

Written & Directed by
VICTORIA BAUMGARTNER

It was the most poignant reminder of the power of Shakespeare, the need for storytelling,
and the necessity of human connection

MICHELLE TERRY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Coming to a lawn or patio near you, the new National Theatre

DOMINIC CAVENDISH, THE TELEGRAPH

Irresistible... You don't need to be a Shakespeare fanatic to get it all

KATE WYVER, THE GUARDIAN

Funny and moving, not to mention immersive

ROISIN O'CONNOR, THE INDEPENDENT



IN THE



IN YOUR SCHOOL!

A really refreshing approach to Shakespeare, teaching and entertaining at the same time

RIKO, AUDIENCE

It was like having the Globe right in our garden. Would definitely recommend!

SHAYLYN, AUDIENCE

Young or old, you'll be laughing, reciting and singing along

DR. ANJNA CHOUHAN, SHAKESPEARE BIRTHPLACE TRUST

A sweet slice of Shakespearetainment

BEN CRYSTAL

PRESENTED BY WILL & CO





The Project

Since its launch in early July, Bard in the Yard has brought the theatre to you! We have delighted audiences in private yards and gardens. We have also partnered up with public outdoor venues such as Southwark Cathedral and the groundbreaking festivals the New Normal and Turbine on the Jetty. Thanks to our fantastic partner Hannah Elsy Productions, we have rapidly expanded our offer to the Midlands.

Bard in The Yard is a theatre project launched as a response to the closure of theatres due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We wanted desperately to reconnect the audience with the joys of live theatre whilst waiting for our beloved institutions to reopen properly. We also wanted to keep the show going for us, the artists, as our industry is facing this unprecedented crisis.

Artistic Director Victoria Baumgartner came up with the idea in May, when things were looking quite bleak and uncertain for the industry. What if, instead of the audience going to the theatre, the theatre would come to them? There are plenty of open-air spaces and gardens in the UK, and we saw the opportunity to give people a chance to look at something other than a screen. And why not do that while doing what we do best: Shakespeare.

The Bard in Your School

We are now delighted to be bringing the Bard to schools to entertain and educate students in all things Shakespeare!

Our package includes a socially distanced performance from one of our wonderful actors and a tailored Shakespeare workshop, led by Victoria Baumgartner. We understand that opportunities like this for schools will now be scarce and strongly believe live theatre and active workshops are crucial educational tools to engage with Shakespeare's verse. Whether your students are preparing for GCSE's or will be having their first insight into Shakespearean text, we can provide the perfect tailored experience for all levels.

The Play

We wanted the play we presented to reflect the times. Shakespeare wrote "King Lear" in quarantine, apparently. But maybe, just like us, he struggled to be at his most productive...

The year is 1605, the country is besieged by plague, and William Shakespeare is battling a severe case of writer's block and quarantine procrastination. So far, he has a working title for his next smash hit: 'King Leonardo, His Three Daughters, and their Dog' ... and that's about it.

In search of inspiration, and in the hope of reigniting the Bard blockbuster-machine, Will undertakes to directly engage with you, the theatre-going public, from your gardens and private open air spaces. His purpose: to understand the success of his previous box-office hits, and remind himself of the ingredients for a truly great play. The big question: has the Bard still got it?



In this 50-minute play, let yourself be transported through Shakespeare's most iconic works while discovering about his life and how the Elizabethans coped with the plague. Sit back and enjoy the magic of live theatre, transforming your classroom into a "wooden O"!

"I really wanted to bring the Bard back to the Yard with this new play! This is where the idea of an actor playing Shakespeare himself emerged. And quite rapidly, I also wanted this play to reflect the times we have been going through: the isolation, illness, panic, grief for some... but of course also the many rays of light in the darkness, the constant hope for better days ahead and for a fairer world to emerge out of a crisis. Working on this play with actors echoed in many ways what we all know: Shakespeare is truly for all times."

Victoria Baumgartner, Writer & Director

The Workshop

Writer & Director and Shakespeare specialist Victoria Baumgartner currently creates workshops for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and East15. She has years of experience in creating tailored workshops for classrooms of all levels. Her 1-hour workshop is adaptable to suit the age group you need, and can be taught through any play your students are working on in the classroom.

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 and on stage presence. We teach the students to discover how the words are truly meant to be said, and how much physical presence matters in Shakespeare.

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, music and coordination. 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!

