

School of Drama Monthly Events December 2014

Final Presentations, auditions and rehearsals dominate the December routine for the School of Drama as the cycle of classes and productions continues even at the close of the year.

Projects allow students to develop their individuality and self-expression while productions develop sustained believable characters usually through text work. Both Project 1 and Creative week stretch the students through an extensive devising process.

School Projects

Project 1 *Order* inspired by Albert Camus' *L'Étranger* directed by Acty Tang was a physical theatre expression of the feeling of social alienation. Eight students from 4YD2 and 4YD3 explored the externalization of feelings through a series of approaches to physical theatre from personal and stylized with narrative text and heightened movement (in the tradition of DV8) through to the screaming silence of Butoh. Performed in the Drama Black Box during the last week of the semester (17-20 December) it had an indelible impact on both the student performers and the School, particularly as external factors near the Academy were ever present.



Creative Week (15-17 January 2015) – the annual opportunity for 4YD2 to demonstrate their creative expressivity began rehearsals under the supervision of Seesy Chow (Assistant Lecturer in Drama) and Poon Wai-sum (Resident Playwright and Discipline Leader in Dramatic Writing) in the Drama Black Box. 4YD2 students are able to express their individual creativity through devising a thematic performance to be given to peers and teachers their first ‘real’ opportunity thus far in the programme for the students to mark out their potential. This year’s title is “*Being Offal \$20.15*”. Performances to invited audiences are faculty, staff, students, family and friends of the actors.



School Production

Studio 2 *Happy Family* by School of Drama alumna Or Ka-kee and directed by Terence Chang (Lecturer in Directing) auditioned and began rehearsals in December for performances in the Studio Theatre in 9-14 February 2015. Developed through the first School of Drama Playwright's Studio with the Hong Kong Arts Centre in September 2014 this production premiere reflects the School's commitment to new theatre writing at the centre of its mission.

School & General Activities

Guest Visits:

Professor Christoph Lepschy, (Professor in Dramaturgy from Mozarteum University of Salzburg) visited the School and attended a performance of *Order*; as did a delegation from Zdhk – Zurich University of the Arts attended a Dress Rehearsal, who greatly praised the students' commitment, professionalism and the pertinence of such a project.

Guests for Professional Matters:

A number of alumni guests visited the School for the course *Professional Matters* and gave sharing about their career developments after graduation and experiences in working on productions: Bonni Chan from Theatre du Pif and Emotion Cheung.



Outbound Visit:

On 14 December, Estella Wong (Senior Lecturer) visited Shenzhen University as invited, to explore the exchange and collaboration possibilities with the Drama department there. The discussion has been positive and both sides are currently exploring the touring of a school production to Shenzhen in the second semester as a kickoff event.