

More Chinese Culture

This Sunday afternoon Gail and I went to downtown Denver to attend the “Amazing China” performance at the Confucius Institute at Community College of Denver. A neighbor, Sunny, whose son and family have worked in Shenyang for many years, came with us. The celebration was for the Chinese New Year. The program is at the right. More details about the stories and performers can be prepared for anyone interested in them. There were perhaps 350 people in the audience, based on the hall capacity of 500.

The first performance was amazing. The actor changed painted faces instantly many times, even while facing the audience. He likely had hidden controls under his robe because his left hand was hidden during the changes, which took place in a tiny fraction of a second. At the end he took off his head set to reveal his own face.



Next was the first Beijing Opera skit and costume by Ms. Tu. Ms. Cheng performed two elaborate pieces of music on the dizi, a Chinese flute. Ms. Zhang’s first performance was with the spinning plates. She did many twists and rotations, even rolling over. At the end she intentionally dumped the plates on the floor to show that they were not attached to the rods. Gail and I had seen a similar performance in Beijing in 2004.



FACE CHANGING	<i>Sichuan Opera</i> Excerpt performed by Liu Chunnuan
FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE	<i>Beijing Opera</i> Excerpt performed by Tu Linghui
JOURNEY TO SUZHOU LITTLE SHEPHERD	Performed by Cheng Shijun, dizi
CHINESE ACROBATICS: PLATE SPINNING	Performed by Zhang Rui
THE CROSSROADS INN	<i>Beijing Opera</i> Excerpt performed by Liu Chunnuan & Wang Fei
THE DRUNKEN ROYAL CONCUBINE	<i>Beijing Opera</i> Excerpt performed by Tu Linghui
CHINESE ACROBATICS: BARREL CONTORTION	Performed by Zhang Rui
A DITTY FROM THE YIMENG MOUNTAIN BEAUTIFUL GRASSLAND BEAUTIFUL MOOD	Performed by Zhang Hong, mezzo-soprano
UPROAR IN THE DRAGON’S PALACE	<i>Beijing Opera</i> Excerpt performed by Liu Chunnuan, Wang Fei & Tu Linghui



The two men performed mock combat in their Opera skit. Then Ms. Tu played another role in a different costume. Ms. Zhang returned to show her agility. She climbed through the small hoop, leg first, then head and arms, then body and the other leg. She climbed through the barrel in the same order, one leg first.



Zhang Hong then sang three songs in her beautiful voice. The Opera trio skit included the dragon king and the monkey king. It was a very enjoyable afternoon for us.



Ed Holroyd
9 February 2014