

## **Ashley Brown, a teacher and a researcher of Mandarin Chinese**

Ashley Brown dazzled the Chinese audience in the theater with her perfect Chinese. She served as an MC for the Chinese New Year Festival at the Wang Center in 2017. Ashley, who does not have any Chinese background, acquired Chinese through the Chinese language classes that the Dept. of Asian and Asian American Studies has been offering. She made all Chinese instructors feel proud.

Ashley graduated with a Bachelors from Stony Brook University with an Asian and American Studies degree and a minor in Chinese Studies in 2013. During her undergraduate years, she became an ambassador for the United States Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. Ashley also studied abroad in China, from 2011-2012. Since then, she became a teacher of Mandarin Chinese and English as a New Language at Long Island Lutheran High School and Middle School. She also had the wonderful opportunity to return to China multiple times on various scholarships including Confucius Institute PhD in China Fellowship and Critical Language Scholarship.

Ashley continued on to obtain a master's degree in Linguistics TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language), student taught in Fort Salonga Elementary and Ward Melville High school, and now she is pursuing her PhD in Applied Linguistics at Xiamen University in China. She aspires to discover and use research-based, fun and effective methods to teach Mandarin Chinese and English as a New Language.