



Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company

Revenger

2025.5.24 Sat. 14:30

2025.5.25 Sun. 14:30

Weiwuying Playhouse

Duration is 185 minutes with a 20-minute intermission.



National Kaohsiung
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WEI WUYING

衛武營 國家藝術文化中心
國家表演藝術中心 National Performing Arts Center

Synopsis

Following Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company's 70th-anniversary monumental drama *Defender*, the troupe is releasing another major martial arts-world work, *Revenger*. "Prince of Taiwan Bangzi Opera" LIU Jian-hua, the protagonist, and "Queen of Bangzi Opera" Xiao Yang-ling, who switches between two roles, work together to vividly portray a complex tangle of love and hate. With aspects of both the traditional and the innovative, the piece is a flawless display of the unique charm of Bangzi Opera and the essence of the martial arts fiction, bringing viewers into a realm where the line between reality and fantasy is blurred. This feast for the senses and emotions is an extraordinary model of its genre.

Ten years ago, the Imperial Guards surrounded Yongping Manor in pursuit of Granny Hua. The young LUO Cheng witnessed the brutal murder of his parents and sister, becoming the sole survivor of his family's massacre. Years later, LUO Cheng infiltrated the Imperial Guard organization, working under Lord Commander PANG Cheng-shan in Jiujiang City, secretly investigating to uncover the true criminal who led the operation.

During his investigation, LUO Cheng saved a martial artist named LIN Yong, which led him to discover that the master of Tianji Pavilion, LIU Fei-feng, possessed an extraordinary skill that might be connected to the past incident. Meanwhile, Imperial Eunuch GUO from the Eastern Depot sent secret investigator CHU Li, and Imperial Guard XU Hua-lin also involved entangled in conflicts with LUO Cheng.

The relationships among these individuals are intricately intertwined, entangled with gratitude and grudges. As clues to the past tragedy gradually piece together—between vengeance and redemption, no one can be completely unscathed.

A Future from *Revenger* — New Chapter of Martial Arts Aesthetics in Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company

The Bangzi opera returns to the spotlight as Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company presents the second episode of martial series, *Revenger*, touring through Taipei, Kaohsiung, and Taichung. The martial arts extravaganza is set to create a stir once again, that theater enthusiasts should not miss it.

Continuing the story from the first episode *Defender*, the script writer, LIU Jian-guo focuses on the character LUO Cheng who was introduced at the end of the previous work. The story follows his journey as he joins the Imperial Guard to carry out his revenge plan. However, the inner contradictions and struggles gradually reveal his dark, brooding past and hidden sorrows. Through the interweaving of dreams and reality, the accompanying confusion, anger, betrayal, and shock ultimately trigger an unpredictable storm. Starting from a psychological perspective, the play delves deep into the character's inner thoughts through self-dialogue, offering audiences much to contemplate and savor.

The play features distinctive and diverse characters. The protagonist LUO Cheng is portrayed by LIU Jian-hua, the Prince of Taiwan Bangzi Opera. LUO Cheng embarks on a path of revenge due to childhood trauma, with a delicate and ever-changing emotional journey. The role demands intense emotional involvement while maintaining performance skills, plus displaying superior martial arts technique—a complex character with considerable difficulty. The lead female performer XIAO Yang-ling takes on dual roles, playing both CHU Li, an expert from the Eastern Depot, and YUE Wu-shuang, the chief escort of Shunwei Escort Agency. These characters require rapid transformations, presenting a significant challenge. Other characters such as PANG Cheng-shan, LIU Fei-feng, LUO Cheng's sister, and Granny Hua each have their own highlights, collectively crafted by the excellent artists of the Bangzi Opera Company to bring to life the righteous vengeance and deep entanglements of the martial arts world.

The production team has meticulously created a dual feast for both visual and audio. Director YIN Qing-qun, music designer CHOU Yi-chien, costume designer LI Yu-sheng, stage and multimedia designer Wang Yi-sheng, and others collaborate to deliver imposing fight sequences, music that blends folk tunes with Taiwanese opera styles, and exquisite, unique costume and prop designs, creating a fluid yet impactful stage effect.

For many years, Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company has been dedicated to both innovation and preservation of traditional opera. Through *Revenger* they once again demonstrate their deep affection and superb proficiency for Bangzi Opera, creating a unique martial arts universe in the traditional performing arts.

