

Shakespeare International





Shakespeare International

Since 2000, the Shakespeare Schools Festival (SSF) has worked with over 100,000 students in 250 professional venues. SSF is the largest youth drama festival in the UK and offers young people the opportunity to learn actively through performance.

Shakespeare International is SSF's global arm, encouraging and supporting performances of abridged Shakespeare across the world and facilitating events such as Shakespeare International Day (2009, 2010) and S24: Shakespeare across 24 time zones (2008). For ten years, SSF has moved from strength to strength and we are now ready to open our UK festival to international groups.

This year, SSF is piloting an exciting opportunity for international groups to perform in the U.K Festival. We believe that intercultural exchange will enhance the collective experience of the festival and that we can provide you with an invaluable and unique professional and cultural experience. We are confident that the opportunity for schools from different backgrounds and cultures to meet in a professional setting for a celebratory night of theatre will have a profound educational and inspirational impact.

In 2011, only three International groups will be invited to perform.

About SSF

- SSF is a non-competitive event, in which 4 schools each perform a different half-hour Shakespeare play in one night in a professional theatre local to them.
- There are 19 abridged Shakespeare plays to choose from, and up to 30 students from ages 8-19 can be included in the cast.
- The performance day consists of a professional day in the theatre including a 45 minute technical and 30 minute dress rehearsals and an evening performance for a paying audience.

The cost for International Groups to take part is £600 (inc. VAT- please email to confirm if this applies to your entry)

The registration fee covers:

- a place in the 2011 Shakespeare Schools Festival
- use of SSF abridged scripts (and other script resources)
- a detailed Festival Pack to support you in preparing your performance (inc. technical/lighting and sound guidelines)
- access to workshop notes from the National Theatre, marketing material and listing in the performance cast list
- a 45 minute technical and 30 minute dress rehearsal in a professional theatre as part of SSF 2011
- professional technicians to operate lights, sound and call the show
- support during the performance day from the SSF Venue Manager and SSF Venue Director
- support at all stages from the SSF International Coordinator

To apply for Shakespeare International 2011 please email international@ssf.uk.com with: your group/school name and address, 1st, 2nd and 3rd preference of venue and primary contact name. SSF will then be in touch to discuss your application further.

Available Theatres

International Groups can choose to perform in any of the below theatres (play choices available at that theatre are shown in brackets. Full list available at www.ssf.uk.com/playsynopsis):

Wales:

- 18th, 19th, 20th October, Weston Studio, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff (any play except for Macbeth) - www.wmc.org.uk/

Scotland:

- 10th November, Eden Court Theatre, Inverness (any play except for The Tempest and Twelfth Night) - www.eden-court.co.uk/
- 7th October, Aberdeen Arts Centre, Aberdeen (any play except for Macbeth) – www.aberdeensartscentre.org.uk

Northern Ireland:

- 9th November, The Waterside Theatre, Derry (any play except for Twelfth Night) – www.watersidetheatre.com/

England:

- 3rd October, The Playhouse, Whitley Bay near Newcastle (any play except for A Midsummer Night's Dream and Julius Caesar) - www.playhousewhitleybay.co.uk/
- 11th October, the egg studio, Theatre Royal Bath, Bath (any play except for The Tempest, Much Ado About Nothing and Romeo and Juliet) - www.theatreroyal.org.uk/page/3030/the+egg

Unfortunately this year we are unable to offer any London venues but are looking to do so in 2012.

Conditions for applicants- VERY IMPORTANT please read carefully

- Applicant groups must be of **amateur status** i.e. not in receipt of professional fees.
- All groups are expected to arrange and cover the cost of their travel, accommodation, visa applications (if applicable) and any other costs occurred during the trip. SSF is not liable for any costs or expenses incurred by participation in the Festival. SSF will, however, provide a letter of invitation.
- Groups applying must be made up of young people **not over the age of 19 years**; although it is understood that managers, directors and chaperones will be older.
- Cast are restricted to a **maximum of 30 students on stage** (this includes musicians and dancers if applicable).
- All groups must use one of the 19 abridged scripts and ensure their show does not exceed **30 mins in running time**.
- Festival policy requires the student to teacher ratio to not exceed 1 teacher/chaperone for every 15 students but it is preferable for a ratio of 1 teacher/chaperone for every 10 students.
- Whilst performing with the Shakespeare Schools Festival all groups will be working with up to three local schools and with both SSF and host theatre staff. SSF asks for a commitment to creating a 'company environment' where all schools and staff are encouraged to work together to create a strong night of Shakespearian performance.
- International groups will not receive a fee or portion of box office for performing in the Festival. This is because the actual cost of participation to SSF of each group is £1600 and SSF uses box office to contribute towards meeting this cost.

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