



上海芭蕾舞团  
*Shanghai Ballet*

**SHANGHAI BALLET:  
THE BUTTERFLY LOVERS**

Tuesday-Wednesday, January 28-29, 2020, at 7:30pm  
Tryon Festival Theatre

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# PROGRAM

## **SHANGHAI BALLET: THE BUTTERFLY LOVERS**

A ballet in four acts

Choreography by Xin Lili

Music by Xu Jianqiang

Libretto by Luo Huaizhen

Set Design by Zhou Benyi

Costume Design by Li Ruiding

Lighting Design by Lu Caigen

World Premiere on December 1, 2001, at the Shanghai Grand Theater

### **ACT I**

In School

*Pause*

### **ACT II**

Farewell

*20-minute intermission*

### **ACT III**

Against Marriage

*Pause*

### **ACT IV**

Transforming into Butterflies

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*Shanghai Ballet appears by arrangement with:*

Opus 3 Artists

470 Park Avenue South

9th Floor North

New York, NY 10016

[www.opus3artists.com](http://www.opus3artists.com)

## **CAST**

### **Zhu Yingtai**

Qi Bingxue

### **Liang Shanbo**

Wu Husheng, Yuan Anpu

### **Ma Wencai**

Zhang Yao, Wu Bin, Zhang Wenjun

### **Old Teacher**

Zhong Min

### **Magistrate Ma (Ma Wencai's father)**

Zhong Min

### **Corps de Ballet**

Li Yang, Gong Liwei, Tu Hanbin, Bao Deli, Miao Siyun, Xue Li, Yang Tianzhen, Ge Yimeng, Tang Jingqi, Yuan Qin, Zhao Zhihao, Liu Hongyang, Zhou Haibo, Lei Xinming, Wang Jiayue, Xu Jingkun, Yan Qingchen, Xiang Yang, Yu Qiaoer, He Linyi, Zhao Meici, Feng Zichun, Chen Xi, Hu Pingting, Ding Chengjun, Chen Lu, Yan Wentong, Dong Yimeng, Song Xiaojia, Li Rui, Gao Zhizi, Cao Xue, Bai Dan, Miao Siwen, Li Jingwen, Zhu Qian, Xin Shuning, Xing Shengjun, and Jin Guolongfei

Stage Manager: Gao Dongming

Set: Huang Jiajie, Cao Lixin, Xu Zhige

Costume: Song Liang

Lighting: Zhu Xiachen, Li Ping

Props: Cao Haitao

Make-up: Wu Wenting

### **Father of Zhu Yingtai**

Jiang Yong

### **Liang and Zhu in the dream**

Gong Liwei, Tu Hanbin

### **Maggies**

Meng Fanyu, Gong Liwei, Jin Guolongfei

### **Mandarin Ducks**

Zhou Jiawen, Yu Qiaoer, Yuan Anpu, Tu Hanbin

## **FOR OPUS 3 ARTISTS**

David V. Foster, President and CEO

Leonard Stein, Senior Vice President,

Director, Touring Division

Robert Berretta, Vice President,

Manager, Artists & Attractions

Tania Leong, Associate, Touring Division

Grace Hertz, Assistant, Artists & Attractions

Kay McCavic, Company Manager

Joyce Liao, Lighting Director

Lanie Liu, Stage Manager

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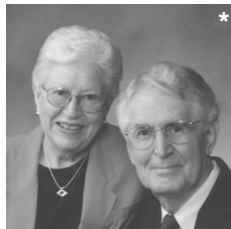


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# SYNOPSIS

## ACT I

### In School

It is spring with flowers blossoming, birds singing, and mountain water running. Liang and Zhu are studying eagerly in class. Having dressed herself as a male, Zhu plays cheerfully with her classmates after class. Ma Wencai is a bully, and he disregards the teacher and cheats on his work. Zhu tries to stop him but is threatened. 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 great feeling. She dreams of love with Liang, but Liang is not aware of what is in Zhu's heart.

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

## ACT II

### Farewell

It is a beautiful midsummer morning as frogs croak and cicadas chirp.

Liang escorts Zhu back home with deep friendship, but Zhu is laden with anxiety on the way. Butterflies are flying in pairs, mandarin ducks are playing in the water, and magpies are singing. It is a love scene in Zhu's eyes, but Liang pays no heed. Passing a wedding party, Zhu disguises herself as a bride, but Liang takes it as a game. Liang is pleasantly surprised to realize that Zhu is the girl on a butterfly-adorned fan given to him by Zhu at the pair's separation.

## ACT III

### Against Marriage

Grief and loneliness penetrate through autumn leaves.

A wedding ceremony of a rich family unfolds with magnificence, hosting guests in splendid costumes. Zhu is arranged to marry Ma Wencai, her former classmate. Ma shows extreme satisfaction. Zhu is upset and does not wish to marry Ma.

Liang comes to propose marriage to Zhu, but Zhu's father looks down on him. Ma's family takes advantage of its wealth to bully Liang. Zhu opposes the coercion of her father by the Ma family, and she expresses her deep love for Liang. As he is beaten by Ma's servants, Liang falls to the ground.

