

Chinese Aesthetic Features of Traditional Costumes in Gan Opera

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Abstract. As one of the traditional local operas in China, Gan opera has a unique cultural connotation and aesthetic style, and its costumes are even more distinctive. The costumes of Gan opera are beautifully styled and colourful, reflecting the traditional aesthetics of ancient China. In the costumes, attention is paid to the expression of different characters' identities and personalities, for example, the costumes of characters such as emperors, officials and people are all different. At the same time, Gan opera costumes also pay attention to colour matching, focusing on shades and clearness, and emphasising the use of colour to express the characteristics and characters of different characters. The ornamentation of Gan opera costumes is also very rich, often embellished with patterns of flowers and birds, dragons and phoenixes, and clouds, which are deeply symbolic and meaningful. Gan opera costumes are also very elaborate in terms of detailing, such as embroidery, trimming and cutting, all of which have unique techniques and characteristics. In short, Gan opera costumes are an important part of traditional Chinese culture, embodying the essence of traditional Chinese aesthetics and having high artistic value and cultural significance. The aim of this article is to explore the Chinese aesthetic characteristics of traditional costumes of Gan opera, with a view to providing reference value for relevant researchers.

Keywords: Gan opera; traditional costume; Chinese aesthetics; exploration of features.

1. Introduction

As a traditional opera from the southern region of China, Gan opera has strong local characteristics and the imprint of Chinese cultural traditions in its performance forms, music, dance and costumes. Among them, the traditional costume of GanOpera is one of the indispensable elements in the performance of GanOpera and has a strong Chinese aesthetic character.

The traditional costume of Gan Opera mainly consists of robes, shirts, trousers, hats and shoes. They are characterised by their antique shapes, bright colours, smooth lines and delicate fabrics, showing the beauty and elegance of traditional Chinese culture. The use of colour in the costumes is very rich, including bright and vivid colours such as red, blue, green and yellow, showing the magnificent and festive beauty of traditional Chinese culture. In addition, the decorations and details of the traditional Gan Opera costumes are exquisite, such as embroidery, embroidered flowers and bows using gold and silver threads as the main materials, which add a lot of magnificence to the costumes.

The design and shape of traditional Gan opera costumes are even more characteristic of Chinese aesthetics, with a central axis of symmetry that gives the costumes a more dignified and dignified appearance. At the same time, Gan opera costumes often incorporate natural elements, such as swallows and lotus flowers, showing the Chinese people's reverence and love for nature. The traditional costumes of Gan opera reflect the unique charm of traditional Chinese culture and aesthetics in terms of design, colour and shape, and are an important part of traditional Chinese culture and one of the treasures of the Chinese cultural heritage.

2. Overview of Traditional Costume Culture of Gan Opera

Gan Opera is a local opera genre in southern China with a long history and a deep cultural heritage. Its unique accent features and exquisite costumes are two of the most representative features of the

art of Gan opera. This article will provide an overview of the traditional costume culture of Gan opera, introducing the historical origins, accent features and the role of costumes in Gan opera.

3. The long history of Gan Opera

Originating from Nanle in ancient China, Gan Opera has gradually become an independent regional opera genre through long development and evolution. The repertoire of Gan opera is extensive and rich, covering all aspects of history, folk tales and legends. Already very popular during the Tang Dynasty, Nanle developed to its heyday during the Song and Yuan Dynasties. During the Ming and Qing dynasties, Nanle further evolved into an opera genre, and it was only at the end of the Qing dynasty that the modern Gan Opera took shape.

Gan Opera is a regional opera genre in southern China with a long history and a deep cultural heritage. As a traditional art form, the costume culture of Gan Opera carries a rich historical and cultural connotation and is an integral part of the art of Gan Opera.

3.1. Characteristics of the cadences of Gan opera

The cadences of Gan opera are one of its unique charms. The cadences of Gan opera are characterised by the "running cadences" and "dragging cadences", which are characterised by their undulating pitch, compact rhythm and rich rhythm. The performance form of Gan Opera is very unique, as the actors will jump, step and twist while singing, and these movements need to be in harmony with the music, thus making the performance more difficult and ornamental. The cadences and music of Gan opera play an important role in the whole performance, and are irreplaceable for the portrayal of characters and the creation of atmosphere.

