Information

Mr William Shakespeare's Plays



Meet the author and illustrator Marcia Williams.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Most importantly – I am a Patron of Shakespeare Week! I am also an author and illustrator with a variety of books to my name: novels, diaries, comic-strip retellings and histories. I have also created several retellings of Shakespeare's plays including *Mr William Shakespeare's Plays* and *Bravo, Mr William Shakespeare!*

Did you always want to be a writer and illustrator?

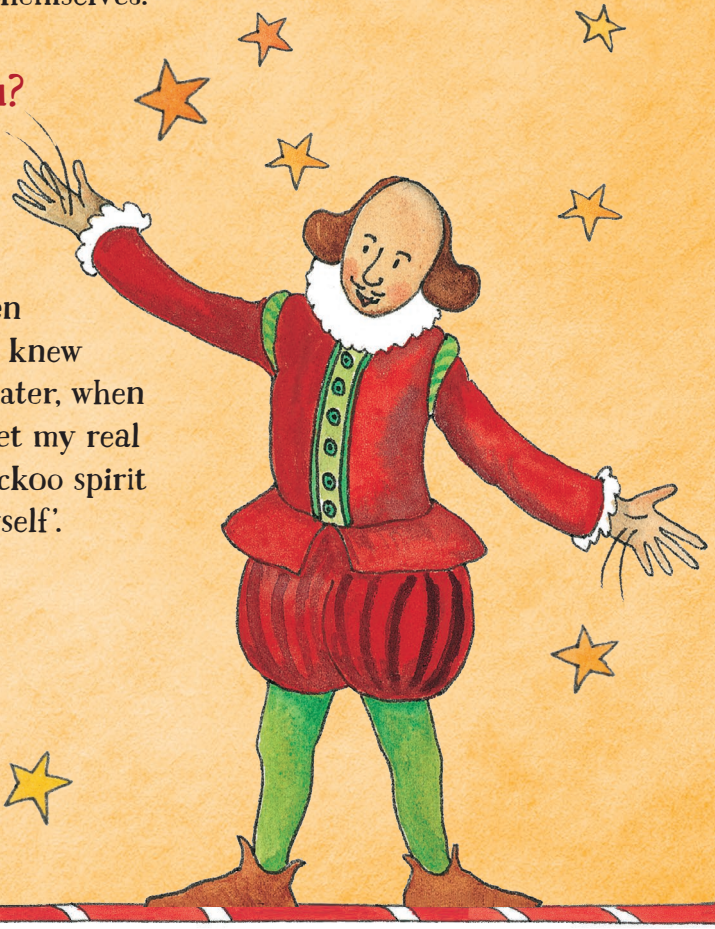
When I was at school I dreamed of being an actor. I loved art and writing, but my best friend was better than me at both of these things – I was better at acting! Anyway, life takes many twists and turns and I ended up writing and illustrating books and eventually, rewriting and illustrating Shakespeare's plays. As I began this process I suddenly realized that by creating comic-strip versions of his plays, with an audience, I was at last fulfilling my childhood dream: I had become an actor. Only it was better than that: I got to act all the parts, direct the play and be the costume designer – what could be more fun?

Do you have a favourite Shakespeare quote?

'To thine own self be true' is probably one of my favourite Shakespeare quotes because it reminds me of the importance, for our own wellbeing, of being true to ourselves and respecting other people's right to be true to themselves.

How does that quote relate to you?

When I was a child I didn't live with my birth parents and always felt like a cuckoo in a nest of sparrows. I knew inside that I wasn't a sparrow and never could be, because I was born with a cuckoo spirit – even though I wasn't entirely sure what that was, I knew it was different from a sparrow spirit. Years later, when I was an adult and had my own children, I met my real brothers and then I knew at once that my cuckoo spirit wasn't weird, but it was me being 'true to myself'.





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