

ORIGINAL STORY BY
GUAN HANQING



ADAPTED BY NATNAN ZHE, LIZHE XU

PRODUCED BY VIVEN MA
DIRECTED BY NATHAN ZHE

YU THEATRE SOCIETY'S

SNOW IN MIDSUMMER
THE SILENCE

PROGRAMME

DIGITAL
PROGRAMME





YU THEATRE SOCIETY'S

SNOW IN MIDSUMMER
THE SILENCE

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EASY READ

Due to the minimalist storytelling approach in *Snow in Midsummer: The Silence*, a detailed story summary and a graphic illustrating the characters' relationships and identities are included in the Easy Read section to enhance audience comprehension.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“Why are you making a Mime?”— This is a question I’m often asked—and one I’ve asked myself many times during the production of *Snow in Midsummer: The Silence*. After I have heard the initial concept from Jerall Li, the idea seemed simple enough at the beginning; I wanted to break language barriers, eliminate the reliance on English subtitles and projections, and bring local audiences closer to Chinese culture and theatre.

However, as we delved deeper into the process of producing a mime and exploring physical performance, I realized that while the idea sounded simple, the execution was anything but. Mime was a completely uncharted territory for me. How do you write a script for a mime? How do you guide actors in a medium with no words? How do you integrate lighting and music to support the narrative? With so many unknowns and obstacles, I often found myself wondering: why persist with creating a mime?

Snow in Midsummer: The Silence is an experimental piece, focusing on spatial relationships and the dynamics between characters. When does a character cease to be a mere role and become a “person”? What is the relationship between a character and their shadow, and how does the space they inhabit define them? I hope this work invites the audience to freely explore the tensions and transformations between characters and their environments.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The masked, symbolic characters in the play interact in ways that are often humorous or absurd. The mask acts as a shackle for language, much like feudal ideologies served as moral and social restraints. Why, then, is Dou E's soul the only character without a mask? What does a character's soul signify in relation to their role and their past self? Dou E's soul, a character we uniquely created for this production, carries textual and symbolic meaning that I hope audiences will reflect upon and interpret.

In terms of set design, we've attempted to merge three-dimensional and two-dimensional spaces. Characters move fluidly between different layers of the stage, shifting from abstract to concrete and from literal to symbolic. The chopping knife and the withered tree are ever-present on stage, serving as silent yet powerful symbols: the former marking Dou E's inevitable tragic fate, and the latter representing the wrath of heaven. These elements remind us that feudal ideologies may eventually be dismantled, but the tragedies they caused, like Dou E's fate, cannot be rewritten.

Snow In Midsummer: The Silence uses minimalistic storytelling and symbolic characters to present themes and ideas in their rawest form. By doing so, it hands the absolute freedom of interpretation and understanding back to the audience. What's truly important isn't the story itself, but the thoughts it provokes and the deeper reflections it inspires in the viewer.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Looking back to 2022, when I first watched Yu Theatre Society's *The Orphan of Zhao* as an audience, I was entirely unfamiliar with theatre production. Yet that performance planted a seed in my heart: I wanted to be part of this team. From photographer, actor, and designer to technical director, and now standing here as the director and producer, this journey has been full of challenges. There were moments of uncertainty and confusion, but far more of growth and reward.

I am deeply grateful for the support of Yu Theatre Society, the guidance of Daisy and Jerall, Viven's trust, the ongoing support from the DAN School of Drama and Music, and the collective effort of the cast and crew of *Snow in Midsummer: The Silence*. This production could never have been made without the trust, understanding, and patience of everyone involved. What began as an impractical and naive idea has become a reality through their dedication. This production is an answer sheet for my growth as a theatre maker—a daring and reckless journey into the unknown.

