



Press Release: 25 February 2010

Globe Education launches free online web resource to accompany new schools' production of *Macbeth*

Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe has launched an extensive online learning resource for 2010, to accompany the teaching of the play *Macbeth* at Key Stage 3. The resource, which in previous years has focused on other Shakespeare plays, has proven extremely popular for students and teachers, with a visitor increase of 469% between 2008 and 2009, and almost 13,000 unique page views recorded – an indication of the growing interest in interactive resources for the classroom.

The resource, which launches today at www.playingshakespeare.org, forms part of the *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank* project, Shakespeare's Globe's flagship education programme for Key Stage 3 students. As part of the groundbreaking scheme, over 14,000 free tickets for a full-scale, professional production of *Macbeth* created especially for young people have been offered to all secondary schools in London. The online resource has been designed to complement the production, as well as act as a stand-alone facility for schools that are unable to attend the live performances.

The *Macbeth* website – which is available alongside previously created sites for *Romeo and Juliet* and *Much Ado About Nothing* – has been developed following consultation with teachers and students, and employs elements of familiar social networking websites to encourage interactivity with the text, characters and key scenes.

Video and audio segments from members of the performance company will be included to provide a dynamic link between the website and the stage production. An interactive 'script machine' will help students to examine key scenes from the play, pointing out examples of key literary terms and providing definitions of unfamiliar words and phrases to encourage a deeper understanding of the text.

Ryan Nelson, Globe Education's Online Editor, said: *"For this year's new Macbeth online resource, we have continued to develop opportunities for interaction between students and Shakespeare by incorporating video and by developing our unique, interactive script machine.*

Having consulted with teachers and pupils about how they use the Internet in school, we believe that this

is a resource that will have a range of uses in the classroom as well as useful preparation for those classes attending our live performances”.

The site has sections on Language, Character and Motivation, Themes and Issues and Text in Performance. Features include ‘social network’ pages demonstrating the links between characters and key events in the play in an interactive format, ongoing video updates from cast members as their characters develop in rehearsal, a facility to send messages and questions to the actors, a discussion forum for exchanging ideas and reviews of the play, and the opportunity to watch interviews with the backstage and creative teams about the process of staging *Macbeth* for a contemporary audience.

The newly-expanded project is part of Globe Education’s commitment to providing creative approaches to the teaching and learning of Shakespeare, and is tailored to Key Stage 3 (14-year old) students and their teachers. Thanks to the renewed commitment of sponsor Deutsche Bank, the project also offers free in-school workshops for almost 1000 students, as well as professional training workshops for teachers at the Globe.

Colin Grassie, UK CEO of Deutsche Bank, commented: *"We strive to nurture the creativity and talent of young people through our community activities in the UK. Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank, our flagship education partnership, sits at the centre of this ethos. By providing accessible, professional theatre for students, the message to them and to the wider community is clear: the arts should enthuse and excite everyone, and the City has a role in making this possible. In three years, over 30,000 young people have participated in Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank, and we are delighted to be backing this exciting initiative".*

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Further information from Chris Adams at Shakespeare’s Globe Press Office on +44 (0)20 7902 1468, chris.a@shakespearesglobe.com

Images of Shakespeare's Globe and the Playing Shakespeare project, as well as other media resources, are available online at www.shakespeares-globe.org/press or from Chris Adams (above).

Notes to Editors:

- **Globe Education** is one of the country’s largest arts education departments. Each year, more than 100,000 people of all ages and nationalities participate in Globe Education’s programme of public events, workshops and courses. Globe Education also runs an extensive programme in the Southwark community and creates national and international outreach projects for students and teachers. Fundraising continues for the new **Globe Education and Rehearsal Centre**, just round the corner from the main Globe site, which is due to open later this year. For more information, visit www.globe-education.org

- **Deutsche Bank** is a leading global investment bank with a strong and profitable private clients franchise. A leader in Germany and Europe, the bank is continuously growing in North America, Asia and key emerging markets. With 77,053 employees in 72 countries, Deutsche Bank offers unparalleled financial services throughout the world. The bank competes to be the leading global provider of financial solutions for demanding clients creating exceptional value for its shareholders and people. www.db.com
- **Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank** is endorsed by a panel of celebrity Patrons who share the belief that young people are entitled to access theatre of the highest quality. The full list of Patrons is: Simon Russell Beale, Richard Clifford, Dominic Cooper, Joseph Fiennes, Craig Gazey, Peter Guinness, Lenny Henry, Celia Imrie, Derek Jacobi, Paterson Joseph, Adrian Lester, Tamzin Outhwaite, Grayson Perry, Jemma Redgrave, Siobhan Redmond and Roberta Taylor.
- In 2009, around 9,000 students and teachers received free tickets to the production of *Romeo and Juliet*. This year, around 14,000 free tickets have already been allocated for *Macbeth*. Two of the free performances will be open to the public, and one performance is captioned for audience members who are deaf or hard of hearing. 110 free workshops will also be provided in schools by Globe Education Practitioners.
- 32 teachers took part in free Continuing Professional Development in preparation for the *Macbeth* project. Feedback included:
 - "I'm really not fond of [taking part in] drama activities; however, today was simply amazing, the exercises we did were relevant and extremely insightful. I will be using all of them! Probably the best CPD I've ever attended"
 - "I think this project is just what 21st Century education needs"
 - "An excellent and inspiring day, which was full of a variety of fun and interactive ideas which link directly to the syllabus"
 - Further quotes and more in-depth interviews are available on request.
- The Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank production of *Macbeth* is separate to the Globe's 2010 theatre season production of the same title. Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank's production will run between 1-12 March and the theatre season production of *Macbeth* will run between 23 April and 27 June.
- **The Shakespeare Globe Trust** is a registered charity No.266916. **The Globe receives no public subsidy.**