

Shakespeare for Novice/Beginner Actors

Information Doc

Location: Church Mews, Church Street, Cheltenham
(Behind The Bank House Pub on Clarence Street)

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 6pm - 7:30pm

Why Should I Do This Course?:

Do you feel intimidated by Shakespeare? Are you applying to Drama Schools and nervous about how to approach the classic text element? Are you studying Shakespeare and find it all a bit obtuse? Do you struggle with the rhythm and breathing of it all? Are you stepping into acting for the first time but nervous to audition for a Shakespeare play? Do you simply want to try something new?

This is the place for you!

I aim to demystify Shakespeare in a fun and engaging way, using a combination of studying and appreciating the text thoroughly and then throwing it away and having a go!

I was super nervous of Shakespeare when I first applied to Drama School. It was the bit I felt very intimidated and un-equipped for. Now it's one of my favourites and I have performed at The Cambridge Shakespeare Festival, done a summer run of open air As You Like It and a tour of Macbeth targeted at schools and run multiple Shakespeare workshops.

I don't profess to be an expert, but I have an understanding for bridging the gap between fear/intimidation into appreciation.

What do you need to bring:

1) Good energy! We are all being vulnerable in the space and sharing our work so being receptive and generous is a must.

That's it!

If you already have a favourite Shakespeare play or piece of text/sonnet, do bring it. We will be delving into 2 different plays over the course but I welcome students bringing a piece they are familiar with. (If you don't - don't worry!)

Accessibility:

Shakespeare is for everyone. If you have any accessibility needs, do get in touch and I will adapt to the best of my ability to your needs.

There is a wheelchair accessible entrance to the building from the car park directly into the Ground Floor space.

I will most likely be using the 1st floor space but I have access to the ground floor if accessibility is a requirement.

There are toilets and a kitchenette on all levels for tea, coffee and water.

What to expect on the day

Arrival:

The door to the front of the building is tricky to keep open, but there is a bell to ring and there will be someone in the entrance to welcome you and direct you where you need to go. It's always good to get here a bit early so you can get settled, have a chat and ground in the space, so we can move into the class as efficiently as possible.

The Course Itself:

I will always begin the class with a warm up. Vocal and Physical (I am always sure to check in about any physical needs and don't expect anyone to push beyond comfort/need).

Over the course we will look at 2 plays and everyone will do a monologue from one and a scene from another. I aim for everyone to get a chance to explore 2 different statuses (high vs low status) and emotional worlds. Many will be doing the same monologue/scene - I find it really useful to see multiple people working on the same text and seeing how different energy can influence our work.

We will apply different acting techniques and use games, movement, how props/costume can influence, and text work (breathing, punctuation, context of the play) to bring the pieces to life and give students the chance to explore different characters and enjoy the poetry of Shakespeare.

At the end of the course, I like to do a sharing, where students can invite friends/family to an informal performance of what we have been working on. I find it a lovely way to bring the course to a close and gather to see what we have been working on! It is entirely up to people if they want to share, but I highly encourage it.

Parking/Travel:

There is very limited free parking at the venue, only 3 spaces. So it's advisable to either request a reservation with me on a first come first served basis or come early enough to find parking nearby.

Most of the street parking is 2 hours free and then free after 6pm so street parking should be fine if you can find a space, but do **check the sign posting**.

There is also **paid parking** at the Royal Well car park and on the Promenade outside the Cheltenham Council buildings by Neptune Fountain.

Buses:

Royal Well Bus Station is a 4 minute walk to Church Street

Bus A - Clarence Street Stop 1 is right next to the Church Street entrance

Bus G - stops on Clarence Parade past the Royal Well Bus Stop

Train:

Cheltenham Spa Train Station is a 30 minute walk or you can get the E/D or G bus from the station.