

Zuni Icosahedron  
Multimedia Music Theatre

## Red Rose, White Rose

Adapted from the original story by Eileen Chang

Lustful red rose & spotless white rose

Unending politics of love between the two sexes

Mathias Woo × Pia Ho × Yu Yat-yiu

Kong Aiping × Chen Li-hua × Kao Jo-shan



**“He likes hot-blooded, raunchy women who are not wife material.” —Tong Zhenbao**

**“She has so many lovers that it doesn’t bother her to have one more or one fewer.” —Wang Jiaorui**

**“Unsure most of the time, she finds security and firmness only in the white bathroom.”—  
Meng Yanli**

## **Nobody in love is master of oneself**

Tong Zhenbao, Wang Jiaorui and Meng Yanli have the most affecting stories and relationships in Eileen Chang's works: the love triangle is never passé in the world of romance. Good on the outside but secretly lecherous, Zhenbao is a married man who has sex with his friend's wife and patronizes prostitutes—is he not a reflection of many men? A lustful mistress takes a relationship seriously out of the blue—do all men quietly desire Jiaorui? A dutiful wife who has been loyal to her dull marriage plots a revenge—is Yanli like anyone your know? The bad woman starts to weigh what she is giving and getting; while the good wife ponders if she has no regrets. The red rose becomes a good wife while the white rose has an affair with a tailor; red turns white, and white turns red—nothing is absolute, nobody has complete control of love, and no one is master of oneself.

*Red Rose, White Rose* is the second story adapted by Zuni Icosahedron from Eileen Chang's original novels after *Eighteen Springs*. It was premiered in Hong Kong in 2014, brought to Shanghai in 2015 and returns to Hong Kong with an even stronger cast. Moving the story from 1950s to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, this adaptation depicts how the modern man and woman continue to struggle with each other's desires and powers, losing themselves in manoeuvre and a tug of war. Mathias Woo is scriptwriter, director and designer; Pia Ho is co-scriptwriter and lyricist; and Yu Yut-yiu is music director. "Whoever you are with, there's always another one in your heart"—the theme song, *Another*, performed by pop singer Eman Lam, describes how discontented men and women in relationships yearn for yet another person. National Class One actress Kong Aiping (Nanjing), talented actress Kao Jo-shan and theatre all-rounder Chen Li-hua (both from Taipei) join hands in the new cast to bring the delicate and complicated relationships from Eileen Chang's novel to stage.

## **About the Performance**

There are two women in Zhenbao's life: one he called his white rose, the other his red rose. One was a spotless wife the other a passionate mistress. Maybe every man has had two such women – at least two. Marry a red rose and eventually she'll be a mosquito-blood streak smeared on the wall, while the white one is "moonlight in front of my bed." Marry a white rose, and before long she'll be a grain of sticky rice that's gotten stuck to your clothes; the red one, by then, is a scarlet beauty mark just over your heart. Will you be his red rose or white? How many red and white have you got? Authorized by Mr Roland Soong, the Executor of Ms Eileen Chang estate

## **Creative Team**

Scriptwriter, Director & Designer: **Mathias Woo**

Director, scriptwriter, designer for *Eighteen Springs*, *Hua-Yen Sūtra*, *1587*, *A Year of No Significance*, and the *East Wing West Wing* series. A pioneer of cross-disciplinary creations, literature, history, politics, architecture, religion, philosophy, etc. Woo constructs theatre aesthetics with strong visual images in his works.

Scriptwriter, Lyricist : **Pia Ho**

Founding member of Zuni Icosahedron. Pia performed in, scripted and directed numerous Zuni's performances. She also writes lyrics for pop singers and groups, include Tat Ming Pair, Grasshopper,

Miriam Yeung, Anthony Wong, Sammi Cheng, Candy Lo, HOCC, at17 and etc. Publications include *A Single Woman* and *Cong Jin Yi Hou*.

**Music Director, Composer: Yu Yat-yiu**

Composed and produced music for many Hong Kong pop singers, such as Anita Mui, Anthony Wong, Miriam Yeung, HOCC. Founding member of music production company People Mountain People Sea. Nominated twice for the Best Original Film Score in the Hong Kong Film Awards with music created for *Prince of Tears* and *Hold You Tight*.

**Actor**

**Kong Aiping** (Nanning) as Red Rose

National Class One performer of kun opera, Kong Aiping studied the guimendan (young virtuous lady) role type with Zhang Xian, Zhang Jiqing and Zhang Xunpeng. Throughout her career Kong has received numerous awards and honours including The Plum Blossom Award, The Orchid Best Performer Award at the Chinese Young Kun Opera Performer Exchange, Jasmine Nomination, KunOpera Promotion Award co-presented by UNESCO and Ministry of Culture.

**Kao Jo-shan** (Taipei) as White Rose

Kao Jo-shan graduated from the School of Theatre Arts in Taipei National University of the Arts. Her performances including Zuni's Remembrance of Karaoke Past, One Hundred Years of Chinese Architecture, Design of Living (2010) by Edward Lam Dance Theatre. Frequently participating in Shakespeare's Wild Sisters Group, 4Chairs Theatre, Tainaner Ensemble.

**Chen Li-hua** (Taipei) as Tong Zhenbao

Graduated in master of Theatre Arts from Taipei National University of the Arts, Taiwan senior theatre artist, Chen's multi-talent combines that of a theatre director, producer, actor and TV commercial director. His cross-city participation includes 18 Springs (Co-director Mathias Woo and Edward Lam's version) and Corbu (Taipei & HK) of Zuni Icosahedron, and The Happy Prince (Taipei & HK) and The Great Entertainer (HK) of Edward Lam Dance Theatre.

**Zuni 2016 Theatre Season “The Strength of Emotions”**

[www.zuniseason.org.hk](http://www.zuniseason.org.hk)

**Information:**

Venue : Grant Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Date : 2 – 3 Dec (Fri-Sat) 8:15pm

Ticket : \$480, \$240, \$180, \*\$100 (\*Student Tickets)

Tickets now available at URBIX

Programme Enquiries : 2566 9696

Ticketing Enquiries : 3761 6661

Performed in Putonghua & Kunqu, with Chinese & English surtitle

Running time approximately 100 minutes with no intermission

**Media Enquiries :**

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