

輪流轉：京劇的酷異舞台

Fe/male Impersonation in Beijing Opera: Generations

By **Dr. Li Siu Leung**

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(in English and/or Putonghua
and/or Cantonese)



Li Siu Leung is Associate Professor and Head in the Department of Cultural Studies at Lingnan University. He has authored *Cross-Dressing in Chinese Opera* (HKU Press, 2003), co-edited *Hong Kong Connections: Transnational Imagination in Action Cinema* (Duke and HKU Press, 2005), and co-authored *Fouxiang Xianggang: lishi, wenhua, weilai* [Hong Kong un-imagined: history, culture, future] (Rye Field, 1997). His article "Embracing the Glocal and the Made-in-Hong Kong Musical Film" is forthcoming in *China Forever: Shaw Brothers and Diasporic Cinema* (U of Illinois Press). Li received his PhD from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and was Joukowsky postdoctoral fellow at Brown University. Also trained in European classical music and flute performance, Li is a flute player and collects late nineteenth century French flutes as a hobby.

Entangled in the complex and often radical political, social and cultural changes in new China, the practice of cross-dressing in traditional Chinese opera has experienced significant shifts and changeovers in the past 50 years. The specific changes in different regional operas large and small, urban and rural constitute a huge, complex issue for students of gender and Chinese theatre. This talk focuses on two rising young Beijing opera performers — Wang Peiyu, who has achieved "star" status in playing the old-male role-type; and Liu Zheng, who aspires to carry forward the legacy of the incomparable female impersonator Mei Lanfang. Both in their late 20s, emerging in this era of rapid and drastic economic and cultural changes in China, Wang and Liu endeavor to and are at once compelled by circumstances to be "different" from their predecessors. The present talk attempts to examine the cultural meanings of the emergence of these two new generation theatrical cross-dressers in the context of a traditional art form negotiating with modern institutions in a fast-changing China in the late-capitalist information age.

All interested are welcome!

(Please feel free to bring your lunch box or sandwiches to eat during the seminar.)

For enquiries, please contact Ms. Snowy Lai at 2696 1026 or email genderstudies@cuhk.edu.hk

Date: 14 Nov, 2006 (TUE)

Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m

Venue:

Room 122,

Chen Kou Bun Building

(enter through Sino Building),

Chung Chi College, CUHK