Friday, November 4, 2011

Film Screening
4:00-6:00  Oh Tae Suk’s production of Shakespeare’s The Tempest

Saturday, November 5, 2011

“Staging Korea: Korean Theatre in Search of New Aesthetics”
8:30–9:00  Coffee and Pastry
9:00–9:10  Opening Remarks, David Schalkwyk
Session I
9:15–9:55  Young-Key Kim-Renaud, Chair
Chan E. Park, “Korean Drama in Search of Korean Theater Past and Present”
10:00–10:40  Suk Young Kim, “Uncovering the Forgotten Decade: Shin Go-song’s Ten Years and the Northern Drama in the 1950s”
10:40–10:50  Break
Session II
9:10–10:30  R. Richard Grinker, Chair
Oh Tae Suk, “Leaps, Omissions, Surprises, Spontaneity: My Forty Years of Theatrical Experimentation”
11:30–12:10  Ah-jeong Kim, “Translating Performance between East and West: Aesthetic Dilemmas and Problems of Shakespeare Adapting: using an example Oh Tae Suk’s Romeo and Juliet at the Barbican Centre in 2006”
12:10–1:10  Lunch (Korean food is provided)
Session III
1:20–2:00  Esther Kim Lee, “Remember to Forget: A Study of the Family in Contemporary Plays from the Korean Diaspora in the U.S.”
2:00–2:40  Comments
Richard Nichols
Alexander Huang
2:40–3:10  General Discussion

PROFILES

OPENING REMARKS

David Schalkwyk is the Director of Research at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., and the editor of Shakespeare Quarterly, one of the leading journals in the field. He also holds the position of Professor of English at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. His recent publications include: Shakespeare, Love and Service (Cambridge, 2008); Speech and Performance in Shakespeare’s Sonnets and Plays (Cambridge, 2002); and Literature and the Touch of the Real (Delaware, 2004).

SPEAKERS

Ah-jeong Kim is Professor of Theatre History at California State University, Northridge. Her research focuses on intercultural theatre, Asian theatre, and theatre history. Kim’s book The Metacultural Theatre of Oh Tae-sook (1999) co-authored with R. B. Graves received the 2001 Korean Literature Translation Award in Korea. She is currently working on a book Shamsuk in Contemporary Korean Theatre commissioned by Routledge. In 2006 she served as dramaturge for the Barbican International Theatre Festival in London for Oh Tae Suk’s adaptation of Romeo and Juliet and again in 2011 as an interpreter for the Edinburgh International Arts Festival for Oh’s new adaptation of The Tempest.

Suk-Young Kim is Associate Professor of Theatre at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She is the author of Illusive Utopias: Theater, Film, and Everyday Performance in North Korea (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2010), which explores how the state produced propaganda performances intersect with everyday life practice in North Korea. She also co-authored (with Kim Yong) Long Road Home: A Testimony of a North Korean Camp Survivor (Columbia University Press, 2009).

Esther Kim Lee is Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is the author of A History of African American Theatre (Cambridge University Press, 2006), which received the 2007 Outstanding Book Award given by the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. She is the editor of Seven Contemporary Plays from the Korean Diaspora in the Americas (Duke University Press, 2012). Her current projects include a collection of essays on theatre and performance artists of the Korean diaspora.

Oh Tae Suk is founder and artistic director of Mokhwa Repertory Theatre Company (f. 1984), Oh Tae Suk is a foremost playwright, director, and acting teacher in Korea. He began playwriting in 1968 and his over sixty original plays are rooted in Korea’s cultural past and present, archetypes and unconsciously. He has established a unique theatre methodology based on traditional Korean aesthetics, language, and expressions. Recently, Oh’s adaptations of Shakespeare’s plays have garnered international acclaim including The Herald Angel’s Award at the 2011 Edinburgh International Arts Festival. He is an Emeritus Professor in Theatre at Seoul Institute of the Arts.

