

WHAT'S ON

BEIJING

STAGE Happy work: Figure Theatre Vlinders & Co from Belgium will bring their chamber comedy "Washing and Magic Changing" to Beijing audiences.

Summertime "Nutcracker": Children on summer vacation in Beijing have the opportunity to enjoy the puppet-art version of "The Nutcracker," based on the ballet by Tchaikovsky and performed by a couple who are forced to divorce by a strict mother-in-law.



The Wan Fung Art Gallery is presenting artwork by several promising Chinese artists. Some highlights are oil, landscape and watercolor paintings, which portray glorious landscapes, the mysterious micro-ecological world and traditional folk architecture.

Family dynamics: The Beijing People's Art Theatre will stage their repertoire "Beijing People." Adapted to the famous Chinese playwright Cao Yu's work written in 1941, the play focuses on a declining aristocratic family in Beijing during the federal times before the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1937-45).

Jungle story: The Bulgarian Sofia Puppet Theatre will present the story of "Mowgli." Mowgli, a 10-year-old boy raised by a wolf in the jungle, struggles with shortcomings like every child and tries to find himself when he faces contradictory choices.

Issue of the heart: Director Meng Jinghui will stage the musical drama "Amber." Gao Yuan, a cynical young man with a strong superiority complex, cannot help falling in love with Xiao You at first sight.

cret. After the death of her fiancé, Gao receives her lover's heart in a transplant. Time: 7:30 pm, July 20-30 Place: Poly Theatre, Dongsititiao Tel: 6506-5345, 6506-5343

Peacock flies again: For Peking Opera lovers, the upcoming show "Peacock Flying Southeastward" will be a precious chance to appreciate the classic performance by the Cheng School of Peking Opera. The Cheng School of Peking Opera was created by Cheng Yanqiu, one of the four great dan (female role) actors, together with Mei Lanfang, Shang Xiaoyun and Xun Huisheng.

Joyful jugglers: The China Acrobatic Troupe is staging a night variety show at the Tiandi Theatre, where the seemingly impossible becomes reality, where performers spin plates and juggle umbrellas. Contortionists show incredible feats of flexibility as acrobats leap through the air.

All-year acrobatics: Chaoyang Theatre is one of the few Beijing theatres to present acrobatics all year. Top acrobats invited from all over the country perform for Chinese and foreign audiences. The programme features trick cycling, leaping through hoops and Chinese magic tricks.

CONCERTS Children's voices: The British Columbia Children's Choir will bring their talent to Beijing. Founded in 1968, the troupe enjoys a high reputation worldwide. The choir has prepared 30 songs in nearly 10 languages.

Chamber music: A concert will be staged at Peking University by the Swiss Piano Trio. Established in 1998, the trio of pianist Martin Lucas Staub, violinist Angela Golubeva and cellist Sébastien Singer, have toured 25 countries.

Chinese music teaching: Guzhen performer Wang Zhongshan will host a lecture/concert. Wang will play classical works together with his students, while explaining the music to the audience.

Family affair: He Wenguan, a composer of the Naxi ethnic minority, will bring five members of his family to the stage. The three generations, his grandmother, parents, daughter and son, will sing old folk songs of their homeland in Yunnan Province.



Veteran artist Yang Shanshen's ink painting exhibition is ongoing. Landscapes, figure paintings, animals, flowers and birds, to a total of 150 exhibits from full-length scrolls to small-scale drawings, transmit verve and a mature technique.

Hip-hop hit-maker: Top-selling band Black Eyed Peas brings its mixture of hip-hop, soul, funk, jazz, pop and folk to Beijing audiences.

Energetic band: The Painful Belief Band is set to rock & roll. Lead singer Gao Hu, is accompanied by his bassist, two drummers and three guitar players.

Pure sound: Famed as the "Prince of Love Songs," Jeff Zhang moves his fans with pure emotion. He has released many albums, most of which have sold well.

EXHIBITIONS Geography of art: Jing Shijian, an art professor from the Hangzhou-based China Academy of Art in East China's Zhejiang Province, is staging his one-man show entitled "Geography of Art" at the National Art Museum of China.

Smoking faces: Artist Yan Yu is displaying his "Smoker" series this month. Focusing on the facial expressions of male and female smokers, Yan attempts to transmit a kind of living status beyond reality.

Industrial wasteland: Zhao Xiaojia's industrial landscape series conveys extreme anxiety. Living for many years in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province, a big industrial city in northern China, Zhao highlights the decline of the factories and the communities that depended on them.

