

## DOCTORAL STUDENT'S WORK FINDS INNOVATIVE APPLICATION IN TRADITIONAL THEATRE PRODUCTION IN CHINA

Dr. Miao Song, a doctoral student of Dr. Peter Grogono deployed software implemented as part of her PhD, Illimitable Space System of ISS [1, 2] in three scenes of the play called, "Like Shadows". This play is a collaborative theatre production by Beijing, China based Central Academy of Drama and Concordia University. The performance was staged to the public in Beijing from April 3rd to April 12th, 2014 with about 900 audience in attendance per show.

The play was originally written and directed by the renowned theater director Dr. Stan Lai at Stanford University and premiered at the National Theater in Taipei in 2007. Based on the original play, Professors Ruru Ding and Shan Li at The Central Academy of Drama, Beijing, recreated and redirected this piece with the students in the Theatre Direction program for the current generation.

This collaborative work was supported by the OVPRGS (Office of Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies), Computer Science and Software Engineering Department, Hexagram Concordia, District 3 Innovation Center at Concordia University, CALQ (Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec), Montreal and the Theatre Direction Department at the Central Academy of Drama, Beijing.

Dr. Miao Song, is presently an Affiliate Assistant Professor with the Computer Science and Software Engineering (CSE) department and a member of the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (COHDS) at Concordia University. She was in charge of the real-time interactive media for digital visual effects of stage design and presentation with the deployment of the research-creation. It is arguably the very first time that real-time interactive media is used for a traditional theatre production in China.

[1] [Song, Miao](#) (2012) *Computer-Assisted Interactive Documentary and Performance Arts in Illimitable Space*. PhD thesis, Concordia University, online at <http://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/975072/>

[2] Miao's Interactive Documentary & Performance Vimeo Channel, online at <http://vimeo.com/channels/153466>





*Illustration 1: Real-time shadows extracted from the moving actors and projected onto the backpanels*

In this scene the ISS tracks passing by actors, culls them out off the image, and blends a gray shadow over their green-screened image where possible in accordance with the director's script and design.

Photo credit: Miao Song





This illustration shows actors also projected into multiple places tripling their appearance. The effect is also done in real time reducing the rehearsal burden on the actors.

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