

湘劇 Xiang Opera

湖南为湘。湘劇以省會長沙為中心,流行於湘、資二水中下游及贛西等廣闊地帶,是湖 南的代表劇種,2006年被列入第一批國家級非物質文化遺產名錄。湘劇藝術史證約歷四 百餘年,擁有高腔、低牌子、崑腔和彈腔四大聲腔,產生於不同時期:

高腔是湘劇四大聲腔的代表,源於江西弋陽腔。弋陽腔傳入長沙地區後,經過藝人「錯 用鄉語」、「只沿土俗」,融合「打鑼腔」等地方音樂,並在弋陽腔滾唱的基礎上,吸 收了青陽腔的滾調而發展成長段放流,衍變為今天具有地方特色的湘劇高腔。

低牌子是一種字少聲多,以嗩吶、笛子伴奏的聲腔。曲牌與高腔同名,旋律卻完全兩 樣,故藝人稱為低牌子,以示與高腔有別。從高、低合演的古老的連台本戲《精忠傳》 來看,低牌子的產生,約與高腔同一時期。低牌子雖有三百多支曲牌,但現時湘劇聲腔 中已很少採用,僅吸收了部分曲牌作為某些劇目的過場音樂。

崑曲 稍晚於弋陽腔傳入長沙地區。當時戲班既唱高腔,也唱崑曲,高崑同台演出。崑曲 許多優美細膩的形式,對高腔音樂和表演藝術的發展起了很大影響作用

亂彈又稱「南北路」(即南路二黃、北路西皮的總稱)。南北路的傳入,使得高、彈同台 並得以互相借鑒。高腔吸收了亂彈所長的做工和武打,亂彈則受高腔滾唱的影響,發展 了長段流水,使湘劇的聲腔藝術和表演藝術又前進了一步。

經過前輩藝人不斷創造和發展,吸收不同聲腔和表演藝術的優點,高腔和彈腔成為今湘 劇藝術的主要聲腔,而低牌子和崑腔劇碼則不時出現於舞台上,形成了鮮明的湘劇藝術 特色。

'Xiang' in Chinese refers to Hunan. Xiang Opera is the predominant theatre genre of the region widely popular in the middle lower stream of River Xiang and River Zi as well as Kiangsi area with Changsha, capital of Hunan Province as its centre. In 2006, Xiang Opera has been included in the first batch of National Intangible Cultural Heritage List. Xiang Opera boasts of a history of over four hundred years and consists of four vocal styles gaogiang, dipaizi, kungiang and tangiang developed respectively at different stages.

Gaogiang is the representative vocal style of Xiang Opera and is originated from yiyangqiang of Jiangxi. After it was spread to the Changsha region, the local artists combined it with dialects, customs and folk music and absorbed the roll-on tunes of gingyanggiang on the basis of the roll-on singing style of yiyanggiang. After years of evolution, it becomes a unique vocal style of Xiang Opera.

Dipaizi is a vocal style with more vocalise and less words usually accompanied by suona and dizi. The set tunes are the same as those of gaogiang but the melodies are entirely different. Judging from the ancient repertoire of The Story of Yue Fei which is a combination of the high and low pitches, dipaizi probably came about at the same time as gaogiang. Despite there are over three hundred dipaizi set tunes, they are rarely used in Xiang Opera nowadays except those used as transition music for certain repertoires.

Kunqu was brought to the Changsha region at a relatively later date than yiyanggiang. The troupes at that time sang in both gaoqiang and kunqiang. The delicate and refined presentation styles of Kunqu have a great influence on the music and performance of gaogiang.

Luantan is also called 'south and north style' (south refers to erhuang, north refers to xipi). Its exponents perform both gaoqiang and luantan together by absorbing the strength into one another. While gaoqiang takes in the stylistic moves and fightings of *luantan*, *luantan* is influenced by the roll-on singing manner of *gaogiang*. As a result, long flowing set tunes are developed, further advancing the artistic development of the Xiang Opera vocal

Through the predecessors' persistent effort of creating, developing and absorbing strengths from different styles, gaoqiang and luantan have now become the predominant vocal styles of Xiang Opera while dipaizi and kungiang will also appear on stage from time to time to affect distinct regional characteristics.



