# **SEASON 2025**



SPORT FOR JOVE THEATRE CO.

#### **Acknowledgement of Country**

At Sport for Jove, we love telling stories. Many of these stories are over 400 years old, but this is nothing compared to the 60,000+ years of stories, culture, and knowledge that have flourished on this land.

We at Sport for Jove acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and live. We celebrate the diversity and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of Australia.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging, and we acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our shows, audiences, and creative community.





# FROM THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR



The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values

WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS

"

Welcome, teachers, to an inspiring 2025! We're kicking off the year with three exciting production offerings for your students:

- Henry IV Part 1
- Richard III
- Macbeth

This year, our education productions are launching these classic plays into the contemporary world, giving your students the chance to connect deeply with themes, characters, and behaviours that are relevant to their own lives. It's a thrilling way to explore timeless stories through a fresh lens, sparking conversations beyond the classroom!

Students can experience *Henry IV* and *Richard III* as standalone plays or as part of Sport for Jove's epic *History Cycle*, from *Richard II* to *Richard III*, including *Henry IV* and Hal's rise to *Henry V*. This is an invaluable experience, offering incredible clarity on Shakespeare's grand historical vision—bold, intense, and electrifying.

We are thrilled to bring you our learning festival of plays, workshops, and symposiums. Together, we'll unlock texts, breathe life into characters, and inspire student imagination for years to come.

Teaching these plays can be challenging, and we're here to support you. Whether you bring your students to the theatre or we bring our experienced teams to your classrooms, we're excited to collaborate on creating a rich, engaging learning experience. We believe in active learning through movement and voice, engaging students as participating audiences, not just textbook learners.

Explore our "swag bag" of offerings and start planning for 2025! Let's work together to tailor workshops that align with the curriculum and your students' needs. We're passionate about detail, language, ideas, and meaning, and we believe learning can be fun.

Warm regards.

The Education Support Team at Sport for Jove

A huge thanks to our Principal Education Partner, Seymour Centre and all our other venues that will be hosting us throughout the year.

2025 SEASON 1



#### BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE | DIRECTED BY DAMIEN RYAN

After a sell-out season in 2024, Sport for Jove returns with Shakespeare's Henry IV Part 1. Teachers have the rare opportunity to see it as a standalone piece or to experience the story within the context of its original tetralogy, fuelled by the events of **Richard II** and culminating in the rise to power of **Henry V**. Given a deeply relevant modern setting, this is an unmissable experience. (See our The Player Kings production on page 4 to see the full event version or book the standalone production of *Henry IV* here.)

Redemption? Disgrace? Honour? Legitimacy? Love? Glory? What sort of world do the young inherit from the old, and what should we fight for? **Henry IV** is a play made for our time. Shakespeare looks back at history to imagine his nation's future and turns an immense and kaleidoscopic national lens on that most simple and human of relationships - the family.

The play is moving, funny and thrillingly chaotic, swaying on a tightrope of irrational thought and behaviour, trying to maintain its sanity and balance, tumbling from conniving politics to saturnalian madness as people at every level of English society grasp for power, notoriety, fame and loyalty from those around them.

It is Shakespeare having an absolute ball with what this thing called theatre can be, and is one of the world's greatest studies in courage, crime, the nature of rebellion and the challenge of living up to our responsibilities. Sport for Jove's brandnew production of **Henry IV** is another example of the exceptional clarity and accessibility which our company has become renowned.

The production includes a detailed 20-minute lecture on the play by director Damien Ryan and Q&A with the students to deepen their relationship to the work.

#### 24 MAR - 2 APR SEYMOUR CENTRE

24 MAR | 11:30AM 28 MAR | 11:30AM 2 APR | 11:30AM

#### **RUNNING TIME**

2 hrs 30 mins (incl. 20-min lecture, an interval and a Q&A with the cast afterward)

#### SYLLABUS LINKS

Advanced Module B: Critical Study of Literature; Senior English - year 11 & 10

Drama - Years 10-12 - Introduction to and sophisticated analysis of Shakespeare's plays and theatrical practices.

