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// INTRODUCTION

In an unprecedented partnership, The Ohio State University and Great Britain’s Royal Shakespeare Company have brought Shakespeare to schoolchildren across Ohio and support internationally touring Royal Shakespeare Company productions to cities across the United States. The seven-year partnership has had a profound impact on the educational experiences of the children of the state of Ohio as evidenced in research and stories scattered throughout the report, and brought culturally significant productions to central Ohio and beyond!

Through sustained collaborative institution-to-institution activities, we have transformed the lives of K–12 teachers around the state of Ohio; enhanced the practices of our faculty, students and staff at The Ohio State University; and brought four tours for children to the United States with the Royal Shakespeare Company’s First Encounters with Shakespeare Tours. In a collaborative spirit, we partnered with the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) to lead the tour of the Royal Shakespeare Company’s Julius Caesar, and are providing support for its tour of King and Country: Shakespeare’s Great Cycle of Kings, the tetralogy including Richard II; Henry IV, Part I; Henry IV, Part II; and Henry V.

Join me in celebrating the first international Town and Gown partnership of its kind between an acclaimed research academic institution and an internationally recognized performing arts company made possible by a lead gift from The Abigail and Les Wexner Family Foundation, with additional support from organizations and individuals in Ohio and New York City. Because of their vision and support for the university and the state, the citizens of Ohio have experienced once-in-a-lifetime and unfettered access to the training, behind-the-scenes practices, and performances of one of the world’s most beloved performing arts companies.

Valarie Williams
Professor and Executive Director of The Arts Initiative
The Ohio State University
940,000+

PEOPLE
REACHED

through the Royal Shakespeare Company Partnership, which has brought national and international recognition to the State of Ohio and the City of Columbus and given learners the opportunity to experience Shakespeare’s dramatic genius.
over 15,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN affected in the classroom and by festivals over 7 years.
Over 100 Ohio k-12 teachers and many more faculty and students at Ohio State experience an intensive in-residence training at the Clore Learning Center at Royal Shakespeare Company’s Stratford-Upon-Avon campus. Through the week-long residency, they experience the Royal Shakespeare Company’s Stand Up for Shakespeare manifesto, which calls for students to: *Do Shakespeare on their Feet, See it Live, and Start it Early.*
“It is unbelievably amazing as I watch students — who consider school to be extremely hard — work with Shakespeare’s text and understand it. They have debates about why a character says or does things. They are challenged to have an opinion and be able to justify it. They beg to do Shakespeare! How many times does a teacher get to hear that?”

— Sandra Guinto
Ohio teacher and participant in the Ohio State University/Royal Shakespeare Company Partnership
103 OHIO TEACHERS TRAINED
SCHOLARS, SCHOOL CHILDREN, AND TEACHERS attended two festivals focused on Shakespeare, one in 2012 and one in 2015.

7 summer professional development residencies in Stratford-upon-Avon.
OVER 150 STUDIES OF SHAKESPEARE PLAYS

including *Hamlet; Romeo and Juliet; Othello; Macbeth; Taming of the Shrew; King Lear; Henry IV, Part I; Henry IV, Part II; Henry V*; and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

**51 Ohio State Students Trained in Stratford Residencies**

- **32** Department of Theatre MFA and PhD students
- **10** Students from the Department of Teaching and Learning
- **4** Students from the Department of English
- **3** Students from the Department of Arts Administration, Education and Policy
- **2** Undergraduate Shakespeare fellows from the Department of Theatre
over 1,900 Ohio State Students attended performances, classes, workshops and trips through the partnership.
STUDENT EXPERIENCES AND INVOLVEMENT

The lives of students at The Ohio State University are transformed on a daily basis through the access and educational experiences such as the Brooklyn Academy of Music student trip, in-residence professional development training at the RSC in Stratford-Upon-Avon, Ohio State classes, and workshops and public panels with actors and crew of the RSC.
“Throughout the Ohio State/RSC partnership, the department became familiar with the RSC’s ensemble building practice that is at the heart of their work. While the ensemble concept was generally inherent in our work as a department, the RSC brought the importance of ensemble to the forefront, and gave us new language and strategies for strengthening our own practice. We now see the concept of ensemble being implemented more and more in our classrooms by our faculty and graduate students, not just in performance classes, but in literature courses as well. Since 2009 the M.F.A. class of graduate actors has been recruited as an ensemble that works together for three years. Working with the RSC, immersing our acting students in the Stratford-upon Avon training sessions and exposing them to the principles at work in the Royal Shakespeare Company has proved invaluable to their ability to embrace the ensemble spirit.”