Artists on Their Art: Xiang Opera of Hunan - The Legacy of Ancient Chu

20.7.2013 (星期六 Sat) 2:30pm

香港大會堂高座8樓演奏廳 Recital Hall, 8/F, high Block, Hong Kong City Hall 講者: 葉明耀(湖南省湘劇院院長)、左大玢、王永光、王陽娟、陳愛珠 Speakers: Ye Mingyao (Dean of Xiang Opera Theatre of Hunan), Zuo Dafen, Wang Yongguang,

Wang Yangjuan, Chen Aizhu

普通話主講 In Putonghua

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展覽:湖南湘劇一濃郁淳樸的古楚文化

Exhibition: The Charm of Hunan as Seen in Xiang Opera

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19.7.2013 (星期五 Fri)

折子戲 Excerpts

《十三福》(低牌子) Thirteen Blessings (Dipaizi)

此劇過去屬轉場必唱的開台戲,已流傳四百餘年,幾近失傳,是劇團藉以亮陣容、亮服飾、亮功夫的喜慶戲。全劇以低牌子演唱,由【醉花蔭】、【喜遷鶯】、【十二紅】、【刮地風】、【水仙子】、【尾聲】六隻曲牌組成,詞意為勸惡從善,祈求國泰民安。

With a history of over four hundred years, *Thirteen Blessings* that has almost become extinct is a rousing and joyous opening number which used to be a must-play in between performances. It is used to parade the troupe's cast; costume and stage skills and sung in the *dipaizi* style. The playlet is made up of six set tunes with lyrics on persuading the bad to repent and wishing for peace and prosperity of the nation.

主演:馮伏強、邵展寰、徐君、吳偉成 Cast: Feng Fuqiang, Shao Zhanhuan, Xu Jun, Wu Weicheng

《白兔記·打獵》(高腔) The Hunt from Liu Zhiyuan (Gaoqiang)

湘劇代表劇目,成功塑造賢淑良德、含辛茹苦的古代婦女形象,感人肺腑。娃娃生舞蹈舒眉亮眼,抬腿過額,表現

出少年將軍的颯颯英姿。

五代,劉智遠別妻投軍,其妻李三娘在家含 辛茹苦十六載,盼望劉及兒子回來。一日, 三娘井邊挑水,遇見打獵的小將軍劉承佑,訴 說離情別苦。

This is a representative Xiang Opera number which exemplifies the portrayal of the ancient woman image as refined, capable and persevering. The touching story also offers a chance for the *wawasheng* (young male role) to show his skillful dance-like moves such as lifting his leg up above his forehead to express the heroic spirit of a young general.

The story takes places in the Five Dynasties. Liu Zhiyuan

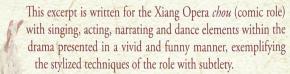
leaves his wife to join the army. His wife Li Sanniang stays at home leading a destitute life for sixteen years to wait for his return with their son. One day while Sanniang is getting water from the well, she meets a young general Liu Chengyou out on a hunt and confides in him her grief of parting.

主演:龐煥勵、廖靜紅 Cast: Pang Huanli, Liao Jinghong

《何乙保寫狀》(彈腔) He Yibao Writes Petitions (Tanqiang)

湘劇丑行所謂「看不出功夫的功夫戲」,唱、做、唸、舞俱涵蓋戲中,生動有趣

何乙保曾因為人寫狀,遭按院牛大人痛責,决心再不為人寫狀。誰知王氏、金氏找上門 泣訴丈夫被冤屈情由,何乙保激於義憤,毅然為他們寫下狀紙,並與她們同去按院。



He Yibao used to write petitions for others, and because of this was harshly punished by Commissioner Niu. He therefore declares that he would never help write petitions again. But two women, née Wang and Jin, seek him out and ask him to help their husbands who have been wrongly incriminated. Out of a sense of justice, He breaks his own vow and writes the petition for them before accompanying them to the Commissioner's Office.

主演:唐伯華 Cast: Tang Bohua

《生死牌·三女搶板》(彈腔)

Three Girls Seizing the Stake of Death from The Life and Death Stake (Tanqiang)

湘劇代表劇目,劇情曲折,富有氣氛強烈的舞台效果

王志堅投軍,家中留弱女玉環,被賀總兵之子攔路調戲,追蹤間,賀子失足落水死。賀總兵令知縣黃伯賢判玉環抵命。黃伯賢知玉環冤,又憐是故交之女,私放玉環。黃女秀蘭恐賀總兵查問,自甘替玉環死,伯賢義女秋萍憐黃只有一女,爭以身替,玉環亦不忍連累別人。三女爭執不下,老院獻計,置生、死牌於暗室中,拾得死牌者抵命。三女爭覓死牌,最後仍以秀蘭抵命。

This is a representative piece in Xiang Opera with an intriguing story filled with twists and turns and dramatic stage effects.

