

THE TAMING



DIRECTED BY
ROSALIND WONG
AND
SIMON SHARMA



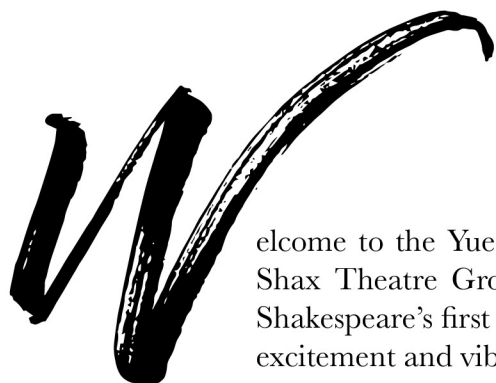
SHREW

WWW.HKSTG.ORG

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GREETINGS FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to the Yuet Ming Auditorium. Today we are proud to present Hong Kong Shax Theatre Group's adaptation of *The Taming of the Shrew*, one of William Shakespeare's first comedies. We hope that you will find our take refreshing, with the excitement and vibrancy of the 1980s.

As a theatre group, we are soon to reach a milestone - our 10th anniversary will be in 2020. From our humble beginnings as a small group of 5 in 2010, we have staged plays in original Shakespearean language every year for almost a decade. In 2018, we started staging Shakespeare's plays in Cantonese. These include the *Comedy of Errors* and *The Merchant of Venice*, which were both met with great acclaim.

Over the years, we have expanded as a group, now having members spanning generations and cultures and ethnicities, all focused on putting up first-rate plays to entice Hong Kong. Our group has seen 10 generations of Shaxbies as of 2019, with some old Shaxbies involved in the fields of medicine, education and law, and some newer Shaxbies at the primary and secondary levels of education.

As Shax continues to grow, we have also noticed that our audience grows with us. In the coming year, we hope to reunite as many old Shaxbies as possible to celebrate our 10th anniversary in the face of hectic schedules and prior commitments. We hope you look forward to our performance tonight and we look forward to welcoming you again to another Shax production. If you do wish to watch another Shax production, we hope you will join our celebration next year.

ROSALIND WONG

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/ CO-DIRECTOR

Rosalind, the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education and the Master of Literature and Cultural Studies, is a lecturer. With the role "Rosalind" she won the Best Actress Award in the 2011 Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival. Since founding Hong Kong Shax Theatre Group in 2010, Rosalind has directed Shakespearean classic plays such as *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is the first Chinese to win the Best Director Award at the Hecklers with *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* in 2016, winning again in 2017 with *Love's Labour's Lost*. After last year's *The Comedy of Errors* and *Macbeth*, Rosalind took on a Cantonese adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice*, which is her most recent production.



REIMAGINING SHREW— DIRECTORS' WORDS

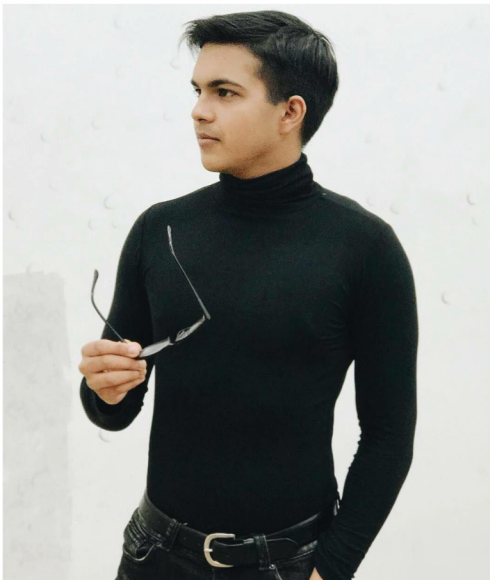
After producing the cataclysmic tale of *Macbeth* and the conniving conspiracies of *The Merchant of Venice* in 2018, we decided to set our hearts on a more light-hearted and fun project for a change. We believe that the Shakespeare classic *The Taming of the Shrew* contains many merry and jolly elements that both our audience and ourselves can enjoy in the long run. Yet, it is also a play that enables us to retain the severity and intensity found in its message.

