

Goh Ballet Academy dancing its way to China

Local company invited by government agency to tour five cities in two weeks

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The Goh Ballet Academy is going to tour China.

Thirty-four young ballet dancers between the ages of 14 and 22 will be making the trip to Guangzhou, Zhongshan, Hangzhou, Suzhou, and Beijing.

"We've been invited by a Chinese government agency, The Chinese People's Association For Friendship With Foreign Countries National Council," explains Katie Weber of the Goh Ballet.

"They've invited us to go over there, not only to experience China, but to perform for Chinese audiences, and to take master classes with different ballet companies and institutes in China." The tour will take place between Aug. 29 and Sept. 14.

"We've been [to China] several times, but it's the first time for many of the people on the trip," said Weber.

"We were invited last year for the Shanghai Expo, but logistics did not enable us to go. So we were very excited to make this happen. It's an even bigger tour, we're really honoured."

The Goh Ballet Academy is located at Eighth and Main. It was formed in 1978 by principal dancers Choo Chiat Goh and Lin Yee Goh.

"They're from Singapore, and both danced in China," said Weber. "They immigrated here and started a ballet company in Vancouver."

The couple's daughter, Chan Hon Goh, was a prima ballerina with the National Ballet of Canada for two decades before returning to Vancouver last year to become the director of the academy. All three members of the Goh family will accompany the students to China.

jmackie@vancouver.sun.com

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