



Newsletter Issue No.12 (October 2013)



ESTABLISHED 1860

DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

School Council

Chairman:  
The Rt Revd Andrew Chan

Vice-Chairman:  
The Revd John L Menear

Supervisor:  
Mrs Doris Ho, JP

Honorary Treasurer:  
Mrs Josephine Chang

Members:  
Mrs Stella Lau, JP (Headmistress, DGS)  
Mrs Emily Dai (Headmistress, DGJS)  
Ms Barbara Chan  
Mrs Sheila Chatjaval  
Mr Nelson Chen  
Mr Ronnie Cheng  
Ms Stephanie Cheung  
Prof Arthur Li, GBS, JP  
Mrs Ng Saw Kheng, JP  
Prof Helen Shen  
Mrs Susanna Wong  
Mr Marco Wu, SBS  
Ms Benita Yu  
The Hon Madam Justice Yuen, JA  
Ms Jane Ng (DOGA President)  
Ms Deirdre Fu Tcheng (PTA Chairman)

DGS Tel : 2277 9100

DGJS Tel : 2277 9200

Address :  
1 Jordan Road,  
Kowloon, Hong Kong

DGS Website :  
<http://www.dgs.edu.hk>

DGJS Website :  
<http://www.dgjs.edu.hk>

## Truly a House of Wonders DGS Celebrates Centenary at No. 1 Jordan Road



A carnival-like atmosphere filled the air as the DGS family celebrated its heritage through staging the audacious musical extravaganza, House of Wonders to commemorate the School's 153rd anniversary and its centenary of being at No. 1 Jordan Road. Held on four consecutive evenings from 25th -28th August and featuring a cast of over 220 actresses from DGS and DGJS, the production was a sumptuous feast of drama, dance and colour.

It tells the tale of a boy's search for happiness and redemption through the eyes of Jack, who travels through time to various periods in Hong Kong's history after befriending a mysterious park keeper at an amusement park. Scripted in-house by the director Ms. Phebe Cheung, House of Wonders packed in, wowed and delighted audiences throughout the four evenings. Prior to each performance, the area surrounding the Auditorium, encompassing the DGS Plaza and Symons Place were bedecked with festive parades and clowns while pre-show musical performances were conducted by the orchestra and the wind ensemble.



HOUSE OF  
WONDERS  
奇妙屋



Preparations for the musical began back in September 2012, as auditions were held over two weeks to determine the cast who would take up the many roles, including principal and minor characters, singer-dancers and outdoor performers. Various weekly rehearsals and workshops were held throughout the year. At the same time, the off-stage production crew was recruited. Props-making sessions were held regularly and all the wonderful props were carefully hand-crafted and completed by the end of

May. The publicity team designed tickets and the poster while the souvenir team sourced commemorative items such as bookmarks, notebooks, umbrellas and pendant watches for sale at the stalls. Costumes for actresses and dancers were ordered and carefully checked by the costumes team, while the make-up team held workshops for both student and parent helpers.



After the final examinations in June, intensive rehearsals involving performers and the production crew resumed while the music department held rehearsals for the outdoor orchestra. By the end of July, backdrops were prepared and the extended stage was completed. The TV wall featuring a collage of historical events and the iconic pocket watches was installed in mid-August, together with other backdrops produced by the sets design team, in time for final rehearsals prior to the show.

The finale, a culmination of hours of collaborative effort for an entire year, was well worth it. The camaraderie displayed by all members of the DGS family, the DOGA, the PTA and all the many girls involved was remarkable, and everybody involved will surely cherish this event in their collective memories for decades to come.



