

Friday, 09/08/06

## Chinese Lion Dancers make their mark

*Local troupe performs at Shakespeare in Park*



[enlarge](#)

Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville members perform their Chinese Lion Dance before the start of Labor Day's Shakespeare in the Park. (ALAN POIZNER / FOR THE TENNESSEAN)



[enlarge](#)

Members of the Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville perform before the start of Shakespeare in the Park on Monday evening in Centennial Park. (ALAN POIZNER / FOR THE TENNESSEAN)

# **Local troupe performs at Shakespeare in Park**

The lions in Chinese Lion Dance bear little resemblance to real lions but play an important role in Chinese culture and history.

Lions are portrayed as peaceful creatures and are considered divine animals of nobility and dignity. They symbolize strength, courage and wisdom.

Chinese Lion Dance is traditionally performed at Chinese New Year celebrations and at grand openings for new buildings and businesses. The dances are said to bring good luck to the community.

But the Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville's Chinese Lion Dance Team recently presented a special 30-minute pre-show program for Shakespeare in the Park.

The performance took place on Labor Day in the Bandshell at Centennial Park.

The Chinese Lion Dance Team is made up of members from various backgrounds.

Most of the members are Chinese martial artists, while others simply are drawn to the beauty and vigor of Chinese lion dancing. •

— STAFF REPORTS