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Last Updated: 3:54 am | Friday, January 13, 2006

Beijing Opera tales combines music, dance, acting

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - "Tales from the Beijing Opera" isn't the type with bellowing ladies wearing helmets with horns. Beijing Opera is a noisy and rowdy combination of music, dance, acting and acrobatics performed with elaborate costumes and makeup.

This style of opera was developed 200 years ago in the city then known as Peking. It was a fusion of several performance arts that existing at the time throughout China.

Northern Kentucky University will host "Tales from the Beijing Opera," a series of comic and dramatic scenes from China's most popular stories, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in Greaves Hall.

ADVERTISEMENT "I believe it is important that people are introduced to Chinese culture because of the growing importance of China in the world today - exemplified by the recent revision naming China as the world's fourth-largest economy, supplanting Britain," said Christian Grau, director of cultural life for the NKU activities programming board.

The opera will perform scenes in English and Chinese. The stories include the romance "Autumn River," about a nun who escapes her convent to follow her lover. "Fighting in the State of Ji" tells of a loyal general being crushed by corrupt government officials. "Fighting in the Dark," which features stage fighting, is a comic episode about an innkeeper trying to kill one of his guests in a dark room.

"Tales of the Beijing Opera" is sponsored by the NKU Activities Programming Board.

Tickets, available at the door, are \$10 for general public and \$5 for NKU faculty and staff. Students admitted free with NKU ID.

IF YOU GO

General admission tickets, available at the door, are \$10 and \$5 for NKU faculty and staff. NKU students will be admitted free with their student ID.

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