



7 St. Ann's Road  
St. Ann's  
Trinidad, W.I.

(868) 624-7150

The Dai Ailian Foundation was set up to honour the life and accomplishments of Madame Dai Ailian.

This remarkable woman was born in Couva, Trinidad in 1916. A truly unique individual, she was always interested in dance. Not having the resources to attend, she would look through the window at the ballet classes and go home and practice. She was eventually enrolled into the dance class. When the ballet teacher had to return to England, Dai Ailian was entrusted to teach the class. All this at the age of eleven.

At fourteen, Dai Ailian was sent to England. The renowned Sir Anton Dolin took her into his studio as one of only six students to study dance with him. She would also study with other prestigious instructors, such as Margaret Craske, Dame Marie Rambert and Kurt Jooss. Dai Ailian gave dance performances to help raise funds for China in their anti-Japanese War campaign. This led her to being invited to China in 1940.

This singular event would change Dai Ailian's life. She was instrumental in improving dance in China and documenting the traditional folk dances from the various villages. She is fondly referred to as the "Mother of Chinese Modern Dance". Madame Dai received many international awards in her lifetime. There is also a bust of her in the reception lobby of the Royal Academy of Dance in London, England.

The Dai Ailian Foundation in association with the Beijing Dance Academy offers scholarships to dancers from Trinidad and Tobago to study dance. Their area of study can range from Classical Ballet to Chinese Folk Dance and Choreography. The Foundation sent two persons in 2011 – Juan Pablo Alba Dennis and Seon Nurse. Last year, the recipient was Anya Reyes. Symara Sarai Williams is currently in China for the school year 2013-2014.

The Theatre Production on Madame Dai's life was conceptualized by Kith And Kin Productions to be a dramatic expression of her professional achievements and personal life. It is envisioned that through this production there will a greater awareness of this Trinidadian, Dai Ailian, and her international achievements.

We take this opportunity to thank the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and The Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism for their support of this venture.

*"Madam Dai left us 1 year ago. She is forever the red flag in my heart and all the dancers in the National Ballet of China. The world today focuses on material things such as money, reputation, etc., but Madam Dai loved the country, loved the party and loved Chinese dance with all her heart. Madam Dai was always concerned about the development of the National Ballet and the people she loved. She devoted all her life to dance in China as well as the international stage. Madam Dai led a simple life and did not have much savings at her death but the wealth is her true heart. We are very proud of her. We can comfort Madam Dai by doing what she taught us in our dancing and/or in our performance."*

Chao RuHeng  
President of the National Ballet of China

*"It is a great honour for Trinidad and Tobago that a national could play such a leading role in the field of world culture."*

Rudy Indarsingh,  
Member of Parliament for Couva