

Conference Report



The 4th Asian Shakespeare Conference co-hosted by the Asian Shakespeare Association and the Shakespeare Association of Korea successfully concluded on the 7th of November 2020 in Seoul. Even though the pandemic drove the conference into unpredictable and chaotic situations, it was possible to overcome all difficulties thanks to the wonderful cooperation of both ASA and SAK, and especially the enthusiastic and dedicated participation of SAK and ASA members.



Conference Organizing Team:
(left to right) Lee Hyon-u, Lo Kyung Ju, Seo Dongha

75 ASA members and 54 SAK members registered and participated at the conference as speakers and moderators of 13 panels, 6 seminars, and 4 workshops. Additionally, six performances including Yang Jung-ung's *Pericles* and Park Sun-hee's *Pansori Hamlet* were streamed through You Tube, and The Flow Theatre's *Othello* directed by Song Hyun-ok was performed on-site as well as on-line. The 3rd Graphic Shakespeare Competition, the award-winning works of which were virtually exhibited on the big oblong screen set up at the lobby of the conference venue, added special pleasure and variety to the conference.

The conference gifts and "Fun with Shakespeare" quiz prizes were sent by ship to each participant last December, which will unfortunately take about two months to arrive. Air delivery is not available for many countries, and even ship delivery is temporarily suspended for some countries, including the US, Canada, and Germany, because of the pandemic situation. I am afraid that those gifts will require your long patience.



Pericles by the Yohangza Theatre Company



Pansori Hamlet by Sun-Hee Park



The Merry Wives of Seoul by EDP Theatre Company

The expenditure for the conference was covered by the Korean Research Foundation, Sejong University, corporate funding, personal donations, and registration fees. Although all forms of financial support were essential, I would submit that ASA and SAK members' registration fees played the most powerful and significant role in making the conference possible.

As we all know, the pandemic caused so many complicated and challenging problems at every step. But, we all never gave up. I believe that is the most important point. The pandemic made us recognize how important Shakespeare is to us, and how strong our will toward Shakespeare is, and how closely connected we are to each

other by Shakespeare. 129 scholars from 23 different countries gave excellent presentations on and off line under the conference theme of "Intersections in Shakespeare." This Seoul conference itself seemed to embody the conference theme more concretely than any other paper.

The conference is over, and the pandemic will be over, but our "intersections in Shakespeare" won't be over. Let's look forward to the next ASA Conference.



Hyon-u Lee, Chair of the Organizing Committee

