

A DRAGON DANCE APPARATUS AND METHODS INVOLVING USE OF THE APPARATUS

FIELD OF INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to the field of dragon dance.

BACKGROUND

Cultural dance is often viewed as a way of preserving a heritage and history of a particular culture.
10 Dance steps and sequences used in cultural dance performances are often accompanied with the use of cultural dance apparatus (also known as props) to convey a story and/or provide a visual spectacle for the audience.

A commonly performed cultural dance the world over is the dragon dance which is associated with
15 Chinese culture. During a dragon dance performance, a cultural dance apparatus in the shape of a dragon is used. The cultural dance apparatus is supported by multiple poles spaced a distance apart, with each pole being affixed to the cultural dance apparatus. Each pole is carried by one person and subsequently maneuvered during use of the cultural dance apparatus when carrying out the dragon dance performance.

20 Unfortunately, the cultural dance apparatus currently in use require a pre-defined number of persons to carry the poles. If the number of persons present is less than the pre-defined number required to carry the poles, there will be substantial difficulty lifting and using the cultural dance apparatus. Correspondingly, this leads to a situation whereby the dragon dance performance cannot
25 be carried out in a desired manner as changing the physical configuration of the cultural dance apparatus cannot be carried out in-situ.

Thus, it is evident that the current cultural dance apparatus includes issues which should be addressed.

SUMMARY

In a first aspect, there is provided a dragon dance apparatus, the apparatus comprising a plurality of segments configured to be secured to each other. Each of the segments includes visible indicia. The

apparatus also includes securing members for securing the plurality of segments to each other. It is advantageous that the securing members are configured to be releasable to enable removal of at least one of the plurality of segments or to enable adding of at least one segment to the plurality of segments. The apparatus can further include a head segment and a tail segment.

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Each of the plurality of segments can be shaped in a form of an object such as, for example, a pineapple, a dragon dance body portion, an ingot, a coin and so forth. Preferably, each of the plurality of segments comprises at least four anchor points, with each anchor point being configured to be coupled with either rigid hooks or tightened knots. It is preferable that a mass and a size of each of the plurality of segments are variable and that the visual indicia of each of the plurality of segments is different. The securing members may be cords which are stretchable.

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In a second aspect, there is provided a method specifically for distributing a mass of a dragon dance apparatus, the apparatus comprising a plurality of segments including visible indicia, and securing members. The method comprises determining a number of persons capable of carrying one segment of the apparatus; selecting a number of segments to form the plurality of segments, the number of segments being equal to the number of persons capable of carrying one segment of the apparatus; and using the securing members to secure the number of segments with each other. Preferably, using the securing members involve either rigid hooks or tightened knots.

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In a third aspect, there is provided an in-situ method specifically for varying a length of a dragon dance apparatus, the apparatus comprising a plurality of segments including visible indicia, and cords. The method comprises detaching the cords from at least one segment of the apparatus; and removing the at least one segment from the apparatus. It is preferable that detaching the cords involve either unhooking of rigid hooks or loosening of tightened knots.

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DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES

In order that the present invention may be fully understood and readily put into practical effect, there shall now be described by way of non-limitative example only preferred embodiments of the present invention, the description being with reference to the accompanying illustrative figures.

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Figure 1 shows a perspective view of an apparatus of the present invention.

Figure 2 shows a photograph of a segment of the apparatus of the present invention.

Figure 3 shows a process flow for a first method of the present invention.

Figure 4 shows a process flow for a second method of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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Reference is made to the Figures to describe preferred embodiments of both the apparatus and method of the present invention.

10 Figure 1 shows a dragon dance apparatus 20. A dragon head 22 and a dragon tail 24 are shown, but it should be appreciated that heads and tails of other animals/shapes can also be used with the apparatus 20. The apparatus 20 comprises a plurality of segments 26 configured to be secured to each other. Figure 2 shows a photograph of one segment 26 used in the apparatus 20. In this embodiment, each segment 26 is in the shape of a pineapple and has visible indicia of a pineapple. Traditionally, Chinese culture includes a belief where pineapples represent prosperity and good
15 fortune. Consequently, the apparatus 20 which includes the plurality of segments 26 in the shape and appearance of a pineapple can be viewed by some persons to be a symbol of prosperity and good fortune. It should be appreciated that each segment 26 need not be in a form of a pineapple and can also be in the form of other objects like for example, a dragon dance body portion, ingots, coins, and the like.

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It should also be noted that a mass and a size of each of the plurality of segments 26 need not be the same. Each segment 26 is hollow with an inner structure to maintain a shape of the segment 26. A pole 40 can be removably affixed to each segment 26 to enable each segment 26 to be carried.

25 Each segment 26 is shown to include eight anchor points 30, four on a stem portion 32 of the segment 26 and another four on a base portion 34 of the segment 26. However, it is possible for each segment 26 to only have four anchor points 30, two on a stem portion 32 of the segment 26 and another two on a base portion 34 of the segment 26.

