

Discussion on Artistry and Techniques of Role Shaping in Drama Performance

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Abstract: Role shaping in dramatic performance is a fusion of art and skills, which involves the deep digging of character, the delicate expression of emotion, and the logical construction of behavior. Actors not only analyze the script and understand the emotions of the role to create a multi-dimensional, three-dimensional character image, but also need to use the skills of sound, form, lines, and so on, to convey the role's internal emotions and psychological changes. This process tests the artistic accomplishment and skill level of the actors, and requires them to have keen observation and rich imagination and creativity. Through the analysis of the role of Yu Ji in the Peking Opera *Farewell My Concubine*, it shows the deep integration of artistry and skill, highlighting the unique charm of dramatic performance.

Keywords: Role shaping; Emotion expression; Dramatic skill

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1. Introduction

Dramatic performance is an important form of artistic expression, and role shaping is one of the core elements of dramatic performance. On the stage of drama, actors can use their superb acting skills and deep understanding of the role to bring the characters in the script to life in front of the audience. This process not only tests the actor's artistic accomplishment and performance skills, but also contains a rich integration of artistry and skill. Therefore, an in-depth study of the artistic connotation and skill application of role shaping in dramatic performance can provide useful guidance for dramatic actors and promote the continuous development of dramatic performing arts.

2. The artistry of role shaping in dramatic performance

2.1. The depth of character excavation

In dramatic performance, the deep exploration of character is the key to the artistry of character creation. Actors need to conduct script analysis, character background research, and self-emotional experience, etc., to dig

deeply into characters' personality traits, including their external behavior and inner psychology. This process requires actors to have keen observation and deep insight, as well as rich imagination and creativity, in order to transform the flat words in the script into three-dimensional, vivid characters. When digging into a character's personality, an actor should first pay attention to the characters' basic character traits, such as bravery, cowardice, kindness, and cunning. These characteristics are usually reflected by the characters' mannerisms, attitudes towards others, and reactions in the face of difficulties. Actors need to analyze these characteristics in detail and accurately present them in their performances. The actor also needs to delve into the inner world of the character, including the influence of his upbringing, family background, and social environment on the formation of his character. Although these factors are not directly reflected in the characters' lines and actions, they play a crucial role in shaping the characters' personalities. With a deep understanding of these factors, the actor can better grasp the character development vein of the character, so as to show the character's personality characteristics more naturally in the performance ^[1].

It is worth noting that the actor should also pay attention to the character's personality change and growth when exploring the character's personality. In a drama, many characters' personalities change as the story progresses. Actors need to accurately grasp these changes and present the growing process of the characters to the audience with delicate performances. This not only requires actors to have solid acting skills, but also deep emotional experience and a keen ability to capture emotions. Only in this way can actors create character images with depth and layers on stage, allowing the audience to enjoy the drama while also feeling the charm of the characters' personalities and the appeal of art ^[2,3].

2.2. The delicate expression of the characters' emotions

In dramatic performance, the delicate expression of the character's emotions is an important yardstick to measure the artistry of character creation. Actors need to accurately capture and delicately convey the emotional fluctuations of characters in different situations, which requires actors not only to have rich emotional experience and perception, but also to flexibly use voice, body movements, facial expressions, and other means of expression to vividly present the inner world of characters. Delicate emotional expression is reflected in the accurate grasp of the character's emotions. An actor needs to deeply analyze the root of a character's emotions and understand his or her psychological state under a specific plot background, so as to truly reveal his or her emotions. For example, when facing a sad scene, an actor should show the character's external crying or silence, but also pay attention to details such as the hollow eyes and trembling voice, to convey the character's inner pain and despair. In this process, actors also need to pay attention to the layers and coherence of emotional expression, to ensure that the characters' emotions transition naturally with the development of the plot, and to avoid abrupt emotional changes affecting the audience's watching experience ^[4].

Delicate emotional expression also needs to focus on resonating with the audience. In the process of performance, actors should strive to find emotional commonalities with the audience and trigger the emotional resonance of the audience with a true and natural performance. This requires actors to pay attention to the emotional state of the role during the performance as well as to the reaction of the audience, timely adjust the performance rhythm and emotional intensity, to ensure that the delicate expression of the role's emotions can be accurately conveyed to the audience and trigger its deep emotional resonance. With such exquisite expression, the role shaping in dramatic performance will be more three-dimensional and fuller, and the artistic appeal will also be significantly improved ^[5,6].

