



Shenzhen throws a huge farewell party

By SHI YINGYING
AND TANG ZHE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — More than 8,000 people celebrated this special party — the closing ceremony of the Shenzhen Universiade — at the city's theme park, Window of the World, last night. And more than half of those present had roles at the party.

"The athletes are the stars of the party. They're the audience and the party throwers at the same time," said Shi Gang, one of the organizers of the ceremony, referring to the more than 4,000 athletes who attended the party.

"To begin with, we invited all the athletes to the theme park an

hour before the closing. While they browsed miniature reproductions of world's famous tourist attractions, they also warmed up for the party," he said.

Apart from offering the main venue for the closing ceremony, Window of the World provided five sub-venues for the final-night carnival as well. Athletes from five continents participated in all kinds of interactive performances.

Some Chinese traditional handicrafts and local specialties such as paper-cuts and clay figurines were presented before the party started at 8pm.

"This is my first time at a Universiade, and the closing ceremony was wonderful," said Sophie Baron

La Salle. The Canadian women's water polo player was carrying a paper portrait of herself. "It was amazing and looks exactly like me. I love it," she said.

Claude-Louis Gallien, president of the International University Sports Federation, liked the idea of holding the closing ceremony at a theme park rather than at the main stadium.

"It's the first time the Universiade's closing ceremony has been held outside the main stadium," he said.

"You've got a 108-meter Eiffel Tower, you have the Leaning Tower of Pisa and India's Taj Mahal. Shenzhen is showing the world what it's got. Here, athletes can

look around and see many wonderful things in one place."

With no seating to limit athletes' dancing at the theme park's venues, David Chelidze from Georgia was covered with sweat from dancing.

"I like Shenzhen and I'm really happy to be here. The Universiade was incredible and there were lots of things I enjoyed. I just can't explain, because there were so many. Thank you, China," said Chelidze.

Laughter and sweat were exactly what Shi Gang expected from the young athletes at the closing ceremony and that is why he decided on the theme of "Shenzhen Party".

"After 12 days of fierce competition, the athletes from 152 countries and regions deserved to cel-

ebate, to have fun and to be entertained, so the closing ceremony was a big party," said Shi.

However, there were some problems in the Universiade holding its opening and closing ceremonies in different locations.

"Extinguishing the torch, for example, was hard to accomplish at the Window of the World as the torch tower is in the Spring Cocoon (the main stadium)," said Ning Xiaozhou, art director of the closing ceremony.

"But that's also the reason why we came up with the idea of extinguishing the torch through video frequency," he said. "There was a group of dancers doing a performance to highlight that moment as well."

MEDAL TALLY >>

The golden teams

				Total
China	75	39	31	145
Russia	42	45	45	132
S Korea	28	21	30	79
Japan	23	26	38	87
USA	17	22	11	50
Italy	12	5	13	30
Ukraine	11	19	14	44
Chinese Taipei	7	9	16	32
Turkey	7	7	8	22
Thailand	7	2	9	18
Jamaica	6	2	1	9
Poland	5	7	8	20
Lithuania	5	5	3	13
Australia	5	3	8	16
New Zealand	5	3	4	12
Hungary	5	2	4	11
France	4	12	17	33
Romania	3	4	9	16
Belarus	3	4	6	13
Indonesia	3	1	2	6
Germany	2	6	6	14
Spain	2	5	5	12
Brazil	2	4	12	18
South Africa	2	2	3	7
DPR Korea	2	2	1	5
Portugal	2	2	0	4
Serbia	2	2	0	4
Czech Republic	2	1	4	7
Britain	2	1	2	5
India	2	0	1	3
Holland	2	0	0	2
Mexico	1	4	12	17
Iran	1	4	3	8
Switzerland	1	3	1	5
Slovakia	1	2	0	3
Morocco	1	1	2	4
Algeria	1	1	1	3
Estonia	1	1	1	3
Egypt	1	0	2	3
Moldova	1	0	1	2
Armenia	1	0	0	1
Croatia	1	0	0	1

Russia invites the youth of the world to join in the fun

By MICHELLE FEI
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — From vibrant modern dance to traditional Russian songs, from outstanding artistic gymnastics performances to classic tango ... the 10-minute-long performance from Kazan was the perfect ending to last night's closing ceremony of the 26th Summer Universiade.

"From ancient to modern times, the performance included the culture of Russia from thousands of years ago to today. We invite all guests to join us at the 2013 Kazan Universiade," said Maxim Skalozubov, chief director of ceremonies for the Kazan Games.

"Ten minutes is not long, but we managed to mix ancient and modern Russia. Hopefully, the audience will be attracted by our performance and come to Kazan to join us," said Skalozubov.

There were 104 dancers and professionals involved in the performance, along with one Chinese student, 23-year-old Wang Zhe, who has just graduated from Beijing Dance Academy.

"The Universiade is all about the



EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY

Artists from Kazan, the host of the 2013 Universiade, perform at the closing ceremony last night in Shenzhen.

young generation and the theme of the closing ceremony was 'party', so I came up with the idea of inviting one Chinese friend to join us on the stage. That makes the show a truly international party," said Skalozubov.

Just one week before the closing ceremony, Wang Zhe and the Russian performers came to Shenzhen from different cities to begin to put the show together.

"I felt very lucky to be chosen to

sing with the Kazan performers. Though we speak different languages and we didn't have much time to practice together, we cooperated well on the stage since day one and I've become friends with them now," Wang Zhe said.

He sang the traditional Russian song, *Night in the Suburb of Moscow*, in Chinese with the Russian singers.

"I'm so glad to see the young guys work so well together," Skalo-

zubov said. "Their harmony on the stage was exactly what I wanted to deliver to the audience — the joy and power of young people are the same. There's no cultural difference between them. They are the future of the world.

"I was impressed by the Chinese students' performance. They also included traditional elements in the show, such as kungfu and Beijing Opera.

"I hope the Kazan show will be considered an interaction with Chinese performances, highlighting the theme of an international party.

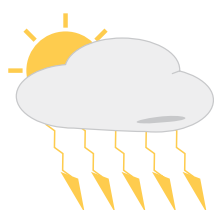
Skalozubov said the "party" theme was about a gathering of young people from all over the world to have fun together.

"Kazan is open to everyone and invites everyone to have fun in Kazan," he said.

The performance was composed of three parts. The first part was about university students, who were the participants at the Universiade.

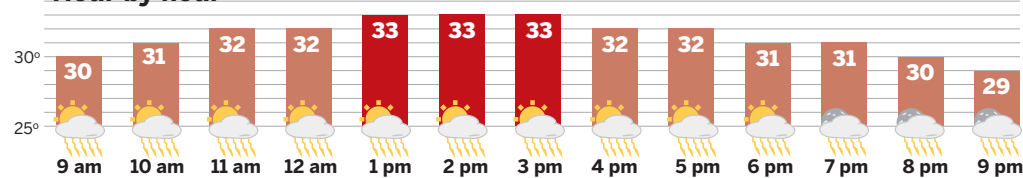
The second part presented traditional Russian elements, and was followed by sports performances that represented the 2013 Universiade to be held in Kazan, Russia's "sports capital", Skalozubov said.

WEATHER CENTRAL >> FORECASTS, TEMPERATURES AND TODAY'S CHANCE OF RAIN



Today's forecast
Scattered T-Storms
Max **33°C**
Min **28°C**
Source: weather.com

Hour by hour



Thursday
32°C
27°C

Friday
31°C
27°C