Every encounter is a convergence of countless karmic connections;
A collection of coincidences, gathering us together today.
Dazed and confused, within this universe;
Weaving one wish, together crafting one desire.
—Excerpt from the script of *Defender* (2023)

Every work involves countless karmic connections in its creation. Today's performance originated in 2023, also the 70th anniversary of Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company. I recall the Artistic Director gave me two major missions when the company proposed the invitation: to provide more opportunities for the younger generation of performers to showcase their talents; and to highlight the director's expertise in martial arts performances. Under these two conditions, I chose martial arts as the creative cornerstone, specially crafting the script, and through systematic planning and presentation, gradually building the unique style for the company.

Because of this, the two titles, *Defender* and *Revenger*, reveals to me simultaneously over three years ago. *Defender*, as the first episode, echoed the 70th anniversary theme by embracing the concept of "protection" into the storyline; while the second episode, *Revenger* focuses on those indispensable elements of martial arts stories: gratitude, resentment, love, and vengeance.

As a creator, I am delighted to see the Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company standing firmly on tradition while boldly exploring practice of innovative performance. Although traditional opera once featured "continuous plays," the current format—where sequels are released more than a year apart, each standing independently yet closely connected—remains relatively rare.

To achieve this plan, I deliberately concealed LUO Cheng's true background in *Defender*, allowing the first episode to fully focus on the story of Shunwei Escort Agency. Only in the second part, *Revenger*, is his hidden past fully revealed, gradually exploring his inner world through the interweaving of dreams and illusions with reality.

If *Defender* is an open story depicting heroes gathering together to fight for what they love, then *Revenge* is an inward journey—memories, trauma, and guilt intertwined with narratives of seeking the true culprit and concealing the truth.

I hope the audience can fully enjoy the elaborate performance from all the excellent designers and performers on stage. While the blood feud that LUO Cheng carries may not be common in ordinary life, the darkness and negative emotions within him bear similarities to what we all experience. I hope that beyond enjoying the wonderful performance, everyone can also be moved, and if possible, embark on a theatrical journey that triggers self-healing.

About Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company

The Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company was established in Zuoying, Kaohsiung for over seventy years. Led by WANG Hai-ling, the Empress of Taiwan Bangzi Opera, and the fresh blooms of the younger generation of performers, the Company constantly strives forward in the creation of new works, blending in local arts and culture and synthesizing a uniquely Taiwanese form of Bangzi Opera. Every year, the Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company mounts a new production, bringing elite artists of the modern theater together in interdisciplinary and intercultural collaboration. The Company also vigorously pursues its educational mission, promoting Bangzi Opera at home and abroad to wide acclaim.

Artists Introduction



Artistic Director | WANG Hai-ling

A national treasure of traditional opera artist in Taiwan. Associate Professor in National Sun Yat-sen University and National Kaohsiung University. As the youngest winner in the history, WANG was awarded the Traditional Opera Performance Medal by the Chinese Cultural and Arts Association in 1969, and the fourth National Award for Arts in the drama category. She began her training under ZHANG Xiu-yun at the age of 8, and due to her exceptional intelligence, was acclaimed as "8-year-old prodigy." She took on the lead role in *Mulan* at 14. Throughout her career, she has earned the title "Empress of Taiwan Bangzi Opera" and is hailed as the "versatile Dan (female) role" in the industry. In recent years, she has starred in productions including *The Sorceress Bride*, *Women are Renamed*, and *Questioning Heaven*.

Off-stage and without makeup, WANG tirelessly imparts the essence of her operatic artistry, ensuring the continued heritage of Bangzi Opera. As WANG An-chi, Artistic Director of the GuoGuang Opera Company, stated in award citation of WANG winning National Awards for Arts, *In every performance, WANG Hai-ling displays genuine and profound vitality through her simple and natural performance. Taiwan Bangzi opera exists because of WANG Hai-ling, and is outstanding because of WANG Hai-ling.*



Script Writer, Co-Director | LIU Jian-guo

Theater playwright and director whose works ranging from Taiwanese opera, Bangzi opera, Beijing opera, musicals, and to ceremonial events. LIU holds a Ph.D. in Arts from National Taiwan University of Arts and is an adjunct assistant professor at National Kaohsiung Normal University. In 2004, she founded ChiChiao Musical Theater Company, known for its distinctive style of crossing theatrical genres and blending diverse contexts and music. Her works have won the 7th Fengyi Literature Award, and her co-written piece *Eighteen Arhats* was selected as one of the five major programs of the 2016 Taishin Arts Award.

Her experience includes scriptwriter and co-director for the Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company's *Defender* (2023); scriptwriter for the main lantern show *Maritime Glow* at the 2022 Taiwan Lantern Festival; executive director of the 31st Golden Melody Awards for Traditional Arts and Music; scriptwriter and director for ChiChiao Musical Theater Company's productions *Swordsman Qin Shaoyou*, *Erlang and the Howling Celestial Dog*, *The Butterfly Effect*, and *Oh My Buddha! Oh My God!*; and scriptwriter for Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company's *GUAN YIN* and *At Aranya Temple* and among others.



