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A performable exercise: The development of Belly Dance in local Taiwanese communitiesYuchi Chang¹, Sogawa Tsuneo²¹Graduate Student of Sport Sciences, Waseda University²Faculty of Sport Sciences, Waseda University

In contrast with Egypt or some Western countries where belly dance shows usually occur in nightclubs or ethnic restaurants in big cities targeting foreign tourists, most belly dance performances in Taiwan actually are held as local events. Considering its short history in Taiwan, this study aims first to explore how belly dance quickly spread to so many local communities. The second purpose is to compare the features of these community-based belly dance shows with those that take place in commercial venues. This study employs methods of text analysis and participant observation. The data collected show: First, cooperation between belly dance instructors and the dominant

adult education institute—Community University, which has about 100 branches in all over the island—played a crucial role in the expansion of the dance. Second, while belly dance shows in clubs or restaurants in other countries are generally performed by professional dancers, shows in local Taiwanese events are mostly performed by amateur dancers who are members of community belly dance clubs or nearby dance studios. These amateur dancers see performing as a way of giving support to those local events with poor budgets, through which they also get a stronger sense of being a part of their community.