



The World Shakespeare Festival

Date period:	07 June, 2012 - 15 June, 2012
Duration	9 Days
Activity level:	Introductory to Moderate
Location:	British Isles
Availability:	Single Twin
Tour type:	Specialised

Top 5 things we'll experience

1. Visit Shakespeare's Birthplace and Anne Hathaway's Cottage.
2. 3 performances by the Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as performances at the Globe at Regents Park Open Air Theatre.
3. Enjoy a Q&A session with a member of The Royal Shakespeare Company.
4. Enjoy exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of Shakespeare's Globe in London and the Memorial Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.
5. Illustrated lectures led by Professor Stanley Wells, C.B.E, renowned academics and theatre professionals.

About this tour

The World Shakespeare Festival will celebrate how the world performs, teaches and engages with Shakespeare. In collaboration the Roundhouse, the Barbican, the National Theatre, the BBC, and many other partners, we will celebrate Shakespeare as the world's playwright, showcasing the best of UK and international talent, exploring Shakespeare's place in the lives of young people and harnessing the energy and creativity of emerging artists and amateur companies.

Join us to celebrate Shakespeare as the world's playwright.

Program Leader

Frank Bladwell

Frank Bladwell graduated from The University of Sydney in 1962. He taught English and History at a range of city and country high schools, including Canterbury Boys, Yanco Agricultural, Kingsgrove North and Blakehurst, where he led the English Department from 1972-84. In 1974 he



Price

Twin: \$3,990.00 AUD

Single: \$4,840.00 AUD

returned to university for post-graduate study, completing a Master's degree in English, specialising in Australian Literature.

In 1985 he became Deputy-Principal at Glebe High School, and three years later was appointed Principal at Maroubra Junction High. Frank was a Rotary Exchange student in 1971 (based in Houston, Texas), and since then has been a frequent visitor to the United States, as well as travelling in England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Spain and Italy, Eastern Europe and Asia. Frank maintains a lively interest in world and local politics, and is an experienced theatre director and broadcaster, having interviewed several prominent Australian writers for educational radio.

Frank lives in Sydney, where he currently teaches Film Studies at St George Community College. He has escorted several of our very successful Odyssey Travel programs to Vietnam and Cambodia since 1999. He works extensively with groups from North America visiting Sydney and has also led our Emergence of the Baltic States and European Alpine Odyssey Programs. He has recently been busy leading Odyssey Ed-Ventures on the new British Heritage program, the Silk Road, and in South Africa and Namibia.

Inclusions

- 8 nights ensuite accommodation in Stratford and London.
- All breakfasts throughout the program and other meals as specified.
- Tickets to 3 performances by the Royal Shakespeare Company.
- Restricted View Tickets at the Globe for the press-night performance of Henry V.
- Two open air theatre performances at Regents Park.
- Touring by mix of comfortable air-conditioned coaches and public transport in London.
- All lectures, entry fees, guides and excursions as indicated.
- Services of a program leader.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Detailed preparatory information.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.

Exclusions

- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry
- International return economy class air travel from Australia/New Zealand.
- Departure taxes applicable to the standard itinerary.

Itinerary

Day 1

London to Stratford-Upon-Avon: Thu 7 Jun 12

We transfer by coach to The Arden in Stratford-Upon-Avon. Along the way, we will enjoy lunch in Windsor at a local restaurant before checking into our hotel. Today there will be an introductory lecture on "Insights into Shakespeare" as well as a program orientation by our Program Leader, Frank Bladwell followed by a welcome dinner at our hotel.

Accommodation

The Arden Hotel: Located in the heart of historic Stratford-upon-Avon, directly opposite the world-renowned Royal Shakespeare Company Theatres, has recently undergone a multi-million pound refurbishment to create an elegant and sophisticated 45-bedroom luxury hotel. The transformed Arden Hotel opened its doors in July 2010, and is fast becoming the flagship destination in the Stratford, enticing Shakespeare aficionados and theatre-goers from all over the globe. The beautifully renovated Arden boasts the chic new Waterside Brasserie, stylish Champagne Bar and spacious suites with fabulous views over the River Avon, providing an inspirational backdrop for your trip, whether business or pleasure

What you will experience

Guest Speakers in Stratford:

