

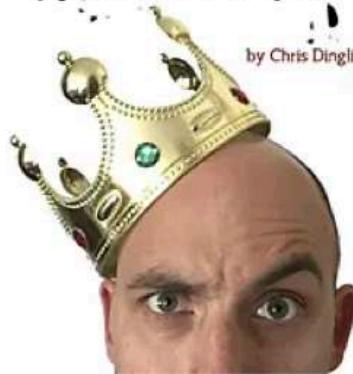
Shakeshorts by Chris Dingli

Bringing fun, laughter and learning to Shakespeare.

Shakeshorts
presents
A Midsummer Night's Dream
by Chris Dingli



Shakeshorts
presents
macbeth
by Chris Dingli



Shakeshorts presents
The Merchant of Venice
adapted by Chris Dingli



Shakeshorts presents A Midsummer Night's Dream

Shakeshorts presents A Midsummer Night's Dream is a laugh-out-loud show full of mayhem, songs and puppetry that brings fun and learning to Shakespeare. It's an interactive piece, with the kids participating in the action, driving the show. In this way, they come to understand the story, the characters and the themes in the play, whilst also starting to understand some of Shakespeare's language.

The show was originally performed with great success at Žigužajg International Arts Festival 2016 and has since been performed multiple times including under the Culture Pass 2017 and 2018. In 2017 it was nominated for a Premju Ghall-Arti for Best Work for Children and Young Audiences.

The show is seen by teachers as a great way to introduce kids to the works of Shakespeare. It is specifically designed to provide Maltese children with a memorable, fun and educational introduction to Shakespeare.

The ease at which the story unfolds and the way in which the audience is drawn in using deceptively simple storytelling techniques, means that it is entirely possible for kids to

forget that they are watching a Shakespeare play. Therefore the barriers of Shakespearian language fall away. There is nothing to take the audience out of the story. They remain engaged at all times.

SPECS

DATES: Available on request

DURATION: 40 minute performance

VENUE: The event can tour schools and can be performed at any hall /school theatre.

AUDIENCE: maximum of 120 / Suggested classes: Year 9 to 11



Photos by Francesca Rizzo



Shakeshorts presents A Midsummer Night's Dream was commissioned by and first performed at Žigužajg International Arts Festival for Children and Young People, in November 2016

Shakeshorts presents A Midsummer Night's Dream was nominated for a Premju għall-Arti (national arts award) 2018 for "Best Work for Children and Young Audiences."

Shakeshorts presents

Macbeth

Shakeshorts presents Macbeth... or rather, an imaginative retelling of The Scottish Play in which we attempt to never mention the title of the play or the name of the main character (it's considered to be bad luck, you see).

Even though the actual play is a tragedy, this version highlights comedic elements in the plot and characters. It sounds impossible to do so without compromising the nature of the work, but somehow we manage to convey the plot, characters, themes and other elements of the play in a fun way, whilst remaining relatively true to the actual play.

Outrageous Scottish accents and bagpipes naturally abound, as do supernatural elements.

It's an interactive piece, with students participating in the action, helping to drive the show. In this way, they come to understand the story, the characters and the themes in the play, whilst also familiarising themselves with some of Shakespeare's language.

SPECS

DATES: Available on request

DURATION: 40 minute performance

VENUE: The event can tour schools and can be performed at any hall /school theatre.

AUDIENCE: maximum of 120 / minimum of 80.

Suggested classes: Year 9 to 11

"The Shakeshorts performance at St Joseph Senior School, Sliema was thoroughly enjoyed by the Senior 3s and 4s. The Macbeth adaptation was age-appropriate as it appealed very much to our younger audience. It served as a means by which students could wrap their heads around the plot of the play. It was also very entertaining as it was presented to them in a modern setting which they could easily relate to. They will surely enjoy another similar performance in the future."

Assistant Head of School, St Joseph Senior School, Sliema, Malta



Shakeshorts presents

The Merchant of Venice

Shakeshorts presents The Merchant of Venice is a quick-witted, fun re-telling of one of Shakespeare's most famous plays.

Possibly the original dramedy (is it a comedy or a drama or both?), this production focuses on the comedic elements of the play, whilst never losing sight of the underlying seriousness of the themes explored. Using a blend of Shakespeare's original text with modern language, this version of the play invites students to enjoy the story at face-value, whilst subtly exploring some of the play's complex themes - revenge, anti-semitism (intolerance and religious differences), mercy and justice.

The intention is to draw the audience into the world of the play in a way that is easy and compelling for them to enjoy, and then use that engagement to explore the characters, themes, language and plot in a meaningful and memorable way.

After watching this production, students should be able to have a clearer understanding of the details of the play. It will no longer remain a dry text to be studied, rather a performance piece that they enjoyed and that, hopefully, elicited some emotion from them, encouraging reflection, thought, debate and leaving them with a positive theatrical experience.

SPECS

DATES: Available on request

DURATION: 40 minute performance

VENUE: The event can tour schools and can be performed at any hall /school theatre.

AUDIENCE: maximum of 120 / Suggested classes: Year 9 to 11

"I watched Chris Dingli's adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' together with my students at the Archbishop's Seminary. It was a unique opportunity for students and teachers alike to appreciate the aesthetical value of an adaptation that preserves the aura of a classical text by remaining faithful to its thematic network and characterisation. Thank you for putting this up at our school and we look forward to other similar opportunities in the future."

Sebastian Saliba, Senior English literature teacher, The Archbishop's Seminary, Malta

Suggested set-up for any Shakeshorts performance:



Staging

Shakeshorts can visit most schools or venues. A minimum flat playing space of 5m x 3m is required with easy access to the audience (students participate in the show and must be able to get onto the stage). Students are welcome to sit on the floor (or on cushions) in front of the playing area to be closer to the action, as indicated in the diagram below.

Lighting

A bright, warm wash across all the stage is all that is needed. There are no specials, black outs or effects required.

Sound

Sound cues will be played from a MacBook laptop using Qlab. This will need to be played through a PA system. The laptop can be attached using a normal jack and must be accessible to the performers on stage during the show.

Effects

There is NO strobe lighting in this production.

General

Shakeshorts is designed to be a “Plug-n-Play” show. The requirements for performance are extremely flexible and it can be adapted to suit virtually any performance space. If there are any questions regarding the staging of the show, please do let us know and we’ll sort something out!

Our year 6 students attended Midsummer's Night Dream. They enjoyed it very much and found it fun, especially as they were involved in the performance. The actor was really good, funny and very entertaining. The students were so interested in the topic that we did some follow up activities.

Year 6 Teachers
Mellieha Primary School

The kids (8 year olds) enjoyed it... especially since the children were involved in the act. Although half the children were unaware of Shakespeare, the story was told in a child-friendly way. Performance wise I think it was great.

Year 4 Teacher
St Dorothy Primary School

Amazing! Well done for managing to include the children in the show and for entertaining adults and kids at the same time!

Elena
Mother of child aged 7

My daughters loved it and so did I. Hilarious and a great way of presenting Shakespeare. We look forward to your next creation.

Jeanette
Mother of children aged 11 & 13

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