

yellow earth theatre



上海話劇藝術中心
Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre

A co-production with

Present

KING LEAR

By William Shakespeare

Adapted and directed by David Tse Ka-Shing

The production forms part of:



Yellow Earth Theatre (YET), the award-winning East Asian theatre company, has joined forces with China's contemporary **Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre (SDAC)** to present a brand new adaptation of **KING LEAR** this Autumn. **YET** and **SDAC's** exciting, first time co-production offers up a bold and edgy interpretation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, featuring Chinese movie star, **Zhou Yemang** (*Tempress Moon*) as Lear and **David Yip** (*Chinese Detective*) as Gloucester.

KING LEAR premieres internationally at **SDAC** in Shanghai on 20 October 2006 and plays through to 4 November. The production then comes to the UK and tours throughout November and December. Forming part of the **RSC's** season of **The Complete Works, The Cube** at the **Royal Shakespeare Theatre** in Stratford-upon-Avon is the venue for the first UK performances and the production receives its **national press night** at **The Cube** on **Thursday 16 November 7.30pm**.

Performed in English and Mandarin (with surtitles in both languages), this unique, bilingual production is a diverse new exploration of the themes of the famous tragedy.

David Tse Ka-Shing transposes the action of **KING LEAR** to London and Shanghai in 2020. The business world has shifted and China is the leading superpower. Corporate money and power protect a privileged elite who live above the law. Lear looks out from his penthouse across Shanghai's financial district. He has called a video-conference to decide how his global business empire will be divided amongst his three daughters. Greed and the desire for control leads to a trail of deceit, betrayal, lust and murder. As Lear suffers and searches for Taoist enlightenment, what hope is there for love?

In revisiting **KING LEAR**, **David Tse Ka-Shing's** adaptation provides a challenging cross-cultural interpretation – matters of East and West, China and Britain's identities, Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism, spiritual and financial wealth, family loyalty and generational divides are all here. **YET's** visually striking production draws on video, music and aerial work.

"Directed by David Tse Ka-Shing, this stylish production has moments of soaring beauty"
Time Out (*The Nightingale*)

"Tse creates a magical world onstage in which an eldritch fable exists in a world of high-tech sophistication" **The Guardian** (*Lear's Daughters*)

For further information, interview and image requests, national press tickets or press tickets on alternative dates, please contact Eleanor Jeffery at GCA on 020 7395 2616 or email eleanor@g-c-a.co.uk

www.g-c-a.co.uk

To find out more about Yellow Earth Theatre go to www.yellowearth.org

Notes to Editors

David Tse Ka-Shing, YET's Artistic Director, and members of the company are available for interview upon request.

David Tse Ka-Shing is a leading writer and director of new and classic work, crossing theatrical and ethnic boundaries with bold adaptations and the creation of acclaimed ensembles. Previous work includes: *The Nightingale*, *58*, *Lear's Daughters*, *The Butcher's Skin*, *Rashomon*, *Play to Win*, *New Territories*, *The Snow Lion* and *The Magic Paintbrush*. **Tse** was awarded the Windrush Award for Arts Achiever and **YET** won The Pearl Award for Creative Endeavour in 2004. **Tse** is also Creative Director of **Chinatown Arts Space**, working towards a dedicated East Asian arts centre in central London.

For over a decade **Yellow Earth Theatre** has been the UK's pioneering East Asian theatre company, integrating physical theatre with strong narratives that explore universal themes from an East Asian perspective.

TOUR SCHEDULE FOR YET'S KING LEAR OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2006

20 October – 4 November 7.15pm

Drama Salon, **Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre**, No.288 Anfu Rd, **Shanghai**, P.R China

English Box office: + 8621 5465 6200 Chinese Box Office: + 8621 6473 0123 / + 8621 6473 4567

Tickets: 150rmb

Web: www.china-drama.com

15 – 18 November 7.30pm

18 November 1.30pm

The Cube, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6BB

Box office: 0870 609 1110

Tickets: £10

Web: <http://www.rsc.org.uk>

20 & 21 November 8pm

22 November 2pm & 8pm

Lakeside Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

Box office: 0115 846 7777

Tickets: £12 (£9 concessions)

Web: www.lakesidearts.org.uk

23 November 7.45pm

24 & 25 November 8pm

Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Millbrook, **Guildford**, GU1 3UX

Box office: 01483 440000

Tickets: A- £18.50, B - £17.50, C - £16.00, D - £13.50, E (boxes for 4) - £74.00, Students/Under 18's - £7, £5 off ticket price for wheelchair access users + companion

Web: www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk

28 & 29 November 7.30pm

The Arena Theatre, Wulfruna St, **Wolverhampton**, W. Midlands, WV1 1SB

Box office: 01902 321321

Tickets: £12 (£10 concessions)

Schools Performance: 28 & 29 November 1pm - All Tickets £5

Web: www.arenatheatre.info

30 November & 1 December 7.30pm

Unity Theatre, 1 Hope Place, **Liverpool**, L1 9BG

Box office: 0151 709 6502

Utext: 078 4065 9807

Tickets: £10 (£8 concessions)

Web: www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

6 – 9 December 7.30pm

7 & 9 December 2pm

Vanbrugh Theatre, (RADA)

Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU

Box Office: 020 7908 4800

Tickets: £15/(£10 concessions) Thur Matinee £7.50 Sat Matinee £10/(£8 concessions)

Web: www.rada.org

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