Stanley Wells, CBE, is Honorary President and Former Chairman of the Trustees of Shakespeare's Birthplace, Emeritus Professor of Shakespeare Studies of the University of Birmingham, and Honorary Emeritus Governor of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, of which he was for many years Vice-Chairman. He holds a Ph.D. of the University of Birmingham, is a Fellow of University College London, and holds honorary doctorates from Furman University, South Carolina, and from the Universities of Munich, Hull, Durham, Craiova, Marburg and Warwick. His books include *Literature and Drama*; *Royal Shakespeare: Studies of Four Major Productions at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre*; *Modernizing Shakespeare's spelling*; *Re-editing Shakespeare for the Modern Reader*; and *Shakespeare: the Poet and his Plays*. He edited *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard II*, and *The Comedy of Errors* for the New Penguin Shakespeare and *King Lear* for the Oxford Shakespeare. He was for nearly twenty years the editor of the annual Shakespeare Survey, and writes for the *New York Review of Books* and many other publications. He has edited *The New Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare Studies* and is General Editor (with Gary Taylor) of *The Complete Oxford Shakespeare* and co-author of *William Shakespeare: A Textual Companion*. His most recent books are *Shakespeare in the Theatre: An Anthology of Criticism*; *The Oxford Dictionary of Shakespeare*; *The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare* (edited with Michael Dobson); *Shakespeare For All Time*; *Looking for Sex in Shakespeare*; *Shakespeare's Sonnets and Coffee with Shakespeare*, both co-authored with Paul Edmondson, Shakespeare & Co., and *Is It True What they Say About Shakespeare?* His *Shakespeare, Sex, and Love* appeared from O U P in 2010. He is married to the writer Susan Hill and has two daughters.

Day 2

Stratford-Upon-Avon: Fri 8 Jun 12

After breakfast we enjoy a short walk to The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for our "Welcome & Introduction" to the course by Dr. Nick Walton. After our morning coffee break, we attend an illustrated lecture by Professor Stanley Wells, CBE on "Shakespeare, Man of the European Renaissance". Professor Stanley Wells, CBE is one of the world's leading experts on Shakespeare. Our buffet sandwich lunch will be hosted by staff of The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. We then join Dr Nick Walton for his illustrated lecture on "Julius Caesar and Richard III: A Stage History" followed by a visit to the Trust Treasures: Archive Display. After our tea break, we join Professor Stanley Wells CBE and Rev. Dr Paul Edmondson for an illustrated lecture on "The Authorship Debate" along with a book display and signing. There will be time to return to our hotel prior to the evening's performance. Tonight we attend the performance of *Julius Caesar*,

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, by The Royal Shakespeare Company. (There will an opportunity to purchase dinner prior to the performance - at own expense.)

What you will experience

Guest Speakers in Stratford:

Paul Edmondson MA, Ph.D. is Head of Knowledge & Research and Director of the Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival for The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. He is a trustee of The Rose Theatre Trust, co-series editor for Palgrave Macmillan's Shakespeare Handbooks, and co-supervisory editor of the Penguin Shakespeare (for which he has contributed to several introductions). He is Chair of The Hosking Houses Trust. His publications include: *Twelfth Night: A Guide to the Text and Its Theatrical Life*, and (co-authored with Stanley Wells), *Shakespeare's Sonnets and Coffee with Shakespeare*. He has published on Shakespeare's influence on the Brontes (Bronte Studies and Shakespeare Survey). He contributed an essay on the poetry of Marlowe and Shakespeare for *The Cambridge History of English Poetry* (May, 2010), and has just completed an essay on Harriet Walter for *Actors' Shakespeare* (Routledge, 2011). He wrote the script for The Shakespeare Centre's 'Life, Love, and Legacy' exhibition and co-curated 'Shakespeare Found: A Life Portrait'. He took another B.A. in Applied Theological Studies (University of Birmingham), 2007-2010 and was ordained deacon in The Church of England on 4 July.

Day 3

Stratford-Upon-Avon: Sat 9 Jun 12

After breakfast we walk to The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for our post-performance discussion of Julius Caesar, led by Dr. Nick Walton. After our coffee break, we will attend a Q&A Session with a member of The Royal Shakespeare Company, led by Dr. Nick Walton (subject to availability). Our afternoon activities include guided visits to Shakespeare's Birthplace & Exhibition, a backstage tour of The Royal Shakespeare Theatre and a visit to Anne Hathaway's Cottage. This evening we attend a Performance of Richard III by The Royal Shakespeare Company. (Lunch and dinner will be at own expense)

What you will experience

Guest Speakers in Stratford: Nick Walton MA, Ph.D is Shakespeare Courses Development Manager at The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. He obtained his MA and PhD from the Shakespeare Institute, and has taught at the University of Warwick. As Executive Secretary to the International Shakespeare Association he has helped organize two World Shakespeare Congresses, in Brisbane (2006) and Prague (2011). He regularly reviews Shakespearian productions, and he has written introductory material for the New Penguin editions of *Timon of Athens* and *Love's Labour's Lost*, as well as contributing a chapter on Glen Byam Shaw to the book *Director's Shakespeare*. In 2009 Nick recorded a stage history for the BBC's website based around the RSC's production of *Hamlet* starring David Tennant, and in 2010 he was invited to Boston to deliver lectures and workshops to run alongside the Actors' Shakespeare Project production of *Timon of Athens*. Nick regularly interviews actors and directors about their work, and he has performed in Shakespeare's plays on stage and screen.