2.3. The logical construction of character behavior

The character's behavior reflects his personality and inner world, and also promotes the development of the plot. Therefore, during the performance process, the actor must deeply understand the character, accurately grasp the logical motivation behind his behavior, and ensure that every action and decision is in line with the character's personality settings and situational needs ^[7].

On the one hand, the main task of logical construction is to clarify the motivation of the character's behavior. Actors need to analyze the character's situation, goals, and relationship with other characters in the script to deduce the reasonable motivation behind his or her behavior. For example, when a greedy character faces the temptation of profit, the logic of his behavior should be to pursue his own interests at all costs; an upright character, on the other hand, may stick to his principles and refuse temptation. An actor should be able to accurately capture these motivations when acting and translate them into the character's specific behavior with a delicate performance.

On the other hand, the logical construction of the character's behavior also needs to pay attention to coherence and rationality. In a dramatic performance, a character's behavior should be consistent with the development of the plot, and abrupt or illogical behavior should be avoided. During the performance, actors should always pay attention to the changes of the character's psychological state and external environment, and adjust the character's behavior flexibly according to these changes, so as to ensure that their behavior not only conforms to the character's personality characteristics, but also promotes the reasonable development of the plot. Such logical construction makes the characters in the drama performance more three-dimensional and real, and the audience can better understand and feel the inner world of the characters ^[8-10].

3. The skills of role shaping in dramatic performance

3.1. The use of sound skills

The change of the actor's voice can convey the role's emotional state, personality characteristics, and identity background. First of all, the level and speed of the voice can directly reflect the emotional changes of the character, such as a high and rapid voice when excited, and a low and slow voice when sad. Actors need to adjust their intonation flexibly according to the emotional ups and downs of the characters, so that the emotions of the characters can be truly revealed. Secondly, the use of timbre is also an important means to shape the image of the role. Different timbres can create different role images, such as a low and gravelly timbre suitable for shaping a calm and restrained role, while a crisp and pleasant timbre is suitable for shaping a lively and cheerful role. Finally, the use of dialect and accent can also add a unique identity background to the role, making the role more vivid and three-dimensional. In the process of performance, actors should accurately grasp the language characteristics of the role, and use the cadence of the voice, the change of timbre, and the dialect accent to depict the role image delicately, so as to enhance the artistic appeal of the drama performance. Therefore, the use of voice skills is an indispensable part of role shaping in dramatic performance, which requires actors to have profound phonetic skills and keen emotional perception ^[11].

3.2. Body control skills

The actor's precise body language can vividly convey the mood, personality, and state of the role. The maintenance of the body is the basis, actors need to adjust their standing, sitting, and walking posture according to the role's identity, personality, and emotional state, in order to show the unique temperament of the role. The use of body movements should be expressive and logical, every minute action should serve the role of

emotional expression and plot advancement, to avoid excessive exaggeration or blunt unnaturalness. Facial expression is an indispensable part of body control, which is directly related to the transmission of characters' emotions. Actors need to use subtle changes such as the movement of the eyes and the curvature of the mouth to delicately express the inner world of the characters and realize the three-dimensional shaping of the role image, so that the audience can resonate with the characters both visually and emotionally, thus enhancing the artistic effect of dramatic performance ^[12].

3.3. The processing skills of lines

The actor's accurate grasp and vivid interpretation of the lines can deeply reveal the character's personality characteristics and emotional state and promote the development of the plot. Therefore, drama actors need to deeply understand the connotation of the lines, grasp their emotional colors and subtext, and ensure that the thoughts, emotions, and intentions of the characters can be accurately conveyed in the interpretation. When reading lines, actors should pay attention to the change of speech speed and intonation, according to the character characteristics and emotional ups and downs of the role, flexible use of speed, high and low, light and other phonetic skills, so that the lines are full of rhythm and appeal.

In addition, the handling of lines should also pay attention to the coordination and cooperation with other performance elements. When performing, actors should closely combine their lines with body movements and facial expressions to form a complete performance system. For example, when expressing strong emotions such as anger or sadness, actors can use exaggerated expressions of body movements and facial expressions, combined with powerful line reading, to make the emotional state of the character more vivid and prominent. At the same time, actors also need to pay attention to the cohesion and echo of the dialogue between the lines and other characters to ensure the continuity and logic of the plot. The actors' precise handling of the lines and coordination with other performance elements can create a more three-dimensional and vivid role image, so that the audience can deeply feel the charm of the characters and the connotation of the story while enjoying the drama performance ^[13].