So, why am I making a mime? My final answer is probably this: "I wanted to, so I did." ;)

— Nathan Zhe
Director, *Snow in Midsummer: The Silence*

SNOW IN MIDSUMMER
THE SILENCE

THE CAST

DOU E ... HEFEI ZHANG
DOU E'S SOUL ... TARA MARTIN
GRANNY CAI ... ZIOU ZHENG
ZHANG LUER ... EARL ZHANG
ZHANG'S FATHER ... SHURAN CUI
SAI LU YI ... ALLEN DONG
DOU TIANZHANG ... QINGSONG XU
TAO WU ... FERGUS YI

SNOW IN MIDSUMMER
THE SILENCE

THE TEAM

CO-PRODUCER ... VIVEN MA
NATHAN ZHE
DIRECTOR & PLAYWRIGHT ... NATHAN ZHE
ASST. DIRECTOR ... TRACY CHAN
STAGE MANAGER ... SHENYI LU
PRODUCTION MANAGER ... JANICE GUO
ASST. PRODUCTION MANAGER ... KYOKO YANG
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR ... NATHAN ZHE
QINGSONG XU
HEAD OF MARKETING ... ISABELLA LI
MOVEMENT DIRECTOR ... LIZHE XU
CHOREOGRAPHER ... REBECCA NIU
SET DESIGNER ... WEICHEN KONG
PROPS DESIGNER ... HELENA ZHAO
LIGHTNING DESIGNER ... JERALL LI
SOUND & LIVE SOUND DESIGNER ... NATHAN ZHE
HEAD OF SET & PROPS ... MENGXI LIU
HEAD OF WARDROBE ... ALEEZA BALBAS
COSTUME DESIGNER ... VERA ZHU
MINGHAN ZHANG
MASK DESIGNER ... SOPHIE LIANG
FRONT OF HOUSE DESIGNER ... AUDREY CHEN
DRAMATURG ... LIZHE XU
ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR ... CATRIONA DELANEY
PHOTOGRAPHER ... XIXI ZHOU
AMBER YAN
VIDEOGRAPHER ... ELAINE HE
GRAPHIC DESIGNER ... MINGHAN ZHANG

SNOW IN MIDSUMMER
THE SILENCE

THE TEAM

ASST. STAGE MANAGER ... ELAINE HE
JIAYI ZHAO
RITA XIE
JIALIN LUO

MARKETING ASSISTANT ... AMBER YAN
TRACY CHAN

SET & PROPS CREW ... YILIANG WANG
IULIA RUS
MICHAEL XU
SAMUEL SIN

COSTUME CREW ... TRACY CHAN
SOPHIE LIANG

FOH CREW ... CATRIONA DELANEY
NICOLE WU

TECH CREW ... JIALIN LUO
JEFFERY WU
EDWARD WEI

OPERATOR ... JEFFERY WU
EDWARD WEI
NATHAN ZHE

SNOW IN MIDSUMMER
THE SILENCE

SPECIAL THANKS

ALICE CHANG
DAISY MENGJU JIA
BRIAN FROMMER
TUNING HUANG
MARIANNA THOMLISON
MARK HUNT
GRACE DELAMERE
KEDU ZHOU
JULIA STROUD
NICK FANGZHENG WANG
DIANNE ZEMBA
KEITH MACVICAR
ANNE MARIE MORTENSEN
ALEX BOXALL
DAVE VANDERLIP
REBECCA BROWN
ERIC JIANG
GUANQIAO WANG
HALEY SARFELD
KELSEY JACOBSON
XINTIAN ZHANG
QIANHUI LIU
CAM MILLER
TIM FORT
KELLY O'DETTE
RYAN RANDALL
ELLA WANG
HAOFAN WANG
DAN SCHOOL OF DRAMA AND MUSIC
QUEEN'S FILM & MEDIA
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TOURISM KINGSTON
DAN SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL
KINGSTON THEATRE ALLIANCE
DAN STUDIO SERIES
DAN SCHOOL MAJOR
QUEEN'S MUSICAL THEATRE
OF THE SEA PRODUCTIONS
QUEEN'S THEATRE TROUPE
BLUE CANOE PRODUCTIONS
AMS MEDIA CENTER
QUEEN'S JOURNAL

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