

manACTco

manchester actors company



**A GUIDE TO OUR
PROFESSIONAL
THEATRE PRESENTATIONS
ON TOUR TO
PRIMARY SCHOOLS,
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR
2024/2025**

**For the 2024/2025 Academic Year we are touring
With TWO CLASSIC SHOWS for Primary Schools**

TOURING FROM 1st OCTOBER 2024 TO 28th MARCH 2025:

**‘MACBETH’
for Keystage 2**

- William Shakespeare

Shakespeare’s dazzling action-and-adventure tragedy is dramatically brought to life, as we perform this tale of ambition, and the evils we will go to in order to get what we want.

TOURING FROM 7th NOVEMBER 2024 TO 28th MARCH 2025:

**‘A CHRISTMAS CAROL’
for Keystage 2**

- Charles Dickens

Dickens’ classic ghostly gothic tale of Christmas is vividly brought to life, with the tale of a bitter and despised old miser, Scrooge, and his transformation into a gentler, kindlier man after visitations by four ghosts on the night before Christmas.

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PRESENTATION IN SCHOOLS


We present a concise abridged version of the entire text of each book or play, concentrating on key scenes, speeches and incidents within each of the stories, and flowing seamlessly as a complete play in itself, and is not a series of individual, unconnected scenes. Each performance lasts 60 minutes, accurately capturing the drama and suspense of the text, and lifting the words off the page, enlivening the story, giving a voice to the characters, adding context to the scenes, and in turn creating a strong, lasting impact with the audience. This is a live theatre event in your school that will bring the story and characters vividly to life.

We use an ensemble of highly skilled professional actors, and we are well known for our energetic, well-acted, vigorous physical theatre performances where close attention is paid to the language, bringing each performance alive as a dynamic, well-acted, well-spoken display of theatre. We have an outstanding reputation for clear and accessible interpretations of these texts, in which the vitality of the words is complemented by bold staging and strong characterisation to bring the play alive for our young audiences..

After each performance we have a Q&A workshop, lasting a maximum of 30 minutes, which is a face-to-face interactive discussion, guided by our actors, where the young audience can ask any questions they may have to better understand the play. The session includes the opportunity to 'hot-seat' the main CHARACTERS, and is a unique opportunity for pupils to examine their contrasting personalities and motives, and help to explain/expand/explore the text farther. This session can also allow the audience to actively discuss the play with the actors and to examine the impact and meaning of different ways of performing and staging drama, and also understand the choices made for our presentation.

Our presentations are staged front-on to the audience, and we will perform in the school hall. We do not need the school to provide any special sound or lighting equipment, and we will bring everything we need with us. All of our performers have recently been DBS checked to Enhanced Level, and they will have their DBS certificates with them for inspection when they visit you. In advance of our visit you will receive a "Performance Information Pack" containing in-depth information about the presentation; background notes to the play; specific performance notes and a list of the scenes contained in our performance; as well as suggested post-performance activities for both teachers and pupils, to help maximise the impact of our performance long after our visit has ended.

TOURING FROM 1st OCTOBER 2024 TO 28th MARCH 2025



A WORKING GUIDE TO
MACBETH
FOR KEYSTAGE 2
by William Shakespeare



'MACBETH' for Keystage 2

- *William Shakespeare*

TOURING FROM 1st OCTOBER 2024 TO 28th MARCH 2025

“.....Something wicked this way comes.....”

