

THE THEATRE PRACTICE LTD
ANNUAL REPORT
FROM 1ST APRIL 2012 TO 31ST MARCH 2013

The Theatre Practice Ltd (TTP) w.e.f. 28th Jan 2010 (formerly known as Practice Performing Arts Centre Ltd) was set up in 1st June 1988. It was registered under the Charities Act on 27th November 1990 as an Institution of A Public Character (IPC).

IPC No	: 198801755D
Unique Entity Number (UEN No)	: 198801755D
Registered Address	: 155 Waterloo Street #02-06 Stamford Arts Centre Singapore 187962
Board of Directors	: Mr Goh Wei Fen (Appointed on 30 th Nov 09) Dr Quah Sy Ren (Appointed on 29 th May 03) Ms Wong Yen Yee (Appointed on 4 th Aug 03) Mr Samuel Seow Theng Beng (Appointed on 30 th Nov 09) Ms Kuo Jian Hong (Appointed on 12 th Nov 10)
Management Board	: Dr Quah Sy Ren Ms Wong Yen Yee Mr Samuel Seow Mr Goh Wei Fen Ms Kuo Jian Hong
Banker	: United Overseas Bank – Rochor Branch
Auditor	: Ms Lo Wei Pin Lo Hock Ling & Co 101A Upper Cross Street #11-22 Singapore 058358
Other Adviser(s)	: Mr Samuel Seow Legal Adviser

OBJECTIVE

To promote an interest in the performing arts as an art form fully integrated in the living fibres of the people of Singapore.

To establish and carry on centres to facilitate training, production, practice and performance of the arts, and at which ideas on the performing arts can be exchanged and developed.

VISION/MISSION

To continue to strive for artistic excellence, high quality performances while maintaining its multicultural mindset in order to develop and nurture audience.

To cultivate new generations of theatre practitioners through training

To create works that continue to be artistically adventurous as well as relevant to our lives.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the company are to promote and develop performing arts and to produce and present drama, dance and other cultural activities.

REVIEW OF YEAR 2012/2013

TTP runs the regular classes for both adults and children.

The regular courses conducted during the year were Chinese Aerobics for the Women, Mandarin Speech & Drama Courses called Story Banq for ages 7 to 9, Drama Class for ages 10 to 12, and Play-In-Arts for ages 4 to 6.

An in-house performance called "The Little Windmills Take The Stage" involving the Mandarin Speech & Drama Students was held at the Goodman Arts Centre Black Box to showcase the progress of the students to their parents.

Student intake for 2012/2013

(1) Chinese Aerobics	40
(2) Story Banq	22
(3) Drama Class	13
(4) Play-In-Arts	18
Total	<hr/> 93

TTP produces Chinese and English productions held at various locations for different audiences ranging from Adults to children. We remain committed to stage entertaining, accessible and yet provocative works for our audiences.

In this year, TTP focused its efforts on commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the passing of its co-founder and former Artistic Director, Mr Kuo Pao Kun with *Kuo Pao Kun Festival 2012*. The Year opened with *Lao Jiu: The Musical*, a totally new attempt inspired by Kuo's original script from 1990. This production is another important step in TTP's efforts in developing local, Chinese language musicals.

In September, we presented the theatre version of *Day I Met the Prince* for young audiences. This is the play that we have been performing regularly in schools, but we wanted to bring children into the theatre to share the magic of theatre with them. Hot on the heels after was *The Silly Little Girl and The Funny Old Tree*. After a gap of 9 years, Taiwan Theatre Director Fu Hong-Zheng returned to Singapore to lead a new generation of actors in finding meanings and relevance of Kuo's classic play in today's society.

The main ticketed season of *Kuo Pao Kun Festival 2012* ended with *The Spirits Play*, a collaboration between TTP and Hong Kong's Zuni Icosahedron and Japan's Za-Kpemji Public Theatre where theatre directors Danny Yung and Makoto Sato directed their versions of the play using Kunqu, Noh and contemporary performers. This exchange deepened everyone's appreciation of theatre-making and challenged our assumptions, crossing cultural and language barriers.

The concluding programme for the Festival was the non-ticketed event, *11 Kuo Pao Kun Devised, Again* and it concluded the festival in a meaningful way with veteran performers taking the lead paying homage to Mr Kuo Pao Kun and his plays.

On the international front, TTP took part in the Taipei Arts Festival with *The Story after Ah Q* and the Taipei Fringe and Macau Festival with *The Mother Hen Next Door*, opening new doors for us in terms of international relations, and the opportunity to perform in the international arena.

Besides performances, we also dabbled in co-organising the *KPK International Symposium* with ARI and the National Museum of Singapore, and supported the exhibition fronted by National Museum of Singapore titled, *A Life of Practice* on the works and life of Kuop Pao Kun.

TTP also has a project wing. Established in 1994, the Student Theatre education Program (STEP) continues its theatre outreach to schools in the form of school performances or long term and short term drama related courses. 4 shows were offered to the schools in 2012/13 in line with the Festival. They included *Calling the East Wind* and *Day I Met the Prince* both written by Kuo Pao Kun, while *Story Challenge: The Great Campus Story Challenge* and *Textbook Drama* offered alternatives in content. A talk tailored for the festival called *Who is Kuo Pao Kun?* were booked by schools.