With social issues such as gender equality becoming a mainstream topic, *The Taming of the Shrew* explores gender roles and their relation to power and social status - issues that still exist today despite the play's conception during the Elizabethan era. Despite the connotations the title and the ending carry, we believe that *The Taming of the Shrew* is a play that can provoke a re-evaluation of today's social conventions and how they have evolved, devolved or remained in their original states.

Anyone who is familiar with the original *The Taming of the Shrew* must know of the divisive interpretations it presents. However, our production team has worked hard to carve a completely separate lane while retaining as much of the original text to remain faithful to the literature. We have endeavoured to morph its interpretation through characterisation, line delivery and setting to establish a love story of a... different sort. This meticulous process has been a challenge which, we think, has paid off. We hope you enjoy our new take on Shakespeare's work, as farce, hidden truths, and love unravel into this classic comedy.

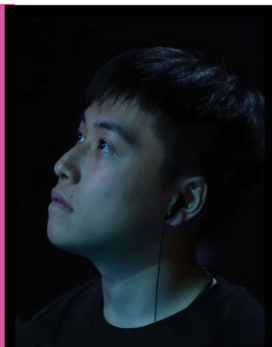
SIMON SHARMA

CO-DIRECTOR / PRODUCER



Following HKSTG's *The Merchant of Venice*, Ujjwal Sharma (Simon for your convenience) returns to HKSTG in his directorial debut. In 2018, he produced *Macbeth*, and the Cantonese *The Comedy of Errors*. He has also acted with Shax since 2016, in productions such as *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (2016) and *Love's Labour's Lost* (2017), which won him the Best Supporting Actor at the 2017 Hecklers. He has also worked outside Shax. He played Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night* (2016) - by the Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection (AFTEC) in association with artists from the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) Education Team - and was part of the ensemble in the Youth Arts Foundation's *Flood* (2018). When not struggling to make his actors memorize their lines, you will find him surfing Facebook, reflecting upon the intricacies of life or trying to recall whether he wrote that thing he had to write...

THE PRODUCTION TEAM



ALSTON CHAN HOI HO

DSM/ LIGHT DESIGNER

Alston defies all conventions as a medical student who is also heavily involved in the world of arts and theatre. He is a seasoned producer and technician, having worked with HKSTG last year in the same capacity for The Comedy of Errors (2018).



STHAVIR MURTHY

STAGE MANAGER

Having been with HKSTG for well over a year now, Sthavir (no simplifying nickname available) has been swayed toward the Theatre end of his Engineering-Theatre dilemma. As stage manager, his role consists chiefly of questioning his life choices, sending mass WhatsApp texts, and inhaling caffeine to do something he was supposed to have done a week ago.



RIPENDIP KAUR

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Ripendip (Rips) spends more time complaining about her work than doing it. But fortunately, having been with HKSTG for the second year now, she rather enjoys the responsibilities that come along with production-managing (hence there is little whining in the first place). Like any Education and Arts student, you'll find her having her head in various genres from drama to crime. Either that or (re)watching her favourite movies and TV shows, of which there is no shortage.



WINCEL SAGANA CAPIENDO

VISUALS HEAD

Wincel lives up to the Filipino stereotype of being a lover of the arts and loves expressing herself creatively. Despite being a Language and Communications student, she has much to say and yet has trouble finding the right words. This year, you'll find her working behind the curtain, hunched over her laptop creating visual material for HKSTG such as posters and this very programme you're reading! Now if only she could locate that .psd file she has to work on...

THE CAST



ANDREW SUCKLEY

CHRISTOPHER SLY/ NATHANIEL

Andrew is continuing his burgeoning theatrical experience with HKSTG for a third year. Though disappointed to find himself being the elderly statesman of the group, he has endeavoured to offer the same enthusiasm that he puts into his work as a teacher, as well as his many other hobbies. Here he plays his most enjoyable role thus far, the drunk and belligerent Christopher Sly.