Wang Zhijian departs to join the army leaving behind his daughter Yuhuan. Commander He's son intercepts her on the way trying to flirt with her. During the chase, he falls into the river accidentally and is drowned. Commander He orders Magistrate Huang to sentence Yuhuan to death as revenge. Well knowing Yuhuan is wrongly accused and as an old friend of her father, Magistrate Huang lets her go in secret. For fear the Commander might find out, Huang's daughter Xiulan is willing to die in Yuhuan's place. Huang's adopted daughter Qiuping also competes for the role to die as Xiulan is the magistrate's only daughter. Meanwhile, Yuhuan is



unwilling to implicate the others. The three girls fight to die. Someone offers a solution by placing the life and death stakes in a dark room and ask the three girls to pick them up. Whoever gets the stake of death will die. The three girls fight for the death stake and Xiulan gets it finally.

主演:王陽娟、龐煥勵、朱米 Cast: Wang Yangjuan, Pang Huanli, Zhu Mi

《拜月記·搶傘》(高腔) Under the Umbrella from Worshipping the Moon (Gaoqiang)

湘劇代表劇目,旋律優美抒情,表達含蓄委婉的兒女情。

宋代,戰亂頻繁,百姓流離失所。秀才蔣世龍攜妹瑞蓮,兵部王尚書的夫人攜女瑞蘭同時 躲避兵災,途中都被沖散。世隆尋妹不見,遇王瑞蘭,二人患難相扶,定下終身。

A representative piece in Xiang Opera filled with fine and lyrical melody to show the subtle romantic love between the youngsters.

The Song Dynasty is plagued by frequent wars rendering the masses wander about lost and homeless. Scholar Jiang Shilong takes along his sister Ruilian to run away from war. Meanwhile

Minister Wang's wife is also taking refuge with her daughter Ruilan. On the way, they are separated. Shilong fails to find his sister but meets Wang Ruilan instead. The two lost souls support and help one another in their difficulties and make a pledge to marry.

主演: 左大玢、李開國 Cast: Zuo Dafen, Li Kaiguo



《琵琶記》(高腔) The Story of the Lute (Gaogiang)

傳統高腔整本戲,其中多段清板放流唱段宛若高山流水,通過樸實無華的唱腔表現濃郁淳樸的人情滋味,動人心懷。

蔡伯喈入京應試,得中狀元,牛丞相強其入贅為婿,三年未歸。妻趙五娘獨力贍養公婆,備受艱辛,又遭連年乾旱,蔡母吃糠噎死,蔡父病亡。五娘賣髲葬翁姑,「麻裙兜土築墳台」。後得鄰里張廣才資助,身背琵琶上京尋夫,幸牛氏相助,五娘與伯喈才得書館相會,三人同歸故里祭墳。

This full-length play in the traditional *gaoqiang* style, contains several sung passages with flowing, unaccompanied vocalise that highlight their poignant, humanistic touch.

Cai Boxie goes to sit for the imperial examination and is named the top scholar. The Prime Minister forces him to be his son-in-law. For three years, his first wife Zhao Wuniang is left at home looking after his parents alone and suffers great hardship. Famine reigns in his hometown. His mother is choked to death on brans while his father dies from illness. Wuniang has to sell her hair to bury her in-laws and build the grave with bare hand. With the financial support from a neighbour, Wuniang sets off for the capital with a lute to find her husband. She is able to reunite with Boxie at the studio with the assistance of a woman née Niu and the three set off homeward to sweep the grave of the starved parents.

主演: 王永光、陳愛珠、李開國 朱 米、徐 君

Cast: Wang Yongguang, Chen Aizhu, Li Kaiguo, Zhu Mi, Xu Jun



21.7.2013 (星期日 Sun)

折子戲 Excerpts

《潘葛思妻》(高腔) Ran Ge Mourns for His Wife (Gaogiang) 演員通過臉部表情、髯口抖動及聲音變化,表現喪 妻之痛,使人愴然淚下。

周朝,周禧王聽信西宮梅妃與其兄梅倫讒言,將正 宮蘇后處以絞刑。宰相潘葛得知,回府與妻李氏計 議相救,「夫忠婦順成綱紀」,乃以李氏潛往祭台替 死。十三年後,潘葛壽辰,慟念李氏,悲從中來。

This is a touching piece where the performer expresses the pain of mourning for his wife through his facial expressions, shaking of beard and change in voice.

