

SEASON 2025



SPORT FOR LOVE
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.

**“
WELCOME,
WANDERER.
”**



WELCOME TO SPORT FOR JOVE 2025

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



After an incredible year in 2024 with knockout seasons of **Timon of Athens**, **Isolde and Tristan**, **Henry IV Part 1**, **Richard III** and **Romeo and Juliet**, playing to tens of thousands from across New South Wales, Sport for Jove's Season 2025 is here, and it is one of the most exciting seasons in our 16-year history.

We kick off our **Summer Season XVI** with acclaimed Sydney-based director Samantha Young who brings her beautiful and uniquely Australian vision of Shakespeare's **Much Ado About Nothing** to our Summer Outdoor Season stages. We are also thrilled to be offering a new venue partnership with The Hub at Blue Mountains Theatre in Springwood. This follows our seasons at cherished old favourites – Bella Vista Farm and Leura Everglades, the sites of so many rich experiences over the years.

In March/April we have an extraordinary **Jove Main Stage** offering – **Shakespeare and Marlowe's History Cycle: The Player**

Kings – a company of some of Australia's most revered performers including John Gaden, Peter Carroll, Katrina Retallick, Leilani Loau, Sean O'Shea, Marty Alix, Steve Rodgers, Emma Palmer, Andrew Cutcliffe, Gareth Davies, Lucinda Howes, Ruby Henaway and more tackle Shakespeare's epic history of the "Hollow Crown" from Richard II through Henry IV and Henry V, to the "Wars of the Roses", the masterful study of political chaos that is Henry VI and Richard III. Don't miss it. This is a short and remarkable season, get in quick, tickets are limited. Huge thanks to Seymour Centre for being our associate partner in this special event.

We follow this with the long-awaited privilege of working with ingenious director Cristabel Sved whose magnificent sensitivity and intelligence is the perfect match for one of the great playwrights of any age, Harold Pinter. Cristabel's new production of Pinter's **Betrayal** will thrill you at the Old Fitz Theatre. Next up, we partner for the first time with Hayes Theatre for the brilliant Steve Martin & Edie Brickell bluegrass musical, **Bright Star** – electric atmosphere, joyous rhythm and profound humanity. And we close the year out with Peter Shaffer's intense, frightening and utterly brilliant **Equus**, playing in the Shed Theatre at Bella Vista Farm, an incredible and immersive site-specific event directed by Margaret Thanos, whose 5-Star **I Hate People; or Timon of Athens** was one of 2024's best shows of the year, and in a hugely exciting piece of news, **Timon** is back in 2025, playing a strictly limited return season in the York Theatre at Seymour Centre in June. See it for the first time or see it again, but don't miss it.

Our **Education Season** is equally adventurous, with a big east coast Australian tour through NSW and Queensland of a brand-new production of **Macbeth**, directed by company favourite George Banders whose **Servant of Two Masters** dazzled audiences in 2018. This is preceded by **Henry IV** and **Richard III** (extracted from The Player Kings Part 1 and 2) for HSC students at Seymour Centre. And our all-encompassing Symposia series continues of course, a critical partnership with NSW teachers.

Don't miss out, book early, bring your friends for enchanting encounters and unforgettable nights out.

Damien Ryan
Artistic Director, Sport for Jove Theatre

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY SAMANTHA YOUNG

“THOU AND I ARE TOO WISE TO WOO PEACABLY”

Dazzling wit, perfect comedy, dangerous possibilities and cruel deceptions, **Much Ado** is deservedly beloved of audiences worldwide. Sport for Jove's new production, directed by the wonderful Samantha Young (**Away**, 2016), challenges the plays darkest edges while celebrating its extraordinary liveliness and tumultuous couplings – Benedick and Beatrice, Hero and Claudio – along with the eccentric community that orbits them.

Don Pedro's army is home, and so the war begins – can women trust men, can men recognise women, can love be defined by something more than words?

SFJ are thrilled to be back this summer with an array of exciting venues, The Hub (Blue Mountains Theatre in Springwood), along with our beloved Bella Vista Farm and the stunning Everglades Garden Theatre in Leura.

A season of love and overcoming, of iconic favourites and bold new adventures.

19 DEC - 29 DEC | BELLA VISTA FARM *CHRISTMAS BREAK 23 - 26 DEC
4 JAN - 19 JAN | EVERGLADES GARDENS, LEURA
22 JAN - 23 JAN | BLUE MOUNTAINS THEATRE, SPRINGWOOD

ALL AGES

RIVERSIDE | **BLUE MOUNTAINS THEATRE**

Summer Season is supported by Parramatta Riverside and Blue Mountains Theatre.

**MUCH ADO
ABOUT
NOTHING**

HEAVY LIES THE HEAD...

