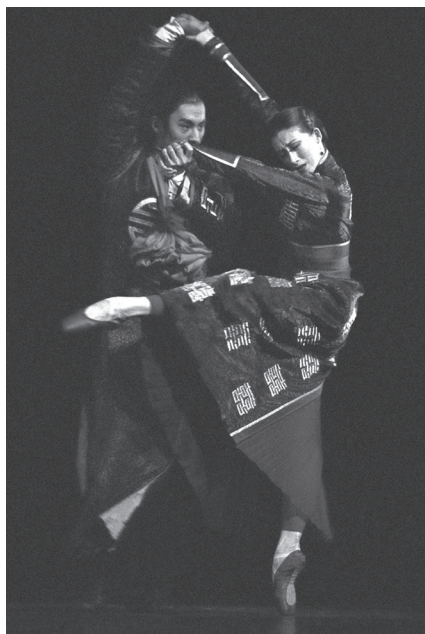


CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS



National Ballet of China *Raise the Red Lantern*

Friday-Sunday, September 16-18, 2005
Zellerbach Hall

Zhao Ruheng, *Artistic Director*

Zhang Yimou, *Libretto and Direction*

Chen Qigang, *Composer*

Wang Xinpeng and Wang Yuanyuan, *Choreography*

Zeng Li, *Set Design*

Jerome Kaplan, *Costume Design*

Zhang Yimou, *Lighting Design*

Zhao Ruheng, *Producer*

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The National Ballet of China's international travel and shipping is courtesy of the J.F.Kennedy Festival of China and the Chinese Ministry of Culture.

ICM Artists, Ltd.

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PROGRAM

National Ballet of China

Raise the Red Lantern

Friday-Sunday, September 16-18, 2005

Zellerbach Hall

Prologue

1930's, China. In a quiet courtyard a young girl is forced into a bridal palanquin. She is going to be the second concubine of the master of the house. Before getting into the palanquin, she remembers her childhood lover – a young actor from a Peking Opera group (Xi Ban).

Act I

In the happy and joyful atmosphere of the wedding, the wife and the first concubine welcome the second concubine into the family with complex emotional undertones. During the wedding night, despite her desperate resistance, the bride is finally overcome by her tragic destiny.

Act II

The master passes time with his wives by watching Peking Operas and playing mah-jong. The second concubine sneaks out for a while to meet her former lover. But their secret is discovered by the first concubine who has ulterior motives.

Act III

The two lovers continue their love affair in secret. The first concubine tells the master about their affair. The master catches the two lovers who bravely confess without hesitation. The first concubine tries to use this occasion to renew her favor in the eyes of the master. However, instead of that, she receives a heavy slap on the face from the master who is beyond himself. Driven by depression, she grabs the lighting stick, which symbolizes the master's power over his household and lights all the red lanterns hanging in her yard. In great fury, the master orders his minions to execute the first concubine who dares to break his house law.

Epilogue

The two lovers and the first concubine are taken to the execution ground. Facing death, they forget their hostilities, and reconcile with each other. In tolerance and affection, they embrace together. Feudalism strangles their young lives and beautiful love.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

The National Ballet of China The only Chinese national ballet, the National Ballet of China (NBC) was founded on December 31, 1959. Originally known as the Experimental Ballet Company of the Beijing Dance School, “the cradle of dancers,” it quickly grew under the influence of numerous Russian masters. During its formative years from 1954 to 1963, Pyotr Gusev and other Russian artists brought the ballet training typical of the Russian school and assimilated it into the Chinese training program. In collaboration together, the Russians and Chinese successfully staged a number of classical ballets including *Swan Lake*, *Le Corsaire* and *Giselle* from 1958 to 1960. This first generation of Chinese classical ballet dancers and other artists would go on to help build the company’s classical ballet repertoire and lay a solid foundation for the development of the National Ballet of China. Over the past 45 years, the company has attached great importance to the exploration and accumulation of ballet knowledge. Today the NBC has an extensive repertoire and has successfully trained many generations of outstanding artists. This winning combination has attracted the attention and praise of the international world of ballet. At present, the NBC has more than 80 professional ballet dancers, teachers and regisseurs. Many of its dancers have won gold, silver and bronze medals at major international ballet competitions.