The story takes place during the reign of King Xi (r. BCE681-677) of the Zhou period. Misled by the calumny of Royal Concubine, Lady Mei and her elder brother, Mei Lun, the King sentences his queen to

be hanged. The Prime Minister, Pan Ge, hears of this, and on returning home, discusses with his wife, née Li, ways to save the Queen. Out of loyalty to the King on Pan's part, and obedience to her husband on Li's, they come to the conclusion that Li would sneak into the execution ground and take the Queen's place to die on the gallows. Thirteen years later, on his own birthday, Pan remembers the sacrifice his wife made and mourns for her.

主演:王永光、唐伯華 Cast: Wang Yongguang, Tang Bohua

《金印記·打機投水》(高腔) Su Qin's Retribution from Tale of the Golden Seal (Gaogiang)

湘劇傳統劇目,其中蘇秦的窮生戲,以聳肩屈膝表現出落魄年輕文人的特點,表演鬆弛自 如,很有生活氣息

戰國時,洛陽才子蘇秦,在父母兄嫂反對之下,去秦國求官,不料落第,素手而歸,受到 一家包括妻子的冷落。蘇秦憤而投水,幸被三叔蘇有義救起,安排在南樓攻書。蘇秦懸樑 刺股,發奮攻讀,在蘇有義的支持下,前去游說六國,合縱抗秦。

This is a traditional Xiang Opera repertoire where the actor playing the *qiongsheng* (impoverished scholar role) shrugs shoulders and bends knees to show the down-and-out feature of the character in a natural and lively manner.

The story takes place during the Warring Period. Luoyang scholar Su Qin goes to apply for an official post in the State of Qin against the objection of his parents, brother and his wife. He fails and returns empty-handed to the scornful despise of his family including his wife. In frustration he plunges into the river trying to commit suicide but is saved by his uncle Su Youyi fortunately. Youyi arranges him to study in the south tower where he exercises extreme diligence to focus on his study. With the support of his uncle, he goes to persuade the six states to cooperate and fight against Qin together

主演:龐煥勵、陳曉紅 Cast: Pang Huanli, Chen Xiaohong

《碰媒逼婚》(彈脖)

Meeting a Matchmaker and Being Forced into Marriage (Tangiang)

劇中龔媒婆由湘劇獨有行當「大腳婆旦」扮演,表演及唱腔皆 見特色,講求「粗中有美、潑中帶俏」,唱唸爽朗,身法靈 活,別具意趣。

取《蝴蝶媒》中〈碰媒、殺舟〉兩折,並參照楊善智《騙婚》改 編而成。演龔媒婆為上任官員楊昌娶親而騙逼柳碧嫣上舟成婚之故事

Main character of this excerpts, Matchmaker Gong, is an unique role type in Hunan Opera played by a dajiao podan (old woman with unbound feet). This role needs to show contrasting traits through nuanced expressions, such as robust femininity and cute sassiness. The singing and delivery of lines need to be crisp, the stylized movements agile and lively.

This is a composite story made up of two excerpts from The Butterfly as Matchmaker and a modern playlet by Yang Shanzhi, Being Tricked into Marriage. A matchmaker, Madam Gong, wants to find a wife for the government official, Yang Chang, who is new to his position. So she tricks a girl, Liu Biyan, to board the boat and sends her to Yang.

主演:王陽娟 Cast: Wang Yangjuan

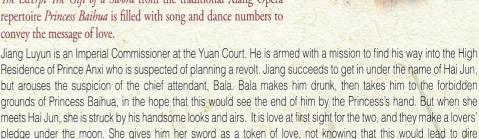


The Gift of a Sword from Princess Baihua (Gaogiang)

《百花記》為湘劇傳統經典劇目、〈贈劍〉一折載歌載 舞,以聲傳情。

元朝御史江六雲,化名海俊潛入安西王府,總管巴喇 疑其爲朝廷派來奸細,用酒將海灌醉,引入百花亭 內,想借百花公主之手劍刃海俊。百花公主見海俊儀 表非凡,遂起愛慕之心。兩人一見鍾情,對月盟誓, 永定終身,並以佩劍相贈。

The excerpt The Gift of a Sword from the traditional Xiang Opera repertoire Princess Baihua is filled with song and dance numbers to convey the message of love.



consequences later. 主演: 左大玢 Cast: Zuo Dafen

《百花記·斬巴》(低牌子) Removing Bala from Princess Baihua (Dipaizi) 此折子戲唱腔包含高低吟唱,南北曲並存。

百花公主與海俊二人一見鍾情,以佩劍相贈,締結百年。海俊遂乘機在百花公主掛帥興 兵之日,智借百花之手除卻巴喇。

The singing style in this excerpt contains the high and low pitch as well as the north and south style.

