

Olympic Lip Syncing

by Michelle K. Beckett



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China has made an extraordinary effort to make sure the Games were picture-perfect. Images of the fireworks exploding across China's capital during the ceremony were digitally inserted into television coverage. And the little girl who sang the anthem ...

At the beginning of the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, the world witnessed the appearance of a beautiful little Chinese girl in a pretty red dress who sang a beautiful song as the Chinese flag entered the Bird's Nest Stadium. But what people saw was not what they heard.

The actual singer was a little Chinese girl named Yang Peiyi who won a very difficult competition to sing the song, but apparently she wasn't cute enough to perform it.

At the last moment a member of the Chinese politburo who was watching a rehearsal said that Yang Peiyi was unsuited to the lead role because of her buck teeth.

"The main consideration was the national interest," Chen Qigang, the show's musical designer said. "The child on the screen should be perfect."

As for Yang Peiyi, she said she was honoured to take part in the opening ceremony.