

ASIA TOPA



Sidney Myer
SIDNEY MYER FUND



Australian Government



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Office Phone: (03) 9347 6948
Office Hours: Mon – Fri | 10:30am – 5:30pm
349 Drummond, Carlton VIC 3053
www.lamama.com.au | info@lamama.com.au

La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the people of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community as we work towards the La Mama rebuild. Thank you!

La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council – its arts funding and advisory body, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and the City of Melbourne through the Arts and Culture triennial funding program.



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S THE WINTER'S TALE



PRESENTED AS A PART OF ASIA TOPA, 4 - 8 MAR 2020

THE WINTER'S TALE

A CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN HONG KONG SHAX THEATRE GROUP
AND LA TROBE STUDENT THEATRE

Written by **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Bob Pavlich** (La Trobe Student Theatre) with initial support
by **Rosalind Wong** (Wong Lok Yan, HKSTG)

Hong Kong casting direction by **Rosalind Wong**

Produced by **Kat Carrington**

Hong Kong co-producers **Rosalind Wong & Ujjwal Sharma**

Project Liaison **Helen Mayers**

Stage Manager and Tech Operator **Ujjwal Sharma**

Musical direction for Bohemia sections by **Paul Doogood**

Cantonese Opera sung, choreographed, and recorded by **Vision
Wong (Wong Chun Wai)**

Lighting and sound design by **Jacob Shears**

Costumes & Hong Kong support by **Vision Wong**

Performed by **Karen Jiawei Wang, Monica Tsz Yan Wat, Wincel
Sagana Capiendo, Cole McKenna, Kevin Lorenzo Erodias de
Guzman, Kyo Wing See Cheung, Rohit Sharma, Evangeline Oster,
Paul Doogood, Lakshmi Ganapathy, Jayde Hopkins & William Foley**

Photography credit **Ujjwal Sharma**

CREATOR'S NOTES

After a very successful international collaboration with an Indonesian student theatre group in 2017, *The Light within the Night*, we began looking for another partner for a similar cultural exchange. The opportunity arose when Helen Mayers, who was working in Hong Kong at the time, came upon a student theatre group based out of the University of Hong Kong who specialised in performances of Shakespeare. This was the Hong Kong Shax Theatre Group and they were very keen on a possible collaboration. So, the conversation between Rosalind Wong, Artistic Director of HKSTG and myself began. In searching for an appropriate vehicle our thoughts turned to *The Winter's Tale*, the play that most obviously suited a cross-cultural collaboration. With the play itself being set in two distinct countries, we decided to set the first part in 1920's colonial Hong Kong with the second setting a beachy Australia set in the 1970s.

It was a tricky journey with initial plans put in jeopardy by the pro-democracy protests at the end of last year. Nevertheless, our six students arrived in Hong Kong in January to begin rehearsals and prepare for the Hong Kong performances. And then concerns about the virus caused the closure of all cultural and academic institutions in Hong Kong and we were forced to return home after only three weeks of rehearsals.

Fortunately, the Hong Kong students were able to drop everything and come to Melbourne much earlier than planned. Having now overcome these various roadblocks we believe that we have come up with a version that does indeed show the universality of Shakespeare with a story that comfortably stretches across our two countries.

I'd like to thank all who have helped put this production together both in Hong Kong and in Melbourne and particularly to the students who have wholeheartedly embraced the journey and have delighted in the experience of working with those from another place and culture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Winter's Tale has received support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the New Colombo Plan as well as from the University of Hong Kong through the Gallant Ho Experiential Learning Fund, the La Trobe University through the Vice-Chancellor's office as well as the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the La Trobe Student Union.

From Melbourne, we'd like to thank the La Trobe University Drama department for their assistance and support of the project, especially to Rob Conkie and Owen Dalton. To La Trobe Abroad, and Tim Bendle, for facilitating the study tour to Hong Kong for the six La Trobe students. To Richard Frampton and La Trobe Accommodation Services for providing on-campus accommodation for the Hong Kong team. To the La Trobe Student Union for their considerable support, especially to Helen Mayers who facilitated the collaboration, Elissa Khoury who provided advice and guidance, and to Melinda Petrolo and Sisca Wijayanti from LTSU Finance.

From Hong Kong, we'd like to thank Ms Tanya Kempston, Faculty of Education, and Professor Julia Kuehn, Head of School of English, from the University of Hong Kong for their support and assistance. A special thank you to Wincel Capiendo for all her graphic design work for HKSTG.

BOB PAVLICH has worked in theatre since the mid-eighties as an actor and director beginning his career as part of the highly successful theatre collective *Whistling in The Theatre* whose focus was on the adaptation of literary works including *A Thousand And One Nights*, *Frankenstein* and *The Secret Garden*. In 2004 he won a Green Room Award as best director in Independent /Fringe Theatre for his production of *The Art'n Death Trilogy*. He has been the Artistic Director of Student Theatre & Film at La Trobe University since 1996 and has directed over 50 productions involving students from this campus.

