



HAMILTON WRIGHT ORGANIZATION, INC.

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NEWSREEL CONTINUITY AND COMMENTARY

GOVERNMENT OF CHINA 17. 3. 58.
OFFICIAL NEWSREEL #5

HAMILTON WRIGHT
NEWSREEL RELEASE #1032

EDITOR: This rare film, made by our staff cameramen in Free China, is sent you gratis through the courtesy of the Government of the Republic of China.

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540 Feet - 35mm
Fine Grain - Silent

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For Release
Thursday
March 20, 1958
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FREE CHINA'S TRAVELING OPERA IS SMASH HIT IN TAIWAN.

134 MOBILE SHOW UNITS ENTERTAIN FARMERS AT OUTDOOR
PERFORMANCES!

LAVISH "OLD WORLD" CHINA RELIVED IN THREE HOUR
EXTRAVAGANZAS.

TAIPEI, TAIWAN (FORMOSA) -- March 20, 1958 . . . East is East and West is West -- but Free China's traveling operas have one thing in common with the West -- smash entertainment with

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the "SRO" sign out at every performance.

First pictures of a way of life virtually unknown to the western world. The amazing mobile units of operatic families, who travel by bus, truck and train from town to town, putting on highly stylized performances for Free China's 10,000,000 hard-working citizens.

Lavish, stunning costumes, fabulous in design and material, are worn by the stars. The color and extravagance of old China are here; her kings and emperors, warriors, and villains, brave men, and ladies fair. Seeing these costumes is almost worth the price of admission.

Chinese opera continues to be a great unifying cultural link between the masses of people on Taiwan and their countrymen 100 miles across the Straits of Taiwan in the now oppressed and occupied homeland held by the Communists.

Today there are 134 groups of players on Taiwan, traveling from town to town, village to village, giving two performances a day to hordes of spectators who pay but a few cents for admission. Nearly four thousand actors and actresses work regularly or part time. Biggest demands are during festivals, weddings, birthdays or other special events. Many performers are eleven or twelve years old and among the adults, one actor will play several parts - even impersonating the opposite sex when personnel is limited.

Their repertory derives from the old Peking opera. The art of mime and interpretation is the common denominator. Ladies sew with imaginary needles; boats are rowed with real paddles but there are no boats; doors are opened and closed by the outstretching and ingathering of arms -- the audience is long trained in these imageries.

"THE SHOW MUST GO ON" -- WHAT THIS FILM SHOWS

Truckloads of waving Chinese actors and actresses arrive at a small village in front of a Buddhist Temple where today's performance will take place. They climb down ladders from the trucks and immediately go into a one-hour long process of facial make-up which hypnotizes the standing audience. Some faces are multi-colored; only ladies and scholars appear in their natural complexions - slightly accentuated.

Now the show begins -- on the steps of the Buddhist Temple --

(more)

a big moment in the lives of the boys and girls, men and women of the farming community who have come from miles around, casting aside for the day routine farm chores. Here is the glamor and excitement of Old China, taken away from them by the Communists - the historical and legendary stories of emperors, warriors, villains, beautiful girls and elegant ladies -- all dressed in pure Chinese silk. Themes vary from comedy to tragedy, from stories of families and warriors and armies to legends depicting monsters, dragons, and animals. Lines are both sung and spoken to the accompaniment of a Chinese orchestra -- but to one versed in the symbolic gestures, no words are needed.

Every mark or color on a painted face tells the audience who or what the actor is -- a girl in love -- a girl with a broken heart -- a scheming one -- a "tough character."

Athletics speed up the tempo near the end. A somersault means "the enemy is fleeing -- he is defeated" -- a man entering with flags on his back is a "high authority" who tells a courageous story of a victorious battle.

FOLLOWING IS THE CORRECT NEWSREEL ASSEMBLY:

1. LS PAN - Traveling opera group in truck along country road.
2. LS - Opera group in trucks arriving at Buddhist Temple on the outskirts of Taipei (Capital of Taiwan).
3. MLS - Truck pulling up in front of temple with actors and actresses.
4. MS - Young Chinese actresses getting off truck.
5. MS - Spectators gathered to watch the opera.
6. MS - Group of actresses applying make-up.
7. MCU - Girls applying eye shadow.
8. CU - (Two takes) - Of girl applying eye shadow.
9. MS - Girls applying headdress and fashioning hair.
10. MCU - Actresses putting on ornamental hair combs.

(more)

11. MLS - Villagers gather in front of temple as opera begins.
12. MS - Of same.
13. TELEFOTO SHOT - Of dragon decoration at top of temple.
14. MLS PAN - Of spectators.
15. MS - Opera in session on temple front steps.
16. MCU - Of performers in colorful costumes.
17. MCU - Of girl in pantomime.
18. MS - Of Chinese musicians.
19. MCU and MS - Of performer playing a "Chinese style" violin.
20. MCU - Man playing flute instrument.
21. MS - Performance continues.
22. MS - Of crowd watching.
23. MS - The play continues in pantomime.
24. MCU - Group of youngsters -- front row center -- watching the performance.
25. MCU - Of actress through pantomime displays her feminine charms.
26. MS - Behind stage as play progresses.
27. MCU - Young "Yul Brynner" among the spectators.
28. MS - In the courtyard - the play continued with an acrobatic dance team.
29. HEAD CU - Of princess in the cast observing the dances.
30. MS - Singers and dancers.
31. HEAD CU - Of one of the players showing colorful facial make-up, and hair ornamentation.
32. EXTREME HEAD CU and MCU - Of one of the singer-dancers - PAN to other dancers.
33. MLS - Tribal chief announcing declaration of war.

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34. MS - Chief making announcement before the battle.
35. MS - Warriors of two sides go into their sword battle.
36. MLS - The two chiefs battle it out with halberds.
37. MCU - Of crowd.
38. MLS - Continuation of the battle as acrobats jump in and do handsprings as chiefs continue to battle.
39. MS - Of crowd.
40. MLS - The finale.
