

THE SHADOW PLAYERS PROUDLY PRESENT MOLIÈRE'S

THE LEARNED LADIES

of Mid-Levels

DIRECTED BY JULIAN LAMB

Presenter:



Venue Sponsor:



Foreword by The Producer, David Parker

I am delighted to introduce the Shadow Players in our debut production. As one of the founders of the Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival I have been conscious of the abundant dramatic talent of the Hong Kong students taking part in the Festival over recent years and keen to see that talent nurtured for the enrichment of theatrical life in Hong Kong. A little over a year ago my gifted young CUHK English Department colleague Professor Julian Lamb and I met with a small group of HKU and CUHK graduates and alumni of the Shakespeare Festival and we decided to form a theatre company. There are existing theatre companies in Hong Kong, of course, but the group saw the need for a new company of young local actors committed to putting on classic and high-quality contemporary plays in English to delight, stimulate and challenge Hong Kong audiences and students. Having attended Hong Kong schools themselves, the Players are inspired by a strong sense of mission to bring their skill and passion to secondary school students, especially those studying English and dramatic arts, across the territory.



Once given the thread, the Shadow Players found a name and at once threw their amazing energies and abilities - which extend far beyond acting - into the building of the company from scratch and into this first production of *The Learned Ladies of Mid-Levels*, now being premiered under Julian's inspired artistic direction. No words can do justice to the commitment, discipline and initiative shown by this group of young Hong Kong English graduates who are running this company purely for the love of dramatic art and without as yet any grant or sponsorship. What you are about to see is only a beginning. Please enjoy!

David Parker, Producer

About The Shadow Players

The Shadow Players is a new theatre company made up of recent graduates from Hong Kong's leading universities.

We came up with the name Shadow Players on noticing how often Shakespeare refers to human lives and especially actors as "shadows". For Shakespeare shadows are figures of the transformative imagination, with its power to create "visions", and so they remind us of how drama itself can transform students and empower them to dream and to be more creative.

Website: hkshadowplayers.com

Email: hkshadowplayers@gmail.com



[facebook.com/ShadowPlayersHK](https://www.facebook.com/ShadowPlayersHK)

Performance Details

Date & Time:

24 Apr 2013 (Wed) 7:30pm
 25 Apr 2013 (Thu) 7:30pm
 26 Apr 2013 (Fri) 7:30pm
 27 Apr 2013 (Sat) 2pm & 7:30pm

Venue:

The Underground Theatre, Fringe Club

The Play will be presented in English and last for 1 hour 45 minutes, with a 10 minutes intermission.

Dear Patrons,

In order to make this performance a pleasant experience for the artists and other members of the audience, please refrain from recording, filming, taking photographs, and also from smoking, eating or drinking in the Theatre.

Please ensure that your alarm watches, wireless telephones, and other sound and lighting emitting devices are switched off during the performance.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Venue Management
 Fringe Club

Director's Note

The Learned Ladies of Mid-Levels: an "Opera for Spoken Voice"