The NBC’s artistic mission is twofold. Firstly, to introduce Chinese audiences to Western classical ballets and contemporary ballet works, and secondly to explore the unique fusion possible between classical ballet and Chinese culture. This fusion was achieved by creating original ballets. The NBC’s repertoire includes many of such fusion Chinese ballets: *The Red Detachment of Women*, *Ode to the Yimeng Mountains*, *The Son and Daughter of the Grassland*, *The New Year’s Sacrifice*, *Lin Daiyu*, *The Yellow River*, *Butterfly Lovers*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Raise the Red Lantern*. A number of other contemporary ballet pieces have won international acclaim, such as *Coppelia*, *Fate*, *Rainbow of the Night*, *Chairman Dances*, *Rite of*

Spring and *Swan Lake* (new version). Each of these ballets is an exploration of the blending between Chinese culture and history with more classical Western elements.

Continuing its education through cultural exchange, the NBC has worked with a variety of foreign ballet masters and choreographers, including renowned artists Anton Dolin and Rudolf Nureyev, to stage classical ballet works including *Pas de Quatre*, *Variations for Four*, *Don Quixote*, *La Sylphide* of the Bournonville School, *The Sleeping Beauty*, Ben Stevenson’s *Fountain of Tears*, and Lycette Darsonval’s *Sylvia* from the Paris Opera Ballet. Also included are George Balanchine’s neo-classical ballets, including *Serenade*, and other contemporary works such as Rudy Van Dantzig’s *The Four Last Songs*. Over the last 10 years, Director Zhao Ruheng and all members of the NBC have been inspired by the spirit of the company’s slogan, “Struggle arduously, keep united and down to earth.” Their stated goal of “expansion and furtherance of the art of ballet” is being realized through numerous performances and collaborations.

NBC boasts an experienced house stage production team that makes all of its costumes, scenery, props, headresses and ballet shoes. Beijing’s Tianqiao Theatre is also affiliated with the company. The theatre was built in 1953 and recently underwent renovations which were completed in 2001. It is one of the only theatres in China built specially to host opera and ballet performances.

From the day it was founded, the National Ballet of China has continued to receive generous support from the Chinese government and from its older generation of artists. Throughout the NBC’s development and to much international acclaim, the company has toured more than 30 countries around the world including Great Britain, the United States, Russia, France, Denmark and Italy. The NBC has brought Chinese ballet into the limelight and garnered well-deserved praise from the international ballet world.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Principals

Zhu Yan, Zhang Jian, Wang Qimin, Meng Ningning, Sun Jie, Li Jun, Yu Bo

Soloists

Jin Jia, Wang Qi, Huang Zhen, Hou Qingfeng, Yang Lei, Zhou Zhaohui, Hao Bin

Coryphées

Lu Na, Wen Fang, Hu Tiantian, Zhang Man, Ma Yini,
Deng Mi, Wang Yitong, Li Yiran

Wu Yan, Jiang Wei, Li Ke, Zhang Xiangyuan,
Wang Hao, Cui Kai, Li Nan, Hu Dayong

Corps de Ballet

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Yang Chunhui, Yang Zi, Li Jing, Liu Yang, Shang Jiaojiao, Liu Qi
Wang Bingjie, Yu Yang, Wang Ye

Hou Pengfei, Wang Wei, Zhang Kai, Chen Xi, Du Jichao
Li Ming, Ji Mo, Liu Shi, Wang Hongbo

Peking Opera Performers

Zhang Yi, Yu Lei, Gao Chen, Yin Songtao

Musicians

Li Jinping, *drums*

Xu Jinzhong, *large gong*

Guo Yi, *small gong*

Wang Qingrong, *large gong*

Zhang Yimou (*director*) was born in Xi'an, China. He graduated from the photography department of the Beijing Film Academy in 1982 and became a director of Guangxi Film Studio. He began his career as a cinematographer. In 1988 he directed *Red Sorghum*, a tragic tale revolving around an arranged marriage, which immediately garnered him much attention in China and abroad. Since then he's directed the films *Operation Cougar*, *Ju Dou*, *Raise the Red Lantern*, *The Story of Qiu Ju*, *To Live, Keep Cool*, *Shanghai Triad*, *Not One Less*, *The Road Home*, *Happy Times*, *Hero and House of Flying Daggers*. His films have won him international praise at festivals in the US, Japan, Germany, Australia, Belgium, France and Italy, among other countries. He is the first Chinese ever to be nominated for an Academy Award. It was for *Ju Dou* as Best Foreign Film in 1991. He received

