

Zuni Icosahedron
Experimental Peking Opera
Lord Guan Yu On Stage

GuoGuang Opera Company × Zuni Icosahedron

A Newly-adapted *Peking* Opera of Lord Guan Yu



“The assurance in Tang Wen-hua’s postures and singing materializes the unique and majestic confidence of Lord Guan.” [Performing Arts Review, Taiwan](#)

“Combining etiquettes and traditions of Chinese opera, a meta-narrative and digital images, *Guan Yu on Stage* feels both classical and modern!” [Yu Shan-lu, Assistant Professor, School of Theatre, Taipei National University of the Arts](#)

“The experimental techniques in this performance have truly and very successfully broken through conventional constraints.” [Performing Arts Review, Taiwan](#)



A New Experimental *Peking Opera*

For their new piece *Guan Yu on Stage*, Taiwan's GuoGuang Opera Company has invited Mathias Woo to take up the roles of director, and stage and digital image designer. His experimental, theatrical techniques produce new sparks between traditional art and multimedia technologies, and are highly regarded by Wang An-qi, GuoGuang's artistic director.

The piece stars Taiwan's top actor Tang Wen-hua as the titular role. His "red-faced" role-type, in a league of its own, is many role-types in one, including laosheng and wusheng. The audience will enjoy a rare opportunity to watch in close proximity fire breathing, a ritual in *Peking opera* to purify the stage.

After the widely-acclaimed premiere at the Cloud Gate Theatre in Tamsui in August, the piece will be presented in Hong Kong in November. As Lord Guan is worshipped by both the police and the triads, plays about him are the most suitable of all *Peking opera* to 'subdue demons and bless peace'. We hope that the performance will also bring good fortune and peace to Hong Kong.

About the Performance

Comprising key episodes from Lord Guan Yu's life told from the storytellers' perspectives, covering his rise and fall, and becoming a god, *Guan Yu on Stage* is a manifestation of 'the mental process of how to play the role Guan Yu in theatre'. Pre-performance rituals from traditional Chinese opera are brought in to present the concept of 'rituals in play, play in rituals, play is rituals!'

Three excerpts have been chosen to recount the life of Lord Guan: first, the excerpt on 'crossing five passes and slaying six generals' to depict his loyalty and righteousness; second, the apex of his achievements when he drowns the seven armies of Cao Cao; and third, his evasion to Mai

Town that is caused his ever-growing arrogance and ego. After much self-reflection, he finally turns from a mortal being into a god. In Chinese crosstalk, two storytellers, a man and a woman (Chu Sheng-li and Huang Yi-yung), will present from third-person perspectives the psychological taboos of actors playing Lord Guan Yu.

About GuoGuang Opera Company

Since its establishment in 1995, GuoGuang Opera Company has devoted itself to infusing a modern consciousness in traditional Chinese Opera. “Modernization” and “refinement” are two principles for the creation of new operas. With diversified themes and skillful presentation, a novel of Eileen Chang and a calligraphic masterpiece of Wang Xi-chi were transformed into dramatic art. GuoGuang Opera Company has been invited to perform in many countries from around the world, including Europe, Russia, Southeast Asia, China, and Hong Kong.

Creative Team

Scriptwriter: Wang An-qi
Director, Stage and Digital Image Designer: Mathias Woo
Peking Opera Director: Wang kou-chiang
Aria Arrangement (Peking Opera): Lee Chao
Music Director: Yu Yat-yiu
Composer: Nerve
Motion Capture Design and Production: Tobias Gremmler
Digital Image Production: Terry Wu
Performers: Tang Wen-hua as Lord Guan Yu,
Huang Yi-yung, Chu Sheng-li, Tai Hsin-yi, Liu Yu-Chih,

Zuni 2016 Theatre Season “The Strength of Emotions”

www.zuniseason.org.hk

Venue : Studio Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
Date : 24 – 26 Nov (Thu-Sat) 8pm | 27 Nov (Sun) 3pm
Ticket : \$280, \$100 (Student Tickets)
Tickets now available at URB TIX
Programme Enquiries : 2566 9696
Ticketing Enquiries : 3761 6661
Running time approximately 110 minutes with no intermission

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