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China Dream- History of Organization’s Cultural Outreach

Shaolin Cultural Ambassadors’ Performance Team

Shi DeRu, the Shaolin Grandmaster, has along with his team, since 1989 through Mobile International Festival, Mobile Gulf State Fair, Asian Pacific Heritage Festivals of New Orleans, Dragon Festivals of Atlanta by Hong Kong Association and other oriental cultural organizations such as Winter Wonderland in Atlanta, Asian Cultural Experience in Atlanta, Shaolin Kung Fu Shows and other Asian performing arts shows, presented Cultural presentations and seminars and shows to more a million of audiences and students and seniors alike worldwide.

The show captured not only the cultural understanding between the east and that of the west but the indomitable unique Shaolin spirit by giving insight into ancient ways of training, their daily lives and mental and physical discipline that requires high levels of mind-body control. It highlighted life’s lessons of about ethics, integrity, character, self-discipline, self-control, compassion and respect for the world and the universe. Those full shows as well as various parts of the shows went from New Orleans (2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014), Atlanta to Washington D.C.(2010, Orlando, Florid (2004,2005, 2006, 2011, 2013 ) and Nashville TN (2011) and all the way to Hong Kong, China (2008).

Shaolin Cultural Ambassadors’ Performance Team was not officially established under Grandmaster Shi DeRu (aka: Shawn X. Liu) until 1996. The first Shaolin Legacy team full scale show was presented at the UNO in New Orleans with over 2000 audiences. The team was combined with Shaolin Grandmaster DeRu’s American students and international guest masters and well-known performers from all over the world. The team, since has performed hundreds of shows nationwide as part of the cultural promotion and understanding between the east and that of the west. This is the oldest Asian Shaolin Chan (Zen) cultural performance team in the US.

It is culturally unique due to its 1500 year old heritage of Shaolin Zen living philosophy and arts, especially martial arts embraced by hundreds of millions in the world. Shaolin Kung Fu is at the root of most martial arts practiced on the planet today.

Shaolin Chan Foundation along with Shaolin Institute, under DeRu’s guidance started the cultural exchange US – China cultural traveling program as early as 1994 when he took a group of US students to China and invited a group of professors to come to the US. That year the Institute officially launched cultural and friendly Martial Arts exchange programs and invited some of Chinese Sanshou and modern Kungfu-Wushu pioneers of China to the US for the first US Open International Chinese Martial Arts Championships and Chinese Culture & Arts Festival. Grandmaster Shi DeRu has devoted over 20 years of his life to multicultural education and exchange programs.

For over 20 years, he has hosted more than 10 international cultural festival events and 12 US Open International Martial Arts Championships providing a center stage for not only International level of Wushu Sanshou to grow in the western world but Asian cultural, Shaolin Chan in particular, to make its way to the West.

Since the beginning of cultural exchange and cultural ambassadors programs, Grandmaster DeRu with his team has lead hundreds of American and other international students to visit China for multicultural exchange programs, not only learning the arts of Kungfu and Chan way of life but seeking cultural understanding between nations with various cultural and ethnic backgrounds in the process. The last large group of American students and athletes went to China was in 2008. 23 Wushu-Kung Fu athletes, cultural ambassadors and supporters went to Hong Kong to participate in the “Greeting Olympics Games” program, a Hong Kong International Wushu Championship event. They obtained over 20 medals. They went on to mainland of China to visit schools and universities and Wushu training centers. Their experience was documented and broadcast by CCTV international networks throughout China.

A collaborative effort between the late Sheriff Harry Lee and Master Shi DeRu brought about the presentation of the first full standing Shaolin cultural show in November 1996. That show staged some of the best local and international talents and cultural ambassadors, which was held at the University of New Orleans. That event was the beginning of The Cultural Ambassadors’ program.

Since the beginnings of the Cultural Ambassador Program, the Institute has had over hundred international Masters, exchange instructors and students from China and many other countries come to the United States as many of the US citizens have visited and performed for them in China. For over 2 decades now, Grandmaster DeRu along with the Institute continues to promote cultural exchange and education by launching many “Shaolin Legacy” Stage Cultural Shows with the latest: “Journey to the East” in 2006: “A Special Shaolin Training Class” in 2010 and “Chan Wu-Qi” in 2011. The Shaolin Legacy shows alone have been presented to over a 300,000 audiences throughout the US.

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**Event Fact Sheet**

The highlights of the journey are to understand the ancient Chinese philosophies and herb medicine and natural health care from some of the well-known Chinese medical doctors and Tai Chi Kung Fu Masters and to experience Chinese culture through Chinese food and culture of ancient arts.

This is a part of this SCF (shaolinchan-foundation.org) multicultural education project. The journey will be fully documented as documentary for both US and China.

The documentary film will be called “Inside China: US –China Cultural Collision and Understanding”. During the entire China Journey we will be working together various media outlet in Chinaon coverage – including CCTV.

This is first Chinese-American young combined team travel and live, working together to overcome life challenges and obstacle and training in leadership and discipline to strengthen the character for the betterment of their future.

**About myself:**

Shi DeRu (also known as Shawn X. Liu in the US). I have conducted hundreds of seminars, presentations and speeches for hundreds of groups, organizations and universities. I have also trained many international Martial Arts champions like Cung Le, Patrick Barry. Due to my cross cultural education efforts, China Central TV has completed over 10 documentaries on different CCTV channels such as Channel 5- sports, channel 10 - social and education, channel 4 international channel since 1999.

More information on the story call: 770 286 9808 or go to: [www.shaolinchan-foundation.org](http://www.shaolinchan-foundation.org)