

《2004府城 七夕 國際藝術節》

The 2004 Tainan International Chihsi Arts Festival

廿一世紀的今天，歷史、文化在台南彷彿仍是生活和呼吸的一部分，不論是街道上隨處可見的古蹟、紅牆、老樹古井，抑或人們對春去秋來、歲時節慶的溫潤禮敬，在在訴說著府城台南的悠久歷史與文化傳承。

在古都民俗節慶中，最具代表性的可說是在每年農曆七月七日，為青少年舉辦的「成年禮」節慶，近年來台南市為配合全國各縣市推動文化藝術節，便以這個曾經與婚禮一樣隆重、但卻在各地幾近失傳的成年古禮為主軸，舉辦《府

In the 21st century, history and traditional culture are still as much a part of life in Tainan as breathing. You can see them in the streets and lanes, where you will find historic sites, red-brick walls, and courtyard wells surrounded by venerable old trees. And you can see them in the warmth and respect with which people observe the traditional holidays welcoming the spring and autumn, following the changing seasons. Everywhere you see testimony to the long past and cultural heritage of Tainan, Taiwan's first capital city.

Among the many folk festivals celebrated in Taiwan, perhaps the most unique is the *Chihsi* coming-of-age ceremony for youth held each year on the seventh day of the seventh month of the lunar calendar ("Double Seven"). In recent years, as part of the government's encouragement of arts festivals in cities and counties across Taiwan, Tainan has been building its Chihsi Arts Festival around this ritual,



城七夕國際藝術節》。這項古城盛會不但凝聚台南人心，近年更吸引了許多外縣市及外籍青少年的參與。

寺廟古禮上，滿十六歲的青少年穿上狀元郎古裝，拜謝守護孩童的七娘媽、鑽過七娘媽亭，象徵揮別童年。講究禮數的家庭，外婆則會依禮準備新衣裳、金鎖片等禮物，做為慶祝孩子「轉大人」的紀念。成年禮最早形成於周朝，原在男孩二十歲、女孩十五歲舉行，為何到了台南演變成十六歲舉行？又何以在七夕舉行，以七娘媽為祭拜對象？

原來，清朝時期兩岸商務繁忙，台南安平港是重要貨物集散中心，今天台南長樂街一帶的「五條港」，郊行雲集，五大姓的碼頭工人各據一港，人力需求殷切，當時碼頭搬運工的工資以十六歲作分界，滿十六歲者可以領取成人工資，否則只能領「囡仔工」的半薪，因此家中孩子滿了十六歲就被視為成人，舉行成年禮，而流傳至今。

祭拜七娘媽則是源於一段淒美的故事。七娘媽就是家喻戶曉、牛郎織女鵲橋會的女主角，織女與牛郎人間結緣、生下愛情結晶後，卻被押回天庭，阻擋於天河之旁，只能靠著喜鵲一年一度搭橋與牛郎相會。織女的六姊妹可憐牛郎獨自扶養幼子，就帶著鳥母們護佑孩子，而思念愛子的織女則幻化為世間所有孩子的守護神，守護千萬孩子平安成長。

為了替傳統文化創造年輕生命，《府城七夕國際藝術節》中，除了「作十六歲」的古禮，也融合了許多現代、國際元素。延續去年鼓藝表演盛況，2004



時間：2004年8月13日至22日

地點：孔廟文化園區、台南市立藝術中心、台南社教館、大遠百、新光三越

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年藝術節仍將邀請日、韓等國際鼓藝表演團隊輪番獻藝，營造力與美的嘉年華氣氛，此外還有充滿趣味的千人擊鼓表演、打擊競賽及多元精緻的相關藝文活動，希望激起府城人們潛在豐厚的生命活力，讓文化藝術種子代代相傳。

節慶期間街道景觀裝置、花藝展覽更使古城洋溢七夕的浪漫氣息。今年的中國情人節何不攜伴來趟府城，體驗一番古樸與浪漫交織的藝術嘉年華會！

which was once as important a rite of passage as marriage, but which has been forgotten in most places. This major event not only focuses the energy and pride of Tainan residents, in recent years it has also attracted participation by young people from other locations in Taiwan and even from overseas.

In the ancient ritual, which takes place in a temple, youths who have reached the age of 16 dress in traditional *zhuangyuan* attire (the clothing worn by those who passed the highest grade of imperial examinations), and give thanks to Qiniangma, a deity who protects children, as well as crossing underneath the Qiniangma Pavilion to symbolize their farewell to childhood. In families that want to uphold all the details of the traditional ritual, the grandmother on the mother's side will prepare a new set of clothes, a golden medallion (worn around the neck), and other gifts to commemorate the young person's "transformation into an adult."

The earliest known coming-of-age rituals took shape in the Zhou Dynasty (11th-3rd centuries BCE). Such rites were traditionally held for boys at age 20 and girls at age 15. So how did they come to be held at age 16 in Tainan? Why are they held on Double Seven? And why is Qiniangma the deity to whom worship and thanks are directed?

The answer to the first question lies back in the Qing Dynasty, when Tainan's Anping Harbor was a busy port

for shipping of goods to and from mainland China, and when merchants were packed in along the "Five Docks" area (now the Changle Street area). In those days, five major clans controlled the labor force on the docks, one clan on each of the five docks, and there was a high demand for new labor. Boys began working at half-pay, then would begin collecting full (adult) pay at age 16. Thus people came to see 16 as the age of adulthood, and began to hold the rite of passage then. This tradition has persisted down to the present day.

The Double Seven date and the role of Qiniangma can both be traced back to a tragic yet beautiful story. Qiniangma, it seems, is none other than the heroine of the famous story of the cowherd and the weaving maid. Destined for one another, the cowherd and the weaving maid consummated their love, and she bore his child. But then they were summoned back to the court of heaven and were separated from one another by the Milky Way, able to meet only once a year on Double Seven, thanks to a magpie bridge. The six sisters of the weaving maid felt so sorry for the cowherd as he struggled to raise the child alone that they brought a mother bird to protect the child. Meanwhile, the weaving maid, who longed so much to see her own child, became transformed into a patron deity for all children, ensuring that they grow to adulthood in health and safety.

But the ancient ritual of coming of age will not by any means be all there is to the 2004 Tainan Chihsi Arts Festival. Traditional culture will be enhanced by youthful energy as well, with many modern and international elements. Carrying on from the powerful drum performances of last year, for the 2004 event the organizers have invited percussion troupes from Japan, Korea, and elsewhere to demonstrate their art, creating an intensely moving atmosphere of celebration. There will also be a repeat of the fun 1000-man drum show, a drumming competition, and diverse and refined related arts activities. The aim is to inspire the hidden potential energy of the people of Tainan so that the seeds of culture can be passed from generation to generation.

And of course don't forget that Double Seven is also, in commemoration of the deep love between the cowherd and the weaving maid, Chinese Lovers' Day. During the festival, the streets will be decorated and there will be floral displays, creating a richly romantic atmosphere in this historic former capital. How could you spend this year's Chinese Lovers' Day with your partner anywhere *but* Tainan, where you can enjoy a delightful combination of tradition and romance!

Dates: August 13-22, 2004
Venues: Confucius Temple Culture Park, Tainan Center for the Arts, Tainan Social Education Hall, Far Eastern Department Store, Mitsukoshi Department Store
For further information: Tainan City Bureau of Cultural Affairs, at (06) 390-1101
Web site: <http://culture.tncg.gov.tw>

