

# SUNRISE NEWS

Volume I

Tianjin

Saturday, October 19, 1930

Script by Cao Yu

## Breaking News: Superstar Hu Si and Rich Widow Lady Gu are Married



## First Mandarin-speaking play "Sunrise" staged at Wellesley College

The plot of *Sunrise* by Cao Yu is set in the early 1930s China. As stories of both the rich and poor unfolds, centering around the main character Chen Bailu, this play tackles themes such as privilege, class, sexual exploitation, labor exploitation and gender stereotypes that are still very relevant to this day. Cao Yu cites a saying by Laozi from Tao Te ching when summarizing the most critical point of the play: "The way of man is taken from those who are in want in order to offer this to those who already have more than enough." Inequality exist and has always existed in society. But aside from recognizing unfairness, is there still hope to improve them? To explore this question, we welcome you to make the Sun rise on stage with us!

**Note:** This play will be performed in Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles provided for the audience. We are most honored and excited to bring more cultural diversity to Wellesley's theater community by putting on the first non-English production at Upstage!

**Content Warning:** This show contains some plots related to sexual violence, forced murder, suicide, and prostitution.



## Creative Team Introduction

**Director - Yihan Ling '27** (Math & MAS Major): Yihan Ling is a sophomore at Wellesley College. Prior to *Sunrise*, she was involved as an actor in Wellesley Theater Department's 23 Fall *R.U.R.* production, in which she played the role of Alquist, and she is a member of the Wellesley Shakespeare Society. *Sunrise* was her first time involved in the creative team and was her first directorial effort. She spends most of her leisure time in the theater watching plays, and she enjoys exploring various forms of theatrical expression including plays, musicals, and experimental theater. When she's not at the theater, she also enjoys traveling, reading, going to museums, and watching anime. She would like to thank Upstage for this opportunity, as well as her friends who listened to her in the restaurants and on the shuttle during the early stages of the play's development and supported her to go forward, without whom the play would not be on stage today. She would also like to thank the cast and production team for their dedication and hard work, always coming to rehearsals and production meetings against all odds. It is because of their love for theater that the play has come to fruition. She would also like to thank her friends and family outside of the theater for their life and emotional support. She hopes the audience can enjoy the play!

**Stage Manager - Lyla Ma '28** (Undecided): Lyla fell in love with musicals in middle school, which prompted her to join the musical club in high school, doing both acting and backstage work. She thinks that she "has very little personality other than being a theatre/musical kid." But she does enjoy reading and writing a lot while listening to songs from French musicals that have basically no plot at all. Lyla would like to thank the entire cast for being super amazing and also the tech team for making the play come to life. She wants to especially thank Yihan and Emily - being able to work with them is incredibly fortunate, she says.

**Stage Manager - Emily Lu '28** (Undecided): Emily is a first year student at Wellesley and is honored for the opportunity to join *Sunrise* as her first production at Wellesley College. She has previously been part of many productions as a stage manager, actress and technician, and she is beyond thrilled for *Sunrise* to be her first Chinese production. Outside of theater, Emily loves dance, playing the French Horn, and exploring cities. She wants to express how absolutely wonderful everyone has been and that she can't be more thankful to have met such a talented group of people.

**Production Manager - Jiayi Shao '27** (Theater Studies Major): Jiayi Shao is a sophomore. They are beyond excited to be production-managing Sunrise, the first all-mandarin production on campus! Their past favorite roles on campus include Dr. Hallemeier in R.U.R. (WCT 2023) and Dionysus in The Bacchae. They are playing Camillo in the upcoming production of The Winter's Tale (come see it Nov 15-16). When they are not haunting the alumnae hall, Jiayi can be found up to mischief with friends and exploring things they haven't tried yet. Jiayi is so grateful to the Sunrise production team, who have imbued this experience with magic.

**Production Manager - Cynthia Zhu '27** (Math & CS Major): Cynthia volunteered as a translator for the musical Chicago and Romeo and Juliet. She was also the Set Designer for Upstage Ghost Light production. She loves singing and watching K-drama.

## Cast Introduction

**Chen Bailu - Grace Yuan '28:** Grace Yuan performed in theatrical plays during middle and high school. As a first-year, she plays for Wellesley's varsity golf team; she also loves dancing, photography, watching movies, and baking. She is grateful to the director, production team, and fellow actors for their hard work during rehearsals. She believes that everyone was highly dedicated to bringing this play to life. She feels honored to have been part of this production and has gained a lot of friendship and encouragement throughout the process. "Before this play, I didn't have much experience in Mandarin play. Therefore, when I was cast as the lead actress, to my surprise, I worried about whether I could do the role justice. During rehearsals, the director and the more experienced actors gave me a lot of support and patiently went over everything with me over and over. I am truly grateful for their help, and through this experience, I have gained progress and personal growth," she says.

