

About “Mr. Shi and His Lover”

Project brief

In 2013, Johnny Tam from Macao Experimental Theatre invites Macao composer NJO Kong Kie and script writer Wong Teng Chi to co-create a new work base on the true story from boardway theatre “M. Butterfly”. The first work in progress was presented in a small black box theatre in later 2013. It was names “Butterfly Lovers” at that stage. Then the work was keep developing in 2014-2015 and actors were also taking mandarin and Peking Opera training. In 2016, joint produced with Point View Art Association and Music Picnic in Canada, the work was premier in SummerWorks Performance Festival in Toronto. It was a very successful run and receive a very good feedback from audience and arts critic. This work received four titles from Now Magazine: “Outstanding Direction”, “Outstanding New Plays”, “Outstanding Productions” and “Outstanding Ensembles”. Then received several invitation from festivals and theatres in Canada. The confirmed 8 weeks run in Toronto and Ottawa will be on 2017/18 season and second run in East Coast region on 2018/19 season.

Development path

Date	Region	Content
2013.11.08-10	Macao	The 1st work in progress presentation in a blackbox theatre under the title of “M. Butterfly”
2015.06.10-11	Beijing	2nd work in progress presentation in Beijing Film Academy
2015.11.21-22	Taipei	Last work in progress presentation in Boven Magazine Library
2016.08.05-13	Toronto	Official Premier in SummerWorks Performance Festival
2017.02.11-15	Yokohama	Showcase in Tokyo Performing Art Meeting in Yokohama’s TPAM Fringe
2017.11.07-12.17	Toronto	Presented by Tarragon Theatre 2017/18 season
2018.01.03-13	Ottawa	Presented by National Arts Centre 2017/18 season

Creative Team

Composer/Music Director/Piano	NJO Kong Kie
Playwright	Wong Teng Chi
Director	Johnny Tam
Actors	Jordan Cheng, (Mr. Shi Pei Pu) Derek Kwan, (Bernard Boursicott) Wong Pak Hou, (Bernard Boursicott in work in progress period)
Percussionist	Lai U Kei

About the work

Name in Chinese: 時先生與他的情人

Name in English: Mr. Shi and His Lover

Category: Music Theatre

Language: Mainly perform in Mandarin with a small amount of French

Duration: 75mins with no intermission

Original Production: Macau Experimental Theatre

Touring Production: Macau Experimental Theatre , Point View Art Association, Music Picnic

International Representative: Creative Links

Photo Download

<https://goo.gl/Ke9h9o>

Synopsis

Mr. Shi and his lover is an adaptation, extension and reinterpretation of the lives of its real-life protagonists.

In 1983, Bernard Boursicott, the French diplomat formerly stationed in China, was sentenced to six years in prison for passing classified documents to China after he began an affair with the Chinese Opera singer Shi Pei Pu. However, Boursicott claimed that for twenty years he believed Mr. Shi was a woman...

The mystery and intrigue surrounding this affair remains a source of fascination and debate in the public realm. This salacious scandal is also the subject of the Broadway play *M Butterfly* and a film of the same name.

Made up by a series of imagined dialogues and monologues, this musical drama is a dialectic between the protagonists. Focusing on the study of their psyche rather than the salacious plot of their scandal, and by asking questions about identity, existence, art, loyalty, co-dependency and love, *Mr. Shi and his lover* is part philosophical musing, part study of human desires, part experimental music theatre. Musically, the work straddles the realms of European and American classical music, popular Chinese music, traditional Beijing opera and its variant - the Revolutionary Model Plays from the Cultural Revolution.

Bio of main creation team

Njo Kong Kie, Composer/Music Director/Piano

Kong Kie considers himself a theatre-maker, a performer and a composer. Born in Indonesia, and currently based in Canada, Kong Kie was for many years the pianist/music director of Montreal-based dance company La La La Human Steps. He studied at the Academia de Música de São Pio X in Macao. He joined the Macao Point View Art Association in 2009 and started the Folga Gaang Project to engage in the creation of theatrical performances with Macao artists during his time off. Music from Picnic in the cemetery, his album of original compositions, has been used on multiple dance performances. Kong Kie also creates operas, concerts as theatre and soundtrack to dance, short films, performances and plays.

www.musicpicnic.com

Wong Teng Chi, Playwright

Wong is a graduate of play writing from Taipei National University of the Arts. His plays include: Sunset is how I feel about you (2009) and Mr. Shi and his lover (2013).

Johnny Tam, Director

A graduate in directing from the Shanghai Theatre Academy, Johnny Tam is the director of Macau Experimental Theatre and founder/artistic director of BOK Festival. In 2014, he furthered his study in Germany, working as an assistant director and workshop leader at the Meta-Theater in Munich. In 2015, he was a guest lecturer at the Theatre University in Fukuoka. Through New Writing and experimental theatre creations, Tam explores the possibility of local performance aesthetics. From experimental music theatre production to movement-based work, through studies of the performers' voice and body, Tam creates poetic and thought-provoking productions. He has directed many original works, and existing local and foreign plays including Golden Dragon, Lungs and Taboo Game of Youth.

Jordan Cheng, Actor (Mr. Shi Pei Pu)

Jordan received his Masters Degree in Musical Theatre from the Guildford School of Acting in the UK. Currently under the mentorship of Mohamed Drissi, Jordan has performed in many major theatre productions in Hong Kong and Macau, both standards and new creations. Most recently he toured China and Taiwan with Art School Musical by Edward Lam Dance Theatre. Jordan is also known as a Cantonese musical scriptwriter, having created several Cantonese musicals to wide acclaim. Recently he began his new artistic exploration as a theatre director, directing music theatre and drama performances.

Facebook: Jordan Cheng