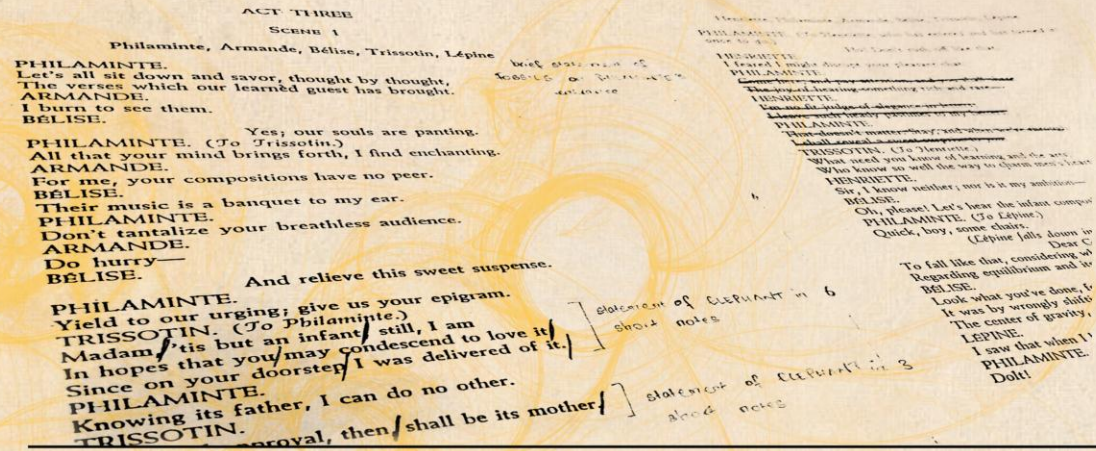
I began with the simple premise that each character had a leitmotif - a short musical theme - and from there grew the idea that each character had one or more "arias," speeches which were timed very precisely with music based on their leitmotif. Hence the term, "opera for spoken voice." These arias appear at moments when a scene reaches a level of emotional intensity, or when a character is self-consciously performing something (for instance, a poem). And when combined with explicitly poetic language, the play achieves a playful and charming non-realism. We believe this use of music in theatre is something that most audiences would not have encountered before. It will be one of the hallmarks of subsequent Shadow Players productions to perform the classics of western theatre in innovative ways such as this.

That Molière himself was aware of the power of music to achieve these effects is in little doubt. He collaborated on numerous occasions with composers Jean-Baptiste Lully and Marc-Antoine Charpentier, and with the former developed the hybrid genre, les comédies-ballets. Our own musical collaborator, Camille Saint-Saëns, has provided us with a piece of music full of theatrical possibility. Carnival of the Animals not only contains memorable melodies, but music which suggests movement and mannerisms, gestures and postures. Steven Bailey has adapted Saint-Saëns' music for us, giving each piece a sense of the character it represents.

I have been asked many times what relevance Molière has to us in 21st century Hong Kong. I find myself having to say that our production does not make Molière relevant: he simply is relevant. The Learned Ladies of Mid-Levels is concerned with the difference between true learning and mere pedantry, with the right a parent has in determining the course of their child's life, with the rights of women to equitable levels of education, with the importance of family, and with the relative values of academic learning and practical wisdom. We surely live in a thoughtless and gullible society if these concerns are not of relevance to us. But perhaps the clearest sign of the play's relevance is that it makes us laugh. Humour relies on forms of recognition and empathy which comprise a deep and presiding relevance. If we laugh at something it means we have understood it at a very deep level. The proof of the pudding is in the eating: we hope our play makes you laugh.

About The Director

Julian Lamb is Assistant Professor of English at the Chinese University of Hong Kong where he teaches several drama courses. He has taught drama for nearly 17 years at secondary and tertiary levels. He has directed and acted in several plays including Albee's The Zoo Story, Sartre's No Exit, and a staged adaptation (with Steven Bailey) of Eliot's The Waste Land. He has directed CUHK's entry in the Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival for the last 5 years, and in 2010 directed the winning entry.



Synopsis

Molière's outrageous farce about pedantry and power is brought to life in a context that all Hong Kongers will recognise: the Mid-levels. Unable to distinguish intellectual snobbery from true learning, the ladies of a Mid-levels household are under the spell of C.Y. Tang, a pompous and affected intellectual fraud. Against her husband's wishes, the mother of the house desires her youngest daughter, Henriette, to marry C.Y. Tang. But Henriette's heart is set on Sebastian, a man of practical learning. Will the mother ever see C.Y. Tang for who he truly is? Will Henriette be allowed to marry her Sebastian? Will these learned ladies of the Mid-levels ever learn what true learning is?



