

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
THE WINTER'S TALE
PRESENTED AS A PART OF ASIA TOPA 2020



Image by Sharma Ujjwal

Two groups of students from Hong Kong and Melbourne unite to explore their shared appreciation of the universality of Shakespeare.

"A sad tale's best for winter..."

In a fit of wild and unfounded jealousy, Leontes, a civic leader of 1920s Hong Kong, is convinced that his wife Hermione is carrying the child of his best friend, the Australian politician Polixenes. Once born, the child is exiled and seeks refuge in a rural community in 1970s Australia. Things go well for the child until she falls in love with the son of said Australian politician.

Leaping from Hong Kong to Australia and from the 1920s to the 1970s to modern-day, this unique setting of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* sheds light on the contemporary politics of both countries.

Despite the various difficulties this project has faced along the way, including student protests and civil unrest in Hong Kong as well as the global outbreak of the novel coronavirus, the production has not only managed to overcome these obstacles but has also incorporated aspects into the play itself.

The project is being jointly directed by Bob Pavlich of La Trobe University and Rosalind Wong of Hong Kong SHAX Theatre Group. Both have extensive experience directing students in Shakespeare plays.

The project was awarded the prestigious New Colombo Plan Mobility grant which enabled the six Australian students to live and rehearse in Hong Kong before bringing the production back to Melbourne. This is an unparalleled opportunity for the six La Trobe participants, as they form intercultural partnerships and access a global network of emerging artists.

The Hong Kong cast are based at the University of Hong Kong and have been granted funding from the Gallant Ho Experiential Learning Fund.

TIME Wed 4 March 6.30pm | Thu 5 - Sat 7 March 7.30pm | Sun 8 March 4pm
DURATION Approx. 2 hours
VENUE La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond Street, Carlton
TICKETS \$30 Adult | \$20 Concession
BOOKINGS 03 9347 6948 or www.lamama.com.au

The Winter's Tale has received support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through The New Colombo Plan as well as the La Trobe University, the La Trobe Student Union, and the University of Hong Kong.

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ASIA TOPA



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