PERFORMANCE 6:30~7:10 pm, 23 June

The Interrupted Dream(Jing meng) from Mu dan ting.

Venue: Humanities and Social Sciences Building, International Conference Hall

Demonstration Performance of Traditional Kunqu Opera by GuoGuang Opera Company

For introduction to GuoGuang Opera Company, please visit http://www.kk.gov.tw/Archive?uid=619

Artistic Director

Wang An-qi 王安祈

Ph.D., Chinese Literature, National Taiwan University.
Distinguished Professor of Department of Drama and Theatre, National Taiwan University.
Guest Art Director of GuoGuang Opera Company.
Awarded with Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of China
Outstanding Research Award, and Dr. Hu Shih Memorial Chair Speech.

Academic Publications:
*Ming chuan qi ju chang yi shu*, *Ming dai xi qu wu lun*, *Chuan tong xi qu de xian dai biao xian*, *Taiwan jing ju wu shi nian*, *Dang dai xi qu*, *Jing sheng yu zheng—Hu shao-an jing ju yi shu*, *Ji muo sha zhou leng—Zhou zheng-rong jing ju yi shu*, *Guang zhao ya yin—Guo xiao-zhuang kai chuang Taiwan jing ju xin ji yuan*, *Wei jing ju biao yan ti xi fa sheng*, *Xing bie zheng zhi yu jing ju biao yan wen hua*, *Xun lu*, *Kun ju lun ji*.

Playwright:
Since 1985, Wang An-qi has written plays for The Ya-Yin Ensemble, Wu Guo-xing from Contemporary Legend Theatre, Zhu Lu-hao from the Taiwan Army Lu Guang Troupe, Ma Yu-qi from Sheng Lan Chinese Opera Troupe, and Wei Hai-min. Wang is the playwright of *Zai sheng yu*, *Kong que dan*, *Hong ling hen*, *Wen tian*, *Xiao xiang qiu ye yu*, *Wang zi fu chou ji*, *Fei shui zhi zhan*, *Tong ji qiao*, *Yuan chong huan*, and *Hong lou meng*. In 1994, she cooperated with Godot Theatre Company on *Tian long ba bu zhi qiao feng*.

Starting from 2002, Wang has served as Art Director in GuoGuang Opera Company. She edited *Journey through Hell* (*Yan luo meng*), *Xiu ru ji*, *Li hui niang*, and *Lei pi chang ji bao*; she also wrote *Mr. Goodman Dumps his Wife* (*Wang you dao xiu qi*), *Three Persons and Two Lamps* (*San ge ren er liang zhan deng*), *Jing so ji*, *Whispers at a Tombstone* (*Qing zhong qian de dui hua*), *Orlando* (*Ou lan duo*), *Meng xiao dong*, *One Hundred Years on Stage* (*Bai nian xi lou*), *Flowing Sleeves and Rouge* (*Shui xiu yu yan zhi*), *Tan chun* (partially in collaboration with GuoGuang Opera Company).

In 2010, Wang collaborated with National Symphony Orchestra in the making of *La
Peintre, Yu Lin (Hua hun).

In 2012, Wang edited kunqu *Mu Dan Ting*, in which Shi Yi-hong from Shanghai and Zhang Jun were the leading roles.

In 2012, Wang rewrote *Three Persons and Two Lamps (San Ge Ren Er Liang Zhan Deng)* as kunqu, performed by Shanghai Kunju Opera Troupe.

**Playbook:**


**Awards:**

Chinese Armed Forces Cultural Award—Best Playwright(won 4 times), Golden Tripod—Best Lyric Award, Ministry of Education Artistic Creation Award, Scriptwriter Association of Taiwan Kui Xing Award, Ten Outstanding Female Young Persons Award(1988), National Award for Arts(2005), and Golden Melody Award—Best Lyric Award(2010).