4. A case study on the integration of artistry and skill in role shaping in dramatic performance: Taking Yu Ji's role shaping in *Farewell My Concubine* of Peking Opera as an example

Among the traditional Chinese operas, Peking Opera, with its unique artistic charm and profound cultural deposits, has become a treasure of traditional Chinese culture. *Farewell My Concubine*, as a classic opera in Beijing Opera, shows the historical background and conflict of the Chu and Han dynasties. Moreover, through the role of Yu Ji, it deeply reveals the complexity of human nature and the entanglement of emotions. The following will take Yu Ji's role shaping as an example to explore the integration of artistry and skill of role shaping in dramatic performance.

4.1. Role background and artistic orientation

Yu Ji, as the heroine in *Farewell My Concubine*, is Xiang Yu's beloved concubine. She is also a woman with outstanding talent and a profound sense of justice. In the play, the image of Yu Ji is endowed with high artistic value. She is Xiang Yu's emotional sustenance and spiritual pillar. Therefore, when creating the role of Yu Ji, the actor needs to accurately grasp her complex and changeable inner world as well as the deep emotional bond between her and Xiang Yu.

4.2. The integration of artistry and skill

4.2.1. Artistic treatment of singing and speaking

Peking Opera is famous for its unique singing style and intonation. In *Farewell My Concubine*, Yu Ji's singing style and intonation show her delicate emotional world and noble character. In the performance of Yu Ji, the actor should pay attention to the combination of the gentleness of the singing and the emotion of the intonation. With delicate voice control and emotional input, Yu Ji's deep friendship with Xiang Yu, as well as her helplessness and determination in the face of separation and death, are vividly displayed. In terms of singing, the actress can use the "Mei School" singing style in Beijing Opera to show Yu Ji's elegant temperament and deep friendship with its fresh and refined features and full charm. As for the intonation, they should pay attention to the cadence of the voice and the fluctuation of emotions, so that each sentence of Yu Ji is full of appeal and can directly strike the audience's heart ^[14].

4.2.2. Delicate depiction of physical movements and facial expressions

Beijing Opera performance pays attention to the four skills and five methods of "singing, reading, and fighting," in which physical movements and facial expressions are important means to shape the role image. In *Farewell My Concubine*, Yu Ji's physical movements and facial expressions are endowed with high artistic value. The actor needs to show Yu Ji's inner emotional fluctuations and personality characteristics through the delicate depiction of her speech, mantras, and eye movements. In terms of physical movements, the actress can learn from the elegant gestures of ancient women and combine the figure performance in Beijing Opera to vividly show Yu Ji's softness and tenacity. In terms of facial expression, the actress needs to use subtle changes such as the movement of eyes and the curvature of the mouth to convey Yu Ji's inner joy, sadness, and determination ^[15].

4.2.3. The auxiliary role of costumes, makeup, and props

In Beijing Opera performances, costumes, makeup, and props are indispensable elements in shaping the characters' images. In *Farewell My Concubine*, Yu Ji's costumes are mainly gorgeous and elegant, reflecting not only her noble status but also her pursuit of beauty. In terms of makeup, the actors need to use the unique makeup techniques of Peking Opera, such as "patch" and "hair cut," to show Yu Ji's beautiful face and demure temperament. Props, such as swords and fans, became important carriers for Yu Ji to express her emotions and talents.

5. Conclusion

Through the discussion of the role shaping in the drama performance, the importance of combining artistry and skill is fully demonstrated. The in-depth exploration of characters' personalities not only requires actors to have a deep understanding of the characters' background and psychology, but also requires them to accurately present the characters' emotional and behavioral changes on stage. The delicate expression of emotions and the logical construction of behaviors are the keys to the realistic and layered sense of a role, and voice, body, and line skills are effective means to convey all of them. The role of Yu Ji in the Peking Opera *Farewell My Concubine* fully demonstrates the complexity and artistry of dramatic performance. Through her unique singing, physical movements, and facial expressions, the actress vividly presents the inner world of the role, which enhances the appeal of the play.

This combination of artistry and skill not only requires actors to have a solid performance foundation but also requires them to constantly explore and innovate in practice, so as to present a richer artistic experience for the audience. Every successful role creation cannot be separated from the actor's persistent pursuit of art and

deep understanding of the role. In the end, through the combination of art and skill, dramatic performance not only shows the multi-dimensional personality of the characters but also brings the audience into an artistic space full of emotions and thoughts.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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