

The University Musical Society

of The University of Michigan

Presents

The National Chinese Opera Theatre from Taipei, The Republic of China

SUNDAY, AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 10, 1974, AT 2:30
HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

P R O G R A M

CHAN YEN LIANG (Slaying of YEN Liang)

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| Eight swordsmen | TU Kuang-chi, CHU Chi-hsueh, CHANG I-ching, WANG Kuo-fei, WANG Kuan-chiang, CHIEN Sheng-yao, CHENG Tien-szu, CHAO Chen-hua |
| Gen. CHANG Liao | LI Huan-chun |
| Gen. HSU Chu | CHANG Hui-chuan |
| Gen. SHU Huang | TIEN Ping-lin |
| Gen. HSIA-HOU Tun | CHANG I-li |
| Gen. SUNG Hsien | CHUNG Fu-jen |
| Gen. WEI Shu | CHU Chia-fu |
| Gen. CHU Ling | WANG Teh-sheng |
| Gen. LU Chao | SHEN Nai-hsiang |
| TS'AO Ts'ao | (A) KAO Teh-sung, (B) MA Wei-sheng |
| Soldiers carrying Tiger Banners | LIU Pin-chien, LIU I-peng, HSIA Yuan-tseng, CHU Ke-jung, LIU Hui-chu, WANG Shan-shan, HSU Ni-na, (A) CHANG Fu-chun, (B) MAO Hsiao-ping |
| Gen. KUAN's equerry | CHU Tien-wu |
| Gen. KUAN Yu | (A) CHANG Ta-peng, (B) YEH Shuh-reunn |
| Foot soldiers in red | CHOU Cheng-jung, YANG Chuan-ying, WU Chien-hung, (A) YEH Shuh-reunn, (B) CHANG Ta-peng |
| Foot soldiers in green | SUN YUAN-pin, TIEN Lin-hua, CHANG I-hsiao, (A) MA Wei-sheng, (B) KAO Teh-sung |
| Gen. YEN Liang | (A) MAO Hsiao-ping, (B) CHANG Fu-chun |

TS'AO Tso'ao (A.D. 155-220), prime minister of the late Han Dynasty, led an army against YUAN Shao, whose general, YEN Liang, proved to be more than the equal of all the prime minister's warriors. In desperation, TS'AO turned to General KUAN Yu, who owed his allegiance to LIU Pei but at that particular time was forced to be TS'AO's guest. The prime minister had been wining and dining and showering KUAN with gifts in the hope of winning him over. General KUAN saw a way of repaying all the favors he received from the prime minister. He asked to fight YEN Liang, and killed him at the first encounter. Then he returned all the gold and presents to the prime minister, and quietly left to join his old master. Because of his battle skills and bravery, but even more, his loyalty and sense of justice, he was deified after his death in A.D. 219 as the God of War. His temple can be found today in Taiwan as well as in many overseas Chinese communities.

SHIH YU CHO (The Jade Bracelet)

SUN YU-chiao, the girl (A) KUO Hsiao-chuang, (B) WEN Ai-hua
 FU Peng, the young man TS'AO Yung-sheng

This boy meets girl routine is taken from a Ming Dynasty (A.D. 1368-1643) melodrama, in which a jade bracelet left as a token of love brought misfortune to three innocent persons . . . but everything was straightened out at the end. The setting is the 15th century, when it was considered most improper for young people to meet the opposite sex on their own. Pretty SUN Yu-chiao lived with her widowed mother, making a living by sewing and raising chickens. She was in her front yard one spring day when young Fu Peng passed by and caught sight of her. He found an excuse to talk to her and, when leaving, deliberately dropped a jade bracelet which she picked up.

