



BEN CRYSTAL EVENTS 2017 ~ coordinated by SGCNZ

Ben Crystal is a UK Actor/Writer/Producer who, with his father, David, has specialised in Original Pronunciation of Shakespeare. In 2011 he performed the title role in the world contemporary premier of *Hamlet* in OP, and in 2012 he was the curator and creative director on a CD of *Shakespeare in Original Pronunciation* for the British Library. He is the artistic director of *Passion in Practice* and its Shakespeare Ensemble. Together they have performed staged readings of *Macbeth*, *Henry V*, and *Dr Faustus* at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe, and produced minimal rehearsal, cue-script rehearsed sold-out limited-runs of these plays in full production at a Wanamaker-like Loft in London.

Wednesday 17 May 6.00-7.00pm

***Shakespeare on Toast* ~ Public Talk**

SGCNZ in association with Isaac Theatre Royal & The Court Theatre

Venue: Isaac Theatre Royal, Christchurch

Book print your free ticket from: www.ticketek.co.nz

or call into the Isaac Theatre Royal Box Office

Max 800 seats available

This is less of a talk and more of a performance. Ben makes sense of Shakespeare by putting him back into context. This includes an exploration of Elizabethan theatre and what a trip to a Shakespeare play in 1600 would be like, a master-class on the poetry style Shakespeare wrote in, and a look at Original Pronunciation (the accent Shakespeare would have spoken in).

This is relevant for all ages - younger people experiencing the Bard for the first time through to older audience members who love Shakespeare and want to learn something new...

Wednesday 17 May 7.30-8.30pm

Shakespeare's Original Pronunciation-as He Heard It

~ Public Talk

SGCNZ in association with Isaac Theatre Royal & The Court Theatre

Venue: Isaac Theatre Royal, Christchurch

Book print your free ticket from: www.ticketek.co.nz

or call into the Isaac Theatre Royal Box Office

Max 800 seats available

What did Shakespeare's accent - and that of his actors and audience - sound like?

What can we learn from hearing and speaking his works in that accent?

And with no recordings or transcriptions available to us, how do we know?

Actor and author Ben Crystal (*Shakespeare's Words*, *Shakespeare on Toast*) explores the fascinating 400 year old sound of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets, Original Pronunciation, showing a world hidden beneath our modern accent readings full of rhyme, rhythm, and a very subtle humour. And a not-so-subtle one too.

Monday 22 May 9.30-11.30am

***Sticks, Sonnets & Verse* ~ Industry Workshop**

SGCNZ in association with Circa Theatre & TACT

Venue - Circa Theatre, Wellington

Cost: \$25

Bookings essential - 14 max

Form on our website: www.sgcnz.org.nz or via

sgcnz.dawn@gmail.com P: 04 384 1300 M: 027 283 6016

Exploring the physicality, heart, and mechanics of Shakespeare, with an introduction to Original Pronunciation, the accent of the time. A morning with Ben Crystal, actor, producer, and artistic director of the internationally renowned original practices Shakespeare Ensemble, *Passion in Practice*.

Wear loose, comfortable clothing, and be prepared to move. No prep required.

Tuesday 23 May 5.00-6.00pm

***Original Pronunciation Maori session* ~ Public Talk
- Ben Crystal with Moana Ete**

SGCNZ in association with Circa Theatre, TACT, British Council
Venue - Circa Theatre, Wellington
Cost: Koha
Bookings: Numbers restricted to 100 - book via SGCNZ
Office P: 04 384 1300 or shakespeare.et.al@gmail.com

What did Shakespeare's accent - and that of his actors and audience - sound like? What can we learn from hearing and speaking his works in that accent? And how does it sound differently with a Maori or Pacific Island accent? With no recordings or transcriptions available to us, how do we know?

Actor, author, & producer Ben Crystal (Shakespeare's Words, Shakespeare on Toast) with Maori (Nga Tahu) / Samoan actor (SGCNZ Alumna), Moana Ete, explores the fascinating 400 year old sound of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets. And for the first time ever, with a Kiwi twist - showing a world hidden beneath our readings in modern English accents full of rhyme, rhythm, and a very subtle humour.

Wednesday 31 May - Saturday 3 June 7.30pm

***Crystal Clear Shakespeare* ~ Public Performances**
SGCNZ in association with Circa Theatre & TACT
Venue - Circa Theatre, Wellington
Cost: \$35 Adults - \$15 Students (Concession price available)
Bookings: www.circa.co.nz or P: 04 801 7992

How did Shakespeare's plays sound in his day?

UK actor, author and presenter of Original Pronunciation (OP), Ben Crystal is working internationally by Skype and then in Wellington with a troupe of renowned SGCNZ Alumni for an intensive Lab week . Katie Boyle, Stevie Hancox-Monk, Kieran Morris, Jimmy O'Donovan, Alexander Sparrow and Maggie White will join Ben to perform a Shakespeare Showcase of readings of famous scenes, sonnets, songs, speeches and soliloquies in OP, revealing the subtle, and not-so-subtle, humour!

