

Exploration of Holistic Education Integrating Tradition and Modernity in Zijin Huazhao Opera

Ying Lin

Heyuan Polytechnic, Heyuan City, Guangdong Province, 517000, China

Abstract: *Zijin Huazhao Opera, originated from the religious rituals in Zijin County, Guangdong Province, has a deep cultural heritage and unique artistic characteristics. With the change of the times, how to integrate it with modern education concepts has become an urgent problem to be solved. Through the combination of aesthetic education, moral education, ideological education, mental health, heritage and science and technology, Zijin Huazhao Opera not only inherits the traditional culture, but also promotes the all-round quality development of students. This paper explores the application of Zijin Huazhao Opera in whole-person education and proposes specific practical strategies, aiming to provide new ideas and methods for the education of traditional theatre arts.*

Keywords: *Zijin Huazhao Opera; traditional arts; modern education; whole person education*

1. Introduction

In today's society, the goal of education is not only to impart knowledge, but more importantly to cultivate students' comprehensive quality and all-round ability. With the acceleration of globalisation and the rapid development of science and technology, the inheritance of traditional culture and art is facing unprecedented challenges. How to combine traditional arts with modern education concepts is not only the responsibility of cultural inheritance, but also an important topic of education in the new era. Zijin Huazhao Opera, as a traditional opera art form originating from Zijin County, Guangdong Province, carries a rich local culture and historical memory. Its unique performance form and content not only demonstrate the artistic charm of local opera, but also contain rich educational significance^[1]. Under the background of whole-person education, Zijin Huazhao Opera, as an art form integrating music, dance and theatre, has unique aesthetic value and educational potential, which makes it an important carrier for improving students' artistic quality, moral sentiment, cultural identity and social responsibility. Integrating the Zijin Huazhao Opera into the modern education system is not only an innovative development of traditional art, but also an important initiative to cultivate the overall quality of students.

2. Traditional Artistic Characteristics and Educational Value of Zijin Huazhao Opera

2.1 The Origin and Development of the Zijin Huazhao Opera

Originating in Zijin County, Guangdong Province, Zijin Huazhao Opera was initially derived from the local 'God Dynasty' ritual activities, and is a kind of witch song and dance performance with strong religious colours. With the passage of time, this form of performance gradually evolved from a religious ceremony to a local theatre art, forming the unique Huazhao Opera. The early development of Huazhao Opera was closely related to the needs of the rural society, especially in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, when villagers prayed for good weather conditions and elimination of epidemics, they often invited artists to perform through rituals^[2]. The performance form of Huazhao Opera is simple and direct, with strong local flavour, simple singing, witty and humorous lyrics, which is loved by the local people. After entering the 20th century, Huazhao opera has undergone multiple artistic innovations and developments. During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, opera artists absorbed elements of Cantonese opera to enrich and diversify their performance techniques and repertoire. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the cultural department of Zijin County began to plan for the protection and inheritance of Huazhao Opera, further improved its performance system, and combined traditional art with modern cultural needs. After years of development, the Zijin huazhao Opera has gradually formed a relatively complete repertoire system and a unique artistic style. It not

only enjoys a high reputation locally, but also participates in national-level art activities many times, becoming one of China's important intangible cultural heritages.

2.2 Artistic Features of ZiJin Huazhao Opera

The artistic characteristics of ZiJin Huazhao Opera are mainly reflected in its unique music, performance forms and character settings. Its singing fuses temple music and folk ditties, forming a multi-part coupling structure with distinctive local characteristics. Especially in the 'God Dynasty' ceremony, the lyrics of Zijin Huazhao Opera have a mysterious religious atmosphere, but also rich in life, the expression is simple and straightforward, with a strong artistic influence. The performance movements are concise and expressive, and through the imitation of daily labour, a series of close-to-life images are created, which not only show the production labour of farmers, but also reflect the vitality and elegance of vernacular culture. In terms of character design, Zijin Huazhao Opera presents traditional Chinese opera roles such as "sheng", "dan", and "chou", and has gradually absorbed the performance techniques of Cantonese opera with the changing times, forming a more diverse character system^[3]. Each character has distinct personality traits, and through the portrayal and performance of different characters, rich emotions and social values are conveyed. In addition, the performance style of Zijin Huazhao Opera focuses on body language and dance elements, and the performers combine vivid body movements with singing to form a vibrant and dynamic artistic expression.