Cast

Joyce Cece Chan as Henriette

Joyce graduated with honours from CUHK with a BA in English. During this time, she was awarded Outstanding Actress and Champion Team with her performance as Olivia in Twelfth Night in the Shakespeare Festival. In 2010, she directed and performed in an original modern comedy, The Musical of Errors, earning a college award for creativity. She continued on a scholarship to study at the University of South Australia in 2011, achieving Distinctions in Musical and Theatrical Performance, and completing projects in scriptwriting and filmmaking. Her love for classical theatre came at a young age, with leading roles as Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing, Sebastian in Twelfth Night, Ophelia in Shakespeare's Shorts, as well as performances in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth, and The Importance of Being Ernest. She currently teaches and assists with productions at a local youth theatre.



Rosalind Wong as Justine

Rosalind Wong is a BA&BE graduate from HKU, and is currently a postgraduate at HKU's Comparative Literature Department. Rosalind is the director (and sometimes actress) of the HKU Shakespeare Festival Team since 2010. She is the recipient of the Outstanding Actress Award in the 7th Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival and the Hong Kong School Drama Festival. Acting credits include A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare's Shorts, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, Metamorphosis and The Musical of Errors. Recent directing credits include Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, As You Like it and Much Ado About Nothing. She enjoys teaching English and drama to young people in her leisure time.

Christopher Tsui as Sebastian

Christopher is a fresh graduate from CUHK, majoring in English. A theatre enthusiast, he has written, directed and performed in various plays during primary and secondary school. In 2010, he performed in a major school musical with songs from Fame, as lead actor and singer. In university, he wrote and directed the winning play of the 2011 CUHK Andrew Parkin Drama Cup. At the 8th Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival (2012), he won Best Actor for his portrayal of the title character in Coriolanus. He has also worked as a teaching assistant at Shakespeare4All in drama workshops for primary and secondary school students.



Francis Chan as Bernice

Francis graduated from CUHK with First Class Honours in English and is working as an event coordinator at HKUST. He has been passionate about theatre since secondary school, where he performed and once led the Drama club as chairperson. As an undergraduate, he directed, acted and did script editing for the stage. In 2011, he was selected as one of the three actors to represent the CUHK team in the 7th Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival as Caliban in The Tempest. In The Learned Ladies of Mid-levels, he will be acting as a lady for the first time and wish the audience will enjoy, in whatever sense imaginable.



Agnes Hio as Cedric

Agnes is a fresh graduate majoring in Music and English Studies at the University of Hong Kong. She has been the key actress to several theatrical Shakespeare projects, such as playing Ophelia in Hamlet of the HKU Shakespeare Festival Team and Kate in YAF's Shakespeare "Ms Directing" Production. She is also currently teaching at the CWDC Choir.

Yolanda So as Charles and Y. Y. Leung

Yolanda graduated from CUHK with an Honour as an English major. While at university, she performed in Sarah Kane's 4.48 Psychosis and Harold Pinter's Silence and assistant directed Henry IV Part 1 for the Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival. She performed again in 4.48 Psychosis at the University of Alberta, Canada. Since then, Yolanda has been working with Eduarts, AFTEC and Shakespeare4All in Emma, The Skin of Our Teeth, Noah and the Ark, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Shakespeare's As You Like It, Much Ado About Nothing and Oliver Twist. She is currently a drama tutor at Eduarts.

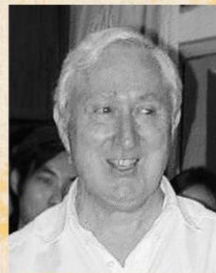


Ines Kwai-Pun as Ah Lin, Servant and Y.Y.'s Valet

Ines became an English Writing teacher after graduating from the University of Hong Kong with a double major in English Studies and French. She has won numerous awards in poetry speaking and was part of the HKU team for the 8th Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival. Excited to play three characters with different voices and personas, Ines is also forever grateful to her teachers who ignited the spark for her love of dramatic works in her IGCSE and IB years.

Minna Cheung as Pamela

Minna graduated with first honour as an English major in CUHK. She won the Best Actress Award at the 4th Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival, in which her team placed first-runner-up. After graduation, she has been actively involved in public drama productions such as the Aladdin the Panto by Hong Kong Players. Other performances include Sweeney Todd the musical and Shakespeare: Ms. Directing by Youth Arts Foundation. She currently teaches English and English Drama at Cassidy & Arts.