CHIN SHAN SZU (The White Serpent)

Male water spirits CHANG I-ching, CHANG, Hui-chuan,
 CHUNG Fu-jen, WANG Kuo-hui,
 CHIEN Sheng-yao, WANG Kuan-chiang,
 CHU Tien-wu, (A) CHENG Tien-tzu,
 (B) CHANG I-peng

Female water spirits (A) HU Tai-feng, (B) CHIANG Chu-hua,
 (A) WEN Ai-hua, (B) YANG Lien-ying,
 (A) LIN Fen-huang, (B) YEN Lan-ching,
 (A) WU Hsien-wei, (B) KUO Hsiao-chuang

The White Serpent (A) CHIANG Chu-hua, (B) HU Tai-feng

The Blue Serpent (A) YANG Lien-ying, (B) LI Hua-ling

Young monk WU Chien-hung

Abbot Fa Hai YANG Chuan-ying

Heavenly warriors LIU Pin-chien, HSIA Yuan-tseng,
 CHAO Chen-hua, CHU Ke-jung,
 CHANG I-li, LIU Hui-chu,
 WANG Shan-shan, TIEN Lin-hua,
 (A) MAO Hsiao-ping, (B) CHANG Fu-chun,
 (A) CHU chia-fu, (B) LI Huan-chun,
 (A) LI Hua-ling, (B) LIN Fen-huang

Temple Guardian (A) CHANG Fu-chun, (B) MAO Hsiao-ping

Based on the popular fiction by the same name, the White Serpent has even been translated into English. The story concerns a White Serpent and her maid, the Blue Serpent, who came into the world after assuming human form. The White Serpent married a young man and was deeply in love with the mortal. The Abbot of Golden Mountain Temple, Fa Hai, however, warned him that his life was in danger, and hid him in the monastery located on an island in the Yangtze River. The excerpt opens with the White Serpent going to the temple to ask for her husband's return. The Abbot refused. She pleaded with him, to no avail. Driven to desperation, she called on the water spirits to flood the temple, but was stopped by the Guardian God. She called up more spirits led by the Turtle Marshal. The Abbot summoned Heavenly Warriors who finally defeated the spirits.

INTERMISSION

SAN CH'A K'OU (The Crossroad Inn)

LIU LI-hua, the wicked innkeeper (A) CHANG I-peng
 (B) CHENG Tien-szu
 JEN T'ang-hui (A) LI Huan-chun, (B) CHU Chia-fu

During the Sung Dynasty (A.D. 960-1126) there were constant border clashes with the neighboring Liao Empire (A.D. 907-1124). Jen T'ang-hui, an officer on the staff of General Yang Ching, was sent on a spying mission to the northern border. At nightfall, Jen checked in at the crossroad inn. The innkeeper, LIU Li-hua, whose distorted face denotes his wicked character, tried to feel his bag to see how much hard cash he was carrying. The alert Jen realized he had walked into a "black inn," i.e., one which preyed on its guests. He was ready for the innkeeper who came back to the room to rob him after every one had gone to bed.

While the stage is brightly lit, the audience should imagine that the two could not see a thing, and had to fight to kill and avoid being killed in total darkness.

LUNG FENG KO (Two Loyal Officials)

Four eunuchs CHANG I-hsiao, CHANG Ta-peng
 YE H Shuh-reunn, SHEN Nai-hsiang
 Four palace maids HU Tai-feng, WEN Ai-hua,
 WU Hsien-wei, HSU Ni-na
 Empress Dowager (A) YEN Lan-ching, (B) CHAO Lan-fen
 LI Liang, Prime minister TIEN Pin-lin
 HSU Yen-chao, the duke (A) MA Wei-sheng, (B) KAO Teh-sung
 YANG Po, vice-minister of war (A) CHOU Cheng-jung,
 (B) YE H Shuh-reunn

Upon the death of Emperor Mu-tsung, the empress dowager enthroned her infant son but wanted to abdicate in favor of her ambitious father, Prime Minister Li Liang. Many officials were cowed into silence. But Hsu Yen-chao, a hereditary duke, and Yang Po, the vice-minister of war, argued heatedly against her decision. Hsu even hit the prime minister with the symbolic bronze club, bestowed to his ancestor by the founding emperor. Faced with such opposition, the empress dowager recessed the court and postponed her plans. The excerpt ends here, but not the story. The prime minister then staged the *coup d'etat* and surrounded the palace with troops. At the pleading of the empress dowager who by then had realized her mistake, Hsu and Yang came to her rescue and quelled the rebellion.