— Maureen Ryan
Associate Professor, Department of Theatre
CLASSES DEVELOPED AND TAUGHT

to over 590 Ohio State Students

Theatre 2100H
Introduction to Theatre

Theatre 3921S
Performance Studies in Outreach Theatre

English 4520
Shakespeare

English 4520.02
Shakespeare’s Henriad: History, Performance, Print

Theatre 5111
Advanced Directing

Theatre 5771.10
Strutting and Fretting Upon the Stage: 400 Years of Shakespeare in Production

Theatre 5798.01
Study Tour: Domestic

Theatre 5921
Performing and Teaching Shakespeare for the Actor: A Toolkit

Theatre 5922S
Shakespeare and Autism

Theatre 7704
Contemporary Theatre and Performance: Experimentation and New Media
over

200

OHIO STATE STUDENTS

toured to Brooklyn Academy of Music in April 2016, to view RSC performances.

PROJECTS INFLUENCED BY THE PARTNERSHIP

included *Shakespeare and Autism*, the Department of Theatre Annual Shakespeare Tour, and Dr. Sarah Neville’s class project of *Richard II*. 
“Our classroom has evolved from a place where the students used to look to me — their teacher — for all the answers, to a place where they look to each other or they look inside themselves to answer their questions.” — Jill Sampson, 8th grade teacher, Hilltonia Middle School
Over the first three years, The Ohio State University Department of Teaching and Learning conducted research on the effects of RSC-trained Shakespeare education in participating schools.
50% of the world’s children study Shakespeare
Two studies were conducted, one from 2009–2012 with a teacher leadership focus, and one from 2012–2015 with a teaching and performance focus. Over 3500 students from schools in Central Ohio were involved in these studies.
36 members of the RSC education team

- 18 Theatre MFA students
- 8 Graduate students across departments
- 3 Theatre Faculty
- 3 Education Faculty
- 2 Research Faculty in the Department of Education
- 2 English Faculty
Among elementary and middle school students, it was found that interest in Shakespeare was predictive of higher outcomes in reading and math achievement test scores. Additionally, students of teachers who participated in the Ohio State program scored significantly higher in student achievement on the nationally validated test in reading comprehension and vocabulary. Students who had more exposure to Shakespeare showed more positive attitudes towards Shakespeare and school in general and had more of a sense of belonging.

These studies showed a reversal in a longstanding trend of growing dissatisfaction with reading and a long held assumption that Shakespeare was no longer relevant to young people.
over
18,000
SCHOOL CHILDREN
attended performances from schools across the state.
Students around the state of Ohio, from Beaver Creek to Shelby, experience Shakespeare’s stories about conflict, relationships, growing-up, and how to become a leader, which transcend the test of time from generation to generation.
“Thank you for letting us come to the play I really enjoyed it. I was really excited to go. I was so excited I woke up at 3:00 wondering when school starts.”
— Sam, Summit STEM Elementary
Dear OSU,

Thank you for giving us free tickets to the play. My favorite character was Mistress Quickly. I also liked the part when his father was.

Love,

Henry
Dear Osu, thank you for letting us go to the play. It was awesome! I hope next year you will let us go again. Thank you. It was really nice of you to let us go. My favorite part was when we got to shoot the bow and arrows. Your friend, Samson.
First Encounters with Shakespeare for Younger Audiences

tours in the state of Ohio: Hamlet (2010), King Lear (2012),
Taming of the Shrew (2014), The Famous Victories of Henry V (2016)
“This collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company is truly exciting. It builds on the University’s tremendous strengths in the arts, brings a new cultural dimension to our community, and extends Ohio State’s creative work around the world. Sustaining the fine and performing arts and bringing human expression to the fore are among our great callings as a public university.”