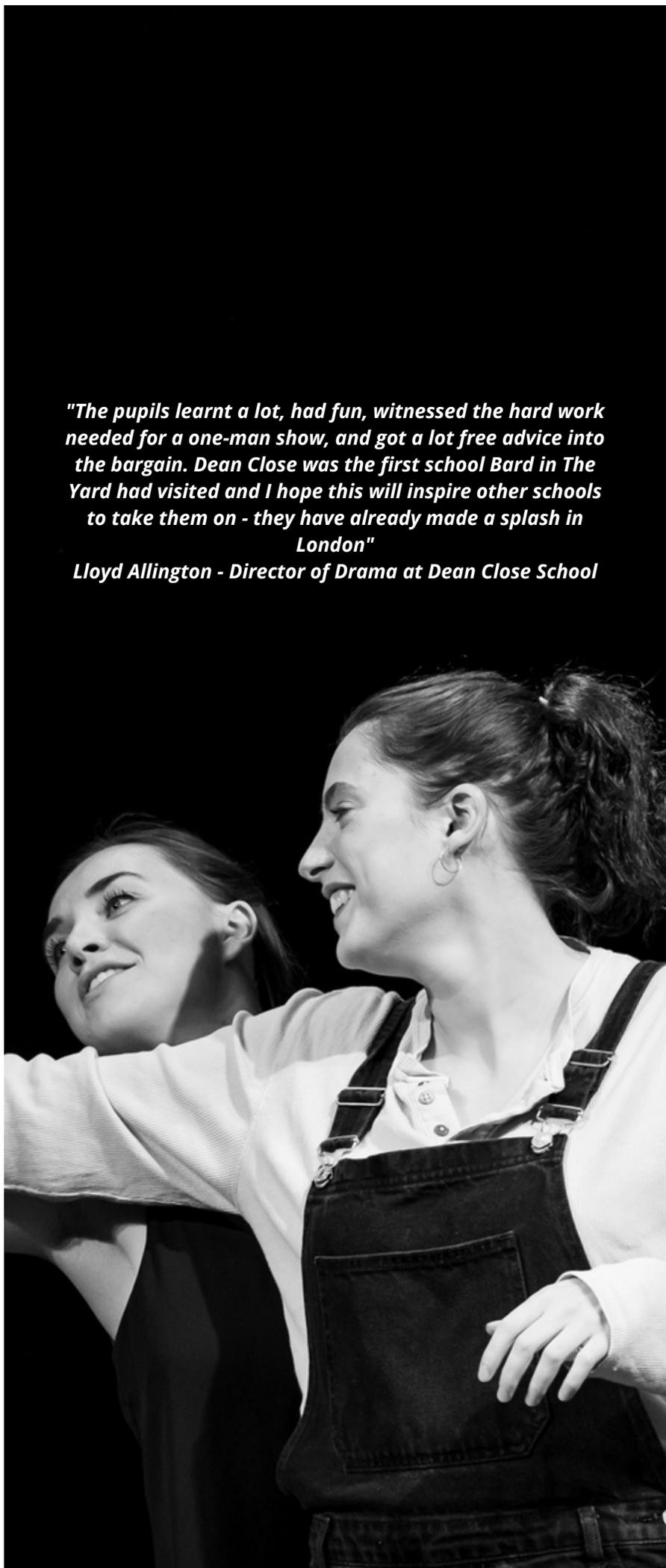
On top of stage craft, we provide key information about Shakespeare's life, times and works, and about the Elizabethan playhouses throughout our workshops.

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 the play on a deeper level, but it allows the students to connect with what rings true for them, in their own voice, through Shakespeare's writing.

Our workshops have been adapted to respect and adhere to safe, social distancing measures. Should your school not allow for freelance tutors to physically come to campus, we have an online version available.