History - Interpretation and Propaganda

#### BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE | DIRECTED BY DAMIEN RYAN

Sport for Jove's Richard III is an essential tool for students to come to grips with this play's innate theatricality and plethora of challenging characters when comparing it to Al Pacino's Looking for Richard. Don't let your students miss this opportunity to see and hear the play live.

Peace at last in the land of the free!

But while a aruesome war has ended and the world dances, one dangerous mind is still in the trenches, his language weaponised and targeted on every point of weakness around him. He will take no prisoners on his rampage to the top.

Don't miss this exciting production of one of Shakespeare's greatest plays, Richard III another example of the exceptional clarity and accessibility for which the company has become renowned.

Teachers have the rare opportunity to see it as a standalone piece or to experience the story within the context of its original tetralogy, fuelled by the events of the *Henry* VI plays and culminating in the rise to power of Henry VII. (See our The Player Kings production on page 4 to see the full event version or book the standalone production of Richard III here)

The production includes a detailed 20-minute lecture on the play by director Damien Ryan and Q&A with the students to deepen their relationship to the work.

#### 25 MAR - 1 APR SEYMOUR CENTRE

25 MAR | 11:30AM 31 MAR | 10:00AM 1 APR | 10:00AM

#### **RUNNING TIME**

2 hrs 30 mins (incl. 20-min lecture, an interval and a Q&A with the cast afterward)

#### SYLLABUS LINKS

Advanced Module A: Textual Conversations: Senior English - year 11 & 10 Drama - years 10 - 12 - Introduction to and sophisticated analysis of Shakespeare's plays and theatrical practices.

History - Interpretation and Propaganda.

# MACBETH

#### BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE I DIRECTED BY GEORGE BANDERS

An unexpected prophecy at the close of a devastating war sends a national hero and his brilliant wife on a feverish and murderous quest for absolute power. With startlingly beautiful language, Shakespeare's revered tragedy tears open the thin fabric between the temporal and magical worlds. This muscular, contemporary production looks at today's world through Macbeth's eyes an epoch where double speak is rife, where violence is a modern ecstasy and true loyalty is our most valuable commodity.

Shakespeare combines Scottish and English history with Greek myth to one simple end – to capture what it is to be human. What happens to us when we sacrifice our humanity to get ahead? We live in such a time, an unprecedented era that idolises fame and celebrity above leadership and morality. In such a time and place, perhaps even nature begins to fight back.

A boldly imaginative, fully contemporary and brand new production of Shakespeare's **Macbeth** from Sport For Jove that is true to the text and full of engaging revelations, a wonderful experience for students and teachers.

#### 30 APR - 7 AUG **ON TOUR**

30 APR - 9 MAY I RIVERSIDE THEATRES **PARRAMATTA** 

14 MAY - 23 MAY | SEYMOUR CENTRE 29 MAY I ORANGE CIVIC THEATRE **6 JUN | ROXY THEATRE, LEETON** 22 JUL | THE EVENTS CENTRE, CALOUNDRA 25 JUL | HOTA, GOLD COAST 7 AUG | THE EMPIRE, TOOWOOMBA

#### **RUNNING TIME**

120 minutes, no interval + Q&A post show

#### SYLLABUS LINKS

Advanced Module A: Textual Conversations; Senior English - year 11 & 10 Drama - years 9 - 12 - Introduction to and sophisticated analysis of Shakespeare's plays and theatrical practices.



Government through Creative Australia, its principle arts investment and advisory body.

# **HSC & YEAR 11 SYMPOSIUMS**

Sport for Jove's HSC Performance Symposiums series in 2025 offers a powerful theatrical experience of the plays' major scenes and characters in performance, coupled with theatrical analysis and curriculum-based insights into how they work.