nominations again for *Raise the Red Lantern* and *Hero*. *Raise the Red Lantern* went on to receive the best foreign film award from the British Academy Awards and the New York Critics Circle. For live performance, Mr. Zhang has directed the opera *Turandot* as well as created the ballet version of *Raise the Red Lantern*. Currently, Mr. Zhang has just finished production of *Lonely Ride Over a Long Distance* and is preparing for his next film, a musical entitled *Impression Lijiang*.

Zhao Ruheng (*producer and supervisor*) is executive director and artistic director of the National Ballet of China and began her career with the company as a dancer in 1961, after graduating with honors from the Beijing Dance Academy. A leg injury in 1972 brought her dance career to a close, but as a dancer she had had principal roles in *Swan Lake*,

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Les Sylphides, *Giselle* and *The Red Detachment of Women*. After pursuing further studies at the Beijing Second Foreign Language Institute, she devoted herself to teaching, rehearsing, artistic research and external cultural exchanges, even initiating the participation of company members in a variety of internationally renowned ballet competitions and performances. In recognition of her great contribution to Chinese ballet, she was appointed the interim director of the NBC in 1993 and was promoted to executive director the following year. She has since led the company on numerous international tours. She was also appointed a juror on the adjudicating panel for the Kwangju International Ballet Competition in Korea (1995), the New York International Ballet Competition (1996, 2000), the USA Jackson, Mississippi, International Ballet Competition (2002) and the Nagoya International Ballet Competition in Japan (2002). In 2001 she was appointed the chairwoman of the jury of the Second Shanghai International Ballet Competition in China. In 2004 she was invited to be a juror at both the Varna International Ballet Competition and the Seoul International Dance Competition, and in 2005 she served as a juror for the Helsinki International Ballet Competition.

Chen Qigang (*composer*) was born in Shanghai and pursued musical studies from early childhood in China, where he was able to develop in a privileged family setting. He was studying at the Music Middle School of the Central Conservatory of Music, but then underwent the rigors of the Cultural Revolution. Despite his father being imprisoned in a labor camp and himself suffering three years in detention, he doggedly pursued his childhood love of music and managed to build a new life after the Revolution. He first went to France in 1984, to study with Olivier Messiaen, whose last, and at the time only, pupil he was between 1984 and 1988. Being deeply grounded in both traditional Asian and Western cultures has benefited the composer by giving him inexhaustible resources. Having won numerous awards and prizes in China and France, he was honored as Musician of the Year by the Chinese press in 1990. He is now guest professor at the conservatories of music in Beijing and Shanghai. He is also the resident composer at the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg.

Wang Xin Peng (*choreographer*) was born in

Dalian, China and studied ballet at his hometown art school from 1970-1974. He was trained in choreography at the Beijing Dance Academy from 1985-1989 and studied modern dance at the Folkwanghochschule in Essen, Germany from 1989-1990. From 1991-1996 he was a member of the Aalto Ballet Theater in Essen, Germany, and created numerous works including *Concerto*, *Looking Back*, *Facing-in-between* and *Low Version*. Since 1996 Mr. Wang has worked as a choreographer all over the world. He has created dances for the Hong Kong Ballet (*Transient-Ness*, 1996), the National Ballet of China (*Between US*, *Red Point*, 1997), and a staging of Zhang Yimou's *Raise the Red Lantern*, (2001), Contemporary Dance Festival in New York (*Century Step* and *Transient-Ness*, 1997), Ballet Dresden (*The Chairman Dances*, 1998), the Het National Ballet (*Adagio*, 1999), the Royal Ballet van Vlaanderen Antwerpen, National Ballet Lithuanian (*Le Sacre du Printemps* and *Kontrasts*, 2000). In August 2001 Mr. Wang was invited to be the artistic director of Meiningen Theatre Ballet. There he choreographed *Four Seasons*, *The Firebird*, *Petroushka*, *Cinderella* and *Image*. In October 2001 he choreographed Tan Dun's *Death and Fire* for the Royal Ballet of Flanders. In September 2003 he was appointed the artistic director of Dortmund Opera House Ballet. In May 2004 he choreographed Prokofiev's Symphonies Nos. 1, 3 and 5 for the Opera House, and in the same year he choreographed *Petroushka* for the Royal Ballet of Flanders.

