

A Midsummer Night's DREAMING Under the Southern Bough



William Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu: celebrating a 400 year legacy



To mark the 400th anniversary of the deaths of William Shakespeare and the Chinese playwright Tang Xianzu, the University of Leeds Staging China International Research Network, the Business Confucius Institute at the University of Leeds and stage@leeds are responsible for managing a practice-led research project in cooperation with the University of International Business & Economics in China.



A Midsummer Night's DREAMING Under the Southern Bough will see two theatre companies, one in China and one in the UK, create a new piece of performance honouring the 400 year legacy of the life and work of William Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu. With the two texts and the overarching theme of 'dreaming', students and staff from two universities will create a new work. The creative team at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing are working on a piece inspired by the mechanicals and fairies in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* while students and staff at the University of Leeds are working on a contemporary response to Tang Xianzu's *A Dream under the Southern Bough*. Both pieces are set in the same woodland location with characters and stories entwining and overlapping. Each story can be performed individually but *A Midsummer Night's DREAMING Under the Southern Bough* will only be fully appreciated when viewed as a single piece of theatre. Our 'dreaming' brings together Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu, Britain and China.

William Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu: celebrating a 400 year legacy, is a partnership project between the University of Leeds and Beijing's University of International Business and Economics, sponsored by commercial partners, Bank of China and China Eastern Airlines.

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