Selected to give the audience a taste of what singing in Chinese opera is like, the empress dowager sings somewhat like a soprano, the vice-minister more or less like a tenor, and the duke, whose face painting denotes an upright character, is close to a baritone.

AN T' IEN HUI (The Immortal Thief)

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Eight little monkeys | LIU Pin-chien, CHENG Tien-szu, CHU Tien-w, CHU Ke-jung, HSIA Yuan-tseng, CHIEN Sheng-yao, WANG Kuan-chiang, CHUNG Fu- jen |
| Black monkey | CHANG Fu-chun |
| Monkey King | (A) Sun Yuan-pin, (B) CHANG I-peng |
| Four immortal maids | KUO Hsiao-chuang, CHIANG Chu-hua, (A) YANG Lien-ying, (B) LI Hua-ling, (A) CHAO Lan-fen, (B) YEN Lan-ching |
| Earth God | WU Chien-hung |
| Two immortal boys | LIU Hui-chu, WANG Shan-shan |
| Four Heavenly Guardians | CHANG Ta-peng, YANG Chuan-ying, CHANG I-li, WANG Teh-sheng |
| Miscellaneous Gods | TU Kuang-chi, CHANG I-ching |
| Goddess of Matrimony | TSAO Yung-sheng |
| God of Constellations | (A) LI Hua-ling, (B) YANG lien-ying |
| Goddess of Wind | HSU Ni-na |
| God of Rain | (A) YEH Shuh-reunn, (B) CHOU Cheng-jung |
| God of Thunder | CHANG I-hsiao |
| Goddess of Lightning | LIN Fen-huang |
| Six Celestial Warriors | SHEN Nai-hsiang, WANG Kuo-hui, CHU Chi-hsueh, LI Huan-chun, CHU Chia-fu, (A) CHANG I-peng, (B) Sun Yuan-pin |
| Heavenly Prince, Na Cha | CHAO Chen-hua |
| God Erh Lang | MAO Hsiao-ping |
| Heavenly King | (A) KAO Teh-sung, (B) MA Wei-sheng |
| Gargantuan God | CHANG Hui-chuan |
| Heavenly Dog | LIU Pin-chien |

The legendary monkey warrior, who could cover 36,000 miles with each tumble and whose weapon weighed seven tons, led a group of demons against the Jade Emperor, ruler of Heaven. He caused all kinds of trouble within the Heavenly Gate until he was defeated by the Buddha himself. Converted to Buddhism, he joined the Monk Hsuan Chuang (A.D. 599-664) on an expedition to India to bring back Buddhist sutras. This number depicts the Monkey King's rascally deeds before his conversion: How he was appointed guardian of the Heavenly Peach Orchard but ate up all the peaches himself thus becoming immortal; how he stole the longevity pills of the Immortal T'ai Shang Lao Chun, founder of T'aoism; how he disrupted a party thrown by the Queen of Heaven; and how he fought and almost defeated all Heavenly guardians sent by the Jade Emperor to arrest him. Powerful as he was, he was rendered helpless when the Heavenly Dog gripped his leg and would not let go.

MUSICIANS FOR NATIONAL CHINESE OPERA THEATRE

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|---|----------------|
| Conductor/small drum | HOU Yu-tsung |
| Gong | HSU Chi-liang |
| Cymbals | SHEN Po-shan |
| Small gong | YANG Fu-tseng |
| Ching Hu (two-stringed fiddle) | WANG Keh-tu |
| Erh Hu (low-pitch fiddle) | KAO Chi-shan |
| Yueh ch'in (moon guitar) | CHANG Yung-teh |
| So'na flute | YANG Fei |
| Seng/hsiao (bamboo pipes)/san hsien (three-stringed fiddle) | CHIN Teh-hai |
| Ch'in ch'in (two-stringed fiddle) | KUEI Fu-ken |