**Performers**

*Wen Yu-hang* 溫宇航
Wen Yu-hang is an outstanding xiao-sheng (the young male role) in GuoGuang Opera Company. He was born in 1971. Wen was admitted into Beijing Traditional Opera School in 1982, specializing in kunqu and in the role of xiao-sheng. He was the apprentice of prestigious figures, such as Ma Yu-sen, Man Yue-ming, Zhu Shi-ou, Sheng Shi-hua, Chang Yu-wen, and Fu Xue-yi. He was also taught by south kunqu artists, such as Wang Shi-yu, Cai Zheng-ren, Yue Mei-ti, Shi Xiao-mei, and Chang Xun-peng. Since 1988, Wen has acted as the leading xiao-sheng in Northern Kunqu Opera Theatre. His representative performances include *Mu dan ting*, *Bai she chuan*, *Ou ren ji*, *Qing wen* and twenty other traditional zhe zi xi (opera highlight). He won national awards and Beijing young actor awards multiple times, and performed in Japan, Russia and Hong Kong.

In 1999, Wen was invited to Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York, USA, to attend their rehearsal from *Mu dan ting*, and perform in the premiere during Lincoln Center Festival. In six years, he performed in France, Italy, Australia, Denmark, Austria, Germany and Singapore.

In 2005, he was invited by Lanting Kun Opera Troupe, starring in *The Roaring*
Lioness (Shi hou ji). The success of the performance opened his artistic path in Taiwan. Four years since then, he staged in Quest for the Garden Saunter and the Interrupted Dream (Yun zao you yuan jing meng), Six Legends of Lan Ting (Lan ting liu ji), The Palace of Eternal Life (chang sheng dian), Mu Dan Ting, all of which received overwhelming responses. Six Legends of Lan Ting, in particular, won Best Traditional Interpretation Music in Taiwan’s Golden Melody Awards.

Furthermore, Wen cooperated with Taiwan Kunqu Troupe, featuring in major kun operas, such as Xi xiang ji, Jin chai ji, Fan li yu xi shi.

Since 2007, Wen has cooperated with GuoGuang Opera Company, performing in Xin Xiu Ru Ji, and Li Huei Nian. In 2010, Wen officially joined GuoGuang Opera Company. He performed both kun opera and Beijing opera. In terms of Beijing opera, he was casted in The Phoenix Returnig to Its Nest (Feng huan chao), Dou zhi ji, Princess Flowers (Bai hua kong zhu), The Legend of White Snake (Bai she zhuan), Lei pi zhang ji bao, Xi xiang ji, and contemporary playwrights, including One Hundred Years on Stage (Bai nian xi lou), Cleopatra and Her Fools (Yan hou han ta de xiao chou men), Flowing Sleeves and Rouge (Shui xiu yu yan zhi), Young Emperor Kangxi and Crafty Regent Aobai (Kang xi yu ao bai). As for contemporary kun opera playwright, he starred in The Butterfly Lovers (Liang shan bo yu zhu ying tai). Since the end of 2012, Wen acknowledged Lin Mao-rong, the successor of Jiang school, as his mentor, engaging in further studies in his artistic performance.
Chang Mei-lan plays the role of Dan (female character) in GuoGuang Opera Company. She graduated from Department of Theatre Arts, Chinese Culture University, focusing in Chinese theatre. Chang specializes in Mei school arts, and kunqu. Her composition is elegant and graceful; while her voice is soothing and sweet. Chang excels in personal representations: romantic, lyrical, abundant with emotional layers, as if the feelings sing for themselves. She learned from famous Beijing opera artist Li Yu-fu, and kunqu masters, such as Zhang Ji-qing, Wang Feng-mei, Liang Gu-yin, and Zhang Xun. Chang also performed alongside of Hua Wen-yi, the queen of kunqu, in *Mu dan ting*. She corporated with Kuo Hui-lan, a famous xiao-sheng (the role of young male), in *Chai feng tou* and *Shi hou ji*. Furthermore, Chang starred in *Qing tiao* and *Liang zhu* with the head of Zhe Kun Troupe, Wang Shi-yu.

