

BEIJING OPERA or PEKING OPERA

ENGLISH	SIMPLIFIED	TRADITIONAL	PINYIN
Peking Opera / Beijing Opera	京剧	京劇	jīng jù
Beijing Style Opera is called "National Opera" in Taiwan.	国剧	國劇	Guó jù
High pitched, lively music used to express an exciting mood.	西皮	西皮	Xīpí
Steady, deep and gentle music used to express a subdued mood.	二黄	二黃	Èr huáng
The main male role.	生	生	shēng
Role of an old man.	末	末	mò
A dignified older character.	老生	老生	Lǎoshēng
A young boy character.	娃娃生	娃娃生	Wá wa shēng
A young male character.	小生	小生	xiǎoshēng
A male military role.	武生	武生	wǔshēng
Red-faced male role.	红生	紅生	Hóngshēng
The general term for any female role. Traditionally female roles are played by male actors in full feminine dress and makeup.	旦	旦	dàn
A flirtatious and vivacious female.	花旦	花旦	Huādàn
An elderly female character.	老旦	老旦	lǎodàn

A female military role.	武旦	武旦	wǔdàn
A young female warrior.	刀马旦	刀馬旦	dāo mǎ dàn
Painted face male role.	净	淨	Jìng
Comedic male role.	丑	醜	chǒu

The colors of the performers makeup and costumes can often symbolize their personality or fate.

ENGLISH	SIMPLIFIED	TRADITIONAL	PINYIN
Red - Prosperity, intelligence, bravery, loyalty	红色	紅色	Hóngsè
Purple - Justice, sophistication	紫色	紫色	zǐsè
Blue - Fierceness, pride	蓝色	藍色	lán sè
Black - Rough, forthright	黑色	黑色	hēisè
Green - Violence	绿色	綠色	lǜsè
Yellow - Cruel, dangerous, cunning	黄色	黃色	huángsè
White - Evil, treacherous, dangerous, cunning	白色	白色	báisè