

Multimedia Music Theatre
Eighteen Springs

Director & Designer **Mathias Woo**

Co-Scriptwriters **Jimmy Ngai / Mathias Woo** Music Director / Composer **Yu Yat-yiu@PMPS**

Special Appearance **Elaine Jin** Suzhou *tanci* **Jin Li-sheng / Yu Qun**

Performers from **Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre**

Love is Fleeting, as Time

“Men, piano, stage, drama all in harmony! Super awesome!”
— So Sze Wong (renowned DJ and TV host)

“The perfect fusion of classical and modern!” — *Lianhe Zaobao*, Singapore

“The songs are melodic, the acting is stellar: strongly recommended.”
— Yip Wing-sie (Music Director, Hong Kong Sinfonietta)

The multimedia music theatre *Eighteen Springs*, adapted from Eileen Chang’s novel, now reruns in Hong Kong following the successes of its 2012 debut and showing in Singapore’s “Huayi Chinese Festival of Arts 2013”.

The show celebrates the collaboration of director and designer Mathias Woo, Golden Horse Best Adapted Screenplay winner Jimmy Ngai, music director Yu Yat-yiu@PMPS, and renowned actress singer Elaine Jin who will make special appearance on stage. “We make new attempts this time. Now the whole performance focuses on the 7 men and women, wiping off the other insignificant characters,” says Mathias Woo on the adaptation. For co-scriptwriter Jimmy Ngai, the challenge is to “convey emotions of the figures without voice-over or monologues.” Along these lines, Elaine Jin assumes the role of the storyteller with her singing, which integrates the emotional flow of the story. In addition to the acting of performers from Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre, the performance features the *tanci* (彈詞) performance by *Suzhou pingtan* (蘇州評彈) artists Jin Lisheng and Yu Qun. *Tanci*, the traditional *Wu*-dialect-speaking storytelling, is instrumental to deliver the inner feelings of the characters.

Shanghai in the 1930s.

Shijun, the son of a well-to-do family in Nanjing worked with his college friend Shuhui in the same factory. There, he met Manzhen, a cheerful and independent woman of the modern age. They fell in love, and had a very rosy picture of the future. Meanwhile, Shuhui, a poor kid and a good talker, became romantically attracted to the wealthy Cuizhi.

Manzhen’s elder sister Manlu once worked as a nightclub hostess to support the family, and then

married a rich playboy Hongcai, who later had his eyes on Manzhen. Manlu's girlhood sweetheart and ex-fiancé Yujin came visiting, and saw in Manzhen a spirit of youth and progress.

Millions of people cross paths every day, and in the vast ocean of time these seven men and women encountered each other and met their fate. Seven relationships entangled in a span of fourteen years...For young lovers, a few years might seem a lifetime, unlike middle aged people, to whom a decade felt like only a moment. As transient as images of a magic lantern, as fleeting as a shooting star is our existence on earth. Yet, we cross paths at this very spot and at this very moment in our journey of life, and our eyes meet. I gently ask, "You are here as well?"

Eighteen Springs is the opening show of **Zuni Icosahedron's 2013 Theatre Season**. Themed on "the Power of Avant-Garde", the new Season continues to utilize the experimental stage as a platform for intellectual exchange: facilitating the collaboration between local and international artists, experimenting with Chinese traditional, narrative and multimedia theatre, encouraging Hong Kong audience to enjoy performing arts in a new light and taste cultural experience on top of the status quo.

Original Author	Eileen Chang
Director & Designer	Mathias Woo
Co-Scriptwriters	Jimmy Ngai / Mathias Woo
Music Director /Composer	Yu Yat-yiu@PMPS
Special Appearance	Elaine Jin
Suzhou <i>tanci</i>	Jin Li-sheng / Yu Qun
Performers	Zhang Qi*, Shen Lei*, Xu Manman*, Xie Chengying*, He Bin*, Zhang Zhongyi*, Choi Tai-ho
	* Members of Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre
Programme Details	Tickets NOW available at URB TIX www.urbtix.hk Venue: Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre Time: 27 - 28 / 9 / 2013 (Fri-Sat) 7:30pm 28 - 29 / 9 / 2012 (Sat-Sun) 2:30pm Ticket Price: \$160, \$220, \$280, \$350, \$420,
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