

Montgomery Focus: Beijing Opera Draws American Fans

On November 24, 2015, Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) launched the 2nd Chinese Culture Club in November—Beijing Opera, at Bartlett Hall on Montgomery campus.

The lecture started with Ms. Peisong Wang's introduction to the history and presentation of Beijing Opera, then the classification of performers and roles as well as the significance of masks. Ms. Wang then introduced Mei School, one of the four main Schools of Beijing Opera and its leading artist Mr. Mei Lanfang and his performance. Attendees also got the chance to enjoy the performance of other famous artists in Beijing Opera by video, and learned to perform Beijing Opera following the lecturer's guidance. They were deeply attracted by the wonderful sound and beautiful masks, and were imitating and performing Beijing Opera in delight.

The workshop ends with a mask painting section. Participants worked very carefully painting the masks and cherished their own works with pride and great happiness. When the audiences couldn't wait to show their mask painting to friends and family, we see the special charm of traditional Chinese culture in American society. We hope a small piece of mask painting work will be a beautiful name card of traditional Chinese Opera and the interest to Beijing Opera will guide our American friends to explore the broad and profound Chinese culture.