In GuoGuang Opera Company, Chang performed the weaving girl in *A Celestial Romance between the Galaxy* (*Niu lang zhi nu tien lang xing*), the second sister in...
Wang xi feng—Da nao ning guo fu, and Yu ji and Xiao zhou hou in Journey through Hell (Yan luo meng). In Beijing opera small theatre, Chang, together with Zhu Sheng-li, acted out the character Meng Yue-hua in Mr. Goodman Dumps his Wife (Wang you dao xiu qi); she featured Zhuang Yue in Three Persons and Two Lamps (San ge ren er liang zhan deng), Jiang Chang-an in Jing suo ji, and San niang and Ye na in Fox Tales (Hu xian gu shi). In experimental Beijing opera theatre, Chang portrayed Cai Wen-ji in Whispers at a Tombstone (Qing zhong qian de dui hua), Jiao Gui-yin in Wang kui fu qui yin, and Tong Yun and Hong yun in Sunlight after Snowfall (Kuai xue shi qing). As for kunqu, she was casted as Tang wan in Chai feng tou, and Zhu Ying-tai in The Butterfly Lovers (Liang shan bo yu zhu ying tai). Her performance was delicate and full with layers. In 2010, Chang won the 21st Golden Melody Award in Best Traditional Interpretation Music.

Mu dan ting
GuoGuang Opera Company would like to introduce a song from The Interrupted Dream (Jing meng) from *Mu dan ting*.

*Mu dan ting* is a classic kun opera written by Tang Xian-zu from the Ming dynasty.

This play is written in 1598 (26th year of Wan li), and created a phenomenon till now. The performances of the classic parts are handed down from masters to apprentices throughout the ages. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) listed kunqu as Intangible Cultural Heritage, in which *Mu dan ting* serve as the representative work of kunqu.

In 21st century, there were a few major performances of *Mu dan ting*. Firstly, *55 chu zu ben Mu dan ting*, directed by Chen Shi-Zheng, was performed in Lincoln Center in New York and dozen other countries. In 2004, famous writer Bai Xian-yong produced *The Peony Pavilion, youth edition*, which went viral. Up to this day, *Mu dan ting* is not only a famous play in the field of theatre, but also a part of common culture knowledge among the public.

GuoGuang Opera Company was originally a Beijing opera troupe. However, since Qing Dynasty, the nature of Beijing opera has been inclusive and comprehensive. This multi-tone opera put emphasis in xipi tune and erhuang tune, but kunqu was also included. Therefore, Beijing opera performers often come from practicing kunqu tradition. Since Wen Yu-hang, who started out in Northern Kunqu Troupe, became a membership of GuoGuang Opera Company and starred in *55 chu zu ben Mu dan ting*, GuoGuang Opera Company has become Beijing Kun opera troupe. *Mu dan ting* is one of the most performed play. Today, the part of The Interrupted Dream is brought to you on stage.

Du Li-niang (“BRIDAL” below) responded to the calling of spring season. While she took a nap during her tour in the garden, she dreamt of a scholar, Liu Meng-mei (LIU below), bearing a branch of willow. The scholar invited Du li-niang to visit the Peony Pavilion with him. This song is about the dream of Du li-niang, featured by Chang Mei-lan; whereas, Liu Meng-mei is portrayed by Wen Yu-hang. The lyric is as follows:

LIU (smiling at her): With the flowering of your beauty
as the river of years rolls past,
everywhere I have searched for you
pining secluded in your chamber.

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Lady, come with me just over there where we can talk.

(She gives him a shy smile, but refuses to move. He tries to draw her by the sleeve)

BRIDAL (in a low voice): Where do you mean?

LIU:

There, just beyond this railing peony-lined against the mound of weathered Taihu rocks.

BRIDAL (in a low voice): But, sir, what do you mean to do?

LIU (also in a low voice):

Open the fastening at your neck,
Loose the girdle at your waist,
while you
screening your eyes with your sleeve,
white teeth clenched on the fabric as if against pain,
bear with me patiently a while
then drift into gentle slumber.

(BRIDAL turns away, blushing. LIU advances to take her in his arms, but she resists him)

LIU, BRIDAL:

Somewhere at some past time you and I met.
Now we behold each other in solemn awe
but do not say
in this lovely place we should meet and speak no word.

(LIU exits, carrying off BRIDAL by force.)