Wang Yuan Yuan (*choreographer*) graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy with a BFA and from the California Institute of Arts with an MFA degree. She returned to worked extensively with the Beijing Dance Academy and the National Ballet of China for many years, during which she choreographed major works such as *Raise the Red Lantern*, *Rainbow of Night* (Best Choreography Award in Shanghai International Ballet Competition), *Fate*, *Butterfly Lovers*, *The Nutcracker* and *Al Nur*. She was named Best Choreographer by *Point Magazine* in the 7th International Ballet Competition in the US (2000). She was honored with the Award of Excellence for her choreography for *Attraction* at the 7th International Dance Competition in Paris, France and the 8th Moscow International Ballet Competition in Russia. She directed and choreographed large-scale performances with thousands of performers in the opening ceremony

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

of the Return of Hong Kong Celebration. As a performer she has received the second prize in the 6th Paris International Dance Competition. In 2003 Ms. Wang was a guest choreographer with the New York Choreographic Institute and has been invited to return.

Zeng Li (*stage designer*) graduated from the scenery department of the Central Academy of Drama, China in 1988. Since 1996 he has cooperated with Zhang Yimou on all of his stage performances of *Turandot*, along with *Raise the Red Lantern* and *Liu Sanjie*. Mr. Zeng wrote his first libretto for the opera *Diary of a Madman* for the Nieuw Ensemble, Holland in 1994 in cooperation with Guo Wenjin, a famous contemporary composer in China. The opera has become one of the most important modern operas in China and has been performed at prestigious festivals in Amsterdam, Paris, London, Frankfurt and Beijing to high acclaim. In 2003 he wrote another libretto for the opera *The Memory of the Taipin Lak* in cooperation with Nieuw Ensemble, with music by Mr. Xu Shuya, a well-known modern French-Chinese composer. As a modern artist, Zeng Li has been involved in many fields of creation including: fine art, installation art, architecture design and photography. In 1995 his first installation exhibition, "Legacy," was held in the International Art Gallery in Beijing. Many of his works have been selected for large exhibition in and out of China, including in 2001 *The Transplantation in Situ: A Chinese-French Sculpture Exhibition*; the First Guangzhou Triennial Reinterpretation: A decade of Experimental Chinese Art in Guangzhou Art Museum, 2002 Shanghai Biennale; *Urban Creation*, in the Shanghai Art Museum; 2002 Pingyao International Photography Festival; *The Metropolis - 5th San Paulo International Biennial of Architecture and Design*, Brazil; as well as the 9th and 10th Prague Quadrennial, in 1999 and 2003. In 2004 an exhibition of his work was held in Jinmen Castle Gallery, Taiwan, under the name of *Eighteen Exhibition*. In 2001, under his coordination, the 1st Liang Sicheng Architecture Design Biennale was held in the National Art Museum of Fine Arts, Beijing, China. In 2005 Zeng Li will participate in the preparation and construction of a new Theatre of Beijing Modern Art Centre as well as plan and prepare his first photography exhibition — *The Age of Yugong*. He will also direct his first opera, *Memory of Taiping*

Lake, for the Beijing International Music Festival. He is a scholarship recipient of the Asian Cultural Council of New York.

