The Writing of Youth in Zhejiang Original Opera
“Sheshan Dawn”

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Abstract
Zhejiang original opera "Sheshan Dawn" is based on the real story of Jingning She Autonomous County, Zhejiang Province, with the main line of promoting the revolutionary spirit of southwest Zhejiang. This paper mainly explores the characterization of youth in the opera from the perspective of "She Yabao", and aims to explore the ideological connotation behind the opera. "Sheshan Dawn" is sponsored by Zhejiang Provincial Minzu Zong Committee and Zhejiang Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, organized by the United Front Work Department of Lishui Municipal Committee and Lishui Jingning She Autonomous County, and is the only opera in Zhejiang Province to participate in the Sixth National Minority Arts and Culture Festival. "Dawn of She Mountain" is based on the real story of Jingning She Autonomous County, Zhejiang Province, with the main line of promoting the revolutionary spirit of southwest Zhejiang, and tells the story of the flesh and blood relationship between the ordinary She people represented by "She medicine woman" Zhong Yinchae and the Red Army in the revolutionary era, showing the family sentiment and loyalty and courage of the She people.

Keywords
She Yaopo, characterization, youthful writing

At the opening ceremony of the 11th National Congress of the Chinese Federation of Literary and Art Circles and the 10th National Congress of the Chinese Writers' Association, General Secretary Xi expressed his hope that the majority of literary and artistic workers would adhere to the righteousness and innovation, and open up new horizons in literature and art with masterpieces that keep up with the times. In recent years, Zhejiang's original opera has flourished, with new works being produced year after year. From "Song of Youthful Spring" to "Yo Deer Song", "On the Field of Hope" and "Red Boat", to "Sheshan Dawn" (Qian Yuan & Lin Hua, 2014), which won the "Outstanding Program Award" and "Artistic Performance Award" in the Sixth National Ethnic Minority Arts Festival's large original folk opera. This is the first time that Zhejiang has won the award in the National Ethnic Minority Cultural Festival. This is by far the best achievement of Zhejiang in the National Ethnic Minority Arts Festival. These works have aroused enthusiastic reactions in the country, and have played an influential role in the Zhejiang brand of opera.

The play is choreographed and produced by Zhejiang Performing Arts Group (Zhejiang Song and Dance Theatre), with national-level director Yang Xiaoqing as artistic director, national-level scriptwriter Liu Pengchun as literary advisor, Jiang Xinguang as director, Chen Jing and Ma Yibing as scriptwriters, famous composer Wu Xiaoping as composer and music designer, soprano Zheng Peiqin as lead singer, young conductor Chen Jianxuan as live conductor, and Zhejiang National Orchestra as live accompanist. This play is another outstanding literary work of the She ethnic group on the national stage after the large-scale She style dance poem "Millennium Shanha" and the musical "She Niang" represented Zhejiang Province in the 4th and 5th National Minority Arts Festival.
1. Youthful narrative: She under the shining of the Red Star

On the stage, strings were slowly played and a picture was shown on the big screen one by one, allowing us to travel back to the southwest of Zhejiang in the 1930s with the music. With the gentle swaying of the wind chimes and the swaying of the wind, under the illumination of the lights, "She Medicine Woman" Zhong Yinchai appeared on the stage alone with a medicine basket on her back. The phrase "The red star shines, the heart of heaven is enlightened. The Big Dipper leads the way, the She Mountain moves forward". The song "Red Five Stars" is used throughout the play, comparing the Red Army to the Big Dipper, and expressing the inextricable ties between the She people and the Red Army. There are eight acts in the play, namely "birthday", "refusing red", "exploring red", "knowing red", "taking salt", "going home", "loving red", "dawn", the story of "She medicine woman" Zhong Yinchai and the Red Army is told. The subheadings not only point out the dramatic theme of each scene, but also link the relationship between each scene (Ju Qihong, 2003). The first four acts tell the story of the first acquaintance between the She people and the advancing division and the first impression of the Red Army; the fifth and sixth acts tell the story of the advancing division and the She people fighting together against the salt bully, and the She people fighting against the bully in order to cover the Red Army; the last two acts tell the story of the strong affection between the advancing division and the She people as a family, ushering in the dawn of the She mountains together.

As a folk opera, "Dawn of Sheshan" has distinctive and full of underlying national characteristics, sincere and rich emotions of the characters, imaginative spiritual power and musical transformation, which constitute the unique individual style and aesthetic characteristics of the opera. The musical composition of the play in terms of singing and accompaniment effectively assists in shaping the characters, advancing the storyline and conveying the thematic ideas, and also leaves the audience with many beautiful and moving singing passages, making the audience have an impressive aesthetic experience. For both the actors on stage and the audience off stage, each rendition is a baptism of fire.