Join Damien Ryan and the team to explore the plays' multiple meanings, open up diverse critical readings, unlock language and character, hear actors discuss the plays' famous ambiguities and challenges, and respond to students' questions. A complete, hands-on experience that combines the unfiltered relationship students need with the plays' action and narrative, while also ensuring they are watching with understanding.

We extract the key ingredients and critical thinking required to write on plays under exam conditions. Every aspect of the work is geared toward the curriculum and the specific needs of students studying these plays.

#### **EACH SESSION IS 2.5 HOURS**

Including performance, analysis, discussion and a brief interval.

Detailed Student Resource Kit included with each Symposium.

In 2025, we invite you and your students to explore the following plays with us:

It is always a pleasure to attend Sport for Jove symposiums as they are aimed at the right level for students to understand and yet challenging enough to get them thinking more critically about the texts.

JACKIE DOMAN, TEACHER, ROUSE HILL ANGLICAN COLLEGE



## THE TEMPEST / HAG-SEED SYMPOSIUM

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

One of Shakespeare's truly original and most personal plays, *The Tempest*, is a symphonic vision of forgiveness, discovery and self-discovery. Famous for its language, context, enchanting characters and breathtaking theatricality, the play is a reflection of the world's most famous playwright at the height of his powers and at the end of his remarkable career.

This tempest is not only in Prospero – the storm lies in the contradictions and ambiguities the story throws up about freedom and slavery, civilisation and barbarism, legacy and letting go, lust and chastity, youth and age, revenge and forgiveness. The sea is a place of transformation but also represents the capriciousness of nature, chaos, or fate.

Sport for Jove will unpick the play with students through live performance and analysis, and direct contrast and comparison with Margaret Atwood's *Hag-Seed* in this unmissable performance symposium.

Image credit: Seiya Taguchi.

Students were buzzing with the performance and analysis. Their understanding of The Tempest and it's conversation with Hag-Seed has been further developed.

As a first-time teacher of this play, I myself have gained a depth of contextual knowledge and perspective not readily available in many teaching resources.

BEN DYER, TEACHER, CANOWINDRA HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER SURVEY RESPONDENT

**ORANGE CIVIC THEATRE** 

11 MAR | 10:00AM

**SEYMOUR CENTRE** 

**31 MAR** | 1:30PM

3 APR | 9:30AM

16 MAY | 1:30PM

**RIVERSIDE THEATRES, PARRAMATTA** 

2 MAY | 1:30PM

## THE CRUCIBLE SYMPOSIUM

BY ARTHUR MILLER

**The Crucible**, Arthur Miller's parable of mass hysteria, is a portrait of the ordinary evils latent in any society, of mindless, hysterical persecution through ignorance, fear of 'otherness', and our capacity to serve ourselves above all others, making it one of the world's most transcendent and important stories, in any age.

Damien Ryan's intensive and detailed performance symposium on the play offers a rich opportunity for students to meet the characters, look beneath the play – at its language, characters, form, and theatricality – and discuss the big ideas with professional actors who have a long relationship with the play.

What does it mean to us now? Come and join the conversation. After all, we can stand back from these puritanical thinkers and feel safe from their ignorant, outdated superstitions and prejudices, but Miller's very successful point is that we just can't. The belief systems and modes of persecution might change, but the ignorance and willingness to hurt each other do not.

Image credit: Seiya Taguchi.

**The Crucible** illustrates these things at personal, familial, judicial, and political levels, and asks actors to give everything they have to tell it.

Having first encountered this play myself as a student and having studied and taught it in varying contexts over 30 years, I came away with new thoughts and further considerations... I'm not sure if students quite understood just how fortunate they were to encounter your symposium, but they were.

ANDREW WHITE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**ORANGE CIVIC THEATRE** 

12 MAR | 10:00AM

SEYMOUR CENTRE

1 APR | 1:30PM

4 APR | 9:30AM

13 JUN | 10:30AM

RIVERSIDE THEATRES, PARRAMATTA

5 MAY | 1:30PM

7 MAY | 9:30AM



## OTHELLO SYMPOSIUM

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A must-see symposium for all high school students.

