Gaillard On Tour

6th-12th Grade
ABOUT THE SHOW

SHAKESPEARE’S TRUTH TO POWER
Characters from Shakespeare’s Hamlet, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Richard III, and The Tempest are all perfectly suited to explore the rich landscape of power and the ways that we both use and abuse it. Told through the staging of multiple scenes, monologues, and sonnets, Shakespeare’s Truth to Power is a dynamic, exciting, and provocative exploration of what it means to be powerful and how the world can change when we use our power for good. This 60-minute, stand-alone production can also be the perfect companion piece to PURE’s new production, Shakespeare’s Lovers and Fools.

SHAKESPEARE’S LOVERS AND FOOLS
Shakespeare’s Lovers and Fools is a fun romp filled with some of Shakespeare’s most notorious jesters, comic characters, and star-crossed lovers. Told through iconic scenes and monologues from plays like King Lear, Romeo and Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew, and A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Shakespeare’s Lovers and Fools is a stand-alone, 60-minute performance featuring PURE’s acclaimed ensemble of actors, and can also be the perfect companion to PURE’s highly entertaining Shakespeare’s Truth to Power.
PURE Theatre is a professional regional theatre in Charleston that creates consequential theatre experiences by and for a diverse gathering of artists and audiences. PURE produces work that inspires thought, ignites dialogue, heightens consciousness, and contributes to the urgent exchange of ideas, viewpoints, aspirations, and inspirations of our community.

For almost two decades, PURE has radically adhered to a consistent vision for success, focusing foremost on our drive for increased relevance and deep connection. PURE has established itself as a gathering place of collective action where our community grapples with our divisive issues, mines our collective purposes, and seeks out common ground.

Using drama as a catalyst for inclusion, awareness, acceptance, action, and change, PURE’s community of patrons and artists reflect diversity in race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, gender identification, socioeconomics, and sociopolitical preference.1

William Shakespeare was an English poet, playwright, and actor of the Renaissance era. He was an important member of the King’s Men theatrical company from roughly 1594 onward. Known throughout the world, Shakespeare’s works – at least 37 plays, 154 sonnets, and two narrative poems – capture the range of human emotion and conflict and have been celebrated for more than 400 years. Details about his personal life are limited, though some believe he was born and died on the same day, April 23, 52 years apart.²

Figure 1 Shakespeare (“William Shakespeare,” Biography.com, updated April 20, 2023, https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/william-shakespeare)

CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS

Post-Modern Shakespeare
In this workshop, students will work to reconceptualize Shakespearean text into the verbiage of today, demonstrating their understanding of Shakespeare’s words and their intentions. Students will then have the opportunity to perform their modernized pieces.

Click here for the lesson plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lady MacBeth</th>
<th>Lady MacBeth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who could think it happened any other way? We’ll be grieving loudly when we hear that Duncan has died.</td>
<td>IYKYK. We’ll cap and act depressed when they announce that Duncan died.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MacBeth</th>
<th>MacBeth</th>
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<tr>
<td>Now I’m decided, and I will exert every muscle in my body to commit this crime. Go now, and pretend to be a friendly hostess. Hide with a false, pleasant face what you know in your false, evil heart.</td>
<td>Bet... It’s GO time. You distract the squad, and try not to be SUS.</td>
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</tbody>
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Shakespearean Guessing Game
After watching their Gaillard On Tour performance, students will work as teams to demonstrate comprehension of Shakespeare’s dynamic and historic characters by thinking critically about story elements and character traits. Students will use context clues to draw conclusions about Shakespeare’s characters.

Click here for the lesson plan
The English Renaissance refers to the cultural and artistic boom in England that took place between the late 15th and early 17th centuries. Though similar, the English Renaissance is different from the Italian Renaissance, primarily in its artistic focus and time frame. The English Renaissance began in the 1500s and valued literature and music most highly, while the Italian Renaissance began much earlier and is signified by the visual arts.

During the English Renaissance, artistic and theatrical writers like William Shakespeare, Chistopher Marlowe, and Francis Bacon flourished, especially with the invention of the printing press. Typically, the works of these playwrights and poets circulated through England as manuscript copies to draw up interest from investors who would fund staged productions. Though the English Renaissance did not produce much in terms of visual art, music thrived during this period as well. Some key composers of the era were John Dunstaple, William Byrd, and Thomas Tallis.3

LISTEN

Spem Alium by Thomas Tallis
Ave Verum Corpus by William Byrd
Agnus Dei by John Dunstaple

The European Renaissance began in the late 13th century in Italy. Donning churches and sacred places with extravagant and ornate artwork, Italian artists took inspiration from the work of ancient Roman sarcophagi.

By the 1400s, the artistic surge of the Italian Renaissance had spread to Northern Europe, notably the Netherlands. Netherlandish artists of the time were creating stained glass, oil paintings, and even illuminated manuscripts into works of art.

The Renaissance later spread to France and Germany, with engraving and realism portraits being their artistic medium of focus, before the wave landed in the United Kingdom. Britain and Scotland both began to boom with creativity, though the Scottish favored importing artists from other countries such Italy, as opposed to bringing the work of their own artists to the forefront.4

EXPLORE MORE RESOURCES

WATCH

- Heightened Language and Shakespeare
- Shakespeare: The Greatest Playwright in History Documentary
- Globe Theatre: Performance During Shakespeare's Time
- Why Shakespeare Still Matters

READ

Shakespeare's Words: A Glossary and Language Companion
By David Crystal
This book is for people who love Shakespeare, or love language, or both. David Crystal, one of the world's foremost authorities on the English language, and his actor son, Ben, have taken a fresh look at the vocabulary of Shakespeare's poems and plays and compiled a glossary of nearly 14,000 words and meanings. They have included every word which presents the reader with a difficulty arising out of the differences between Elizabethan and Modern English.5

To Wee or Not to Wee!
By Pamela Butchart
Hamlet could NEVER make his mind up about ANYTHING. And one time he actually went to school in just his pants and got sent home because he couldn't decide what to wear. When Izzy (star of The Spy Who Loved School Dinners) is asked to tell her friends some HILARIOUS and SCARY stories she knows exactly where to look: Shakespeare, the king of SUPER dramatic stuff.
After learning about Macbeth (a STRONG soldier who ate four bowls of porridge and twenty pieces of toast every morning) her friends want more. So Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Romeo and Juliet all get the Izzy treatment. There's blood and guts, ghosty stuff, and plenty of people wandering around in their nighties. The perfect introduction to the Bard!6

Illustrated Stories from Shakespeare
By Rosie Dickins
This is a wonderful collection of six retellings of William Shakespeare's best-loved plays – a perfect mix of comedy, tragedy, magic and romance, retold for younger readers. It is full of colorful illustrations from the Usborne Young Reading Programme. It contains the plays A Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, and Twelfth Night. It also includes a section on the life and times of Shakespeare.7

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6 “To Wee or Not to Wee,” Amazon, accessed December 19, 2023, https://a.co/d/gaWBDNO.
7 “Illustrated Stories from Shakespeare,” Amazon, accessed December 19, 2023, https://a.co/d/6OBpAUK.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

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