

Zuni Icosahedron  
Special Programme Celebrating 400 Years of Tang Xianzu and Shakespeare  
**“Sigmund Freud in Search of Chinese Matters & Mind”**

2004 Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

2003 Tokyo Performing Market

2002 Hong Kong Premiere



*“...to forge on the stage a dazzling and entrancing world of light and shadow.”* —Cheung Ping Kuen, veteran arts critic

*“...an intense symphony of sound and colour with extraordinary effects.”* —Sek Kei, Mingpao

*“Kunqu and electronic rock...the combination is highly compelling.”* —Elbe Lau, Hong Kong Economic Journal

*“The interpretation of dreams is the royal road to a knowledge of the unconscious activities of the mind.”* —Sigmund Freud

*“Youth is a short-term dream when you wake up, it has already disappeared without a trace”* —William Shakespeare

## **A Western Psychological Reading of Ming Dynasty's *The Peony Pavilion***

Dreams have continued to be a topic of global interest. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, psychologist Sigmund Freud introduced theories of “the id, the conscious, the sub-conscious” with his publication *The Interpretation of Dreams*. Before that in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Ming playwright Tang Xianzu penned *The Peony Pavilion*, narrating the encounter between Du Liniang, daughter of a prestigious family, and scholar Liu Mengmei. The play was controversial at the time for its views on free love and sex.

*Sigmund Freud in Search of Chinese Matters & Mind* is an exquisite combination of Western Psychoanalysis and a confrontational Chinese classic. Inspired by dreams, Freud founded his theories of Psychology, Tang wrote a beautiful piece of Chinese opera, and Zuni Icosahedron explores the realm of dreams with multi-media in theatre and National Class One Kunqu performer Shi Xiaomei playing Liu Mengmei in the excerpt *Calling out to the Lady*. With *Kunqu* opera as foundation and Psychology theories for use, this play juxtaposes man with woman, the East with the West, dream with reality, and stage with society. It breaks down the work from the Ming Dynasty and reconstructs it by interweaving traditional *Kunqu* opera, lighting, sounds, Wagnerite music, videos, media signs and mental suggestions.

## **About Sigmund Freud**

Sigmund Freud was born in 1856 in the Moravian town of Freiberg, which was in the Austro-Hungarian Empire at that time. Freud has long been acknowledged to be the Father of Psychoanalysis. However, his influence is not only in psychology but in arts, literature, sociology and etc. His publications *The Interpretation of Dreams* and *Psychopathology of Everyday Life* brought us to the theories of “subconscious mind”, “Oedipus complex”, “castration complex” and so on. The books are honoured to be among the most influential publications in human history. Freud died in 1939 in London.

## **Creative Team**

Director, Designer & Script writer: **Danny Yung, Mathias Woo**

Music Director: **Yu Yat Yiu @PMPS**

Performers: **Shi Xiaomei (Nanjing), Zhang Jun (Shanghai)**

### **Shi Xiaomei (Nanjing)**

Famed Kunqu opera artist Shi Xiaomei is a National Class One performer. Shi has been included twice in Who's Who In The World. Shi is the winner of the Plum Blossom Award and Wen Hua Award. In 2002, Shi was jointly recognised by the UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture as the devoted outstanding Kunqu artist. In 2009, Shi was named National Maestro of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

### **Zhang Jun (Shanghai)**

Zhang Jun is one of the leading performing artists in China today. He is a UNESCO Artist for Peace, and is honoured with the title “Prince of Kunqu Opera” in China. Zhang specialises in xiaosheng (young-man) role type. He established his own Kunqu company in 2009. Among his numerous acting awards is the Meihua (Plum Flower) Award, China's most distinguished honour in the performing arts.

Zuni 2016 Theatre Season “The Strength of Emotions”

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

**Programme Information**

Venue: Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Date: 9 – 10 Dec (Fri-Sat) 8:15pm

Tickets: \$480 / \$280 / \$100 (Student Tickets)

Tickets Now Available at URBTIX

Programme Enquiries : 2566 9696

Ticketing Enquiries : 3761 6661

Running time approximately 100 minutes with no intermission

Performed in Kunqu and Putonghua, with Chinese & English Text

**Media Enquiries :**

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