

## GE2023-04

### Hardship is a Spaceship

一人有一艘《艱辛歲月》太空船

Would you like to experience its past and present by watching a theatre work?

Is it necessary to have a 'script' in theatre creation?

Is it a must for theatre actors to know 'acting'?

Is it a must for theatre audience to 'peek'?

Is it a must for theatre directors to 'control'?

Could theatre works create 'unknowns'?

Could theatre works surpass the 'past'?

Could theatre works connect to the 'future'?

Could theatre works activate 'present'?

In an era full of 'hardships', 'years' no longer mean the long period of time, ten years or eight years, but from one minute to the next minute, from one moment to the next. In this reality, "hardship" has no distinction of age, identity, class, or gender. All people are experiencing "hardships" and thus causing the disappearance of 'years'. When everyone can't live a life as they wish, and days are like years, who can see the past, present and future through time?

How can theatre works bring people from one space and time to another?

The theatre work, *Hard Times*, by the theatre director, Edward Lam, is a 'spaceship' built for exploration. The spaceship will launch in the theatre but can land anywhere.

For example, in our daily life.

In 2021, when the COVID-19 pandemic continued, schools were suspended. Edward Lam and a group of HKU students created a series of video works titled 'On Empty Classroom'.

In 2022, when COVID-19 almost came to an end, Edward Lam exchanged movies that grew up with him with another group of HKU students; creating another series of video works – 'On Exchange of Coming of Age'.

In 2023, when normality resumes, everything seems to be the past, but will it repeat? Who would like to be on board and take on this 'Hard Times' spaceship together?