

# Theatre Ronin *Burmese Days*

In Cantonese with Chinese and English surtitles

13-14. 5. 2022 8pm

14-15. 5. 2022 3pm

15.5.2022 7:30pm

Studio Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

"I wanted to write enormous naturalistic novels with unhappy endings, full of detailed descriptions and arresting similes... And in fact my first completed novel, *Burmese Days*, which I wrote when I was thirty, is rather that kind of book."

- George Orwell, *Why I Write*

Ever since the founding of Theatre Ronin, we have been focusing on putting Hong Kong literature on theatre. This year, to mark our 16th anniversary, we bring forth our first ever foreign novel adaptation, *Burmese Days* by George Orwell.

About George Orwell and *Burmese Days*

Most know Orwell from his last two works: *Animal Farm* and 1984. He is also known for his opposition to pretentious diction. He was praised, however, for the flowery language in his first novel *Burmese Days*, readers could as well have a glimpse of the thought basis of his later works. He had lived in the colonial Burma for 5 years as a young man. Not only did this experience become the fabric of his first novel, but Burma also shaped his vision in literature as a spiritual root.

Theatre Ronin explores the spiritual world of young Orwell with our unique contemporary theatrical aesthetics.

## Creative and Production Team

Novel by	George Orwell
Director / Adaptation / Stage Designer	Alex TAM
Producer	Jessie LAM
Performers	LEUNG Ho Pong WONG Ching Yan Birdy#, CHAN Xiyong Andrew CHIU Chin Hei, Holmes CHEUNG CHAN Kong Hung
Dramaturg	Suyi KAN
Choreographer	Joseph LEE*
Costume Designer	Suki CHAN
Lighting designer	Zoe CHEUNG
Sound Designer	Maj CHAN
Live Jazz Performer	YAU Yao Yin
Stage Design Assistant	IP Hin Ching
Costume Assistant	Seamy LI
Assistant Producer and Illustrator	Sissy LAM
English Subtitle Translation / Subtitle Operator	Cheryl YUNG
Production and Stage manager	CHONG Hiu Ting
Deputy Stage manager	Nancy LEE
Assistant Stage manager	NG Chun Wai
Production Electrician	WONG Ka Ki
Stage Assistant:	CHAN Chi Wai
Graphic and House Program Design	Benny LEUNG@studio-m.hk
Promotion and Rehearsal Photographer	FUNG Wai Sun @sunyeahproduction

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## List of Characters (Appearance order)

WONG Ching Yan Birdy	Narrator / Kin / Elizabeth / Ma Hla May
CHIU Chin Hei	Narrator / U Po Kyin / Mrs. Lackersteen / Mr. Lackersteen
CHAN Xiyong Andrew	Narrator / Dr. Veraswami / Maxwell
CHAN Kong Hung	Narrator / Ko S'la / Mr. Macgregor
Holmes CHEUNG	Narrator / Ellis
LEUNG Ho Pong	Narrator / John Flory

## Creative and Production team

### Alex TAM Director / Adaptation / Stage Designer

Alex is the founder and Artistic Director of Theatre Ronin, guest lecturer of The Education University of Hong Kong. He is an experienced director, Stage and costume designer, scriptwriter, curator and tutor of creative projects; he produced and curated over one hundred productions and arts projects. Tam graduated with two Bachelor of Arts Degree in directing and in set and costume design (First Hons) respectively from Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts.

His works are marked by poetic imageries composed of different theatrical multimedia elements and a simple, unadorned but imaginative style; he transformed Hong Kong and world literature into theatre works include: *Tête-bêche*; *My City, Our City*; *P.E Period*; *The Fog*; *Sew & Soul*; *Hong Kong Trilogy*; *Androgyny*; *The Teddy Bear Chronicle*; *Maria*; *Hoichi the Earless and Legend of the Swordsmen of the Mountains of Shu*.

Latest directed works include: Theatre Movie: *Hoichi the Earless 2.0*, *Xi Xi Maria*, Narrative Music theatre: *In the Mood for RED*, Theatre Movie: *Practice of ZEN*, Narrative Music theatre: *Aquamarine*, *Hoichi the Earless*, *Wilderness of Soul 2.0*, *Fallen*, Physical Music theatre: *A Many-Splendored Thing*, Interactive theatre: *Playing with XiXi* and *Bear-Men*.