HOLLY LEUNG

HOSTESS / CURTIS

After conquering IB Theatre last year, Holly, now a Year 1 LLB student at HKU, returns to the stage with her Shakespeare

debut as the gossipy and eager servant Curtis. In her free time, she spends 99% of time drinking boba, hanging out with her 'acquaintances', and binge-watching TV shows and anime. To the audience: holly moly, thanks for coming!



KYO CHEUNG

LORD 1 / PEDANT / MAKE-UP CAPTAIN / COSTUME & DESIGN VICE

Other than cats, Kyo loves art. And even though being an hku year 1 architecture student means that they don't get a lot of free time, Kyo strives for the revered work-life balance by doing two roles, makeup and costume for this production at day and studio work at night (and yes theatre counts as life!)



NICOLE ORTEGA

LORD 2 / WIDOW / MAKE-UP

Nicole is an avid TV fan, often watching multiple shows simultaneously. Despite bingeing TV shows, however, she spends most of her days in class as a 2nd-year psychology student waiting on the day she'll learn to read people's minds. Intrigued by classic Shakespearean comedy, she finds herself in yet another timeless romp. From an understudy to Dame Maud Gosport in Harlequinade, to a Lord and a Widow in Taming of the Shrew, where will she go next? Westeros maybe :)



ANSHITA MAHANA

HUNTSMAN

Anshita is a second year Mathematics and Journalism student

(basically an extremely inquisitive human) at HKU. Her love for Shakespeare, stepping out of her skin and of course, people at HKSTG made her continue after playing a drunk Porter in last year's production of Macbeth. Don't miss out on her taming the character of a beautifully dressed Hunter!



MINNIE WONG

PLAYER 1 / JOSEPHINE

Minnie is a final year law student at HKU. She has been a part of the makeup and backdrop teams of her residential hall's drama team. She has previously participated in another HKSTG production The Merchant of Venice, where she played the intrepid Jessica, daughter of Shylock. She hopes to wow again, this time playing dual roles: one of the players putting on the show for Sly, and Josephine.

THE CAST



NICOLE NG

PLAYER 2

Though only a 16-year-old Secondary 5/ Grade 11 student, Nicole joins HKSTG for the second time as an actress. Being a loud enthusiast of dramatic performances, especially Shakespearean ones, she flourishes in the role of Player 2. When the talkative, playful Player goes off stage, you would probably find her struggling to finish terribly written essays and uploading weird pictures of her brother to Instagram.



NATALIE CHEUNG

PLAYER 3/ TAILOR

Natalie is a year 1 Law student at HKU. Like her character

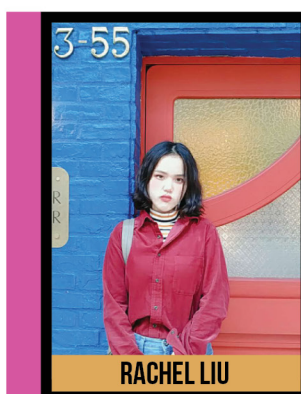
she enjoys entertaining and bringing joy to people around her. Most of the time you will find her singing obnoxiously loudly to herself while she plans out her “aesthetically pleasing” Instagram feed. As it is her first time doing theatre, she hopes for her acting to be less tragic than the fate of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.



GAYATHRI SIVAKUMAR

FIRST SERVANT / PROPS & SETS

As a final year Architecture student and a part-time Musical Theatre fan girl, Gayathri was stuck on what to do next and Shax came along and posed an interesting challenge. Always trying to crack jokes and entertain on the side, she is now ready to bring it on the stage. And of course as a future architect, Sets and Props is something that comes more naturally than anything else.



RACHEL LIU

SECOND SERVANT

Rachel is a year one student learning social sciences in HKU. As one who is interested in observing human beings, dramas have fascinated her since long ago. Spending most of her money on watching different dramas and performances, her biggest hobby is to join various guest lectures to observe and understand different scholars. This time, she plays the role of a servant, facilitating other characters and observing human nature, which suits her perfectly.

