

Herdenking Koreaanse Oorlog, 1950 – 2010

*The Little Angels, Children's Folk Ballet of Korea,
World Tour to honour UN Korean War Veterans*



Woensdag, 15 september, 19.30 uur,
Lucent Danstheater, Den Haag

Het betreft een benefice voorstelling voor Korea Strijders en andere belangstellenden. Voor inlichtingen over plaatsbewijzen, kunt u bellen:

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Herdenking Koreaanse Oorlog, 1950 – 2010: Little Angels of Korea
Wednesday, 15 September, Lucent Danstheater, Den Haag

The world famous Children's Folk Ballet of Korea, The Little Angels, will perform in the Netherlands on Wednesday, September 15, starting 19.30, at the Lucent Danstheater in the Hague.

The Little Angels are currently undertaking a worldwide tour of the 16 nations that sent troops to Korea to defend the peace and freedom of the Korean people from North Korea's invasion of the South 60 years ago, on June 25 1950. "We want to give the veterans a breathtaking and heartwarming performance that will delight them, and at the same time astound them with the contrast between the ragged children they remember begging in the gutter in 1953 and those 'visions of perfection' they will see on stage today," said Dr. Bo Hi Pak, founding director of the Little Angels and a Korean War veteran himself.

In discussing plans for the visit to The Netherlands, Dr. Pak, who is also the co-chairman and executive director of Korean War 60th Anniversary Memorial Project (KW60), said, "we feel a very deep sense of Divine mission to do this, to show the Korean peoples' thanks and appreciation to those Korean War heroes", and emphasized, "the Korean people's bottomless gratitude toward Holland and the Dutch veterans for their sacrifice."

The Korean War is often referred to as "the Forgotten War". 60 years ago, Korea was hardly known, it was very far away and people did not like to contemplate communist aggression as they were trying to recover from World War Two. There was minimal media coverage and no formal conclusion of the war, only a ceasefire. There was relatively little appreciation extended to veterans when they returned. But the Koreans have never forgotten, and welcome all veterans who visit the land they defended. Now Korea is sending its greatest cultural "Ambassadors of Good Will" and "Angels of Peace" to the world, with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak enthusing "I highly praise and value their efforts, and hope that the Little Angels' performances will be welcomed and accepted by the people in the countries they visit."

The Dutch KW 60 Memorial committee is headed by Jhr. Dr. P.A.C. Beelaerts van Blokland, former Minister of Housing, Planning & State Buildings and former Queen's Commissioner, and H.E. Dr. Young-won Kim, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea; and includes Col. L.C. Schreuders, Chairman, Vereniging Oud Korea Strijders and Vice-president Inter-national Federation Korean War Veterans Association; Dr. W.F. van Eekelen, former Minister of Defense, former Ambassador, and member of the Netherlands Advisory Committee on European Integration; and Dr. J.W. Bertens, former Ambassador and former Member of the European Parliament. In allocating tickets, the committee will be giving priority to the Dutch veterans of the war. The tour is being supported by the Universal Peace Federation.

Since their founding in 1962, the Little Angels have performed a number of times at the White House in Washington, D.C., at the United Nations in New York, at Buckingham Palace in London, in the Kremlin in Moscow, in the North Korean capitol, Pyongyang, as well as at many other notable venues throughout the world; including before the young Princess Beatrix of The Netherlands. The New York Times has called them "...a phenomenal company", while London's Evening Standard said the Little Angels are "...so brilliant that it is very difficult to believe that the average age is ten." Invited to take part in the opening ceremony of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, they represented to the world the dignity of the Korean people.

"But our most important performances of all," said Dr. Pak, "are awaiting us on this upcoming tour, because they will be perhaps the final 'thank you' we can make to our precious Korean War veterans in the twilight years of their lives."