Director | YIN Qing-qun

An outstanding performer as Jin (strong male with painted face) in traditional opera. In 2024, he directed the Taiwanese Opera Musical *1624*, and was nominated for "Best Director Award" in 2022 The Golden Melody Awards for Traditional Arts and Music for directing of *Maritime Glow*. YIN is the recipient of Traditional Drama at the 24th Global Chinese Culture & Arts Award in 2017, and winner of Kaohsiung Culture and Arts Award in 2016.

His directing works include *Turandot*, *At Aranya Temple*, *Empress Wu Casts the Golden Slip*, *The Emperor's Regalia*, *Empress Dowager Cixi* and *Imperial Consort Zhen*.



Leading Actor | XIAO Yang-ling

XIAO is the principal performer *Hua Dan* of the Taiwan Bangzi Opera Company, and a Master of Performing Arts at the National Kaohsiung Normal University; she was previously a student of ZHANG Xiu-yun and WANG Hai-ling, majoring in *Hua Dan* and *Qingyi*. She has won the Chinese 11th Xian Yu Cup Arts Awards in 2007, the Star of Formosa Award as a top 10 Henan Opera actress rankings in 2010 and 2012, and was nominated for "Best Actress of the Year" at the Traditional Arts Golden Melody Awards in 2016. XIAO has participated in experimental dramas, theater plays, Taiwanese opera, and diverse cross-over performances. Her recent works include: Taiwan Bangzi operas *At Aranya Temple*, *Wings of Horses*, *The Romance of the Embroidered Sachet*, *Turandot*, and ect.



Leading Actor | LIU Jian-hua

LIU received a master's degree from the Department of Drama Creation and Application at the National Tainan University and is an adjunct assistant professor at the National Kaohsiung Normal University. Born in a traditional opera household, LIU has been a traditional opera aficionado since youth, forming the Taiwan Bangzi Opera Club when she studied at the Kaohsiung Girl's High School, and entering YANG Li-hua Taiwanese Opera Troupe as a third-generation art student. In 2005, she entered Bangzi Opera Company, under instruction of WANG Hai-ling and CHU Hai-hsan, winning the title of "Prince of Taiwan Bangzi Opera" for her impressive and exceptional performances. Her recent works include, Bangzi opera *The Emperor's Regalia*, *Entangled Dreams of Foot Binding*, and *The Legend of Song Hong*; ChiChiao Musical Theatre *Kurama Tengu*, *The Butterfly Effect*, *Erlang and the Howling Celestial Dog*. She also participated in designing and directing, including choreographic coach of *Guo Shi Wu Shuang*, assistant director of ChiChiao Musical Theatre *Kurama Tengu*, Taiwanese Opera Musical of *1624*, and *Maritime Glow*, and etc.