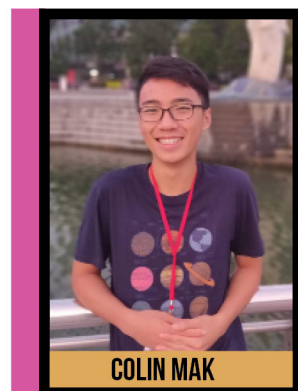


JACK LEE

BARTHOLOMEW - PAGE / VINCENTIO

Jack is a year 2 Arts student at HKU. He has been an actor in both

the dramatic and musical productions of his secondary school. Recently playing Antonio in HKSTG's cantonese production “The Merchant of Venice”, he is delighted to be playing the Page and Vincentio in this play.

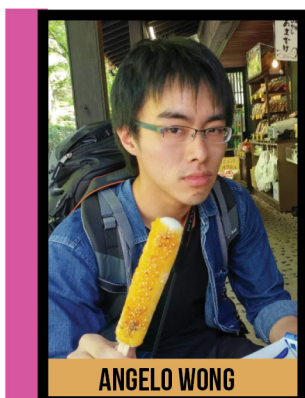


COLIN MAK

LUCENTIO

Whilst balancing family time and the hectic workload of an HKU Law and Business student, Colin is delighted to have joined the energetic, crazy, and fun Shax family to pursue his hobby of watching and creating theatre. He takes this opportunity to thank his amazing parents, brother, and friends, and hope that you all enjoy watching him colin-ise the show as the young exuberant Lucentio!

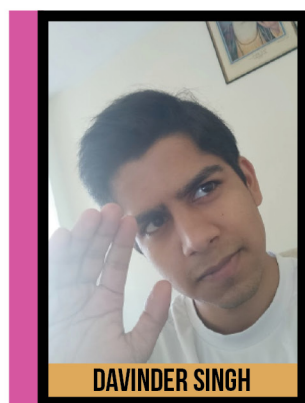
THE CAST



ANGELO WONG

TRANIO

Angelo is an English/Japanese student at HKU. Reading is his strong suit, not acting, but when Shakespeare calls you to the stage, what's a man to do but go? He sees in the wise and devoted Tranio a wholesome palliative for his world-weary cynicism. He only wishes that his excitable master would notice him more.



DAVINDER SINGH

BAPTISTA MINOLA

Davinder (Davi) is known for being a truly dedicated cinephile and film reviewer, and for his tardy arrivals to rehearsal. It might be shocking to see such a reserved person take up acting, but for those that have

known him since his youth it wouldn't be surprising. It's his lifelong dream to be an actor: he has attended more rehearsals than classes. Apart from acting, he also likes directing, editing and playing sports.



ALEXANDRA BACALA

EMILIA MINOLA / PROPS & SETS HEAD

Alexandra, who prefers to be called Alexe, is a final year psychology student at HKU. After trying out Judo as her extracurricular activity last year, she now wants to do something less strenuous. Unfortunately, as it is her first time doing theatre, she was unaware that acting required even more effort and core strength than Judo training. Apart from acting, she also gets to practice her pastime: making props.



ELIZABETH CHUNG

KATHERINA MINOLA

Elizabeth (Lilly/Zazz/Lei-Lei) Chung is an exchange student from the University of Leeds, England, where she reads English Literature and Theatre Studies. Notorious for never taking a break, force-feeding and mothering all around her, Lilly is honoured to play such a significant role for HKSTG, and will be returning to watch future shows (should her bank account support it...). She takes this opportunity to thank everyone for putting up with her, and to ask for a big cuddle xxx.



KEVIN DG

HORTENSIO

Kevin returns as a cast member from HKSTG's Macbeth last year. Being the real-life

best friend of Dominic — the actor playing Petruchio — playing Hortensio, the eager wingman, feels like another just another day in his life. Being a gamer and memmer, it's a surprise he finds the patience to act or put up with the shenanigans this cast pulls on a daily basis, but that's just the joy of being part of a cast.



