The spoken drama (huaju) was first introduced into China in 1907, so this year is the centenary. Its main feature is that communication is through speech not, as was the case with traditional drama, through song and stylized chanting. Over the century the spoken drama has been a major vehicle of change and of introduction of Western styles, theories, content and practices. These have all impacted on the traditional theatre and, though to a far slighter extent, been affected by it. The talk will take up themes of tradition, social criticism, change and modernization in the Chinese theatre, all themes of relevance to other forms of art and the performing arts in particular. The paper will argue that in real sense the Chinese theatre has been a microcosm of Chinese history. Theatre and politics have interacted on one another, but politics has almost always been primary.

→ Thursday 6 September 2007
→ Room N72_-1.18 (Business 2)
→ Nathan campus
→ 12.30-1.50pm

A light lunch will be served on arrival. To RSVP, please contact Jill Moriarty on (07) 3735 7624 or j.moriarty@griffith.edu.au no later than 5.00pm Monday 3 September.