

SITUATION OF ART EDUCATION IN VIETNAM

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Theatre in Vietnam has a long tradition with different and various styles such as *tuong* (classical theatre), *cheo* (popular theatre), *ca'iluo'ng* (reform theatre), spoken theatre, folk song theatre, puppet theatre, and so on.

Each kind of theatre has its own character and its own history. Many kinds of traditional plays, for example *tuong* and *cheo*, have hundreds of years of history. Now there are 156 professional theatrical troupes in our country (consisting of either governmental or united joint venture, and private companies).

That is not to mention thousands of amateur art companies spread over all regions in the country.

Before, audiences used to go to the traditional theatre, but at present, especially among the young, they do not prefer theatre.

After the August Revolution in 1945, the government of Vietnam sought to develop art education; but due to the two wars, that aim could not be realized.

It was not until the North and the South of the country were united that art education could actually begin to be standardised.

Today, the Ministry of Culture and Information has the duty for promoting art education.

In large cities such as Hanoi, Ho Chi-Minh City, Hai Phong, Hue and Danang they have established several

Institutes of Art. For example, Hanoi has:

- one Institute of Theatre and Film
- one Institute of Music
- one Institute of Fine Arts
- one Institute of Art and Handicraft

We can find the same in Ho Chi Minh City.

In the other provinces there are also different schools of art and culture. In these institutes students have to study for five or six years in each field of study of their choice, for example: acting and theatre direction.

We have two faculties specially for the traditional theatres, *tuong* and *cheo*.

After graduation from these institutes students are offered a career in art companies in the country. Each year, these institutes produce graduates of about two hundred to three hundred students.

Besides these institutes we also have in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City two institutes of culture which consists of the following sections: library, museum, bookshops and mass media. In this latter section (mass media) amateurs are requested to train for theatre direction, music, scenography, theatre organization at a lower level.

Regarding amateurs, after graduating, they will be sent to amateur companies, to factories, offices and

cooperatives all over the country.

Normally in the Institute of Culture there are over a thousand students per year.

High schools of pedagogy and training of music teachers and up to date art education are to be found mostly in Hanoi because we don't have enough teachers.

All of these institutes are funded by the government and the government itself gives salary and scholarship.

Vietnamese theatre has an abundant long-standing tradition and has been and will be a powerful budding influence as a mirror reflecting very strongly, an encouraging source of sentiment and national soul, and it will be worthy of the spirit of the Vietnamese. All this must be nurtured in the Vietnamese heart. They share to contribute to the collective Southeast Asian theatrical background.