Further enquiries can be made to info@upf-nederland.nl; also by calling 0346 572989 / 070 3835938 / 020 6957440. More information at www.kw60project.com - www.upf-nederland.nl

KOREAN WAR 60TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
The Little Angels *Children's Folk Ballet of Korea*
16-Nation Tour — To Honour the UN Korean War Veterans
NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Media Contact: Christopher Davies 207720838
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**THE LITTLE ANGELS 16-NATION TOUR CONTINUES
ONWARD, TO HONOUR VETERANS IN EUROPE AND AFRICA**

**Evenings of “Breathtaking” Artistry by Korean Ballet Will Mark 60th
Anniversary of Korean War**

WASHINGTON—On the foundation of a resounding success in its tour of the Americas in June and July, the Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea is launching the second leg of its 2010 world thank-you tour.

After having played to packed houses and thrilled audiences in the United States, Canada, and Colombia, the renowned troupe will perform in seven nations in Europe and two in Africa in September and October. The Little Angels' world tour is a historically unprecedented endeavour. It is likely the most ambitious effort this year to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, remembering it as an outstanding success that protected freedom in the southern half of the peninsula and paved the way to South Korea's present prosperity.

Its purpose is to convey the still-passionate gratitude of the Korean nation to those 16 countries that sent troops to the 1950-53 conflict, saving Korea from the grip of totalitarianism. On behalf of the Korean people, the Little Angels also want to honour all war veterans in those countries, to comfort and cheer the aging Korean War veterans in particular (and their families), and to pay back some of the “blood debt” Koreans feel they owe the countries for the thousands of European and African soldiers killed and wounded in the war, which started June 25, 1950.

“We, the Korean people, want to show our gratitude, which we could never repay in all of eternity,” said Dr. Bo Hi Pak, founding director of the Little Angels and a Korean War veteran himself.

On the upcoming second leg of their world tour, the Little Angels will perform in London, Amsterdam, Luxembourg, Brussels, Paris, Johannesburg, Addis Ababa, Athens, and Istanbul, in that order. Then, in November and December, before 2010 concludes, they will

undertake the third leg of their tour, to Thailand, the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand, completing the Korean people's heartfelt "thank you" to all 16 nations that comprised the 1950-53 United Nations coalition that formed to aid Korea.

The Little Angels is a world-class dance troupe established in 1962, with 33 girls and 1 boy who present breathtaking and heart-warming traditional Korean dances, songs, music, and theatrical sketches.

The group was founded by Korean religious leader Rev. Sun Myung Moon. Earlier this year, he granted US\$10 million to the Little Angels and proposed the world tour, to convey Korea's gratitude and appreciation to the governments and people of all 16 UN-coalition nations.

Rev. Moon also has a deeply personal reason for supporting this tour. At the beginning of the Korean War, he was a political prisoner in Hungnam Prison, a communist concentration camp in North Korea. After the Inchon landing, on September 15, 1950, the prison authorities began to systematically execute all of the prisoners once they realized the UN forces were at their doorstep. It was just before his execution, on October 14, 1950, that Rev. Moon was dramatically rescued by UN soldiers. Over the years, Rev. Moon has consistently found ways to express his gratitude to the UN forces who saved his life.

Performances will take place as follows [DATES & TIMES TENTATIVE]:

- **LONDON, Wednesday, September 15, 7:30 p.m.**
- **AMSTERDAM, Saturday, September 18, 7:30 p.m.**
- **LUXEMBOURG, Tuesday, September 21, 7:30 p.m.**
- **BRUSSELS, Friday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.**
- **PARIS, Monday, September 27, 7:30 p.m.**
- **JOHANNESBURG, South Africa; Monday, October 4, 7:30 p.m.**
- **ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia; Sunday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.**
- **ATHENS, Friday, October 15, 7:30 p.m.**
- **ISTANBUL, Tuesday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.**

To reserve tickets, veterans and active-duty military-service members, email info@upf-nederland.nl or call 0346 572989 morning / 070 3835938 evening / 020 6957440 other times

►► For an in-depth Media Backgrounder, a Fact Sheet, a list of the group's Media Events in Europe, a list of Suggested Story Ideas to mark the 60th anniversary of the Korean War's start, and video and still photos of the Little Angels, please email upfnl@yahoo.com or call 020-7720839.