## ACT IV

### Transforming into Butterflies

In a calm wind and fairly quiet white snow stands Liang's gravestone.

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

Liang died for Zhu. Zhu died for love.

Suddenly, and as if heaven is abiding by their wishes, the pair are reunited and transform into a pair of beautiful butterflies. They could not marry in life, so they live together in another world.

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

## SHANGHAI BALLET

Xin Lili, Director

Organized in 1979, the Shanghai Ballet is one of the world's preeminent ballet companies, bringing the unique glamour of Chinese dance to the international stage. *The White-Haired Girl*, an award-winning classical Chinese ballet created in the 20th century, brought instant fame to the company and helped establish its leading position in the ballet world. The company has performed *The White-Haired Girl* in over 1,700 performances and was first introduced to North American audiences during its coast-to-coast tour in the fall of 2002. The current director of the Shanghai Ballet is Xin Lili, the renowned Chinese ballerina.

During its 40-year history, the Shanghai Ballet has created and staged many new ballet productions, including *The Butterfly Lovers* (Xin Lili), *Jane Eyre* (Patrick de Bana), *Marco Polo—The Last Mission* (José Martinez), and *A Sigh of Love* (Bertrand d'At). The company's classical repertoire includes *Swan Lake* (Derek Deane), *Coppelia* (Pierre Lacotte), *La Sylphide* (Jean-Paul Gravier), *The Nutcracker* (Tetsutaro Shimizu), *Romeo and Juliet* (Derek Deane), and *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*, *La Esmeralda*, and *Raymonda*. Recent projects include *Echoes of Eternity* (Patrick de Bana), *Hamlet* (Derek Deane), and *The Sleeping Beauty* (Derek Deane), as well as *The Lady of Camellias* in 2019 (Shanghai Ballet version).

Since its founding, young dancers of the Company have won more than 40 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, Qi Bingxue, Zhang Wenjun, Zhou Jiawen, Wu Bin, Zhang Yao, Li Yang, Meng Fanyu, and Yuan Anpu.

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 in China but also throughout the world, including performances in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France, Spain, Norway, Finland, Poland, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan. In 2013, the company performed *Jane Eyre* at the London Coliseum, going on to perform *The Butterfly Lovers* and *La Sylphide* in the United States and Canada. In March 2014, the company performed *The White-Haired Girl* and *The Sigh of Love* at Paris' Palais des Sports. The next year, the company successfully presented the world premiere of the largest *Swan Lake* (Derek Deane) with 48 swans on stage in Shanghai. Shanghai Ballet went on in 2015, 2016, and 2017 to tour that dazzling *Swan Lake* in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Den Haag, Breda, Groningen, Heerlen, Apeldoorn, Enschede, and Antwerp, as well as in Melbourne with 74 performances. In 2016, Shanghai Ballet visited Montreal and Ottawa, bringing to Canada its *Giselle* and *The Butterfly Lovers*, and in 2017, *Jane Eyre* was

successfully presented in Poland. The company continued to tour widely in 2018 visiting Russia with *Marco Polo—The Last Mission*, and between November 2018 and January 2019, attending to another tour with the largest *Swan Lake* to Berlin, Vienna, Rotterdam, and Breda, giving 27 performances within two months.

In the words of a critic, “The Shanghai Ballet is as elegant as the delicate porcelain imported from China.”

### **XIN LILI**

Director of Shanghai Ballet  
National First-Class Dancer

Admitted to the Shanghai Dance School in 1973, Xin Lili majored in ballet before graduating with honors in 1980, at which time she joined the Shanghai Ballet and rose to become a principal dancer. In 2000, Xin was appointed Artistic Associate of Shanghai Ballet, and in July 2001, she was named Artistic Director of the Shanghai Ballet. She was appointed as the Director of the Shanghai Ballet in September 2011.

With a pure, graceful, and lyrical temperament, Xin has appeared on stage dancing principal roles in *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, in addition to roles in the Chinese ballets *The White-Haired Girl*, *Thunderstorm*, *Song of Youth*, *Soul*, and *The Butterfly Lovers*. As a choreographer, she has shown her talent in her modern pas de deux, *Twine*.

Xin received 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 as one of the Shanghai Top 10 Young Artists in 1993 and received the Prize for Excellent Performer of Classical Arts in both 1993 and 1999. She won the Shanghai Brave Female Award in 1994.

Xin trained Fan Xiaofeng and Sun Shenyi, 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 Wu Husheng to win a silver medal (no gold medal given) and the Igor Youskevitch Award at the ninth New York International Ballet Competition in June 2007, in addition to 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 medal and Best Pas de Deux at the sixth Helsinki International Ballet Competition. She taught Qi Bingxue and Yuan Anpu, who received gold medals in the fifth Shanghai International Ballet Competition.



