

Brief Introduction of the Quanzhou Marionette Art & Quanzhou Marionette Troupe

Quanzhou Marionette Art is originated about 2000 years ago in Qin & Han Dynasties in China. The Quanzhou marionette performance has well preserved over 700 traditional plays and over 300 unique musical episodes (including the unique musical instruments such as Foot-pressed drum and Zheng Luo). It has formed a complete set of string rules and puppet head carving skills. Quanzhou Marionette Show has many traditional plays that contain folk believing, etiquettes and customs of the ancient south Fujian, China.

Founded in 1952 as the main inheritor of the Quanzhou Marionette Show, the Quanzhou Marionette Troupe has created and rehearsed a lot of plays and toured many counties and regions. 50 Years ago, in 1960, The Troupe participated the Second International Puppet Festival in **Romania** and were awarded the 2nd Group Prize (the 1st price was vacant) and Silver Medal. The troupe has also participated in various performances, TV variety shows, Chinese New Year Festival Galas around China. The troupe has also toured over 40 countries, won prizes and awards in various international festivals and competitions. In 2007 the troupe was performed at United Nations Chinese Intangible Culture Heritage Festival at the head quarter of UNESCO in Paris. August 8th 2008, the Quanzhou Marionette Troupe was honored to perform at the opening ceremony of the 29th Olympic Games in Beijing presenting the Chinese marionette art to over 4 billion audience around the world.

The Quanzhou Marionette has gained its reputation for its exquisite and brilliant performing skills home and abroad. Quanzhou Marionette Show contains the richest cultural and artistic connotation, and it has the longest non-stop inheritance among Chinese puppetry. It is indeed the representative of the Chinese marionette art.

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