# Director's note

## 導演後記：有關公演的二三事

《奇幻屋》有許多我個人值得紀念的紀錄，第一次編寫這麼長的原創劇本，第一次需要協調這麼多的表演者，第一次執導性質這麼多元化的戲劇音樂劇表演……最重要的是，第一次自己感覺不到自己風格的存在，因為加入了許多參與者不同的創作意念心血，成就了這部屬於集體的作品，這樣真好！

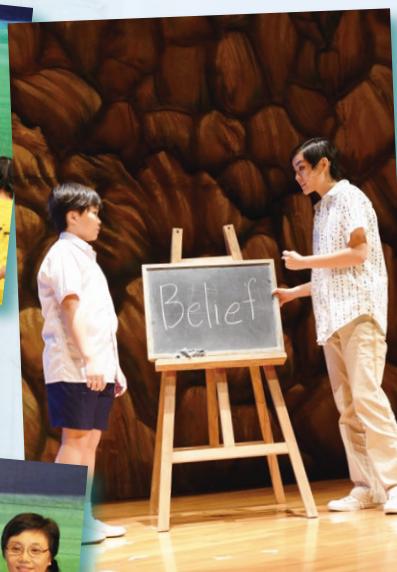
感謝上帝的帶領，讓所有台前幕後的學生和負責老師們都平安順利完成自己的參與；感謝校方的鼎力支持，從資源人力以至精神層面，都讓我深感後顧無憂；也感謝負責老師們和學生們的全力參與，讓我在美術製作、舞蹈戲劇表演互動交流創作和群體互助關愛合作的過程之中，一次又一次備感「嘆為觀止」，深深被參與者們的熱忱和卓越才能所打動……說句不夠謙虛但實在的真話：以這樣的格局、參與者才華上和演員人數方面的要求，這部劇作也就唯有在拔萃女書院才能上演得了……吧！

至於在公演之後，不少迴響都提出此問：在最後一幕，當戰爭孤兒們玩「火車過山洞」的時候，為甚麼會有軍人和其他難民出現並加入一起玩呢？

其實，我當初的設想是：最後一幕既然是個尚未存在的世界，裡面可以沒有真正的人類存在，所以無論阿杰所看到的是孤兒、軍人或難民，都只是「管理員」的分身，也因此我安排了他們最後和管理員的動作台詞都一致這個場景出現；而他們的出現，是為了要讓主角阿杰學會「分享」和「承擔」對謀求人生幸福的重要性，以成就他的救贖。

另一層面上，無論大人小孩，無論身分地位，這樣一起玩玩簡單遊戲就可以開心歡笑的場面，是本劇對於「幸福」的詮釋——只要能以純真知足的心靈擁抱這個世界，並肯分享承擔彼此的感受，無論喜悲，就不會再有任何孤寂無助的靈魂在深夜中哀嚎痛哭了……所以，幸福其實真的很簡單，人人都可以擁有，如果你懂得如何去正確追尋！

至於作品中其他埋下的伏筆和象徵，例如劇中的大戲《水漫金山寺》到底對於梅仙的愛情形成了怎樣的反諷，在這裡也就不多說了，因為，每個觀眾都有自由意志去演繹有關《奇幻屋》任何情節的涵義和觀劇背後的體會感受，而這也正是戲劇創作中最好玩的一點！



## Reflections from Principal Actresses

### "Park Keeper" and Student-director – Tang Yi Ching (5X)

The 153rd Anniversary Drama Musical brought me a lot of firsts: The first time to participate in a drama musical, the first time to take up the role of student director, the first time to sing solo on stage...

When I took up the roles of both student director and Park Keeper a year ago, I knew it would be challenging, but I had not expected it to be so tough. It was difficult to juggle between being a student director and an actress, as the two roles called for very different approaches and skill-sets: distancing oneself to take a holistic view and to facilitate better performance of the cast, versus indulging in introspecting my own character and perfecting my acting. The workload was overwhelming.

Many if not all participants in the drama musical encountered hardships, but we all held onto the belief that we would make the drama musical a good show, and we powered through. Through participating in the drama musical, I believe a lot of us have learnt to better manage our time and develop our strength of perseverance.

