



For Immediate Release

Media Information
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UNDERWATER LION DANCE PERFORMANCE

Every year, the Chinese community celebrates the Lunar New Year with lion dance performances all over the world. Underwater World Singapore will be the first aquarium in the world, known on records, to stage a lion dance in the water. According to the Chinese, water symbolizes wealth and we believe that our “water” lions will chase away the bad luck of 2003 and usher in a prosperous new year of the monkey. The God of Fortune will also make a special appearance in the water to shower good fortune on us.

Many myths and legends surround the origins of celebrating Chinese New Year. One of them tells of a lion and the mythical monster “Nian”. A long time ago, a ferocious creature called Nian, which sounds like the Chinese word for “year”, started to attack the villagers and animals. No man nor animal could overpower this creature and in despair they called upon the heavenly lion for help. The lion shook its mane and Nian hurried away with its tail between its legs, but, it vowed to return to seek vengeance.

A year later, Nian did return, but the heavenly lion was too busy guarding the emperor’s gate to render any assistance. So the villagers created a lion image made out of bamboo and cloth, with two villagers inside the costume to confront Nian. Firecrackers were also set off to scare it away. He was never seen again.

The “water” lion dance performances will be held every day from today through the 15 days of the Lunar New Year. The God of Fortune will also be greeting visitors in the water. Details can be found in the attached performance schedule.

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