CAST INCLUDES

JOHN GADEN
PETER CARROLL
KATRINA RETALLICK
LEILANI LOAU
SEÁN O'SHEA
MARTY ALIX



STEVE RODGERS
EMMA PALMER
ANDREW CUTCLIFFE
GARETH DAVIES
LUCINDA HOWES
RUBY HENAWAY
LIAM GAMBLE

SHAKESPEARE & MARLOWE'S

HISTORY CYCLE:

THE PLAYER

KINGS



STRICTLY LIMITED SEASON -
8 SHOWS ONLY!

Sport for Jove in association

with Seymour Centre presents

SHAKESPEARE & MARLOWE'S

HISTORY CYCLE:

THE PLAYER

KINGS

“LET US SIT UPON THE GROUND

AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF KINGS”

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

We live in a virulently polarised world – truth from falsehood barely distinguishable – media smothered by propaganda and partisanship – leadership eccentric to the point of madness – democracy at its most fragile and ambiguous – autocracies thriving and flagrantly proud – and kleptocracy, the ancient art of governing by theft, proving a very adequate solution to the problem of who runs the show! Let’s just say it – we are living in a Shakespearean...tragedy? History? Nightmare? And if we really dare ask ourselves, do we perhaps enjoy the show a little too much to want it to end?

The Player Kings is an extraordinary and unforgettable offering and the biggest undertaking in Sport for Jove's history. This is Damien Ryan's brand new adaptation of Shakespeare's great history cycle – the epic theatrical mirror Shakespeare held up to the eternal human struggle to lead, love and learn to live together.

Playing over two compelling and contemporary chapters, the story glances backward to the journey from **Richard II** to **Richard III**, in order to thrust our gaze forward to how political systems collapse and societies devour their own potential.

PART 1

Richard II

Henry IV Part 1*

Henry IV Part 2

Henry V

PART 2

Henry VI Part 1

Henry VI Part 2

Henry VI Part 3

Richard III*

ADAPTED & DIRECTED

BY DAMIEN RYAN

Featuring a world class cast, some of the finest actors of Shakespeare in the country, people whose capacity for language and depth of understanding is a promise of something very special. A hugely inventive and genuinely immersive experience, **The Player Kings** reimagines a Globe-like arena on the York stage at Seymour Centre.

Experience the magic! Watch the two parts on back-to-back nights or, for the ultimate adventure, immerse yourself in our Saturday marathon, complete with a delightful dinner break.

This is a rare and deeply fulfilling opportunity to celebrate great performance, incredible writing and very big ideas, surrounded by your own community, the people who hold your future in their imaginations. Come along, sit on the ground with us, tell stories and help work out what we do next in this confusing, beautiful world we live in. Tickets will sell fast – you do not want to miss this!



**FROM 26 MAR
SEYMOUR**

PART 1

26 MAR | 6:30PM (PREVIEW)

29 MAR | 11:30AM (GALA DAY)

3 APR | 6:30PM

5 APR | 11:30AM (GALA DAY)

AGES 14+

**UNTIL 5 APR
CENTRE**

PART 2

27 MAR | 6:30PM (PREVIEW)

29 MAR | 6:30PM (GALA DAY)

4 APR | 6:30PM

5 APR | 6:30PM (GALA DAY)

*Education shows available, pg. 18.

SEYMOUR

JOVE MAIN STAGE



“ This explosive new production is among the best Shakespeares I've ever seen. ”
JOHN SHAND, SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

“I WONDER MEN DARE TRUST THEMSELVES WITH MEN”

The highly anticipated return of Sport for Jove's 5-star smash hit, **Timon of Athens**, to Seymour Centre in 2025.

Be honest now. Do your friends suck? Not always. But, come on, sometimes...? Do they secretly love it when you screw up, fall down, miss out, give in? Do you do it to them... have you? What's it worth, any of it? Friendship? Loyalty? Love? If it were made of gold, what would it weigh?

Well... Timon has it all... the cash, the cache, the companions, and a heart of gold. But that'll never last, you know the story! And when it all goes up in smoke, so does everyone around him. One friend tried to warn him, but who listens to the pessimist? We all hate a misanthrope.

And yet, we hate ingratitude more. And nothing burns like betrayal. Alone and enraged, Timon runs from the world, curses the city, and revels in exile.

And wouldn't you know it... digging in the dirt for a scrap of food... finds more wealth than

he had before, just lying there under the earth in a barren field. What will he do with it this time, being generous never paid off, so what's the opposite??

Shakespeare's **Timon of Athens** is a black comedy dressed up as a Greek tragedy, a hilariously dark, joyfully brutal and very modern immortality tale. Dicken's borrowed from it, Marx built a new world order out of it, our contemporary age sits squarely in its sights - and it gives you, the playgoer, an extraordinary opportunity...