Cast and Production Team

Production Group

Supervisor | CHEN Yue-yi

Assistant Supervisor | WANG Yi-chun, LAI Min-ren

Producer | LU Jen-hua

Artistic Director | WANG Hai-ling

Script Writer | LIU Jian-guo

Director | YIN Qing-qun

Co-Director | LIU Jian-guo

Assistant Director | WU Shao-teng

Music Design | CHOU Yi-chien, ZHANG Ting-ying

Stage Design | WANG Yi-sheng, LIAO Ting-yi

Multi-media Design | WANG Yi-sheng

Costume Design | LI Yu-shen

Lighting Design | YANG Bing-ru

Assistant to Director | SUN Zi-qun

Actors

Granny Hua | WANG Hai-ling
PANG Cheng-shan | YIN Qing-qun
LUO Cheng | LIU Jian-hua
CHU Li | XIAO Yang-ling
YUE Wu-shuang | XIAO Yang-ling
LIU Fei-feng | ZHANG Xuan-ting
Older Sister | XIE Wen-qi
LIN Yong | WU Shao-teng
XU Hua-lin | LIN Wen-wei
Eunuch GUO | LIN Yuan-mao
ZHAO Liu | ZHENG Yang-wei
ZHOU Zhuan-qing | SUN Zi-qun
ZHU De-hao | LIAN Hong-zhen
JIAO Hao-yun | CHIU Zhao-yuan
CHI Tai-bao | HE Cheng-xuan
Villa Master | PENG Chang-min
Villa Master's Wife | GUO Jun-liang
LUO Cheng (Young) | WU Shu-ying
LUO Cheng (Childhood) | ZHANG Dai-ning
PANG Xiao-hu | KANG Bao-ning (Taipei / Taichung), CHEN Shih-xuan (Kaohsiung)
Officer LI | LI An-jie
Officer LIU | LIU Guan-ting
Military Officers | WU Shu-ying, WU Shao-teng, CHIU Zhao-yuan, LI Zhi-hong,
LIU Yu-xiang, CHEN Min-fu, HUANG You-zhe, LUO Da-jing, LI Chang-zheng,
PENG Chang-min, Chen Yan-ru
Steward | LIAN Hong-zhen
House Servants | (Prologue) ZHENG Yang-wei, LIN Yuan-mao, HE Cheng-xuan,
WANG Chen-xin
(Second Act) WANG Chen-xin, HUANG You-zhe
Hunter | XIAO Yang-zhen
Strongmen | WANG Chen-xin, LI Zhi-hong
Gamblers | LI Zhi-hong, LIU Yu-xiang, PENG Chi-kai, WANG Chen-xin
LIU Fei-feng (Ten Years Ago) | CAI Xi-cheng
Villagers | LI An-jie, LIU Guan-ting, LI Zhi-hong, LIU Yu-xiang, XIAO Yang-zhen,
CHEN Yan-ru, GUO Jun-liang, CAI Xi-cheng, PENG Chi-kai, WANG Chen-xin

Props and Trunks

Prop management/Flag Trunk Management | GUO Jun-liang

Big Trunk | Chen Yan-ru

2nd Trunk | XIAO Yang-zhen

3rd Trunk | CAI Xi-cheng

Headgear Box | LI Zhi-hong

Running Crew | LIU Yu-hsiang

Makeup artist | WU You-ting

Trunk Assistant | LI Yu-ying

Subtitle executor | LI Yu-mei

Orchestra

Conductor | CHOU Yi-chien

Drum Master | TANG Yun-xiang

Banhu | LIN Yang-ming

Huqin | Zhou Ting-zhen, Wu Quan-zhan, Guo Mao, Chen Jian-ting, Weng De-lun,
Xiao Yun-xin

Pipa | XU Kan-ru

Ruan | FAN Jia-wei

Guzheng | XIE Jia-fang

Yangqin | YANG Yu-yi

Sheng | WANG Ming-hui

Flute | LIN Li-qiu, LUO Zhen-wei

Cello | ZHUANG Mei-fang

Double Bass | CHEN Ying-tong

Suona and Zhong-ruan | CAI Pei-qun

Big Gong | GAO Yang-min

Cymbals | YAN Qing-yun

Small Gong | ZHANG Yu-xin

Bangzi | DING Ji-wei

Percussion | YAN Yu-ting, LIAO Yu-xuan

Technicians

Lighting Design and Stage Supervisor | YANG Bing-ru

Assistant Stage Manager | QIU LIU Ya-ting

Stagecraft Director | XU De-jia, BAI Cheng-wei

Lighting Technical Director | XIAO Feng-ming

Sound Technical Director | HONG Yu-xin

Sound Assistant | GUO Cheng-en

Technical Production | JUJI Co., Ltd.

Stage Technician | CHEN Ju-lun, HAN Kai, YE Guo-ya, LI Jun-liang, ZENG Ling-wei,
LUO Hao-xiang, LIU Bo-rui, ZENG Jia-sheng, CAI Pei-ru, XU Qiong-fang,
HUANG Zhi-hao, LIN Li-kui

Lighting Technician | TONG Wei-lun, HUANG Yan-wen, JIANG Ru, YE Hao-wei,
XUE Jun-hao, WU Ying-che, DAI Zi-ru

Sound Technician | SHI Yu-qi, SHEN Guan-wei, LI Guo-ming, WU Yu-sheng

Video Technician | YU Hong-xian, XU Hui-ting

Artistic Administrators

WU Tai-yuan(Section Chief), YANG Cai-yi(Technical Specialist),

WANG Si-yu(Section Officer), DING Ji-wei, HOU Zhi-da, LI Xin-hua,

CHEN Ya-qi, OU Zhi-jun, XIAO Yong-chang, WEN Jin-ru, PANG Chia-yu,

WU Jing-mei, CHEN Ying-ci

Special Thanks

Yuan Fu-chang, Associate Director, Department of Taiwanese Opera,
National Taiwan College of Performing Arts

Cultural Development Partner |  陳啓川先生文教基金會
Wen C. Chen Cultural & Educational Foundation

Weiwuying Online Questionnaire

