

WHO WE ARE

Evolving Shakespeare workshops are run by Andrew Wolpert, Sarah Kane and Richard Ramsbotham. They have been giving courses together on the transformative journey of Shakespeare since 1994, through lectures, seminars and artistic exploration of the plays. These workshops and courses are on offer to any groups or educational institutions wishing to explore a play or theme of Shakespeare's.

Andrew Wolpert has been working with Shakespeare for many years at Westminster College in London and Emerson College in Sussex. He now travels as a lecturer and course leader in Europe, Australia and Asia. He is particularly interested in how the esoteric themes of Italian Renaissance Art emerge in drama and poetry in the Anglo-Saxon idiom, and how they speak to us today.

Sarah Kane produced a series of Shakespeare plays at Emerson College in the 90's when she ran the Speech and Drama Programme, and has been actively and practically pursuing a life-long interest in Shakespeare since then, both in courses and productions. She directed *Cymbeline* for the Goetheanum Stage, Basel (2005), *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night* for the Michael Tschechow Studio Berlin (2007 & 2008), and *Hamlet* for the Academy of Creative Speech and Theatre Arts (2007).

Richard Ramsbotham studied at Cambridge University and Artemis School of Speech and Drama. He lectured in English Literature at Warsaw University (1989-1993) and worked as performer and writer with the Rose Theatre Company. He is the author of *Who Wrote Bacon? Shakespeare, Bacon and James I A Mystery for the 21st Century* (Temple Lodge, 2004), editor of *New Selected Poems of Vernon Watkins* (Carcenet, 2006). In 2005 he set up *Amador*, a company offering theatre, education and research.

Date Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September

Time 9:30am Saturday to 1:00pm Sunday

Price £95/£85

(excluding theatre ticket /£5 standing)

Please pay deposit of £35 by 24th August

Venue St Bride Foundation

Bride Lane Fleet Street

London EC4Y 8EQ

Tel 020 7353 3331

Nearest tube Blackfriars

Payment to Amador

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(The St Bride Foundation consists of the Bridewell Theatre, the St Bride Printing Library and a Conference and Events Centre www.stbridefoundation.org/)



EVOLVING SHAKESPEARE

Troilus and Cressida

**A weekend conference
including a visit to
Globe Theatre Production**

**12th and 13th SEPTEMBER 2009
St. Bride Foundation, Bride Lane
Fleet Street, London**

SHAKESPEARE

How can we experience the spiritually
transformative genius of his plays?

How do his plays metamorphose and evolve?

Who was he?

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA

What has Britain to do with Troy?

The germ of *Hamlet*?

'True as Troilus...false as Cressid'. True or false?

'Problem play' or 'tragedy of divine love'?

SHAKESPEARE

How may we access the incredible transformational power of Shakespeare's evolving genius through his work – and as it works within each individual play?

So immense is the inspiration and genius flowing through Shakespeare that people have doubted whether a mere actor, William Shakespeare, could have written such epoch-changing works. They prefer to think that some wise and learned figure of high society, such as Sir Francis Bacon or Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, must have been their author.

To engage rightly with Shakespeare's plays we must encompass both the extraordinary depth and range of wisdom they contain, and their startlingly immediate stage life and presence. In doing so we will, incidentally, also gain new light on the mysterious riddle behind the authorship of Shakespeare.

We will address each play through lectures and seminars and also, through participative speech and drama work, experience the play artistically. On Saturday evening we will go to the current production at The Globe Theatre.

WHO IS IT FOR?

- Anyone interested in the esoteric background of the 17th Century and its relevance today
- Students and teachers of Shakespeare
- Theatre-goers
- Speech and drama students
- Anyone wishing to discover or deepen their connection to the transformative genius of Shakespeare

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA

*'Take but degree away, untune that string,
And hark what discord follows.'* (1.3.109.)

Troilus and Cressida depicts, in a certain way, the whole of the Trojan War in concentrated form. It depicts simultaneously – in Troilus's horror at the betrayal of his beloved, 'false Cressid' – a kind of primal wound that will be passed on from one Shakespearian hero to the next – Hamlet, Othello, Lear, Posthumus, Prospero.

'Problem play' par excellence, rarely performed even in Shakespeare's time, Troilus and Cressida shows itself to contain an underground, explosive charge, igniting and fuelling the major tragedies that follow. *Hamlet* is in many ways a later incarnation and metamorphosis of all that surged up into Shakespeare's consciousness in this play.

These and other aspects of the play will be explored – for example, its role within the 'War of the Theatres'; its relevance to the beginning of the 17th Century and to today.

PROGRAMME

Saturday 12th September

- 9:30 - 10:00 Registration
- 10:00 - 11:30 Riddle of Shakespeare (lecture) (SK, AW, RR)
- 11:45 - 12:45 *Troilus and Cressida* – exploration through speech and drama
Lunch break
- 2:15 - 3:15 Speech and Drama
- 3:30 - 4:30 Lecture on *Troilus and Cressida* (AW)
Tea
- 4:45 - 5:30 Questions and conversations
Break for Dinner
- 7:30 Globe Theatre Production of *Troilus and Cressida*

Sunday 13th September

- 9:30 - 10:15 Review of Globe Theatre Production
- 10:15 - 11:00 Speech and drama
- 11:15 - 12:15 Lecture Shakespeare and the reappearance of Troy (RR)
- 12:20 - 1:00 Closing thoughts and conversation