The Lions of Boston's Chinatown
By Casey Avaunt

This essay focuses on the social and political activities of lion dance companies in Boston's Chinatown. Lion dances—which combine dance, theater, and music—are an acrobatic ritual rooted in ancient Chinese culture. I examine how lion dance companies, made up mostly of Asian American youths and their leaders, become active social and political agents by generating support for race-based issues facing Chinatown residents. These issues include cultural erasure, poverty, lack of political representation, spatial encroachment, the degradation of resources, and gentrification. I find that lion dance is more than a lighthearted spectacle deployed to spice up public events; lion dance groups fortify Boston Chinatown's community-based political and social networks. Using a performance theory approach, I argue that lion dancers help to strengthen the enclave's political and social structures, providing assets to the community through their collaborative participation in the urban life of Chinatown.

Dance and the Future: Exploring how to Communicate Sustainability through Dance in an Education Context
By Sarah Kirkham

The global pandemic and climate change are changing behaviours as people are affected in diverse ways. Dance is well placed to respond to social and technological advances (Australia Council for the Arts, 2019) and the global call to work together to save the planet (COP 26, 2021).
This research investigates how dance can educate people about sustainability and encourage the adoption of sustainable practices. Using energy generating technology, dance is explored through education practices as the driver of sustainability. Dance can sustain wellness and raise awareness of environmental impact to facilitate purpose for making dance and offer new forms of possibility (Koff, 2021) that go beyond physical and technical practice.
Reimagining the future of dance the presentation will provide insights into the research findings seeking to make sustainability visible (Ham, 2013) and relatable to people (Robertson, 2019) while advocating for the important role of dance education in the future.

Gold Moves Australia: enabling older people to thrive through dance
By Gail Hewton and Julie Chenery

This presentation will:
•   highlight the need to address the increasing demand for practitioners qualified to deliver dance programs for older people for health and wellbeing due to the growing interest from the community and health sector; and the resultant potential employment opportunities for dance practitioners.
•   introduce the vision and aims of Gold Moves Australia (GMA), established to contribute to this field by developing and delivering professional development for practitioners. This training advocates a strong health and wellbeing focus through evidence informed practice to enable fun, safe and effective dance programs for older people in a range of contexts and settings.
•   reveal how GMA, in response to the pandemic, is now transforming its successful face to face introductory training into a comprehensive online interactive course in leading dance for older people for health and wellbeing, making the training accessible regionally, nationally and internationally.

The Case Study of Three Dancers' Professional Development in the Lan-yang Dance Troupe
By Yi Ling Liu

This research explores how dancers from the Lan-yang Dance Troupe grew up under the influence of external environments. Family, teachers are the factors that profoundly affected interviewees' career choices, especially in their teenage years. Of all of these, it is the dancer's family that has more important influence on them.
This thesis adopts a case study method to examine three outstanding dancers. In order to understand the learning process of a dancer throughout the development of their career, I collected information from interview data. I determined the dance learning process can be divided into two stages.
1. After professional training: Through a reconstruction of the self, dancers learned how to face setbacks independently, giving their lives new meaning.
2. The dancer's career development: This is related to family background.It is related to their current career choices, which can have positive inspiration and create positive attitudes for their lives as artists.