David Parker as The Notary

David Parker last trod the boards at secondary school and is honoured to be included in the cast.

Joseph Lin as C. Y. Tang

Joseph graduated with First Class Honours in English at CUHK, where he also obtained his Master's degree in English Literature. A lover of language arts, Joseph worked for RTHK on the English Made Easy programme as an English Consultant, and has acted in productions such as CU Shakespeare Festival's Twelfth Night as Orsino, AFTEC's A Midsummer Night's Dream as Theseus, The Duchess of Malfi as the Cardinal, and more. He is teaching at CUHK pending further studies, and has been a producer for The Learned Ladies of Mid-Levels.



Tsz To Wong Cello

Tsz To, a year 1 Music Major at CUHK, started learning cello at the age of 5 under Mr. Chang Hsin Yu and recently, Mr. Cheung Ming Yuen. He has achieved the Cello Licentiate Diploma (LTCL) from Trinity Guild Hall, Certificate Grade 8 of Piano and Theory of Music from the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music. He has also won prizes in the Hong Kong Schools Music Festivals in various sections, including the first place of Tom Lee Music Prize for String Ensemble, Cello Concerto, Cello Solo (Senior) and Cello Solo (Intermediate). He started joining the Hong Kong Children Symphony Orchestra in 2003 and has toured and performed with the Orchestra every year since, appearing as a soloist and also the cello principal. He has performed with the Pan Asia Symphony Orchestra as a soloist and made a Piano Trio Concert with his friends in August 2009. He is now the member of the Pan Asia Symphony Orchestra and Chung Chi Orchestra of CUHK.



Creative and Production Teams



Steven Bailey Musical Adaptation

Steven is an Australian arts practitioner specialising in theatre and music projects involving professional, amateur and student ensembles. He is the beneficiary of numerous scholarships and grants including the Group of Eight Scholarship (ANU); Australia Council for the Arts (Federal Government); Arts New South Wales (State Government), and Arts ACT (Territory Government). In 2009 Steven was the beneficiary of an incorporated funding initiative by federal and state governments in the amount of AUD \$82,000. He was commissioned as Artist in Residence for a period of one year in one of Australia's principal regional theatres, Griffith Regional Theatre. Steven's key area of interest is in creating new work combining music and theatre.

Gladys Wong Clarinet

Gladys is a year 3 music major student at CUHK, studying under the supervision of Mr. Martin Choy. With a keen interest playing in ensemble, she actively takes part in various chamber performances, such as woodwind quintet and piano trio. She is a member of Chung Chi Orchestra and Pro Arte Orchestra of Hong Kong. Gladys also likes singing, she is a member of Aqua Voice and Chinese University Christian Choir. After graduating, Gladys is going to further her studies in music performance.



Eugenia Lee Violin

Eugenia started learning the violin at 4. Under the tutelage of Madam Qiu Xingye and Professor Yang Baozhi, she obtained the Licentiate Diploma (LTCL) in 2007. Eugenia pursued studies at Charterhouse School in the UK under a music scholarship for the violin and piano. After studying with John Parsons, the Head of Strings, her playing has made great strides. She was the leader and soloist of the school orchestras, and has performed in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. She has also led the chamber ensemble to the finals of the Pro-Corda National Chamber Music Festival for Schools. Upon graduation she was awarded the Greyhound honour for her outstanding achievements. Eugenia is a second year undergraduate studying Business Administration at CUHK, and is currently undertaking an internship at the accountancy firm KPMG.



Vance Lau Stage Manager

Vance has been part of Dream Makers Theatre (Hong Kong) since 2006. With a strong passion for performing arts, she has been involved actively in acting, stage management, design, operation and administration for different productions in Hong Kong. During her stay in Ireland, she has worked as Stage Manager in The Hunt for Red Willie by Exit Excitedly Theatre Company and Assistant Stage Manager in The Goddess of Liberty by Gúna Nua Theatre Company and the Civic Theatre, Tallaght. She loves photography - to feel the world and to express through sparkle of light, shadow and details.



