

School of Drama Monthly Events May 2014

Inter-School 30th Anniversary Production

The School of Drama was one of the major participants in the 30th Anniversary Inter-School Collaboration Production of *The Taming of the Shrew* providing the Artistic Director/Director, Associate Director / Director of Movement, Alumnus Translator/Actor, Resident Playwright, Voice Coach, Assistant to Directors, Actors and Assistant Stage Managers – in total 30 performers and personnel over a period of three months rehearsal and nine months preparation. The graduating acting class took the leads in the Christopher Sly induction scenes and School of Drama students provided the onstage chorus and commentary for the play-within-the-play Chinese Opera version of the Katherina / Petruchio ‘taming’ story. The School greatly welcomed the unique opportunity of collaborating with other Schools on the production – a valuable teaching and learning experience for everyone.

Of particular joy to the School of Drama was performing the ‘open dress rehearsal’ to an almost full house of 770 secondary school children arranged by Performing Arts Education Centre (PAE) who greatly appreciated the multi-disciplinary, spectacular and polished production – and of course its humour!

Performances: 9 May to 10 May 2014 at the Academy Lyric Theatre



For the School of Drama, the exploration of Shakespeare and *The Taming of the Shrew* continued during May with Project 2, a Drama Black Box production in which the supporting cast of Inter-School took the leads in the play in Cantonese (fulfilling their graduation assessment requirements of a sustained performance of a character).

Also directed by the Chair of the School of Drama the production was able to probe the depth of Shakespeare complex, challenging and disturbing of comedies. The run in the newly refurbished Drama Black Box was a completely full for its seven performances and its preview attracting most of the leading directors, artistic directors and producers in Hong Kong. Mr Ko Chi-sum of Springtime Productions said ... “some of the most exciting acting in Hong Kong – at this moment – wonderful lead actors – and already so professional!”

Performance: 27 May to 31 May 2014 at the Academy Drama Black Box



School Productions

The Wild Party of Yu Xuanji

Performed in the 7th Theatre School Directors' Conference and Theatre Festival of UNESCO International Theatre Institute (ITI) Asia-Pacific Bureau in Shanghai (hosted by the Shanghai Theatre Academy STA and the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts NACTA) and 1st World Theatre Education Convention with 3rd Asian Theatre Schools Festival in Beijing (hosted by Asia Theatre Education Centre ATEC) during 9 May to 23 May 2014. It was organized and supervised by the School's distinguished Resident Playwright and Discipline Leader in Dramatic Writing Poon Wai-sum.



These two festivals are the most important showcase and network opportunities for drama schools and as a founding member of both organizations the School of Drama of the HKAPA is not only well respected but expected to take a lead in discussion and pedagogic development in theatre.

This year for the second time the School of Drama fielded a ‘suitcase production’ – more a work in progress for discussion than a finished show – and the first time with a performance in Putonghua. It featured the work of MFA in Drama Playwright major Deng Feier and MFA in Directing major Even Lam (also an undergraduate alumnus of the School) together with three actors, two of the graduating class Chan Ka-wai

and Moa Ship-wing, with a BFA 2 exchange student Li An-chi from TNUA. The piece was extraordinarily well received by peers and press.



Students, supervising faculty and the Chair of Drama, Professor Ceri Sherlock attended the spectacular opening ceremony of ATEC held at the Central Academy of Drama, Beijing on 18 May.

The Happiest Day I Lost

Directed by award winning director, alumnus and Senior Lecturer in Directing, Poon wai-sum’s famous play was been completely rewritten and rethought to be a bespoke vehicle for School of Drama students. Recently performed at our sister school TNUA in Taiwan in Putonghua also directed by Roy Szeto is a highly poetical rite of passage drama which the School of Drama students performed in the intimate space of the Academy Studio Theatre. The end result was entrancing and magical achieving some notable performances from the graduating class.

Performances: 19 May to 24 May 2014 at the Academy Studio Theatre



School & General Activities

Academic Review:

Professor He Yan from Acting Department at Shanghai Theatre Academy visited School of Drama during 19 May to 24 May 2014 to be its External Academic Reviewer of its BFA in Drama Acting major programme. He attended classes in acting, movement and voice across the different levels and years of the programme, watched a performance of Studio 3 *The Happiest Day I Lost* and dress rehearsal of Project 2 Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Academy Drama Black Box. Tony Wong, Lecturer in Acting, assisted in arranging the academic review activities for Prof He Yan whose initial oral feedback was positive and favourable. His invitation inaugurates a closer strategic exchange of faculty between the School of Drama and the Shanghai Theatre Academy.

Guest:

Aole Miller, Head of Voice and Speech at the LaSalle College of the Arts in Singapore, was a Visiting Artist for MFA & BFA programmes from 17 May to 24 May 2014. He gave intensive classes to the MFA and BFA students on specific techniques in vocal studies analysing problems and conducting surgeries. The School held a public workshop on 18 May 2014 given by Aole Miller as an "Introduction to Fitzmaurice Voicework®". This was attended by current MFA and BFA students and alumni and well received by all participants.

School Assembly on 29 May 2014:

As part of the College wide initiative of (CTMA) to introduce ore regular 'career fairs' (introducing industry to students) representatives from the following theatre companies were invited to introduce themselves as well as give information about career opportunities at the School Assembly. Each company presented for 10 minutes and then assisted in the presentation of the School's annual Outstanding Actors' and Outstanding Student Director Awards.

1. Chung Ying Theatre Company
2. Hong Kong Repertory Theatre
3. Theatre du Pif
4. On and On Theatre Workshop'
5. Ocean Park Hong Kong

Student/Alumni Activities

MFA Playwriting student Deng Feier had been invited by Theatre du Pif (*School of Drama company in residence 2014*) to take part in their Actors Lab performing in Chekhov's *The Seagull*. Completing her graduation requirements last semester, Feier has been offered employment by the Script Department of the China Film Group Corporation, Beijing.

Simon Wang Haoran, MFA Playwriting graduate, has received a prestigious Fellowship from the Asian Cultural Centre to study further in the USA. He follows the footsteps of Wong Wing-see also MFA in Playwriting graduate who received the same award last year.

Special Faculty Activities

Roy Szeto (Senior Lecturer in Directing) was Director of *Shed Skin* (Rerun) produced by the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre given its Japan premiere at the Wind Hall in Nagakute City, Japan from 31 May to 1 June 2014.