



## Film art director Huang Mei-Ching talks about “Paradise in Service”

Famous film art director Ms. Huang Mei-Ching recently gave a talk at TNUA on the film “Paradise in Service,” for which she has been nominated for Best Art Direction of this year’s Golden Horse Award.

“Paradise in Service” adds to a list of popular and critically-acclaimed films for which Ms. Huang has won awards and nominations for awards for art direction at major film festivals in Taiwan and other countries in recent years, including “Monga,” “Au Revoir Taipei” and “Love.”

She spent three months doing extensive research for the latest film, which is set in a military brothel, codenamed “831 Teahouse,” on Kinmen between 1969 and 1971 when the remote island was on the frontline of Taiwan in a war against mainland China. As official records were hard to come by because

of military restrictions, Ms. Huang mostly relied on accounts of local people to reconstruct the brothel and the main street of the area.

She said everything she saw during her field research on Kinmen reflected how robust life once was there.

Ms. Huang said the art design for the film required a lot of attention to details. For example, even the camouflaged uniforms of the soldiers were different from area to area on the island, and all such details had to be carefully re-created in order to produce an authentic picture of the time.

Caption: Award-winning film art director Ms. Huang Mei-Ching gave a talk on her design for the film “Paradise in Service.”

## NSD Prof. Parker conducts writing workshop

Prof. Pippin Parker, director of The New School for Drama (NSD), conducted a writing workshop at TNUA in October.

During the almost two-week workshop, Prof. Parker gave in-depth looks at the development of different media – namely film, TV and stage – and explained the principles of narratives.

Prof. Parker noted that it may take only 10 minutes to explain the rules of writing, but writing itself is a life-long practice.

Prof. Parker became a member of the NSD faculty in 2004 and three years later he was appointed Professor of Professional Practice. He was also nominated for a Distinguished University Teaching Award in 2007.

As a professional in the theatre world, Prof. Parker directed and served as dramaturge of the production of George Packer’s *Betrayed at Culture*

Project, which won the 2008 Lortel Award for Best Play.

The workshop was open to both filmmaking and theatre arts students. Prof. Randy Finch, who is now teaching at TNUA’s Department of Filmmaking, used to work with Prof. Parker at Naked Angels Theatre Company.

He has written many plays including “Anesthesia,” “Assisted Living,” and numerous one-acts that have been produced in New York and Los Angeles and published by Playscripts, Inc.

His works also include the radio play, “A Gift.” He was a staff writer for Fox television’s animated series “The Tick,” and developed several projects for HBO. His episode for the children’s television show “Pocoyo” won the Cristal Award at the 2006 Annecy Animation Festival.

Caption: Prof. Pippin Parker from The New School for Drama explains the principles of writing to students attending his workshop.

