we are teaching to our students the techniques of modern dance, yoga, meditation and bodywork for their personal, intellectual and physical development. We see certain positive changes in them and they are also involved in the performance" says D.Enkhgerel, winner of several national folk and modern dance awards.

"About the performance, it'll be an hour dance show consisting of two separate parts; one is choreographed by me and the other by Gansuren. I try to express our ideas about life and death and it'll become my first choreograph in modern dance" she said "I wish Mongolian dancers to seek nonstop for personal and career development. I want to contribute to the development of modern dance developing unique modern dancing technique and style basing on Mongolian folk dance in the future."