



Asian Shakespeare Newsletter

CELEBRATING THE 450TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHAKESPEARE

In this anniversary year Asian associations and universities have not been far behind. Reports from China, Korea and India:

Shakespeare Celebrations at Sichuan University, China

Joining the world in celebrating the Bard's 450th anniversary, Sichuan University offered two special Shakespeare events during its University Immersion Program to mark this exciting year.

The first was professional Shakespeare acting instructions. The English Department invited Joseph Graves, playwright, Shakespeare actor and director, to coach its students. During the four days of hands-on training, Graves taught students basic performance skills with lines from Shakespeare's plays, including breathing, articulation and movement. He also tutored those who were preparing a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. All the students enjoyed the experience and learned that actually performing the plays is the most direct and palpable way to appreciate Shakespeare's art.

Sichuan University's Shakespeare celebrations culminated in Mr. Graves' production of his own play, *Revel's World of*

Shakespeare. Graves' detailed, vivid and inspiring presentation of a boy's gradual reception of the Bard through his Shakespeare teacher and his Shakespeare-loving father moved the entire audience who packed the University's theater. At the conclusion of the performance, Graves interacted with the audience, answering their questions, bringing his performance to a successful end.



Although Shakespeare is immensely popular with Chinese mainland college students, not many universities offer actual Shakespeare courses. Sichuan University is among the few offering Shakespeare electives to both English and non-English majors at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Liao Yungang, Sichuan University, China

The Shakespeare Association of Korea

The Shakespeare Association of Korea hosted "Shakespeare Forum" on July 11, 2014 to celebrate the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth and review his influence on the Korean stage and academia. For this, SAK invited eminent persons from Shakespeare studies and performance including Yu Inchon, the former Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism, Martin Fryer, the Director of the British Council, Korea, Directors Lee Yoontaek and Oh Taesuk. During the forum the participants addressed Shakespeare's influence on our society and discussed the future direction in Shakespeare studies and Shakespeare on stage. The SAK has recently launched the "Citizen Humanities Lectures" sponsored by the National Research Foundation in Korea. These series of lectures, along with a variety of performative events, is designed to broaden our citizen's understanding of Shakespeare and their engagement with his plays.

Dong-ha Seo, secretary of SAK .

Shakespeare's 450 events in India

Many universities and colleges across the country have been organizing events to mark this occasion. Apart from lectures, seminars and paper presentations, what is different today is that students are motivated to work with Shakespeare's plays and mould them to their own concerns. At Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, they presented a shadow-puppet mime based on some scenes and shot a 20 min. video film on 'The Bard and Bharat'. But the most unusual were the modernizing adaptations of *Julius Caesar* and *Comedy of Errors* which were devised and performed by the engineering students of the M.G.R. University, Chennai entirely on their own initiative for their international seminar on Shakespeare at which I happened to be the keynote-speaker. *Julius Caesar* was located within the politics of a modern corporate world, in which Caesar represented 'the god that failed' who is dethroned but not killed in the end. When the script-writer and director Arun Kumar, third year Mechanical Engineering student said, 'I was trying to dig deep into Shakespeare's words and metaphors', the purpose of the celebrations was well fulfilled.

Poonam Trivedi, University of Delhi



Announcements

Global Shakespeare Department

The new Global Shakespeare Department at Warwick University and Queen Mary University of London is officially launching on 13th November at the Barbican in London. More details at: [Global Shakespeare](#)

***MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses)
Global/Local Shakespeare is launched
on the ShareCourse (Begins 26 September,
2014)***

<http://sharecourse.pu.edu.tw/sharecourse/course/view/courseInfo/3>
<http://www.sharecourse.net/sharecourse/course/view/courseInfo/327>

The MOOCs Global/Local Shakespeare is a thirteen-week online course undertaken by Dr. Yilin Chen and funded by the Ministry of Education in Taiwan. Several Asian Shakespeare Association founding members, like Prof. Alexa Huang, Prof. Ryuta Minami, and Prof. Yukari Yoshihara, are guest lecturers of this course.

This online course establishes a platform for learners from all over the world to share their opinions of learning Shakespeare and to develop a capacity to find the relationship between Shakespeare and their own cultures. The curriculum covers an introduction to the critical analyses of Shakespeare's *Sonnets*, soliloquies

and particular scenes. To cultivate intercultural competence to analyze Shakespeare's text, this course offers selective readings in Shakespeare's plays, especially the ones most related to the development of Shakespeare in Taiwan. This course hopes to bring the awareness of the globalization, localization, and glocalization phenomena to investigate in what ways these phenomena are correlated to Shakespeare.