Damien Ryan has worked on **Othello** for nearly 30 years. Don't miss this opportunity to join him and a group of exceptional actors as they unlock the story, characters, dramatic structure, themes, and theatricality of this powerful Shakespearean tragedy through scene work and analysis live on stage at Seymour Centre.

Othello is a play that touches of cultural and social fissures and pressure points we are still struggling to repair in today's world. It's themes, ideas and motifs are so powerfully relevant and in Sport for Jove's symposium, thy are unlocked in enormous detail and entirely through performances of its greatest scenes and characters. A perfect introduction or deep dive into the play for students.

The Othello symposium was a brilliant event. Damian Rvan was able to explain elements of Othello in an engaging and seemingly effortless way.

MARITA TULLY. ENGLISH LEADER AT DELANY COLLEGE

An outstanding, comprehensive and highly engaging introduction to the text for our students. Highly recommended.

MICHAEL RAMSDEN. HEAD TEACHER ENGLISH AT ULLADULLA HIGH SCHOOL

ORANGE CIVIC THEATRE

11 MAR | 1:30PM

SEYMOUR CENTRE

3 APR | 1:00PM

21 MAY | 9:30AM

22 MAY | 1:30PM

**RIVERSIDE THEATRES, PARRAMATTA** 

8 MAY | 1:30PM

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE SYMPOSIUM

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The Merchant of Venice is an eternally relevant study of justice, mercy, and religious division.

It's a story Shakespeare couldn't resist: an unfathomable sadness in a man's heart: the mysterious terrors of the ocean; hate crime and religious intolerance; money, and our willingness to gamble with our lives - things that still hurt and hinder us to this day in our struggle to know the difference between mercy and justice.

The Merchant of Venice features some of Shakespeare's most extraordinary characters, such as Portia, the brilliant young woman who dresses as a man to save a merchant's life, or Bassanio, the man with nothing who would have it all at any cost, or Jessica, the girl who would trade her mother's and father's memories for a monkey.

And at the centre of them all, in the court of Venice, stands a Jewish moneylender, Shylock, legally demanding a pound of flesh from a man who is willing to have his heart torn out of his body as a gesture of love for his friend.

Image credit: Seiya Taguchi.

Sport for Jove's performance symposium offers a unique and thrilling opportunity for students to dissect this formidable play.

Myself and my students got so much out of the HSC Symposium for The Merchant of Venice. I have completely changed my approach to the text and am now looking forward to teaching it again. The performers were incredible.

TEACHER SURVEY RESPONDENT

IT WAS AMAZING!! The format, the discussion, the links to the rubric, the sophistication and detail of the analysis were all fantastic and so relevant and helpful for us all. Thank you so much!

SUSAN THOMAS, TEACHER

**SEYMOUR CENTRE** 12 JUN | 10:30AM

Image credit: Seiya Taguchi.

# DIGITAL RESOURCES

The past few years have taught us the need to go digital! So, SFJ has an extraordinary catalogue of HSC Symposiums available for online access specifically for students and teachers in remote and regional areas who may not be able to attend our live performances.

We provide an extensive detailed analysis and a thorough understanding of the play you or your students are studying. The bonus? These are made by a professional theatre company that are specialists in interpreting classical plays. These Digital Symposiums are entirely curriculum based, derived directly from the NESA Rubrics, and authored and presented by Artistic Director, Damien Ryan.

Damien has made these symposiums with three central tenets in mind - rigorous application to the texts' language, context and meaning; relevance at all times to the areas of study and the rubrics in question; and provocative and thoughtful readings and interpretations of texts aimed at encouraging students to develop their own insights and trust their instincts when responding to

these great plays. They feature scene work, analysis, and highly specific information at every stage.

