

BY WILL & CO



ACTING SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOPS



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WHY SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOPS?

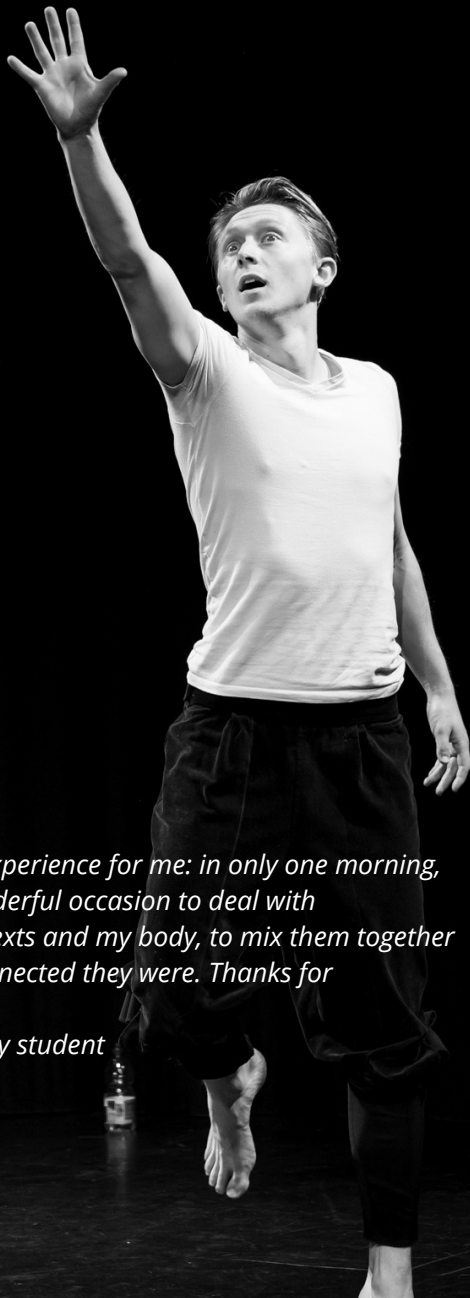
"The workshop used an approach based on the physical embodiment of emotions linked to the texts of Shakespeare. This approach was accessible for all levels. The facilitators were very enthusiastic, open, insightful and a real delight! I'd really recommend anyone wanting a truly heartfelt experience of theatre to participate in the workshop. Thank you!"
Nathalie, University student



Georgia Snow (The Stage) recently released the chilling fact that 'One third of school kids do not know who Shakespeare is'. As part of the research, 1,000 pupils in the UK aged between 11 and 18 were given a list of 13 names and asked to select those they thought wrote plays. Thirty-one percent did not select Shakespeare. And even for those out there who study it, when does Shakespeare have the opportunity to be taught standing up and out loud in classrooms? How do you get your students passionate about this daunting classic?

We are here to help! Our workshops will energise, empower and enlighten your students!

OUR OFFERS



"It was a great experience for me: in only one morning, I've had the wonderful occasion to deal with Shakespearian texts and my body, to mix them together and see how connected they were. Thanks for everything!"

Jérémy, University student

WHO FOR?

Our workshops are available for secondary schools, colleges, universities, theatre companies and local amateur theatre groups. We have successfully given workshops with our SHAKE method to French-speaking high school students, to amateur drama groups of all ages, and to University Undergraduate students!

WHAT?

We specifically tailor our approach to match the general experience of the group while always aiming to delve deeper into the world of Shakespeare than they would have expected us to go. If you tell us what you want to achieve and explore, we will always endeavour to both match the brief and go the extra mile in a fun, enjoyable means!

HOW LONG?

Our workshops can vary in length and are tailored to meet your needs; it can be anything from a few hours to a full week.

HOW MUCH?

Our pricing is negotiable and dependant on the number of students you have (as several facilitators may be necessary) as well as the time-slot you wish to devote to your workshop(s).

Please also bear in mind that our fee will include the facilitators' journey to and from the workshop.

WHERE?

We are very happy to come to you. An empty room, classroom, or gym are all appropriate locations for our workshops. If you are a large group, we would prefer if there was a working sound system already in the room. For smaller groups, we shall provide our own means of music. Should you not have a space available to you, we are happy to arrange a comfortable place to work in.