Hardship in focus: Jiang Jian's new photography series named

"Archives on Orphans" zooms in on the fate of 1,000 abandoned children. In 2004, the Federation of Philanthropic Organizations in Henan Province and the Shaolin Temple jointly launched a campaign to provide aid to 1,036 orphans in the province.

Dreamy land: On a brightly coloured tableau, the image of butterflies dominate, as painter Wu Dewu creates a dreamy scene called "An Inaccessible World." Time: 10 am-5 pm, until July 30 Place: Red T Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu Tel: 8911-5762

Clay sculptures: Nicknamed a "Clay Sculpture King in Yan'an," Wang Wenhai has created a series of 100 works depicting Chairman Mao Zedong, in sizes ranging from several centimetres to that of a real person. Time: 11 am-6:30 pm, until July 31 Place: Margin Art, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District Tel: 8709-3557

Interlocking images: Abstract oil paintings by Gao Runxi impress visitors with smooth lines and dense colour. Through the images that interlock with each other, viewers can feel the rhythm of life and its vitality.

In the mix: The Songzhuang Art Co-operative is holding its Third Visual Art Exhibition, with 28 contemporary artists joining to display oil paintings, digital video works, photographs, installations and performing arts, with no definition or restriction on themes.

EVENT Chorus concert: "Sound of Sports" chorus team of the State Sport General Administration will give an open air concert on Sunday.

China Broadcast Symphony Orchestra will give a concert, one in the summer series "Open the door to music" presented at the Forbidden City Concert Hall. Chinese violinist Chal Liang, who lives in the United States, will play at the concert.



Swedish arrivals: A special exhibition of Swedish contemporary art will be held in conjunction with the arrival of a replica of the Swedish merchant ship "Gotheborg" in

SHANGHAI

STAGE 'Lion King': The award-winning musical "Lion King" will appear in Shanghai with a run of 100 performances lasting more than three months. The stage version made a spectacular debut on Broadway in 1997. Expanded from the blockbuster Disney film, the stage version has amazed critics and audiences alike with its artistic achievements in both costume and music.

CONCERTS Pop quartet: The "Hip-Pop" group, Black Eyed Peas will swing into Shanghai with all their latest hits. The group has transcended their hip-hop roots to become a global pop phenomenon, wowing audiences worldwide with their musical fusion and high fashion.

Pianist's premier: Roland Proll from Germany will hold his first piano recital. During his stay, Proll will also be present at several charity events, where he will give lectures free of charge to teen learners.

Swiss trio: The Swiss Piano Trio has accumulated a host of awards

GUANGZHOU

STAGE Ballet show: Young Chinese ballet performer Tong Shusheng will present a solo performance coupled with a stunning show, marking the 10th anniversary of the Guangzhou Ballet Troupe.

EXHIBITIONS 'Trueness': Chen Wang, a veteran print artist born in Jiexi of South China's Guangdong Province, has donated many works to the Guangdong Museum of Art, among which 105 are currently being displayed.

Playing with lines: Chinese artist Xia Yang, born in Xiangxiang of Central China's Hunan Province, toured Europe and the United States in the 1960s to study painting.

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over its career. It was the first prize-winner of the International Johannes Brahms Competition held in Austria in 2005. In 2003, the ensemble won another first prize at the distinguished International Chamber Music Competition in Caltanissetta. They were also winners of the Migros Chamber Music Competition in Zurich 2001.

German film screening: The film "Unter den Bruecken" ("Under the Bridges"), will be screened at the German Consulate, with English subtitles. Directed by Helmut Kaetner, the film centres on Hendrik and Willy, two friends who own a boat called "Liese-Lotte."

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Guangzhou in mid-July. The exhibition will display more than 70 oil paintings by eight Swedish artists. Time: 9 am-5 pm, daily except Monday, until August 20 Place: Exhibition Hall No 8, Guangzhou Museum of Art, Luhu Lu Tel: 020-8365-9337, 020-8365-9202

New generation: Nine young Guangzhou-based artists are jointly displaying their paintings, photographs and short films, which sketch the image of the city in their eyes. Time: 9 am-5 pm, daily except Monday, until August 7 Place: Time Museum, Guangdong Museum of Art, Huangbianbei Lu, Baiyun District Tel: 020-8735-1468

Swedish art: Swedish artist Per Huttner, born in 1967, has taken lots of photos of his trip. He will hold a solo exhibition to display some of the photos he shot in 2004 and 2006. Time: 9 am-5 pm, daily except Monday, July 18-August 6 Place: Exhibition Hall No 12, Guangdong Museum of Art, Ersha Island Tel: 020-8735-1468