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The Little Angels

From Rev. Sun Myung Moon's autobiography "As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen", Chapter Four.

Power of Dance Moves the World

We were not a rich church. We were a poor church started by people who couldn't afford enough food to keep themselves well fed. We didn't have the fancy church buildings that other churches had, but we ate barley when others ate rice and saved our money a little at a time. We then shared that money with people who were poorer than we. Our missionaries slept in unheated rooms by laying their sleeping quilts on the bare cement floors. When meal time came, it was common for them to stave off their hunger by eating a few cooked potatoes. In every case, we did our best not to spend money on ourselves.

In 1963, we used the money we had saved this way to select seventeen children and form a Seonghwa children's dance troupe called the Little Angels. Korea in those days had very little in the way of cultural performances. We had nothing to show people from other countries, let alone performances that we ourselves could watch and enjoy. Everyone was too busy trying to survive to remember what Korean dance was like or even the fact that we had a cultural heritage extending back five thousand years. My plan was to have these seventeen children learn how to dance and then send them out into the world. Many foreigners knew about Korea only as a poor country that had fought a terrible war. I wanted to show them the beautiful dances of Korea so that they would realize that the Korean people are a people of culture. We could insist all we wanted that we were a people of culture with a five-thousand-year tradition, but no one would believe us if we had nothing to show them.

Our dances—with dancers dressed in beautiful, full-length hanboks, gently twirling around—are a wonderful cultural heritage that can give a new experience to Westerners who are accustomed to watching dancers jump around with bare legs. Our dances are imbued with the sorrowful history of the Korean people. The movements of Korean dance—in which dancers keep their heads slightly bowed as if by force and move carefully so as not to draw attention to themselves—were created by the Korean people, whose five-thousand-year history has been filled with grief.

As the dancer raises one foot wrapped in white beoseon, the traditional Korean leggings, and puts it forward to take a single step, she turns her head gently and raises her hand. As I watch, the gentle subtlety of her movements seems to melt away all the worries and frustrations in my heart. There is no attempt to move the audience with a lot of words spoken in a booming voice. Instead, each dance move, performed with great gentleness and subtlety, moves the heart of the audience. This is the power of art. It allows people who don't understand each other's language to communicate. It lets people who don't know about each other's history understand each other's heart.

In particular, the innocent facial expressions and bright smiles of the children would be certain to completely wipe away the dark image of a country that had only recently been at war. I created this dance troupe to introduce the dances from our country's five-thousand-year history to people in the United States, which was the most advanced country in the world at that time.

The society around us, however, heaped criticism on us. Before even seeing the Little Angels dance, they began to criticize. "The women of the Unification Church dance day and night," went their outrageous criticism, "and now it looks like they've given birth to children who also dance."

No such rumors could shake my resolve, however. I was confident of showing the world what Korean dance was like. I wanted to let the people who accused us of having danced naked see the beautiful, gentle movements of dancers stepping lightly in their beoseon leggings. These were not wild dances with twisting and turning without rhythm. They were gentle dances by dancers clothed in the traditional dress of our country.

Angels Open a Path through a Dark Forest

There are two things we must leave our descendants when we die. One is tradition, and the other is education. A people without tradition will fail. Tradition is the soul that allows a people to continue; a people without a soul cannot survive. The second thing of importance is education. A people will also fail if it does not educate its descendants. Education gives us the power to live with new knowledge and objectives. Through education, people acquire wisdom for living. Anyone who cannot read will be ignorant, but once educated, a person will know how to use his wisdom in the world to manage his own life.

Education helps us understand the principles by which the world operates. To open up a new future, we need, on the one hand, to pass on to our descendants the tradition that has been handed down to us over thousands of years and, on the other, to also supply them with education concerning new things. When tradition and new knowledge are appropriately integrated in our lives, they give birth to an original culture. Tradition and education are both important, and it is impossible to say which takes priority over the other. The wisdom to integrate the two also comes to us through education.