In 2019, he presented and shared the topic: “Karesansui – Scenography of Hong Kong Literature Theatre” with theatre designers at International Exhibition of Scenography and Theatre Architecture Prague Quadrennial. Theatre Movie: *Practice of ZEN* was selected as “Highly Commended shortlist of finalists” of Asian Arts Awards in 2021 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and his script, *Ishino Boy* was selected by Asia Theater Circle : Asia Playwright Festival in 2018 and *Playing with XiXi* won the Best Space Award in 2017 Taipei Fringe Festival.

In 2021, Alex performed his directed play *In the Mood for RED* as main cast.

### Jessie LAM Producer

Jessie is the Executive Director of Theatre Ronin. She is also the producer of company productions and arts projects. Latest participated works include: Theatre Movie: *Hoichi the Earless*, *Xi Xi Maria*, *In the Mood for RED* and Theatre Movie: *Practice of ZEN*.

## **LEUNG Ho Pong Performer**

Graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, School of Drama, majored in acting (BFA). He won the Best Actor ( Comedy ) of the 2016 Hong Kong Federation of Drama Societies Award , and was a nominee of 2015 Hong Kong Federation of Drama Society Award for Supporting Actor and 2013 Hong Kong Theatre Libre for Best Actor .

Instagram: feuilladee

## **WONG Ching Yan Birdy Performer**

The Artistic Director of the Artocrite Theater.

Graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with First Class Honours, majored in Acting.

In 2016, She won the Award for Young Artist in Hong Kong Art Development Council; in 2021, She got New York fellowship from Asian Cultural Council and become ACC 's Alumni.

She previously won the Best Actress award (Tragedy/Drama) and Best supporting Actress at the 18th & 26th Hong Kong Drama Awards and the Best Script nomination at the 9th Hong Kong Theatre Libre.

## **Chan Xiyong Andrew Performer**

Graduated from Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2018 with a Bachelor Degree of School of Drama, majored in Acting. Nominated as The Best Leading Actor Award by The Hong Kong Theatre Libre.

Recently studying about anthropology, physical theatre training, composing, traditional performing arts, art therapy, art education, the public right of space and artists who are homesick.

I am not happy lately, please hug me while you meet me.

## **CHIU Chin Hei    Performer**

Graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) Degree, majored in Acting. He holds a Higher Diploma in Creative Film Production from the Hong Kong Baptist University, majored in Directing.

He appeared in productions by different theatre companies including: *Home of Geoff Sobelle*, *Lu-Ting The Mermaid* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2018, won a 5-star review by *The List*), *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui & Peer Gynt* by Theatre Horizon; *The Libation Bearers*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *The Wild Duck & Lungs* by We Draman; *My Dad, My Mom, My Son and My Daughter...*(Documentary Theater) by Pants Theatre Production; *The Unforgettable Chapter and Hollow Room* by Hong Kong Repertory Theatre and *Trashy Treasure & Forest classroom* (Musical) by Actors' Family. In addition to his theatre performances, CHIU has also appeared in films as well as television productions.

CHIU is a freelance actor of Theatre and Film. He is a member of International Magicians Society Hong Kong and Magicians' Association of Hong Kong.

IG : @chinheichiu

## **Holmes CHEUNG    Performer**

Majoring in advertising design, he is now a cross-media artist and performer, with multiple identities including performer, actor, dramaturg, dancer, choreographer, art director, video and graphic designer, curator, etc.

He is talented at spotting the relationship between performers and spectators, scene and space creation, visual communication and use of symbols, text and devising.

Recent created works include *CHEUNG LEE HUNG* (2021) by Unlock Dancing Plaza #DANCELESS complex, *Live* (2019) co-created with Lawrence Lau and Sabrina Wong, by the CCDC Dance Centre 2nd Stage, *Makye Ame* (2019 Hong Kong and Taiwan version) co-created with YinNgZi by *Let's Be Together Arts Festival Hong Kong* and Taiwan *HengChun Live*.

