

Friday, November 1, 2013, 8pm
 Saturday, November 2, 2013, 8pm
 Zellerbach Hall

Shanghai Ballet

Xin Lili, *Artistic Director*



The Butterfly Lovers

Cal Performances' 2013–2014 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.



Shanghai Ballet

The Butterfly Lovers

Ballet in Four Acts

Choreography Xin Lili
Music Xu Jianqiang
Libretto Luo Huaizhen
Assistant Choreographers Zhenrong, Cai Yilei, Li Fei
Lighting Gleb Filshinsky, Boris Eifman
World Première December 1, 2001, Shanghai Grand Theater

PROGRAM

Act I In School

Act II Farewell

INTERMISSION

Act III Against Marriage

Act IV Turning into Butterflies

CAST

<i>Zhu Yingtai</i>	Fan Xiaofeng, Ji Pingping
<i>Liang Shanbo</i>	Wu Husheng, Wu Bin
<i>Ma Wencai</i>	Wu Bin, Zhang Yao
<i>Old Teacher</i>	Zhong Min
<i>Magistrate Ma (Ma Wencai's father)</i>	Zhong Min, Jiang Yong
<i>Father of Zhu Yingtai</i>	Wu Jie, Jiang Yong
<i>Liang and Zhu in the dream</i>	Zhou Haibo, Zhang Yao, Zhang Wenjun
<i>Magpie</i>	Li Chenchen, Zhang Yao, Zhang Wenjun
<i>Mandarin Duck</i>	Chen Yan, Zhou Haibo, Xiang Jieyan, Feng Bo

Corps de Ballet

Li Yang, Lei Xinmin, Wang Xudan, Bao Deli, Xu Yuchen, Gong Liwei, Tang Jingqi, Miao Siyun, Shi Pengfei, Sun Haonan, Sun Xuan, Zhou Jiawen, Tie Jiaxin, Zhao Hanbing, Zhang Mengjin, Meng Fanyu, Hu Pingting, Zhang Wenhui, Li Chenchen, Xiang Yang, Jin Xin, Chen Yunxuan, Ding Chengjun, Ji Luxi, Qian Juemin, Xu Yiru, Li Rui, Chen Lu, Zhang Yuwei, Yu Qiaoe, Chen Tianxu, Tang Kaipeng, Huang Xiaowen, Yu Lang

The Butterfly Lovers

ACT I: IN SCHOOL

It is spring, with flowers blossoming, birds singing and mountain water running. Liang and Zhu are studying eagerly in class. Dressed as a male, Zhu plays cheerfully with her classmates after class. Ma Wencai is a bully who disregards the teacher and cheats on his classmates. Zhu Yingtai tries to stop him but is threatened in return. Liang helps Zhu, but is beaten by Ma. At last, Ma is driven out of the school.

In the evening, Zhu kneads Liang's wounds with passion. She falls in love with Liang, but Liang is not aware of Zhu's emotions.

At dawn, a letter comes from Zhu's family asking her to return home.

ACT II: FAREWELL

It is a beautiful midsummer morning with frogs croaking and cicadas chirping.

Liang escorts Zhu back home with deep friendship, but Zhu is laden with anxiety. Butterflies are flying in pairs. Mandarin ducks are playing in the water. Magpies are singing. It is a love scene in Zhu's eyes, but Liang pays no heed. Passing by a team of brides meeting for a wedding, Zhu disguises herself as a bride, but Liang takes it as a game. Liang, pleasantly surprised, realizes that Zhu is a girl by a fan with butterfly decoration given by Zhu as a parting gift.

ACT III: AGAINST MARRIAGE

Grief and loneliness penetrates through autumn leaves.

The wedding ceremony of the rich family is magnificent, with guests in splendid costumes. Zhu Yingtai is arranged to marry Ma Wencai, her former classmate. Ma is amazed and extremely satisfied. Zhu Yingtai is upset and against the marriage.

Liang Shanbo comes to propose marriage to Zhu Yingtai, but Zhu's father looks down upon him. Ma's family uses its wealth to bully Liang. Zhu opposes her fathers' and Ma family's coercion. Zhu expresses her deep love for Liang. After a beating by Ma's servants, Liang falls to the ground.

ACT IV: TURNING INTO BUTTERFLIES

Liang's gravestone stands surrounded only by calm wind and quiet white snow.

On her wedding day, Zhu comes to Liang's grave and mourns, disregarding all opposition.

Liang died for Zhu, and Zhu dies for love.

Suddenly, as if heaven were abiding by their wishes, Liang and Zhu are reunited and become a pair of butterflies.

Epilogue

We could not marry in life.

