

Lighting Designer for 'Lao Can Impression'

Salary: £800 (UK Theatre MRSL 2/3)

Application Deadline: 30 October 2018, 5:00 pm

Company: Concert Theatre in partnership with Chinese Arts Now

Job Details

Concert Theatre is inviting applications from London-based Lighting Designers, for the LX design of their new production *Lao Can Impression*, a theatre work by Concert Theatre that fuses the music of Debussy with a dramatic adaptation of a classic story by famous Chinese writer Liu. It is directed by An-Ting Chang (Artistic Director of Concert Theatre), with the Taiwanese devisers and performers Hsu Hua-Chien and Chi-I Chang, and stage design by Wang Jing.

We are looking for an experienced Lighting Designer to be responsible for designing and operating the show's lighting for its preview (29th Jan 2019), and its premiere at the Southbank Centre in London (30th Jan 2019). The work will be part of Chinese Arts Now's inaugural city-wide London 2019 festival, which celebrates work by artists of Chinese cultural heritage (chineseartsnow.org.uk).

There will be two further dates to mid-scale theatres within the UK, but the lighting designer is not required to be present.

The lighting designer will be required to feed into technical arrangements, and planning around design and placing of English surtitles on stage. Experience of light design with projections is preferred as the surtitles will be projected onto the set.

About the production

Debussy's music was inspired by Eastern culture (his father owned a China shop). Liu's story is about how Chinese people faced Westernisation at the beginning of 20th century and continue to live with it now.

In '**Lao Can Impression**', Liu exists as two characters in the play who are 100 years apart in time. The first character is in the original story by Liu and is a reformist of the Qing dynasty. The second Liu is a contemporary man who wants to preserve his wall from urban redevelopment and is an invention of director Chang.

The music and the performance play with Debussy's imagination of the East and Liu's attitude towards Westernisation. In fusing the two, director Chang recognises both Debussy and Liu's approaches to modernisation – that one does not have to destroy what went before to innovate, but rather to experiment with form through bringing in other forms and elements.

The cellist in the piece plays a crucial role, epitomising this approach of mixing the old with the new to create a fusion of styles. This is done by applying guqin techniques to the instrument to create a new sound. The two actors mix modern acting as we might know it in the Western world with the Xiangsheng style (a traditional Chinese crosstalk/comedic performing art).



Chang's Concert Theatre interweaves classical music and literature, to offer audiences a fresh expression and experience of both. Music provides another texture and dimension, expressing the text beyond words to the audience, offering them to listen to the music in a new perspective. The flute, cello and piano form a trio adapting Debussy's symphonies and chamber works in a unique style of ensemble.

Chang's intention with 'Lao Can' is to provide an opportunity to think through about what we gain and lose in modernisation. At the time Liu wrote his novel, many people in China were exploring whether to destroy or keep Chinese traditions in response to the West's cultural milieu. To reference both elements was not a popular position. Chang re-looks at this in **Lao Can** to suggest that there is another way to forge a future culture that is neither a destruction of the old or a refutation of the new.

Dates

REHEARSALS (in Taiwan) 1st Dec- 30th December 2018 (LX designer not required)

REHEARSALS & PRODUCTION WEEK in London: 19 January – 28 January 2019

PREVIEW in London: 29 January 2019

LONDON PREMIERE: 30 January

FURTHER PERFORMANCE DATES: 1 and 2 February 2019

Technical information

The minimum stage area is 6.5 m x 7.5 m x 4.5 m (height)

There will be English surtitles

There will be a grand piano, cello and flute onstage

Production location

Rehearsals and production week will be based in London; get-in and tech for 30th January will be at the Southbank Centre. Travel and accommodation outside of London if needed will be provided, as will per diems.

The piece will be rehearsed in Taiwan prior to 19 January 2019, and the LX designer will input once the rehearsals move to London from 19 January 2019.

Application details

Interview location: London, United Kingdom

Interview date: November 2018, exact date tbc

Please send covering letter, CV containing relevant experience and links to work online to: ruthholdsworth@concerttheatre.org.uk with 'Lao Can Lighting Designer' in the subject line.

Concert Theatre and Chinese Arts Now encourage all applications and particularly from British Chinese and East Asian applicants as the production is part of CAN 2019 Festival.