2. The power of youth: the faith and the original heart of perseverance

Hegel once said, "A nation needs a group of people who look up to the stars before they can have hope". The folk opera "Sheshan Dawn" shows us those people who look up to the stars by portraying different characters and through their faith hanging high above the dome. The main character portrayed in the opera is Jin Yinchai, the "She Medicine Woman", who is portrayed as a kind and steadfast female hero, from doubting to firmly following the Red Army. In addition, Liu Ting, Xiao Shi and Xiang'er are also portrayed as flesh-and-blood youths. The Red Army and the She youth are in the urgent situation of being oppressed and struggling for life and death together, they choose to identify with each other and fight together.

2.1 Strong and brave mature soldier—Liu Ting

Without the wind and rain, no tree can grow; a thousand hammers and refinements can only make steel. In the second act of the opera, "Refusing to be Red", Xiang'er brings the wounded Liu Ting back to the village and asks She Yaopo to save him. Later, in the reprise of "What Man to Save", Liu Ting sings, "I'm not a bad man, don't be afraid". The reason he was wounded was to save She's family. As she came into contact with Liu Ting and others, the She medicine woman began to take an interest in the Red Army. In Act IV, "Knowing the Reds", Little Stone is stopped by Liu Ting when he wants to capture a wild cat and sings his solo song, "Faith is the Soul of a People", singing, "Custom is the fire of Shanha tradition, faith is the soul of a people". Liu Ting was so attentive and put himself in the shoes of the She people, laying the groundwork for the Red Army and the She people to fight together heart to heart later. After his teammates and beloved woman died one after another, he held fast to his beliefs and marched with the She people to see the dawn of the East light up the dawn of the She people. As the leader of the advancing division, he had to lead the fighters to fight with the enemy and struggle with hardship.

2.2 Young soldier with vigor—Little Stone

Little Stone was a soldier who had just joined the Red Army at the age of 16. His first appearance is in Act IV of the opera "Knowing the Red", where the advancing division led by Liu Ting is training in the mountains. Seeing how hard everyone is training, he wants to catch a wild cat to make up for the hardship, but is stopped by Liu Ting. After being taught a lesson by Liu Ting, Little Stone also understands the importance of faith to a nation.
arrival of the she-herbalist, he was afraid that he would catch cold and asked to put on Uncle Gen's vest, which he put on and started to dance, showing his real cute side and making everyone smile. In the fifth act, "Salt Capture", in order to help the villagers, the jinxing division volunteered to fight the salt bully. In the process, the small stone to save the She people Dagi unfortunately died, he started from a simple naughty little stone, grew into a brave and strong, heroic sacrifice of the warrior. His sacrifice touched the She people. Just 16 years old, he helped the villagers to seize the salt, blood-stained deserted mountains. At the moment of his sacrifice, he had already become a revolutionary fighter with ideals and ambitions, holding fast to his beliefs. From the mischievousness of "catching wild cats" to the bravery of "snatching salt", from the dancing of "wearing an undershirt" to the heroic sacrifice of "staining the wilderness with blood".

2.3 The gentle and steadfast daughter of the She tribe—Xiang'er

Xiang'er is not the most important character in the opera "Dawn of Sheshan", but she is a character throughout the opera, and she is related to almost all the characters in the opera. As one of the few female characters in the opera, she presents a unique female charm and builds a moving love story. As a member of the She tribe, Xiang'er is the one who brings the wounded Liu Ting into the She fortress, and she is the one who brings the Red Army's advancing division into the fortress, eventually making the Red Army and the She people exchange their hearts for theirs. In the sixth act "Love the Red", Xiang'er sings "Eyes of the Stars" with Liu Ting, she sings, "In my eyes, the Red Army is the Big Dipper, and you are the brightest one that has entered my heart". Expressing her love for Liu Ting. In the eighth act, "The Dawn of Light", Uncle A Gen was captured by Wu Liang and others, and Xiang'er followed She Yao, Liu Ting and others to save Uncle A Gen. In the critical moment, to save Liu Ting, Xiang'er stepped forward to block the gun for him and unfortunately was shot and died. Before she died, she was still holding her Red Army cap and sang, "The red star shines brightly in my dream, the Red Army girl is walking in front." At the end of the day, She Yak Granny led everyone to sing a She folk song to send Xiang'er off. Xiang'er and Liu Ting share the same beliefs and the same perseverance. She is steadfast in her love and unswerving in her ideals. They made a promise, and Liu Ting said, "When the azaleas bloom all over the mountain, I will come back to marry you" (Ju Qihong, 2006).