At the same time that I founded the dance troupe, I also founded the Little Angels School of the Arts (later renamed Sunhwa Art School). The purpose in founding this school was to spread our ideals to the world through the arts. The issue of whether we had the ability to manage a school was of secondary importance. I first put my plan into action. If the purpose is clear and good, then it should be put into action quickly. I wanted to educate children to love heaven, love their country, and love humanity.

I wrote my motto for the school as a piece of calligraphy that said in Chinese characters, “Love Heaven, Love Humanity, Love Country.” Someone asked me then, “Why do you put ‘Love Country’ at the end, when you say your purpose is to show Korea’s unique culture to the world?”

I answered him, saying, “If a person loves heaven and loves humanity, he has already loved his country. Loving the country has already been accomplished in the process.”

If a Korean can cause the world to respect him, then he has already accomplished the purpose of letting the world know about Korea. The Little Angels went to many countries and demonstrated the excellence of Korean culture, but they never made any nationalistic claims about their country. The image of Korea as a country of great culture and tradition was planted deeply in the minds of the people who saw their performances and gave them their applause. In that sense, the Little Angels did more than anyone to publicize Korea to the world and practice love for their country. It gives me great satisfaction every time I see the performances by Su Mi Jo and Young Ok Shin, graduates of Sunhwa Art School who have gone on to become world-renowned vocalists, and by Julia Moon and Sue Jin Kang, who are among the best ballerinas in the world.

Since 1965, when they held their first overseas performance in the United States, the Little Angels have been introducing Korea’s beautiful tradition all over the world. They were invited by the British royal family to perform in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II. They were invited to take part

in the bicentennial celebration in the United States, where they performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. They gave a special performance for U.S. President Richard Nixon, and they took part in the cultural and performing arts festival that was part of the Seoul Olympic Games. The Little Angels are known around the world as cultural ambassadors for peace.

The following is something that happened in 1990, when I visited Russia. The Little Angels gave a performance on the night before I was to leave Russia, after having met President Mikhail Gorbachev. Korea's little girls stood in the center of Moscow, the center of communism. After performing Korean dances dressed in their hanboks, the Little Angels sang Russian folk songs with their beautiful voices. Shouts of "Encore!" from the audience made it impossible for them to come off the stage. In the end, they completely exhausted their repertoire of songs.

First Lady Raisa Gorbachev was seated in the audience. South Korea and Russia had not yet established diplomatic relations, and it was very unusual for the first lady to attend a cultural performance from such a country. However, Mrs. Gorbachev sat in the front row and applauded enthusiastically throughout the program. After the performance, she came backstage and handed the troupe flowers. She repeatedly praised the greatness of Korean culture, saying, "The Little Angels are truly angels of peace. I did not know that South Korea had such beautiful traditional culture. During the entire performance, it was as if I was dreaming a dream about my own childhood." Mrs. Gorbachev embraced each member of the troupe and kissed them on the cheek, saying, "My Little Angels!"

In 1998, the Little Angels visited Pyongyang as the first purely private, nongovernmental cultural exchange program and gave three performances there. They danced the cute "Little Groom Dance" and the colorful "Fan Dance." The eyes of the North Korean people watching the performance were filled with tears. The image of a woman sobbing uncontrollably was captured in the lens of a newspaper photographer. Yong Soon Kim, chairman of North Korea's Asia-Pacific Peace Commission, praised the Little Angels after their performance, saying, "They have opened a narrow path through the dark forest."

That was exactly what the Little Angels had done. They demonstrated for the first time that Koreans from North and South, who had turned their backs on each other for such a long time, were capable of coming together in one place and watching each other's performances. People often think that politics moves the world, but that is not the case. It is culture and art that move the world. It is emotion, not reason, that strikes people in the innermost part of their hearts. When hearts change and are able to receive new things, ideologies and social regimes change as a result. The Little Angels did more than just advertise our traditional culture to the world. They created narrow paths between worlds completely different from each other.

