Application:

Eligibility. All Princeton University undergraduates or graduate students in good standing, or those who have graduated within one year, from any major or department, are eligible to apply. Applicants must be highly motivated to study traditional Chinese opera and culture. Intermediate-level ability in modern Chinese language (Mandarin) is required. Normally, the minimum requirement for admission is two years of college-level instruction in Chinese before the start of the program; heritage learners with equivalent abilities are also eligible.

Application. Applications should be submitted through the GPS (Global Programs System) portal—http://gps.princeton.edu/?go=ShanghaiPekingProgram. Final deadline for submission is March 1, 2018. Applications require submission of three parts:

1) a paragraph explaining why you wish to attend and how the Opera Program fits into your educational goals;
2) a short budget detailing your request for transportation and meals in Shanghai;
3) a short statement about your Chinese language abilities: if you’re enrolled in Chinese language study, list your courses at Princeton or Princeton-in-Beijing or elsewhere; if, instead, you have language experience outside of Princeton courses, describe your abilities in speaking and understanding Mandarin.

Recommendation. A short letter of recommendation from a current Princeton faculty member is also required. Recommenders will be prompted by GPS to submit letters.

Deadlines. Applications and all supporting materials must be submitted by March 1, 2018; earlier applications are welcome. Notifications of acceptance will be sent to students on a rolling basis. Heritage speakers or those with language expertise gained outside of Princeton courses who are accepted into the program will be asked to schedule a 10-minute Mandarin language discussion/test in February or March.

Notifications of acceptance will be given to applicants by end of March, 2018.

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CONTACT:

Dr. Chao-Hui Jenny Liu, Coordinator
Peking Opera Immersion Program
219 Frist Campus Center
chaoliu@princeton.edu
609-258-9350

East Asian Studies and Musical Performance at Princeton University

Peking Opera Immersion Program
August 20-September 7, 2018

Shanghai Peking Opera Company (SPOC), also known as Shanghai Jingju Theatre Company, at 1198 Tianyaoqiao Rd., Shanghai, China.
Overview

The Shanghai Peking Opera Immersion Program will run as a pilot project in summer, 2018. The program provides an unprecedented opportunity for Princeton students to engage in an intensive period of study and training in Chinese theater. It offers 3 weeks of intensive study and performance of the Northern style of Chinese drama (called “Peking Opera”) at the Shanghai Peking Opera Company (SPOC), based in Shanghai. Instruction will mostly be in the medium of Chinese (Mandarin), with some English assistance provided for students with less advanced Chinese language skills.

Normally, the minimum requirement for admission is two years of college-level instruction in Chinese; heritage learners with equivalent abilities are also eligible. The program will award certificates, but no Princeton credit will be given.

SPOC is providing fellowship support for tuition, fees, lodging, and breakfast. To cover the additional expenses for transportation to and from Shanghai and most lunches and dinners (totaling $2,350-2,600), funding will be provided by Princeton University to students accepted into the program. Awards will be administered through the Student Activities Funding Engine (SAFE).

Curriculum:

Classes run for three weeks, from Aug. 20-Sept. 7, 2018. Classes usually meet for 6 hours per day, 5 days per week, with some additional time on weekends and evenings for observing performances. The curriculum is divided into three sections.

Section 1: Introduction to Peking Opera, 15 hours. Senior scholars use text and images to introduce the history, basic features, and aesthetics of Peking Opera.

Section 2: Taste of Peking Opera, 65 hours. Following their interests, students are divided into four groups pursuing specialized study of Song, Speech, Dance, and Combat/Acrobatics. At the end, each group presents a 10-minute final performance.

Section 3: Live Observation, 10 hours. During the weekends, students will attend special performances of the Shanghai Peking Opera Theater, including behind-the-scenes and post-performance meetings with performers.

At Princeton, half-day forum. Following the program upon return to Princeton in the fall, students will participate in a forum on Chinese Opera presented by the Music Department in which they will have an opportunity to share the results of their study.