

CAPTIVE MUSIC

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PRESS RELEASE

Captive Music and Toby Simkin sign agreement to produce new musical about China's most famous love story.

Captive Music, a British musical theatre company, is delighted to announce the signing of an Authors Options Agreement with Broadway & West End Producer Toby Simkin to produce a stage musical based on the life of Yang GuiFei, one of the four Immortal Beauties of China. Despite its Chinese setting, the musical, *Sacrifice*, will have western music and is intended to come to London's West End followed by Broadway after opening in China.

The members of Captive Music, writer Kenneth Clarke, composer Richard Daniels and co-composer Mark Troop met Toby Simkin in Shanghai in June 2008 to cement the deal. The Authors Options Agreement gives Mr Simkin the worldwide rights to the *Sacrifice* brand, book, lyrics and music.

In recent years there has been great interest in China for Broadway-style musicals. This had led to a clear call for more western musicals with Chinese themes.

Toby Simkin, maintaining a wholly owned corporation in China, has been developing the Chinese theatrical marketplace since 2004. Mr. Simkin recently setup a permanent residence in Shanghai in order to focus his efforts on the marketplace.

The story of *Sacrifice* charts a well-known piece of Chinese history – the love affair between the great Tang Emperor Xuanzong and Yang GuiFei, his favourite concubine. In his obsession for the girl the Emperor neglects affairs of state, and his most powerful general, An Lushan, seizes the opportunity to revolt. On the run from rebel troops the Emperor is forced by his own army to make an unbearable choice – save himself or save his beloved Yang GuiFei, who the army blames for their predicament. The Emperor, in despair, sacrifices the woman he loves.

Toby Simkin: “As soon as I received a proposal from Captive Music I could see and hear the worldwide potential of the musical – a well-known piece of Chinese history matched with the emotional drama of western music – dynamite!”

kenneth clarke – writer

richard daniels – composer

mark troop – co-composer/arranger

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Kenneth Clarke, who has researched the Yang Guifei story for a number of years, said:
“This is fulfilment of a dream. This is one of China’s great love stories, which we wish to transform into one of the world’s great love stories.”

Sacrifice is intended to open with a full scale workshop production in Beijing in autumn 2010

Friday, 25 July 2008

kenneth clarke – writer
richard daniels – composer
mark troop – co-composer/arranger