

Executive Summary

The 2010 Festival was our tenth anniversary festival. Since the Millennium we've trained teachers and inspired 100,000 students in 4,248 schools, performing in 225 professional theatres across the UK.

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on" – The Tempest

A Festival

The Festival's extensive process and its inclusive and supportive ethos combines with Shakespeare's most famous texts to make the project the success it is.

SSF trains teachers and young people in Shakespeare, and then facilitates their production in a professional theatre. After workshops for teachers and students, four local schools come together as one company to perform four half hour abridged plays.

The Festival process has a unique impact on every young person who takes part. This can range from a significant boost in confidence and valuable transferable skills to a deep appreciation of a major contributor to British culture and world literature.

As an organisation we strive for a high quality, highly organised service. As a result **96%** of teachers said that they felt well supported by our team.

"There was always someone on the end of the phone to answer my questions and guide me when I was lost." - **Lizzy Anthony, Teacher, Haslingden High School, North West**

A Foundation

All who are involved with the Festival gain a solid foundation in knowledge, practice and skills that will last them a lifetime.

- 98% of teachers said that the Festival had enhanced their pupils' understanding of their chosen play.
- 87% of students had a greater and better understanding of Shakespeare's language.
- 64% of teachers felt that the Festival fulfilled requirements for core curriculum
- 86% of teachers said that participation in the Festival had strengthened the teaching and learning of drama in their school
- 94% of teachers felt that their SSF experience would benefit other teachers and/or the whole school
- 90% of teachers found the workshop useful in engaging the students

SSF believes that it helps to bridge the attainment gap and provides social cohesion through Shakespeare. Our process is specifically designed to bring together young people from diverse backgrounds. Our ethnic minority and SEN participation rates are far above the national averages.

A Future

SSF gives Shakespeare for Life. Learning Shakespeare's language boosts achievement, articulacy and aspiration.

We have a proven record of engaging young people in their education, boosting confidence and fostering academic and practical skills for both students and teachers who take a living legacy of Shakespeare back to the classroom and the whole school.

'I didn't like Shakespeare until Othello. It's different on the stage. Now when I read it I can picture it as how I'd say it. I wrap myself around the language and then you begin to love Shakespeare.' - **Daniel, Lea Manor School, Luton**

98% of students enjoyed taking part and would participate in the Festival again.

96% of schools responded that they would take part again

As a direct result of taking part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival students reported the following:

- 91% became more confident
- 91% were able to take and give useful criticism
- 90% worked harder for a purpose
- 89% developed teamwork skills
- 88% took responsibility for something
- 86% improved their ability to concentrate
- 81% overcame their fears about performance
- 81% were able get along with people they didn't know
- 81% supported their peers
- 80% felt the process had enhanced personal and social skills.
- 78% learned to be more patient

2010 was a pivotal year for embedding ourselves in the education landscape. ARK Federation are making us part of their core offer to their schools, and all of the Harris Schools have taken part in the Festival. We have started a partnership with **Arts Award** and a further partnership link has been made with **Teach First**. The experience of South Rise Primary School has proven the case for the growth in the primary sector in 2011.

2010 was the inaugural year for our MP visits programme with over 400 MPs in the new parliament receiving a personalised briefing letter and invitation to the Festival, 23 Festival visits taking place across the autumn, including from two ministers and a range of endorsements and offers of ongoing support resulting from this.

Through all its activities SSF continues to believe that the beauty of Shakespeare is both its inherent rigour and accessibility. Given the right tools a teacher can engage a whole class, stretching the gifted and talented and giving SEN students opportunities for effective learning – SSF believes that it has in-house expertise in this area and continues to demonstrate how, through our process, young people can defy their own and others' expectations.