

NTC TOURING THEATRE COMPANY

UNREHEARSED SHAKESPEARE

or

“HOW TO DO SHAKESPEARE WITHOUT PRACTISING FIRST”

“This Shakespeare workshop was amazing because I have always struggled with understanding the text and being interested at all in classical pieces but now I have found a new passion and would like to read and fully understand all of Shakespeare's plays. It was incredible how much I took away from this workshop and I feel that this should be compulsory in schools as kids hate the texts and this converts the hatred into understood romance!” Steven Jaan Pilman

Performed and led by 3 experienced professional actors and based on The First Folio these are unique, exciting, fun and revelatory practical workshops for students of performing arts, drama and English literature and can be adapted to work with students of any age. Providing a fascinating insight into how Shakespeare wrote for actors by placing his staging instructions within the text: exploring the hidden meanings of his punctuation, cue lines and repetitions which enabled his contemporary actors to perform having only seen their ‘parts’ and their cues.

Performance scenes and soliloquies will be discussed in advance, the suggested texts are ‘Macbeth’ ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and ‘A Midsommer Nights Dreame’ This format is transferable to any Shakespeare text and extracts from other scripts can be explored in the workshop.

The workshop is a ‘hands on’, actor’s approach to the text, it will be a practical get-up and do session to inspire and delight! Activities will focus on reading skills, comprehension and interpretation through acting and directing, using a performance based technique, evidencing all the required actions through the text. This process will appeal to students of all ages in discovering its ‘mysteries’, providing a fascinating insight into how Shakespeare placed hidden meanings and instructions in his punctuation, cue lines and repetitions, blocking mysteries, false cues, iambic rhythm, etc – these will all be explained clearly, simply and demonstrated practically for/by the students - with written materials available to take away.



‘Comedy of Errors’

‘On the stage performing it, you get a chance to understand it’

The maximum number per workshop is 30 although a smaller group would be preferable, the presentation/performance can be delivered to **a larger group**. The cost of the full day workshop is **£650 +VAT**. A half day (3 hour session) is **£395 + VAT** inclusive. The workshops will require a large classroom in which to work.

‘I had to contact you to say what an absolute delight this was - performances of the highest quality and a hilarious production. There were a number of young people in the audience and I'm sure that they will have come away realising that Shakespeare is a lot more than a book with difficult prose.’
A Midsummer Night’s Dream

‘In a world where students are often confined to desks during their study of drama in the English classroom, this approach offers a really valuable way for students to develop understanding of challenging texts through kinaesthetic approaches. Working together to select scenes to ensure that students’ active work will support their exam work when they return to the classroom. This approach can also support content revision in other key texts studied in English and Drama.’

Example Full Day Workshop:

1. Brief introduction to First Folio, unrehearsed theory and history.
2. One hour script in hand performance of selected scenes by 3/4 experienced professional actors. Explaining/demonstrating how the First Folio affects performance. Author's intention is to make performance simpler for the actor (but not easy!).
3. Group work lead by individual actors to include:
 - The class act out the whole play in 10 minutes! Clarifying the plot and characters.
 - Assemble a list of emotion words from the selected text. Read them out individually 'in the manner of the word'. Segueing into individual lines of a speech. Working in threes, one speaks, all three analyse the line and two direct the chosen actor. Perform speech (or the group of three can speak the line chorally).
 - Work in groups on key scenes.
 - If individual students have chosen to learn a specific speech this will then be worked on in small groups and with the whole group, analysing it through the 'mysteries'.
 - There is also opportunity for whole group scenes, to explore the role of the messenger and the status of the people on stage, this gives an opportunity for less confident students to get up and give it a go.

Half day workshop will omit some elements.

'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