For more information on Symposiums, Digital Resources, Youth Workshops and Residencies, go to sportforjove.com.au.









# YOUTH WORKSHOP SERIES

Are you an aspiring actor? Ever wondered what it would be like to work with a professional theatre company?

Throughout 2025, Sport for Jove will offer a series of workshops for secondary school students.

Whether it be demystifying Shakespeare, scene work, improvisation, or working on your HSC monologue pieces, you can be sure Sport for Jove will have something on offer for you.

As a participant in our Pre-Professional Series, you will experience first-hand what it is like to be a Jove-actor, extending your range, uncovering tension, and playing imaginatively with your peers.

Workshops will be led by Sport for Jove staff members and industry professionals, giving you access to world-class theatre training in a safe, supportive environment.

We will release details about each workshop on our website throughout the year.
Subscribe to our newsletter to be the first to receive information.

# SHAKESPEARE RESIDENCY

Our in-school residency program offers the choice of an immersive and entirely practical 3-5 day experience for students in any year group, investigating Shakespeare's plays, world, characters and language. Straight onto the stage with professional actors and directors, the students learn through doing and understanding, engaging in fresh and highly accessible ways. Staff, parents and the whole school community are brought together to celebrate a performance showcase, fuelled by a wealth of discovery about the value and beauty of these plays.

- Get the words, ideas, images, feelings and relationships of Shakespeare's most famous plays up on their feet, into their bodies, into a shared storytelling space, in practical, exciting and dynamic ways.
- Enjoy the rewards of boldness, confidence, self-esteem, fun, and most of all, ownership of their creativity— these PLAYS were made for PLAYING and that is the focus of the Residency, breaking down the barriers to these great works, demystifying meaning and making them approachable and relevant.
- Learn the demands of teamwork each joining a hard-working team, creating something they'll always remember.

- Produce an inclusive and fully staged final performance to showcase the work they have done on the plays.
- Shakespeare makes us laugh, inspires us and moves us. His poetry, when unlocked and experienced in action, offers students incomparable access to the potency of great words and ideas. The confidence and understanding they garner through the program has an exponential effect on their future studies and appreciation for literature, their understanding of the world they live in, and their confidence in themselves.

# THE SHAKESPEARE CARNIVAL

You have a swimming carnival, you have an athletics carnival, why not have a Shakespeare Carnival?

Sport for Jove is proud to present the 2025 Shakespeare Carnival: a NSW and ACT event that encourages students to get up and get active, creating their own theatrical worlds by directing short films, composing music, choreographing dances and physical theatre pieces, and acting scenes and short works of theatre that are inspired by the work of William Shakespeare.

The Shakespeare Carnival is a great opportunity for students to challenge themselves, learn new ideas, gain confidence and social skills, and improve literacy as they bring Shakespeare's inspiring characters to life.

After months of school and regional level Shakespeare Carnivals, winners will have the amazing opportunity to work with professional artists on their pieces and perform them at The Seymour Centre.

Come see these budding theatrical stars take to the stage and impress with their creativity, skill, and imagination.

#### SHAPE IT TO YOUR NEEDS

The Shakespeare Carnival can be tailored to suit your school, your students and your needs! It's a chance for teachers of English, Drama, Music, Dance and Art to link their classes to a state-wide performance opportunity, deepen class engagement, broaden understanding and build excitement across the whole school as we help you host your own School Shakespeare Carnival.

Eligibility open to all High School students in NSW and the ACT.

# TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teaching Shakespeare can sometimes be intimidating. That's why we offer amazing upskilling courses in a range of areas to not only help you run your Shakespeare Carnival but also teach Shakespeare in the classroom with clarity and confidence.

For more information contact carnival@sportforjove.com.au

#### STUDENT RESOURCES

We offer free resources to help your students select, develop and refine their entries.

#### **PRIZES**

Prizes include masterclasses with professional actors, choreographers, composers and filmmakers, for participants that are selected for State Grand Final and for winning schools at the Grand Final.

