

A Conference on Documentary Theatre

Theatre and Society: How does Documentary Theatre Respond to the Society?

Call for Paper/Narrative Presentation

Date

29 (Saturday) and 30 (Sunday) July 2017

Venue

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Organizations

Presenters: Pants Theatre Production

Co-presenters: The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Collaborator: Goethe-Institut Hong Kong

Theatre and Society – Documentary Theatre Festival is financially supported by the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. ”

Disclaimer: The content of these activities do not reflect the views of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Theme of the Conference

Theatre and Society: How does Documentary Theatre Respond to the Society?

The term “Documentary Theatre” is a late entry into the discourse of Chinese theatre scene, although it has been developed for decades in the Western theatre world. Scholars and playwrights have defined the documentary theatre as:

“Documentary plays comprise a particular genre of plays whose distinctive feature is that their content has some grounding in fact.... The quality of the imagination which works on the factual material determines whether the documentary becomes ‘art’.” Robert Leach, *How to Make a Documentary Play*

“The documentary theater is a theater of factual report.... It makes use of authentic documentary material, which it diffuses from the stage, without altering the contents, but in structuring the form. In opposition to the incoherent mass of information which constantly assails us from every side, it presents a selection which converges towards a precise and generally social or political theme.” Peter Weiss, “Fourteen Propositions for a Documentary Theater”

Documentary theatre is closely related to the society. The creators of most of the representative masterpieces investigate certain significant events or phenomena via direct interview or research on related material. The real materials are edited, arranged and recontextualised into a meaningful performance text. Artistic treatment has enabled the audience to have a clear grasp of the targeted event or phenomena and/or provided with diverse perspectives of the original

target. Apart from having a better understanding of the original target, the audience will also be more aware of its social or political context. Thus, documentary theatre usually reveals a close connection between the theatre and the society.

Documentary theatre has been introduced into the Chinese theatre scene only recently. Pants Theatre Production in Hong Kong is one of the few theatre companies with focus on this particular form. In July 2017 it will hold a documentary theatre conference facilitating the exchange of overseas and Hong Kong artists. Scholars, practitioners, students from overseas and Hong Kong who are interested in documentary theatre are welcome to join while there will be sessions for academic researchers or theatre artists to present their papers or their creative experience.

Content

Date	Time	Theme	Style of Presentation
29 July 2017 (Saturday)	10:00am - 1:00pm	Introduction: Theatre and Society	Keynote Speakers
	2:30-4:00pm	The Uniqueness of Documentary Theatre: Styles and Content	Keynote Speakers
	4:30-6:00pm		Paper/Narrative Presentation
30 July 2017 (Sunday)	10:00am - 11:30am	Influence of	Keynote Speakers
	12:00 - 1:00pm	Documentary theatre – Why making	Paper/Narrative Presentation
	2:00-3:00pm	Documentary Theatre today?	Keynote Speakers
	3:30-5:30pm	Theatre and Society: Looking Forward	Round Table Discussion

Language for Paper/Narrative Presentation

Written in Chinese or English; Presented in Cantonese, Mandarin or English.

Method of Submission

On or Before 16 June 2017, please submit:

Application Form;

A Short Biography of the participant;

An Abstract of the Presentation within 500 words

Final Presentation Paper

Approximately 5,000 words (the oral presentation will be finished within 20 minutes with normal reading speed.)

Final Submission of the Paper: 30 June 2017

Fee

The Conference is free of charge but as the seats are limited, please reserve your seat as soon as possible via apply@pants.org.hk.

Mailing Address

Flat F, 6/F., Block A, Marvel Industrial Building, 25-31 Kwai Fung Crescent, Kwai Chung, NT

Email: info@pants.org.hk

Enquiry:

email: info@pants.org.hk

A Conference on Documentary Theatre

Theatre and Society: How does Documentary Theatre Respond to the Society?

Call for Paper/Narrative Presentation

Format of Paper

For consistency, paper presenters are reminded to follow the required format below. If the presenters do not attend, their presentation will be cancelled. The Presenter reserve the right to decide the eligibility of the applicants of paper/narrative presentation.

Please follow the format of MLA (Footnotes are numbered in the main text while the footnotes are placed at the end of the paper).

Please use Microsoft Word and submit both the soft and printed copy.

Please use Times New Roman for the main text with the font size at pt.12, font width at normal; Single line.

Please use italics for titles of books, journals, plays, PhD thesis, e.g. *I Am My Own Wife*, *Verbatim Verbatim*; Quotation marks for titles of an article, e.g. "On *Laramie Project*", "The Art of *The Exonerated*".

A Conference on Documentary Theatre

Theatre and Society: How does Documentary Theatre Respond to the Society?

Call for Paper/Narrative Presentation

Application Form

Surname		Given Names	
Prof./Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss (Please delete whichever is not applicable)		Name in Chinese (if applicable)	
Sex		Age	
Institution/ Organization			Title
Correspondence Address			
Mobile/ Tel Number		Email	
Country			
Title of Presentation			
Short Biography			
Abstract of the Presentation (within 500 words)			