Shakespeare in Bengal Research Project at Jadavpur University, India.

A 'Shakespeare in Bengal' project has been launched by the Department of English, Jadavpur University, as part of the Department's broader interest in 'Cultural Transactions'. The members of the Working Committee for the project are Prof. Ananda Lal (CAS Co-ordinator), Dr. Paromita Chakravarti, Sonia Sahoo, and Abhishek Sarkar.

The project seeks to document three different but connected fields of Shakespearean presence in Bengali culture. These are performances, translations and adaptations, and pedagogy.

Shakespeare performance: This part seeks to revise and update an earlier survey of Shakespearean performance on the Calcutta stage produced by the Department of English entitled *Shakespeare on the Calcutta Stage: A Checklist*, edited by Ananda Lal and Sukanta Chaudhuri (Kolkata: Papyrus, 2001). This will produce a comprehensive account of productions of Shakespeare (including translations and adaptations in various languages) in Kolkata from the 19th century till recent times. It will consider public and private, commercial and amateur

performances, with special emphasis on productions in an academic milieu. Written and photographic records and oral accounts of performances, including records of Shakespeare performances outside Kolkata, will also be documented.

Shakespeare translation and adaptation: An annotated and critical list of Shakespeare translations and adaptations generated in Bengal, mostly in Bengali, would be prepared. A list of previous publications in this field is under preparation and several texts are being located.

Shakespeare pedagogy: This part of the project looks at syllabi, question papers, and oral narratives (as well as written testimonies) of students and teachers of Shakespearean texts in order to construct a history of the teaching of Shakespeare in Bengal from the 19th century onwards. A collection of Honours and Masters level question papers from the middle of the 20th century onwards is being prepared. This collection seeks to trace the changing patterns of approaching Shakespeare in academia. Currently, the emphasis of the project is on collecting oral narratives about classroom Shakespeare teaching. A list of eminent academics who studied in Bengal during the 40's, 50's and 60's has been prepared and the interviews are being conducted. The transcript of the interviews, as authorized by the individuals concerned, would become a part of the Shakespeare in Bengal digital archive.

Around 60 witnesses, mostly but not exclusively academics, have already been interviewed regarding their experience of studying Shakespeare at various institutions. The institutions covered so far include Presidency College (Kolkata), the University of Calcutta, the University of Dhaka, Jadavpur University, Burdwan University, Visva-Bharati University, and

Kalyani University. The project seeks to take into account the history of Shakespeare teaching in all representative seats of English studies in Bengal.

The materials generated from the project will be uploaded on the 'Shakespeare in Bengal' blog which has been inaugurated on Shakespeare's 450th birth anniversary.

At a later stage, the project will seek to include materials and research on Shakespeare from Bangladesh. As such we would welcome collaborations from Shakespearians working on Shakespeare in Bangladesh.

Play Reading support from Richard Forsyth from Edinburgh

We offer free support to playreading groups, students, and production groups around the world. We take the effort out of preparing a Shakespeare script and casting the playreading, and have also started to provide PlayreadingGuides which support the play-reading of the subplots of a play. (See our [Twelfth Night Playreading Guide](#)) Our background has been with a Shakespeare community theatre group, and running Shakespeare play-readings for the last ten years or more, as actors, directors, play-readers and Shakespeare play editors.

The support we provide includes the following:

Playreading News: we publish news stories, playreading reports, etc with links to all our Playreading support pages on our [Playreading Home Page](#)

Playreading Event Diary: we publish a diary of our upcoming play-readings in Edinburgh and would be pleased to add other group's playreading events to the diary. See [Playreading Events](#)

Free Shakespeare play-sets: We publish Shakespeare plays in our MFFE (Modern First Folio Edition) formats which allow the same script to be used by a play-reading group using e-readers or paper copies of the script. Each play is available for free download for playreading groups, individuals, schools, undergraduate classes, etc.

See the plays we have published at: [Players-Shakespeare.com's Published Plays](https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/108057852951462655086/+Players-shakespeare/posts) <https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/108057852951462655086/+Players-shakespeare/posts>

Filipino, by the *Dulaang Unibersidadng Pilipinas* (the resident theater company of the University of the Philippines) with student and professional performers. Although set in a stylized, washed out version of 17th-century Vienna, this play of ambiguous moralities amidst lawlessness and corruption resonated strongly with its contemporary audiences. The production was directed by Dr. Alexander Cortez, Artistic Director of the DUP and two ASA members – Professor Judy Ick and Claire Alston – worked on the production as dramaturges.

