Fights & Delights: Three Chinese Comedies

FRI/SAT, FEB 16, 17*, 23, 24* at 7:30 pm
SUN Matinées, FEB 18 & 25 at 2:00 pm
*Pre-Show Chat at 6:45 pm

Pi Jin Rolls the Lamp (Pi Jin Gun Deng) adapted and taught to the student actors and musicians by Xu Mingchi and translated by Mark Branner and Maseeh Ganjali. Treasure in the Chest (Gui Zhong Yuan) and Where Three Roads Meet (San Cha Kou) adapted and taught to the student actors and musicians by Lu Genzhang, Zhang Ling, and Zhang Xiguai of the Jiangsu Province Jingju Company under the artistic supervision of Madam Shen Xiaomei. Translated by Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak and the students of THEA 763C. Keita Beni, Kevin Berg, Sharon Doyle, Yunshan Feng, Maseeh Ganjali, Xingyu Hai, Jackob Hofmann, Michelle Huynh, Kiama Rivera, Sarah Swilley, Rachel Uyeno, Jennifer Yoo, and Qiaoer Zheng.

A collaboration between the Asian Theatre Program and the Theatre for Young Audiences Program presented by the Department of Theatre + Dance in cooperation with the Department of Music

University of Hawai'i - Mānoa
**Artistic Staff**

Overall Artistic Supervisor: Madam Shen Xiao Mei
Produced and Co-Directed by Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak
Co-Directed by Mark Branner
Assistant Producer/Assistant Director: Yan Ma

with Assistant Directors Katherine Altman & Christine Lamborn

Musical Direction by Zhang Xigui, with Chris Lai Hipp & Yan Ma

Costume Coordination by Lu Gengzhang & Hannah Schauer Galli

Training for Headdrressing & Dressing by Hannah Schauer Galli

Light Design by Brian Shavellenko

Scenic Design by Michelle A. Bisbee

Properties by Christian Londo

**Production Staff**

Stage Manager: Traci Oya

Assistant Stage Managers: Maikenz Cammack, Dennis Ihara, Alten Akiona

Interpreters & Assistants: Lin Chen, Yunshan Feng, Yue Li, Yan Ma, Dean Mo

Light Board Operator: Traci Oya

Audio Area Head: Brian S. Shevelenko

Audio Area Assistant: Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak

Audio Engineer: Elisa Rosenthal

Sound Board Operator: Ronald Stirrup

Audio Area Head: Brian S. Shevelenko

Projection/Subtitles: Michael Donato

Light Board Operator: Traci Oya

Audio Area Head: Brian S. Shevelenko

Interpreters & Assistants: Lin Chen, Yunshan Feng, Yue Li, Yan Ma, Dean Mo

Make-up Coordinator: Hannah Schauer, with Yan Ma

Make-up Crew: Yunshan Feng, Hunter Kaye, Raquel Palisbo, Janica Sison

Hair & Headdressers: Hannah Schauer, with Marc Mosca, Kiana Rivera, Michelle Ann Nino

Staff Wardrobe Lead: Iris Kim, Wardrobe Supervisor: Emma DeMaris

Dressers: Rachel Booze, Chrysele Chick, Trey Delos Reyes, Tiana Elisara, Ariel Garazian, Christopher Kim, Kela Neil

Painters: Rachel Filbeck, Mackenzie Bisbee, Grace Kawaoka and volunteers

Costume Alterations Crew: Anastasia Fiala-Watkins, Marc Marcos, Michelle Ann Nino

Stage Crew: Traci Oya, Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak

**Musicians**

Conductor/Drum: Zhang Xigui, with Chris Lai Hipp & Yan Ma

Jingerhu: Chiao-Wen Chiang

Ruan: Jiwon Kang

Jing: Yunshang Feng

Cymbals: Hunter Kaye

Large Gong: Ken Fong

Painters: Rachel Filbeck, Mackenzie Bisbee, Grace Kawaoka and volunteers

Sound Board Operator: Ronald Stirrup

Audio Area Head: Brian S. Shevelenko

Light Board Operator: Traci Oya

Audio Area Assistant: Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak

Audio Engineer: Elisa Rosenthal

Sound Board Operator: Ronald Stirrup

Audio Area Head: Brian S. Shevelenko

Projection/Subtitles: Michael Donato

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Interpreters & Assistants: Lin Chen, Yunshan Feng, Yue Li, Yan Ma, Dean Mo

Make-up Coordinator: Hannah Schauer, with Yan Ma

Make-up Crew: Yunshan Feng, Hunter Kaye, Raquel Palisbo, Janica Sison

Hair & Headdressers: Hannah Schauer, with Marc Mosca, Kiana Rivera, Charity Ava, Michelle Huynh, Mary Hamilton