The laughter and tears, pats on the shoulder and warm hugs of encouragement are all treasured memories I hold close to my heart. Without the unwavering support of fellow students, teachers and our Headmistress, the House of Wonders could not have been so successful. I am so proud and thankful to be a part of this wonderful production.

### "Jack" – Rachel Au (4Y)

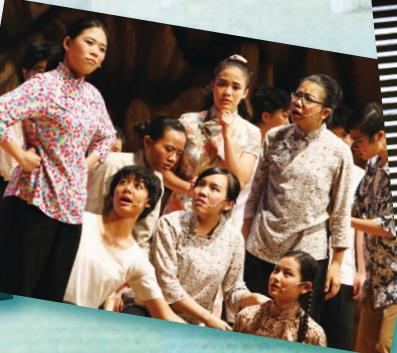
When moments pass, you look back on them.  
You look at what you've done, what you've accomplished, and what you've failed at.

You look at your mistakes, your failures, and you learn from them.  
You look at your accomplishments, and you learn from them too.

The 153rd Anniversary Musical has led me to places I had never thought I'd be, and also allowed me to accomplish things I had never even dreamt of doing. It has been a magical moment deeply etched into each and every one of our hearts, embedded deep inside our minds, that we may never forget this fleeting moment of youth and glory, even when we're old and frail. These memories will stay strong, forever, even when we're not.

### "Jack" - Sheron Cheng (5W)

This musical production gave me a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I'd never imagined I could be doing something as huge as this production. Most importantly, I'd never imagined I could be singing solo on stage. I am very grateful to be involved in this production, that I got this opportunity to meet new friends, build up relationships and do something extraordinary. This was definitely a challenge for me at first, because I had never been an actress or a singer. But with the support of my family, friends and teachers, everything turned out amazing. I got to know the power of friendship, and the power of love, and with these, nothing is impossible. This production is a wonderful experience that I will never forget. No matter how many years may have passed, it will be in my heart, forever and always.



### **"John" and Student-scriptwriter – Samantha Datwani (6Y)**

The 153rd Drama Musical was a humbling experience. As a scriptwriter, the artistic intent was to address the notion of happiness through recreating our city's history with a palpable sense of authenticity. As a principal actress playing the role of John Kadoorie, I sought to encapsulate the inner struggles John faced while pitted against confounding realities, and to become a multifaceted character with a rich backstory.

I would like to extend my profound gratitude to the School, especially our Headmistress Mrs. Stella Lau, for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and adventure.

### **"Mui" – Christina Wong and Emma Chan(5Z)**

「台上萬點星光。」 Blinking back tears under the spotlight, with the audience holding their breath and the dancers on stage oblivious to Mui's sorrow, the stillness and loneliness of the moment echoed our theme song '萬點星光' ('Sparks of Starlight -At Loke Yew Hall'). It took us almost a year to grasp Mui's life and understand her emotions but in that memorable moment, every single note, every single gesture blended so naturally that it took us no effort to sing and soar. We became one with the song.

Our moments under the spotlight represented the many months of hard work and effort. As the Chinese saying goes, "台上三分鐘，台下十年功" ("It takes ten years of hard work to perfect a performance which lasts but three minutes on stage.") It took countless tears of frustration, night after night of staying up late to practise, nods and hugs when passing by one another, and the support of friends and teachers to shape us and make us shine radiantly on stage.

### **"Siu Lung" – Sharon Chau (P.6)**

The most memorable moment was my first night of performance because I had butterflies in my stomach. When it was my turn to go on stage, my heart was pounding underneath my costume. Although I made a few mistakes, I was proud of myself.

I would like to thank all the teachers who sacrificed their time just to train us; the big sisters who have brought us smiles, and most importantly, my parents who have been supportive throughout the whole year.

### **"Siu Lung" – Adelaide Kwan (P.5)**

I've learnt how to get into the character of my role. I also learnt that it takes a tremendous amount of dedication and commitment from many people to make a good show. The show would not have been successful without our teamwork.