3.2. The Role of Gan Opera Costumes

The costumes of Gan opera are beautifully decorated and unique, with detailed decoration, rich colours and a strong traditional Chinese cultural flavour. The costumes are characterised by their "florid, colourful and diverse" nature, and their rich patterns and colours, as well as their exquisite craftsmanship and decoration, reflect traditional Chinese aesthetics. Gan opera costumes are not only a symbol of the identity of the actors, but also an important expression of the character traits of the characters and the background of the times. Gan opera costumes express the character traits and social status of different characters through elements such as different colours, textures and decorations, thus enhancing the artistic sense of the performance.

In addition to this, the Gan opera costumes have a unique cut and structure design. For example, the skirts of female actors have silk hems and are often designed with "pleated skirts" and "duck egg skirts", which make the clothes more graceful and fluid when dancing. Male performers' costumes often have wide sleeves and long shirts, which allow the performers to show off their movements and postures and add to the visual impact of the performance.



Figure 1. Jiangxi Opera

4. The folkloric nature of the costume aesthetic of Gan opera

Gan Opera is one of the traditional opera genres in Jiangxi Province, originating from the Ming Dynasty, and has evolved and developed over the centuries to form a unique performance style and costume aesthetic. The performance style of Gan Opera is unique and different from other regional opera genres. In Gan opera, the singing is bold and atmospheric, and the performance techniques are unique, a new form of expression. The folkloric nature of Gan opera costume aesthetics, on the other hand, is an important part of Gan opera culture, reflecting the characteristics of Jiangxi traditional culture and the essence of Ganan folk culture.

4.1. Performance Style of Gan Opera

Gan Opera is a local opera genre based on the Jiangxi Nanchang dialect and combining various artistic means such as singing, reciting, acting, playing and dancing. The performance style of Gan opera is unique, with its singing form mainly based on biting and accentuating the words, with a clearer sound and rhyme, various singing techniques and strong emotional expression. The singing style of Gan Opera has a unique boldness and atmosphere, expressing the unique style and essence of the folk culture of the Ganan region. Apart from the singing voice, the performance techniques of Gan Opera are also one of the important features of Gan Opera. The actors often use a variety of acting techniques such as sign language, eyes and posture in order to present the personality and emotions of their characters. As a result, Gan opera occupies an important place in Jiangxi opera with its unique performance style.

4.2. Aesthetics of theatrical costume

The aesthetics of Gan Opera costume is also an important part of Gan Opera culture. The costumes of Gan opera are unique in terms of shape, colour and fabric, reflecting the characteristics of traditional Jiangxi culture and the essence of folk culture. The Gan opera costumes are rigorously and elaborately modelled, with the main feature being the emphasis on counterpoint. The corners of the costumes are inlaid with gold thread, giving them a gorgeous and delicate feel. The colours of Gan Opera costumes are mostly bright red, yellow, green and blue, reflecting the rich and colourful folk culture of the region. The fabrics used in Gan Opera costumes are mainly high-grade fabrics such as silk, satin and silk, with elaborate materials and fine craftsmanship, reflecting the people's demand for quality costumes in the Gan region.

In addition, the costumes of male and female characters in Gan opera are also different. The costumes for male characters usually feature flowing clothes and high collars, reflecting the strength and boldness of the male characters, while the costumes for female characters focus on smooth and graceful lines, reflecting the softness and gracefulness of the female characters. Also important are the headdresses of Gan Opera costumes, which often feature flower garlands, hairpins and hair clips to match the costumes and create a unique style and atmosphere.

In conclusion, the folkloric nature of Gan Opera costume aesthetics is an important part of Jiangxi traditional culture, reflecting the characteristics and essence of Gan Opera folk culture. The performance style and costume aesthetics of Gan Opera complement each other and together constitute the unique charm of Gan Opera culture, which is a form of expression of both artistic and cultural value. The uniqueness of Gan opera is one of the reasons that give it an important place in the art of opera.