ROSALIND WONG is the founder and Artistic Director of Hong Kong Shax Theatre Group. After receiving the Outstanding Actress Award in the Seventh Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival, she went on to direct a series of Shakespearean plays, including *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Love's Labour's Lost*, which won her directing awards in Hong Kong. This is her second time staging a production in Australia, with the first being Moliere's *Les Femmes Savantes*, sponsored by the European Union Centre for Global Affairs at the University of Adelaide. She enjoys lecturing literature and sociolinguistics at university in Hong Kong.

KAT CARRINGTON is the Coordinator at La Trobe Student Theatre & Film and producer of this cross-cultural collaboration. Having spent six years in Canberra creating theatre at the Australian National University, she is utilising her economics degree in the only way that felt right: making more theatre at La Trobe University.

HELEN MAYERS is a Melbourne based theatre maker, producer and doer of things, with a passion for connecting young people from across the globe in order to create exceptional theatre experiences.

IN 2006, **UJJWAL (SIMON) SHARMA** was first introduced to the performance arts as an actor and has since gone on to essay the roles of director, producer, videographer & script editor. He is excited to stage manage for *The Winter's Tale*, adding another shard of experience to his theatre mosaic.

VISION WONG is a core production member of Hong Kong Shax Theatre Group. He is responsible for production administrative work as well as costumes, props and set and designs. He also has a background in programme hosting. He recently worked for productions such *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

JACOB SHEARS: Graduating from VCA in 2017 Jacob's interest in light stems from the unique culmination of both art and science that he employs in his designs. Jacob's work ranges from production management, to theatrical lighting design to lighting installations, actively seeking challenging and unique works.

CAST:

KAREN WANG (Mother & Hermione) is a final-year Food and Nutritional science student at the University of Hong Kong. She has been part of HKSTG since 2016, having performed in *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Macbeth*, and is very excited for her first international theatrical collaboration.

MONICA WAT TSZ YAN (Daughter, Mamillius, Perdita & Others) studies Literature and Law at HKU. She has also been writing music, poetry, stories and performing theatre since childhood. She is best known for her published story *The Train* in *Kyoto Journal*, portraying Bianca in *The Taming of the Shrew* and directing an original bare-stage drama with students in Myanmar.

WINCEL SAGANA CAPIENDO (Emilia, Mopsa, Cleomenes & Others) is a Filipino, born and raised in Hong Kong. She joined HKSTG to put her creative abilities to the test and is excited to be working with La Trobe in *The Winter's Tale*!

COLE MCKENNA (Polixenes): Growing up and doing theatre in North Central Victoria, Cole learned of Student Theatre and Film in his first year at La Trobe University. He performed, directed, and volunteered with Student Theatre and Film throughout all of 2018 and 2019, and jumped at the opportunity to rehearse and perform overseas in Hong Kong.

KEVIN LORENZO ERODIAS DE GUZMAN (Leontes) is a member of Hong Kong Shax who has previously performed in *Macbeth* and in *The Taming of the Shrew* in Hong Kong.

KYO WING SEE CHEUNG (Camilla) is an aspiring artist who is studying architecture in HKU and a member of HKSTG who has previously worked on their production of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

ROHIT SHARMA (Antigonus, Lord & Others) is a member of the Hong Kong Shax Theatre Group. Having worked with them in productions like *Macbeth* in Hong Kong, he will try his hands on his second Shakespearean play, this time in Australia.

EVANGELINE OSTER (Paulina & Dorcas): This is Evangeline's third La Trobe theatre show having previously performed in *Ruby Moon* and *They Saw a Thylacine*. Evangeline describes the experience of working on *The Winter's Tale* as an incredibly rewarding time both personally and professionally, with the cultural exchange building ties between the company.

PAUL DOOGOOD (Shepherd) is a Mature Age Student who worked for many years in children's theatre, in particular as a puppeteer with Melbourne's *Polyglot Puppet Theatre*. An avid amateur musician, Paul is also a big fan of making up for lost time - and the Richmond Football Club.

LAKSHMI GANAPATHY (Clown) is avidly involved with La Trobe Student Theatre, recently co-directing the 2019 *LTU Revue*. In 2016, she reached the state finals of the MICF Class Clowns competition. She is a Theatre and Media Studies Major at La Trobe and has been playing Double Bass for 8 years.

JAYDE HOPKINS (Autolycus): Hailing from the Northern Territory, Jayde Hopkins is a proud Gurindji/Woolwonga woman. She is studying Biological Sciences to become an epidemiologist. Acting is her passion and she cannot wait to showcase all our hard work!

WILLIAM FOLEY (Florizel) is an emerging performance artist working on the unceded Kulin lands of Birraranga/ Naarm. From Nambour, Queensland, William is studying a Bachelor of Creative Arts majoring in Theatre at La Trobe University. William's training as a performer began at the NIDA Young Actors studio 2016, he has been involved in many La Trobe Student Theatre productions and pays many thanks to them, and to HKSTG for this collaborative opportunity.