



Shakespeare & Scholé with Tim McIntosh Webinar Show Notes

Tim's Agenda

- **Thesis:** Well-meaning teachers suffocate Shakespeare's plays teaching them as if they were novels, instead we want to teach Shakespeare as a communal, immersive event
- **2 Main Goals Tonight:**
 - Emphasize the communal and performative approaches to teaching Shakespeare
 - Introduce how to implement a Shakespeare Showcase as a teaching tool
- **Q & A:** Below
- **Personal Announcements:**
 - 5-part course on teaching Shakespeare immersively with Tim McIntosh coming soon to ClassicalU
 - Curriculum in development with Renee Tay Matheny helping teachers train young people to perform recorded Shakespeare monologues for the purpose of entering contests for judges' feedback
 - Email scholegroups@classicalsubjects.com if you'd like to receive updates on this joint project



Background for Teacher

Why Shakespeare?

Shakespeare Strengths

- As a Dramatist & Classical Educator
- Incorporates all the classical disciplines into his plays: think elocution, rhetoric, logic, etc. Bound up in his characters.

Shakespeare Obstacles

- Students “hate” Shakespeare
- Super-imposing language
- He is taught as a novel rather than a play

Solutions

- Teach as a performative, communal event
- Perform before communities of audiences
- Overcome obstacle of boredom by “tricking students” and lowering barriers to getting them up on their feet and performing.

Preparatory Exercises: How to trick bored students

Exercises lower inhibitions - take your time practicing them with students so they can experience what Shakespeare’s language feels like on the tongue, on the breath & with their bodies

1. **Worst:** Perform a reading in the worst possible way imaginable. “Do great bad performances.” – Gets it out of their system
2. **Fastest:** Perform the fastest reading Of.All.Time!
3. **Melo-dramatic (the goal):** Go for the biggest and most melo-dramatic performance you can imagine!
4. **Highlight:** Afterwards, ask what made certain exercises so bad and what will make them so good instead.

Assessment Tool

Tool for moving absolute beginners to knowing what to do “on-stage”

1. **M – Meaning:** know the meanings of the words they are saying
2. **E – Enunciation:** whole face involved in the manufacturing of words
3. **B – Breath:** draw in from the abdomen rather than throat
4. **S – Stand:** Body in the “power position” hands at sides, body facing out, relaxed open shoulders, legs shoulder-width apart (NO crossed arms)

The Method: Shakespeare Showcase

Taking a class through a 6-week tour of performing assigned scenes

- Assign edited scenes from various plays or multiple (2+) scenes from one play
- Minimal actors required per scene
- Narrator introduces scenes and ties the selections together for the sake of the audience
- Look at it as a 6-week long rehearsal to memorize and perform lines
- Troubleshooting Tips: timestamp: 0:31:24
- Student soul transformation is a result ...guaranteed!
- Top 3 choices to perform: Macbeth, A Midsummer Night’s Dream & Julius Caesar



Q & A

Questions that were answered in the webinar

- What do Shakespeare components look like in community?
- How would you suggest including Shakespeare for younger to middle elementary ages?
- How would you design the experience if you are only meeting in community once a week with a limited number of students?
- What activities do you recommend to complement performing Shakespeare in community?
- What are your thoughts about confronting questionable content and language in a given play?
- What are the top 3 versatile plays to perform with students across the spectrum in either a play or showcase?

Resources Mentioned Tonight

*What other Scholé Group Directors are using
and helpful guides by Tim McIntosh & Renee Matheny*

Retellings:

[Tales from Shakespeare](#) by Charles & Mary Lamb

[The Shakespeare Story-Book](#) by Mary Macleod

[Shakespeare Kids: Performing his Plays, Speaking his Words](#) by Carole Cox

[Shakespeare for Young People](#) by Swan Books

[Shakespeare with Children: Six Scripts for Young Players](#) by Elizabeth Weinstein

Websites:

www.dramanotebook.com

[Read Aloud Revival](#) with Sarah Mackenzie

Other Community Resources:

[How To Teach Your Children Shakespeare](#) by Ken Ludwig

Projects by Tim & Renee:

[Shakespeare Showcase scripts: Tim's Treasure Trove](#)

[Shakespeare & Scholé Resources by Renee Tay Matheny](#)

Coming Soon: ClassicalU Shakespeare Course & curriculum development in the works

Where you can find Tim:

Hosts [The Play's The Thing](#) on the [Circe Podcast Network](#)

[Close Reads](#) podcast as a regular contributor

[Shaw and Chesterton by Tim McIntosh](#) (Circe Reader's Theatre performance- available for a limited time)

Where you can find Renee:

Reneematheny.com with links to her Old Oak Forest Blog and a FREE [Shakespeare Starter Kit](#)

[Scholé Groups Blog](#)