5. Artistic Features of Traditional Costumes of Gan Opera

Gan opera is one of the traditional opera genres in Jiangxi Province, with a long history and deep cultural heritage. Its costumes are an important part of the culture of Gan opera and have unique artistic characteristics. This article will explore the artistic characteristics of traditional costumes of Gan opera from five aspects: programmatic, symbolic, decorative, danceable and regional.

5.1. Programmatic features

Programmatic refers to the rigour, standardisation and uniformity of Gan opera costumes in terms of style, specifications and production techniques. The style of Gan opera costumes is usually divided into several parts, such as the upper costume, lower costume, headdress and shoes and socks. The style of costume varies from one role to another and from one play to another, but in general it follows certain norms and standards. For example, the bodice of a female character must be straight, the belt must be tied on the left, and the sleeves must be as long as the wrist. In addition, the production process of Gan opera costumes is also very elaborate, from the selection of materials to cutting, sewing and embroidery, there are strict norms and processes to ensure the high quality and standard of Gan opera costumes.

5.2. Symbolic features

Symbolism refers to the symbolic meaning and expressive effect of Gan opera costumes in terms of colours, patterns and accessories. The colours of Gan opera costumes are usually very bright and have strong local characteristics. For example, red symbolises auspiciousness and festivity, yellow symbolises wealth and dignity, purple symbolises elegance and mystery, and so on. In addition, the patterns and accessories of Gan opera costumes also have certain symbolic meanings. For example, floral motifs usually symbolise good luck and prosperity, while dragon and phoenix motifs symbolise good fortune and respect, etc.

5.3. Decorative features

Decorativeness refers to the decorative effect and beauty of Gan opera costumes. Gan opera costumes pay great attention to details and delicacy in terms of decoration. The costumes are usually decorated with precious materials such as gold, silver and silk threads, with smooth lines and exquisite patterns, which set off the temperament and image of the actors. The decoration of Gan opera costumes is also reflected in the accessories, such as headdresses, shoes and socks, beaded strings, etc. These accessories are all made with exquisite craftsmanship and materials, which not only highlight the characteristics of the characters, but also enhance the decorative and aesthetic qualities of the costumes.

5.4. Danceability characteristics

Danceability refers to the comfort and flexibility of Gan opera costumes in performance. Although Gan opera costumes are designed and made with great care, they are also designed to be comfortable and danceable. The comfort and flexibility of the costumes is very important as the actors have to perform a lot of movements and dances during the performance. A variety of high quality materials are used in the Gan opera costumes, such as silk, cotton and satin, to ensure the texture and beauty of the costumes, but also to enhance their danceability and comfort.

5.5. Geographical characteristics

Locality refers to the characteristics of Gan opera costumes in terms of regional cultural heritage and expression. The design and production of Gan opera costumes are influenced by the local regional culture and have strong local characteristics. The colours and patterns of Gan opera costumes usually incorporate elements of the local natural landscape, history and culture as well as customs and traditions, which both express the local culture and increase the artistic and cultural connotations of the costumes.

In conclusion, the costumes of Gan opera have a strict, standardised and unified programmatic character, rich symbolic and decorative features, while also focusing on the danceability and regional characteristics of the costumes. These artistic features have made an important contribution to the inheritance and development of Gan opera culture, and also provide important references and lessons for our appreciation and understanding of the art of Gan opera.



Figure 2. Jiangxi Opera

6. Inheritance and Innovation of Traditional Costume Design of Gan Opera

As an important part of Jiangxi traditional culture, Gan opera costume has a long history and deep cultural heritage. It is an important expression of Gan opera performance and an important carrier of Gan opera culture. Gan opera costumes should not only inherit the tradition, but also be constantly innovated to meet the needs of modern audiences for visual effects. In this paper, we will look at the traditional elements of Gan opera costume design, the current situation of inheritance and development, as well as the path and practice of innovation.

6.1. Traditional elements of Gan opera costume design

The design elements of Gan opera costumes have been accumulated and innovated through generations of actors and producers, and they include several aspects such as style, colour, pattern and accessories. These design elements not only reflect the characteristics of Gan opera culture, but also have a strong regional character.

