

Art Director Tang Mei-yun's Talk: A Different View of the Three Kingdoms 採用這個簡明扼要

Zhuge Liang, specially nicknamed “Ngō-liōng 統一改用漢語拼音 Wo Long”, which literarily means “the Crouching Dragon”, is not by any means old—he stands beneath gold glazed tiles and colorful crossbeams, dressed in a robe made of crane feathers and head adorned with a silken scarf, wearing a smile for all to see as his flowing sleeves drift down to the human realm. Neither is Ngō-liōng 統一改用漢語拼音 Wo Long by any means young, having waged six northward expansion campaigns at Mount Qi. Like a dragon, a millennia weaves between red colonnades, among which a grand, resounding presence stands, leaning against a parapet wall.

On that day, an oath was made. It was a promise never forgotten, and one which changed many lives forever. What words could move the Military Marquis Zhuge Liang to eschew fame and show such selfless loyalty? Just how much faith did Lâu-Pi 統一改用漢語拼音 Liu Bei have to entrust his own son from his deathbed in Baidi Fortress to Zhuge Liang? How deep was the love that encouraged Zhuge Liang's wife to be his supporter who witnessed his timeless feats in all the Three Kingdoms and famous Stone Sentinel Maze military tactics, a defensive array of rocks and boulders inspired by *bagua* (an octagonal trigram with eight symbols)? And just what sort of emotions could dispel the tension between father and son, and balance the scales between family and government affairs? In this take of the Three Kingdoms, the stage is set, not with drums and deceit, but romance and rich Shu Kingdom charm.

Everyone knows about the classic duo Zhuge Liang and Lâu-Pi 統一用漢拼 Liu Bei, the Imperial Chancellor and the Emperor, whether it be their unwavering mutual loyalty or Zhuge Liang's vow to fulfill Lâu-Pi's 統一改漢拼 Liu Bei's dying wishes and aid his son in governing the kingdom with sagacity as Zhuge Liang's top lifetime wish. But what about Zhuge Liang's son Zhuge Zhan, who faced crushing pressure to upkeep his father's grand, heroic reputation? How about Lâu-Pi's 改漢拼 Liu Bei's son Lâu-Siān 改漢拼 Liu Chan, whose moniker, A Dou, has become synonymous with incompetency, but was praised by Zhuge Liang as “a youth of 18, kind and clever since birth and virtuous enough to value his followers”? 維持原案有寫出“阿斗” And what of Ng Géh ing 改漢拼 Huang Yue-ying, the woman who had even the resourceful Zhuge Liang at her knees asking for her hand and promising to take her to see the world as his second lifetime wish?

Such different perspectives call for a different, unconventional performance. In *Zhuge Liang: A Promise Never Forgotten*, two timelines play out in tandem on one stage, akin to parallel worlds: one with Lâu-Pi 統一改漢拼 Liu Bei and Zhuge Liang in the past; the other, Lâu Siān 統一改漢拼 Liu Chan and Zhuge Zhan in the present. The common folk are represented by wandering bards 以複數呈現沒錯 who expound on the themes of reality and human nature. Meanwhile, cinematic music and theme songs are used to offset the ambience of the performance. Our costume designs break away from the typical historical golden armor endured countless conflicts on the desert battlefield, and instead take inspiration from each character arc. As such,

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the costume becomes a part of each performer's spirit. In addition, the play's "double *sheng* male character" style opens up an area filled with endless possibilities. Our decision to depart from the standard routine between a male lead and a female lead provides a fresh take on aesthetics while still creating captivating brotherly chemistry and a sense of lovey-dovey romance!

For a creative work to be fully understood requires so many things to fall into place! We would like to thank both National Theater and Concert Hall General and Artistic Director Liu Yi-ru 採漢拼 Yi-ru for embracing a new mindset that challenges the field of performing arts, as well as the National Theater for providing such a comprehensive stage and thorough assistance from start to finish. Because of them, the hidden talents of the performing troupe can truly shine. These include the ever-meticulous director Dai Chun-fang 改漢拼 Jun-fang, prolific screenwriter Chen Jian-xing, set designer Samuel Wang Shi-xin for creating the perfect stage, image director Ethan Wang Yi-sheng, lighting designer Chiu Yi-hsin 改漢拼法 Qiu Yi-xin, composer Ivan Ji Jun-da for creating a multitude of diverse music, vocal composer Polo Chen Xin-han, "art wizard" and costume designer Huang Wen-ying, the "man with a thousand faces" veteran actor Tang Wen-hua for his repeated support, the ever-adaptable actress Hsu Hsiu-nien 改漢拼 Xu Xiu-nian for her down-to-earth performance different from her usual wife characters, Xiao Mi for her portrayal of the underestimated Lau Si-an 採漢拼 Liu Chan, and Li Wen-xun for his role as the strong and mighty martyr Khiong U 改用漢拼 Jiang Wei. Thank you all for accompanying us and the Shining Youth League of Tang Mei Yun Taiwanese Opera Company to promote this work about a love that transcends time, and for using just one performance to make the audience cherish a single day forever...

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