

what's on

STAGE

La Belle

Les Ballets de Monte Carlo will present *La Belle*. The company, founded in 1932, has Jean-Christophe Maillot as its artistic director. His production of *La Belle* was created in 2001 and won the Nijinsky award for best choreographic production.

Shanghai Grand Theater, 300 Renmin Avenue
021-6386-8686
200-1,280 yuan

Toshiko Akiyoshi

Akiyoshi is a Japanese pianist born in China in 1929. She has been an active jazz pianist in the United States for many years. For her premiere concert in Shanghai, Akiyoshi will bring her jazz orchestra and present her compositions about her feelings for China and the Chinese people.

7:30 pm, Oct 17
Shanghai Oriental Art Center – Concert Hall, 425
Dingxiang Road
021-962388
200-800 yuan

Zubin Mehta and Israel Philharmonic

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra will give a concert, under the baton of Maestro Zubin Mehta, who has been the music director of the IPO for 40 years. Bombay-born Mehta grew up in a musical environment, yet his initial field of study was medicine. He abandoned his medical career at the age of 18 to attend the Academy of Music in Vienna, and seven years later he was conducting both the Vienna and Berlin philharmonics.

7:30 pm, Oct 26, 27
Shanghai Oriental Art Center, 425 Dingxiang Road
021-6217-2426
300-2,800 yuan

EXHIBITIONS

Theatrical Art

Twenty Chinese artists have been invited to create water-ink paintings about traditional Chinese theatrical art. Featuring familiar theatrical characters and scenes from different folk operas, these paintings will bring audiences into a virtual theater.

Until Oct 6
Zhu Qizhan Art Museum, 580 Ouyang Road
021-5671-0743

Soliloquies

The first Chinese mainland exhibition for esteemed Japanese-American painter Makoto Fujimura is currently running. Soliloquies features a collection of his works in the traditional Nihonga technique, fused with abstract expressionism. Fujimura will also present a lecture touching on the future of the Nihonga technique, and on his experience serving on the National Council of the Arts, a presidential appointment in the United States.

Two Cities Gallery, 2F, Building Zero, 50 Moganshan Road
021-5252-1518

EVENTS

Art Lecture

A two-day seminar will begin with a lecture and a discussion period where Zhao Chuan will outline some of the key figures of contemporary art in Shanghai, explaining the formal significance and meaning behind their works. Artists include Zhang Jianjun, Li Shan, Yu Youhan, Ding Yi, Yang Hui, Song Haidong and Xu Zhen.

11 am-3 pm, Sept 27-28
OV Gallery, 19C Shaoyang Road
021-5465-7768

900 yuan for two days, does not include lunch

Ravicchio turns *Tempest* into circus act

Italians realize dream of integrating clowns and acrobats into Shakespearean tragicomedy, Zhang Kun reports.

Four theaters from China and Denmark have come together to create a new production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, featuring acrobats, live music and a touch of magic.

The English-language version of the show will premiere in Shanghai on Oct 15 and run at the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center until the end of the month. After that it will go on tour in Denmark through January and February.

Award-winning director and set designer Giacomo Ravicchio will direct the classic tale of love, revenge and forgiveness. Italy's Ravicchio is the founder and artistic director of Denmark's Meridiano Theater. *The Tempest* will be a joint production between the Meridiano, the Batida Theater Orchestra, the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center and the Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe.

Ravicchio's performances are characterized by magic realism, poetry, humor and a visual and cinematic narrative form. He is known to mix classical theater with other artistic forms of expression.

The Tempest tells the tale of Prospero, a powerful wizard who is banished, together with his daughter Miranda, by Prospero's brother, who has conspired against him with the king of Naples.

Prospero has sought refuge on a secluded island inhabited by spirits and nymphs. For 12 years he has developed his magical powers, driven by the thought of winning back mastery of Milan and of avenging himself on his brother.

When the king's ship nears the island, Prospero asks his servant Ariel, a spirit, to summon up a storm causing it to be wrecked. However, Prospero's plans for revenge are thwarted when his daughter meets the king's son, Ferdinand. Their love brings about forgiveness and peace.

For *The Tempest*, Denmark's Batida Theater Orchestra will bring an ensemble of 10 musicians. Over the last 20 years they have developed a distinctive style blending clarity, humor and the grotesque.

Four acrobats from the Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe will add new excitement to the show, and five actors from the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center will assume the leading roles alongside Danish artists.

"I don't think it is very hard to integrate different elements. Diversity is the most interesting thing on this planet," said Ravicchio. "The important thing is to take cultures, stories and styles, and, day after day, feel the crew getting more involved in the project. Only then will you probably get something special."

Ravicchio thought of transforming one of Shakespeare's plays into a circus performance with clowns, acrobats, contortionists, magicians and ringmasters years ago, according to



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

A stage scene from the latest interpretation of *The Tempest*.

Elise Müller, one of the people managing Meridiano.

"Since 1996 he has mentioned this dream many times," said Müller. "In 2005, his ideas became very concrete and he chose the play that he wished to submit to his visions: *The Tempest*."

Ravicchio directed *White Snake* at the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center in 2009, a play adapted from a traditional Chinese folk tale. The director boldly explored homosexual themes and added a modern touch to an old story. Audiences were impressed with the ingenious use of technology and digital images in the production.

The latest production of *The Tempest* was put together in partnership with the Denmark Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo. There will be a 40-minute performance inside the pavilion on Oct 20 or 21, according to the pavilion's director.

The show will be in English, with Chinese subtitles.

IF YOU GO

7:30 pm, Oct 14-24

Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center, 288 Anfu Road

021-6433-4546

120-200 yuan