

Caring for Our Community



It takes two and a half hours to get this make-up on, and five minutes to take off. Lyn Tse (nee Yuar Wah Joe) says she loses her shyness on stage. Here she is as a Princess in the opera titled *The Engagement of The Spoilt Princess*. Lyn comes from many generations of opera performers, including her eight brothers and sisters.

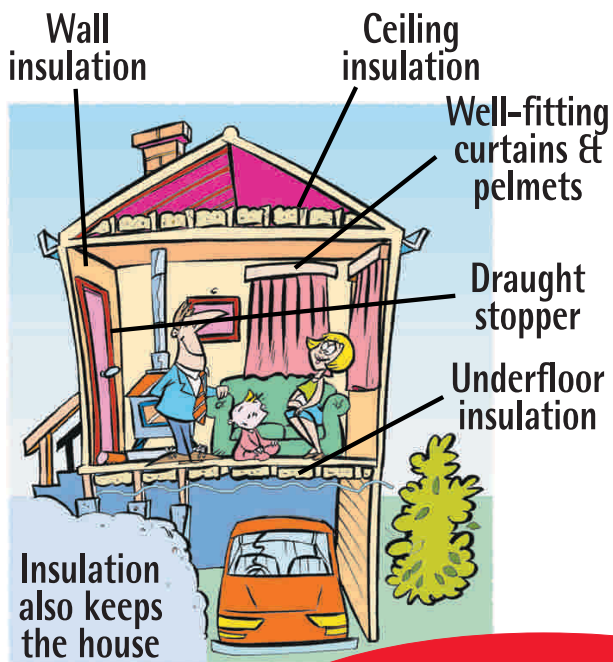
13th Century Chinese Opera in Levin

"What we do can be a surprise because some people think all Chinese people work in take away shops."

Most Chinese opera portrays the historical kingdom and life story of China. It's unlike Western opera and the screeching falsetto of the singers can sound strange to Western ears. But the costumes, dramatic make-up and feeling of deep history, can be spellbinding.



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Above: The 30-member Levin Chinese Cultural Group performs in the community, raising money for charity. Here, they perform at the fundraising night for the Mayoral flood relief fund charity performance in 2004. Other performances include Millennium Celebrations, Chinese New Year and Starship Children's Hospital

Left: Tony Tse is the Event Manager for the group, and his wife, Lyn Tse, is the star performer. Mr Tse arrived in New Zealand in 1953, Mrs Tse in 1963. Their daughter recently performed in the musical *Grease* at the local college.

The Levin Cultural Group doesn't charge for its performances and welcomes invitations for charity events from the community. Phone (06) 368 3492 for more information.