



Opera on oestrogen

I AM woman, hear me sing.

Events company Tang Renaissance Communicators is celebrating girl power with two performances by the all-woman Chinese Yue opera troupe Shanghai Yue Opera House.

The performances also celebrate 100 years of Yue Opera, characterised by its exclusive focus on love stories. The art form originated in Shengzhou, Zhejiang province, in 1906.

Women started performing Yue opera in 1923 and they became more popular with audiences than all-male troupes. Since then they have come to define Yue opera.

Ms Foo Kok Wan, who heads Tang Renaissance and is an opera fan, says: "It's probably because females playing males will always look good."

► Shanghai Yue Opera House performs *Dream Of The Red Mansion* tomorrow and *The Meilong Inn* on Saturday at 8pm at the Esplanade Theatre. Tickets from \$88 to \$168 are available from Sistic (www.sistic.com.sg; tel: 6348 5555).