



Text & Performance of the 21st Century – Conference on Contemporary Theatre

Contemporary Writing for Theatre and the Conference

“Contemporary Writing for Theatre 2012-14” is a large scale theatre project organized and curated by On & On Theatre Workshop. It is an integrated art project that combines performance, education, theatre research, script translation and publication to become a sustainable platform to enhance contemporary theatre making in Hong Kong and the Chinese theatre circle. The Conference, entitled “Text & Performance of the 21st Century – Conference on Contemporary Theatre” is the highlight of the project.

The Conference gathers theatre experts, artists and scholars alike, of an international level to generate in-depth dialogue and cultural exchange, a way deemed vital to enhance the contemporary theatre practices in Hong Kong.

Conference Programmes

Conference Day

Text & Performance of the 21st Century

Date: 15th December, 2013 (sun)
Time: 10:00am-7:30pm
Venue: Studio Theatre, HK Academy For Performance Arts

Session I (10:00 am.-12:30pm)

Opening Speech: **Chan Ping-chiu** (Hong Kong) (Artistic Director, On&On Theatre Workshop)

Theme: Development Trend of Dramatic Writing and Theatre in the 21st Century

A contextualization of contemporary theatre practice in relation to the development of new writing; approaching the theme with observations on the UK, Germany and France theatre scenes in the 21st century.

Keynote Speeches: **Prof. Dan Rebellato** (London) (Head of Department (Drama and Theatre, Royal Holloway University of London)
Prof. Lilly Yang (Taipei) (Renowned Theatre Scholar; Associate Professor, Taipei National University of the Arts)
Lin Kuan-wu (Taipei) (Renowned Theatre Scholar; Freie Universität Berlin)

Moderator: **Tang Ching-kin** (Hong Kong) (Renowned Theatre Critic; Doctorate Candidate, Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Respondents: **Bernice Chan** (Hong Kong) (Renowned Theatre Critic; Manager, International Association of Theatre Critics, Hong Kong)
Keng Yi-wei (Taipei) (Artistic Director, Taipei Arts Festival)

Session II (2:00.- 4:30pm)

Theme: Re-thinking aesthetics—Between Text and Directors in Contemporary Theatre

Approaching contemporary writing from a director's point-of-view; a discussion on the relationship between text, performance and theatre aesthetics.

Speakers: **Keng Yi-wei** (Taipei) (Artistic Director, Taipei Arts Festival)
Vee Leong (Hong Kong) (Theatre Director and Playwright)
Cao Ke-fei (Beijing) (Renowned Beijing-Switzerland Director)
Tang Ching-kin (Hong Kong) (Renowned Theatre Critic; Doctorate Candidate, Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Moderator: **Bernice Chan** (Hong Kong) (Renowned Theatre Critic; Manager, International Association of Theatre Critics (HK))

Respondents: **Prof. Lilly Yang** (Taiwan) (Renowned Theatre Scholar; Associate Professor, Taipei National University of the Arts)
Dr. Damien Cheng (Hong Kong) (Renowned Theatre Critic; Lecturer, Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Session III (5:30.- 7:30pm)

Theme: Re-thinking Tradition—Between Text and Playwrights in Contemporary Theatre

Approaching contemporary writing from a playwright's point-of-view, with a focus on theatre writing in Chinese language; a discussion on the writing strategies of contemporary playwrights in their attempt to seek new approaches that depart from--as well as disrupt traditional frameworks.

Speakers: **Candace Chong** (Hong Kong) (Renowned Playwright)
Zhou Zan (Beijing) (Poet and Playwright)
Chien Li-yin (Taipei) (Renowned Playwright)
Mok Sio-chong (Macau) (Theatre Programmer, Playwright)

Moderator: **Dr. Damien Cheng** (Hong Kong) (Renowned Theatre Critic; Lecturer, Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Respondents: **Lin Kuan-wu** (Taipei) (Renowned Theatre Scholar; Freie Universität Berlin)
Bernice Chan (Hong Kong) (Renowned Theatre Critic; Manager, International Association of Theatre Critics (HK))

(The conference will be conducted in Cantonese and Putonghua, Prof. Dan Rebellato will deliver his speech in English.)