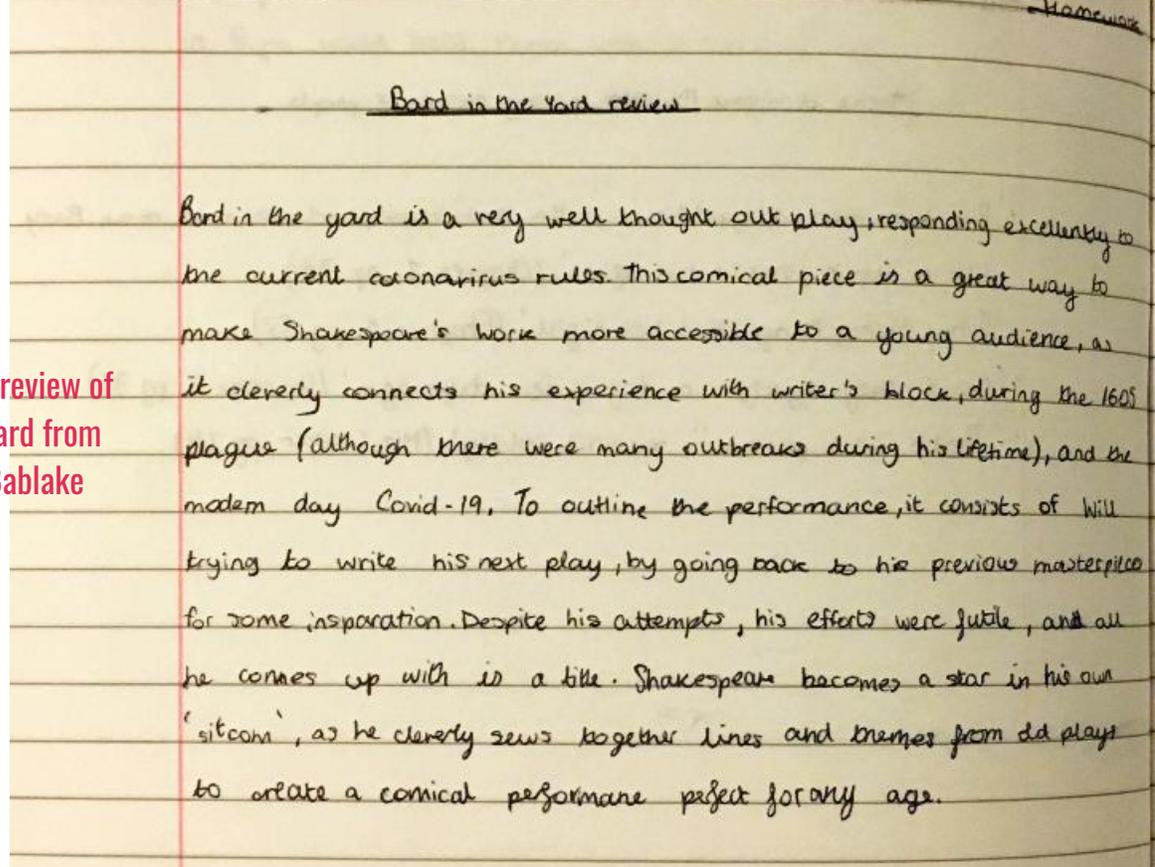
"The pupils learnt a lot, had fun, witnessed the hard work needed for a one-man show, and got a lot free advice into the bargain. Dean Close was the first school Bard in The Yard had visited and I hope this will inspire other schools to take them on - they have already made a splash in London"

Lloyd Allington - Director of Drama at Dean Close School



What results?

Our favourite review of Bard in The Yard from a student of Bablake School



We have received 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!**



Will & Co

Will & Co's manifesto is to make Shakespeare more accessible, to let emotion speak through movement and rhythm, and to tell poetic and percussive stories.

WHAT WE DO

Will & Co is a theatre company based in London and touring internationally. We create shows and workshops around the life, times and works of William Shakespeare. Our work is poetic, poignant, pleasurable and provocative. We believe that Shakespeare is where the common emotional heritage of humanity can be experienced. And we want to bring you closer to it.

All our shows are immersive experiences best enjoyed "in the round", just like Elizabethan theatre. We work with dedicated and physical performers, and aim to create magic on stage. We love words and movement, and all our shows are aimed at curious and expert audiences alike. We believe Shakespeare is for everyone.

PAST SHOWS

Our show *Will or Eight Lost Years of William Shakespeare's Life* has been touring for 3 years. Written and directed by Artistic Director Victoria Baumgartner, the show has been **produced in two languages (French and English), toured Europe to high acclaim and was a success at the Edinburgh Fringe. It was nominated for two Offies, including Best Director, and deemed "a fascinating work" by The Stage.** A further UK tour is still in the works for *Will*.