In December 2001, Xin created and choreographed *The Butterfly Lovers*, which premiered at the closing ceremony of the Shanghai International Arts Festival. From 2001 to 2018, Xin served as a jury member for numerous international competitions, including the Prix Benois de la Danse, the Shanghai International Ballet Competition, the Beijing International Ballet Competition, the New York International Ballet Competition, the China Hong Kong Young Ballet Stars Award, the Cape Town International Ballet Competition, the Korean International Ballet Competition, the Mongolia International Ballet Competition, and the World Ballet Trial in Tokyo Stage. In June 2010, she was invited to attend the 60th anniversary of English National Ballet and performed as the mother in *Swan Lake*.

As Artistic Director, Xin introduced British versions of *Swan Lake* and *Romeo and Juliet*, French versions of *Coppelia* and *La Sylphide*, and Balanchine's *Serenade* and *La Valse* to the company's repertoire. In 2006, the company created the modern Chinese ballet *A Sigh of Love*, followed by *The Last Mission of Marco Polo* and *The Nutcracker* (Shanghai Grand Theatre version) in 2010. In 2012, the company created the modern ballet *Jane Eyre*, along with the contemporary ballet *The Echoes of Eternity* in 2015. In 2016, the company created *Hamlet*, with *The Bright Red Star*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Lady of the Camellias* following in 2018 and 2019.

## **QI BINGXUE**

Principal Dancer of Shanghai Ballet  
National Second-Class Dancer

Entering the Shanghai Dance School in 2007, Qi Bingxue became a dancer in the Shanghai Ballet after her graduation in 2014. She has danced main roles in *The White-Haired Girl*, *Echoes of Eternity*, *Hamlet*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppelia*, *Giselle*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Last Mission of Marco Polo*, and *The Sleeping Beauty* (Shanghai Ballet version), in addition to performing important solos and leading dances in *The Nutcracker* (Shanghai Grand Theatre version) and *Bright Red Star*. She has also performed in *The Butterfly Lovers* and *A Sigh of Love*.

Qi received the first prize at the third Beijing International Ballet and Choreographer Competition. She won the gold award at the fifth Shanghai International Ballet Competition and Best Female Dancer of the tenth China Dance Lotus Award in 2016.

## WU HUSHENG

First Principal Dancer of Shanghai Ballet  
National First-Class Dancer

Entering the Shanghai Dance School in 1997, Wu Husheng became a dancer in the Shanghai Ballet after his graduation in 2003 and was promoted to be the first principal dancer in 2010. He has danced principal roles in *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *Coppelia*, *La Sylphide*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Sleeping Beauty* (Shanghai Ballet version), *Jane Eyre*, *Echoes of Eternity*, *Hamlet*, *Giselle*, *The White-Haired Girl*, *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Bright Red Star*, *A Sigh of Love*, *The Last Mission of Marco Polo*, and *The Nutcracker* (Shanghai Grand Theatre version). He also performed *Serenade*, *La Valse*, *Piano Dance*, and *Dream Back to Shanghai* in addition to such modern pieces as *Conversation with Chopin*, *La Danse du Stravinsky*, *Grand Pas de Bach*, *Web5*, *The Song of the Mother*, *Water*, and *Bolero*.

Wu won the Special Jury Award at the third Shanghai International Ballet Competition in June 2004. He was invited to perform in the first Asia Ballet Festival in Seoul, Korea in 2006. In June 2007, at the ninth New York International Ballet Competition, he won the silver medal (no gold medal given) and the Igor Youskevitch Award. He received the gold medal at the fourth Shanghai International Ballet Competition in August 2007. In addition, he won the Shanghai Literature and Art Award in both 2008 and 2013. Together

with his partner Ji Pingping, he appeared in a special Gala performance in July 2009. He won the Dramatic Silver Prize of seventh China Dance Competition in 2009 in addition to the Annual Best Potential from Municipal Propaganda Department in 2010. In 2011, Wu received the Dramatic Silver Prize of the eighth China Dance Competition and the Outstanding Young Dancers of 2011 from Shanghai Dance Association. He won the Shanghai Labor Medal and Young Talent of Shanghai Arts Culture in 2012 in addition to participating in a performance with Hamburg State Opera in 2012. Wu was recognized with the Best Male Dancer of the Ninth China Dance Lotus Award in 2013. He won the Best Actor Award in the 24th Shanghai Magnolia Stage Performance Award. In addition to being named in the Top 10 Outstanding Youth of Shanghai in 2014, Wu was named the Best Male Dancer of the tenth China Dance Lotus Award in 2016. In 2017, Wu created the production *Lost Star*, which was listed in Chinese Dance for Twelve Days at Beijing Performing Arts Center. The production was also listed as one of China Shanghai International Arts Festival—Rising Artists' Works. He choreographed contemporary *Blackthorn* in July 2018 in addition to winning the sixth Shanghai International Ballet Competition Choreography Award with his contemporary piece *Adieu*. His work in *Smile in the Dream* won the prize for Best Choreographer in Excellent Performance of Young Dancers in 2018.