



SGCNZ
Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand

**Shakespeare Globe Centre
New Zealand**

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8 July 2021

Primarily Playing with Shakespeare 2021 in our 30th Anniversary Year!

Dear Principal

Background Information...

For the last seven years, Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand (SGCNZ) has offered *Primarily Playing with Shakespeare (PPWS)*, to primary and intermediate age students in the greater Wellington region. In 2021 we are again offering this programme in Wellington. Other regions are being added, as the Covid situation stabilises.

Through *SGCNZ PPWS*, we help the teachers and students bring to life short scenes from one of Shakespeare's plays each year. These are then performed by the students to an audience made up of peers, parents and any interested members of the public. In 2014, it was *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In 2015 it was *The Tempest*. In 2016, for our 25th anniversary and to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, 250 primary students from 10 schools and a home school cluster performed a 90 minute version of *Henry V* to an audience of 1300 in the Wellington Stadium. In recognition of the special nature of the occasion a grant was given from patrons in the UK to live-stream it internationally. In 2017, a delightful hour long version of *As You Like It* was performed. In 2018, due to the increased number of schools taking part, two separate performances of *Much Ado About Nothing*, in 2019 *Twelfth Night*, and, last year, *The Comedy of Errors*. The students from that chose *Julius Caesar* for this year!

Some Feedback

The enthusiasm of the students is always palpable. Their feedback described the pleasure at coming to grips with the language of Shakespeare, his themes and stories. Parents and other audience also sent very positive remarks.

A few of the students' own comments last year:

"Taking part in the play was great fun and I want to do it again next year!" Zoe

"Our school production was cancelled this year so it was great to be able to take part in this instead," Abby

"The whole experience was really cool, especially the drama workshops and being on stage," Livi

"I loved performing in-front of an audience and playing different characters. I thought Shakespeare was difficult but this was really fun!" Alex

How it works

Mel Dodge has been engaged the Co-Director/Mentor for this year. She played this role in 2019. A very experienced director of children's theatre, Mel is available during school hours, as her son has started school. In fact, she is currently appropriately editing the script of *Julius Caesar*. Her bio is attached.

We would like to hold a preliminary meeting after school in the second week of Term III, so that you meet up with Mel, my new Assistant - Charlotte, and me, and each other. You can discuss with Mel which type of scenes you want, character clothing colouring, other details, and get underway! All the groups wishing to perform will be allocated a scene or two. The cast can be as large or small as you wish, depending on the level of involvement desired by each school or Homeschool Cluster.

Please let me know whether Monday 2 August, Wednesday 4 Aug or Friday 6 Aug at 5.00-6.00pm suits best (or suggest another time) to meet in the Meeting Room in the West Building at Toi Poneke, 65-69 Abel Smith Street. It is likely we will need to have 2 or even 3 sessions in order to accommodate everyone's availability.

The groups rehearse from when they are ready to start, usually early/mid in Term 3 through to early Term 4, in their own school. They come together on the day of the performance at their preferred day and performance venue. During Term III and early Term IV, Mel will work with you as necessary to oversee the work on your scenes. This will include 2 visits to the school free of charge (covered by funding achieved by SGCNZ). After that, you may negotiate to cover costs with Mel for extra visits if desired.

The proposed dates for the performances are Wednesday 3 November, Thursday 4 November, and/or Wednesday 10 November 2021. Please let me know just as soon as possible which suits you best. On the morning of the day of performance, the groups will do a run through of their scenes sequentially, and then perform it to the public at lunchtime at 12.30pm.

Chair Paul Foster-Bell

Chief Executive, SGCNZ Trustee, Member Shakespeare's Globe Council, London Dawn Sanders ONZM, QSM **M** 027 283 6016 **E** dawn@sgcnz.org.nz

Board Shane Bartle | Johan Barton | Janice Campbell QSO | Colin Macintosh QSO | Neil Strom | Vivienne Thomson | Prof Stuart Young

Associate Bronwyn Turei | **Globe Associate** Neil Constable | **Youth Observer** Hakaia Daly

Patrons Vice-Regal Patron Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand
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The venues will be Samuel Marsden Collegiate and Hutt Valley Intermediate (tbc). Please complete the attached Registration form and e-mail it to dawn@sgcnz.org.nz asap for planning purposes.

It is a delightful and a 'pain free' experience, with no competitive elements. Paraphrasing is acceptable. Schools may costume their group as they see fit, with the proviso that the colour of a single item of clothing identifies the same key characters in each cast. Mel will advise that, as mentioned previously. Props are kept to a minimum. The only compulsory requirement is to have fun! If you have students who play music, this, and a narrator, link the change-over of groups. (The music is not obligatory. Sometimes one groups does this throughout, or between several scenes.) All the groups come together to perform a simple jig at the end, taught to the teachers by Mel.

Students find this a tremendously enjoyable experience...and the parents are always astounded! It assists their literacy, encourages collaboration and learning, and helps them realise how fun it is to work with arguably the world's greatest playwright. Taking part in this venture helps deliver the dramatic arts to primary and intermediate students, an area identified as 'wanting' in this sector of education and fully compatible with enhancing other learning strategies and outcomes. In these anxiety-filled times – with now not only Covid, but RSV as well, having such a collaborative enjoyable, and beneficial learning and performance opportunity is a definite 'plus'!

Please complete the attached Registration form and e-mail it to me by 29 July at the very latest – preferably earlier to facilitate planning.

Primary and Intermediate Schools and Home School clusters, (Year 1-8 students), are required to pay a Not-for-Profit Group sub to SGCNZ of \$110 (incl GST) to participate. Membership Subs covers till 31 December of the year paid and includes receipt of our quarterly magazines, which contain resource material and other Shakespeare related information nationally and internationally. The membership will also give a discount to the Shakespeare's Globe's (London) on-line shop and other benefits through a code-number available from SGCNZ. There is no charge to students to participate.

Audience charges are minimal – however, have to be made as we do have payment of the Co-Director/Mentor, advertising, and various administrative costs to cover.

Goals:

- To introduce Shakespeare to students in Year 1 – 8 and explore and create with freedom of interpretation
- To build capability which advances the skills of both teachers and students
- To engage with another fun physical and practical way to teach and learn
- To demystify Shakespeare and lift his words off the page in a tangible way. Any style of presentation is welcome, as is playing with the text where appropriate!
- To work towards young people collaborating and exhibiting their talents in Shakespeare-inspired scenes in performance
- To encourage young people to recognise their skills and utilise them with imagination and creativity in their wider education
- To assist with development of their literacy and literary knowledge and capability
- To create an opportunity to enhance presentation and communication skills
- To encourage camaraderie and inclusivity, irrespective of socio-economic demographics and ethnicities

For further information or any queries, please contact Dawn Sanders, SGCNZ CEO and Producer of PPWS, P: 027 283 6016 or 04 384 1300, E: dawn@sgcnz.org.nz. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Dawn Sanders

SGCNZ CEO & Member Shakespeare Globe Council, London

Chair Paul Foster-Bell

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