Please note that if we have to rent a room, dates have to be set as in advance as possible, and our fee will also include the cost of the rental.

THE SHAKE METHOD

Instead of focusing on Shakespeare's words straight away, which is often the part that students are most reluctant, afraid or self-conscious about, we focus on the body.

We believe that the body is the best access point to Shakespeare's words and plays, since they were only ever written to be performed and not read. We always start with a physical warm-up, and then move on to theatre games involving attention, movement, play, music, coordination, and group work. We also provide simple vocal warm-ups, as well as breathing and articulation techniques. These are easy to access and to implement, and make the iambic pentameter sound very immediate—not to mention the fact they perk up the students' self-confidence about speaking in public!

When moving onto text work, we start by encouraging the students to move to a piece of music as the character they are playing. By starting with movement like this, we find that a door opens inside their body, through which all sorts of wonderful, powerful, Shakespearean characters are ready to burst through, speaking Shakespeare's words effortlessly! From kings, to witches, to fools, we discover an entire array of Shakespeare's renowned parts come alive in front of us.

Our method is based on embodiment.

On top of stage craft, we provide key information about Shakespeare's life, times and works, and about the Elizabethan playhouses throughout our workshops. Thus, the students come away with a blend of historical facts, voice and body exploration, and, of course, Shakespearean verse.

Not only do our workshops help the student understand their character, but allows the student to connect with what rings true for them, in their own voice, through Shakespeare's writing.



"My students really, really enjoyed the way that the very well thought out workshop allowed them to have a completely new insight into Shakespeare's universe and plays. We will welcome you again in a heartbeat!"

Jean-Claude, High school teacher

WHAT RESULTS?

"A play is meant to be played. As students of literature we thought that we knew this, at least we had heard it a couple of times. In only a few hours we realized that we actually did not really know what it meant until Victoria gave us the great opportunity to experience it for ourselves! No one in our group had any experience with acting Shakespeare. I was not even excited about Shakespeare, but we were guided so well through it all that it did not matter anymore. Her vivid approach definitely sparked the joy for Shakespeare in me and retaught us what it means when they say that a play is meant to be played."
Malte, University student



We have gotten great feedback from all our students, and have seen some tremendous progress made in the span of only a few hours time! The benefits from our workshops are:

- **an increased self-confidence in reading, studying and performing Shakespeare;**
- **a renewed awareness of the body and the voice as not only tools for theatre, but for life as well;**
- **an improved ease and sensibility to working in synchronisation with others;**
- **a new interest for Shakespeare's works in performance, as well as a willingness to explore them more in the classroom and in theatres!**

A woman with a red bandana and a man in a white shirt are working together on a project. The woman is holding a pink object and a piece of fabric with a green pattern. The man is pointing at the fabric. They are both smiling and looking at the work.

THE COMPANY

**WILL & CO IS A THEATRE COMPANY
FOUNDED BY VICTORIA BAUMGARTNER. OUR
MANIFESTO IS TO MAKE SHAKESPEARE MORE
ACCESSIBLE, TO LET EMOTION SPEAK
THROUGH MOVEMENT AND RHYTHM, AND
TO TELL POETIC AND PERCUSSIVE STORIES.**

All our workshop facilitators have professional training and experience acting and teaching Shakespeare across the UK and Europe.

VICTORIA BAUMGARTNER

Victoria is a writer and director who has been studying and staging Shakespeare for ten years and has written and directed several plays inspired by the Bard's universe. She has an MA of Arts and Literature with a specialization in Shakespearean studies, and training from LAMDA (London) and the Authentic Artist Collective (Kath Burlinson, UK). Her work has been performed across Europe in three languages.

SAM VECK

Sam Veck is an accomplished young actor, as well as being a trained musician/singer and a professional dancer based in London with ten years of experience performing on fringe, national and international stages. Sam trained at RADA and the National Youth Theatre.

JACK SPENCER

Jack Spencer is an experienced actor who trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in Classical Acting. He has extensively worked for the stage, as well as shared his expertise in Shakespeare lectures and workshops.

Contact us and book your Spring/Summer workshop now!