

School of Drama Monthly Events September 2014

For the School of Drama, summer activities including Directing Lab, Secondary School Tour with PAE, International Tour to London, HSBC tour to Shanghai Theatre Academy, MFA Drama and Theatre Education Project in the Studio Theatre made for a shorter or no break in the academic year and therefore the commencement of the new one in September felt like a continuation of the work in hand.

Internships

Some fortunate students began internships during the Summer break. Degree 3 students Chan Wing-shuen and Tse Bing-ying with Theatre du Pif and Bonni Chan (Co-Artistic Director and School of Drama's Master Artist 2014). Eight students Chan Ka-lok, Choi Po-tai, Ho Chi-iao, Sit Ka-hey, Ting Tung-yan, Tsui Mo-yin, Wu Hei-man and Zhang Yan from 4YD 2 also joined Chung Ying Theatre for their forthcoming production of Spring Fever Hotel. Internships with professional companies offer our students both actors and directors an essential complimentary learning experience in professional context.

Playwright's Studio

2014.9.23 / 25 / 27 8pm
香港藝術中心
麥高利小劇場
McAulay Studio
Hong Kong Arts Centre

策劃 CURATOR— 潘惠森 POON WAI-SUM
靈感 INSPIRATION— 倫敦國家戲劇學校國家學院
Academy for Performing Arts

THEATRE DU PIF 在港駐演
THEATRE DU PIF 駐港演劇團
Jit Ho ARTISTS 城藝廠

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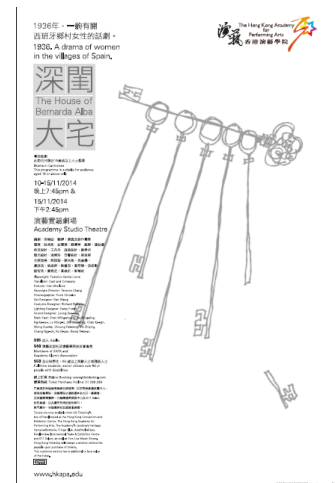
The highlight of the month for the School has been the first **Playwright's Studio** in collaboration the Hong Kong Arts Centre. This collaboration takes the School's Playwriting Laboratory to another level. The HK Arts Centre will assist the School in providing a public opportunity to develop our playwrights, both current students and alumni to present their work regularly in public. There will be one presentation each semester. This first iteration took place with the support if Theatre du Pif (the School's company in residence 2014), Black Bird Theatre and Hong Kong Repertory Theatre. The curator and inspiration for this development of the School's discipline in playwriting is Poon Wai-sum (*Resident*

Playwright and Discipline Leader in Dramatic Writing). The School of Drama's aspiration is that this is not only a public and professional platform for developing work featuring the voices of emerging artists but an influential forum for playwriting as an artistic expression exploring the uniqueness and power of 'the play' as a form for the presentation of creative content and the discussion of contemporary issues both political and personal, domestic and epic. The Playwright's Studio was held on September 23rd, 25th and 27th at McAulay Studio, Hong Kong Arts Centre

Three plays were given *It* by current 4YD3 student Ng King-Lung; *Happy Family* by alumna Or Ka-kee; and *Of Cherry or Dust* by MFA in Drama graduate 2014 Deng Feier. Having been developed through the School's internal Playwriting Lab, these plays were given staged rehearsed readings using student and alumni actors directed by present and graduate directing students and Poon Wai-sum, the curator. Each play achieved a sold out performance at the McAulay Studio of the Hong Kong Arts Centre followed by an extensive Q & A session with the playwright, actors and curator. This first initiative iteration has set a marker for the importance of the 'play' for the School of Drama as a medium for social discussion, change and artistic expression, something that reflects the School continuing aspiration to influence the theatre and performance community of Hong Kong.

School Productions

Studio 1 production of Federico García Lorca's play *The House of Bernarda Alba* with a cast of 21 female roles began rehearsals. It is directed by the Chair of the School of Drama, Prof Ceri Sherlock with Associate Director Terence Chang and with recent graduate and alumnus Poon Chun Ho returning as Choreographer. Performances will take place in the Academy Studio Theatre from November 10th to 15th.



Drama 1 production of *My Days in Cat Town* by Poon Wai-sum (Resident Playwright and Discipline Leader in Dramatic Writing) also began rehearsals. It is directed by Roy Szeto with Tony Wong as **Choreographer**. It is an adaptation of the classic Chinese epic *Cat Town* 《貓城記》 and performances will take place in the Academy Drama Theatre from November 19th to 22nd.

School & General Activities

Exchanges:

4YD3 Luk Pang-yue began his semester exchange with the Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA) where he will continue his studies in acting, theory and work on his Putonghua.

Guests:

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: Edmond Lo Chi-sun from Chung Ying Theatre and Henry Fong.

