

History Alive



The History Alive program has long worked together from Shin Kong Life Foundation and Godot Theatre Company, using the medium of art to create numerous possibilities for intergenerational interaction. Through story-telling, seniors guide students in gaining a new understanding of the value of age as well as the different faces of aging, all the while helping to bridge the communication gap between generations. Seniors also benefit from this interaction with children, which allows them to reconnect with society, share their wisdom, and lead more fulfilling lives.

The purpose is to promote cross-generation interaction and communication, as well as to encourage seniors to become involved in community service and strengthen links with society.

【Core Values】

1. Sharing and interaction
2. Empathy and respect
3. Participation and devotion



【Introduction】

Elders Share the Arts (ESTA) was established in 1979 as a community arts organization, primarily aimed at helping seniors pass on their life knowledge and experience through artistic creativity. In the United States this program is well-established and has gained a good reputation.

The National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA) has as its goal the improvement of seniors' lives through creative arts. Irrespective of wealth, age, physical or mental condition, the NCCA provides training, a network of specialist advice and promotion, and ESTA teaching resources.

In April 2005, ESTA CEO Susan Perlstein and NCCA Deputy CEO Renya Larson were invited to Taiwan to visit the Elders' Nursing Center and some elders' performance troupes, so as to better understand the circumstances of Taiwan's social welfare services. Then they selected people with the most suitable skills to carry out this project and Shin Kong Life Foundation as a pioneer to bring this program to Taiwan.

The History Alive program has long worked together with the Godot Theatre Company, using the medium of art to create numerous possibilities for intergenerational interaction. Through story-telling, Performing Arts and Storytelling Courses, and Teacher Training and International Certification seniors guide students in gaining a new understanding of the value of age as well as the different faces of aging, all the while helping to bridge the communication gap between generations.



【Performing Arts and Storytelling Courses】

The Performing Arts and Advanced Performing Arts classes for seniors had a total of thirty participants who committed to a month and half's worth of theatrical training. The courses included training in vocal expression, script reading, as well as interpretation of theatrical roles. Additionally, the Art of Storytelling class for seniors had thirteen participants who similarly committed to six weeks of storytelling courses. Upon completion of the class, a real-life demonstration of History Alive was held at the Elementary School, in which seniors shared their life stories with the schoolchildren.



【Teacher Training and International Certification】

This year we held our tenth annual teacher training course, with six trainee teachers leading a yearlong internship under the professional supervision of program directors. Since its inception, the History Alive program's international leadership certification has been awarded to seventy-five special teachers for ten consecutive years, and the program has been carried out in Taipei, Taichung, Hsinchu, Hualien, Tainan, and Pingtung. The training program is focused on providing workshops and professional oversight to trainee teachers, helping them to obtain the skills and abilities they need to become leaders in their own right.



【Stage Performances】

Adapted from the real life stories of seniors, every years the program held performances for seniors and children to collaborate together. Until now History live has already completed eight performances for 10 years. The shows were enjoyed by lots of people, and over the 10 years almost 11,163 people have watched these stage performances.

The performances are as follows :

2009 — *'Super Grandpa and Super Grandma'*

2010 — *'Broadway'*

2011 — *'Meet your hands'*

2011 — *'Closer'* and *'The Departed'*

2012 — *'Hide & Seek'*

2013 — *'The Launderette'*

2014 — *'Singing old house'*

2015 — *'Dear Alien'*



【Media Coverage】

廣告企劃製作

聽爺爺奶奶 開啟跨世代 說故事 溝通的無限可能

新光人壽慈善基金會 果陀劇場 攜手推動活化歷史

新光金控 | 新光人壽

開啟跨世代的溝通可能

「活化歷史」計畫，是透過跨世代溝通，讓長輩與年輕人分享彼此的故事，進而達到活化歷史的目的。計畫自推出以來，已獲得社會各界的廣泛關注與支持。透過與果陀劇場的合作，計畫將進一步擴大影響力，為長輩提供一個展示自我的平台，同時也為年輕人提供一個了解歷史、增進情感的機會。

假日的午後，一起聽聽長輩的故事吧

在一個陽光明媚的下午，一群年輕人圍坐在長輩身邊，聆聽他們的故事。長輩們分享著他們的青春歲月、工作經歷和人生感悟。年輕人們則專注地聆聽，偶爾提出問題，與長輩進行交流。這樣的活動不僅增進了兩代人之間的了解，也為長輩們提供了一個情感寄託的場所。