Recent performances include Unlock Dancing Plaza *Hands • Footprint • Sound #danceless performance series*; Theatre Ronin *Burmese Days*, Theatre Movie *Practice of Zen*; Joseph Lee *Unfolding Images: We are Spectacle(s), Drifting, The World Was Once Flat* (Hong Kong and Korea version); Yin Ng Zi *Anti Kōdy* and Cinematic Theatre *Lightening*.

## **CHAN Kong Hung     Performer**

In 2015, CHAN graduated from the Taipei National University of the Arts, the Department of Theatre Arts School of Theatre Art with a degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, majored in Acting.

Now, he is the Multimedia Performing Arts tutor of HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity.

## **Suyi KAN     Dramaturg**

Kan stumbled into theatre in Summer 2019 through participating in some pre-production research and taking an interest in dramaturgy. Recently he has worked on assisting the On & On Theatre Workshop to develop Mark Ravenhill's *Pool (No Water)*, Chan Ping Chiu's *Tin Hong Lane*, Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*, also with the Hong Kong Dramatists to produce Janice Poon's *Stragglers* and with Joseph Lee to choreograph his work *Unfolding Images: We Are Spectacle(s)*.

## **Joseph LEE     Choreographer**

Joseph is a Hong Kong-based choreographer and performer. He began his dance training at seventeen. Graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and The Place, London Contemporary Dance School in the United Kingdom. Lee is currently the Associate Artistic Director of Unlock Dancing Plaza, curating a series of contemporary dance programs and platforms to foster artistic discourse in the performing arts field locally and internationally. Lee is interested in extracting, transferring, and re-enactment of bodily experience which reveals the performative nature of everyday life in contemporary society and he translates and re-organizes the experience and contexts within the physical body through live performance, writing, moving image and curation. His work is focused on expanding the audience's imaginary horizons of choreography by creating and performing with the body and other alternatives. He is also keen on trans-disciplinary collaboration as a way to enrich and reflect on his own practices. Recent choreographies include *Folding Echoes* (2016), *Drifting* (2019) and *We Are Spectacles* (2021).

## **Suki CHAN     Costume Designer**

Suki is a graduate of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, majored in Set and Costume Design.

She is currently a freelance designer and a part-time lecturer at the HKAPA.

## **Zoe CHEUNG     Lighting Designer**

Graduated from Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts :Theatre Lighting Design in 2010.

Recently participated productions including Tsang Man Tung Theatre work *The Light of Metempsychosis*, CYPHER FreeSpace *The Battle*, Sand Painting Production *Mirage* ,Theatre Ronin *Hoichi the Earless2.0* (Theatre movie), *Hoichi the Earless* and etc. Zoe also involved as lighting designer in music & dance exchange overseas projects e.g. Teatr Tańca Zawirowania Dance Festival, Adelaide Fringe Festival, Avignon Off Festival and etc.

## **Maj CHAN     Composer / Sound designer**

Maj graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, majored in Sound Design and was rewarded by the Doris Zimmern Scholarship and Disney(HK) Scholarship. Having taken an internship at the Autograph Sound Recording London, the National Theatre London, West Ends theatre productions *Mama Mia*, *Jersey Boys* and *War Horse* in London, he went on to be involved in sound design of various productions in Hong Kong, including *Rat*, *Revenge*, *Sword*, *Angel's Gift*, *Freedom of Expression*, *Facehome*, *Swimming Fish*, *Aquamarine*, *A Many-Splendoured Thing*, Theatre Movie: *Practice of Zen*, *Playing with XiXi* ( Hong Kong and Taipei Fringe Festival), *Hoichi The Earless* (Hong Kong and International Art Festival in Edinburgh).

Besides theatrical sound design, he also works in recording studio environment on local music and video productions.

## **YAU Yao Yin     Live Jazz Performer**

Yau graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Art, School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, majored in Sound Design. She is now a freelance sound designer and theatre practitioner. Recent works include *What Are We Waiting For?*, *Oo.ll.oO Against Alienation in Our New Normal* and *XiXi Maria*. She is also a drummer who has involved in various music production and live performance.

