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Late Edition

New York: Today, partly sunny with light winds, high 72. Tonight, partly cloudy, low 56. Tomorrow, sunny and warmer, high 78. Yesterday, high 66, low 47. Weather map is on Page D8.

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\$1 beyond the greater New York metropolitan area.

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The Arts

DANCE REVIEW

Hearing a Wild and Crazy Guy From 11th-Century China

By JACK ANDERSON

States of drunkenness are probably more fun when expressed in art than when experienced in real life. For one thing, there are no hangovers.

H. T. Chen made intoxication an aesthetic pleasure in "Meditations of a Drunken Peacock," the charming premiere that H. T. Chen and Dancers offered last Wednesday night at the Mulberry Street Theater. The inspiration for the work was a poem by Su Tung Po, in which this 11th-century Chinese writer speaks of his

desire to have flowers and the moon as drinking companions.

Ari Loeb portrayed the poet, and the dance began with his raising a cup and tumbling about the stage holding a tubular construction that sometimes served him as a pillow and which at various other times resembled a wine cask with a spigot and a phallic symbol. He was soon joined by Hsin-Ya Hou, Yula Chin, Shin-Yun Chou, Krisztina Endrenyi, Tzu-I Yang and Lily Yung, who leaped with exhilaration. Everyone looked happily delirious, and although Mr. Loeb kept rising and falling, his agility suggested that this

A poet wants to go drinking with the moon and flowers.

poet was jumping with joy rather than staggering in stupor.

The choreographic high spirits were enhanced by a taped score by Bradley Kaus filled with remarkably diverse and constantly changing rhythms and timbres.

Mr. Kaus also composed the sol-

emn chiming sounds that accompanied an excerpt from "Warriors of Light," a dance of 1998 depicting a spiritual search. Rome Quezada and the cast of the premiere crawled humbly, swept rapidly forward as if leaving worldly cares behind and indicated a desire to struggle for enlightenment by brandishing gleaming lances and holding lighted lanterns. Everyone was clearly fighting a good and essentially nonviolent fight.

The dances will be repeated tonight through Saturday at the Mulberry Street Theater, 70 Mulberry Street, Chinatown.