The Body as the Battlefield:
How Women Workers in China Use Drama Performance in Breaking Boundaries

Yiyu Tian (GWSS)
Why?

1. Class (urban/rural) Division

2. Gender Inequality (Body)
Migration in China

Reform and Opening Up in China

Welfare
Women Workers
Bodies &

Capitalism (Factories)
Bodies & Government
Contraceptive Rings & Welfares
Bodies & Culture
Drama

A Performance Tradition
Women Workers Are the Coolest
1. Freedom in Marriage
2. Left-home Children
3. Contraceptive Rings
Organization

The Firefly Workers’ Service Center

Original Target: the 2014 Workers’ Spring Festival Gala in China

Solidarity & Consciousness Raising
Organization

The Firefly Workers’ Service Center

Original Target: the 2014 Workers’ Spring Festival Gala in China

Solidarity & Consciousness Raising
Creation of the Drama

Story-telling Workshops
Updates

1. Own Studio, May, 2015

2. Shift the focus to Chorus

3. Performance in the 2015 Workers’ National Spring Festival Gala
“Bread and Roses”
Crossing Borders

Gender

Class
Time’s Up!

About you:
- Name: Yiyu Tian
- Department: Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies
- Contact Information: yiyut@uw.edu
- Twitter/URL:
- Quick bio: I am a first-year Phd student. I receive my M.A. on Chinese Area Studies from Aalborg University, Denmark. My interest is in the issue of the body and reproductive justice of working-class women in China, including performance, labor issues, and medical discourses and practices.