... to watch a Shakespeare play where you don't know what happens next, have no idea how it ends, and will be surprised at every turn.

Directed by Margaret Thanos and described as "a new star in the firmament of the best Shakespeare productions" (SMH), **I Hate People; or Timon of Athens** is a truly unique theatrical experience. A renaissance play that feels like it was written yesterday and tells us so much about today.

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY MARGARET THANOS

11 JUN - 14 JUN | SEYMOUR CENTRE

AGES 15+
CONTENT WARNING: SIMULATED DRUG USE, SIMULATED SEXUAL THEMES, FULL FRONTAL NUDITY, DEPICTIONS OF SUICIDE

SEYMOUR

I HATE PEOPLE,
OR TIMON OF ATHENS

BETRAYAL

BY HAROLD PINTER
DIRECTED BY CRISTABEL SVED

“A LOVE TRIANGLE WITH SHATTERING CONSEQUENCES”

18 JUL - 10 AUG | THE OLD FITZ THEATRE

CONTENT WARNING: CONTAINS ADULT THEMES

Prepare to be captivated by **Betrayal**, a powerful and scrutinising exploration of deception and its haunting and corrosive impacts directed by the talented Cristabel Sved.

This intimate production brings to life a sexual triangle of friends and lovers entangled in lies and secrets, revealing the fragile psychology behind their actions. Cristabel Sved's visionary direction takes a stripped-back approach, placing the focus on the raw emotions and intricate interplay between characters. With sharp wit and humour skilfully woven into the heartbreak, the talented cast brings a captivating energy to the stage.

The Old Fitz is the perfect space to experience this play in close up, an unflinching encounter not to be missed. At the heart of the production lies Emma's journey—a powerful struggle for liberation in a male-dominated world.

Betrayal is a thrilling and emotional experience that will leave you reflecting on the meaning of 'truth' in human relationships, and the lies we tell ourselves.

**OLD
FITZ
THEATRE**

Sport for Jove in association with Hayes Theatre Co presents

A BLUEGRASS MUSICAL
 BY STEVE MARTIN AND EDIE BRICKELL
 DIRECTED BY DAMIEN RYAN
 MUSICAL DIRECTOR ALEC STEEDMAN
 MUSIC, BOOK & STORY BY STEVE MARTIN
 MUSIC, LYRICS & STORY BY EDIE BRICKELL

**"THE POINT OF DIVING IN A LAKE IS NOT IMMEDIATELY
 TO SWIM TO THE SHORE..."**

We are thrilled to announce our first collaboration with the celebrated Hayes Theatre, the ingenious and inspiring musical by the superb Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. Drawn from a true story and featuring a Tony-nominated score, Broadway's **Bright Star** tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s.

When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past, and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives.

With stunning melodies, gorgeous actor-centric theatricality and powerfully moving characters, the story is an evocative tapestry of deep emotion. An uplifting journey, **Bright Star** is as refreshingly genuine as it is daringly hopeful.

5 SEP - 4 OCT | HAYES THEATRE

ALL AGES



Hayes Theatre Co is a dedicated not-for-profit music theatre and cabaret venue in Potts Point. Named for Australian musical theatre legend, Nancye Hayes AM, Hayes Theatre Co honours and builds on the vast history of Australian musical theatre and its practitioners. By providing venue space to newly mounted productions, Hayes Theatre Co is a presenting partner together with independent producers and artists.

BRIGHT STAR

BY PETER SHAFFER
DIRECTED BY MARGARET THANOS

**“THE NORMAL IS THE GOOD SMILE IN A CHILD’S EYES...
AND THE DEAD STARE IN A MILLION ADULTS”**

A site-specific spectacular event.

This Tony Award and New York Critics Circle Award winning masterpiece by Peter Shaffer is simply one of the finest plays ever written – its concerns, its expression, its ideas as compelling and dangerously powerful as have ever been uttered in drama.

SFJ has a celebrated history of activating unknown spaces and creating indelible experiences for audiences and the atmospheric 200 year old stables shed at Bella Vista Farm, site of our inspiring vision of **The Crucible** in 2014, becomes the home for this scintillating new production of **Equus**, directed by Margaret Thanos (**I Hate People; or Timon of Athens**).

This explosive play has taken audiences by storm all over the world, **Equus** is Peter Shaffer’s exploration of the way modern society has destroyed our ability to feel and express passion. Alan Strang is a disturbed young man whose dangerous obsession with horses leads him to commit an unspeakable act of violence. As psychiatrist Martin Dysart struggles to understand the motivation for Alan’s brutality, he is increasingly drawn into Alan’s web and way of seeing until he’s eventually forced to question his own relationship to the world and his psyche.

What is normal? What is transgressive? How do we rein in the things we feel? Scintillating, shocking, and sensual, **Equus** is a must-see experience in 2025.