新光人壽慈善基金會為慶祝成立十週年，特別推出「活化歷史」計畫。該計畫旨在透過跨世代溝通，讓長輩與年輕人分享彼此的故事，進而達到活化歷史的目的。計畫自推出以來，已獲得社會各界的廣泛關注與支持。透過與果陀劇場的合作，計畫將進一步擴大影響力，為長輩提供一個展示自我的平台，同時也為年輕人提供一個了解歷史、增進情感的機會。

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特約專訪 Feature | 聽聽一位的創想與實踐 | 表演上座

藉戲劇與青春搭橋 不讓故事埋藏

蔡櫻茹與果陀劇場的「活化歷史」計畫

由劇場工作者蔡櫻茹與果陀劇場共同推動的「活化歷史」計畫，旨在透過跨世代溝通，讓長輩與年輕人分享彼此的故事，進而達到活化歷史的目的。計畫自推出以來，已獲得社會各界的廣泛關注與支持。透過與果陀劇場的合作，計畫將進一步擴大影響力，為長輩提供一個展示自我的平台，同時也為年輕人提供一個了解歷史、增進情感的機會。

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【Organization】

Shin Kong Life Foundation



Since its founding in 1983, the Shin Kong Life Foundation has held fast to the aim of using society's existing resources to better that society, and it continues to promote public good in keeping with the spirit its founder, Mr. Wu Ho-Su. Hosting philanthropic events, donating, and promoting public welfare are the purpose of the foundation, not simply the means to an end. Over the past thirty-one years the foundation has donated around NT\$160 million to disaster relief efforts and an additional NT\$150 million to support the families of first responders who died in the line of duty. In total, our accumulated donations have exceeded NT\$300 million.

In addition to traditional disaster relief, the foundation works hand-in-hand with other non-profit organizations to foster development in three key areas: oral history, women's health, and aboriginal education. Every year we continue to promote and improve our programs, and we continue to strive to not only better meet the needs of our communities, but also to further develop social welfare and culture.

Godot Theatre Company



1988, Godot produced "The Zoo Story", a one-scene play, as our first production. For the next 28 years, we have produced 70 different productions, including various Chinese and worldwide scripts. We want to share with the audience a wonderful world. We never preach. When the audiences walk into the theater with their tickets, they enter a fantastic world Godot has created. The line between reality and fantasy is erased and a fanciful spiritual adventure is about to begin.

The Beginning—changing times, unchanging love

In the 80th, Taiwan's economy was still steadily growing. Yet, one after another major performance groups, including Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, Lan Ling Theatre Workshop and other performing groups, quit and brought huge shock waves for the budding performing art industry. At the same time, Godot was founded in this backdrop, just as Dickens used to say: "This is the worst time and this is also the best time." In the first ten years, Godot had witnessed the ups and downs of local economy, the despairs and hopes of the cultural community, the establishment of

Taiwan's democracy, and wars around the globe.... Throughout this turmoil, Godot has always embraced our beliefs and insisted on producing works that allowed the audience to witness the unchanging love and humanity in a changing time.

Growing Strong—What would you like to see tonight?

In the first 10 years, with an adventurous spirit and undying insistence, Godot not only won at the box office, but also changed a lot of people's attitude toward art. Art is no longer unreachable. In the following 10 years, Godot put its effort into both performances and also education. We not only recruited talents for our productions, but also provided courses to train for new talents. Meanwhile, we gradually established a strong and healthy administrative structure for advertisement, financing, ticketing, membership, services.... and other theater-related businesses, hence became one of the most important performing groups in Taiwan. We are innovative and continuously changed the scope of Chinese musicals. We have new productions that dazzled the audience each and every year. Our productions are no longer limited in Taiwan. We have performed in more than 40 cities worldwide, including USA, Canada, and Mainland China. Almost every day, a Godot production is performed somewhere in the world. Every day, somebody asks: "What would you like to see tonight?"

Building a Wonderful World

Time has never stood still, just like Godot has never lost faith. No matter how the environment changed, we never complained. We always believe that as long as we don't give up, we will always have a chance. As long as we have hope, we will have our dreams fulfilled. In "Communicating Doors", Ruei-Lian opened the door and changed the fate of three women; In "Little Town of Tanshui", Emily realized how precious life is after her trip; In "The Apartment", Pao-Te Wu found a trace of kindness in his heart despite all what had happened. In the life of these stage characters, Godot always showcase the bright and charitable part of the humanity because we know and we believe that the world is indeed wonderful. At least, we can learn to make the world better through the theater. We have been working at it for 28 years, and we will keep singing Wonderful World in the future!