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| **Shalom Shanghai debuts on stage in Shanghai** |  |  |

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| **As part of the 2013 China Shanghai Internatonal Arts Festival, *Shalom Shanghai*, a play with music set in a Jewish-run café in Shanghai during WWII made its premiere on 17 October at the Malanhua Theatre.**  The Consulate General of Israel in Shanghai also arranged a special presentation for invited friends from culture and media to watch the play together on 20 October.  An earlier version staged at the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum in March 2012 was highly acclaimed for its insightful interpretation of this touching historical story.  Now, under the auspices of the Shanghai Theatre Academy, a revised and enhanced production under the direction of world-renowned theatre director Lee Breuer, in association with the China Shanghai International Arts Festival and Dovetail Productions, US, was performed by a first-rate US and Chinese cast. With original music by Eve Beglarian, *Shalom Shanghai* is performed in Chinese and English.  The play is a historical drama that explores the intersection of Jewish refugees, Japanese officials, and local Chinese coexisting in Shanghai during WWII. During the Holocaust, while many countries shut their doors to Jews fleeing Nazi persecution, Shanghai offered them a relatively safe haven.  From 1933 to 1940, Shanghai accepted almost 20,000 Jewish refugees from Germany and German-occupied countries, most of them living in the Hongkou district north of Suzhou Creek.  http://www.jewishtimesasia.org/images/stories/2013-12/033.jpgShana, the café owner’s daughter, finds herself pursued by Mr. Suzuki, a Japanese official. She can’t afford to offend him but has in her heart only Songyao, a Chinese resistance fighter disguised as a handyman working in her cafe. She must decide whether to follow her heart or save her family. The play integrates original songs inspired by old Shanghai jazz melodies, Klezmer, and popular Hollywood songs from the period, alongside traditional Jewish and Chinese music.  *Shalom Shanghai* is written by Professor Sun Huizhu (William), a former Vice President of the Shanghai Theatre Academy. His other works include: *Old B Hanging on the Wall and China Dream*, to the recent Chinese operas *Hedda* and *Miss Julie*, all of which attracted strong public interest.  (Issue December 2013/ January 2014) |