Production

A Problem Play for the Times

Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* was recently staged in Manila, both in English and



Isabella confides in the disguised Duke



The cast at curtain call



Mistress Overdone announces the fate of Claudio



Isabella and Claudio

Members Academic record in Shakespeare Studies (2014)

Beate Neumeier, University of Cologne, with Bronfen, Elisabeth has edited *Gothic Renaissance. A Reassessment*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2014.

Hisao Oshima,

'*The Tempest* and Japanese theatrical traditions: Noh, Kabuki, and Bunraku,' pp.149-172. Döring, Tobias & Vaughan, Virginia Mason, eds., *Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature 29: Critical and Cultural Transformations: Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' -1611 to the Present*.Tübingen: NarrVerlag, 2013.

Lena Cowen Orlin, Georgetown University, with Russ McDonald has edited *The Bedford Shakespeare*, Bedford: St. Martin's Press, 2014.

Marianne Kimura has published *The Hamlet Paradigm* (Bookbaby.com 2014) under her pen name Gemma Nishiyama.

A brief description: Haruki, an astronomer discovers a terrible secret and decides to reveal it to the world---but the dangerous people who want to stop him are on his trail. He enlists the help of his wife, Mari, a woman with a penchant for daydreaming and tumbling into reveries. As the couple evades enemy agents, Mari finds that her own secret romance with a supernatural being may have a strange connection to her husband's secret. The two worlds collide in the surprising finale. Along the way, the stars and the astronomical ideas of Giordano Bruno are woven into the plot, Haruki's secret, and connected to Shakespeare's famous play *Hamlet*. Based on the original research of the author, an academic, the novel is a thriller with a radical intellectual twist!

Poonam Trivedi, University of Delhi, India
'Hamlets in India' *The Indian Express*, 4 October 2014 (on the occasion of the release of Vishal Bharadwaj's *Haider*).

'Shakespeare and India', a video interview, Rajdhani College, University of Delhi 23 September 2014.

'Different Shakespeares for Different Times' at the International Conference on Shakespeare, 18-20 August 2014, MGR University, Chennai, India.

'Rhapsode of Shakespeare: V. Sambasivan's popular *kathaprasamgam/storytelling*' for the panel, 'Telling Tales of Shakespeare: Indian Ishtyle' at 'Shakespeare 450', Paris, 21-27 April 2014.

Sarbani Chaudhury University of Kalyani, India
'Shakespeare, Women and History,' at Hislop College, Nagpur, 19 August 2014

'Shakespeare: Then, Now and Forever' and 'Reading Shakespeare against the Grain', Sikkim University, Gangtok, 2 June 2014

'Fun, Frolic and Shakespeare: Kalyani Style' for the panel, 'Telling Tales of Shakespeare: Indian Ishtyle' at 'Shakespeare 450', Paris, 21-27 April 2014.

'Tagore and Shakespeare' at Rabindra Adhyayan Kendra, University of Kalyani, 10 April 2014

'Macbeth: A Comedy', Centre for English Studies, Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi, 31 March 2014.

'Gender and Authority in Shakespeare' at Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College. 28 February 2014

Ruru LI : Leeds University of Leeds

'Two case studies: how traditional Chinese theatrical elements enter Shakespeare performances staged by British and American students' at the Chinese Language Theatre

Festival held 18-24 April 2014, session on 'Traditional operatic adaptation of Shakespeare Plays'.

Call For Papers / Future Events

SHAKESPEARE ON FILM AND TELEVISION, April 1-4, 2015, New Orleans. Proposals due by November 1, 2014. Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association
contact email: richard.vela@uncp.edu
conference site
<http://pcaaca.org/national-conference/proposing-a-presentation-at-the-co...>

CONFERENCE DATE CHANGE

International Conference in Iran on Shakespeare Studies (ICISS) 26-27 November. 2014

University of Tehran

contact email:

bardiniiran@gmail.com

Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe is pleased to announce our spring conference, **The Halved Heart: Shakespeare and Friendship** (Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April 2015), Proposals of no more than 300 words for papers (or panels of up to three papers) may be submitted to Dr Will Tosh on will.t@shakespearesglobe.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday 12 December 2014.

