

Research on the Origin and Artistic Characteristics of Hebei Local Song-Dance

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ABSTRACT. *“Cowherd and Country Girl” is one kind of local operas in our country. It comes from the region of Hebei and belongs to Chinese folk opera. Because of its catchy and easy to read aloud features and ingenious use of “metaphor and comparison” rhetoric, this work has been widely spread among the Han Chinese, and has become a folk song-dance opera that has been sung to this day. Song-dance drama is a kind of “Hebei Clapper Opera” which spreads far and wide in northern China. Its origin and artistic characteristics are worthy of our study and recognition.*

KEYWORDS: *Hebei local operas, “cowherd and country girl”, Artistic characteristics*

1. Introduction

Such arrangement can make the audience to find their own resonance to a great extent, and the play connects the allusions that familiar to the common people without any violation, forming a bond of national emotion and cultural heritage. When people sing this work they are able to recall the splendid Chinese culture charm. Besides, such arrangement will summarize the characters and contents, and also become a kind of inspiration and promotion for people to understand the allusions of Chinese culture. In ancient times, literati used allusions in their articles, which were often obscure and difficult to understand if without certain knowledge reserve and cultural accomplishment. The use of allusions here in “Cowherd and Country Girl” is simple and lively, and the general public can easily read and understand, so it is also an important and necessary artistic feature for the “Cowherd and Country Girl” to be classic.

The play is about a story between a cowherd and a country girl, in which there is a love play, but also has certain elements of burlesque, such a performance is actually a common life in the true presentation of a story. Just as people say “arts come from life and is higher than life”, in the play, there is no 100% reduction of the “realistic” funny story, but it allows the audience to feel this strong local feeling. Works of art that can be resonated are good works. The origin of this play is from the broad society and the broad masses of people. The events that happen are the stories that we can often hear and see in our daily life, which makes this work more deeply rooted in people's hearts and can also move the audience. In addition, in this play, we can see that the use of folk song duet, so it can be said that the origin of the “Cowherd and Country Girl” is inseparable from the daily life of the people. It is well known that the folk song duet in the region of Guangxi and northern Shaanxi, but in fact, there is such an art form in every place of our country, and every place is different. Through opera, folk song culture is promoted, which is also the interchange of the two arts.

2. Using “Metaphor and Comparison” Rhetoric to Convey the Chinese Language and Culture

The rhetoric of “metaphor and comparison” is widely used in Chinese folk songs and poetry plays, and this Chinese local opera “Cowherd and Country Girl” is no exception. In “Cowherd and Country Girl” the part of singing, it all uses the technique of “duet” and the “metaphor and comparison” rhetoric, that is, from the popular speaking method is a “question and answer technique” for performance.

Through women's questions and men's answers, the whole play doesn't seem dull, and has a great degree of interactivity. The interaction of one man and one woman on the stage has generated a certain degree of suspense and a kind of mobilization for the scene atmosphere. Through the duet of two people, it reflects a kind of interpersonal interaction on the stage and the interaction with the audience on the stage. When the scene atmosphere is good, the audience in the second paragraph will often sing along with the rhythm on the stage.

This kind of “folk song duet” has appeared more frequently in the China’s region of Guangxi, Yunnan, Hunan and other places. And its purpose is also to form interactivity and improve the attraction and interest of the play to the audience.

3. Bi Xing: to Convey the Chinese Language and Culture

As mentioned above, application of “allusion” and the “metaphor and comparison” rhetoric are used. The third artistic feature of “Cowherd and Country Girl” is its lively and playful singing style. As a local opera, it does not have the serious expression technique like Peking Opera and Kunqu opera, but there is a kind of joke between the hero and heroine and even a kind of flirting technique to make the drama unfold.

In addition, the story of the protagonist and heroine is opened by boy asking in a funny way to the girl. In the story, the cowherd and the country girl communicates with each other through the way of “guessing riddles”, which is a lovely, lively and playful expression and expression technique.

Such a way of expression and singing can reflect the vitality of the opera. The country girl's nature is lively, lovely and active. Through such an art technique, the whole opera can actually be made more dynamic. So in this point, the song-dance drama is more suitable for the civilian audience to understand and participate than “Kunqu Opera”, “The Songs of Chu” and other advanced plays. In singing part, the representative singing characters of the female role in Chinese opera are euphemistic and pleasant, with a clear voice. The climax of the “Cowherd and Country Girl” is the aria of “who built The Zhaozhou Bridge” Through the bright singing and the form of “question and answer”, the opera is more conducive to publicize the story of Chinese culture. The Zhaozhou Bridge, Zhang Guolao (a bearded figure carrying a drum and two drumsticks, the Queen Mother of the West and other historical allusions are treasures of the development of the Chinese nation and important parts of Chinese culture. But in this opera, instead of expressing it in a serious way and in a historical language, it is performed in a way of folk song duet, which plays a subtle role in conveying the highest level of culture. In addition, the melody of the aria is almost close to a popular song, and there is no difficulty in singing. Therefore, it has paved the way for the wide spread of the play and it is well known to all. Therefore, the singing method of the play adopts a popular way and a lively way to convey cultural treasures.

To sum up, the Hebei local song-dance drama “Cowherd and Country Girl” has the artistic characteristics of using folk allusions, using the technique of metaphor and comparison rhetoric and singing lively and playful.

4. Conclusion

The reason why Hebei local song-dance opera can become an intangible cultural heritage is that it gathers excellent Chinese traditional culture, and the play “Cowherd and Country Girl” is also a representative play of this kind of opera, which is widely spread in China. At the same time, as a carrier, it also spreads folk tales. Through the evolution and development of art, its climax part is adapted into pop songs and is widely praised. Adding the “electronic beats” in pop music to traditional culture can make the traditional culture arouse new vitality. At the same time, this kind of local song-dance operas are gradually moving towards the world, and many foreign students have participated in the Chinese operas club. By telling Chinese stories well, Chinese traditional culture and art can be more widely known and won the praise and acclaim of the people of the world.

References

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