

Poly Grand Theater releases autumn performance lineup

Zhou Yulin and Li Xinran

Shanghai Poly Grand Theater released its lineup of new shows and musicals for its eighth anniversary performance season. A total of 36 stage performances will be presented this autumn, including dramas, musicals, traditional folk art and concerts.

Since the debut of the classic Asian musical "Washing Clothes" in 2005, more than 600,000 people have seen it. This time, as the goodbye performance of the Chinese version of "Washing Clothes," outstanding young performers such as Zhou Mohan will present a different kind of audio-visual feast.

The Chinese musical "Picking Stars," which was created by Poly Performance and Game IP Glory of Kings, will be performed at the Poly Grand on November 11 and 12.

The performance features top professional musical production teams from home and abroad, and includes popular heroes in the Glory of Kings for artistic deconstruction to meet the expectations of different audiences in an all-around way. (Glory of Kings is a very popular Chinese game.)

Since 2020, the Poly Grand has tapped new business performance modes such as outdoor-waterscape and black-box theater to seek diversified performance spaces.

The theater also tries to make full use of small stages and develop productions for them.

The weekend small theater will present the immersive drama "Shear Madness Salon," the theatrical version of the interactive comedy.

China Music House, the most fashionable music brand right now, will bring a folk music performance to the Poly Grand.

Liu Tianqi, a young, well-known actor, screenwriter and director, will interact with audiences face to face with his plays "The Chickens-and-Rabbits Problem" and "Brazil."

The "Poly City Island Music Season," which was launched by the Poly Grand this year for the first time, aims to create a spiritual "island" for urban dwellers to enjoy "poetry and distance."

The Poly Grand has also arranged a special series of performances to welcome the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The large-scale art performance "Red Literature and Art Light Cavalry" by Ulan Muqi from Hulunbuir Ewenki Autonomous Banner will be staged at the Poly Grand this autumn.

Others include "The Brilliant Voice,"



The Chinese version of "Washing Clothes" features a different kind of audio-visual feast.

a melodic, 90-minute performance staged by an all-male choir from Beijing led by veteran conductor Zheng Jian, and excerpts from several classic operas such as "Carmen," "Don Juan" and "Rigoletto" presented by the Central Opera House.

"The theater is currently undergoing a transformation itself," said Qin Tiji, chairman of the Poly Grand. "Let the audience regain the confidence to enter the theater, to come here to listen to a concert, watch a musical and buy some cultural and creative works, that's all we have hoped for."

Since its opening in 2014, the cultural landmark in Jiading New City has held around 2,200 performances in front of more than 1.3 million people.

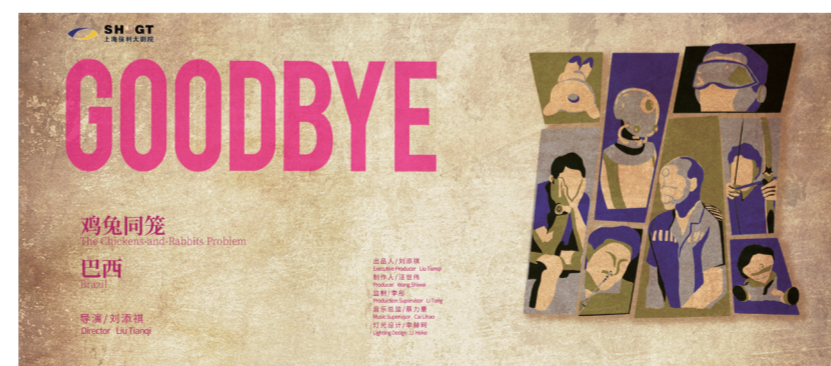
It has also sponsored more than 400 art popularization activities, such as art classes and public open days, attended by some 90,000 people.