Talks

German Theatrer After Tearing Down of the Berlin Wall

Date: 14th December, 2013 (sat)
Time: 2:00-4:00pm
Venue: Kwang Hwa Information and Culture Centre
(suite 4907, 49/F Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Rd., Wanchai, HK)

Speaker: **Lin Kuan-wu** (Taipei) (Renowned Theatre Scholar; Freie Universität Berlin)

(The talk will be conducted in Putonghua)

Now! New Writing and Theatre in London

Date: 16th December, 2013 (mon)
Time: 7:30-9:30pm
Venue: Cattle Depot Theatre, Cattle Depot Artist Village
(63 Ma Tau Kok Rd., Tokwawan, Kowloon)

Speaker: **Prof. Dan Rebellato** (London) (Head of Department (Drama and Theatre,
Royal Holloway University of London)

Director Workshop on New Writing

Date: 11th-13th December, 2013 (wed-fri)
Time: 7:30-10:30pm
Venue: unit 15, Cattle Depot Artist Village
(63 Ma Tau Kok Rd., Tokwawan, Kowloon)

facilitator: **Cao Ke-fei** (Beijing) (Renowned Beijing-Switzerland Director)

(The workshop will be conducted in Putonghua)

Reading Salon

New Writing Aftertaste

Date: 14th-15th December, 2013 (fri-sat)
Time: 7:30-9:30pm
Venue: Cattle Depot Theatre, Cattle Depot Artist Village
(63 Ma Tau Kok Rd., Tokwawan, Kowloon)

Directors: **Vee Leong, Chan Ping-chiu**

This reading salon will present a fine selection of contemporary European theatre texts, including *Eletronic City* by Falk Richter; *Attempts on Her Life* by Martin Crimp; *The Eleventh Capital* by Alexandra Wood; *Innocence* by Dea Loher; *Seven Jewish Children* by Caryl Churchill.

About Our Overseas Speakers

Professor Dan Rebellato

Prof. Dan Rebellato is an English dramatist and academic. He is the Head of Department of Drama and Theatre at Royal Holloway, University of London. Host of the first academic conference on Martin Crimp in 2012, he also publishes extensively on European theatre. His recent editorial titles include *Contemporary European Theatre Directors* (Routledge: 2010)..

Professor Lilly Yang

Associate Professor of Taipei National University of the Arts. PhD in University of VIII. Prof. Yang's research interests focus on directors and performance analysis, French Theatre, Western Theatre Literature and theory. She has received several academic and teaching awards: Academic awards from National Science Council during 2002-2008, Research awards from National Science Council during 1993-2001, Outstanding teaching award of Tsinghua University in 1994, etc. Recent publications include: Research on Antoine Vitez, Contemporary Theatre Writing and Contemporary European Directors, etc.

Professor Lin Kuan-wu

Prof. Lin received her PhD in Free University of Berlin. Now a scholar on German theatre, she had her PhD thesis published by Transcript Publisher in 2010. She contributes regularly to PAR, a performing arts magazine in Taiwan, to cover European theatre and interview renowned German directors and dramatists.

Keng Yi-wei

Graduated from Taiwan University, majoring in Philosophy and postgraduate study in Prague Academy of Music. Mr. Keng is the Artistic Director of Taipei Arts Festival. He is also Assistant Professor of Taipei National University of the Arts, and part-time Drama lecturer in Wenshan Community College and Forest Primary School.

Cao Ke-fei

Ms. Cao is Visiting Lecturer of the University of Giessen. An established theatre director, her work is widely presented in China and Germany. She studied German at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, and Theatre Studies at the University of Bern. She has worked with Schauspielhaus Zürich and Neumarkttheater Zürich, engaging herself in a variety of cultural exchange projects among theatre practitioners in China, Germany and Switzerland.

Mok Sio-chong

Mr. Mok was born, raised, and educated in Macao. He finished his B.A. in Applied Chinese and Chinese Communication and M.A. in Chinese Literature in Macao University. From 1994 to 2004, he taught Creative Drama, Devising Theatre, Drama-in-Education and Playback Theatre for young people, teachers and social workers in Macao University, Macao Polytechnic Institute, Conservatory of Performing Arts in Macao and some primary schools. He is also a playwright and director, with an interest to devise theatrical performance with the locals in Macao.

Chien Li-ying

The most sought after theatre writer of her generation, Ms Chien studied playwriting in the Graduate School of Taiwan National University of Arts. Her unique voice in writing about

gender issues and developmentism is widely celebrated, best recognised for *Sleeping in Spring* (2012), an adaptation of *The Bear Came Over The Mountain* by Canadian novelist Alice Munro. The work received numerous re-runs, and toured to Beijing.

Zhou Zan

Ms Zan is a poet, playwright and literature scholar. She is now working in the literature research centre of the Faculty of Social Science of China. In 2008, she co-founded the Ladybug theatre with Cao Ke-fei.