

## SHAKESPEARE RESIDENTIAL COURSE

This is a timetable of events for which arrangements have been made by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Lunch and dinner will be at a place of your own choice. All classes will take place at Hall's Croft or Harvard House, Stratford-upon-Avon. All classes last approximately one hour unless listed otherwise.

This is a sample programme for reference only. Courses can be tailored to suit particular interests and different lengths of visit.

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### Day 1

Arrive Stratford upon Avon (own arrangements)

**Visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace** [approx. 1 hour]

### Day 2

**Welcome and introduction to Shakespeare in Stratford** [30 minutes]

**Shakespeare in Performance** talk by Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (SBT) lecturer [45 mins]

*This richly illustrated interactive talk explores the interpretative process of moving Shakespeare's plays from the page to the stage. Students explore a range of alternative interpretations and performance choices.*

Coffee/tea break [30 minutes]

**Pre-performance talk by SBT lecturer on the play being seen** [1 hour]

*Pre-performance lectures prepare groups to get the most out of seeing a play on stage. The lectures explore some of the challenges and theatrical opportunities presented by Shakespeare's texts, and groups are encouraged to look out for interpretive moments in a production. The talks set up ideas and issues to be discussed in the group post-performance discussion.*

Lunch - own arrangements

**Shakespeare in the Archives** [1 hour]

*A chance to put questions to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's archivists and librarians about caring for Shakespearian treasures, chaired by one of our lecturers. See up-close some of the rare and beautiful items relating to Shakespeare and his life in Stratford-upon-Avon, including items not normally seen except in exhibitions. Based on the unique holdings of the world-renowned library, archive and museum collections of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.*

**Visit to Shakespeare's New Place** [approx. 45 minutes]

**Evening performance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatres**

### Day 3

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**Group post-performance discussion led by an SBT lecturer on the play seen [1 hour]**

*These seminar sessions comprise an hour's chaired discussion in which students are encouraged to share their views on how the production watched rose to the challenges of the play. Students are all encouraged to participate and lively debates ensue.*

Coffee/tea break [30 minutes]

**Q&A with a member of the RSC's acting company on the play seen [1 hour]**

*Subject to availability Question and Answer sessions with a member of the acting company are chaired by one of SBT's lecturers. These sessions provide a unique insight into a production and take students behind the scenes into the world of professional theatre.*

Lunch - own arrangements

**Pre-performance talk by SBT lecturer on the play being seen [1 hour]**

**Music in Shakespeare's Theatre [1 hour]**

*This talk provides an introduction to the ways in which people thought about music in Shakespeare's time: from the magical effects of music on the natural world, to the "pop music" of Shakespeare's day, and the weird and wonderful instruments that were played. We then explore Shakespeare's uses of these contemporary approaches to music, including language, character and thematic choices as well as staging considerations and musical impact in performance. This talk features live demonstrations of songs and tunes from the period, and surviving music originally performed in Shakespeare's plays.*

Evening performance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatres

**Day 4**

**Group post-performance discussion led by an SBT lecturer on the play seen [1 hour]**

Coffee/tea break [30 minutes]

**Shakespeare's First Folio talk by SBT lecturer [1 hour]**

*This talk defines Shakespeare's First Folio in relation to other collected works editions of contemporaries such as Ben Jonson and John Fletcher. It takes a look at plays included in the First Folio for the first time as well as plays in which Shakespeare's hand has been detected but were not included in the Folio, offering possible explanations for their omissions. The talk then dives into the fascinating lives of contributors to the Folio, from Henry Condell to John Heminges to Martin Drouseout, and how the dramatis personae of this collection helped shape Shakespeare's legacy.*

Lunch - own arrangements

**'Shakespeare & Directing' workshop [2 hours]**

*This workshop takes groups through the early stages of rehearsing a play, from making interpretive decisions to considering placement on stage. From the dream to the detail we consider aspects of a director's involvement with a performance. Workshops will usually focus on a Shakespeare play to be seen during your visit, please discuss this at time of booking.*

Free Evening

**Day 5**

**A Who's Who of Shakespeare's Acting Company talk by SBT lecturer [1 hour]**

*What do we know about Shakespeare's fellow actors? Shakespeare worked with one acting company for most of his career, which meant that he wrote and performed with a tight-knit group of colleagues and friends who helped to shape the context and content of his plays. Find out more about the different members of this company, the Chamberlain's (and later the King's) Men: from the youngest apprentice performer to the star actor who played Hamlet, Othello and Richard III.*

Coffee/tea break [30 minutes]

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**Brand Shakespeare** seminar led by SBT lecturer [1 hour]

*Following a discussion about Shakespeare's place in heritage and popular culture today, students are invited to design and share thoughts about a new exhibition for Shakespeare's Birthplace. This session provides a good opportunity for reflection on all that has been learned, discovered and explored during the week.*

Free afternoon or time to **visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage** [a 25 minute signposted walk from the town centre]

**End of programme**

Depart Stratford-upon-Avon (own arrangements)

SAMPLE