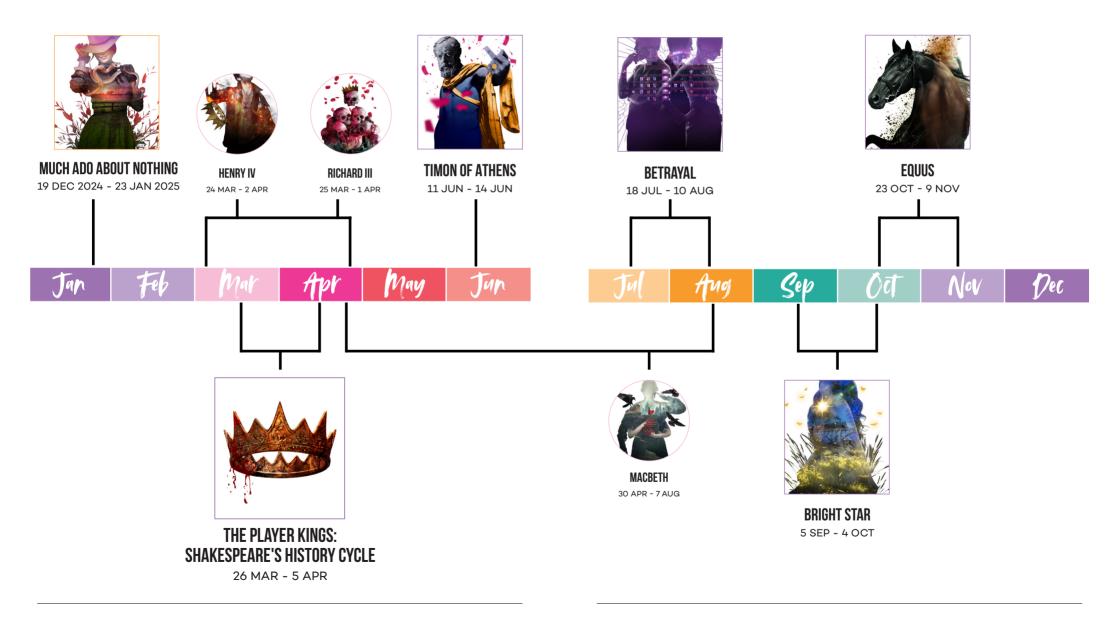
#### **REGISTER NOW ON OUR WEBSITE**





# WHAT'S ON AT

# **JOVE IN 2025**



# POETRY ACTION



In the spirit of Shakespeare's timeless words, Sport for Jove and Poetry in Action proudly announce their partnership,

# NEW COURAGE

for their 2025 Education Seasons

Both companies are passionate about the power of language and theatre, fostering a deeper appreciation for the arts and inspiring the creative voices of a new generation.

BOOK WITH SPORT FOR JOVE AND GET YOUR UNIQUE CODE FOR 10% OFF SELECTED PROGRAMS AT POETRY IN ACTION







# Leisureinn

#### **Comfort and Tranquility**

Leisure Inn Spires is located in the charming township of Leura, Blue Mountains, just over an hour from Sydney or a short walk from Leura Train Station.

Set on 3 acres of landscaped grounds, it's an ideal base for exploring the Blue Mountains and Leura Mall's boutique shops, cafes and restaurants. The property offers studio rooms and self-contained one- and two-bedroom apartments, recently refreshed and perfect for couples, families or long stays.

leisureinnspires.com.au 100 Leura Mall Leura NSW 2780 +61 2 4784 4999



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#### **VENUE & PRESENTING PARTNERS**









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DOWLING & DOWLING DESIGN

### **DONORS**

Sport for Jove believes in the power of theatre to bring people together, we encourage shared understanding and provoke debate and progress. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to us to continue to bring world-class theatre to NSW and beyond.

# FOR JOVE

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# WELCOME, WANDERER, TO SEASON 2025.