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Music Department and Asian Studies Program and Drama

BEIJING OPERA

New York Chinese Opera Society
New York Chinese Opera Society Youth Troupe

APRIL 9, 2022

4:30PM followed by a Q&A

THE MARTEL THEATER



PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Wen-chi's Captivity & Return (The Return of Lady Cai)

featuring: • Li Junqing and Xie Dong

Wen-Chi Cai was arrested by a minority group and was forced to be a concubine of the leader of the group. Twelve years later, the prime minister of the Han Dynasty, Cao Cao noticed this and redeemed her back. However, Wen-Chi has already borne 2 sons with the leader and in this snippet, she is expressing her longing for her sons with the minority group leader.

San Cha Kou (Divergence)

featuring: • Wang Hong and Li Jiling

In the Song Dynasty, a great General Jiao Zan was exiled to borderland because he killed the relative of a government official. Another general at the time, called Yang Yanhui sent Ren Tanghui to secretly protect Jiao Zan on his way. When they arrived at San Cha Kou, they rested in the hotel of Liu Lihua. Liu Lihua was trying to save Jiao Zan but Ren Tanghui misunderstood his intention. They fought in the dark. While they fought, the wife of Liu Lihua has saved Jiao Zan and Jiao Zan recognized Ren Tanghui. Therefore the misunderstanding was cleared. The essence of this play is to see the demonstration of martial arts during Liu Lihua and Ren Tanghui's fight and see how the actors demonstrate the darkness and how they can't see each other on a stage with bright light on.

The Strategy of the Empty City

(this piece to replace Farewell My Concubine)

featuring: • Li Zexin, Liu Qingchun, Wang Hong, Xie Dong, Li Jiling and Xu Leping

During the Three Kingdom period Zhuge Liang, the great strategist of the Chu Kingdom, had to defend Xi City against the army of Kingdom Wei, led by Sima Yi. Zhuge Liang only had a limited number of soldiers, and knew they would be no match for Sima Yi's army. To deceive them, Zhuge Liang sent his army and all of the city's citizens away from the city, leaving him behind with just a few attendants. Then he opened the city gate and awaited Sima Yi's arrival. When Sima Yi and his army arrived, they found Zhuge Liang seated atop the walls playing music, and the city deserted. Sima Yi thought Zhuge Liang had designed a trap for him to enter the city and after serious consideration, the Wei army retreated and the city of Xi was saved.

Beijing opera is a colorful, spectacular performance art that dazzles and fascinates. A quintessentially Chinese art form, its elaborate costumes and makeup, gestural and acrobatic stage movements, highly symbolic and stylized content, and unique musical style amaze and intrigue audiences.

View a playlist from the Peking Opera on YouTube.

Special Thanks:

Professor Wenwei Du, Yining Shang '25, Professor Kate Susman, Professor Denise Walen, Summer Wu '23, Shirley Li '24, Bella Granlund '22, Paola Castaneda '22



PERFORMERS BIO:

Mr. Li Junqing, master graduated from NYU, is the program and development director of the New York Chinese Opera Society, and board of the Philadelphia Chinese Opera Society. He was enlightened by Nanjing famous Cheng School fancier Ming Shi and Aobo Xu as well educated by renowned Cheng School master Jiping Xu and renowned Peking opera master Shuyuan Li. He is also the member of Nanjing Kunqu Society and New York Kunqu Society. He was enlightened by Kunqu scholar Xiaodan Wang and now a learns from renowned Kunqu master Min Cheng and Jiehua Shi.

Mr. Xie Dong studied Peking opera with his father at the age of six, was admitted to the Shandong Peking Opera Troupe to participate in the "Red Cloud Hill" at the age of ten, and then joined the Shandong Opera School at the age of 12. Dong Xie's basic skills is the top-notch. He has a handsome figure on the stage and a bright voice. He often acts in such repertoires as "Pick the Pulley", "Heroic", "Fighting with Ma Chao", "Eight Hammers" and "Escape in the Night".

Mr. Wang Hong earned the designation of certified national performing artist, second class honor, while working at Inner Mongolian Peking Opera Troupe. He studied under the master Li Qingchun and specializes in "Wen-Wu Chou" (civilian clown, and martial clown). Mr. Wang won the prestigious Best Acting Award in the First National Young Performing Artist Competition of the Central Television Station in 1987.

