

BBC documentary spotlights China's Shakespeare

Du Fu, China's Greatest Poet, a recent BBC documentary, features the elegant, meditative recital of Du Fu's masterpieces by **veteran** British actor Ian McKellen, whose performance of Shakespeare's works has already held the world **spellbound**.

veteran 老兵; 经验丰富的

spellbound 出神的; 被迷住的

It is written and presented by Michael Wood, an accomplished television historian who also **helmed** other China-related docuseries such as The Story of China (2016) and The Story of China's Reform and Opening Up (2018).

helm 掌舵; 指挥

Wood **embarked** on a **pilgrimage** to a number of places such as the poet's birthplace Gongyi in Henan province, the Tang Dynasty (618-907) capital Chang'an, today's Xi'an, and the Du Fu Thatched Cottage in Southwest China's Chengdu city.

embark 上船; 着手

pilgrimage 朝拜; 巡礼

Along the way, he met and talked to ordinary people, dancers and musicians, who helped to tell the **enchanted** story of the poet whose writings have **resonated** through the centuries, giving voice to the pain of common folks caught up in war, corruption, famine and natural disasters.

enchanted 迷人的; 妩媚的

resonate 共鸣

Du's poetry reflects his experience and transforms it, so it becomes a part of the emotional vocabulary of the Chinese culture, said American **Sinologist** Stephen Owen, who in 2016 completed the eight-year-long project to translate Du Fu's 1,400 poems into English.

Sinologist 汉学家; 中国通

Below are three of Du Fu's poems translated by Owen. In the first piece, Du sings of his bohemian and *charismatic* friend Li Bai; in the second, he expresses his love for Taishan Mountain as well as his lofty aspirations; and in the third, he *grieves* for the war-torn state and is concerned about his family from afar.

charismatic 超凡魅力的

grieve 悲痛; 哀悼