

中 Hua Dan Spotlight 館

October 2011 newsletter



HUA DAN goes to the World Economic Forum!

Inspiring young global leaders to find creative solutions to personal and professional dilemmas in the age of globalisation

October
2011

Dear Hua Dan Supporters,

We are excited to be bringing you our October 2011 newsletter, sharing with you developments in our work over the summer, as well as to announce the recent publication of our 2011 Annual Report. In the report, you'll be able to learn more about ways in which Hua Dan had an impact on nearly 22,000 migrant women and children using participatory theatre, and how we have been changing lives, since we began in 2004. A copy of the Annual

Report is available for download [here](#)

In other news, Caroline was recently honored as a 2011 Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum, in recognition of her work in China with Hua Dan. You can read more about Hua Dan's experience at the World Economic Forum in this newsletter, as well as learn about our plans to take a performance to Edinburgh Festival in 2012.

We hope you will find this, and the rest of Hua Dan's news, an

enjoyable read and we welcome any comments and feedback.

Best wishes,

Caroline Watson

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Donate at <http://www.hua-dan.org> Newsletter by Pauline Bandelier

Hua Dan at the World Economic Forum



Caroline Watson, Hua Dan founder and CEO, at the Dalian interactive workshop

As part of Caroline's involvement with the Forum for Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum, Hua Dan was invited to deliver an interactive and participatory workshop for 300 Young Global Leaders (Y.G.L) at the 'Summer Davos' in Dalian. The themes were moral dilemmas and values-based, global leadership.

We devised a performative piece around 4 central, fictional characters: Mike Fields, the CEO of Snazzy Socks, a US-based clothing company; his wife, Natalie Fields, a stay-at-home-Mum of 3 small children; Liu Lai Feng, owner of a factory in China that makes socks; and Lan Lan, a young migrant woman working at the sock factory. The audience was introduced to these four characters, all of whom

were facing personal and professional dilemmas in their lives.

Following the performance, the audience members were taken to breakout rooms where they were able to meet the characters in person and learn more about their situation. Finally, participants designed Frozen Pictures, depicting their solutions to the dilemmas the characters were facing.

The workshop was well-received with participants saying it had significantly impacted their understanding of issues in China, as well as enabled them to reflect on many of their own personal and professional leadership dilemmas.

You can see the video of the workshop by clicking [here](#).



A Y.G.L team creating a frozen picture

"Hua Dan's performance was both a surprise and a revelation. In just a few short sketches, we in the audience learned so much, not just about the migrant issue in China, but about empathy, leadership, and the human condition. The actors in the sketches were top notch, and the multimedia effects used were powerful. I am not easily moved by performances, but I was deeply touched by this one. My mind and emotions were engaged in a deep way to consider the issues the characters faced. I would highly recommend having the stellar Hua Dan team to perform in any large gathering or function where people are trying to make a difference". –

Grace Nicolette,

2011 Young Global Leader, Co-Founder Social Venture Group

Migrant Children's Programme: The Magic Storybox Project

From August 2010 to July 2011 Hua Dan conducted the "Magic Story Box Childrens' Project" with support from the Ford Foundation.

The project served 326 students of migrant schools aged from 8 to 16, as well as 25 teachers and ten families who participated in the "We Are Together" winter camp. The workshop had a profound impact on participants. As one teacher told us: " Thanks to Hua Dan, I learned that teachers and students can interact in class (..). I even learned how to make the students act out the content of their textbooks".

Women`s project: latest news

Between May and September 2011, we were able to offer a new workshop to 55 migrant women, thanks to the support of the United States` Department of State and in partnership with two women`s organizations. Once again, we witnessed the power of participatory arts to impact people`s lives, the way they see themselves and interact with others. The story of Mrs Wei Xuemei is a good illustration. Mrs Wei enjoyed singing very much, but she lacked self-confidence. Her fear of making mistakes stopped her from trying anything new, including

singing. With the support of the Hua Dan team and other participants, she was able to take a big step forward during this workshop: she decided to take on the lead role in the final performance. The character she played of a migrant mother touched all the people who had come to see the play. She never

"By participating in Hua Dan`s workshop, I was able to discover some qualities I never knew I had (...) I realize now that I have a lot of strengths, I`m really not that bad !

Mrs Wei Xuemei, beneficiary of our women`s empowerment programme ".

Would have thought she had a gift for acting.

News from the Sichuan programme

With support from UNESCO and Felissimo, Hua Dan was able to run a new phase of the earthquake project, touching more than 200 beneficiaries over the course of one year.

The children who participated in the project all came with their families for the closing ceremony at the University of Sciences and Technoloav of

The Hua Dan Sichuan team poses with the participants of "Our trip" workshop

Mianyang city, to give a warm farewell to their Hua Dan brothers and sisters. In spite of the summer heat, everyone celebrated the delicious fruits harvested during this 5 days` worshop. Children now understand better the hardships of their parents, and parents are able to communicate effectively with their children, using a gentle voice instead of orders and commands.

"Also, at the end of September, Yang Yang and Jessica lead the second part of the "Our Journey" series of theatre and education workshops, in collaboration with our long-term partners: Partnerships for Community Development (P.C.D) The week-long workshop with local middle school teachers, University teachers and N.G.O and arts workers explored practical applications of creative arts in educational and community settings. Participants left the workshop inspired to know how use drama in their classrooms and how the integrating the arts into daily and work life has significant benefits for wider Chinese society".



Meet Pauline Bandelier and Arne Buttner Hua Dan's Newest Recruits



“In Huadan, everyone is so passionate about what they do. It inspires me”.

Pauline Bandelier

The Hua Dan team recently welcomed two new members; **Pauline Bandelier**, our new international development officer, and **Arne Buttner**, our media expert.

