Heritage Inspires Future Filmmakers at the Béthanie

Summer Screenings at K11
Heritage Inspires Future Filmmakers at the Béthanie

古蹟活用：伯大尼孕育影視藝術人才

The historic Béthanie complex in Pokutlam offers up a diversity of riches, including inspiration and creative space, to students of the School of Film and Television of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

The Béthanie buildings in Pokutlam were built in 1875 by the French Mission (Missions Évangéliques de Paris). In 2005, the historic complex was relocated in the Academy and, after an extensive repair and conversion work was completed three years later, the Béthanie became the home of its School of Film and Television.

The physical heritage of the Béthanie appears to pose certain technical challenges but within them can be found facilities that one might expect of a modern, world-class film and television school. Seemingly mundane but integral elements of modernity, such as air-conditioning, lighting features and the appropriate fire safety equipment, also needed to be added in without negatively affecting the historical site’s visual aesthetics and heritage architectural integrity.

"Of course it is always difficult to incorporate new technologies into historical buildings, but I think we did a good job," Geoffrey Stitt, Dean of Film and Television says. "Our sound mixing studios are limited in size by the existing rooms and our picture editing suites include historical fireplaces. These provide an artistic sense of style though, and the students love their surroundings, I think."

Even while ensuring that the technological requirements of the staff and students of the School would be catered to, considerable effort was also taken to strive for historic accuracy when physically restoring the Béthanie buildings. For instance, the Academy had spent three years in the restoration process tracking down components in the chapel which had gone missing after the French Mission sold the building in 1974, including a number of its beautiful stained glass windows, its altar and its associated reredos, and the statues of the 12 apostles situated above the altar.

French historian Professor Alain Le Pichon, the author of the Academy-commissioned publication entitled Béthanie & Nazareth: French Secrets from a British Colony, came across some 200 old photographs of the Béthanie along with other French Mission subjects at the French Mission Archives in Paris while he was researching for the book. In 2005, they proved invaluable in ensuring the accuracy of the restoration work managed by the Academy which has led to the Béthanie receiving an Honorable Mention at the 2008 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Awards and being declared as a monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance in Hong Kong by the Antiquities Authority in 2013.

The Béthanie is now the home of School of Film and Television. It houses a number of advanced technologies and facilities that are essential to the study of the students. As Béthanie is the main campus of Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, its presence and influence is felt throughout the Academy and its various departments.
The fruits of this restorative labour are spacious as well as historical environs which the School’s Dean believes help students relax and nurture their creativity. It also inculcates these future filmmakers with a sense of history that they can build on artistically.

When the Master of Fine Arts Cinema Production students set about making the School’s first period drama recently, they did not have to go far to find appropriate sets for their Second World War production. To be sure, they had to figure out how to light and decorate it to enhance the period look they wanted but their home campus was a great boon to them. “The students may not have considered such an ambition before if they did not have access to the heritage buildings,” Silt notes.

Professor Le Pichon also believes that the students who spend time at the heritage facility can only be positively affected by their surroundings. A purist and performing arts lover, he compares the appreciation of music and theatre work to historical buildings. “The Bénédite certainly enhances the esteem of the school,” he says, recalling his encounters with Academy students and noting their encounter for their school’s historic surroundings. “I believe students in the Bénédite love this amazingly beautiful campus. I think this is very important in education, especially the arts field. It helps them develop an aesthetic sense and learn how to distinguish what is beautiful and what is not,” he says.

Geoffrey Silt, Dean of Film and Television, considers the arrangement of the School’s cinema programs at the Bénédite appropriate. “Building the facility has helped us create a space that is suitable for students to engage in the latest trends in cinema, film, and television,” he says.

Apart from its educational function, the Bénédite campus is also a place where members of the public can derive pleasure. Its neo-Gothic style chapel, one of a kind in Hong Kong, is among the most sought after wedding venues in town. The other must see is its publicly accessible museum which tells the story of the Bénédite and the French Mission’s activities throughout Asia. Other notable facilities at the Pokfulam campus are its 153-seat theatre (converted from two former Dairy Farm octagonal cowsheds) and the multi-function Sir YK Pao Studio, which are open for hire.