Princess Baihua falls in love with Hai Jun at first sight and offers him her sword as a token of love. When Baihua later takes up the role of the army commander to rise, Hai Jun makes use of the chance and removes Bala at the borrowed hands of the princess.

主演:朱米、徐君 Cast: Zhu Mi, Xu Jun

演出長約2小時30分鐘(包括中場休息) Running Time: Approx. 2 hrs 30 mins with an intermission

湖南省湘劇院 Xiang Opera Theatre of Hunan

湖南省湘劇院是湖南省重點藝術表演團體,前身為中興湘劇團,曾創演《江漢漁歌》、《土橋之戰》等劇目。其後《拜月記》、《生死牌》、《園丁之歌》被相繼拍成電影;《琵琶記》、《子血》獲得文華新劇目獎;《馬陵道》獲文華大獎。近年劇院新作不斷,《李貞回鄉》榮獲2012年度獲「五個一工程獎」。劇院擁有多位獲中國戲劇梅花獎及文華獎的演員,老中青三代齊全,行當完整。

Xiang Opera Theatre of Hunan is a major performing arts group in Hunan. Previously known as Zhong Xing Xiang Opera Theatre, the troupe has created and performed repertoires like *The Song of Patriotic Fishermen*, *Battle of Tu Giao* and others. Its other repertoires *Worshipping the Moon*, *The Life and Death Stake* and *Song of the Gardener* have been adapted into films while *The Story of the Lute* and *The Tragic Tale of Xia Ji* have been awarded with the Wenhua New Repertoire Award and *The Battle at Ma Ling Dao* the Wenhua Grand Award. The troupe has produced many new works in recent years; *The Homecoming of Li Zhen* has been awarded the Quintuple First Award in 2012. At present, the troupe commands a cast of remarkable performers of all three generations and every stock role types, many of whom are recipients of the Chinese Theatre Plum Blossom Award for Chinese Theatre and Wenhua Award.

演員介紹 Performers



左大玢 Zuo Dafen

著名湘劇表演藝術家、國家一級演員,第六屆中國戲劇梅花獎及第八屆 文華表演獎得主。十一歲學藝,工花旦,畢業於湖南省藝術學校,深得 老一輩名師指點,行腔圓潤,表演性格鮮明,是目前湘劇舞台上旦行藝 術家中的佼佼者。

Zuo Dafen is one of the most famous names in Hunan Opera today. A National Class One Performer, Zuo is also a winner of the 6th Plum Blossom Award for Chinese Theatre and the 8th Wenhua Performance Award of China. She began her training at the age of eleven, specialising in *huadan* (flirtatious female roles). She completed her training at the Hunan Arts School where she benefitted from the coaching of many veterans in the genre. She sings with rich, rounded tones, and is able to portray different characters with insight and vividness.

王永光 Wang Yongguang

著名湘劇表演藝術家、國家一級演員,第八屆中國戲劇梅花獎及首屆文華表演獎得主。九歲學藝,工靠把老生,畢業於湖南省藝術學校,為著名湘劇表演藝術家徐紹清(徐派)的主要傳人。其吐字爽朗清晰,唱腔蒼勁有力,盡得徐老真傳。

Wang Yongguang is a famous artist in Hunan Opera, a National Class One Performer and winner of the 8th Plum Blossom Award for Chinese Theatre and the 1st Wenhua Performance Award of China. He began his training at the age of nine, specializing in *kaoba laosheng* (old man in full armour roles). He completed his training at the Hunan Arts School. With his crisp delivery and robust tone of singing, he is considered a major exponent of Xu Shaoqing's stylistic school.