(1) Style

The style of Gan opera costumes is usually divided into several parts, such as the upper costume, lower costume, headdress and shoes and socks. The style of costume varies from role to role and from play to play, but in general they all follow certain norms and standards. For female roles, the bodice must be straight, the belt must be tied on the left, and the sleeves must be wrist-length. For male roles, the lapels are V-shaped, the belt must be tied on the right, etc.

(2) Colour

The colours of Gan opera costumes are usually very bright and have strong local characteristics. For example, red symbolises good luck and festivity, yellow symbolises wealth and respect, purple symbolises elegance and mystery, and so on. The use of these colours not only expresses the character and temperament of the character, but also conveys emotion and expresses the theme.

(3) Pattern

The motifs in Ganga costumes usually have certain symbolic meanings. For example, floral motifs usually symbolise good luck and prosperity, while dragon and phoenix motifs symbolise good fortune and dignity, and so on. These motifs not only beautify the costumes, but also enhance the cultural connotation and artistic appeal of the costumes.

(4) Accessories

Accessories for Ganga costumes are also an important element of the design. Accessories can include headgear, footwear and accessories. The styles and colours of these accessories have certain specifications and matching requirements, for example, female characters must wear hair buns, earrings and necklaces, while male characters must wear headscarves, swords and high boots, etc.

These are the traditional elements of Gan opera costume design, which have evolved and changed over the course of history, forming a unique artistic style and regional characteristics. However, with the continuous development of society and the changing needs of the audience, the inheritance and development of Gan opera costumes are facing some problems and challenges.

6.2. Current status of heritage and development

Heritage is fundamental to the preservation of traditional culture, while development is what gives traditional culture new life and vitality. For Gan opera costumes, heritage and development go hand in hand, and only by balancing both can Gan opera culture be better inherited and developed.

In terms of heritage, the production and use of Gan opera costumes requires more professional skills and experience to ensure the quality and artistic level of the costumes. At the same time, the inheritance of Gan opera culture also requires more social support and policy protection to ensure that Gan opera culture can be better inherited and protected.

In terms of development, Gan opera costumes need to keep up with the times and adapt to the needs and aesthetics of modern audiences, making them more contemporary and artistically appealing. This requires innovative design and constant improvement in technical means to promote the development and innovation of Gan opera costumes.

6.3. Innovative pathways and practices

Innovation is an important path to promote the development of Gan opera costumes. In terms of innovation in Gan opera costumes, the following aspects can be practiced and explored.

(1) Combining the characteristics of the times and breaking the traditional limits

Traditional Gan opera costume design has strict norms and standards, which to a certain extent limits the space and possibilities for innovation. Therefore, when innovating Gan opera costumes, it is possible to combine the characteristics of the times, break the traditional restrictions and design and innovate in a more free and open manner.

(2) Integrating diverse cultures and broadening horizons

Innovations in Gan opera costumes can not only find inspiration and creativity from traditional culture, but also integrate diverse cultures and take a more open and inclusive approach to design and innovation. For example, modern fashion elements and features of other regional cultures can be incorporated into the design of Gan opera costumes to create a more contemporary and cross-cultural art form.

(3) Use of modern technology to improve the level of production

With the development of modern technology, various digital technology tools have been widely used in the design and production of costumes. These modern technological tools, such as 3D printing and digital mapping, can be used in the innovation of Gan opera costumes to improve the level and efficiency of production and to promote the innovation and development of Gan opera costumes.

(4) Focus on practice and heritage to ensure quality and artistic standards

Innovation not only needs to be artistically compelling and contemporary, but also needs to focus on practice and heritage to ensure the quality and artistic standard of Gan opera costumes. While innovating Gan opera costumes, full consideration needs to be given to their practicality and inheritability to ensure that the innovative costumes can be practically applied to stage performances and can be passed on and developed by future generations.

7. Concluding Remarks

Gan opera costumes are an important part of Gan opera culture, which not only has unique regional characteristics and artistic style, but also carries the history and tradition of Gan opera culture. In the process of inheriting and developing Gan opera costumes, there is a need to fully explore their cultural connotations and artistic values, as well as to promote the innovation and development of Gan opera costumes by combining the characteristics of modern times and diverse cultures. Only in this way

can Gan opera costumes continue to shine with their unique cultural charm in the context of the new era.

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