“My friends often ask if it is a pity such a beautiful historical building has not been turned into a museum. I said ‘Definitely not,’” shares Professor Le Pichon. “If the Bénédite was simply a museum, few people would be interested to visit it, and it is infinitely better to have restored to it a new lease of real life, so that it can serve an educational purpose to benefit young people’s creativity.”

Still, it is not only the site itself that benefits from having been repurposed for vocational and educational use. Rather, the local community is seeing the cultivation of new generations of film and television industry talents, and inspired, by the Bénédite.

The Academy had spent three years to restore the Bénédite. These photos show the interior of the chapel before and after the restoration. Hong Kong Academy in Pokfulam had undergone 3 years of renovation. This picture shows the old and new interior of the chapel.

Some venues at the Bénédite Landmark Heritage Campus are open to public or can be hired for personal events. The Bénédite campus offers a wide variety of activities and facilities for visitors. For more information, please visit their website: www.hkapa.edu.hk/events

For Hire

The Bénédite Chapel, Bénédite Theatre and Sir YK Pao Studio are open for hire.

For details, please visit: www.hkapa.edu.hk/events

Address: 133 Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
Summer Special: Academy Film Screenings at K11

21.7.2018
Family is where the heart is

18.8.2018
Science Fiction

15.9.2018
Graduation Mixtes 2018 and Directors’ Sharing Session

https://k11culture11.com/movies1
Enquiries: 3518 8070

This year, in addition to hosting its annual graduation screening, the School of Film and Television would like to invite members of the public to enjoy a special summer at K11 Plazza to watch the works produced by its alumni and graduating students.

Geoffrey Stilt, Dean of Film and Television:

We teach students to produce screen works and their work is basically about telling stories. The point of the work is to create for an audience, hopefully to engage and move an audience. So we are grateful for every opportunity to show our students’ work for as many people as possible, in every possible location. So thanks to K11 for allowing this work to be seen in such a prominent location.

 decadentvietnamese表演藝術學院校友會音樂會
THE HK ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONCERT

二零一八年香港演藝學院電影週節目
FINALE OF THE 2ND ACADEMY FESTIVAL

香港演藝學院為本地提供了出色的音樂劇表演場地，多年來在學院演出的中外經典音樂劇不計其數。今年香港演藝學院校友會音樂會將舉辦一場跨年代不同音樂劇的著名校友，為大家帶來一場音樂劇的經典盛宴。

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts has provided some of the best performing venues for musical theatre productions in Hong Kong. With many years of history, numerous talented students and professional musical productions have been presented at the Academy. This year, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Alumni Association invites a group of renowned alumni who have participated in different musicals to bring you a feast of musical styles.

8.7.2018 下午3时
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre 香港賽馬會演藝學院
$80, $390, $530, $1900 (5), $1400 (5)

Ticketing details 購票詳情：P 13
International Guitar Research Centre (IGRC), University of Surrey, UK

in partnership with

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

International Guitar Forum

10th to 14th July 2018, HKAPA

The Hong Kong International Guitar Forum brings together leading international researchers, and musicians who are exploring the many facets of the guitar as a classical, traditional and popular instrument. Over 30 keynote presentations, lectures, and lecture recitals will feature at this year’s forum.

Keynote Speakers, Presenters and Performers

Professor Stephen Goss – Director of the IGRC, University of Surrey, UK
Professor Adrian Walter – Director of the HKAPA, Hong Kong
Dr Milton Mermikides – Deputy Director of the IGRC, University of Surrey, UK
Dr James Westbrook – University of Cambridge, UK
Dr. Jonathan Leathwood – Lamont School of Music, Denver University
Aleksandri Tsibouliski (Guitar) – Adelaide, Australia
Hanson Yao (Luthier) – Almatira Guitars, China
Matthew Wadsworth (Theorbo) – London, UK
Gary Southwell (Luthier) – UK
Frank Bugnack (Guitar/10 String Guitar) – Germany

The Forum will also include a series of presentations and concerts by other leading musicians.

A special evening concert featuring APA staff and students will perform the world premiere of a new work for Theorbo and Strings by Stephen Goss.