3. Integration of Zijin Huazhao Opera and Modern Educational Concepts

3.1 Aesthetic education: developing aesthetic and artistic qualities

As a traditional art form that integrates music, dance, and drama, Zijin Huazhao Opera has unique educational value in aesthetic education. Its unique performance style and musical singing not only provide audio-visual enjoyment, but also cultivate students' aesthetic ability in an invisible way. Through appreciating Zijin Huazhao Opera, students can feel the aesthetic value of traditional art and deeply understand the cultural connotation of traditional art, thus enhancing their knowledge and understanding of beauty. Performances full of life, emotional singing and rhythmic dance in theatre all help students to develop a deep experience of the arts in a subtle way, and stimulate their interest in and love of the arts. In addition, the characterisation and plot setting in Zijin Huazhao Opera can help students enhance their artistic expression and creativity, and stimulate their imagination and desire for artistic expression^[4]. In this process, students are not only able to deeply experience the charm of traditional art through imitation and expression, but also to develop their observation and critical thinking of art. Through this comprehensive art education, students not only master the skills of appreciating beauty, but also improve their self-expression ability in practice, thus cultivating all-round art literacy and enhancing their artistic emotion and cultural identity.

3.2 Moral Education: Shaping Moral Sentiments and Social Responsibility

In the process of showing life and expressing emotions, the Zijin Huazhao Opera contains profound moral connotations. Many plays convey moral values such as justice and kindness, honesty and perseverance through the experiences and turning points of the characters. This form of theatre can provide students with vivid moral situations, help them draw moral strength from the actions and emotions of the characters, and inspire goodness within them. Zijin Huazhao Opera pays special attention to guiding students to think about social responsibilities and obligations through the ups and downs of dramatic emotions and changes in the fate of characters. During the process of watching and participating in theatrical performances, students not only learn to distinguish right from wrong, good from evil, but also unconsciously establish a sense of responsibility towards society, inspiring their awareness of contributing to society and others^[5]. Through such artistic experiences, students can not only deepen their understanding of social justice and moral norms, but also feel the complexity and warmth of human nature, thus cultivating more mature emotions and character. The moral education significance of Zijin Huazhao Opera is profound. Through vivid plot and character shaping, it enables students to form correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values unconsciously, helps them form correct behavioral norms in a multicultural context, and cultivates their awareness of actively taking social responsibility in real life.

3.3 Civic education: passing on national culture and social awareness

As an important part of traditional culture, Zijin Huazhao Opera deeply embodies national spirit and social consciousness in its performance content and cultural background. In modern education, Zijin Huazhao Opera is not only a carrier of artistic inheritance, but also an effective tool for ideological and political education. Through the storylines, character development, and social themes portrayed in drama, students can gain a more intuitive understanding and recognition of the unique value of traditional culture. Zijin Huazhao Opera often inspires students' sense of identity and pride in national culture by depicting the struggle process, social moral norms, and patriotism of the Chinese nation. It enables students to realize that cultural inheritance is not only about appreciating art, but also about taking responsibility for national spirit and social responsibility through observation and participation. Through the study and understanding of Zijin Huazhao Opera, students can cultivate a profound sense of social responsibility, enhance their collectivist spirit and national identity, and provide strong support for the transmission and promotion of socialist values with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Through its profound cultural connotations and artistic forms, Zijin Huazhao Opera helps students establish a more stable cultural confidence, enabling them to always adhere to their cultural roots in the context of globalization and multiculturalism, firmly grasp the spiritual bond of national culture, and enhance national identity and cultural belonging.