Jerome Kaplan (*costume designer*) was born in Paris and developed a passion early in his life for the plastic arts. He studied at the Ecole de la Rue Blanche, in the department of stage decoration. Since leaving in 1987, he has designed costumes and decor for a number of theatrical productions, including Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, Massenet's *Don Quichotte* and Vivaldi's *Montezuma* (all three operas directed by Ariel Garcia Valdes). Mr. Kaplan also designed the costumes for *L'Arche de Noe* by Benjamin Britten and *Journal d'un Usager de l'Espace* written by Georges Perce, with music by Didier Lockwood, both pieces directed by Charlotte Nessi and produced at the Bastille Opera. He discovered contemporary dance through the work of Jean-Christophe Maillot and Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, for whom he has created the decor and costumes for *Naranjas e Citrons*, *Casse-Noisette Circus*, *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, *Betes Noires*, *Home Sweet Home*, *Dov'e la luna*, and the costumes for *Ubuhuha* and *Romeo and Juliet*. In 1997 he designed the set and costumes for the new production of *Theme and Variations* (George Balanchine) and *Casse-Noisette Circus* (J.C. Maillot), as well as the costumes for *Recto Verso* and *Cendrillon* in 1999. He designs decor and costumes for the Ballet de Nancy's choreographers, J.F. Druoure and R. Orlin.

DANCERS

Feng Ying (*deputy director and ballet mistress*) graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy in 1979 and joined the National Ballet of China the next year. In 1982, she was sent to France to study at the Opera National de Paris for one year, during which she studied with ballet masters Maurice Bejart and others. Her repertoire included various ballets of the National Ballet of China including full-length classical ballets *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *Giselle*, *Sylvia*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Romeo and Juliet*; the Chinese contemporary ballets, *The Red Detachment of Women*, *The Maid of the Sea* and *Lin Daiyu*; and other ballet works including *Serenade*, *Pas De Quatre*, *Heliotrope*, *The Dying Swan*, *Concerto*, *Four Romantic Pieces* and *Yellow River*. She won first prize at the First National Dance Competition (solo) in 1985 and

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Second National Dance Competition (*pas de deux*) in 1987. In 1999, working with other young choreographers, she created a Chinese version of *Nutcracker*. Since leaving the stage in 1997 she has begun to concentrate on training the new generation of dancers. In 2002 she served on the jury of the Asian and Pacific International Ballet Competition held in Japan. She was also invited as a jurist for the 6th National Dance Competition in 2004. She was appointed as the deputy director of the National Ballet of China in July 2004.

Wang Caijun (*ballet master*) graduated from Beijing Dance Academy in 1978 and joined the National Ballet of China the following year. He has danced all the principal roles in the repertoire of the company, including *Swan Lake*, *Sylvia*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Romeo and Juliet* and the Chinese ballets *Maid of the Sea*, *The New-Year Sacrifice*, and *The Red Detachment of Women*. In recent years he has been working as ballet master and assistant choreographer. He has taken charge of the adaptation work on the new version of *Swan Lake*. He is in charge of the new version of *Raise the Red Lantern*.

Zhu Yan (*principal dancer*) joined the National Ballet of China in 1995 and has danced leading roles in many full length ballets including *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *Le Corsaire*, *La Sylphide*, *The Nutcracker*, *Raise the Red Lantern*, *Sylvia* and *The Fountain of Tears*. Her contemporary ballet repertoire includes *Rite of Spring*, *The Four Last Songs*, *Who Cares?*, *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Etudes*, *La Bayadere* and others. She has danced the principal roles in many of Balanchine's ballets. She has won awards at major international ballet competitions including the special award at the 6th Pairs International Ballet Competition (1994), and the gold medal and special prize for Artistic Performance of the President's Wife of Bulgaria at the 18th Varna International Ballet Competition (1998). At the invitation of the Royal Swedish Ballet and the Royal New Zealand Ballet, she danced the leading role in *La Sylphide*, and the principal roles Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*. In 2005 she was invited as guest artist to dance the principal role in *La Sylphide* with the Royal Danish Ballet.