Concerto Concert

11th July 2018 (Wednesday)
8.00pm
Concert Hall, 1 Gloucester Road, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Concerto for Theorbo & Strings by Stephen Goss (World Premiere)
Matthew Wadsworth (Theorbo)
Theorbo Solo and Duo for Theorbo and Violin with Korra Rongruangchaip (Violin)
Concerto for Pipa & Strings by Tan Dun
Shi Pu Yue, Belle (Pipa)
Philharmonia APA, conductor Sharon Andrea Choa

Attendance at the Forum is free but registration is required.
Please email igf@hkapa.edu to register your attendance.
The full schedule of presentations will be available on 1st July at www.hkapa.edu.

Professor Onou. H., Academy’s Head of Ballet, gave a professional masterclass to a group of dance students of the Greater Bay area. She also noted that the Academy was his first experience of the arts in mainland China.

Forging Alliance with Counterparts in the Guangdong-HK-Macao Greater Bay Area

The Academy participated in the inaugural Guangdong-HK-Macao Greater Bay Area University Students Arts Festival, organised by the Guangdong-HK-Macao Greater Bay Area Music Education and Arts Development Alliance and hosted by Xinghai Conservatory of Music and South China Normal University, on 12 and 13 May in the Guangzhou University City. As one of the only two conservatories in the Greater Bay Area, the Academy looks to forge stronger bonds with the participating institutes and to contribute to the development of the performing arts landscape in the Greater Bay Area.

The two-day Festival featured a variety of programmes, such as a forum, masterclasses and performances. The Academy was well-represented in all the major activities, among which was the Music Education Forum that was attended by Professor Shawn Choa and Professor Clarence Mak, the Dean and Associate Dean of School of Music, Professor Choa shared with the audience the Academy’s curriculum development and direction in promoting creative professional practice. In addition to ideas sharing and exchange, the Academy also participated in performances-related activities, showcasing the vitality and creativity of its students and faculty members.

The International Guitar Forum will be held during the Almatira Guitar Symposium (www.guitarsymposiumhkh.com)
Enquiries: 2884 8890

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Three Sisters
《三姊妹》
30.4 – 5.5.2018 | Studio Theatre 實驗劇場

All performers are School of Drama students, while most of the production team are from the School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts.

Who’s Afraid of Lord of the Flies
《誰怕蒼蠅王》
2 – 5.5.2018 | Drama Theatre 戲劇院

This production featured a guest performance of Drama students. Most of the production team are from the School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts.
SUPPORT OUR FUTURE ARTISTS
支持我們未來的藝術家

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts welcomes your support to our students who are future artists for Hong Kong and the region. Most of the funds received will be used as scholarships, to enable highly talented and deserving students to pursue their studies in the performing arts. The funds will also support capital projects, overseas study tours and other student related activities. Please act now!

香港演藝學院需要閣下對我們學生的支持，為培育香港及亞太區未來藝術家出一分力！演藝院籌得的大部分善款將用以設立獎學金，讓才華橫溢的學生，可繼續在表演藝術方面深造。善款同時亦會用作改善設施，贊助學生海外遊學及其他學術活動。請積極支持！

Donation Form 捐款表格

I would like to make a donation to support The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

我願意捐款支持香港演藝學院。

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- A tax-deductible receipt will be issued for donation of HK$100 or above.
- Donation of HK$5,000 or above will be acknowledged in Academy website while donation of HK$10,000 or above will also be acknowledged in Academy Annual Report.
- Please mail the completed form with crossed cheque to Development Office, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.
- Please make your cheque payable to “The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts”.
- 捐款港幣 100 元或以上將獲發收據作稅項用途。
- 捐款港幣 5,000 元或以上，演藝院將於網頁內核實是項捐款：捐款港幣10,000 元或以上，
  演藝院將於年度報告作核實。
- 請填妥表格連同劃線支票，寄回香港銅鑼灣告士打道1號，香港演藝學院拓展處收。
- 支票抬頭請寫「香港演藝學院」。

For enquiry, please contact Development Office on (852) 2584 8863 or email at dev@hkapa.edu.

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www.hkapa.edu/giving