Each time I meet the Little Angels, I tell them, "You must have beautiful hearts to perform beautiful dances. You must have beautiful hearts to have beautiful faces." True beauty is a beauty that wells up from within us. The Little Angels have been able to move the hearts of people throughout the world, because the beauty of Korea's tradition and spiritual culture that are imbued in their dances are beautiful. So the applause for the Little Angels is actually applause for Korea's traditional culture.

The Little Angels & Korea War 60th Anniversary tour (KW60)

The KW 60 tour began in the USA on June 7 at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Va., with a memorial service and wreath-laying at the tombs of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his wife Jean.

The Little Angels' first performances were at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Opera House in Washington, DC, June 9-12. The Korean War 60th Anniversary Memorial Committee (KW60), invited Korean War veterans, as well as veterans of other conflicts, and their families & survivors, also active-duty military & their families to the June 9 & 10 performances free of charge.

In presenting the excitement and beauty of Korea's music and dance, the troupe's purpose is to honor and cheer the countries' veterans, express the deep gratitude the Korean people feel toward all those who contributed to preserving their freedom, and celebrate the enduring friendship between Korea and the 16 nations.

"They paid a huge price in blood and tears that the Korean people will never forget," said Dr. Bo Hi Pak, founding director of the Little Angels, which was founded in 1962 to promote traditional Korean culture and world peace. Pak, a retired Republic of Korea (ROK) diplomat and ROK Army lieutenant colonel, is himself a Korean War veteran who also received officer training in the U.S.

Donations to the project are used to pay for the Little Angels Performing Art Group's 16-Nation World Tour; subsidize the Revisit program of Korean War Veterans and their families to Korea; start a Scholarship program for family members of Korean War Veterans; support Korean War Memorial & Museum programs; and Korean War book publication programs.

"We want to give the veterans a breathtaking and heartwarming performance that will delight them, and at the same time astound them with the contrast between the ragged children they remember begging in the gutter in 1953 and those 'visions of perfection' they will see on stage today," said Pak, co-chairman and executive director of KW60.

The Little Angels were created by Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Universal Peace Federation and many other organizations in 1962, at a time when post-war life in South Korea was very poor. There were few resources available, and Pak and his associates had to scrape and sacrifice to make the vision of the dance troupe a reality. But as the years passed, the children worked hard and became a world-class group, eventually performing in major capitals. They have appeared before US Presidents, British and Dutch royalty, and have been a key element in Rev. Moon's peace initiatives to the Soviet Union and North Korea, performing for Pres. & Mrs. Gorbachev in Moscow, and Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang.

The ballet troupe was created by Rev. Moon in gratitude to the UN forces that saved his country and liberated him from a North Korean concentration camp, and to help regenerate in Koreans a pride in their culture and to share it with the world. Composed mostly of girls aged 9 to 15, their professional level of dancing and singing has inspired audiences all over the world for the past five decades, thrusting them into the role of representatives of the Korean nation to the world and to many nations.

Notes

~ Korean War 60th Anniversary Memorial Project.- <http://www.kw60project.com/tour.Html>

~ Endorsements: <http://www.kw60project.com/testimonials.html>

~ Publicity & Reports: for the US tour, published in May, including short videos about the Korean War, the Little Angels & KW60 - <http://www.upf.org/upf-news/142-americas/2767-little-angels-childrens-folk-ballet-of-korea> - The Little Angels visited Canada, June 16-20:

<http://www.upf.org/upf-news/142-americas/2880-little-angels-in-ottawa-canada> -
<http://www.kw60canada.com/tour.html> - they then visited Central America Bogota, Colombia, 2,640 m (8,661 ft) above sea level, the dancers needing extra oxygen between dances.

