

School of Drama Monthly Events January 2014

School Productions



Studio 2 is in rehearsal – Alfred Jarry’s *Ubu* directed by alumnus Tang Wai-kit, Desmond, it features a cast of School of Drama BFA3 and BFA2 students and looks towards performance in the Academy’s Studio Theatre from the 24th February to 1st March as the School’s first production of the 30th Anniversary year.

This year’s MFA Directing Thesis Project is also in rehearsal – Tom Stoppard’s *Dogg’s Hamlet, Cahoot’s Macbeth* this year again in collaboration with Chung Ying Theatre Company at Black Box Theatre, Kwai Tsing’s Black Box from 28th February to 2nd March. This production has also additionally offered an Internship opportunity for six undergraduate students for the School who will appear with a professional company for the first time.

School & General Activities

Winter Term

January is one of the busiest and most exciting months for students of the School of Drama in which they participate in specialist workshops conducted by International and local Visiting Artists exploring areas and styles of theatre that are complimentary to regular core curriculum classes and activities.

In collaboration with the School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts the School of Drama welcomed its first International Visiting Fellow, Adrian Noble, former Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, to conduct an intensive two-week workshop with BFA3 Directing students on directing Shakespeare. They were joined in the second week by scenography students (design, lighting, sound) who jointly collaborated on an exploration of Shakespeare’s *Tempest* that they presented as conceptual productions.

Valeria Campo, distinguished artist and teacher of *Commedia dell’arte* came from Italy, to conduct a two-week intensive programme of workshops and classes for BFA2 and BFA3 students. They explored the use of traditional masks, stock characters, *lazzi* and finally presented some etudes in text work from Goldoni and Moliere.

American master Meisner technique teacher Scott Williams returned again to the School to continue his work in Stanford Meisner’s exercises on naturalistic acting for stage and screen. Scott Williams first came to the School in 2012 on the invitation of the then new Dean of Drama to assist in deepening and rooting the quality of students’ skills in this form of theatrical expression, and its transferability between stage and screen. He returned in Winter Term 2013 and also conducted workshops for students on their international tour to London (the current base of his *Impulse Studio*).

Workshops were held in this Winter Term for BFA3 and BFA2 students, and his classes were also attended, and participated in, by faculty as part of the staff development of the Acting programme.

Acty Tang also returned to conduct his third Winter Term workshop introduction to physical theatre approaches to acting for 4YD1 students. The students explored space, symbol, object and gesture to create and communicate theatrical expression. They greatly benefitted from this practical and embodied approach to performance semiotics.

Seesy Chow, Assistant Lecturer in Drama and alumna of the Academy's Musical Theatre programme conducted Musical Theatre skills training workshops for 4YD2 students whilst Li Wing Hong, Lecturer in Voice Studies, prepared students from the same class in the use of different registers of voice required in musical theatre performance.

Students from 4YD2 also attended the JinJiang Puppet Troupe's Traditional Puppet Workshop on 9th January learning about the traditional skills of Chinese puppet theatre.



Students participating in JinJiang Puppet Troupe's Traditional Puppet Workshop.

International Visiting Fellow Adrian Noble, former Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, in interview with the Chair of Drama additionally conducted a Q & A *Open Class* session on 12th January to faculty, alumni, students and leading theatre practitioners as part of the School's 30th Anniversary engagement activities. Mr. Noble discussed his work as director, the benefits of formal director training, his work at the Royal Shakespeare Company as director and Artistic Director, and the directing of opera and musicals.

Internships

Some selected students from 4YD2 and BFA2 had the opportunity as interns with Actors' Family in the Musical *1941 Girl* that performed at the Academy's Lyric Theatre on 17th to 26th January whilst other students from 4YD2 gained places through competitive casting in a musical for Theatre Noir: *My Daddy Long Legs Musical* that began rehearsals at the end of Winter Term and will perform at the Yuen

Long Theatre from 28th to 31st March. This is the School of Drama's second internship musical opportunity for students with theatre Noir. In 2013 students had the opportunity to appear in the company's revival of *Animal Farm*.

Visits & Exchanges

The School welcomed back BFA2 Directing students Chow Wai-chuen and Wong Chun-ho from TNUA (Taiwan National University of the Arts) where they had spent a semester. Whilst BFA2 Acting major student Cheng Nga-chi, Jenny began her student exchange at Purchase College, New York in the United States while BFA2 Acting major student Chiu Lo-yin exchanges with Li An-chi from the TNUA joining our BFA2 classes.

Tony Wong, Lecturer in Acting is also on faculty exchange to LaSalle College of the Arts, Singapore directing a production of *Descendants of the Eunuch Admiral* by Kuo Pao Kun.

The School of Drama is pleased to have re-launched its student and faculty exchange programme in such an accelerated way in 2013 and looks forward to this being a regular (and indeed routine feature) of its opportunities for undergraduate students, and members of its faculty in the future.

BFA3 Acting student Chan Tin-hin, Henry participated in the International Youth Exchange Programme (IYEP) 2013-14 as a Hong Kong youth delegate to visit Singapore in January. This programme is jointly organised by the Home Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Commission on Youth with the aims to provide opportunities for youths to broaden their horizon and international perspective.

Guests

A number of alumni guests visited the School for the course *Professional Matters* in December 2013 and gave 'sharing' sessions about their career developments after graduation, experiences in the industry and professional work on productions: Fung Wai-hang (HKREP), Sean Kwan, Henry Fong, Victor Pang (Actors' Family) and Bonni Chan (Theatre du Pif).



Fung Wai-hang, Resident Director from the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre also conducted an audition workshop with BFA3 (graduating students) on 24th January.

Bonni Chan became the School of Drama's Master Artist 2014. Bonni is also an alumna for the first cohort of Academy students of 1984.

But for many, students, faculty alumni and alumni the highlight of January was the launch of the 30th Anniversary year with an **exhibition in the Painters' Corner** on January 23rd which brought together photographs of productions over the past thirty years. Normally residing on the 1/F a selection of the School's photographs were featured with cast lists and stories of productions in an appropriately theatrical gallery created by alumnus Alex Tam.



Student/Alumni Activities

Students' Achievement:

MFA (Drama & Theatre Education) student, Lau Ka-yan, was the one of the winners of the Wan Chai District Outstanding Youth Selection 2013.

Faculty Activities

Roy Szeto is the Director of *Shed Skin* (Rerun) to be produced by the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre at the Hong Kong Arts Centre Shouson Theatre from 15th to 28th March.

Terence Chang will be the Director of *daddi* produced by Class 7A Drama Group to be shown at the Black Box Theatre, Kwai Tsing Theatre from 20th to 23rd March.