March 2013 saw the return of *Story Challenge* Tournament held at River Valley High School for the 6th year since 2008. It is a storytelling competition where participants are given 15 minutes to create an original story. The event had a wonderful turnout of 338 entries for both individual and group categories in the Chinese and English categories for Primary and Secondary Schools. We also brought back the ever popular sing-a-long event *We Sing Our Songs* with audience turnout of almost 1200.

For the 3rd time, we held two theatre workshops *Practice Theatre Camp* and *Philippe Gaulier Master Class* in collaboration with the NAC. The *Practice Theatre Camp* was a 3-day programme for students and young theatre practitioners led by 3 Asia's top theatre practitioners: Ms Chen Szu-Feng, Ms Kuo Jing Hong and Mr Wang Chia-Ming. *Philippe Gaulier Master Class* is part of TTP's education and outreach initiative, and shows our continuing commitment to nurture, develop and train our artists and practitioners with exciting and challenging programmes.

TTP's work is currently supported by 8 full time artistic and production staff, 10 full time administrative and marketing staff and 1 part-time finance officer.

Calendar of Events from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013:

May	<i>Crash-A-Course</i> Weekend class enrolment held on 26 th May. <i>We Sing Our Songs</i> was held at Creative Resource Amphitheatre on 19 th May. <i>Little Rascals Workshop</i> for children was held before the event
June	<i>Practice Theatre Camp</i> held at LASALLE College of the Arts from 19 th June to 21 st June
July	Staging of <i>Lao Jiu: The Musical</i> at Drama Centre Theatre from 12 th July to 29 th July. <i>Little Rascals Workshop</i> for children was held on 22 nd July during performance time.
Aug/Sep	<i>Philippe Gaulier Master Class</i> was held at Goodman Arts Centre from 8 th Aug to 12 th Aug. Staging of <i>The Story After Ah Q</i> at Zhongshan Hall, Taipei from 17 th Aug to 19 th Aug. Staging of <i>Day I Met The Prince</i> at the Studio Theatre of School of The Arts (SOTA) from 30 th Aug to 2 nd Sep.
September	Staging of <i>The Silly Little Girl and the Funny Old Tree</i> at the Studio Theatre of SOTA from 6 th Sep to 16 th Sep. <i>Kuo Pao Kun International Conference</i> held at National Museum of Singapore from 14 th Sep to 15 th Sep Exhibition <i>A Life of Practice Kuo Pao Kun</i> was held at National Museum of Singapore from 15 th Sep to 24 th Feb 2013 Staging of <i>The Mother Hen Next Door</i> at Taipei Fringe Festival 2012 from 14 th Sep to 16 th Sep
October	Staging of <i>The Spirits Play</i> at The Joyden Hall of Bugis+ from 25 th Oct to 28 th Oct.
November	Staging of <i>11 Kuo Pao Kun Devised, again</i> under the Poor Theatre Series at Stamford Arts Centre, Waterloo Street from 1 st Nov to 11 th Nov. Staging of Year-end performance <i>The Little Windmills Take The Stage</i> by the Students of weekend classes at Goodman Arts Centre Black Box on 22 nd Nov. <i>Crash-A-Course</i> Weekend class enrolment for 2013 was held on 25 th Nov. Staging of <i>The Mother Hen Next Door</i> from 23 rd Nov to 25 th Nov at Hiu Kok Experimental Theatre, Macau
Feb/Mar 13	Story Challenge Competition for Schools held at River Valley High School. The finals was held on 16 th Mar

Review of Financial State and Explanation of Major Financial Transactions

We recorded a surplus \$ 261,474 for the year. We wish to thank our donors, supporters and volunteers who have made significant contributions to us. TTP is on a 2-year major grant scheme with the NAC and the current grant period extends to March 2014. TTP's assets and reserves are held solely for the use of the charity.

Annual Remuneration of the highest paid staff of more than \$100K but less than \$150K:

1. Kuo Jian Hong Artistic Director

Policy relating to the Management and Avoidance of Conflict of Interest

All transactions for TTP are approved by two officers in charge (according to the Delegation of Authority Matrix). All business transactions are done at arms length. The Board of Directors have signed a declaration form to declare any conflict of interest. The Board of Directors will refrain from voting if there is a conflict of interest issue arise.

Future Plans and Commitments

TTP's regular classes for adults and children will continue and we will look into the possibility for expansion. We will continue to review our curriculum in order to be relevant to the current needs of students.

2013 marks an important year for the deliberate investment into training of actors, playwrights and theatre audience outreach with the formation of the TTP Lab, the training and development arm of The Theatre Practice. We will also launch the inaugural issue of the Practice Journal, a quarterly newsletter. To reach out to a broader readership, the bilingual newsletter will be readily available online.

2013 brings back the return of Chinese Theatre Festival 2013 with a line-up of 4 shows from Singapore and Taiwan.