30 The cultural dance apparatus 20 also includes securing members 28 for securing the plurality of segments 26 to each other. The securing members 28 can be cords and can be stretchable. When the securing members 28 are stretchable, movement of the segments 26 relative to one another is easier. The securing members 28 are configured to be releasable to enable removal of at least one of the plurality of segments 26 or to enable adding of at least one segment 26 to the plurality of

segments 26. The securing members 28 are secured to respective anchor points 30 on segments 26 using either rigid hooks 36 or tightened knots 38. Other mechanisms which enable fast attachment/detachment with respect to the anchor points 30 can also be used. The anchor points 30 can be a part of the inner structure of the segment 26. It should be appreciated that either of rigid hooks 36 or tightened knots 38 are easy to use and do not cause inconvenience and extended delays when securing/removing the securing members 28 from respective anchor points 30. This allows fast removal or addition of segments 26 to the apparatus 20.

It should be noted that the dragon dance apparatus 20 constructed in the manner described in the preceding paragraphs allows in-situ ease of removal/adding of segments 26 which enables easy distribution of mass of the apparatus 20. In addition, the dragon dance apparatus 20 also enables optimization of available manpower to carry the apparatus 20 and consequently perform the dragon dance. This is because less manpower can still perform the dragon dance using the apparatus 20 with a fewer number of segments 26 while more manpower can also perform the dragon dance using the apparatus 20 with a higher number of segments 26.

Referring to Figure 3, there is shown a method 60 specifically for distributing a mass of a dragon dance apparatus similar to the aforementioned apparatus 20. The method 60 comprises determining a number of persons capable of carrying one segment 26 of the apparatus (62). It should be appreciated that the determination if a person is cable of carrying one segment 26 can be based on at least, for example, age of a person, weight of a person, height of a person, gender of a person, experience of a person carrying segments 26, and so forth.

The method 60 also comprises selecting a number of segments 26 to form the plurality of segments 26 of the apparatus 20, whereby the number of segments 26 should be equal to the number of persons capable of carrying one segment 26 of the apparatus 20 (64) as determined earlier.

Moreover, the method 60 also includes using the securing members 28 of the apparatus 20 to secure the number of segments 26 with each other (66), whereby use of the securing members 28 involve either rigid hooks 36 or tightened knots 38. It should be appreciated that either of rigid hooks 36 or tightened knots 38 are easy to use and do not cause inconvenience and extended delays when securing/removing the securing members 28 as described earlier.

In a similar manner to the apparatus 20, it should be appreciated that the method 60 enables in-situ easy distribution of mass of the apparatus 20. Consequently, the method 60 also enables optimization of available manpower to carry the apparatus 20 and consequently perform the dragon dance. This is because less manpower can still perform the dragon dance using the apparatus 20 with a fewer number of segments 26 while more manpower can also perform the dragon dance using the apparatus 20 with a higher number of segments 26.

Finally, referring to Figure 4, there is also shown a method 80 specifically for varying a length of a dragon dance apparatus similar to the aforementioned apparatus 20. The method 80 comprises detaching cords from at least one segment 26 of the apparatus 20 (82). The detaching of the cords involve either unhooking of rigid hooks or loosening of tightened knots. Furthermore, the method 80 also includes removing the at least one segment 26 from the apparatus 20 (84).

It should be appreciated that the method 80 enables in-situ easy variation of a length of the apparatus 20. Consequently, the method 80 also enables optimization of available manpower to carry the apparatus 20 and consequently perform the dragon dance. This is because less manpower can still perform the dragon dance using the apparatus 20 with a fewer number of segments 26 while more manpower can also perform the dragon dance using the apparatus 20 with a higher number of segments 26.

Whilst there have been described in the foregoing description preferred embodiments of the present invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the technology concerned that many variations or modifications in details of design or construction may be made without departing from the present invention.

CLAIMS

1. A dragon dance apparatus, the apparatus comprising:
a plurality of segments configured to be secured to each other, each of the segments
5 including visible indicia; and
securing members for securing the plurality of segments to each other,
wherein the securing members are configured to be releasable to enable removal of at least
one of the plurality of segments or to enable adding of at least one segment to the plurality of
segments.

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2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of segments is shaped in a form of an
object selected from a group consisting of: a pineapple, a dragon dance body portion, an ingot and a
coin.

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3. The apparatus of either claim 1 or 2, wherein each of the plurality of segments comprises at
least four anchor points.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein each anchor point is configured to be coupled with either
rigid hooks or tightened knots.

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5. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a mass and a size of each of the plurality
of segments are variable.

6. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the visual indicia of each of the plurality
25 of segments is different.

7. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the securing members are cords.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the cords are stretchable.

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9. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 8, further including a head segment and a tail
segment.

10. A method specifically for distributing a mass of a dragon dance apparatus, the apparatus comprising a plurality of segments including visible indicia, and securing members, the method comprising:

determining a number of persons capable of carrying one segment of the apparatus;

5 selecting a number of segments to form the plurality of segments, the number of segments being equal to the number of persons capable of carrying one segment of the apparatus; and

using the securing members to secure the number of segments with each other.

10 11. The method of claim 10, wherein using the securing members involve either rigid hooks or tightened knots.

12. An in-situ method specifically for varying a length of a dragon dance apparatus, the apparatus comprising a plurality of segments including visible indicia, and cords, the method comprising:

15 detaching the cords from at least one segment of the apparatus; and
removing the at least one segment from the apparatus.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein detaching the cords involve either unhooking of rigid hooks or loosening of tightened knots.

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