

Thirty Years of Dedication to Bring to the World Culture from the East

A Night of *Wushu and Culture* 汉风武韵



庆祝基宏武术太极拳学院成立三十周年

Ji Hong Wushu & Taichi College 30th Anniversary Celebration

A full house at the Myer Horowitz Theatre celebrated the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Ji Hong Wushu and Taichi College on October 27, 2018 in a gala night presented by the Ji Hong College and the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. Attending dignitaries included Amarjeet Sohi, Federal Minister of Natural Resources; Thomas Dang, Alberta MLA; Zhenting Gao, Deputy Consul General of China of the Calgary Chinese Consul; Don Iveson, Mayor of Edmonton and Tang Wah, President of Wushu Canada.

Congratulatory messages were received from the three levels of governments in Canada as well as those from Wushu Canada, Chinese Consul General in Calgary, Physical Education Institutes of Guangzhou and Wuhan, Ji Hong students and Wushu organizations from around the world. They were highly appreciative of the contributions made by the Ji Hong College in promoting the arts of Wushu and in bringing great successes in international Wushu competition for Canada. Equally impressive was the college effort in promoting cultural exchanges between Canada and China and in bringing health and wellness improvement programs to the communities.



7

For thirty years since the founding of the college, a new system has been developed under the direction of college president Master Hong Yuan Luo that is freed from the shackles of archaic ideas and interpretations for the learning of Wushu, Tai Chi and Health Qigong. Thousands of students have embraced this new approach and many have gone on to become top-notch world-class athletes competing in tournaments around the world.

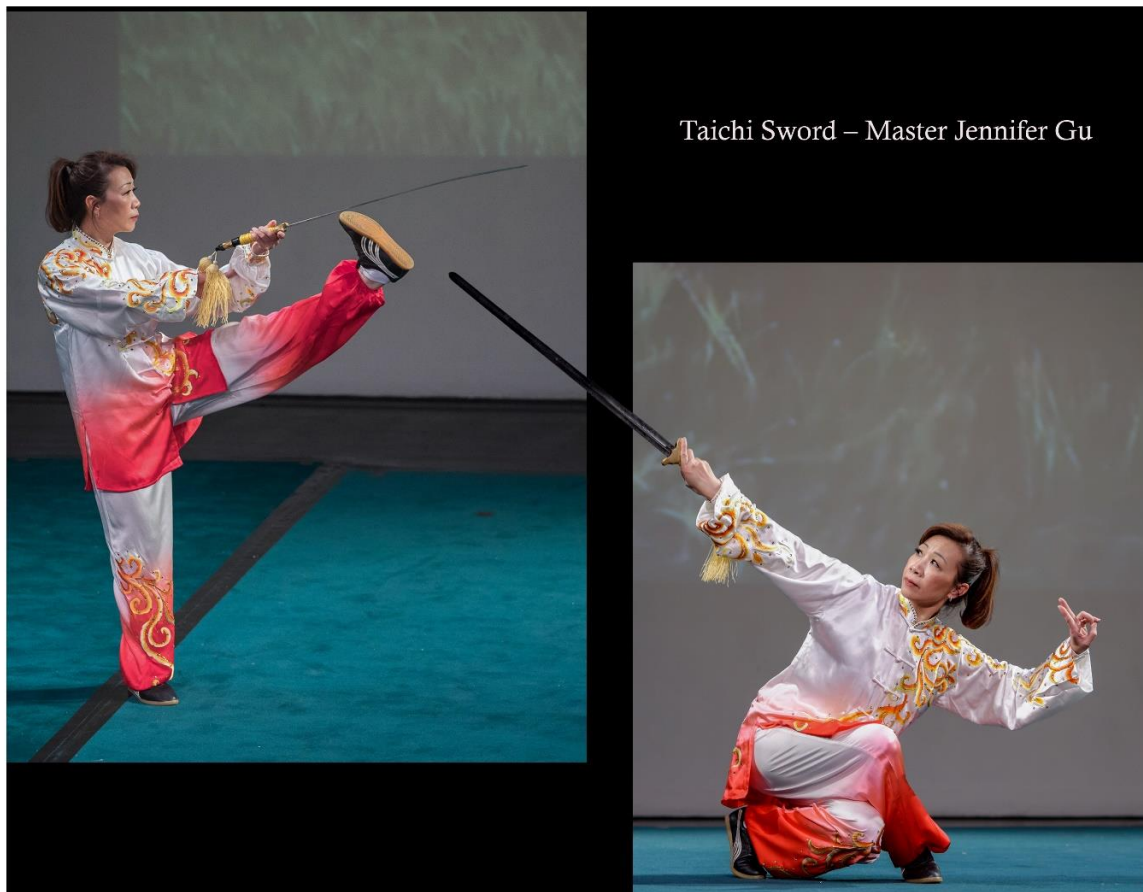


Vice-President Jennifer Gu gave a welcome speech as the gala event thanking the three levels of government and organizations throughout the country for their support through all these years and proudly announced the beginning of the celebration with a spectacular joint performance of Wushu, Health Qigong, Taichi by students from the six Ji Hong schools in Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto and Vancouver areas.



One of the high-lights of the night was the performance of a very special guest performer Miss Jiamin Gao popularly known as Queen of Taichi, and named one of the ten top Wushu stars of China. Miss Gao's Sun style Taichi blended in Taichi with Xingyi and Bagua. Her seamless back and forth movement coupled with effortless turns brought hearty applause from the entire audience.

Two group performances by Ji Hong students demonstrated the high skill and artistic levels of Ji Hong Taichi and Wushu. Many of the performing students were winners of medals in world-class tournaments included the most recent 3rd World Taichi Championships where they won 3 gold, 6 silver and 7 bronze medals. Among the Wushu performers were Kit Poon and Jackie Cho who joined Ji Hong Wushu programs as early as 1988 and 1989 respectively.



29

For the grand finale of the evening, Master Jennifer Gu performed Taichi sword and Master Luo Chen style Taichi. Master Luo and Gu were mentored by Ji Hong Luo and many of the top contemporary Taichi masters. Their utterly enthralling performances were nothing less than a feast for all those attending. Master Luo pointed out the evening's performance was more than to entertain the friends and supporters of Ji Hong. It was also a grand review of the standards Ji Hong students have achieved. The audience enthusiastic response was the best confirmation of what we had accomplished.

On October 28, a banquet was held at Dynasty Restaurant to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of Ji Hong College. Master Luo gave a welcome speech thanking all the supporters of the college for the last 30 years and encouraging all the students to work even harder for a bright future.



Chen Style Taichi – Master Hong Yuan Luo

31

Among the guests of honour was Mayor Don Iveson. Mayor Iveson's daughter was one of the performers at the gala, and his family attended both the gala and the banquet. In his speech, Mayor Iveson acknowledged the contribution Ji Hong has made towards the multi-cultural elements of the Canadian communities.

Tang Wah, President of Wushu Canada, gave high praise in his speech to the outstanding contribution Ji Hong had made in the Canadian Wushu development. He recounted the Canadian Wushu Team was a total disappointment at the World Championships 25 years ago but since then has become one of the most respected and successful teams on the Wushu world scene. He said it was fair to say that without Ji Hong, there would have been none of the success the Canadian national teams had enjoyed!

The evening also witnessed the poetry recital of the media celebrity Mr. Saoliang Dong and the performances of the Edmonton Beijing Opera Society. Then there was the memorable impromptu performance by Master Luo and Miss Jiamin Gao in a Sun-Hao Taichi Combo. What a grand finale for a wonderful evening of celebrations.