POP award: The sixth Chinese-language Music Awards will be held on Monday. A series of awards will be given to singers, including those from Hong Kong and Taiwan at the pop gala ceremony. Time: 7:30 pm, July 17 Place: Xinghai Concert Hall, Ersha Island Tel: 020-8384-6330, 020-8735-3869

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS 1 Bleachers shout 4 After-bath wear 8 Ancient cosmetic 12 Blue or green 13 Not at home 14 Yield to 15 Arapaho foe 22 Sturgis visitors 26 "Shogun" setting 29 Harmless lie 30 Colourful carp 31 Makes a mistake 32 Status - 33 Longstanding

- DOWN 1 Baba au - 34 Self-importance 35 Oater prop

Solution to No 8119. A crossword grid with the solution filled in. Words include: TEAR, READ, BARE, OMS, ETNA, AGAR, LIE, HATHAYOGA, DRAPE, GIGS, TAMP, HEN, DEEP, ROE, GRIT, ERG, IRA, AVA, BEGS, SOP, ONYX, ARM, SUN, MAMA, REBAR, HAPPENING, EYE, URS, ODIE, LEE, TEEN, DABS, ASK.

CHUNYI THE LEGEND OF KUNGFU. A NATIONAL FAMOUS BRAND PRODUCTION. 'The legend of Kungfu takes Beijing into a new era of modern theatrical performance'. Every Evening: 7:30 pm. The Red Theater. 44 Xing Fu Da Jie, Chongwen District. Ticket price: RMB 680(VIP) 380, 280, 180 children & students half price.

Chaoyang Theatre Acrobatics Macrocosm. Chaoyang Theatre specializes in acrobatics all the year round. Top acrobatic artists from all over the country exhibit the charm and elegance of the acrobatic art with uncanny speed, power and agility. Time for acrobatics: 5:15-6:15 pm, 7:15-8:30 pm, nightly. Small Hall of Chaoyang Theatre. Magic Shows: 6:00-7:00 pm, 8:40-9:40 pm. Peking Opera: 7:20-8:20 pm.

BRIDGE BY PHILLIP ALDER. A crossword grid for a bridge game. Numbers 1-55 indicate starting positions for words.

- 2 Garage contents 3 Listen carefully 4 Roomy sleeve 5 Immature raptor 6 Modern-speed unit 7 Look at 8 Early camera 9 Ginza purchase 10 Finish a dress 11 Drain cleaner 19 Time spans 20 Playing marble 22 College maj. 23 Just scrapes by 24 Send packing 25 Half a beef 26 Mild oath 27 Jason's ship 28 Teen event 29 - and games 32 Vt. neighbour 33 Writer Kellerman 35 Tonic go-with 36 Triplets 38 Waits awhile 39 Berlin sausage 41 Soup ingredient 42 "Famous" cookie maker 43 No dice! (hyph.) 44 Achy 45 - relief 46 Spinks defeater 47 Account exec 48 Call - - cab

BRIDGE

Michel de Montaigne, a French essayist who died in 1592, wrote, "Nature should have been pleased to have made this age miserable, without making it also ridiculous." He was referring to the "11th luster," or 55 — his own age then. In bridge, you should try to find the best line of play to make your contract. If that is 100 percent, perfect; if less, it is miserable if it fails, pleasing if it succeeds. In this deal, you plunge into six spades — a six-level contract on 06-06-06. What is the best line of play after West leads a low trump? North's second-round jump-rebid of two no-trump showed a balanced hand with 18, 19 or a poor 20 points; too much for a one-no-trump opening but insufficient for a two-no-trump opening. His third-round jump to four spades announced a particularly good hand for the auction so far. Since you might lose a trick in each side suit, you must use dummy's heart suit to provide discards. Pull trumps, then run the heart 10. It will lose to East's queen. Let's suppose East shifts to a diamond. You take the trick with the board's ace, play a club to your king, then lead a heart to dummy's eight. When it holds, you discard your remaining diamond on the heart ace, ruff a heart in hand, play a club to the board's ace, and cash the established

heart jack, throwing away your club 10. You collect these 12 tricks: five spades, three hearts, one diamond and three clubs. One of two finesses (should) work some three-quarters of the time.

Bridge hand diagram showing North, South, West, and East cards. North: A J 8, A J 9 8 4, A 2, A 7 6. South: K Q 10 9 7, 10 3, J 7, K Q 10 2. Dealer: North. Vulnerable: Neither. Opening lead: A 4.