## **Ip Hin Ching     Stage Design Assistant**

Born in1998, Ip is a freelancer, who mainly engages in typesetting design, illustration and art diffusion. She is a graduate of the Department of Cultural and Creative Arts in 2021 from the Education University of Hong Kong.



**Sissy LAM    Assistant Producer and Illustrator**

Graduated from Cultural Studies, Lingnan University and now is the Program Manager of Theatre Ronin.

She is also an illustrator. Through her art, she observes daily life and transforms it into a magical and surreal world. Her main styles are watercolor and hand-drawn art, on both digital and paper. She has a passion for creating picture books.

Instagram: [sissylamart](#)

**Cheryl YUNG    English Subtitle Translation & Subtitle Operator**

Graduated from Department of Anthropology, Chinese University of Hong Kong and School of Communication, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Prefer translating than writing. Appreciate the art and beauty even in news translation.

**CHONG Hiu Ting    Production and Stage Manager**

Chong graduated from the University of Hong Kong, majored in Marketing & Human Resources Management and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, majored in Arts, Events and Stage Management.

After her graduation, she has been working as a freelance stage manager for over a decade and working with many arts units such as Alice Theatre Laboratory, Theatre Ronin, West Kowloon District Council and Tai Kwun, etc.

**Nancy LEE    Deputy Stage Manager**

Graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons) degree in stage management. She has awarded one of the "Outstanding Deputy Stage Manager" by The Hong Kong Federation of Drama Societies. Currently working as theatre freelancer.

Recent productions, Fantasy Puppet Theatre *Madam Sew*, SingFest *Brahms in Black Box - Meine Lieder, Mein Licht*.

**NG Chun Wai      Assistant Stage Manager**

Graduated from Hong Kong Design Institute, now a theatre freelancer.

Participated works include: EEG *The Last Gift*, Theatre Baal *One Hundred Thousand Reason That(We) Shall Propagate Off-spring*, West Kowloon District Council *Experimental Chinese Opera Festival* (2020/2021), Hong Kong Repertory *Sing Out* (2021), HKAF *Blindness*, Unison *Unison Live Tour*, etc.

**WONG Ka ki      Production Electrician**

Graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) degree in Theatre and Entertainment Arts, majored in Lighting Design. Her recent work includes Tang Shu-wing Theatre Studio's *The Rape of Lucrece*, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra's *The Neon City*, East-side Dance Company's *Antenna*, *Imagination Boom 5* (recorded version); Riceball Association's *Starry Starry Night and A Diary of a Girl's Happiness* (7th run); and Cinematic Theatre's *After World*. She also worked as production electrician for Theatre Ronin's *Aquamarine*, Theatre Movie: Practice of ZEN and, Theatre Movie: *Hoichi the Earless 2.0*.

**Benny LEUNG@studio-m.hk      Graphic and House program design**

Studio-m is an independent design studio specialized in creative consultant, visual branding, typography design, art direction and graphic design. He won quite a number of design awards, including iF Design Awards, Tokyo Annual Awards, HKDA Global Design Awards, 40 Under 40 Awards. His work were also selected in Asia Graphic Design Triennale in Korea, International Poster Biennale in Warsaw, Golden Bee Moscow Global Biennale of Graphic Design and Asia-Pacific Design

FB/IG@studio.m.hk

**FUNG Wai Sun @sunyeahproduction**

**Promotion and Rehearsal photographer**

Graduated from Hong Kong Christian Service Kwun Tong Vocational Training Centre, majored in Photography. He has been photographer and cinematographer over 19 years.

From 2003, Fung started to take promotion and stage photos for many drama companies. He was senior photographer of New Monday from 2011 and became director of video producing advertisement for different media and brands from 2016 under New Media Group.

Founded Sun Yeah Production in 2018, making online videos for BMW, Mini Cooper, New balance, KEEN and etc.

[ww.sunyeahhh.com](http://ww.sunyeahhh.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/SUN-YEAH-Production-104205370929114>