Our latest play *Anne* was showcased at the Pleasance Scratch Nights in November 2019 and was about to have a longer life before the current crisis closed our stages.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR VICTORIA BAUMGARTNER

Our Artistic Director Victoria Baumgartner is a Shakespeare specialist who has studied the works extensively for more than 10 years, both academically and on stage. She has worked as a writer and director in Switzerland, Germany and the UK, and was nominated as Best Director by the OFFIES. Her work has been supported by both Swiss and UK Embassies, and on her home turf of Switzerland she was awarded a national bursary for dramatic writing for *Will*. Victoria gives Shakespeare workshops at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and teaches Shakespeare at East15.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CHARLIE MACKELLAR

Charlie is an actress and singer from Cornwall, who graduated from University Centre Colchester with a first-class degree in Musical Theatre. During her training she worked on the hospitality management team for Mercury Theatre, Colchester, whilst working Front of House there as well. She also created and ran a successful online store. She has been producing with Will & Co for two years and recently received the Stage One Bursary for her work as a producer.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

PRESS Beatrice Lawrence
SOCIAL MEDIA Katherine Moran
PARTNERSHIPS Jack Spencer



Our Bards

Our fantastic actors' credits include the RSC, the National Theatre, the BBC, Game of Thrones, Frantic Assembly, The Hollow Crown, Outlander, Call the Midwife, Doctors, Secret Cinema, and many more.

We have rehearsed over Zoom, and our Bards have sent us tapes of their dress runs performed for friends and family in their own gardens – so the show has been proven safe for all during the process. Our actors have all embraced this solo as their own, and each Bard gives you an authentically artistic performance. We absolutely guarantee that, whoever your Bard is, you will get a fantastic show!

Alice Merivale
Constanza Ruff
Emma Nihill
Hannah Young
Henry Charnock
Honey Gabriel
Jonathan Blakeley
Kate Roche
Kit McGuire
Lin Sagovsky
Luke Farrugia
Michael Southwark

Miztli Rose
Rupert Sadler
Charlie Clee
Ben Galpin
Natalie Harper
Lucy Aarden
Will Harrison-Wallace
Jonathan McGarrity
Alix Dunmore
Kaya Bucholc

Hannah Elsy Productions

Midlands Commercial Partner

Hannah Elsy Productions entertains you, enlightens you and opens your heart and mind. Founded in 2014, they are an entertainment production company based between London and Birmingham.

BritishTheatre.com says: 'Hannah Elsy knows a good thing when she sees it, and she never attaches her name to anything less than wonderful'. See you in the audience!

'It is incredibly exciting to be working with Will & Co to bring their latest production of Bard in The Yard to the West Midlands, where the Forest of Arden once stood. We are dedicated to keeping people entertained and enlightened during Covid-19, and whilst we can't go into a theatre, Bard in The Yard is a brilliant way to bring the theatre to you.' Hannah Elsy

HANNAH ELSY
PRODUCTIONS

twitter.com/@hannah_elsy
www.hannahelsy.com



Find out more on

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bardintheyard.co.uk
willandco.co.uk

Age Suitability

We highly recommend this experience for **GCSE/ A level**. The play is accessible from **ages 10+**, and we recommend the workshop for **ages 14+**.

We did have some lovely feedback from children 6+ as well, however we recommend 10+ for better comprehension.

Space

We need a stage area that is socially distanced from your students. Ideally, the Bard needs at least **3x3 square metres**. We do not need any special light or sound equipment if we are playing outdoors to an audience of up to 30 socially-distanced students. For more than 30, we might require the Bard to be appropriately mic-ed (no hand-held mic, ear only).

Prices

An Online Play & Online Workshop

One of our actors comes to your school (indoor or outdoor) and performs 'Bard in the Yard' King Leonardo to your students, regardless the number of students & your students (ideally groups up to 25) get a 1-hour long workshop.

280 GBP

The Play

One of our actors comes to your school (indoor or outdoor) and performs 'Bard in the Yard' King Leonardo to your students, regardless the number of students.

250 GBP

The Play & A Workshop

One of our actors comes to your school (indoor or outdoor) and performs 'Bard in the Yard' King Leonardo to your students, regardless the number of students & your students (ideally groups up to 25) get a 1-hour long workshop.

370 GBP

Prices include all travel expenses

Safety

The safety of our actors and your students is paramount to us. The actor we send will be **DBS checked** and will maintain at least 2 metres distance from the students at all times. Our workshop will be produced with **safety guidelines in place, with activities suited to social distancing measures**. We would require a teacher present to ensure the students' safety and to help enforce Government guidelines. We ask you provide a big enough space to safely suit the number of students participating.