In the UK, Ben is artistic director of Passion in Practice and Shakespeare Ensemble.

Monday 5 June 11.00am-12 Noon

***The Hearts & Minds of Shakespeare's World* ~ Public Talk**

SGCNZ hosted by Paul Foster-Bell MP
Venue: Grand Hall, Parliament Buildings, Wellington
Cost: \$10 Adults; \$ 5 Students
(Pre-booking via SGCNZ Office - form on website
sgcnz.org.nz or P: 04 384 1300 by 25 May essential for
security purposes - no door sales)

What would it have been like to go to the theatre in Shakespeare's time?

How did his plays tap into his audience's views on life and love? How did the social, cultural and political developments of the time shape his writing?

His audience had a tremendous ability to suspend their disbelief, and a great appetite for story-telling; they would have been thrilled by his language play, by the new words he invented and by the semi-familiar worlds he and his actors took them to. His works are revitalised when seen through the eyes and minds of the people he was trying to entertain. And his London was going through a period of great change, as the language was being reinvented, and the world was rocked with the death of Elizabeth, and James' accession to the English throne. Actor and author Ben Crystal dives into the hearts, minds, ears and words of Shakespeare's world.

Wednesday 7 June 2.00-3.00pm

Speaking the bright and beautiful English of Shakespeare

incl Q&A for secondary students

Organised by University of Otago & SGCNZ

Venue: University of Otago, College of Education Hall

Cost: Free of charge

Enquiries: tushar.robins@otago.ac.nz P: 03 479 8763

The guardian of English poetry, the inventor of over 1,000 words still in use today, and one of the greatest players with our language, Shakespeare has given us a treasure trove of English to read - funny how so much of it doesn't make sense until it's spoken out-loud. Actor and author Ben Crystal explores the accent, the theatrical conventions, and the world of Shakespeare, to reveal a bright and beautiful English.

Wednesday 7 June 5.30-6.30pm

Shakespeare's Original Pronunciation-as He Heard It+

incl Q&A for public

Organised by University of Otago & SGCNZ

Venue: University of Otago, College of Education Hall

Cost: Free of charge

Enquiries: tushar.robins@otago.ac.nz P: 03 479 8763

What did Shakespeare's accent - and that of his actors and audience - sound like?

What can we learn from hearing and speaking his works in that accent?

And with no recordings or transcriptions available to us, how do we know?

Actor and author Ben Crystal (Shakespeare's Words, Shakespeare on Toast) explores the fascinating 400 year old sound of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets, Original Pronunciation, showing a world hidden beneath our modern accent readings full of rhyme, rhythm, and a very subtle humour. And a not-so-subtle one too.

Thursday 8 June 7.30-9.30pm

Sticks, Sonnets & Verse ~ Industry Workshop

SGCNZ in association with Albany Junior High School

Venue - Performing Arts Centre at Albany Junior High School

1 Appleby Rd, Albany 0632, Albany, Auckland 0632

Cost: \$25

Bookings essential - 14 max

Form on our website: www.sgcnz.org.nz or contact

sgcnz.dawn@gmail.com P: 04 384 1300

Exploring the physicality, heart, and mechanics of Shakespeare, with an introduction to Original Pronunciation, the accent of the time. A workshop with Ben Crystal, actor, producer, and artistic director of the internationally renowned original practices Shakespeare Ensemble, Passion in Practice.

Wear loose, comfortable clothing, and be prepared to move. No prep required.

Friday 9 June 1.30-2.30pm

Shakespeare's Original Pronunciation Maori & PI Session

- Ben Crystal with Taniela Prescott & SioneTuliakiono

- for Secondary schools & Public - Organised by SGCNZ in association with British Council & Wesley College

Venue: Wesley College

Cost: Students - Free of charge; Adults - Koha

What did Shakespeare's accent - and that of his actors and audience - sound like? What can we learn from hearing and speaking his works in that accent? And how does it sound differently with a Maori or Pacific Island accent? With no recordings or transcriptions available to us, how do we know?

Actor, author, & producer Ben Crystal (Shakespeare's Words, Shakespeare on Toast) with Maori/ Pacific Island actors, Sione Tuliakiono and Taniela Prescott, explore the fascinating 400 year old sound of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets. And for the first time ever, with a Kiwi twist - showing a world hidden beneath our readings in modern English accents full of rhyme, rhythm, and a very subtle humour.

For further information contact:

Dawn Sanders ONZM, QSM

SGCNZ CEO

M: 027 283 6016 P: 04 384 1300

E: sgcnz.dawn@gmail.com or shakespeare.et.al@gmail.com

www.sgcnz.org.nz