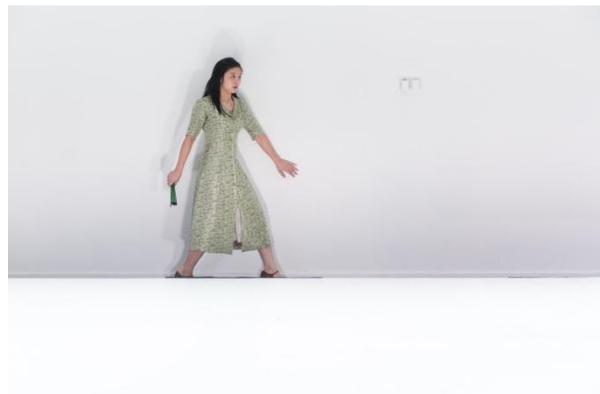


School of Drama Monthly Events November 2014

School Productions

School Productions are the main focus of November's activity for the School of Drama. Studio 1 (performed on 10-15 November in the Academy Studio Theatre) was *The House of Bernarda Alba* by Federico Garc a Lorca directed by the Chair of the School, Prof Ceri Sherlock. A great success with the critics and public who attended the performances it also displayed the great talent of the School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts's Technical Design team who created a stunning sequence of rain on stage as the climax of the play's psychological storm. An all female cast relished the opportunity of exploding into flamenco movement as a release for their repressed emotion.



They were coached in movement by returning recent alumnus Poon Chun-ho in a new role. Poon is a member of the School's company in residence 2014, *Theatre du Pif*.

Drama 1 *My Days in Cat Town* by the School of Drama's Resident Playwright Poon Wai-sum and directed by Roy Szeto (performed on 19-22 November in the Academy Drama Theatre) was a spectacular large scale production that included song and movement sequences. The movement direction was by Tony Wong (Lecturer in Acting) and the music by Yuen

Cheuk-wa (Lecturer in Sound) with the live performer, recent alumnus, Lee Chi-fung. The Brechtian style production dealing with social control, oppression and individualism naturally responded to the external factors current in Hong Kong which made the production immediate, relevant and contemporary.



In collaboration with the Performing Arts Education Centre the regular ‘behind the scenes’ matinee performance on 21 November welcomed 150 secondary school students who had an unique insight into how such a large scale show is put together.

Continuing in rehearsal is “Order” 秩序 - Project 1 with performances in the School of Drama Black Box on 17-20 December. It is directed by adjunct faculty member Acty Tang and is a ‘physical theatre’-style expression of a direct response to external social factors. Helping the students to articulate their feelings as artists is one of the principal roles of the School of Drama, as well as equipping them with the necessary skills for that articulation, and “Order” bodes well to be a thoughtful and considered response to the ‘current times’.



Auditions

In the meantime the School’s punishing and voracious schedule of performance and practice based work shifts focus to the next three productions and auditions took place on 1 December for Studio 2 and BFA Directing Projects 1 & 2. Respectively, a new play *Happy Family* directed by Terence Chang and written by alumnus Or Ka-kee; *Rashomon* directed by Chow Wai-chuen and *Nora* by Wong Chun-ho.

School & General Activities

New Playwrights Scheme 2014 (20 November – 7 December at Black Box, Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre):

- Established since 2006 and curated by Poon Wai-sum, Resident Playwright and Discipline Leader in Dramatic Writing, this is a platform presented by the LCSD for nurturing young playwrights via stage readings of their new works. It is also a program in which our MFA playwriting majors can fulfill their *Professional Practice* modules. Of the 22 playwrights the programme featured this year, 12 are from the School of Drama, including current students and recent graduates:
 - ♦ Angel Chan (MFA Playwriting graduate, 2014)
 - ♦ Wong Chun-kit (BFA Acting graduate 2011)
 - ♦ Au Tsz-fei (BFA Acting graduate 2014)
 - ♦ Li Chi-tat (MFA current Playwriting major)
 - ♦ Karen Cheung (BFA Acting graduate 2014)
 - ♦ Cheang Tik-ki (MFA current Playwriting major)
 - ♦ Cheng Kwok-wai (MFA Playwriting graduate, 2011)
 - ♦ Mak Pui-tung (BFA Acting graduate 2014)
 - ♦ Hung Sui-kuon (BFA Acting graduate 2014)
 - ♦ To Hiu-tung (BFA Acting graduate 2012)
 - ♦ Chan Siu-tung (BFA Acting graduate 2010)
 - ♦ Wu Tianlin (MFA Playwriting graduate, 2014)



Guest Visits:

