



# Shakespeare Schools Festival Luxembourg Programme 2025



### About Tom Leick-Burns: Director of the Grand Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg

Tom Leick-Burns trained as an actor at the Drama Centre London. He worked extensively in both theatre and film, including a Shakespeare production of *The Tempest* and the comedy *The complete works of William Shakespeare* (abridged), before joining the team of the Grand Theatre, Luxembourg, in 2005. He completed an MBA at Sacred Heart University in 2012 and was appointed artistic director and general manager of the Theatres de la Ville de Luxembourg in 2015. He lives with husband David, their twin girls Billie and Tippi and their dog Coco in Beggen.

### About James Cooney: Adjudicator

James trained as an actor at LIPA and has an MA in Actor training and coaching from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London.

James has worked across a range of media over the last ten years. He was nominated for Best Actor at the Off West End Awards for *Bottleneck* by Luke Barnes. In 2016, James began working with The Royal Shakespeare Company. His credits include *Hamlet*, *King Lear* and *The Taming of the Shrew* amongst others. His recent work includes *The 47th* by Mike Bartlett at The Old Vic.

TV credits include the Disney+ Star Wars spin-off series *Andor*, as well *Casualty*, *The ABC Murders* and *Silent Witness* for The BBC. James has also worked in radio and voice over for commercials and video games.

As an acting tutor, James is currently course leader of the Acting: The Play short course at Central. He has facilitated acting workshops for Italia Conti, Arts Ed, The Central School of Speech and Drama and North West End Acting school, as well as sessions across East Sussex. James has sat on the audition panel for the LIPA BA Acting course and ArtsEd Acting foundation.



## A Note from the Festival Director, Ms Williams

This festival aims to give young people who attend schools in Luxembourg the opportunity to play with Shakespeare's texts, to make them relevant and to tell the stories in whatever way they want to, even if that means turning a tragedy into a comedy or a comedy into a tragedy. They can use music, dance, stage combat or slapstick comedy, as long as they have fun telling their story as a piece of theatre.

Studying Shakespeare is a challenge for anyone. The old language can be a barrier to understanding the stories when reading anything by Shakespeare. But when performed on stage, these old stories still entertain and enthrall an audience. Even now, 400 years after his death, the themes of love, ambition, death, fate and free will, to name a few, are still relevant and can be seen in almost every modern movie

It is really exciting to see these schools come together for this event. Confidence, collaboration and articulacy are essential skills for life and it is a joy to see students develop these skills as young adults.

I would like to extend thanks to everyone who has supported this evening of Shakespeare – parents, teachers, the team at Abbey Neimenster, but most importantly the performers. Their enthusiasm and passion for performance have made this project a joy to lead!

**Clare Williams**





### Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

The group have bravely negotiated the romance of this epic tale, looking into the pop culture influence of the story on music and using that alongside a couple of Sassy narrators to help the audience follow the plot. Enjoy!



### The Tempest by William Shakespeare

3 young people are on holiday on a beautiful island when a storm breaks, they take us through the classic tale of revenge, forgiveness and political rivalry against the backdrop of fairies, wizards and magic. The group are clever and witty in their telling of Shakespeare's final masterpiece.



### Much Ado about nothing by William Shakespeare

We have double cast the main roles for this 1990's music inspired interpretation of this comedy. The group have included some song, dance, farce and lots of creativity in bringing this classic to life. Enjoy!



## Danes Hill School



### Macbeth by William Shakespeare

Danes Hill school are privileged to have the opportunity to perform again in Luxembourg. Our cast, which is comprised of Year 5 & Year 7 pupils, have been exploring Macbeth through physical theatre, soundscape, and song. They have been working hard and have dedicated themselves with excitement through all the rehearsal process and are thrilled to perform on an international platform with like-minded student actors.

## Lycee Ombrosa, Lyon, France



### A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Lycée Ombrosa is a French international school located in the beautiful city of Lyon, France. We are a group of Year 11 students presenting our interpretation of a scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream. Our version is set in a contemporary context, highlighting the tempestuous relationship between the 'power couple,' Titania and Oberon, King and Queen of the fairies. The conflict revolves around a young changeling boy whom Titania refuses to give up, fueling Oberon's jealousy. This leads to Oberon enlisting the trickster Puck to interfere, using a magical flower containing a love potion. Meanwhile, the servant fairies, despite their loyalty to Titania, are easily distracted in the chaos.

## Antwerp International School, Belgium



### The Tempest by William Shakespeare

AIS students take on the challenge of adapting Shakespeare's *The Tempest* into a 25-minute performance, focusing on the key moments of the story. The play follows Prospero, a powerful magician and the rightful Duke of Milan, who was betrayed and stranded on an island with his daughter, Miranda. When his enemies sail nearby, Prospero uses his magic to create a storm, shipwrecking them. With the help of the spirit Ariel and the resentful islander Caliban, he seeks revenge—but ultimately chooses forgiveness. Through this adaptation, students simplify the language and action while keeping the heart of the story intact.

## New World Theatre Club Youth Theatre



### Hamlet by William Shakespeare

New World Theatre Club Youth Theatre Presents: *HAMLET* by William Shakespeare (abridged).

What happens when you hide a guilty secret? What happens when you take on someone else's secret?

We all know what happens at the end of *Hamlet*. But how did they get there?

New World Theatre Club Youth Theatre will delve into these secrets, and others, by exploring what triggers each character in *Hamlet* to act and DO the things they do and ultimately revealing how damning secrets can be.

New World Theatre Club, asbl is an English Language community theatre in Luxembourg for over 60 years. NWTC Youth Theatre was started in 2007. Our mission is to promote the process of theatre over the product by offering a wide variety of weekly workshops September – March. Our students come from a variety of schools across Luxembourg. We are excited to a part of the International Shakespeare Festival here in Luxembourg.





## Othello by William Shakespeare

Venetian selfmade, hotshot general Othello, aka “the Moor”, is sent to Cyprus with his sweetheart, divine Desdemona and we would like to welcome them to our island of love! We would also like to extend our apologies and grievances for any possible inconvenience during their stay in the future...

## 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

|       |                                    |             |
|-------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 17:15 | Whole cast greeting and warm up    |             |
| 18:00 | Opening remarks by Tom Leick Burns |             |
| 18:15 | STG                                | The Tempest |
| 18:45 | Lycee Ombrosa                      | MND         |
| 19:15 | Dane's Hill                        | Macbeth     |
| 19:45 | Interval                           |             |
| 20:00 | Pascal School                      | Othello     |
| 20:30 | STG                                | R&J         |
| 21:00 | Closing remarks                    |             |

## 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025

|       |                                 |             |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 17:15 | Whole cast greeting and warm up |             |
| 18:00 | Opening remarks                 |             |
| 18:15 | Michel Lucius                   | MND         |
| 18:45 | AIS                             | The Tempest |
| 19:15 | Interval                        |             |
| 19:30 | NWTC Youth                      | Hamlet      |
| 20:00 | STG                             | Much Ado    |
| 20:30 | Closing remarks by Zeba Clarke  |             |

*Thank you for watching  
we hope you enjoyed the performances.*