Make-up Coordinator: Hannah Schauer, with Yan Ma

Make-up Crew: Yunshan Feng, Hunter Kaye, Raquel Palisbo, Janica Sison

**A Note from Madam Shen Xiao Mei**

(Overall Artistic Supervisor of this Resident Training Program and Production)

Xiqu arises from the Chinese people—it embodies and can represent us more clearly and completely than any other performing art. Yet along with generations of Jingji and other Xiqu artists in China, I believe that each form of Xiqu is also an art of international value. To achieve the international recognition that has been accorded other originally-ethnic arts such as ballet, opera, and realistic theatre, Xiqu like those arts must be studied in depth—and seriously performed—by non-ethnic artists outside of China. Therefore following the Chinese practice of projecting the verse on both sides of the stage. We also have some cross-genre casting, following the millennia-old traditional aesthetic practice of assigning roles according to vocal and physical abilities and talents rather than gender. Most importantly, however, every actor and musician in our company has received in-depth, professional training in preparation for these performances.

This production is the culmination of a six-month Jingji Resident Training Program held at the University of Hawai‘i from mid-August 2017 through mid-February 2018. During this program more than 50 students have undergone intensive training in the techniques of Xiqu movement, vocalization, musicianship, makeup, costuming, and staging utilized in today's performance. The Jingji actors have been four master artists from China: Mr. Lü Gengzhang, an award-winning performer of male roles (sheng) in both traditional and modern Jingji; Mr. Xu Mingchi, a renowned performer of comic male roles (chaou) in Chuanju; Ms. Zhang Ling, an accomplished Jingji performer of young female (dan) roles with a wide range of performance skills; and Mr. Zhang Xigu, an accomplished Jingji musician skilled in both melodic and percussion instruments. From the inception of this project three years ago through these culminating performances, overall artistic supervision has been provided by Madam Shen Xiao Mei, a personal disciple of the legendary Master Mei Lanfang, and one of the most respected kūpuna in Jingji today. The experience of working closely with these master artists has been exhilarating, expanding, and immensely rewarding one for all of us. We are extremely grateful to them for sharing their extraordinary skills as creative artists and teachers with such dedication, patience, and generosity, and hope that our efforts to capture and convey a part of their vast and rich art meet with their approval.

Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak, February 2018

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**Treasure in the Chest (Gui Zhong Yuan)**

_Cast (In order of Appearance)_

LIU MU, Mother Liu (a laodan role).............................................Yunshan Feng*

YULIAN, her lovely young daughter (a huadan role).........................Michelle Huynh*

TAOQL, her peckish young son (a chou role).................................Maseeh Ganjali

YUE LEI, a handsome young scholar (A xiaosheng role)..................Dean Mo*

OFFICER A, an intrepid constable (a chou role).............................Janica Sison

OFFICER B, his intrepid partner (a chou role).................................Nicholas Brown

**Percussion Ensemble**

Conductor/Drum: Xi Yang

Large Gong: Ken Fong

Cymbals: Christopher Lai Hipp

Small Gong: Yan Ma

The action takes place in China's Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), along a village street and in the Liu family home.

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**Pi Jin Rolls the Lamp (Pi Jin Guen Deng)**

_Cast (In order of Appearance)_

PI DUSHI, a lively wife (a dan role)..............................Melisa Orozco Vargas

DIU NU, her sweet daughter (a dan role).................................Raquel Palisbo

PI JIN, her errant husband (a chou role).................................Donovan Oakleaf (2/17, 23, 25)

Sarah Swifley (2/16, 18, 24)

**Percussion Ensemble**

Conductor/Drum: Christopher Serrano

Large Gong: Ken Fong

Cymbals: Yunshan Feng*

Small Gong: Yan Ma

The action takes place in China's Sichuan Province in traditional times, along a village street and in the Pi family home.

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**Where Three Roads Meet (San Cha Kou)**

_Cast (In order of Appearance)_

OFFICER X, an intrepid constable (a chou role)..........................Yunshan Feng*

YULIAN, her lovely young daughter (a huadan role).....................Michelle Huynh*

JING, her errant husband (a chou role)........................................Yan Ma

REN TANGHUI, a brave warrior (a chuangsheng role)..............Ailton Albarado

LIU QI, the inkeeper's proficient wife (a martial dan role)............Chang Liu

**Percussion Ensemble**

Conductor/Drum: Christopher Lai Hipp

Understudy: Xi Yang

Large Gong: Yunshan Feng (2/17, 23, 25) & Ken Fong (2/16, 18, 24)

Cymbals: Xi Yang

Small Gong: Michelle Huynh*

* In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Fine Arts degree

Shen Xiao Mei, Shanghai, China, February 2018