3.4 Psychological Health Education: Emotional Expression and Regulation

Zijin Huazhao Opera provides students with a unique platform for emotional expression and regulation. Through character shaping and plot development in theatrical performances, students can empathize with the emotional changes of their characters and learn how to understand and express their emotions. In the process of participating in the performance, students not only exercise the smooth expression of emotions, but also gain a deeper understanding of emotional regulation in interpersonal relationships through reflecting on the emotions of the characters.

The singing, dancing, and body movements in Zijin Huazhao Opera can help students release inner stress, relieve tension, and cultivate positive emotional management skills. Especially in the face of complex social situations and emotional fluctuations, Zijin Huazhao Opera helps students establish emotional regulation strategies and promote the development of mental health through its vivid emotional depiction. By interacting with other actors and performing on stage, students learn how to release their emotions in public, overcome tension and anxiety, and enhance their confidence. This emotional expression training is crucial for the psychological growth of adolescents, helping them better face challenges and pressures in life and enhance their psychological resilience. The Zijin Huazhao Opera provides students with a way of emotional venting through artistic forms, promotes their psychological balance and harmony, helps students establish healthier psychological qualities, and improves their emotional intelligence.

3.5 Inheritance: preservation and innovation of traditional culture

Zijin Huazhao Opera is not only a precious heritage of traditional culture in Guangdong, but also an important carrier for the protection and innovation of ethnic culture. In the context of modern education, the inheritance significance of Zijin Huazhao Opera is even more profound. It not only carries the historical memory of local culture, but also provides students with a platform to understand and inherit traditional culture. Through exposure to the Zijin Huazhao Opera, students can experience a strong local atmosphere and traditional skills, cultivating respect and recognition for traditional art. In the process of appreciation and participation, they not only understand the artistic form of drama, but also appreciate the cultural values and spiritual connotations it contains. However, with the change of the times, how to combine Zijin Huazhao Opera with contemporary aesthetic and educational needs has become a problem that must be solved in the process of its inheritance. The introduction of modern educational concepts has made the protection of Zijin Huazhao Opera not only limited to the preservation of traditional skills, but also includes innovative development. By integrating modern technology and artistic expression forms, Zijin Huazhao Opera can attract more young audiences and stimulate their interest and love for traditional art. This combination of innovation and inheritance opens up a new space for the future development of Zijin Huazhao Opera and provides a sustainable path for cultural inheritance.

3.6 Science and technology: the application of modern technology in the Zijin Huazhao Opera

The integration of modern technology has brought unprecedented changes to the performance and dissemination of Zijin Huazhao Opera. Through digital technology, Zijin Huazhao Opera can not only preserve the essence of traditional art forms, but also achieve innovative improvements in visual effects, sound design, and stage performance. The application of technologies such as virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) allows students to have a deeper understanding and experience of the cultural connotations of Zijinhua Chaoxi through interaction. Through virtual performances and immersive experiences, students can not only experience the artistic beauty of traditional Chinese opera, but also participate in performances in the virtual world, further stimulating their interest in traditional culture. In addition, modern technology has provided new ways for the educational dissemination of Zijin Huazhao Opera. Through multimedia teaching methods, students can not only watch classic plays on online platforms, but also participate in online play creation and performance, expanding the dissemination scope and audience of Zijin Huazhao Opera. The combination of social media and streaming platforms enables Zijin Huazhao Opera to transcend regional and cultural limitations and attract the attention of global audiences. The introduction of technology has enabled Zijin Huazhao Opera to no longer be limited to traditional stage performances, but to achieve more diversified expression and teaching through virtual environments and intelligent technology. The application of technology not only brings new vitality to Zijin Huazhao Opera, but also enriches teaching methods for modern education, enhances the interactivity and fun of art education, and endows traditional art forms with more diverse expression methods and wider dissemination platforms.

