

Liu Yan — Liu Yan is a classical Chinese dancer who has performed in many dance dramas and won many dance competitions in and outside China. She was chosen to be the lead dancer in the "Silk Road" segment at the Beijing 2008 Olympics opening ceremony, but 12 days before the actual performance, Ms. Liu fell from a malfunctioning moving platform during an evening rehearsal at the Beijing National Stadium and was rushed to a local military hospital to undergo six hours of surgery. Her accident resulted in nerve and spinal damage, paralyzing her lower body. In March 2010, Ms. Liu established the "Liu Yan Arts Special Fund" to help children in poverty-stricken areas, orphans, and migrant workers' children through art education. She has a doctorate degree in Dance Theory from the Beijing Dance Academy.