Zhang Jian (*principal dancer*) graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy in 1996 and joined the

National Ballet of China, dancing many principal roles in classical ballets, including *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *The Red Detachment of Women*, *La Sylphide*, *The Nutcracker*, *Raise the Red Lantern*, *Sylvia*, and *Le Corsaire*, as well as the new version of *Fountain of Tears*. Her contemporary ballet repertoire includes *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Etudes*, *The Four Last Songs*, *The Yellow River*, *Rite of Spring* and others. She has danced all principal roles in many of Balanchine's ballets. In 1997, she won the Gold Medal at the 8th Moscow International Ballet Competition. She was invited in 2000 to dance with the Houston Ballet in the United States, performing the leading roles in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Etude* and *Three Preludes*. In 2001 she was invited for the gala performance of the 2nd Shanghai International Ballet Competition. In September the same year she was invited to perform *Swan Lake* with the Hong Kong Ballet. In May 2002 she was invited as guest artist by the Royal New Zealand Ballet for the roles of Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*. In 2004 she was invited as guest artist for the same roles in Hong Kong Ballet. In April 2004 she performed at the Festival of America.

Wang Qimin (*principal dancer*) joined the National Ballet of China in 1999 and has danced lead roles in *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, *Raise the Red Lantern*, and the company's new versions of *Coppelia* and *Swan Lake*, as well as *Etudes*, *Sylvia*, *Le Corsaire*, *La Sylphide*, *The Fountain of Tears* and the *Butterfly Lovers*. She has danced leading roles in Balanchine's ballets, and contemporary ballet works such as *Rite of Spring*. In 1998 she won the special prize at the Pairs International Ballet Competition, and in June 2001 she won a gold medal at the 9th Moscow International Ballet Competition. In 2004 she was awarded a scholarship from the French government to study at the Paris Opera Ballet.

Sun Jie (*principal dancer*) joined the National Ballet of China in 1991 after graduating from the Beijing Dance Academy. His repertoire includes principal roles in the full-length ballets *The Red Detachment of Women*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Don Quixote*, *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Le Corsaire*, *The Nutcracker* and *Raise the Red Lantern*, *Coppelia*, *La Sylphide*, *Sylvia*, and the new version of *Fountain of Tears*. He has danced in principal roles in many of Balanchine's ballets, and other contemporary works such as *Rite of Spring*, *Butterfly Lovers*, *Etude*, *The Yellow River*, and *Heliotrope*. In 1992 he was invited to perform

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

at the 3rd Macau International Arts Festival. In 1994, 1998 and 2000 he was invited to Japan as a guest artist, and in June 2002 he was invited by the Royal New Zealand Ballet as guest artist to dance the prince in *Swan Lake*.

Hou Qingfeng (*soloist*) After graduating from the Beijing Dance Academy in 1996, he joined the National Ballet of China, dancing the principal roles of *Raise the Red Lantern*, and the Prince in *Swan Lake* Act II. He has also danced as soloist in *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Le Corsaire*, *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *Etude*, *The Red Detachment of Women*, *Yellow River*, *Allegro Brillante*, *Theme and Variations*, *Chairman Dances*, *Before the Wedding Chamber*, *Variations for Four*, *Rite of Spring*, *The Four Last Songs*, *Butterfly Lovers* and the modern dance piece, *Two Hearts Meeting in the Air*.

Li Jun (*principal dancer*) He graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy in 1999 and entered the National Ballet of China in the same year. He has danced principal roles in full-length ballets including *Giselle*, the Chinese version of *The Nutcracker*, the new versions of *Coppelia*, *Fountain of Tears*, *Swan Lake*, and *Raise the Red Lantern*, as well as *Sylvia*, *Le Corsaire*, Act III of *Don Quixote* and the modern dance *Rainbow of the Night*. In 1997, he won the second prize at the Fifth China Tao Li Cup Dance Competition. In 2002 he was awarded the Silver Medal at the 7th USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi. In 2005, he was invited to perform at the Prague International Dance Gala and Competition.

Meng Ningning (*principal dancer*) graduated from Beijing Dance Academy in 1996 and joined the National Ballet of China in the same year. She has danced the leading roles in *The Red Detachment of Women*, *Le Corsaire*, Act III of *Don Quixote*, the first concubine in *Raise the Red Lantern*, Zarema in *The Fountain of Tears*, Diana in *Sylvia*, principal role of the *New-Year Sacrifice* Act II and performed solo roles in *Yellow River* and many Balanchine Ballets such as *Who Cares*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Serenade* and the modern dance *Salt*. In 2002 she won the Gold Medal at the 4th Nagoya International Ballet and Modern Dance competition in Japan.

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