MONICA WAT

BIANCA MINOLA

Monica's books and music are her constant company (note: not Bianca, though we see that life somewhat imitates art). Perhaps that explains why she reads Law and Literature at HKU. Her strongest suits include irritating Simon, sharing her singing on YouTube shamelessly, as well as writing poetry and songs when moody (which is...quite often). From playing Sharpay at age eleven to Bianca today, she is immensely grateful for theatre — a safe space to grow up and explore life.

THE CAST



HARPREET SINGH

BIONDELLO

Harpreet is just like his character Biondello - he has no idea what's going on most of the time. Currently a student at HKU Space, he enjoys reading, sometimes writing but mainly looking at memes 25/24 hours a day.



VIKHYAT VIJ

GREMIO

A cinephile at heart, Vikhyat's interest in cinema and theatre goes long back. Apart from reading about screenwriting and watching films, he codes and likes to gym. Also, ladies: life imitates art yes, but not in his case.



DOMINIC LEE SHING YUEN

PETRUCHIO / MAIN PHOTOGRAPHER

Dominic is a Year 2 English Major at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Since secondary, Dominic has meddled in theatre both in and outside school. His previous roles include Nicholas Nickleby in *Nicholas Nickleby* (AF-TEC), Oswald in *Waiting Room* (HKUGAC) and Archibald Craven in *The Secret Garden* (AF-TEC). After last year's Scottish tragedy as Banquo, he returns to Shax as the male lead Petruchio. Do enjoy his comedy debut as he awkwardly struggles with stage intimacy.



EMILY LAI

GRUMIO

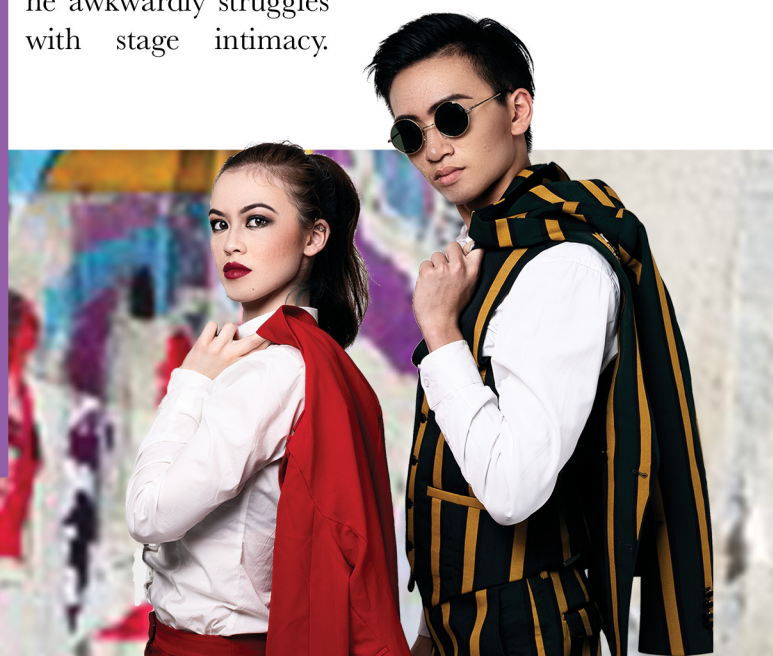
Emily is a year 2 Translation and Interpretation student at CityU. She was inspired by her drama teacher and fell in love with acting. She joined HKSTG in 2017 and played a male servant in *The Comedy of Errors* (2018), her very first Shakespearean play. The month following, she also played a witch in *Macbeth*. That summer, she performed in *Footloose*. Her appetite is never too full for more! Whether it is a play or a musical, she will do her best to "move" you!

SYNOPSIS

Nobody - including Katherina, elder daughter to the Minolas - believes the man exists that could brave her scalding temperament and woo her fierce heart. Her angelic younger sister, Bianca, on the other hand, is the most pursued lady in town. Unfortunately, by Baptista Minola's decree, none can ask for his youngest's hand till the eldest first be married. Motivated by his decision, suitors Hortensio, Gremio and Lucentio concoct a grand scheme to remove the only hurdle between them and their fair mistress.

