

SAMPLE SHORT COURSE PROGRAMME XXX in the group

This is a timetable of events for which arrangements have been made by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Lunch and dinner will be at a place of your own choice. All classes will take place at the Shakespeare Centre, Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon in the rooms indicated. All classes last approximately one hour unless listed otherwise.

Day 1

Coach pick-up from XXX for onward transfer to Stratford-upon-Avon

We can arrange coach transfers from UK ports of entry if required

Day 2

Welcome and introduction to the course with Dr Nick Walton

Coffee/tea break

Pre-performance lecture on the play being seen that evening (1 hour)

Pre-performance lectures prepare groups to get the most out of seeing a play on stage. The lectures explore some of the challenges and theatrical opportunities presented by Shakespeare's texts, and groups are encouraged to look out for interpretive moments in a production. The talks also set up ideas and issues to be discussed in the group post-performance discussion.

Lunch - own arrangements or alternatively with advance notice and subject to availability, we are happy to arrange a soup/sandwich lunch or an afternoon tea for your group in one of our restaurants or cafes located at the Shakespeare houses

Voice Class (1 hour)

Work with an experienced professional voice practitioner to explore vocal techniques used by actors and explore how you can use your own voice.

Visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace and the 'Famous Beyond Words' Exhibition

Explore how Shakespeare has been enjoyed and interpreted through the centuries in the 'Famous Beyond Words' exhibition. Then venture into the house where William Shakespeare was born and grew up. Shakespeare's Birthplace has been welcoming visitors for over 250 years. Shakespeare also spent the first five years of married life in this house with his new wife, Anne Hathaway. Follow in the footsteps of not only Shakespeare, but other well-known visitors such as Charles Dickens, John Keats, Walter Scott and Thomas Hardy.

Theatre performance of XXX

Day 3

Group post-performance discussion on the previous evening's performance led by SBT lecturer (1 hour)

These seminar sessions comprise an hour's chaired discussion in which participants are encouraged to share their views on how the production they saw rose to the challenges of the play.

Coffee/tea break

RSC Question & Answer session on the play seen [subject to actor availability]

Question and answer sessions are chaired sessions with a member of the acting company involved with the play that the group has recently seen. These sessions provide a unique insight into a production and take students behind the scenes into the world of professional theatre. As these are arranged with the company managers we cannot guarantee the sessions nor can we promise particular speakers. Sessions are subject to availability as rehearsal schedules or matinee performances may prevent actors being available.

Lunch break

Pre-performance lecture on the play being seen that evening

Short comfort break

'Shakespeare & Directing' workshop (2.5 hours)

This workshop, hosted by an experienced theatre professional, takes groups through the early stages of rehearsing a play, from making interpretive decisions to considering placement on stage. From the dream to the detail we consider aspects of a director's involvement with a performance. Workshops will usually focus on a Shakespeare play being seen during your visit, please discuss this at time of booking.

Theatre performance of XXX

Day 4

Group post-performance discussion on previous evening's performance led by SBT lecturer

Coffee/tea break

'Trust Treasures' talk and archive display (1 hour)

Based on the unique holdings of the world-renowned library, archive and museum collections of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. See up-close some of the rare and beautiful items relating to Shakespeare and his life in Stratford-upon-Avon, including items not normally seen except in exhibitions. Look at books he used as sources for his plays, early modern museum items and maps, and explore theatre ephemera from the 18th Century to the present day, including items from the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre and the RSC. This is a one hour session usually hosted by two members of the Collections Team.

Course ends depart Stratford-upon-Avon