Mr. Li Jiling graduated from Shangdong Province Drama School. After graduation, he joined Shangdong Province Peking Opera Troupe as a martial art specialist. His repertoire includes "Marry off the Younger Sister", "Xifu Mountain", "Joining the Outlaws" and "Harmony through a Royal Marriage

Ms. Li Zexin graduated from Pratt Institute with a major in Interactive Arts. She is a great fan of Peking opera and specializes in the role of Laosheng (old gentlemen) of Yu School. She learned her craft from Shiren Fan and Shuangchun Cheng, respectively the researcher of Yu School of Peking Opera in Shanghai and from Drama School in Jiangsu Province. She has won various Peking Opera prizes in China, including first prize at the 7th National College Opera Workshop & Competition.

Mr. Liu Qingchun started his Chinese opera life since he attended the Kunqu Class at the Peking Opera Academy in 1982. He performed in The North Kunqu Opera Theatre after graduation. The audience well received him through his performance in "Lu Hua Dang" and "Tong Tian Xi." In 1999, he was invited to join the Lincoln Center version "Peony Pavilion."



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Drama Department Interns

Production Management Intern
Production Management Assistant
Stage Management Intern

Jessie Marasco '22
Haru Sugishita '23
Maggie Young '25

Students involved in the workshop and participating in the performance include:

Rosalynde Trammell '23, Yidan Xu '24, Zhuo Cen, Borui Ma, Alice Downer '23, Sophia Jane Blankinship '24, Penny He '22, Gibran Mourani '22, Hanqui Wu '23, Yining Shang '25, Becca Chin '23, Presley Wheeler '23

Musicians:

Jing Hu (Chinese Violin): Wu Liang

Jing Er Hu: Geng Lei

Yue Qin (Moon Guitar): Zhao Zhengping

Drum: Zhang Liping

Big Gong: Liu Zhijun

Cymbals: Wang Min

Small Gong: Song Bairu

Production Team:

Producers: Daniel Yu and Florence Yu

Makeup: Yang Guiying

Props and Costumes: Liu Huiquan

Transportation: Zhao Biao

Translation: Ye Zitao

About:

Chinese Opera is a performing art in China, amalgamating music, literature, drama, and visual art. It represents the quintessence of traditional Chinese culture. New York Chinese Opera Society (NYCOS) founded in 2006. This non-profit organization has engaged several people interested in Chinese Opera and in Chinese culture in general. Its mission is to introduce and promote Chinese traditional opera, increasing its popularity in the U.S. Since its foundation, NYCOS has organized a variety of cultural events, including public performances, community activities and workshops, to bridge cultural differences and foster diversity. To fulfill this mission, the NYCOS Youth Troupe and the Calligraphy Program, as functions under the NYCOS, provide opportunities for greater engagement in traditional Chinese culture. The mission of the New York Chinese Opera Society is to catalyze the promotion and artistic development of Chinese culture and opera and create opportunities for enjoyment, understanding and appreciation by all people. The Youth Troupe of Chinese Opera was established in 2012. It is an affiliate of New York Chinese Opera Society. Most members of Youth Troupe are Chinese international students and young professionals dedicated to traditional culture, especially opera. The goal of youth troupe is to create a platform for communication and exhibition to foster a sense of community among young people by showcasing Peking opera and hosting workshops in schools. Youth troupe raises interests among the young people, absorbs new blood, promotes Chinese Opera art in American campus and enhances New York cultural diversity through studying professional opera performance, live performing on the stage, and hosting workshops.

UPCOMING PRODUCTION in the Drama Department

SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE

Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by JAMES LAPINE

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine, Orchestrations by Michael Starobin

directed by Christopher Grabowski and Drew Minter
music direction by Gregory Calidonna '22*

Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and May 8 at 4:30pm
Skinner Recital Hall

Faculty Advisor: Shona Tucker

* a senior project in Drama

Amanda Montgomery '22*

Angelique Rodriguez '22*

Presented through special arrangements with
Music Theatre International (MTI)
Sponsored in part by the Joan Kostick Andrews '52
Memorial Fund for Musical Theater

RESERVATIONS

Individuals requiring accommodations due to a disability should contact the Box Office in advance of the performance.

(845) 437-5599

email: boxoffice@vassar.edu

website: drama.vassar.edu