Chan E. Park is Associate Professor of Korean Language, Literature, and Performance Studies, The Ohio State University. Her specialization includes ethnography of Korean oral narrative and lyrical traditions including p’ansori, Korean story-singing. Her extensive publications include: Voices from the Street: Toward an Ethnography of Korean Story Singing (University of Hawaii Press, 2003), and Songs of Thrones and Flowers: Bilingual Performances and Discourses of Modern Korean Poetry Series (Foreign Language Publications, 2010). Her original productions include: In 1908, Pak Hanmyo Went to Hawaii (2003); When Tiger Smoked His Pipe (2003); Alaskan P’ansori: Klutest and the Land Otter People (2005); and Fox Hunt and Freedom Fighters: Korean and Western Women in Seoul 1894-1940 (2009).

COMMENTATOR

Richard Nicholas is Emeritus Professor of Theatre at Penn State University and a movement teacher and expert in Korean and Japanese theatre. He served as chair and editor of the Association for Asian Performance newsletter in 1994. A senior Fulbright research scholar in Seoul from 2002 to 2003, Nicholas has taught at Korea University, Sungkyunkwan University, and the Korean National University of the Arts. He has published numerous articles on Korean theatre and is the co-translator of Four Contemporary Korean Plays by Lee Yeon-Taeok. His latest book is Modern Korean Drama: An Anthology (Columbia University Press, 2009).

COMMENTATOR AND GUEST CONVENOR

Alexander Huang is Associate Professor of English, Theatre, and International Affairs at George Washington University, Research Affiliate in Literature at MIT, general editor of the Shakespearean International Yearbook, co-editor of the Fugitive in the Asian Humanities series (MLA), Siger Center, Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies, and Vice President of the Association for Asian Performance. He has recently served as distinguished visiting professor at the Seoul National University (South Korea), and the International Convention for Asian Scholars (ICAS).
CONVENERS

Gregg Brazinsky is Associate Professor of History and International Affairs at GW. Professor Brazinsky’s first book, Nation Building in South Korea: Koreans, Americans and the Making of a Democracy, appeared in the fall of 2007 from the University of North Carolina Press. Professor Brazinsky is now pursuing research on the cultural impacts of the Korean War in America, Korea and China and Sino-American competition in the Third World. He serves as co-director of the George Washington University Cold War Group.

Roy Richard Grinker is Professor of Anthropology at The George Washington University. He received his PhD in Social Anthropology at Harvard University. He is the author of Korea and its Futures: Unification and the Unfinished War and Unstrange Minds: Remapping the World of Autism, among other books. His current work involves the epidemiology of autism in South Korea and the early identification of autism among Zulus in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and Mexican migrant workers in southwestern Florida. He is a frequent contributor to media outlets, and in 2010 received the Anthropology in the Media prize from the American Anthropological Association. He is also editor-in-chief of The Anthropological Quarterly.

Young-Key Kim-Renaud is Professor of Korean Language and Culture and International Affairs and Chair of the East Asian Languages and Literatures Department at GW. She received her PhD in Linguistics from the University of Hawai‘i. A theoretical linguist with a broad interest in the Korean humanities and Asian affairs, she is editor-in-chief of the Korean Linguistics journal and co-editor of the Papers in the Asian Humanities series of GW’s Sigur Center, and serves on various Asia-related boards. Her publications include Creative Women of Korea: The Fifteenth to the Twentieth Century (M.E. Sharpe, 2004) and nine other books. Kim-Renaud received a Republic of Korea Jade Order of Cultural Merit in 2006 and the Bichumi Grand Award from Samsung Life Foundation as a Woman of the Year 2008 for Public Service.

BACKGROUND

The HMS Colloquium in the Korean Humanities series at GW provides a forum for academic discussion of Korean arts, history, language, literature, thought and religious systems in the context of East Asia and the world. The Colloquium series is made possible by an endowment established by the estate of Hahn Moo-Sook (1918-1993), one of Korea’s most honored writers, in order to uphold her spirit of openness, curiosity, and commitment to education. The 19th HMS colloquium is co-sponsored by GW’s Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, Institute for Ethnographic Research, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, Department of Theatre and Dance, Film Studies Program, and Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute (MEMSI); the Korean Embassy; and the Korea Foundation.

The film screening on November 4 is open to the public free of charge, and no reservations are required.

The Colloquium on November 5 is open to the public free of charge. However, reservations are required.

For registration and more information, please contact Dr. Young-Key Kim-Renaud, Chair, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, The George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052, Tel: 202-994-7107, Fax: 202-994-1512. kimrenau@gwu.edu.

For more information, please visit http://www.gwu.edu/~eall/hms.