A Chinese language and international relations graduate in her home country of France, **Pauline** worked for 3 years at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris before coming to China in 2008. She worked for the French embassy in Beijing and for an international NGO.

Passionate about theatre, she studied drama at the University of Santa Cruz in California and is a member of Beijing Improv Bilingual Performance Group. In addition to overseeing Hua Dan's fundraising strategy, she performed in the experiential workshop commissioned for the World Economic Forum in Dalian.

“Working for Hua Dan is giving me the opportunity to use my different interests and skills. I feel so lucky to have the opportunity to take part in a project as ambitious and professional as the one we just did in Dalian”!

Arne first came to China in 2008-2009 to take part in an exchange programme between his high school in Germany and a Chinese highschool in Tongzhou. The result of this year is a Chinese vocabulary and accent local Beijingers would envy!

Following this, he went back to Germany where he worked for different film production companies.

In the summer of 2010, he interned with the film production company Sexy Beijing. As he was flipping through an expat magazine, he came across an article about Hua Dan. One year later, he joined Hua Dan thanks to a one year programme funded by the German government.

“Working for Hua Dan gives me a lot of insights about what is happening in China. My goal is to combine Hua Dan's work with my interest in participatory media”.

Dong Fen meets UK social enterprises



In August 2011, Dong Fen, Hua Dan`s Operations Manager, received a "Social Enterprise International Exchange Scholarship" to participate in a week-long study tour in the UK. The scholarship was sponsored by the British Council with the support of the Arcelor Mittal Foundation. Dong Fen shares her first impressions with us

"As part of my trip in London, I visited 14 social enterprises, each with their own characteristics and providing different services" explains Dong Fen.

One of the organization she met is Watermans. This organization provides services in London's Borough of Hounslow, neighboring towns and communities in West London.



"It made me think about Hua Dan. If we had an art space, we could provide female migrant workers and migrant children with a better environment for our workshops. We could invite participants and people from all walks of life to enter this space and create different possibilities", dreams Dong Fen. She also visited the social enterprise KIDS, which offers services to disabled children and adolescents, such as Home Learning, specialist nurseries and crèches playgrounds or youth groups. In addition, KIDS supports disabled children`s families through parent partnerships, forums, and training.

"This programme really got me thinking that we must consider not only our direct service recipients, but our indirect beneficiaries as well. Indirect beneficiaries could become direct beneficiaries. We need to have a wider and more comprehensive viewpoint when delivering our services.

"During this study tour, the giving spirit of the English people left me with a deep impression".

"Open-mindedness and a spirit of sharing are the skills necessary to work in a social enterprise".

Warren Koehler (second from the left), Director of the London KIDS office, discussing with fellow social entrepreneurs issues of the field



Dumpling Dreams: Hua Dan's plans to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2012

This summer Jess and Caroline met in Edinburgh to explore the possibilities of Hua Dan taking a show to the 2012 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and onto Wales' Sherman Theatre in Cardiff. After 7 years of delivering theatre projects with and for migrant communities across Mainland China, Hua Dan now has the dream to produce an original piece of theatre, in collaboration with a team of U.K based theatre artists, for the global stage. At a time when the world is at once fascinated, scared and unsure about what role China will play in the future, Hua Dan can share the heart-beat of this vast continent, which many westerners never get to hear, through the compelling stories of today's young, migrant workers.

These are the stories of the women who have made Hua Dan, and who are ready to reclaim 'Made in China' for themselves. Hua Dan as a company of performers, grassroots educators and entrepreneurs have learnt their craft in the hinterlands of Beijing migrant schools and the post-earthquake villages of Sichuan. The team, mostly under 30, have migrated from all corners of rural China. They are radical in their ability to think out-of-the box and make theatre in any kind of space with people from all backgrounds. They have voices that were once silenced by the production line and are now ready to make a production of their own to share with the world.

If you are interested to support this project, or would like to know more about it, please email jess@hua-dan.org

What is a social enterprise?

1 The idea of social enterprise has a long history around the world, though under different names and with different tendencies.

2 According to Andrew Picken of the British Council, a social enterprise is defined in England as an organisation driven by a social purpose, regardless of whether it is purely a charity, a business or other

3 The Malaysian Social Enterprise Alliance (SEA) regards social enterprises as businesses with a social focus, distinct from non-profit organisations.

Hua Dan

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Donate at <http://www.hua-dan.org> Newsletter by Pauline Bandelier



~
Love them
Learn from them
Start with what they know
Build on what they have
And when it is done
They will say
We did it.
~
Lao Tze

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Donate to Huadan

Donations can also be made to support Hua Dan's work through our Hong Kong HSBC account:

Account name: "Hua Dan Limited"

Account number: 808-214183-001

Bank code: 004

Branch address: HSBC, 1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong

Registered charity number: 91/8014

Volunteering for Huadan

Become a part of the Huadan family! We currently have volunteer opportunities in the following areas:

English and Chinese teaching

English to Chinese and Chinese to English translating

Computer literacy training (word, excel, photoshop)

If you are interested, please email zhongna@hua-dan.org or call

+86-(0)10-6417-1634

Purchase Huadan corporate consulting products

Inspired by the participatory workshop we created for Young Global Leaders in Dalian? Want to bring Huadan to your company?

In order to support Huadan's non-profit projects we have decided to launch **workshops for consultancy**. The Hua Dan consultancy service targets CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) departments of enterprises and employees of international companies, factories, hotels and restaurants. Hua Dan tailors the projects and designs them according to our clients' needs.

If you are interested, or want to know more, please email pauline@hua-dan.org, or visit our website www.hua-dan.org or call +86-(0)10-6417-1634