The opera "Dawn of Sheshan" not only portrays such a typical character as She Yabao, but also a three-dimensional image of young revolutionaries. They grow up rapidly in the struggle, and their pursuit of revolutionary ideals becomes more and more clear in the baptism of blood. They devoted themselves to the revolution for the sake of their beliefs, were loyal to their beliefs and unafraid of death, and could sacrifice everything for the sake of their faith. Their youthful and energetic songs shone brightly on the stage. The opera shows their moth-to-flame dedication to the revolutionary cause, expresses the heroic temperament and romantic colors of these young people through rich musical language, and conveys the revolutionary sentiment of sacrificing the ego and thinking of the world that is unique to the revolutionary martyrs.

3. The youth writing: playing the strongest voice of the times

Li Dazhao once said: "Only those who really know how to love youth can know the endless youth of the universe … I wish my dear youth, born in youth to die in youth, born in youth to die in youth also". Each generation of youth has its own mission and beliefs, and the opera "Sheshan Dawn" has many choral passages in which the two teams, the She youth and the Red Army Advancement Division, are interwoven in the "Salt Capture" operation, singing one after another, creating a group portrait of the She people and the Red Army Advancement Division during the great years. The group portraits are the representatives of countless unsung heroes and the people, the symbol of idealistic spirit. The group portrait narrative based on historical environment constructs a classic red scene, recreates the revolutionaries' passionate youth and family sentiment, and becomes a sound symbol for reshaping national historical memory (Man Xinxin, 2014). It can restore the characters and events of the times more realistically and convey the emotions contained in the film more directly, allowing the audience to experience the deep meaning and think about it, realizing a group narrative with three-dimensional characters and realistic emotions (Wan Zixuan, 2022).

Director Jiang Xinguang mentioned in the interview that the songs and dances in the folk opera are all important, such as the 'birthday song' in Act I, the 'salt fight' in Act V, and the 'patty fight' in Act VI, the 'homecoming', etc., all reflect the strong cultural characteristics of the She tribe, and integrate the songs and dances into the plot, organically integrating to form a whole, allowing us to see the beautiful qualities of the She family of loyalty and ho-
nesty, simplicity and kindness, and not afraid of sacrifice. We also see in "Salt Capture" that the She youth are brave and righteous, dare to be pioneers, take the lead in fighting the salt bully and defend their homeland. The youth of this generation are vigorous and courageous in cutting through the thorns. In the fourth act, "Knowing Red", the Red Army advancing division makes its debut, a young team. This side, she young people with the "Shanha people straighten their backs not afraid" spirit of struggle, also has the courage to break the boat, decided to go down to the mountains to fight salt bully, must let the villagers eat salt. As the music progresses, the two revolutionary forces alternate from light and dark to converge together. The two revolutionary forces come together from the dark to the light, and the cry of I swear to hold up the sky for the people. The shout! She young people from the beginning of the misunderstanding of the Red Army, distrust, to the back of the emergency in the line of life and death, decided to fight together, and successfully snatched back the salt transformation. In this episode, passion and warmth coexist, and the emotions advance gradually, allowing us to see the common beliefs of the Red Army and the She youth. The Reds put their youth into the revolution and dedication to burn without regret, lighting the way ahead. At the end of the opera, everyone sings the song "Red Five Stars" throughout the opera (Wang Lei, 2022), paying tribute to the revolutionary martyrs who "pledged themselves to death and returned as if they had died", and to the aspiring young people who had dedicated their youth and risked their blood.

4. Conclusion

On May 10, 2022, on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Youth League of China, General Secretary Xi attended the congress and delivered an important speech, saying: "Youth breeds infinite hope, and youth creates a better tomorrow. A nation can prosper only if it looks to its youth and remains youthful forever". These revolutionary youths used their red faith as a pen to write down their youthful perseverance and leave their youthful footprints in the wind and rain. The marks of youth are engraved in the mountains and fields, the desert and the Gobi, the islands and the frontiers, and on every inch of China's land. The struggle of one youth after another converges into a vast trend of the times, and the achievement is a youthful China. The poet Gideon once wrote: "Let us use the will of thousands of individuals, to coalesce into a mighty life in the dome, to emit a light younger than the ancient sun (Wang Shang, 2022)". When the familiar song finally sounded, they did not curtain up, but crossed the limits of time and space, turning revolutionary ideals into national sentiments, playing the most beautiful youthful music on the vast land.

References