**Fang Dasheng - Jamie Zeng '27:** Jamie Zeng is a sophomore majoring in Neuroscience, potentially with an English minor. She is beyond excited about the production of Sunrise, Wellesley's first-ever play performed in a foreign language. Jamie had been acting in plays all four years of high school, but Sunrise is her first Mandarin play. Beyond theater, Jamie enjoys learning drums and piano, riding horses, and playing badminton. Jamie extends her gratitude to everyone who made this show possible, to YOU (our audiences) for coming, and especially to family and friends for traveling a long way to support us!

**Pan Yueting - Tina Zhang '28:** Sunrise is my first theatre experience as part of the cast but I was always interested in theatre performances and musicals. In terms of tech experiences, I was the hair designer and crew for my high school's musical 9 to 5 and it was a great time. I play the viola and I'm part of the Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra. I'm also very involved in chamber music, such as quartets and quintets. I have been dancing for about 4 years now, participating in a dance team, attending performances and competitions, and holding workshops. I'm interested in writing, debate, and art as well. Thank you to all the cast, crew, and stage managers who were so kind and diligent, making this experience so welcoming and warm. I would also like to thank our director for giving me the chance to participate in something so meaningful and unique like Sunrise. And thank you to all my friends who supported me and cheered me on along the way.

**Li Shiqing - Rain Pan '28:** Rain took one year of theatre in high school and did a short play at our school's drama festival, but this is her first time doing theatre in Mandarin. She loves movies, perfume, drawing, and debate. She wants to thank all members of the production team for making this happen. She is especially thankful to Yihan, Emily, and Lyla for "putting up with [her] forgetting of lines during the run-throughs."

**Mrs. Li - Estella Zhu '26:** Estella Zhu has been in the production of *Macbeth*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and *Thunderstorms*, another play by Cao Yu. She loves to play pipa, a traditional Chinese instrument; she also spends a lot of time journaling. Estella wants to thank my parents for all their emotional support.

**George Chang - Keira Zhuo '28:** Keira did theater starting in late elementary school and continued on and off up till now. She is a visual artist and a student journalist. She enjoys going to museums and taking nature walks. Keira wants to say thank you to everyone for supporting her in learning her lines!

**Lady Gu - Jasmine Sun '28:** In middle school, Jasmine adapted Qian Zhongshu's novel "Fortress Besieged" into a script and performed it at the graduation ceremony with 14 classmates. Jasmine played the role of Su Wenwan. In high school, she played the role of *Yun Zhifan* in Stan Lai's drama *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* for her entire year group. These experiences have made her fall deeply in love with acting. When she is not on stage, Jasmine loves reading detective novels, listening to K-POP, coffee-making, playing badminton, and traveling. She would like to sincerely thank the director's team who put in so much time and effort in the preparation and the rehearsal process, as well as all the other cast members who are so committed and supportive!

**Hu Si - Annie Yang '28:** Annie did some short plays in elementary school, then participated in theater as a backstage crew. This is her first time back as an actor after more than 5 years. In her free time, Annie enjoys dancing, capturing moments through photography, and cafe hopping. She has a message: "Thank you so much to the directors for selecting me for this role and guiding us throughout the process. I'd also like to extend a big thanks to all my fellow actors for supporting one another and making this play such an enjoyable experience!" Special thanks to Ruofan (Celina) Wang, my Peking Opera teacher, for all the training session!

**Wang Fusheng - Bella Cui '26:** Bella Cui is a junior double majoring in English and Sociology. Sunrise is her first theatre production at Wellesley but not her first time performing a bully. In her free time, she enjoys spending too much time at second-hand bookstores, going to concerts, and wandering around campus. But most of the time she's either writing a paper or reading others' papers. She's super grateful for the people who have worked so hard for this play and her friends who were dragged to run lines with her. She hopes you enjoy the play!