Young Shakespeare (extended deadline: 11/10/14)

Société Française Shakespeare

contact@societefrancaishakespeare.org

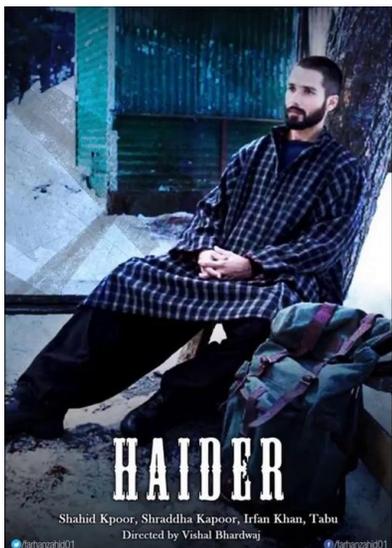
The 2015 Annual Conference of the French Shakespeare Society will take place in Paris in March 19-21, 2015.

For a detailed rationale, see website:

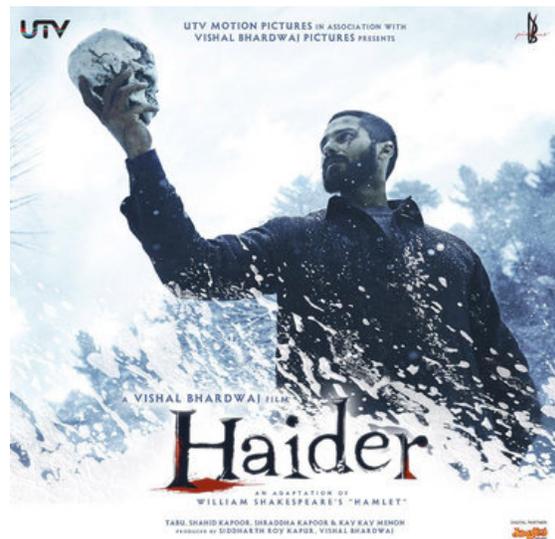
<http://shakespeare.revues.org/2861>

The **Shakespeare Association of Japan** will hold its 54th annual meeting in Hakodate on October 10 and 11, 2015.

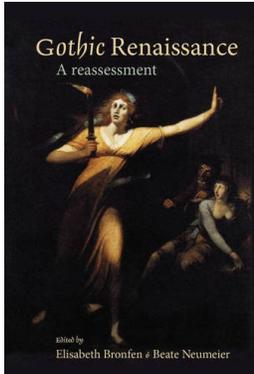
Professor Julie Sanders will be the keynote speaker at the conference.



The latest film on *Hamlet* dir. Vishal Bharadwaj Released 4 Oct. 2014

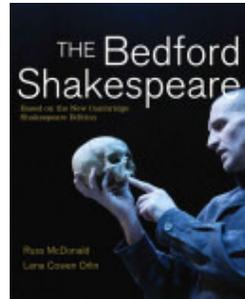


Latest Publications



Elisabeth Bronfen and Beate Neumeier, eds. *Gothic Renaissance. A Reassessment*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2014.

Tracks the lines of connection between Gothic sensibilities and the discursive network of the Renaissance. The texts encompass poetry, epic narratives, ghost stories, prose dialogues, political pamphlets and Shakespeare's texts, read alongside those of other playwrights.



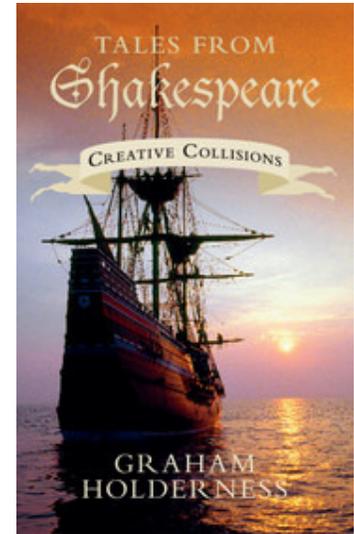
Russ McDonald and Lena Cowen Orlin eds. *The Bedford Shakespeare*. Boston : Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2014.

Visual, historical, contextualized: 25 of the most frequently taught plays with critical analysis and a lavish collection of over 700 images featuring production shots, paintings, film stills, Renaissance woodcuts, maps etc.,



Kiernan Ryan *Shakespeare: The Last Plays*. New York: Routledge, 2014.

The first collection of criticism on Shakespeare's romances to register the impact of modern literary theory on interpretations of these plays.



Graham Holderness *Tales from Shakespeare Creative Collisions* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Shows how a classic Shakespeare play can be the source for a modern story, providing a creative 'collision' between the Shakespeare text and contemporary concerns.