Day 4

Stratford-Upon-Avon to London: Sun 10 Jun 12

After breakfast we transfer to The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for our post-performance discussion of Richard III, led by Dr. Nick Walton. We then transfer by coach to our accommodation in London. Today we will have free time to explore some of London's famous landmarks and popular attractions. Lunch and dinner will be at own expense.

Accommodation

Melia White House Hotel: Albany Street Regents Park London NW1 3UP

Having recently completed a major refurbishment programme, this famous London hotel was re-launched as one of London's leading 4 star deluxe hotels. The Meliá White House hotel is located next to London's popular Regent's Park and is within easy walking distance of Oxford Street and Piccadilly Circus. The hotel provides luxurious accommodation and a contemporary decor with the unique feeling of spaciousness, ideal for ensuring a relaxing stay. Rooms feature a long list of facilities including satellite television, radio, voice-mail, hair-dryer, tea/coffee making equipment, mini-bar & trouser press.

Day 5

London: Mon 11 Jun 12

We begin our private backstage life of the National Theatre (1hour and fifteen minutes). Knowledgeable and entertaining guides will lead us through the backstage areas of the three theatres, following in the footsteps of the greatest actors and directors of the last 35 years, and revealing the secrets that bring to life work on the stage. After the tour, there will be some free time to have a short break (lunch will be at your own expense). We return to the National Theatre to begin our "Directing" workshop (2 hours): Whether it's Nicholas Hytner, Bijan Sheibani or Katie Mitchell, the NT is home to directors with a wide range of different approaches in rehearsal and with different ideas of what the role of a director should be. What's involved? We investigate how directors at the NT work with plays, with actors and with others in a creative team to realise a production. We will have a chance to start thinking like a director, analysing a play and making decisions about how they would direct it.

We return This evening we will attend a performance of "Midsummer Night's Dream" at Regents Park Open Air Theatre. (There will an opportunity to purchase dinner prior to the performance at own expense)

Day 6

London: Tue 12 Jun 12

After breakfast we will have some free time to explore London. In the afternoon we transfer by public transport to the Globe Theatre for our "Welcome to the Globe Theatre & Theatre History Lecture" followed by a session led by a Globe Education Lecturer on "The Twelfth Night: The Text and it's Context". This evening we will attend a performance of the Twelfth Night to be held at the Roundhouse, by The Royal Shakespeare Company.

Day 7

London: Wed 13 Jun 12

We will have time to enjoy breakfast at the hotel before our visit to the Globe Theatre. Our classes today commence with a tour of the theatre with a Globe Education Practitioner. This is an exclusive tour is not available to the general public. We will visit Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition, enjoy a guided tour around the Rose archaeological remains and attend a lecture and demonstration on "Music Lecture and Demonstration". We will join a sell-out crowd of invited guests to the press-night performance Henry V, directed by Dominic Dromgoole, Artistic Director, Globe Theatre.

Day 8

London: Thu 14 Jun 12

After breakfast we will have free time in the morning to explore London. In the afternoon we travel by tube to Blackfriars where we begin our 2 hour guided Shakespeare Walk with Actor, Declan McHugh. This 2 hour leisurely walk

uncovers lesser-known monuments and locations in the city of London on the North bank of the Thames, with connections to Shakespeare's life, his friends, his loves and his work. This evening we will attend a performance of "Ragtime", at Queen Mary's Garden in Regent's Park. Prior to our open air theatre performance, we will enjoy a meal with a glass of wine and mineral water at the Dining Club, which includes reserved covered seating before the show and at the interval with food and drink pre-laid at our table.

Day 9

London: Thu 15 Jun 12

Our program concludes after breakfast today.

Extensions & Changes

If you wish to extend your stay, please contact one of our Educational Travel Advisers.

Itineraries may change if flight schedules, site availability, and other inclusions have to be amended prior to departure. Odyssey Travel will notify registrants if, and as soon as, such changes occur.