
TRADITIONAL CHINESE THEATRE WORKSHOP

Fantastic Free Opportunity

Time: Friday 13th May 13:00-19:00

Place: Alec Clegg Studio, stage@leeds, University of Leeds



Are you interested in an afternoon workshop and informative talk on Chinese traditional theatre/opera? Then come and be part of our traditional Chinese theatre workshop, which takes place from 13:00 pm to 19:00 pm on Friday May 13th at the Alec Clegg Studio, stage@leeds, University of Leeds. The event is open to everyone: theatre makers, writers and scholars are all welcome and no previous experience is required. The afternoon will be a workshop with distinguished Chinese musician Joanna Zenghui Qiu and performer Deng Hongye, and an introductory talk by the Professor in Chinese Theatre Studies at the University of Leeds, Li Ruru. The event will be free, an early evening buffet will be provided and we can pay travel expenses of up to £60 a person. If you would like to attend, please email Dr Adam Strickson, Teaching Fellow in Theatre and Writing, at a.j.strickson@leeds.ac.uk, or Andrew Tu at mc15ast@leeds.ac.uk with your name and a couple of sentences about yourself.

The traditional theatre forms we will be using are *kunju* and *jingju* (Beijing Opera).

This is part of the activities of the Staging China International Research Network, based at the University of Leeds. <http://www.stagingchina.leeds.ac.uk>

For more updates on the workshop, please refer to the Facebook Event Page or Twitter

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<https://www.facebook.com/events/1538484009789127/>

<https://twitter.com/stagechinaleeds>

Featured Musician, Performer and Speaker

Joanna Zenghui Qiu



Joanna Zenghui Qiu (邱增慧) is director of the UK Chinese Opera Association. She is a versatile Chinese musician, with over 20 years of experience, including Beijing Opera, Chinese classical music and folk music. A graduate of the Tianjin Opera School and the China National Opera College, she performed in the National Beijing Opera Company and Mei Lanfang Opera Troupe for nearly ten years.

Since moving to Britain in 1999, Joanna has performed on many occasions, at venues including the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall and Royal Albert Hall, the Barcelona Conservatory, and at world music festivals WOMEX 2006 (Spain) and WOMAD 2007 (UK). She has taught courses at

SOAS, University of London, and led numerous educational workshops throughout the country. She has collaborated with Western musicians (including Damon Albarn on his *Journey to the West*) and has made several recordings.

Joanna has been involved with several theatre productions, including as music director for the highly acclaimed *Wild Swans* at the Young Vic and ART Theatre, Boston, in 2012, and *Yeh Shen* (Yellow Earth), in 2015. Other theatre productions include *Why the Lion Danced* (Yellow Earth, 2011/13 – music director/performer), *The Golden Dragon* (Actors Touring Company, 2011 – music director), *Slippery Mountain* (Not So Loud Theatre, 2008 – music director/performer), and several Playback Theatre shows with True Heart Theatre and London Playback Theatre.

Joanna plays a very wide range of Chinese instruments, including *jinghu* (bamboo fiddle), *erhu* (two-stringed fiddle), *yueqin* (moon lute), *hulusi* (gourd pipe), *guzheng* (zither), *zhongruan* (medium lute), *xun* (clay flute), *dizi* (bamboo flute), *suona* (Chinese oboe), and percussion.

Deng Hongye



Deng Hongye (邓宏焯) is currently studying Contemporary Performance Making at Brunel University in London. She started learning Beijing Opera at the age of nine with Deng Wei-Wei. Later on, she got into the Middle School affiliated to The National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts, majored in the *huadan* role and learned from Zhang Yijuan and Yan

Qin as well as studying the renowned Beijing Opera repertoire. In 2004, she competed in two national Beijing Opera competitions and got outstanding prizes in both. Then, she was accepted by the Shanghai Theatre Academy in 2005, majoring in *huadan*. There, she learned from Lu Zhenghong, Song Yanling and Zhou Baisui, who all are significant successors from different style schools of Beijing Opera, and studied a series of renowned Beijing Opera repertoire as well. During her time at Shanghai Theatre Academy, she also participated in a lot of class productions and performances. In 2009, she was awarded Excellent Graduate by Shanghai Municipal Ministry of Education. In July and August of the same year, she was invited by the Hong Kong Youth of Chinese Opera College to perform Beijing Operas in Hong Kong. Then in September, she was admitted into the Beijing Operas Theatre of Fujian Province, and worked there until 2013.

Li Ruru



Li Ruru has written extensively about Chinese theatre (traditional and modern) and Shakespeare on the Chinese stage. Her works include *Staging China: New Theatres in the Twenty-First Century* (edited book), *The Soul of Beijing Opera*; *Theatrical Creativity and Continuity in the Changing World*; *Cao Yu (1910-1996): Pioneer of Modern Chinese Drama*

(photographic exhibition) and *Shashibiya: Staging Shakespeare in China*. She was brought up in a Beijing Opera theatrical family and received some basic training when

she was ten. She regards regular contact with the theatre as essential to her academic work.