

Jiading Confucius Temple reopens, honoring tradition



Jiading Confucius Temple is the best-preserved county-level Confucius Temple in the Jiangnan region. — Yu Chao

Yu Chao and Ye Fengting

JIADING Confucius Temple, the largest existing ancient architectural complex in Shanghai, reopened to the public on September 22 after a 167-day renovation.

One day earlier, the 2024 Shanghai Confucius Cultural Festival was unveiled at the newly refurbished temple to promote Confucian culture.

Jiading Confucius Temple was built during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) and underwent more than 70 renovations, expansions and reconstructions until the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The latest renovation project, launched in May 2023, aimed to protect the temple's structural safety and historical appearance.

The core building, which is named as the Dacheng Hall, interprets the connection between Confucius and the Confucius temple, displaying the solemn ritual

sense of ancient architecture.

The Danghu Academy serves as the core exhibition platform for imperial examination culture. It has introduced a new social education experience area and a smart exhibition zone deploying digital technology to enhance visitors' experience.

Within the temple, the renovated Chinese Imperial Examination Museum covers a construction area of 2,270 square meters and displays more than 300 sets of cultural relics and auxiliary exhibits.

The Confucius temple has witnessed over 800 years of Jiading's history, which holds irreplaceable significance for studying local heritage and promoting traditional culture, said Lu Fangzhou, Party secretary of Jiading, who attended the inaugural ceremony of the cultural festival.

The Shanghai Confucius Cultural Festival has been held for 17 years since its launch in 2008. It will run

until October, featuring 16 themed activities. This year, Jiading District has also launched traditional cultural exchange events with three sister cities that have rich Confucian cultural ties, namely Quzhou in Zhejiang, Suzhou in Jiangsu, and Taipei in Taiwan.

"I believe such cultural exchanges will deepen emotional connections and promote the inheritance and development of excellent Chinese traditional culture," said Kong Lingli, a 76th-generation lineal descendant of Confucius.

The festival invited foreign visitors and international students, enhancing the global influence of Chinese traditional culture.

They engaged in interactive cultural activities at Jiading Confucius Temple, including dressing in *hanfu*, Jiangnan embroidery painting, lacquer fan painting, and Song Dynasty *diancha* (creating tea art in cups).

Shanghai Poly Grand Theater kicks off diverse new season

Ma Yue

SHANGHAI Poly Grand Theater, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, raised the curtain of its new performance season earlier this month. As planned, 36 stage productions in 73 performances will be presented through December.

Renowned choreographer and visual artist Shen Wei's double bill "Folding" and "Near the Terrace," presented by dancers from France, China and the United States on September 7 and 8, marked the start of the new performance season.

"Folding" and "Near the Terrace" are Shen's avant-garde classics.

After more than two decades, Shen restaged the classic works in Shanghai, upgrading the stage setting, costumes and lighting.

The programs for the new season also cover music, drama and shows for children.

Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester Frankfurt, under the baton of Jörg-Peter Weigle, will give a concert on September 30 — Poly Grand Theater's 10th birthday.

Violin soloist Yang Tianwa will join the performance. French musical comedy "Sax" will meet audiences at the theater on October 27. The performance is dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France.

There are also dramas, musicals and acrobatic shows for children in October. Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center's "12 Angry Men" will be performed on November 29 and 30.

"The Dream Interrupted," starring Chinese comedy star Chen Peisi and his son Chen Dayu, is returning to the Shanghai stage from December 5 to 8.

Those interested can follow the theater's official Wechat account "SHPGT2014" for more information.

Philips opens first home experience store in China

Lu Yuqin and Ye Fengting

CHINA'S first Philips home experience store is to open in Nanxiang Town next year, featuring a full range of air conditioners, household appliances and mother-and-baby products.

Renovations have been completed at a 2,000-square-meter showroom in the Nanxiang Zhidi office complex at

1188 Huyi Highway, with the exhibition setup anticipated to be ready by January 2025.

The second and third floors house two operation centers, serving as Philips' research and development and the marketing hub, integrating innovative research, live-streaming and e-commerce incubation.

Liu Guoyuan, head of Philips Avert

China, said: "This home experience store stands out by offering not only baby products, but also various products for new parents, providing a one-stop shopping experience for families."

She added that combining a renowned global brand like Philips with Chinese craftsmanship to take

products abroad would undoubtedly create greater value.

The Nanxiang Town government, Lantian Economic City and Nanxiang Zhidi offered comprehensive services from project initiation to operations. Nanxiang also supported talent recruitment and offered rent subsidies, accelerating the progress of the Philips project.