~ After Sixty Years, Time to Remember That "Freedom Is Not Free": report on June 25 performance near the Korean War Memorial on the National Mall in Washington DC. - <http://www.upf.org/upf-news/142-americas/2875-after-sixty-years-time-to-remember-that-freedom-is-not-free>

~ Archive info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kw60-nl> ; photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/52148226@N03/>

The Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea
16-Nation Tour plan to those nations that sent troops to the Korean War
<http://www.kw60project.com/aboutla.html>

Mission Statement: The Korean War 60th Anniversary Memorial Project (hereinafter referred to as "KW60") has been organized to convey its important mission to the world. The Republic of Korea would not exist today without the noble sacrifice of the U.N. Korean War veterans. Historically, Korea has been a very righteous nation, and the Korean people will never forget the debt that they owe to the Korean War veterans. To commemorate the KW60, it is necessary to move this Project forward quickly, otherwise, the Korean people will lose the chance to offer their sincere gratitude to those soldiers and their families.

The KW60 will provide a great opportunity for the Korean government and people to express their sincere gratitude to those 16 nations who sent troops to the Korean War and to those 25 nations who supported the effort with medical goods and other service. To express thanks and gratitude, KW60 has planned a worldwide tour with the Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea (hereinafter referred as "the Little Angels") to the 16 nations.

Purpose: The purpose of the Little Angels' tour is to give Korean people's comfort and also to convey sincere gratitude to those nations and soldiers who sacrificed their precious lives. As a result of such sacrifices, the Republic of Korea can now enjoy freedom and independence. Additionally, KW60 wishes to take this opportunity to share Korea's unique culture with the world.

Why the Little Angels? The Little Angels were chosen because they are the best representatives of Korea to fulfill the purpose of the KW60 Project. During the past 47 years the Little Angels, under the banner of the national flag of Korea, have represented the Korean culture to the world. As a result, they have become well-known as "Peace Angels" and "Ambassadors of Good Will" to many nations around the globe. The New York Times has praised them as being a phenomenal company.

Three times, the Little Angels of Korea have received Korean Government Citations and Awards of Recognition. The Little Angels of Korea are the most unique Children's Folk Ballet, having the deeper meaning of children being a symbol of peace to the world. Truly, they are Korea's best Ambassadors for peace and goodwill.

The Little Angels offer a delightful program that weaves a spell of Oriental magic that captivates audiences and makes the Korean cultural heritage easily understood by Western audiences. From

the stately court dances to the exuberant and joyful dances and songs from rural Korean life, audiences get glimpses of Korean life through music, drumming and dance. Their performance includes the famous Fan Dance, Warrior's Dance and Hourglass Drum Dance.

The Little Angels is a company of 40 young artists, aged 8 to 15, from Seoul, Korea. Through music and dance they present timeless moments from Korea's folklore and legends. Many of the songs and dances that are performed in the colorful program originated as long as 2000 years ago.

Montclair State University:

<http://www.montclair.edu/publications/news/newsrelease101angels.html>

This Korean classical children's dance troupe, with its motto Love Heaven, Love Humankind, Love Your Country, was established in 1963 with the intention of devoting itself to God, world peace, and the honor of its homeland. It has introduced Korean culture and performing arts-and implanted the Korean spirit-in the world through its more than 1,800 live performances and two hundred television appearances in a total of forty nations throughout North, Central and South America, Europe, Oceania, Africa, and Asia. Thus, the Little Angels of Korea have served as envoys of peace and friendship, and have become the proud face of Korea.

The New York Times called them "...a phenomenal company" while London's Evening Standard said the Little Angels are "...so brilliant that it is very difficult to believe that the average age is ten." In another part of the world, the Working People's Daily in Burma said of the Little Angels, "They are children, lovable children, made more lovable by the magic of the dance."

The Little Angels group is a Korean children's performing arts group that spreads Korean traditional arts throughout the entire world in a goodwill mission of peace and art. They are well-known worldwide as singing and dancing angels, and as little delegations of good-will and friendship. The Little Angels Performing Arts Center was constructed as a performing venue for the Little Angels themselves so they could fulfill their activities.

<http://www.lifeinkorea.com/Travel2/seoul/333>