

Legends of Millennial China

中國千年傳說



PRESENTATION FILE

Spectacle disponible en français. Show also available in English.

The Show

Accompanied by Beijing Opera actress Michelle Jiang and virtuoso Guzheng musician Xiao Chen, talented Beijing-born storyteller Aurore Liang invites you to an immersive, participatory, and captivating experience for audiences of all ages.

A musical universe featuring storytelling, music, sound effects, and song, offering the audience an unforgettable experience through three captivating tales. This theatrical moment is accompanied by an ancient musical instrument, the guzheng, and performances from the Beijing Opera.

Welcome to a world where legends come to life, where ancient China reveals its most profound mysteries. We invite you on an extraordinary journey through three mythical tales that have stood the test of time and continue to inspire entire generations.

First, dive into the mists of time, at the dawn of the creation of the universe, with the epic tale of Pangu, the hero who sculpted the cosmos itself by separating heaven and earth.

Next, discover the goddess Nuwa, the divine creator, who fashioned human beings from yellow clay, thus weaving the bonds between men and gods.

But the adventure doesn't end there. Let yourself be carried away to the heart of the Chinese New Year legend, where the fearsome monster Nian threatens a peaceful village. Only an alliance between humanity and mystical forces can protect them from this terrifying creature.



Photo: Feuille Volante

Artistic Vision

A Meeting of Two Individuals Passionate About Traditional Chinese Arts and Intercultural Dialogue

My experience of more than 20 years between France and Quebec has allowed me to witness the enthusiasm generated by Chinese culture and arts around the world. China continues to hold an aura of mystery for many, largely due to language barriers and cultural differences. It is in a spirit of sharing and discovery that I would like to introduce you to this rich traditional art form.

This opportunity was made possible thanks to my meeting with the exceptional director Robert Reid. As a theater professor at Concordia University, Robert visited NACTA, the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts.

He fell in love with Beijing opera, a traditional form of theatre. This experience sparked in him a burning desire to introduce traditional Chinese arts to Quebec audiences.

Today, Robert has realized this dream by integrating numerous Chinese artistic practices into Western theatre. This is the first time that such a performance style has been presented in Quebec. Supported by a team of talented and passionate artists from around the world, we celebrate traditional Chinese arts by combining them with Western theatrical arts, both classical and contemporary, imprinting our own artistic signature. In this way, we create performances that reflect the diversity and dynamism of today's new generation in Quebec.



Photo: Feuille Volante

Artistic Practice

Pingshu 评书 – Chinese Art of Storytelling

Pingshu, an ancient Chinese oral art, represents a precious intangible heritage over 2000 years old. Recognized as one of the most challenging professions in the performing arts, it requires a single performer to embody multiple distinct characters within the same play. This technical and artistic prowess, combined with exceptional vocal mastery and expressiveness, makes Pingshu a captivating genre that immerses us in the heart of classic stories from Chinese culture.



Photo: Feuille Volante

Artistic Practice

Beijing Opera 京剧 – UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage

Beijing Opera, an authentic traditional theatrical art, is distinguished by its vivid colours, lively music, and evocative power. Through singing, dancing, dialogue, martial arts, and acrobatic feats, it transports us into a dreamlike world filled with legendary characters.

Recognized by UNESCO in 2010 as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, it embodies an art of detail and refinement. Thus, the simple preparation of makeup for a female role can take up to three hours, testifying to the rigour and virtuosity of the artists.



Photo: Feuille Volante

Artistic Practice

Guzheng - 古筝 – A Musical Instrument With Over 2500 Years of History

The guzheng, a thousand-year-old Chinese heritage instrument, embodies Eastern musical tradition. With its 21 or more strings, it offers a rich sound palette, captivating listeners with its soft and deep melody. From classical repertoire to contemporary creations, the guzheng transcends eras, expressing the full emotional and cultural richness of Chinese music.