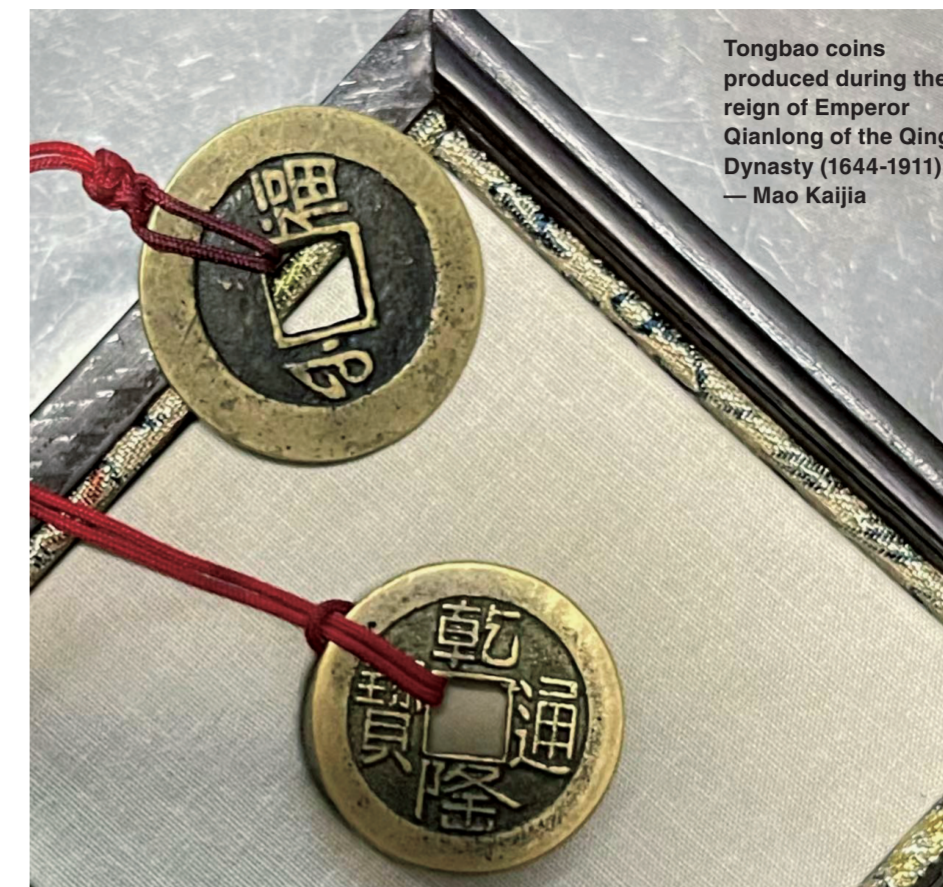
"The brilliant voice" is a 90-minute performance presented by an all-male choir from Beijing.



"Shear Madness Salon" will be staged at the weekend small theater.



Two plays "The Chickens-and-Rabbits Problem" and "Brazil" by Liu Tianqi.



Tongbao coins produced during the reign of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) — Mao Kaijia



Far above: Xinmang spade-shaped money produced in the 14th century

Above: Chinese silver coins produced during the reign of Emperor Guangxu (1875-1908)

Two people connecting to the past with collections of coins, coupons

Staff Reporters

BORN in 1986, Zhou Xiaobo has been collecting ancient coins of different shapes and sizes for 20 years.

In addition to exchanging ancient coins with his classmates and neighbors, Zhou liked to go to Jiading Workers' Club to find collectible coins. He became more interested in ancient coins from understanding their textures and shapes, casting technology and historical background.

When he was a primary school student, Zhou bought a collection album and put his favorite ancient coins in it. Later, he invested more in the collection and even woke up at 4am for early markets in neighboring towns.

He said that each coin represents a period of history, and every time he got a new one, he would think of the humanities of that era.

"No matter in the age of peace and prosperity or during warring periods, ancient coins, as a source of history, have a lot to portray," Zhou said.

To Zhou, holding each ancient coin seems to connect him with people and things from hundreds of years ago. In addition to its own story, there is also a connection between the collector and the coin.

A new favorite

From the 1950s to the 1980s, various coupons were required to purchase food, cooking oil, cloth, as well as some other daily necessities. Nowadays, although such kinds of coupons have faded out of people's vision, they have become a new favorite for collectors.

Xie Lei, who lives in Waigang Town,



Above: National food coupons issued in 1966, with a face value of 5 shijin (2.5kg)

Inset: Cloth coupons issued in 1981 in Jiangsu Province, with a face value of 1 shichi (33.33cm) — Huang Liu

has collected these kinds of coupons since the 1990s. Today, more than 200 food, cloth, oil and other livelihood coupons are part of his collection.

In his eyes, the coupons are the witnesses and epitome of an era, bearing the memories of many people who lived through those particular years. On Xie's bookshelf, there are more than 10 albums of food coupons, with a face value ranging from 100g to 10kg. Each food coupon is preserved in plastic packaging.

The designs of the food coupons are unique. If you look carefully, you will

find the patterns of food coupons from each area are different. Mountains and rivers, scenic spots, revolutionary sites, personages and buildings show magnificent views of China and also record the development process.

"Today's young people never experienced that era and do not know about the use of food coupons. At that time, there was a shortage of materials and supplies. People needed all sorts of coupons to buy meat and rice, coal and oil. Don't underestimate the food coupons, as a small one was necessary to buy almost everything," Xie said.