23 OCT - 9 NOV
THE SHED THEATRE, BELLA VISTA FARM

AGES 15+



EQUUS



EDUCATION SEASON 2025

FROM THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR



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.

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

WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS



HENRY IV PT. 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 brand-new 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



RICHARD III

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 gruesome 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 | 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 | RIVERSIDE THEATRES
PARRAMATTA

14 MAY - 23 MAY | SEYMOUR CENTRE

29 MAY | 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.



Australian Government



This project has been assisted by the Australian 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.

“ *Students were buzzing with the performance and analysis. Their understanding of The Tempest and its conversation with Hag-Seed has been further developed.* ”

TEACHER SURVEY RESPONDENT

“ *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

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

Image credit: Seiya Taguchi.

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, they 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. Damien Ryan 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

Image credit: Seiya Taguchi.

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

DIGITAL RESOURCES

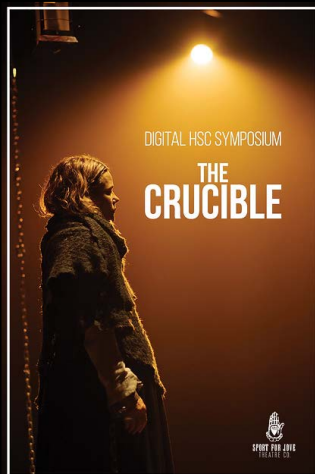
The past few years have taught us the need to go digital! So, SFJ has an extraordinary catalogue of HSC Symposiums available for online access specifically for students and teachers in remote and regional areas who may not be able to attend our live performances.

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

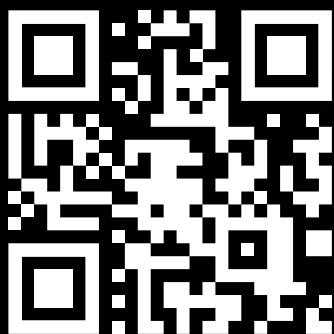
STUDENT RESOURCES

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



DATES

Early Bird Registrations Closes

1 Dec, 2024

Registration Closes

4 Apr, 2025

School Carnivals

Finished around end of term 1 – pick the date that works best for you

Regional Carnivals High School

6 – 17 May, 2025

State Grand Final

Weekend of 31 May & 1 Jun, 2025

CURRENT SCHEDULED REGIONAL CARNIVALS:

Sydney North Region, Lindfield Learning Village

Wednesday, 7 May

Riverina Region, Mt Austin High Sydney

Monday, 12 May

Sydney West Region, Penrith Selective High

Wednesday, 14 May

Northern NSW Region, PLC Armidale

Thursday, 15 May

Illawarra Region, St Mary's Star of the Sea

Friday, 16 May

Further locations to be announced as details are confirmed.

“ *I'd never teach Shakespeare now without the Carnival.* ”

TEACHER,
JAMES FALLON HIGH SCHOOL,
ALBURY

WHAT'S ON AT

JOVE IN 2025



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
19 DEC 2024 - 23 JAN 2025



HENRY IV
24 MAR - 2 APR



RICHARD III
25 MAR - 1 APR



TIMON OF ATHENS
11 JUN - 14 JUN



BETRAYAL
18 JUL - 10 AUG



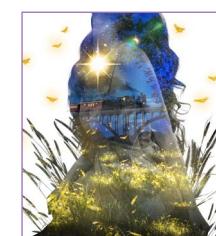
EQUUS
23 OCT - 9 NOV



**THE PLAYER KINGS:
SHAKESPEARE'S HISTORY CYCLE**
26 MAR - 5 APR



MACBETH
30 APR - 7 AUG



BRIGHT STAR
5 SEP - 4 OCT

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
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THE VINEYARDS

Our vineyard at Koomooloo thrives due to unique conditions. Success is attributed to respecting the land, adapting to climate changes, experience, hard work, conviction, and creative thinking.



WINEMAKING

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DISTINCTION
INNOVATIVE

As winemakers, decisions prioritize fruit over conventions to create wines with varietal expression, sense of place, subtlety, depth, and complexity.



CELLAR DOOR

Discover the charm of Philip Shaw Winery's Cellar Door. Choose from a selection of wines to taste or enjoy a glass in our stunning gardens or by the cozy open fireplace. We are pet-friendly, welcoming your furry friends both inside and out as you savour your wine experience.



EVENTS

Philip Shaw Wines provides unique event venues for weddings, private, and corporate events including the Barrel Room, Cellar Door, and historic Butler Factory and Cottage. The architecturally designed grounds offer beautiful gardens, lawns, outdoor fire pit, and cozy fireplace for a special event experience.



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SUMMER SEASON PARTNERS



DESIGN PARTNER



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.



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Octavia Barron Martin
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**WELCOME, WANDERER,
TO SEASON 2025.**