Shelley Ng Keyboard

Under the tutelage of Kao Shu and Ms. Wong On-cheuk, Shelley has developed an immense interest in music and piano playing since she was young. She was awarded all six piano performance diplomas from the Trinity & Guildhall and the Association Broad of Royal Schools of U.K. with high distinction at her 18. She has keen participation and achievements in competitions, concert tours and recitals, such as being invited as one of the three performers in the Hong Kong Diploma Awards Ceremony of ABRSM, as a concerto soloist of the Hong Kong Symphonic Winds, and holding her own concert Love-Music-Shelley Ng in Concert 2008. Shelley is now a Year 2 music student at CUHK and studying piano with Ms. Nancy Loo.



Oscar Fung Light Designer

Oscar is a freelancer mainly working in stage and theatre production. He has worked with different organizations, like primary and secondary schools, drama company, commercial company and some social welfare institutes, mostly be responsible of the management of technical, production and stage aspects. Oscar Fung holds a B.F.A. with honors in Technical Direction from Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and ever been an intern in the technical departments of New York Artist Unlimited and Macau Zaia.

Acknowledgement for Make up and Hair Styling



Contact info: www.facebook.com/vmakeup1314 | vmakeup@gmail.com

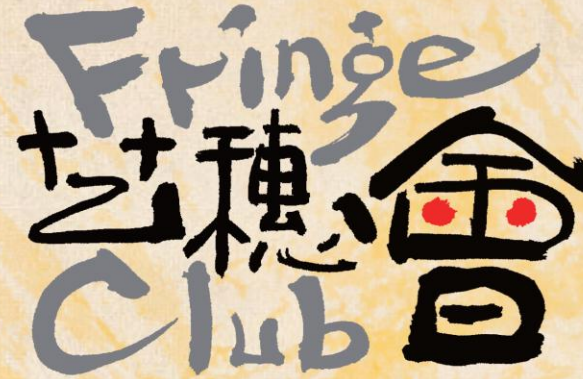
Creative & Production Teams

Director.....	Julian Lamb
Producer.....	David Parker
Costume Designer.....	Minna Cheung
Set Designer.....	Minna Cheung, Joseph Lin
Light Designer.....	Oscar Fung
Musical Adaptation.....	Steven Bailey
Make up and Hair Styling.....	Vanessa Pong, Michelle Wong, Vicky Chan, Sandy Ku, Randy Yu, Hei Lam
Stage Manager.....	Vance Lau
Costume Assistant.....	Karissa Joyce Yip, Cindy Choi, Edna Chiu, Karen Cheung, Noel Wong
Usher.....	Felix Fung, Vester Wong, Karen Cheung, Samantha Lee, Loveday Lau

Shadow Players Personnel

Director.....	David Parker
Creative Director.....	Julian Lamb
Executive Administrator.....	Agnes Hio
Production Manager.....	Ines Kwai-Pun
Press and Media.....	Flatcap Asia PR
Publicity Officer.....	Noel Wong, Rosalind Wong
CUHK Representative.....	Joseph Lin
HKU Representative.....	Rosalind Wong

Acknowledgement for Venue Support



www.hkfringeclub.com

Support The Shadow Players

The Shadow Players is a new theatre company made up of recent graduates from Hong Kong universities that depends on sponsorship and ticket sales for its operations.

We specialise in staging English drama productions by the master playwrights and we seek opportunities to perform and to put on drama workshops for Hong Kong secondary schools. Please support our work by donating generously.

Any donation or sponsorship over HK\$100 is tax deductible. Please make cheques payable to "The Shadow Players Limited" and send it to

The Shadow Players,
16D, Tower E, The Grandville, 2 Lok Kwai Path, Shatin, NT

Your donation will be gratefully acknowledged in all our house programmes for the year.

Enquiries:
hkshadowplayers.com

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hkshadowplayers@gmail.com

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