



Chinese Facial Makeup

Presented by Luyu Huang, Yangkun Lu



The art of Beijing opera mask

Here is a video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le68hdqtEug>



Introduction

Chinese facial-makeup combine personalities and symbols together. After years of developing, it becomes an important part of Chinese culture.

There are four roles in facial makeup, sheng, dan, jing and chou.

Chinese facial-makeup is extremely stylized in the colors and patterns used, but there is no two painted faces are alike. For example, there are more than 100 face -painting styles designed for Xiang Yu, the hero in Farewell My Concubine, and each one is very different.



History

The origin of facial make-up used in Peking Opera can be traced back to the Southern and Northern Dynasties Period, more than 1,400 years ago, when leading actors used to wear masks. As the operatic arts developed, performers gradually took off their masks and painted colourful patterns on their faces instead so people could better see their facial expressions.

Among all Chinese traditional operas, types of facial makeup in Peking Opera have developed into the most systematic and mature one.



Types

Since every historical character or characters of a certain type are provided with a particular facial type, similar to music scores for singing and playing music, such a method of makeup is named "Types of facial makeup".

Different types of facial makeups represent different identities, status, personality and appearance of the characters and therefore can intensify the artistic appeal on stage. As an impressionistic and exaggerated art, types of facial makeup in Peking Opera is featured by painting brows, eyelids and jowls in various patterns such as bat, swallow wing and butterfly wing.



Color

Red is the colour of loyalty, integrity and courage;

Black suggests a serious and taciturn disposition, including strength and roughness;

White reveals a crafty and suspicious character.

Gold and silver faces symbolize mysteriousness, and stand for monsters or gods.



Color

Purple, a symbol of solemnity, serenity and a sense of justice;

Yellow, representing intelligence and calculation or bravery when used in warrior roles;

Blue shows uprightiness and stubbornness;

Green indicates bravery and irascibility;

Gold and silver are sometimes used on the faces of immortals, demons and monsters.

http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNTkzNjkzODY4.html?from=s1.8-1-1.2

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Apr. 8th, 2016