

timeframe we had in which to work with these students. It seemed that daily there was a new obstacle: audacious dilemmas.

Amazingly, we met all challenges. Ms. Rouse and I were in residence at SIBA for about two weeks in the summer of 2015. However, we had only seven actual workshop sessions with students. We presented a public, enhanced staged reading of Ms. Rouse's adaptation of *Hamlet*. The inaugural phase of this "impossible dream" was a success. According to Ms. Ariyaratne, the twenty-two students who completed the program did indeed improve their English language skills. Additionally, their energy, focus, and self-confidence visibly sharpened throughout the remainder of the semester. Several of the participants are currently SIBA employees. Two of this fledgling group, Venerable Viharagala Pagnnaloka Thero, and Venerable Poddalgoda Mahinda Thero, have been with the initiative each of the five years since its inception. They have been invaluable consultants, as well as personal and project assistants. Together with the additional five monastics participating in the *Hamlet* presentation, all seven monks functioned as narrators. The roles of Greek choruses in Ancient Greek dramas inspired their place in the drama, as did roles of the over-peering Mt. Olympus deities in both ancient Greek and early ancient Roman mythology. It was perfect: audacious divinity.

The achievements of the initiative's 2015 phase prompted support for expanding the program the following year. The 2016 program's success, especially its more fully realized drama, Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, garnered increased investments of time and resources



into the summer 2017 program, and its groundbreaking drama: our original English adaptation of the revered Jataka tale, *Sanda Kinduru*. Choreographer and NKU alumna Ms. Kim Popa, shared her skills for about a week. NKU Electronic Media & Broadcasting Program Director,

Christopher Strobel, brought students who documented the early weeks of this adventure.

The Sri Dalada Maligawa Media Team produced a stunning video of the final production.