唐伯華 Tang Bohua

著名湘劇表演藝術家、國家一級演員、第八屆文華表演獎得主。十一歲學藝,工文武丑行,畢業於湖南省藝術學校。其功底深厚,技藝全面,曾扮演《何乙保寫狀》中的何乙保、《雙下山》中的小和尚、《徐九經升官記》中的徐九經等人物,均深受歡迎。

Tang Bohua is a famous artist in Hunan Opera, a National Class One Performer as well as a winner of the 8th Wenhua Performance Award. He began his training at the age of eleven, specializing in *wenwu chou* (civil, military comic roles). He completed his training at the Hunan Arts School. An actor with solid groundwork and comprehensive performing techniques, Tang has won a popular following for his vivid interpretations of many different comic roles.



王陽娟 Wang Yangjuan

國家一級演員,第十七屆中國戲劇梅花獎得主。出身自梨園世家,自幼 學藝,工文武花旦,深得家傳。其嗓音甜美,基本功扎實,代表劇目包 括《馬陵道》、《李貞回鄉》、《思凡》、《碰媒逼婚》等。

Wang Yangjuan is a National Class One Performer and winner of the 17th Plum Blossom Award for Chinese Theatre. Born into a family of Chinese opera artists and now considered

a major exponent of their style, she was initiated into the art form at a very young age, with a specialism in *wenwu huadan* (civil, military flirtatious female roles). Wang has a sweet voice and a solid groundwork in performing techniques.

陳愛珠 Chen Aizhu



國家一級演員,湖南省戲劇芙蓉獎得主。十四歲學藝,工正旦,演唱華麗委婉,表演穩重樸實,講究人物內心刻劃。代表作包括《琵琶記》之趙五娘、《李三娘》之李三娘、《金印記》之周氏等。

A National Class One Performer and a recipient of the Hibiscus Award (Performance for Theatre), Chen Aizhu began her training at the age of fourteen specializing in *zhengdan*

(virtuous woman roles). Her singing is soft and rich, her acting solid and direct, she is noted for her in-depth interpretation of roles. Her representative roles include *The Story of the Lute, The Story of Li Sanniang* and *Tale of the Golden Seal*.

李開國 Li Kaiguo



國家一級演員,湖南省戲劇芙蓉獎得主。十一歲學藝,工小生,兼工老生。畢業於湖南省藝術學校,曾得崑曲大師俞振飛指教。他扮相清俊,嗓音清亮,尤其注重發音和唱腔的演唱技巧,表演層次清楚。代表作有《拜月記》之蔣世隆、《琵琶記》之蔡伯喈、《金印記》之蘇秦等。

A National Class One Performer and a recipient of the Hibiscus Award (Performance for Theatre), Li Kaiguo began learning this arts at the age of eleven specializing in *xiaosheng* and *laosheng* (civil male and old male roles). He is a graduate of Hunan Arts School and has been coached by *Kunqu* maestro Yu Zhenfei. With handsome stage persona and crisp voice, he is noted for his enunciation and singing skills as well as defined levels of performance. His representative works include *Worshipping the Moon*, *The Story of the Lute* and *Tale of the Golden Seal*.

龐煥勵 Pang Huanli



國家一級演員。十二歲學藝,工正旦,深得湘劇表演藝術家彭俐儂真傳。其表演細膩,尤以唱功見長。代表劇目有《描容上路》、《白兔記》、《金印記》等。曾獲第四屆湖南省戲劇芙蓉表演獎。

Pang Huanli is a National Class One Performer. She began her training in *zhengdan* (virtuous female roles) at the age of twelve, and is a true exponent of the Hunan Opera

virtuoso, Pang Linong's stylistic school. She is noted for her insightful interpretations of roles and in particular, her vocal skills. She was the winner of the 4th Hibiscus Award - Performance for Theatre.

朱米 Zhu Mi



國家一級演員。十一歲學藝,工花旦,畢業於湖南省藝術學校,先後得 衆多名家指教。其扮相秀麗,表演大方,代表劇目有《太平公主》、 《大決堤》、《山鬼》等。曾獲第九屆湖南省戲劇芙蓉表演獎。

Zhu Mi is a National Class One Performer Hunan Arts School. She began her training in *huadan* (flirtatious female roles) at the age of eleven, and later completed her training at the

Hunan Arts School. She has benefitted from the coaching of various virtuosi and veteran actors. Zhu is noted for her pretty stage persona and graceful acting. Some of her best known works include *Princess Taiping*, *The Dyke Breach Disaster*, *Mountain Demon*, etc. She was the winner of the 9th Hibiscus Award - Performance for Theatre.