

## School of Drama Monthly Events March 2015

### School Productions & Projects

#### **BFA Directing major student Chow Wai-chuen's graduation project *Rashomon***

was well received by students, faculty and audiences alike. This original adaptation of the stories by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa and the film version by Akira Kurosawa took the form of ritual storytelling in which each narrative of events is presented to the audience to sift the truth from the lies and asks if in the end does



humanity care. The cast included Lai Lok-hang, Ng Pui-lung, Wu Tsun-ho, Leung Chung-hang, Ng King-lung, Jessica Wong, Kwan



Chi-kit and Zhang Yan and presented to full houses in the Academy Studio Theatre on March 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> .

#### **BFA Directing major student graduation project *Nora***

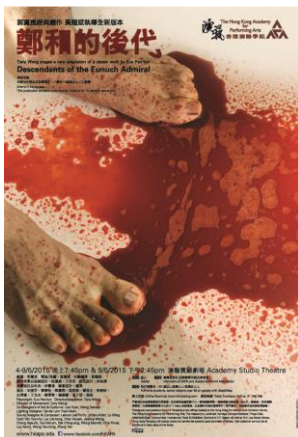
In the final stages of rehearsal directing student Wong Chun-ho's staging of Henrik Ibsen's classic play is presented through the filter of film-maker Ingmar Bergman adaptation. Ibsen's play of 1879 was revolutionary and shocking. A Mother of children walking out on her husband and family would not only provoke social stigma at the time but challenged the conventions of social mores. The famous final stage direction of the sound of the door slamming on the world of male dominated domesticity still reverberates today. In updating the play Wong Chun-ho reveals that for some women, unfortunately, little has changed. To be performed in the Academy Studio Theatre on April 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> with a cast including Tse Bing-ying, Kwok Siu-kit, Ng Siu-hin, Chan Hin-tung and Ernesto de Sousa.

#### **Drama 2 *The Blue Bird***

Currently in rehearsal using a highly creative devising approach to the text is Maeterlinck's fairy story. Award winning alumna director Chan Chu-hei leads a large and inventive company to bring theatrical magic to the stage. The cast includes Chan Wing-shuen, Mok Ka-yan, Ng Lok-wai, Ko Ki-yan, Ng Ka-yee, Sze Shuk-ting, Wan Tsz-leung, Lau Yuk-shing, Lai Chai-ming and Academy Drama students. It is designed by alumni Jan Wong and Mak Tsz-kwan to be performed in the Academy Drama Theatre on April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup> .



### **Studio 3 *Descendants of the Eunuch Admiral* by Kuo Pao-kun**



has been in rehearsal since early March under the direction of Tony Wong (Lecturer in Acting). *Descendants of the Eunuch Admiral* recounts the legacy of the man responsible for China's most extensive maritime expeditions in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the legendary eunuch, Admiral Zheng He. Using the metaphor of castration, parallels are drawn between the power struggles of court eunuchs and the displacement of modern people who make sacrifices in their lives in order to survive in our contemporary highly competitive and over industrious society. *Descendants* is written by Singapore theatre doyen Kuo Pao-kun and is widely regarded as one of his finest works.

### **Project 2: Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters***

With a focus on acting and minimal scenography rehearsal also started in mid-March on the School of Drama's second Drama Black Box production to be performed in the space May 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Chekhov's masterpiece of 1901 was his first original production for the Moscow Arts Theatre and is the landmark for modern psychological acting, helping the director of the first staging Constantin Stanislavsky to develop his 'system' of actor training. The ensemble cast is under the direction of the Chair of the School.

### **School & General Activities**

The School of Drama again fully participated in this year's **Open Day** with a centrepiece series of masterclasses / demonstrations given by faculty: Tony Wong (Acting), Poon Wai-sum (Playwriting), Roy Szeto (Directing), Estella Wong (Drama and Theatre Education), Li Wing Hong (Voice) and Sessy Chow (Movement). Students from BFA 1 introduced the School's training in singing, dancing and traditional Chinese theatre at packed sessions in the Drama Black Box whilst a combined group of BFA 1 & 2 students led by Wan Po-ching presented the prologue to *Romeo and Juliet* and *Being Alive* from Stephen Sondheim's *Company* at the Opening Ceremony. In the Academy Studio Theatre there were short 'preview' excerpts of *Rashomon* introduced by graduating directing student Chow Wai-chuen.

### **Co-represented Event - The HKAF Theatre Forum "New Writing and a Suitable Producing Theatre Model"**

It was held on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Drama Black Box (morning session) and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre (afternoon session). In the ongoing collaborations between the School and the HKAF this year's focus was on contemporary writing and the cultivation of new voices for a contemporary audience. Playwright Nick Rongjun Yu of the highly successful Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre (visited by students and faculty last June) was the main guest with participation from many of Hong Kong's independent and commercial companies. The well attended sessions were conducted in Putonghua and Cantonese.

### **Audition Workshop by Fung Wai-hang (Resident Director of Hong Kong Repertory Theatre**

Now a regular intensive session offered to BFA graduating students alumna and director Fung Wai-hang conducted the day long workshop on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Its focus is on preparation for the practical presentation of audition pieces and the new actor in the highly competitive audition situation.

### **Faculty Activities**

Prof Ceri Sherlock attended **2015 English Drama Fest Shakespearean Drama** organised by the Association of English Medium Secondary Schools on March 30<sup>th</sup> as one of guest adjudicators with William Yip (alumnus) and Christine Xavier of the HK Government Education Bureau.