

Daisy CHEUNG (the Golden Carp). Daisy started her dance training when she was very young. She transformed from a Chinese Opera lover to an opera performer a few years ago after learning diligently from Shifu TING LauYing. This is her La MaMa debut.

Miranda CHAN (the Water Spirit). Miranda devotes her time to Chinese Opera performing arts and dance. She was a core member of Four Seas Players, a Chinese community theatre in Manhattan since 1970 that stages new works and original adaptations of classics. She performed lead roles for many years. This is her La MaMa debut.

Francois LAM (Mama LIU). She has been learning Chinese Opera singing for many years. She has been an active member of Four Seas Players since 2002. Her credits include *I'm A Mom* (lead, 2006) This is her La MaMa debut.

Susana TAM (the Matchmaker, the Water Spirit). Susana has been a Chinese folk dancer since her teens. For the love of Chinese folk music and the joy of playing Chinese instruments, she started learning Chinese Opera singing and music many years ago. She has performed in New York City for quite a few years. This is her La MaMa debut.

ChungBun CHIU (Art Director, Staging Coach & Percussion Conductor). Shifu (Master Teacher) CHIU has complete professional training in Chinese operatic arts, including singing, acrobatic fighting, and playing major musical instruments. He was the Art Director and chief instructor of a state Cantonese Opera School before he came to New York. He is the head master of New York Chung-Ying Cantonese Opera Association, a school for operatic arts.

LauYing TING (Art Director & Choreographer). Shifu TING has complete professional training in Cantonese operatic arts and she specializes in QingYi which requires powerful singing skills. She earned a national class top acting award in China and moved thousands of audience members to tears with her singing of *A Mother's Pleading in the Judge's Chamber*. She has formally been in apprenticeship with HONG XianNu, the legendary Cantonese Opera QingYi in China.

Katen HO (Production & Stage Manager). She aspires to playwriting and directing. Her credits include *I'm A Mom* (director, 2006) produced by Four Seas Players, New York.

Benjamin Marcantoni (Graphic Designer). Countertenor, composer, **graphic designer**, artist, performer Benjamin Marcantoni can be reached at benjamin.mrc@gmail.com

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ChungYing Cantonese Opera Association, Inc. Tel: (212) 343-2602

Artists of this production would like to thank the following for their generous support: Ms. Ellen Stewart, staff of La MaMa E.T.C., and our sponsors, volunteers, and community.

La MaMa etc.

presents

The Dragon-Princess and the Scholar: A Chinese Love Story



ChungBun CHIU (Art Director & Staging Coach)

LauYing TING (Art Director & Choreographer)

The First Floor at La MaMa
74A East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
April 19 thru April 23, 2006

Wednesday & Saturday @ 7:30PM & Saturday & Sunday @ 2:30

CAST

Juliana LAU (the Dragon Princess)

Danny LAU (the Scholar)

LiangTee TUE (the Storyteller)

Daisy CHEUNG (the Gold Carp)

Miranda CHAN (the first Water Spirit)

Francois LAM (Mama LIU)

Susana TAM (the Matchmaker, the second Water Spirit)

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

ChungBun CHIU (Art Director & Staging Coach)

LauYing TING (Art Director & Choreographer)

MUSIC

Conductor: ChungBun CHIU (Percussion), ShekChiu CHAN (Strings)

The Ensemble: SunMing CHAN, SiuChung FUNG, YauHung LAU, Alice LEUNG, KiMing LEUNG, Wood MOY, TzeYing NG, KwokKuen TANG, KwokWah WO

Guest Musician: Elaine CHO

NEW TEXT AUTHOR

LiangTee TUE

PRODUCTION

Production & Stage Manager: Katen HO

Backstage Crew: WingShan LO, Catherine LAU, Jack FUNG, Nic LOK, HinYu IP, Kiky LO

Usher: ShanShan LO

Make-up: LauYing TING

Wardrobe Mistress & Hairdresser: PuiChun LEUNG, PoShuen CHAN

The Dragon-Princess and the Scholar: A Chinese Love Story

Many love stories start with “a handsome man meets a beautiful woman and they fall in love.” A Chinese love story develops conflicts between the lovers’ passion for each other and their Confucian obedience to their parents. The Dragon-Princess and Liu Yi’s love story follows this pattern with comedic twists and fairy tale flair.

Liu Yi, a scholar on his way to the capital for a civil-service examination, meets a lone shepherdess, a Dragon-Princess, who has been deserted by her husband. Liu Yi takes her letter of appeal to her father, the Dragon-King, who flies into a rage and kills her husband. Liu Yi distances himself from the rescued Princess, because he caused her widowhood. Driven by her love to Liu Yi, the Dragon-Princess transforms herself into an industrious fisherman’s daughter and she asks a matchmaker to match her with Liu Yi. On their wedding night, the obedient Liu Yi recognizes the transformed Dragon-Princess.

Scene One: The Lone Shepherdess

Scene Two: Farewell My Love

Scene Three: Matchmaker’s Match

Scene Four: Guess Who the Bride Is

(no intermission)

BIOGRAPHY

Juliana LAU (the Dragon Princess). Her La MaMa debut was as Athena in Ellen Stewart’s *Perseus* in 2005, which earned her a nomination for the Outstanding Choreography/Movement category of the 2005 New York Innovative Theatre Awards. Juliana left her television acting career in 1987 for New York, and started training in singing and acting for stage performances. Her credits also include director, choreographer, and actress with various community theatres in the tri-state area.

Danny LAU (the Scholar). Danny is a gifted singer who started acting when performing Cantonese Opera. The male lead of Cantonese Operas is required to be a powerful singer and an agile acrobatic fighter on the stage, so Danny fits the bill. LIU Yi and LIN Chong are two popular male-lead roles among his repertory. He has studied operatic singing in the LO JiaBao style for over ten years and is a proficient er-hu player. This is his La MaMa debut.

LiangTee TUE (the Storyteller). Her La MaMa debut was *Threshold* (playwright, 1990). LiangTee left Hong Kong screenwriting for New York theater in 1987, and she earned a Masters in Theatre from Hunter College in 1989 with a focus on stylized theatres. She now pursues a playwriting and directing career. Her creative work has won the support of NYSCA and Ontario Arts Council. LiangTee was an instructor in the La MaMa Umbria’s 2004 International Director’s Symposium. Her new play, *The Last Dirty Show* (working title), fuses Commedia and Chinese Opera conventions. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America.