Through its interpretation, it builds bridges between the past and the present, uniting the voices of ancestral heritage and those of artistic innovation. This iconic instrument continues to fascinate, symbolizing the timeless harmony of Chinese culture.



Photo: Feuille Volante

Artists On Stage



**Aurore
Liang**

Aurore immigrated to Quebec in 2007 and has developed dynamic and refined performance styles, drawing inspiration from Chinese storytelling techniques, Western theatre, and traditional Chinese theatre. Her specialty lies primarily in Pingshu, the art of Chinese storytelling, the characters she creates come to life with distinct and well-defined traits. As an artist and lecturer, she is committed to building a cultural bridge between China and the West, aiming to encourage mutual understanding and appreciation of both cultures.



**Michelle
Jiang**

Michelle is a talented artist with a strong background in Beijing opera. She graduated from the National Academy of Chinese Traditional Theatre Arts in China. Her specialization in roles involving dance, martial arts, and singing demonstrates her commitment to her art and her desire to develop as a complete performer. Her movements are fluid and graceful. The audience can see the fruits of her years of training and dedication to Beijing opera in every performance. She is the only artist in Quebec who can achieve this high professional level.



**Xiao
Chen**

Xiao is passionate about traditional Chinese arts, particularly traditional Chinese music. She has over 15 years of experience playing the guzheng. Having begun her training in China, she continued her studies in Canada with the great master Yaru Jiang. She is active on the Quebec scene, sharing her passion with audiences.

The Artistic Team



Director

Robert Reid

Robert Reid, a theatre director, teaches acting, directing, and dramaturgy at Concordia University. He is familiar with both Chinese art and Western theatre. He is able to understand and appreciate Chinese art, which allows him to adapt specific passages without distorting them, making them more accessible to Quebec audiences.

Producer

Aurore Liang

Musical Advisor

André Pappathomas

Playwrights

Aurore Liang, Robert Reid et Sylvi Belleau

Technical Airector

Eric Mongerson

Stage Manager

Naomi Levy

Communications

Anne-Caroline Platret
Mel Pickering



Photo: Feuille Volante

Some Inspiring Ideas

- **Cultural Engagement:** The day before, an introduction (1hr) explaining the particularities of Pingshu (Chinese storytelling art), Beijing Opera, and Guzheng music to give spectators the keys to understanding this art.
- Possibility of having, after the presentation, a **photo session** with the artists in makeup and costume.



Testimonials

"This original initiative marks a first in our programming, demonstrating innovative artistic collaboration and a celebration of cultural diversity.

— Rachel Plante,
Team Leader, Citizen
Programming (National
Assembly)

"Thanks to her positive attitude and enthusiasm, she captivates audiences of all ages as soon as she arrives, even before the show begins. Her performances are unique and memorable."

— Hannah Bartels,
Bibliothécaire

"I am surprised to see that everyone from 6-year-olds to 70-year-olds is completely captivated by the show from start to finish. It is rare to see a show as unique as this one."

— Comment from audience member

"[...] truly a wonderful discovery, it's beautiful. It's laborious, artistic, and comprehensive. It was great fun!"

— Comment from audience member

"It was one of those wonderful encounters that are good for the soul 🌟"

I am one of your #1 fans. >>

— Guylaine Dumont,
Olympic athlete and
inspirational role
model



Photo: Feuille Volante

Excerpt From the Show



Technical Specifications

- Show designed for equipped venues (theatres, cultural centers) but also for any other location (small venues, conference rooms, outdoor venues, etc.).

Duration: 60 min

Audience: ages 6 and up

Maximum capacity: 100–300 people

Space: 25 ft * 25 ft * 15 ft

Sound: Standard sound system, two headsets, one standard microphone, access to two electrical outlets on stage

Lighting: Infrastructure allowing for full lighting (in the evening). A plan will be provided.

Setup and testing time: 4 hours

Makeup time: 3 hours

The show can be adapted to the available technical conditions.

Contact us for financial conditions.

They Trusted Us



...and many more (see here)

Thanks to



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Aurore Liang
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& collaborateurs