

# ON THE ARTISTIC FEATURES OF THE SICHUAN OPERA "LITTLE RADISH HEAD"

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**Abstract:** The original Sichuan Opera "Little Radish Head" by the University of Electronic Science and Technology takes the red stories from the Bashu land as its background and material, organically combining traditional art with modern red classic stories. At the same time, it integrates technological elements into traditional opera based on the university's academic background, endowing Sichuan Opera with new vitality.

**Keywords:** Sichuan Opera art; Traditional culture; *Little Radish Head*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Opera, as an excellent traditional Chinese culture, is nurtured by the vast land of China, rooted in the deep soil of traditional society, absorbing the rich nutrients of Chinese civilization, containing the genetic characteristics of Chinese culture, and condensing into a representative form of national art. The Central Propaganda Department issued a response to journalists titled "Let Excellent Traditional Culture Truly Live and Pass On," which particularly pointed out that traditional Chinese opera culture faces serious problems in inheritance and development under the informatization ecosystem, and opera work cannot keep pace with modern culture and communication methods. This directly leads to a sharp decrease in the number of opera audiences, especially the lack of interest from the younger generation in drama. To some extent, this is not a problem of opera development, but a problem of opera survival. Under the informatization ecosystem, how to let more young people recognize and contact, promote the creative transformation and innovative development of opera culture, and the inheritance of excellent traditional Chinese culture is the question of the times facing college educators [1][2].

Sichuan Opera, as a national intangible cultural heritage, is a representative of Bashu culture and a symbol of Sichuan's humanistic spirit [3][4]. In recent years, with the high attention of leaders at all levels in our province and the joint efforts of numerous literary and art workers, Sichuan Opera has been actively promoted into campus performances to spread traditional culture. However, the form is basically professional groups of professional actors performing into campus, although this method can let college students appreciate the exquisite Sichuan Opera art, its form and content are not prominent in practical significance, lack of innovation, and the dissemination effect is limited [5][6]. The Sichuan Opera "Little Radish Head" is a large-scale Sichuan Opera red opera work with a university as the main creator. The play is co-created and performed by teachers and students of the University of Electronic Science and Technology, using Sichuan Opera to tell the story of the Red Rock, inheriting the red gene, and is an organic combination and deep integration of history education and cultural heritage, and an excellent case of educating people through drama.

## 2 ARTISTIC FEATURES

Small but Refined, Revolutionary History Stories are Compelling Sichuan Opera "Little Radish Head" focuses on Song Zhenzhong, the youngest revolutionary martyr of New China, and unfolds around his diligent study in prison, wits and courage against the White House guard "Owl", passing messages for revolutionary friends, and ultimately sacrificing heroically. It shows Little Radish Head's desire for knowledge, adherence to justice, and yearning for a happy life. The first scene is the witty duel with the Owl, the second scene is the clever delivery of the Advancement Report, the third scene is the motherly love in prison, the fourth scene is the child's dream of freedom, the fifth scene is the spring thunder startling the mountain city, and the sixth scene is the hot blood dyeing the spring and autumn. Telling the story of the Red Rock with Sichuan Opera, the whole play presents the group portraits of countless revolutionaries with noble spiritual beliefs in the bloody "Zhazi Cave" and "White House", leading us to remember the revolutionary martyrs, sing the praises of heroes, and accept the baptism of the "Red Rock Spirit". It calls on teachers and students to tell the history of the revolution, comprehend the revolutionary beliefs and dedication of the revolutionaries, and draw strength from the extraordinary course of the revolution.

Large and Broad, the Spirit of Heroes Shakes People's Hearts The play vividly portrays the innocent and lovely character image of Little Radish Head, recreating the darkness before dawn, and using the unique "tragedy comedy performance" method of Sichuan Opera, it shocks the hearts of the audience in the era of peace. To make full use of the "textbook" of heroic deeds and the spirit of heroes, guiding teachers and students to inherit the red gene and build a spiritual pillar, the University of Electronic Science and Technology innovates the narrative method, performs vivid and vivid stories of heroes, guides the youth of the new era to inherit the red gene, plays the strong sound of patriotism, and leads students to remember heroes, admire heroes, defend heroes, learn from heroes, and firm up their ideals and beliefs. High participation, wide coverage, and co-performance by school teachers and students are the highlights of the play.

