

## Architecture is Art Festival 2015

Zuni Icosahedron

History Theatre

# *“One Hundred Years of Chinese Architecture”*

### A Performance of the Liberal Study Series on “Modern China”

Presented by Tramedautore Festival 2015– The International Festival of Contemporary Drama in celebration of contemporary Chinese directors and playwrights and a contributing cultural program of Milan EXPO 2015 produced by Zuni Icosahedron



Representing Hong Kong to open the Festival, 100 Years of Chinese Architecture written and directed by Mathias Woo, co-written by Jimmy Ngai was staged at the Piccolo Teatro di Milano – Teatro d’Europa, the prestigious theatre in Milan since 1947. On 4-6 Dec, 100 Years of Chinese Architecture will be staged at the Grand Theater of Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

“I think Mathias Woo didn’t intend to produce a biographical account of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin. Instead, the show works sarcastically to mock present times by bringing in a contemporary couple – Pan Shiyi and Zhang Xin – owners of property developing firm SOHO China in Beijing. The pair is already billionaires at the top of the list of the most profitable real estate developers in China. They acquire prime lots in Beijing and Shanghai and explore business opportunities by inviting a large number of architects to come up with designs for new homes and new communities. Yet what happened to Liang and Lin? They devoted their entire life to

education and heritage conservation, and made outstanding academic contribution – Liang’s studies of ancient Chinese architecture have since been hailed as classics, but their effort of trying to preserve the old Beijing city wall was a total failure.”

— Prof. Lee Ou-fan

### **About “One Hundred Years of Chinese Architecture”**

The history of Chinese architecture as told through the stories of two couples almost a century apart. Liang Sicheng and his wife Lin Huiyin dedicated their lives to the preservation of ancient Chinese architecture. Zhang Xin and her husband Pan Shiyi, the most successful real estate developers in China, introduced Western hip, urban architecture to the country. From the poetry and romance of architecture to the profits and reality of architecture. Two couples stand out, bookending this particular hundred years of time, and of architecture in China.

### **About Lin Huiyin (Kao Jo-shan as Lin Huiyin)**

**“Eyes wide-open, some people shout at all existing art with ‘The hell with you! We now have modernisation, and revolution. We no longer need to keep old knowledge and old techniques!’ What senseless words; what gangster logic.”**

Lin Huiyin (1904 –1955), the first female architect in China, was also an outstanding writer and educator. She and her husband Liang Sicheng travelled around China in the 1930’s to research and preserve ancient Chinese architecture. She laid a solid scientific foundation for the study of ancient Chinese architecture. She became professor of architecture at Tsinghua University, Beijing and also contributed to the design of the National Emblem of the PRC and the Monument to the People’s Heroes in Tiananmen Square.

### **About Liang Sicheng (Tsuei Tai-hao as Liang Sicheng)**

**“During the rebuilding of the city of Beijing, the brutal and merciless handling of monuments pained me to no ends. Dismantling a wall tower was like cutting off a piece of my flesh; stripping the city wall of its bricks was like skinning me alive.”**

Liang Sicheng (1901 – 1972), the famous architectural historian and architectural educationalist. He was the son of Liang Qichao, the prominent political reformer of the Qing Dyansty. He dedicated his whole life to the study and preservation of ancient Chinese architecture and the education of architecture. He established the first Architecture Department in China. Publications include Annotated Yingzao fashi (Treatise on Architectural Methods), The History of Chinese Architecture, etc.

### **About Zhang Xin (Kao Jo-shan as Zhang Xin)**

**“What wrecks my brain is that how can I have a popcorn stand beside a Louis Vuitton shop when the rent is so prohibitive in Jianwai SOHO!”**

Zhang Xin (1965- ) graduated from Cambridge University with a Master’s degree in Development Economics. In 1995, she co-founded with her husband Pan Shiyi the property development company, SOHO China. In 2002, she won a special prize, the Silver Lion, at the prestigious Venice Biennale, for her avant-garde real estate project, Commune by the Great Wall. In 2004, she was selected as one of the 25 Stars of Asia by Business Week. She was also named “Young Global Leader” by World Economic Forum at Davos.

**About Pan Shiyi (Tsuei Tai-hao as Pan Shiyi)**

**“We are a traveling minstrel with his monkey. I sound the gong, and Zhang Xin, the monkey will begin the show.”**

Pan Shiyi (1963- ) started working for the Ministry of Petroleum after graduation from Beijing Petroleum Institute. In 1992, he established his property business in Beijing. In 1995 he co-founded with his wife Zhang Xin the largest real estate developer in Beijing, SOHO China. Projects include SOHO New Town, Jianwai SOHO, and Commune by the Great Wall. In 2005, he was chosen as one of the 25 most influential business leaders in China by the Chinese Edition of Fortune Magazine.

**Performers (Taipei)**

Kao Jo-shan as Lin Huiyin & Zhang Xin

Kao Jo-Shan graduated from the Department of Drama and Theatre in National Taiwan University of Arts, and is now doing her research studies in the School of Theatre Arts in Taipei National University of the Arts. She is a member of the Taiwan experimental theatre group, Building Lab, and her performances cover both television and theatre works, including Zuni's Remembrance of Karaoke Past, Design of Living (2010) by Edward Lam Dance Theatre, and Waiting for What ?, a programme of the Taipei Arts Festival. Kao Jo-Shan also gives extraordinary contribution to the education of children's theatre.

Tsuei Tai-hao as Liang Sicheng & Pan Shiyi

Graduated from the Department of Theatre Arts at Taipei National University of the Arts, major acting. His works in theatre include: Shakespeare's Wild Sisters Groups SMAP x SMAP, Festival of Arts (TIFA) Fall for Eileen Chang (2013), Shu-Yi&(Dancers) Project – Making the Next Landscape Les Petites Choses (2012), Mr.Wing Theatre Company's Get on the Trio to Chekhov, Turn left Turn right Love or Regret, Taipei Ded New York Mom, Fleeting Stars 2011, Oh! Beautiful Days, 2010 Taipei National University of Arts School of Theatre Arts's production-Kalpa. Our Theatre's 2011 production FUQI, Proof.

**“One Hundred Years of Chinese Architecture”**

Scriptwriter, Director, Design & Story: Mathias Woo

Scriptwriter: Jimmy Ngai

Advisor: Prof. Ho Puay Peng

Performers (Taipei): Kao Jo-shan as Lin Huiyin & Zhang Xin

Tsuei Tai-hao as Liang Sicheng & Pan Shiyi

4-5, Dec. (Fri-Sat) 8:15pm

6 Dec. (Sun) 3pm

Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Running time approximately 100 minutes, in 2 parts with no intermission

Performed in Putonghua, with Chinese & English surtitles

Credit Card Telephone Booking: 2111 5999

Online Booking: [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)

Programme Enquiries: 2566 9696

Ticketing Enquiries: 3761 6661

Zuni's Webpage: [www.zuni.org.hk](http://www.zuni.org.hk)

## **Talks on One Hundred Years of Chinese Architecture**

Topic: Eclecticism: Modern Chinese Traditional Architecture

Date & Time: 7 Nov. (Sat) 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Topic: Modernism in China

Date & Time: 8 Nov. (Sun) 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Speaker: Prof. Ho Puay-peng

Venue: chi art space, 8/F, New World Tower 2, Central, Hong Kong

Free admission by registration

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