

### **ATO 3M: Composition Activities for Creative Yangge Dance**

#### Dance and Drama

Put students into groups of eight. Eight students make an outside square or circle while the other eight students stand in the center. Both groups can wear traditional Chinese costumes. Students in the center act out the dance instead of dancing it. They could pretend to be farmers. If they have trouble acting, they can make tableaux. Students from the outside circle can step inside and switch roles with one of the students inside.

#### Combination

In groups of 4 to 6, students choose four upper body movements and four lower body movements. Then, students are asked to use dance terms and phrases that they have learned in the class to make their own Chinese dance. They must have a clear beginning with transitions and an apparent ending.

#### Unison, canon, and flocking

Divide students into groups of 4 to 8, according to the level of students. After mastering the *Yangge* lesson, students are encouraged to use UNISON, CANON, AND FLOCKING, to make their Chinese dance more interesting. If possible, let them research and use another piece of CHINESE music for their own movement interpretation.

#### Elements of Dance (time, space, body, energy and relationship)

Students work in small groups. Students can choose one or more elements from the creative movement recipes to modify their *Yangge* dance. For instance, they can make certain parts of *Yangge* faster than other sections. They can change the level from high to low. Students can also change their formation to make their *Yangge* dance look more intricate.

#### ABA

In small groups, students can present the original *Yangge* sequence – version A. Then they dance their version B (choreographed by students). They have to end the dance with version A again to finish the whole dance. They can also break the dance into 3 sections in which they keep the original beginning and the ending but modify the middle part.