**Huang Xingsan - Linda Su '28:** Linda was involved with backstage tech for two years. She loves musicals and wants to see *SUFFS* this winter. She is also a big fan of *Girl in Red* and *Phoebe Bridgers*. She is a member of Wellesley for Global Affairs and Wellesley News on campus. She also loves scuba diving and is learning to sail. She has a message: "Thank you to Yihan, Lyla, and Emily for your unconditional support and time put into this production. Thanks to all the backstage tech crews for making this show happen. Thanks to Bella, Tina, and Rain for being the best scene partners together."

**Shrimp - Mimi Wu '27:** Mimi performed the musical *Chicago* at MIT last winter and performed *Les Miserables* in high school. She has always loved theatre and has bits and pieces of acting experiences here and there. Off-stage, she enjoys debate, music, and dancing. She would like to thank Yihan for being super supportive all the time. "You are a great director," she says.

**Dark San - Claire Li '27:** Claire is a sophomore with a Philosophy major, potentially doubling in something else that would find her a job in the future. She is very excited to participate in her first production ever, and is grateful that Yihan, her dear roommate plus director of Sunrise has given her the opportunity to be able to do so. Outside of theatre, she loves watching anime, reading, and perhaps sleeping and cooking, too.

## Production Team

**Set & Prop Designers:** Cathy Bi '28, Arwyn Wu '28

**Costume Designers:** Kimely Li '27, Isabel Li '28

**Sound Designers:** Doreen Dai '27, Mary Zhou '28

**Light Designer:** Becky Chen '25

**Dramaturgs:** Brianna Dong '27, Alice Zhang '28

**Publicity:** Sandy Shan '26, Erica Zhang '27

## Special Thanks

**Script Translation:** Nuo Lu, Guanyan Qian, Yunhan Wang (Fudan University)

**After-show Talk Guest:** Prof. Mingwei Song

**Voice Coach:** Paul Valley

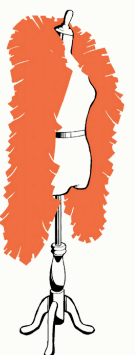
**Production Support:** Wellesley College Upstage, Prof. David Towlun, Eliza Mei '27

## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are performing on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary unceded land of the Massachusetts people. We recognize that we are on stolen land, and we extend our gratitude to the many Indigenous peoples who have rich histories here, including the Massachusetts, Wampanoag, and Nipmuc nations, for their ongoing stewardship of the land. We as Upstage commit to recognizing, supporting, and advocating for the sovereignty of the Indigenous Nations whose traditional territories are in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as for the many Indigenous people who live, work and study in Wellesley Massachusetts, and beyond globally. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and commit to holding both the college and our company more accountable to the needs of the Indigenous peoples. We also want to extend our appreciation to NAISA, for helping to provide this language.

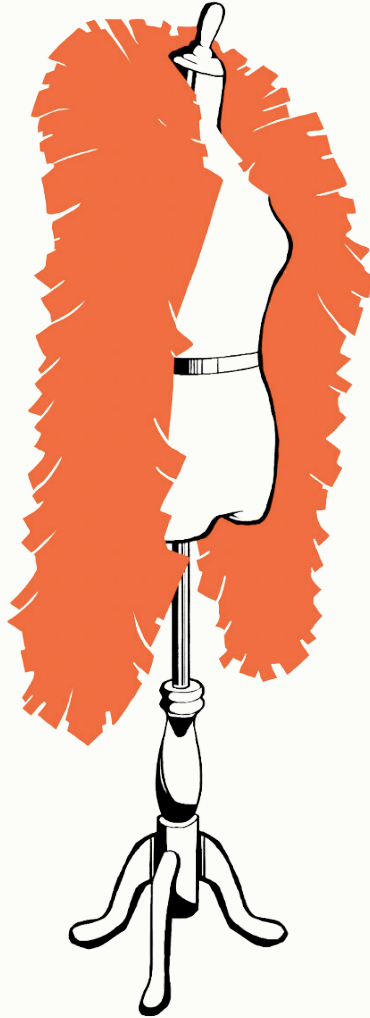
## About Upstage

Upstage is a student-run theater organization at Wellesley College. We have 3-4 performances each season, and we are dedicated to embrace more diversity and inclusivity into the theater community at Wellesley. In this season, we are going to have Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* this December, and Jane Chamber's *Last Summer* at Bluefish Cove, performing in February, and Lucas Hnaith's *The Thin Place*, performing in March. For more information about auditions, sign-ups, and other events, please follow @wellesleycollegeupstage on Instagram.



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# **SUNRISE 2024 FALL**



**Directed by Yihan Ling**  
**Produced by Upstage**