In another city, Petruchio's father passes away and now alone in the world, the eccentric and headstrong "gentleman" sets out with Grumio, eager to find a lifelong companion - among other thrills of life. To begin, he decides to pay his best friend, Hortensio, a visit...

...And walks right into a challenge like no other he has faced!



THE CREW



ANTHONY LI

TRANSLATION / CREW

Anthony is a third-year literature student at the University of Hong Kong. He played an acting role and worked on script translation in HKSTG's previous (Chinese) production, *The Merchant of Venice*. Now, being a crew member is one of his labours of love. He hopes his little contribution can help bring you all a wonderful experience.



CHERRY CHUNG

PROPS & SETS / CREW / COSTUME & DESIGN

Cherry is a year two business student at HKU. After studying a course about performing arts last semester, she found that she actually enjoys being part of the backstage a lot! This year, she finally

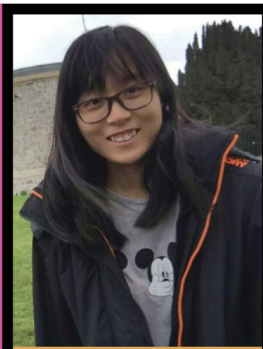
plucked up her courage to join HKSTG. She hopes that she won't mess things up and can make a tiny bit of contribution to the crew.



CLARE FUNG

COSTUME & DESIGN / CREW

Clare enjoys having a nice cup of latte and spending quality time with friends in artsy and beautiful cafés. When she is caught scrolling on her phone, she is probably appreciating artworks on Instagram and procrastinating. This is her first time participating in a Shakespearean play and designing costumes. She hopes everyone will enjoy the show.



EMILY LAM

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER / CREW VICE

Emily is a second-year psychology and criminology student at HKU. Her friends love calling her "Tree" since she was particularly tall among girls and her favourite colours are green and brown. This is her first year in HKSTG. She was a crew member in her secondary school drama society. Therefore, she hopes that her experience can be useful and help the smooth running of the play.

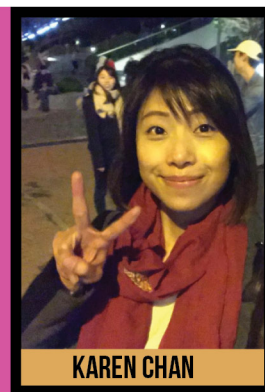


JENNY LEUNG

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER / TICKETING

This is Jenny's first year in HKSTG and her first time involved

in a dramatic production. She is currently studying geography and psychology at HKU. She's playing the important and (very necessary) role of looking after HKSTG's finances. Her interests are playing the clarinet, travelling and counting money.



KAREN CHAN

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER / PROMOTIONS TEAM HEAD / CREW

Karen is a masters student in Psychology at HKU. In 2018, Karen decided to participate in HKSTG's upcoming productions and was responsible for their promotion. She is also a cast member of HKSTG from the previous production of *The Merchant of Venice*.

THE CREW



PERCY YAU

COSTUMES / PROPS & SETS

Percy is a year 1 student studying English Education at HKU. She loves watching plays and Shakespeare's *The Taming of The Shrew* is one of her favourite drama. It is her first time doing theatre and she enjoys working with other amazing people. She hopes you all will like the show!



RACHEL KAYE

MAKE-UP VICE / VISUAL UNIT

Rachel is a final year student in Digital Visual Design who loves everything that is art (or makeup.) She was pulled into joining HKSTG in the interest of making everyone look good on stage AND the

posters. She also got to meet a lot of cool people as you can tell from everyone's witty bios. She's looking forward to being behind the scenes and being part of the backbone of HKSTG. Anyway, she hopes you all will enjoy the show!



RACHELLE MA

SOCIAL MEDIA CAPTAIN / MAKE-UP

Rachelle writes everything from fire Instagram captions to the occasional think piece about her favourite pop albums, perfect for managing HKSTG's social media presence. When she's not busy rearranging her Spotify playlists or drinking her body weight in oat milk lattes, she's struggling to end sentences much like this one.



