

SGCNZ
Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand

**Shakespeare Globe Centre
New Zealand**

Postal address:

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29 July 2022

Primarily Playing with Shakespeare 2022

Background Information...

For the last eight 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 2022 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*, in 2020 *The Comedy of Errors* and in 2021, an audience numbers-compromised *Julius Caesar*. The students from that chose *Macbeth* for this year!

Some Feedback

The enthusiasm of the students is so delightful to see. Their feedback describes how much they enjoy mastering the language of Shakespeare, exploring the meanings of words then and now, and discovering the timelessness of his themes and stories. Parents relate their pleasure at finding their children delving into literature and literally playing with it!

A few of the students' own comments last year:

"I've been doing PPWS since as long as I can remember and it's shaped me into the person I am today. I will always remember PPWS fondly. And even though I'm moving on from primary playing with Shakespeare I'm planning to keep acting and Shakespeare in my life and would completely and fully recommend PPWS to any kid who loves imagining being someone else or just wants to try it out. It's a brilliant place to meet likeminded people and to make friends you'll never forget. I played Celia once as a two-person team (huh I guess theatre counts as a team sport!)." Amelie Pike "

"I cant believe I could learn so many lines and perform like I did!"

"That was the best show I have ever done, I love Shakespeare!"

"I didn't realise how rhythmical the language was!"

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to be a part of a community project that was so well organised, Poetic, supportive, powerful and heaps of FUN!"

How it works

Alexander Sparrow has been engaged the Co-Director/Mentor for this year. An Alumnus himself, Alexander has played many roles with Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand (SGCNZ). He is a highly accomplished director and performer. See his bio attached.

We would like to hold a preliminary meeting after school in the second week of Term III, so that you meet up with Alexander, my new Assistant - Finley, and me, and each other. You can discuss with Alexander which type of scenes you want, character clothing colouring, other details, when you might want your visits by Alexander, 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, Homeschool Cluster or Community Group (Years 1-8 / ages 5-12 (or maybe 13).

Please let me know whether Tuesday 2 August or Friday 5 August, sometime between 4.15pm-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 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.

Chair Paul Foster-Bell

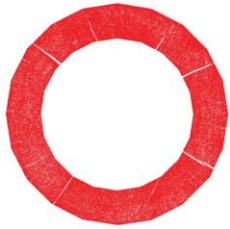
Chief Executive, SGCNZ Trustee, Member Shakespeare's Globe Council, London Dawn Sanders ONZM, QSM **M** 027 283 6016 **E** dawn@sgcnz.org.nz

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

Globe Associate Neil Constable | **Youth Observers** Hakaia Daly | Nishaa Senarath-Dassanayake

Patrons Vice-Regal Patron Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand
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During Term III and early Term IV, Alexander 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 Alexander for extra visits if desired.

The proposed dates for the performances are Wednesday 2 or 9 November, and Thursday 3 or 10 November 2022. 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. Venues to be confirmed.

Please complete the attached Registration form and e-mail it to dawn@sgcnz.org.nz asap for planning purposes.

It is an enjoyable and a 'pain free' experience, with no competitive elements. Paraphrasing is acceptable. Schools may costume their group as they wish, with the proviso that the colour of a single item of clothing identifies the same key characters in each cast. Alexander will advise that, as mentioned previously. Props are kept to a minimum. The only compulsory requirement is to have fun! If you have musical students, they could be involved in playing during the transitions of the groups. This is not, however, obligatory. A Narrator will link the scenes to 'fill in the gaps' in the considerably edited script. All the groups come together to perform a very simple jig at the end. A filmed copy of this will be provided for the teachers to rehearse with the young people in advance.

Students, parents and teachers are often astounded by what results from participation in their programme. It assists literacy, encourages collaboration and learning, and helps them realise how fun it is to work with arguably the world's greatest playwright. Compatible with enhancing other learning strategies and outcomes, involvement in these anxiety-filled times has myriad benefits.

Please complete the attached Registration form and e-mail it to me by 2 August – or earlier to facilitate planning.

There is no charge per student. Primary and Intermediate Schools, Homeschool Clusters and Community Groups (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 – hard copy or on-line, which contain resource material and other Shakespeare related information nationally and internationally.

The membership will also give a 10% discount to the Shakespeare's Globe's (London) on-line shop and other benefits through a code-number available from SGCNZ.

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 students 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, ethnicities and gender

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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