4. Exploration of the integration of traditional and modern elements in the practice of Zijin Huazhao Opera in holistic education

4.1 Interdisciplinary integration enhances students' comprehensive quality

Interdisciplinary integration is an important trend in modern education, aimed at cultivating students' comprehensive abilities through the integration of multiple disciplines. In the teaching of Zijin Huazhao Opera, the combination of art and other disciplines can promote the multidimensional development of students' literacy. Zijin Huazhao Opera is not only a cultural and artistic heritage, but also involves multiple fields such as history, literature, music, and dance. Through interdisciplinary integration, students can not only enhance their artistic literacy but also stimulate innovative thinking, improve teamwork skills, and enhance their sense of social responsibility while participating in the learning and performance of Zijin Huazhao Opera.

For example, in the process of learning the Zijin Huazhao Opera, students first need to understand its historical background, and this link can be combined with the subject of history to help students understand the social background and cultural connotations of the theatre, and then improve their sense of identity and historical awareness of local culture. By studying the Zijin Huazhao Opera, students can gain a deeper understanding of the formation process of traditional arts and their important role in local society, broaden their horizons, and increase their understanding and awe of traditional culture. At the same time, the language and literary lines in drama can stimulate students' language expression ability, cultivate their language sense and literary literacy. By reading aloud, memorizing, and performing, students not only improve their Chinese language skills, but also feel the emotional changes and psychological processes of characters in role-playing, promoting the development of their emotional intelligence. The music and dance parts of Zijin Huazhao Opera, especially the singing style and dance steps in traditional Chinese opera, can be organically integrated with music and dance courses to help students enhance their sense of rhythm and dance expression. Through imitation and performance, students can experience the close relationship between music and movement, enhancing their sensitivity to music and physical coordination. In actual teaching, teachers can stimulate students' multiple learning interests and potentials by organising students to participate in performances and rehearsals of Zijin Huazhao Opera. Students take on different roles in teamwork, and by cooperating with others and completing performance tasks together, they can effectively improve their teamwork and communication skills. At the same time, the ethical concepts and philosophies of life demonstrated in the Zijin Huazhao Opera provide students with opportunities to reflect on life, morality and social responsibility. Through the fate of the characters and plot development in the play, students are able to better understand interpersonal relationships, social norms and personal responsibilities, and deepen their social awareness and moral feelings. In this kind of interdisciplinary teaching, students are not only enhanced in terms of art, but also gained comprehensive development in their ways of thinking,

emotional expression and sense of social responsibility, thus truly realising the goal of whole-person education.

4.2 Application of modern technology and innovative teaching methods

The application of modern technology has become an important driving force for educational development, especially in art education, where the introduction of technology can greatly enrich teaching methods and enhance learning outcomes. As a traditional art form, Zijin Huazhao Opera can break through the limitations of time and space with the help of modern technology, providing a more vivid and interactive learning experience. Through virtual reality, digital platforms, and multimedia tools, the teaching of Zijinhua Chaoxi not only becomes more vivid and vivid, but also increases students' sense of participation and immersion, promoting their understanding and interest in art^[6].

For example, using virtual reality (VR) technology, students can enter a virtual Zijin Huazhao Opera performance scene and immerse themselves in the charm of traditional opera. In such a virtual environment, students can not only watch the classic repertoires of Zijin Huazhao Opera, but also interact with the characters in the opera and deepen their understanding of the drama characters, plots and cultural backgrounds through role-playing. This immersive experience not only allows students to more intuitively experience the art form of Zijin Huazhao Opera, but also helps them better understand the history and culture behind the drama. Through this new learning method, students can deeply appreciate the unique charm of Zijin Huazhao Opera from multiple visual and sensory stimuli, experience every detail in the drama, and cultivate their interest and love for traditional art. In addition, the application of digital platforms makes the teaching of Zijin Huazhao Opera no longer limited to the classroom and traditional performance venues. Students can watch classic Zijin Huazhao Opera performances, learn related skills, and even participate in script creation and rehearsals through online platforms, and this combination of online and offline breaks down the limitations of time and space, and greatly expands the learning channels for students. In the actual teaching process, multimedia devices such as projectors, touchscreens, etc. can also be used to display historical materials, performance videos, and script analysis of Zijin Huazhao Opera, helping students fully perceive the diversity of art and the historical depth of opera in both visual and auditory senses. Moreover, students can use recording and video recording techniques for self-evaluation and feedback during rehearsals and performances, objectively analyze their acting skills through modern technological means, and continuously improve and enhance their performance skills. Through the application of these technologies, students not only improve their level of performing arts, but also enhance their self-learning and innovation abilities, promoting the modern teaching innovation of Zijin Huazhao Opera. The integration of modern technology has brought more possibilities and vitality to the teaching of Zijin Huazhao Opera, and has also made traditional art shine brighter in the new era, breaking through the limitations of previous teaching and endowing art education with new forms and depths.