SALLY KWAN

CREW CAPTAIN / TRANSLATION CHIEF

Sally is a second year English Studies and Translation student at HKU. She translates emails and articles from English to Chinese and works backstage. She hopes everything runs smoothly in this year's production!



SHEREBANU GOOLAMABBAS

SPONSORSHIP HEAD / PROMOTIONS

Sherebanu spends most of her time curled up binging TV shows or frolicking around town trying to find a new vegan hotspot for her Instagram. For this play, she is responsible for seek-

ing out sponsorships and coming up with promotion strategies. When not attempting to find new ways to procrastinate, she spends time diving head first into a new book.



SNEHA LALWANI

COSTUME & DESIGN HEAD / VISUAL UNIT / MAKE-UP

Sneha Lalwani is a busy bee who often finds herself doing way more than needed and thinking way ahead of time. Being a public relations student, she often finds herself complaining about how her groupmates don't do a thing. Regardless, she helps out with the makeup and visuals while also simultaneously doing her FYP. Really needs a chill pill this one.

SPECIAL THANKS

Venue Support

Chong Yuet Ming Cultural Centre, The University of Hong Kong
Fong Shu Chuen Amenities Centre, The University of Hong Kong
City University of Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong - Publicity & Promotion

Ms. Natalie Yip, Executive Officer, Faculty of Arts
Ms. Mandy Leung, School Manager, School of English, Faculty of Arts
Ms. Tanya Kempston, Division of English Language Education
Edwin Ng, HKU Admissions and Academic Liaison Section
Katherine Tong, Mender of Things

External Publicity/Support

Benjamin Chadwick, Executive Assistant, English Language Centre, Hang Seng Management College (HSMC)
The Chinese University of Hong Kong Department of English
Hong Kong Baptist University Department of English Language and Literature
Dr. Jason Lee
Peel Street Poetry
The Open University of Hong Kong School of Education and Languages
Department of English and European Languages
School of Continuing and Professional Studies
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Advisory Support

Ms. Michele FOK, Senior Student Advising Officer (Student Development), Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS)
Ms. Sandy Poon, Student Advising Officer (Campus Life), Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS)

Marymount Secondary School Mentorship Programme

Jade Shiu
Samantha Baquiran
Magnolia Maninggo
Rachel Ip

These are some special and exemplary individuals we would like to thank for their self-less and time-less contributions:

Wincel Sagana Capiendo - Graphics, Promotional material
Dominic Lee - Photography
Karen Chau Kai En - Costumes (research and purchases)
Tang Ho Fung - Costumes (research)
Alexandra Bacala - Props
Jake Skinner - Trailer Videography Support



HKSTG TIMELINE

2010 HKSTG was founded

2011 As You Like It

2012 Hamlet

2013 Shakespearean Double Bill:
As You Like It
Much Ado About Nothing

2014 Shakespeare in the Port
Twelfth Night
Othello

2015 Shakespeare in the Port
A Midsummer Night's Dream

2016 The Spring Concert in
collaboration with Union Phil-
harmonic Orchestra
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Hamlet
Romeo and Juliet
The Two Gentlemen of Verona

2017 Love's Labour's Lost

2018 Comedy of Errors
Macbeth

2019 The Merchant of Venice
The Taming of the Shrew

2020

1
Years



It is difficult to believe that what once started off as a project born of a few students' passion for the performance arts and literature has evolved into a sanctuary for those that seek a similar path. Founded in the University of Hong Kong in 2010, HKSTG will become 10 years old next year, and to celebrate the special occasion, we invite all our Shaxbies (that now come from various ages, universities, fields and even continents) and all our supporters (families, friends, faculties, departments, schools, and fellow artists who share our dream) to count down to a grand 2020 – more details to follow. Stay connected to HKSTG and get the latest updates on Facebook ([/HongKongShaxTheatreGroup](#)) and Instagram ([@hkshaxtheatregroup](#)).