



Monarch School exists to provide young adults with a foundation of knowledge and self-awareness to achieve their dreams.

Theater Arts...it's what's happening at Monarch school

In August Jesús Quintero traveled to Calcutta, India, to teach and perform at the International Theater Project "Towards a Better World," sponsored by Bibhaban-the Experimental Theater Company in celebration of the birth anniversary of Jerzy Grotowski.

This important invitation is the result of more than twenty years of theater experience that has brought Jesús to various stages throughout the world, from Poland, Rome, London, France, Mexico to Off-Broadway NYC.

Jesús' experience is the foundation of Monarch School's Theater Arts, and these international exchanges are a great opportunity for our students to learn a higher quality of theater in a universal context.

This week we have a wonderful international opportunity at Monarch School as we welcome Chinese Theater Director Lai Sim Fong Zoe to our community. As part of our International Performing Arts Program, Ms. Sim Fong Zoe is facilitating a three-day intensive acting workshop for Monarch

School's young performers, an opportunity for our students to meet and work with one of the most talented directors and performers from Hong Kong right here on the Monarch School campus.



The three-day acting workshop at Monarch School will focus on accessing the vast experience of Ms. Sim Fong Zoe in performing arts for our young participants. Monarch School students will be trained in different theater exercises, games and training design by Mrs. Lai Sim Fong Zoe. She will bring her repertoire of Physical games,

Theater Games, songs of tradition and her expertise in the "Mise en Scene" to create a safe environment in which each participant will engage in the challenges of self-discovery. A positive and respectful attitude and the desire to work hard and have fun are a must to participate in this work session.

Ms. Sim Fong Zoe is the founder of the Hong Kong Youth Drama Scheme and a leader of the International Theatre Exchanges that took her, in 2012, to the headquarters of the UNESCO in Paris, France. She is an all around artist specializing in devising theater and site-specific theater work. Ms. Sim Fong Zoe has worked as a director, performer, dramaturge and drama tutor in Hong Kong and Europe since 2007.

Earlier this year Monarch School theater students participated in a three-day workshop on campus from the legendary theater company "The Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards" from Italy.



"Why do we sacrifice so much energy to our art?"

Not in order to teach others but to learn with them what our existence, our organism, our personal and repeatable experience have to give us; to learn to break down the barriers which surround us and to free ourselves from the breaks which hold us back, from the lies about ourselves which we manufacture daily for ourselves and for others; to destroy the limitations caused by our ignorance or lack of courage; in short, to fill the emptiness in us: to fulfill ourselves...art is a ripening, an evolution, an uplifting which enables us to emerge from darkness into a blaze of light.

We fight then to discover, to experience the truth about ourselves; to tear away the masks behind which we hide daily. We see theatre - especially in its palpable, carnal aspect - as a place of provocation, a challenge the actor sets himself and also, indirectly, other people. Theatre only has a meaning if it allows us to transcend our stereotyped vision, our conventional feelings and customs, our standards of judgment - not just for the sake of doing so, but so that we may experience what is real and, having already given up all daily escapes and pretenses, in a state of complete defenselessness unveil, give, discover ourselves. In this way - through shock, through the shudder which causes us to drop our dally masks and mannerisms - we are able, without hiding anything, to entrust ourselves to something we cannot name but in which live Eros and Charitas." -Jerzy Grotowski



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