4.3 Creation and transmission of repertoire to promote the development of cultural identity

The creation and transmission of the repertoire of the Zijin Huazhao Opera is a core element in the development of cultural identity. By constantly creating and adapting the repertoire, it not only maintains the vitality of the traditional art, but also promotes cultural continuity and innovation. In the context of holistic education, the creation and inheritance of plays is not only the inheritance of artistic forms, but also the cultivation of cultural identity. By participating in the creation and interpretation of plays, students can not only deeply understand the connotation of traditional culture, but also integrate modern values into it through creativity and adaptation, thereby promoting the modern inheritance of culture. The creation of plays is not only the transmission of traditional culture, but also the cultivation of students' cultural identity and confidence.

For example, in the process of participating in the creation of the Zijin Huazhao Opera production, students can gain a deeper understanding of the historical background, character setting and plot design of the script, master the basic elements of the opera, and make innovations and adaptations. Through this kind of creative activity, students can better understand the artistic charm in Zijin Huazhao Opera, especially the emotional expression and artistic expression in the opera. During the creative process, students not only learn the structure and techniques of traditional plays, but also incorporate modern life elements into script creation, creating new plays related to contemporary society. This innovative creative process not only enhances students' identification with traditional culture, but also allows them to discover deeper connections with their own cultural background and inspires their cultural self-confidence. Secondly, students may draw inspiration from stories around them, local customs and

social phenomena in life, forming new dramatic plots and character images, so as to make the Zijin Huazhao Opera exude new vitality against the backdrop of the new era. The process of creating and passing on plays also promotes the cultivation of students' sense of teamwork. In the process of co-creating a play, students need to cooperate with others and coordinate various aspects such as script arrangement, role allocation, rehearsal process, etc., which cultivates the spirit of collaboration and communication skills. In addition, students are able to share their understanding and feelings when watching other plays and discussing the creation process with others, and this process of cultural exchange helps them to build a sense of identity and pride in their own national culture. Through the creation and performance of the plays, the students not only deepened their in-depth understanding of Zijin Huazhao Opera but also cultivated their emotional connection to traditional culture. In the process, the students better inherited and innovated this traditional art form, and at the same time promoted the enhancement of their cultural identity, improved their appreciation and love for traditional arts, strengthened their identification with and pride in their own national culture, and further strengthened their cultural self-confidence.

5. Conclusion

As a traditional art form in Guangdong Province, Zijin Huazhao Opera carries rich cultural connotations and historical values. Under the framework of holistic education, integrating it with modern educational concepts not only injects new vitality into the inheritance of traditional art, but also provides strong support for the comprehensive development of students. Through the integration of multiple dimensions such as aesthetic education, moral education, ideological and political education, and mental health education, Zijin Huazhao Opera helps students gain profound enlightenment in art appreciation, emotional expression, moral shaping, and cultural identity. At the same time, the application of modern technology and innovation in drama creation not only enhance the interactivity and fun of education, but also enable students to gain richer knowledge and practical experience through participation. The inheritance and innovation of Zijin Huazhao Opera not only protects traditional culture, but also cultivates cultural confidence and social responsibility. Through the educational practice of this art form, students not only inherit excellent traditional culture, but also provide a solid foundation for their personalized and comprehensive growth.

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