— Gordon Gee
BRINGING NATIONAL RECOGNITION TO COLUMBUS

The Royal Shakespeare Company’s recognition of The Ohio State University as a critical component and partner in the RSC’s international touring positions Ohio State as a destination for the teaching, performance, and study of Shakespeare, and places Ohio State at the forefront of engaged scholarship.

In addition, Ohio State was the presenting sponsor of the Royal Shakespeare Company’s 6 week, 7 play residency at the Park Armory that Charles Isherwood of the New York Times called “the theatrical event of the summer.”
3 PRODUCTIONS TOURED THE US

Julius Caesar (in partnership with CAPA) in 2013; Antony and Cleopatra in 2014; and King and Country: Shakespeare’s Great Cycle of Kings in 2016 including: Richard II; Henry IV; Part I; Henry IV, Part II; and Henry V

7 ADVERTISEMENTS

promoting The Ohio State University / Royal Shakespeare Company Partnership

including advertisements on 12 New York City subway lines
CONFERENCES ATTENDED

- Reynoldsburg City Schools Professional Development Council, 2009–2016
- Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts, 2011–2016
- Briggs High School Feeder Pattern Professional Development, Columbus City Schools
- Worlds Together Conference at the Tate Museum
- Park Avenue Armory Shakespeare Conference
- Columbus City Schools Middle School Conference

PARTNER SCHOOLS

Alcott Elementary, Westerville
Ashland High School, Ashland
Baldwin Road Junior High School, Reynoldsburg
Baldwin Road Middle School, Reynoldsburg
Beavercreek High School, Dayton
Beechcroft High School, Columbus
Buckeye Valley High School, Delaware
Canal Winchester Middle School, Canal Winchester
Charles High School, The Graham Family of Schools Columbus
Cherrington Elementary School, Westerville
Columbus Downtown High School, Columbus
Dayton Horizon Academy, Dayton
Dominion Middle School, Columbus
Duxberry Park Elementary School, Columbus
Encore Academy, Reynoldsburg
Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center, Columbus
GEMS, The Graham Family of Schools Columbus
Graham School, The Graham Family of Schools Columbus
Hannah Ashton Middle School, Reynoldsburg
Hilliard Darby and Bradley High School, Hilliard
Hillsdale Middle School, Jeromesville
Hiltonia Middle School, Columbus
Horizon Academy, Columbus
Huber Ridge, Westerville
Indianola K-8, Columbus
Jackson Middle School, Grove City
Lexington High School, Lexington
Linden STEM Academy, Columbus
Linden-McKinley High School, Columbus
Madison-Comprehensive High School, Mansfield
Mansfield High School, Mansfield
Mansfield High School, Mansfield
Mansfield Foundation Academy, Mansfield
Mansfield Middle School, Mansfield
Metro High School, Columbus
New Albany High School, New Albany
Olentangy Orange High School, Olentangy
Pioneer Career Center, Shelby
Shelby High School, Shelby
Slate Ridge Elementary School, Reynoldsburg
South High School, Columbus
South Mifflin STEM, Columbus
St. Mary’s Memorial High School, Lima
Summit STEM Elementary, Reynoldsburg
Summit-Encore High School, Reynoldsburg
Taylor Road Elementary School, Reynoldsburg
The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University
The Ohio State University, Lima
The Ohio State University, Mansfield
Tremont Elementary, Upper Arlington
Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg
Wedgewood Middle School, Columbus
Windsor STEM Academy School, Columbus
Windsor STEM, Columbus
The Ohio State University/Royal Shakespeare Company Partnership is a non-profit community resource that relies on a variety of funding sources for its performances and programs. Our contributors’ support allows us to uphold our mission: to bring Shakespeare to schoolchildren across the state and boost efforts to promote the RSC’s Shakespeare productions around the world. The Arts Initiative gratefully acknowledges the following:

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