- On 11 November, Mr David Ocon and 52 BA (Hons) students from City University of Hong Kong attended a talk about *The House of Bernarda Alba* by Prof Ceri Sherlock and watched the performance.
- Guest for Professional Matters: Tang Sai-cheong (Artistic Director of Black Bird Theatre) and Wong Wai-chi (Actress of Hong Kong Repertory Theatre)

Clore Foundation & British Council:

- Chair of the School of Drama, a former Government Advisor for Culture and the Arts in the UK, was an invited as a participant for the Clore Foundation, Advanced Cultural Leadership Programme (ALCP) & British Council in Hong Kong's Creative Industries seminar entitled "*2020 - A Society Led by the Arts?*" on 14 November. The event was intended to stimulate pathways for future of Hong Kong's creative and cultural industries. Along with the Chief Executives of the West Kowloon Cultural District, Hong Kong Arts Festival, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Asia Arts Archive, amongst other participants they 'brainstormed' the concept of 'creative Hong Kong' mapping out strategies for engagement, implementation and influence over the next ten years. The seminar, part of Hong Kong University's ACLP programme brought students together with seasoned practitioners in an initiative modeled on the successful practice of the UK in catalyzing the creative culture of Hong Kong.

The Second Symposium of China Alliance of Theatre Higher Educational Institutes:



- Estella Wong (Senior Lecturer) attended the symposium held in Guang Xi Nanning from 17-19 November. The Symposium was attended by a number of major drama institutes in the mainland including the Central Academy of Drama, Shanghai Theatre Academy, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, National Taiwan University of Arts, Macao Conservatory and others in Inner Mongolia, Sichuan, GuangXi Nanning, Yunnan, Dalian, Nanjing, Jilin, XinJiang etc. The representatives shared their views, current concerns and vision for higher education and training in theatre. Estella Wong presented a paper on behalf of the School of Drama about “Drama Education and Social participation” during the first conference session, which focused on the potentiality of our new generation of artists to serve the community through theatre arts.



- The Symposium also successfully provided a platform for a general update of how

different theatre academies across the country have been progressing. The difficult problems they faced were also frankly shared and discussed. The atmosphere was open, enthusiastic and positive. The next Symposium will be held in Shanghai 3-5 November 2015.

Symposium (20-22 November):

- The School of Drama's contribution to the Academy's 30th Anniversary Symposium included an invitation to the Shanghai Theatre Academy to present their production of Strindberg's naturalistic masterwork *Miss Julie* as a Chinese Opera. Presented by Prof William Sun this led into a discussion of refreshing the classical tradition of Chinese traditional theatre by using a cross fertilization of Western classic texts as one of the options for renewal, transformation and expanding the repertoire. Other guests of the School included Hilary Boulding, Principal of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Dr Amanda Morris, Dean of Performing Arts at the LaSalle College of the Arts, Singapore; Dr Wankwan Polanchan of Mahidol University International College, Thailand and former Dean of Drama, David Djang who contributed keynotes and participated in round table discussions. They also all met with Meijing Ha, Head of Arts and Creative Industry at the British Council Hong Kong at a networking and collaboration working-luncheon to discuss future projects with each other. Guests also attended a performance of Drama 1, *My Days in Cat Town* in the Academy Drama Theatre.

Faculty Activities

- Written by Paul Poon and directed by Roy Szeto, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre's *The Emperor, his Mom, a Eunuch and a Man* (re-run) had its China premiere at Guangzhou Dramatic Arts Center on 28-29 November.
- Directed by Tony Wong, Chung Ying Theatre's *The 39 Steps* (re-run) will be performed during 19-28 December at Studio Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre.
- Chair of the School of Drama attended the first creative collaborative meeting of a global theatre school project called Theatre Games (2016) in Lodz, Poland. It was held at the new cultural centre EC1 – the largest current cultural infrastructure build in Europe funded by the European Union, the Government of Poland and the City of Lodz. The EC1 Foundation has invited a global



collaboration of theatre institutions, engaged in training artists and arts practitioners of the future, to work together on a physical and ‘virtual’ project. Twelve theatre Schools will potentially take part in a production in the summer of 2016 centered around the works of Shakespeare. Students – up to 10 – and a teacher/mentor from each school will engage in the collaboration participate and conduct workshops as well as the performance in a ‘game’ of cultural exchange.



Lodz is also the home of the internationally famous National Film, Television and Theatre School of Poland whose directing alumni include Roman Polanski, Andrez Waida, Christoph Kieslowski etc and Prof Ceri Sherlock was invited to the School to discuss acting pedagogy and potential exchange of students and faculty. Former Rector of the Lodz School Andrei Bednarek has a longstanding relationship with the Academy’s School of Film and Television and the invitation to participate came through him by the auspices of the Academy’s Gipsy Chang Senior Lecturer in Film/TV Editing.