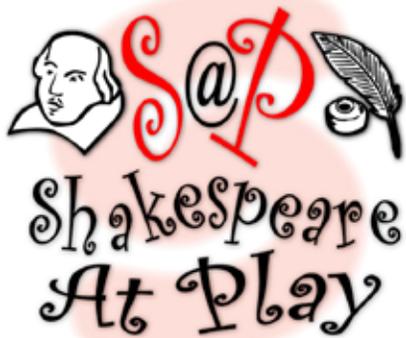


If you have ever misunderstood someone and declared, “It’s Greek to me,” you might be quoting Shakespeare.

If you have ever “played fast and loose”, you might be quoting Shakespeare. If you have been tongue-tied, a tower of strength, hoodwinked or in a pickle, you might be quoting Shakespeare. If you have knitted your brows, insisted on fair play, slept not one wink, stood on ceremony, laughed yourself into stitches - why, be that as it may, the more fool you, for it is a foregone conclusion that you are (as good luck would have it) quoting Shakespeare.
— Bernard Levin, *The Story of English*

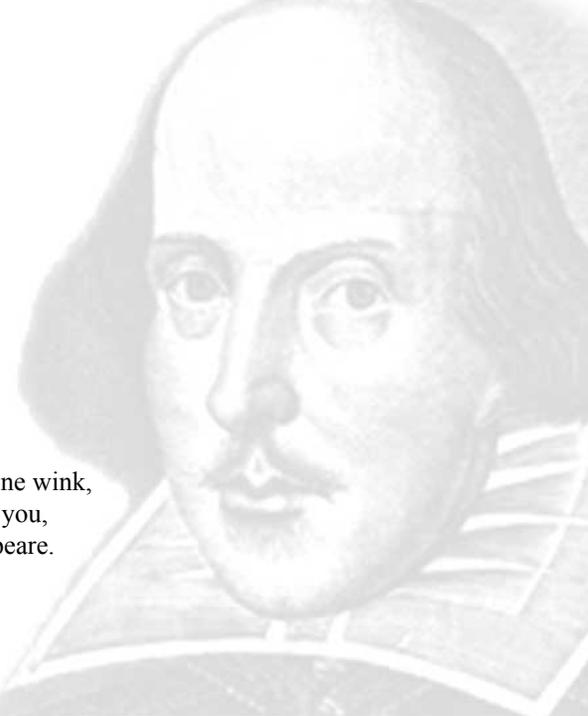


The fact is, William Shakespeare has caused more figures of speech and more new words to come into usage in the English language than any other writer in history. The new words we are talking about are old words to us -- words like circumstantial, zany, impartial, lackluster, luggage, fashionable, scuffle, remorseless, savagery, radiance and on and on. William Shakespeare’s works so permeate our culture and language that it is doubtful that one could go through a single day without hearing or speaking some of Shakespeare’s words. It is for that reason

the core literature in all LAUSD schools requires reading and understanding several of William Shakespeare’s works. Indeed, there are many studies whose results show that when children and young adults can grasp the complexities of plot and language in Shakespeare’s plays and sonnets, they benefit not only in language skills but in math and science as well! Those same studies have also shown that when young people have access to the arts, they are less likely to drop out of school, be truant or participate in delinquent behavior. They are also more likely to move on to higher education. The trick is getting students interested in learning about Shakespeare. And that’s where we come in.

We are Shakespeare at Play. We are a group of professional award-winning actors, directors, writers, producers and educators who have performed at prestigious theatrical events in such diverse places as Beijing, China, London, New York (on and off-broadway), and regional theaters throughout the United States, Canada and around the world. Many of our members have had their own companies in addition to holding senior executive positions in major studios and corporations.

We have provided “in house” support for instruction in schools, enrichment programs after schools, performances in the community and entertainment for non-profit entities. We have in-school programs for elementary level children. “Visiting Shakespeare” is a program where a classically trained actor/teacher creates an intimate historical setting of Shakespeare at his writing desk surrounded by the children who participate in his performance. “Shakespeare” himself uses puppets of Elizabeth I, James II, the skull of Yorick, Crab the Dog and many other props, plus changes of costume to play the most famous of Shakespeare’s characters. Also for Elementary School children, we have had the “Visiting Director” Program. Two professional actor/educators are brought into a school to assist the 6th grade classes with their own Shakespearean production. The students are in charge of creating the set, costumes, publicity and props. Students are encouraged to add their own talents, musical and artistic to the program. The S@P representative stresses many times during the adventure, the most important thing to remember is, “have fun!” and **THEY DO!**



Movies and DVD's cannot possibly bring Shakespeare's works to life as well as live actors, performing in front of students, sometimes on stage, sometimes in a library, sometimes in a cafeteria situation or multipurpose room.

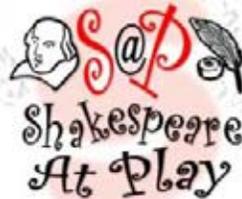
For Middle schools and high schools Shakespeare at Play brings the classics and core literature to life with abbreviated 45-minute versions, designed to fit into a single class period! For Middle School children we show "A Midsummer Night's Dream". One of Shakespeare's happiest comedies, it is a play of crossed loves, futile quarrels, fairy spells and strange transformations. When love is blind, "Oh what fools these mortals be!"



A Midsummer Night's Dream



The Merry Wives of Windsor



Twelfth Night



The Death of St. George



JULIUS CAESAR



And many other events



Eighth and ninth graders are treated to the classic tragedy, "Romeo and Juliet". Ever relevant, and always popular, we bring passion and swordplay to fire the imaginations of many otherwise lethargic teenagers. Julius Caesar is next, featuring a spooky soothsayer, a bloody murder, simulated battles with shields and spears as well as the famous "Friends, Romans countrymen" speech. And finally they know what Shakespeare really meant by "lend me your ears." Finally, the single most quoted, the most performed of all of Shakespeare's plays, S@P presents, "Hamlet".

Shakespeare at Play believes that live classical theater benefits everyone.

In that spirit we have performed for audiences at venues like the Huntington Library, the Lion's Club, the Blind Children's Fund, churches and outdoor amphitheaters and have had multiple performances for the Burbank Library in addition to our school educational work., our most recent being "Twelfth Night" and "The Merry Wives of Windsor".

AND NOW we are offering as a part of the ACPN partnership, A Festival of Shakespeare! Following a preplanning meeting with stakeholders at each school and a subsequent enrichment meeting with teachers of classes attending, students will be bussed to the Colony Theater in Burbank, a 300 seat professional facility that during the evenings houses some of the most acclaimed theater in the Los Angeles area. They will be greeted by Elizabethan reenactment specialists who give historical background and describe their lives in Elizabethan England. They impart a historical perspective to the play the students are about to see. Then the students attend the play, an abbreviated version of Twelfth Night, Hamlet, Midsummer Nights Dream, Julius Caesar, Romeo and Juliet or The Merry Wives of Windsor. The Students will meet Shakespeare afterwards in the question and answer period and before the bus ride home, each student will receive their own copy of the complete play to take home with them, free of charge, courtesy of one of our corporate sponsors.

We thank you for your valuable time and hope that we will be hearing from you soon!