"Little Radish Head" allows every actor, student, and teacher to feel and convey the red spirit in an immersive atmosphere, completing an immersive revolutionary history education learning activity. Students participate in the performance process to understand and shape characters, transcend characters in a specific historical period and background, and experience the great spirit of patriotism, dedication, and fearlessness of sacrifice of the characters at that time. Through a large number of observations and creations, not only do non-professional students learn Sichuan Opera art, but they also comprehensively understand that memorable red history, deepen their understanding of the ideals and beliefs of national rejuvenation and people's liberation, and the audience watches the performance in an immersive atmosphere, feeling the great spirit of patriotism, dedication, and fearlessness of the revolutionary predecessors, and subtly implants moral education. The play is an organic combination and deep integration of revolutionary history education and cultural heritage. Sichuan Opera "Little Radish Head" tells "small stories" in the development process of the revolution, reflecting the "great spirit" of heroes. Teachers and students of the University of Electronic Science and Technology become storytellers of revolutionary history through participation in the creation and performance of Sichuan Opera "Little Radish Head".

Excellent and Innovative, Creative Results are Characteristic Strong The creation of the play fully utilizes the academic background of the University of Electronic Science and Technology, integrating "electronic information + intangible cultural heritage" technical advantages in sound, light, and electricity, achieving a deep integration of technology and art. Sichuan Opera "Little Radish Head" has made bold innovations from play creation, rehearsal to stage art, injecting the university's own advantages and specialties, allowing new technology and traditional opera to cross-integrate, bringing a "new" Sichuan Opera with electronic information characteristics. The project also breaks the current traditional opera stage design thinking from the perspective of stage art, combines the university's own professional advantages, integrates digital media technology, and uses new technology to complete the innovative opera stage. Through cross-integration, it attracts more audiences and enhances the social influence of the play, strengthening the artistic appeal of Sichuan Opera. For example, in the fourth scene "Childlike Freedom Dream", through light and shadow interaction + digital scenes, the White House scene in the play changes to a colorful dream lawn scene with the dreams of the protagonist Little Radish Head, and the actors also interact with digital "butterflies" in the virtual scene for immersive performance. The main creative team has carefully created a characteristic work that integrates a variety of art performances.

### 3 DEMONSTRATIVE LEADING VALUE

Sichuan Opera "Little Radish Head" is a specific practice and a typical excellent case of college cultural education and strengthening college students' ideological and political education. The story of Little Radish Head, as one of the classic stories of the "Red Rock" series, is more characteristic when created in Sichuan Opera art. It not only promotes the excellent traditional culture of China, follows the laws of art, but also has practical themes and educational significance, truly practicing drama into campus.

Excavate red classics to enhance students' identity recognition. By excavating and presenting red revolutionary typical characters, it enhances the students' sense of identity as "Chinese people". Teachers and students on campus watch the play, from identity recognition to a sense of belonging, forming cultural recognition, national pride, and thus playing a leading role in value pursuit.

Prosper campus culture and cultivate students' humanistic spirit. The creation and performance of the play have prospered campus culture, enriched the humanistic spirit and artistic atmosphere, enhanced the cohesion of the school, realized cultural heritage and dream transmission, and are more conducive to motivating students to be brave in taking responsibility, daring to innovate, and realizing the feelings of home and country.

Convey the spirit of the nation and strengthen students' sense of responsibility. It is a specific practice that runs through the entire process of educating people through traditional art forms such as Sichuan Opera, integrating college students' ideological and political education and cultural heritage innovation. The values of truth, goodness, beauty, and patriotism, the pursuit of ideals and beliefs, and fearlessness of sacrifice shown in the play are more easily accepted by actors and audiences and internalized into guidelines and motivations for their own progress.

### 4 CONCLUSION

Since the first performance of Sichuan Opera "Little Radish Head" in 2021, it has been performed online and offline for more than ten times, and more than ten mainstream media such as People's Daily and Guangming Daily have reported on it. From rehearsal to public performance, tens of thousands of people have watched.

### COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

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