

OUR SINGAPORE:
ONE PEOPLE, MANY CULTURES.

Kristang dance

The Kristangs, also known as Portuguese Eurasians, are part of Singapore's Eurasian Community. They are a result of intermarriage between the Portuguese and other races who were present in Malacca when the Portuguese arrived in 1511.

This troupe is performing the "Branyo", a popular dance brought by the Portuguese to Malacca. It is performed during celebrations or festivals, like at this year's HeritageFest.

The Kristangs retained many aspects of Portuguese culture, including an adaptation of the colourful traditional dance costumes.

Kristang songs and dances are usually accompanied by Western musical instruments like the guitar, the ukelele and the mandolin.

As this backdrop shows, dance is a universal artform. All of Singapore's various cultures have their own styles.

The women are singing the "Jinkli Nona", a love song which means Fair Maiden. The Kristangs often refer to the Jinkli Nona as being their unofficial national anthem. Its rhythm is similar to that of the Malay "ronggeng" music.



Picture and research: JUSTIN ZHUANG. Information provided by Valerie Scully, Kristang Cultural Troupe, Siglap South CC