We live together in another world.

Spring returns to the good earth. It is a beautiful and colorful world.



THE SHANGHAI BALLET was organized in 1979. *The White-Haired Girl*, a classical Chinese ballet created in the 20th century, brought instant fame to the Shanghai Ballet and helped establish its position in the international ballet world. The Company has performed *The White-Haired Girl* more than 1,700 times, and was first introduced to North American audiences during its coast-to-coast tour in fall 2002.

In its 34-year history, the Shanghai Ballet has, after its legendary performances of *The White Haired Girl*, created and staged new, folk-styled ballet productions of *The Butterfly Lovers* (Xin Lili) and *A Sigh of Love* (Bertrand d'At). The Company's repertoire also includes the classical ballet repertoire of *Swan Lake* (Derek Deane), *Coppélia* (Pierre Lacotte), *La Sylphide* (Jean-Paul Gravier), *The Nutcracker* (Tetsutaro Shimizu), *Romeo and Juliet* (Derek Deane), *Serenade* (George Balanchine) along with such modern pieces as *The Imagination of Red*, *Fébrile*, *Now, Here*, and *Conversation with Chopin*. Additionally, the Shanghai Ballet has performed many *pas de deux* from classical ballets, including *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *Le Corsaire*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *La Esmeralda*, and *Raymonda*.

Since its founding, the many young dancers of the Company have won 32 medals in various

international dance competitions, and they have also achieved impressive results in nationwide competitions. The team of current principal dancers, including Fan Xiaofeng, Sun Shenyi, Ji Pingping, Chen Zhenrong, Yu Xiaowei, and Chen Yan, is growing into a brilliant and artistically mature unit, with rising dancers, such as Wu Husheng, Wang Ya'nán, Duan Wenfei, and Zhang Yao, becoming the stars of the next generation.

The Shanghai Ballet is active in cooperation and artistic exchange with artists and companies both at home and abroad. The Company has toured not only throughout China but in almost 100 cities all over the world, including the United States, Canada, France, Spain, Norway, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan.

Admitted to the Shanghai Ballet Dance School in 1973, **Xin Lili** (*Artistic Director*) majored in ballet before graduating with honors in 1980, at which time she was assigned to the Shanghai Ballet, rising to become a principal dancer.

With a pure, graceful, and lyrical temperament, Ms. Xin appeared onstage dancing principal roles in *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *White Haired Girl*, *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Thunderstorm*, *Song of Youth*, and *Soul*. As a choreographer, she showed talent in her work on the modern *pas de deux Twine*.

Ms. Xin won the Silver Medal at the New York International Ballet Competition in 1987 and the First Grand Prix Couple in the Third Paris International Dance Competition (Classical), with her partner Yang Xinhua, in 1988. She was named to the Shanghai Top Ten Young Artists in 1993 and received the Prize for Excellent Performer of Classical Arts in both 1993 and 1999.

Ms. Xin trained Fan Xiaofeng and Sun Shengyi, who both won Gold Medals at the 19th Varne International Ballet Competition in July 2000. She guided Ji Pingping and Fu Shu to Gold and Silver medals, respectively at the Ninth Paris International Dance Competition (Classical) in November 2000. She also trained

Ke Da and Yu Xiaowei, who won the Senior Division Gold Medals at the Third Shanghai International Ballet Competition in July 2004. She coached the Shanghai Ballet's Wu Husheng to a Silver Medal win (no Gold was awarded) and the Igor Youshevitch Award at the Ninth New York International Ballet Competition in June 2007, and the Gold Medal at the Fourth Shanghai International Ballet Competition in August of the same year. In June 2009, her students Guo Hongyu and Zhang Wenjun won the Senior Division Silver Medal and Best Pas de Deux at the Sixth Helsinki International Ballet Competition.

In 2001, Ms. Xin created and choreographed *The Butterfly Lovers*, which premiered at the closing ceremony of the Shanghai International Arts Festival. From 2001 to 2011, Ms. Xin served as a jury member for numerous international competitions, including the Prix Benois de la Danse, the Shanghai International Ballet Competition, the New York International Ballet Competition, the Hong Kong Young Ballet Star Award, and the Cape Town International Ballet Competition. In June 2010, she was invited to attend the 60th anniversary of the British National Ballet and performed as the Mother in *Swan Lake*.

After becoming Artistic Director, Ms. Xin introduced the British versions of *Swan Lake* and *Romeo and Juliet*, the French versions of *Coppélia* and *La Sylphide*, as well as George Balanchine's *Serenade* and *La Valse* to the Company's repertoire. In 2006, the company created the Chinese modern ballet *A Sigh of Love*.