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AN EXTRA-  
ORDINARY  
STORY,

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AN EXTRA-  
ORDINARY  
SPEAKER.

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THE BOOK,  
THE FILM,  
THE MAN  
WHO IS MAO'S  
LAST DANCER.

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# AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY



Li Cunxin is a remarkable man borne of a remarkable story. From humble beginnings in rural China to the height of the global dance world, Li's story is one of determination, passion, integrity and success.

Growing up in poverty-stricken rural China, Li was selected by Madame Mao for the Beijing Dance Academy. After years of grueling training he became one of the country's most celebrated dancers. Li was chosen to be one of China's first cultural ambassadors to the United States. While dancing at the Houston Ballet he defected, prompting a standoff at the Chinese Consulate, where he was detained.

Li documented his extraordinary story in his memoir, *Mao's Last Dancer*, which became an international bestseller and adapted into the critically acclaimed movie of the same name.

Li made a successful career transition from dance to finance, where he became a senior manager at a leading stockbroking firm. He is a regular speaker at conferences and functions around the world, sharing his amazing experiences addressing the importance of integrity, passion and persistence.

As a motivational and inspirational speaker, Li draws on his unique life story. It is a touching story that moves people, and Li weaves his tale to work effectively with each event.

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# TIMELINE

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Grew up in utter poverty in rural China, but surrounded by a loving family

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At age 11 Li was selected for Madame Mao's Beijing Dance Academy to study ballet and serve in Chairman Mao's revolution

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After seven years of grueling training Li became one of the best dancers China had produced

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After being spotted by the Artistic Director of the Houston Ballet, Li was invited to be one of the first cultural exchange students between China and the United States

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In a dramatic political incident, Li defected while in the US, leading to a 21 hour incarceration in the Chinese Consulate in Houston, only broken with the intervention of then Vice President George Bush Snr

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After walking away a free man, Li went on to become one of the world's best dancers

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After a 20 year dancing career, Li made a successful transition to finance

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Li published his international bestselling autobiography, *Mao's Last Dancer*, currently in its 50th reprint and sold in over 30 countries

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*Mao's Last Dancer* was made into a feature film by Academy-nominated Director, Bruce Beresford, to international acclaim

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In 2009 he was named the Australian Father of the Year.

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***“Without a doubt one of the most powerful and invigorating presentations we have seen. Extremely impressed by Li's impact, style, personable nature and overall attitude.”***

EXXON MOBIL

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# AN EXTRAORDINARY SPEAKER

Li is a highly sought after speaker for industry conferences, meetings and events all over the world, using his story as a foundation for inspirational presentations for audiences as large as 15,000 and as small as 15. People who have heard Li's story always walk away deeply touched and motivated.

His experiences are real, his journey incredible, and his story true.

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# SPEAKING TOPICS

Li draws on his own experience to deliver inspiring presentations tailored to each event. His topics include but are not limited to:

Importance of effective leadership

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Finding and following your passion

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Remaining true to yourself and maintaining a positive mental state

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How determination, hard work, courage and persistence help achieve your goals

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Maximizing life's opportunities and turning dreams into realities

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Adapting to change and rising to challenges

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Maintaining a positive mental state in the face of adversity

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# CLIENTS

**Li has presented to a wide range of audiences across industries as diverse as banking, career development, community groups, education, energy, finance, funds management, insurance, medical, retail, sports, and technology.**

Recent clients include but are not limited to:

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Accenture  
American Express/Travel Scene  
Allens Arthur Robinson  
AMP  
ANZ Bank  
Aon Insurance  
Arup  
Australian International Education Conference  
AXA Asia  
BHP Billiton  
Boston Consulting  
Cisco Systems  
Clayton Utz  
Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
Daimler Chrysler  
Ernst & Young  
Exxon Mobil  
Fonterra  
Freehills  
Fujitsu  
HSBC  
IBM  
IASB Speakers Network  
InnoTown Innovation Conference  
Kmart  
Laing O'Rourke  
Million Dollar Round Table  
National Insurance Brokers Conference  
Optus  
Oracle  
Pacific Life Insurance  
Pfizer Inc  
PriceWaterhouseCoopers  
7 Eleven  
Schwarzkopf  
Shell  
Standard Chartered Bank  
Sydney Swans Football Club  
Tandem-ING  
Telstra  
Toshiba  
UK Sports  
USANA  
Victoria University  
World President's Organization/ Young President's Organization  
Woolworths

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# TESTIMONIALS

***“Very inspiring; a great choice as a keynote speaker. It has been a long time since I have heard such a wonderful delivery. A very emotional and brilliant session. The best presentation I have ever attended.”***

CPA AUSTRALIA

“The World Presidents and their spouses are of course, an exceptionally critical audience. The reaction of this group to Li’s enthralling and riveting presentations was simply astounding. Li reduced much of his audience to tears and as the participants left the auditorium, many said it was the most moving and absorbing presentation they had ever heard. He was one of the highest rated speakers at our university.”

WORLD PRESIDENT’S ORGANIZATION (WPO) /  
YOUNG PRESIDENT’S ORGANIZATION (YPO)

“It’s not often that we have a speaker that captivates our crowd quite like you did today - you could literally ‘hear a pin drop.’ In the past, we have had speakers from all different fields at our meetings; from professional sports men and women, political and business professionals, as well as other high profile individuals. Never have I seen such an emotional response from our staff. The feedback I have received today from our staff is a testament to you and your innate ability to move and inspire people.”

NELSON ALEXANDER (REAL ESTATE GROUP)

“Our participants were very moved by your story, with many commenting that it was one of the most inspiring presentations that they had ever heard...thank you again for making a huge impact on our conference and our staff.”

GOLDMAN SACHS GBWERE

“Li was a very personable and inspirational speaker, his relaxed style was a great way to finish a very business orientated and structured conference day.”

UNISYS SYSTEMS INC

“Without a doubt one of the most powerful and invigorating presentations I have seen. Extremely impressed by Li’s impact, style, personable nature and overall attitude.”

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

***“The passion and commitment you bring to all you undertake shone through in your words. Your life story is inspirational.”***

NATIONAL RETAIL ASSOCIATION

**FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION,  
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