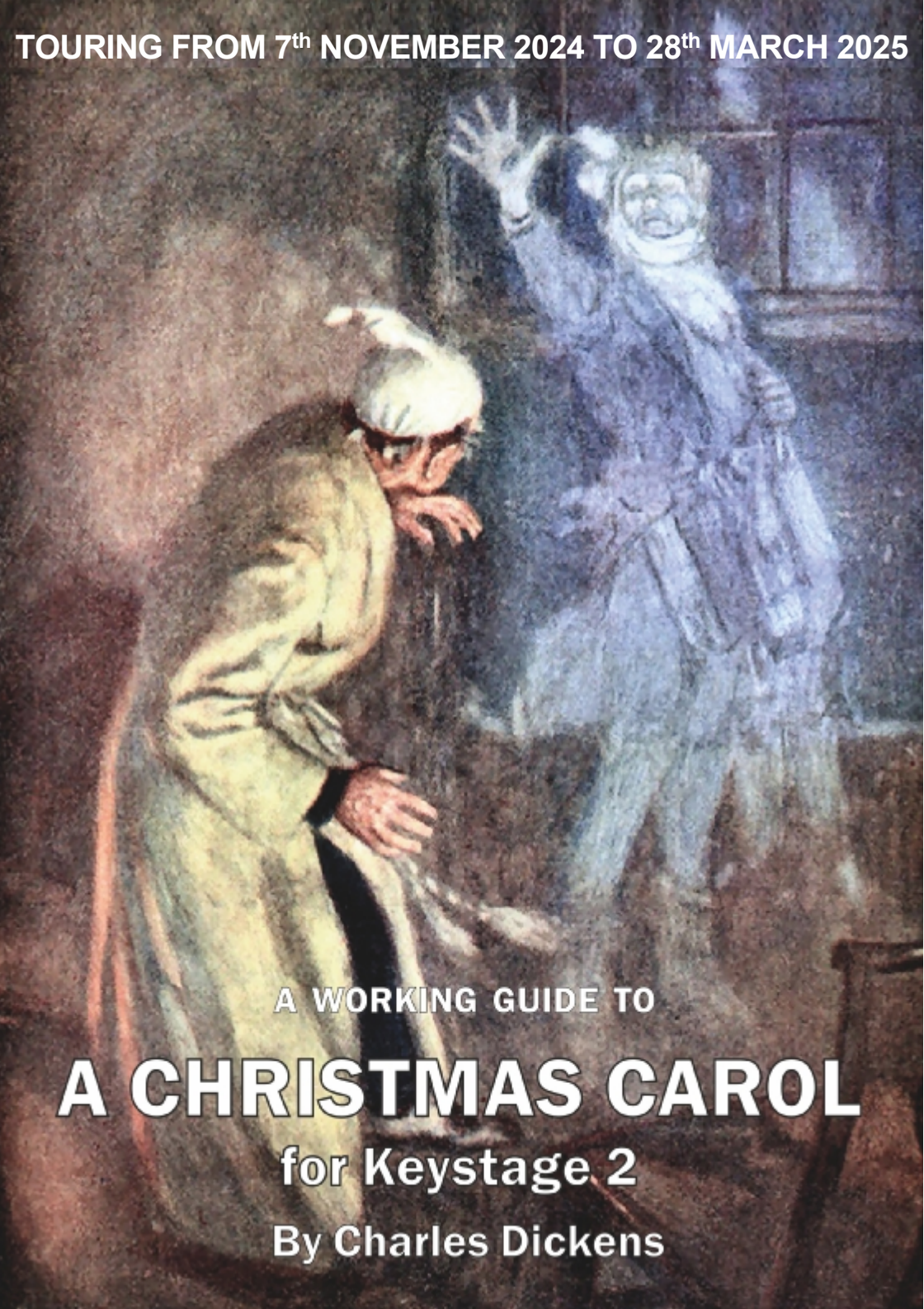
In early October we start touring with a brand new, sparkling Keystage 2 presentation of Shakespeare's dazzling action-and-adventure tragedy **MACBETH**, which has universal themes that can be understood in any culture and time: a bloodthirsty tale of ambition, and the evils we will go to in order to get what we want.....

MACBETH is Shakespeare's shortest, darkest, and bloodiest tragedy, and tells the story of an heroic Scottish general who receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and spurred to action by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan and takes the throne for himself.... But his reign is soon racked with guilt and paranoia, and he becomes a tyrannical ruler as he is forced to commit more and more murders to protect himself from enmity and suspicion. The bloodbath swiftly takes Macbeth and Lady Macbeth into realms of arrogance, madness, and death. The play dramatises the corroding psychological and political effects produced when its protagonist chooses evil as the way to fulfil his ambition for power. He commits regicide to become king and then furthers his moral descent with a reign of murderous terror to stay in power, eventually plunging the country into civil war. In the end he loses everything that gives meaning and purpose to his life, before losing life itself.

For this production we have created a clear, condensed, working guide to Shakespeare's dark tragedy. This is an abridged version of the entire story, concentrating on the key scenes, characters and confrontations, and flows seamlessly. Brace yourself for a spellbinding performance filled with witchcraft, ghostly apparitions, dark despair, and breathtaking sword fights. All the key scenes of this magnificent tale are included in our performance, and this detailed dramatic overview of the play will create a strong, lasting impact with Keystage 2 pupils; lifting the story off the pages, and bringing vividly to life the plot, the characters, and the themes of the corrupting power of unchecked ambition, use of the supernatural and superstition, and the guilt that sits like a permanent stain on the consciences of both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, one that hounds them to their graves.

Shakespeare's plays demand to be seen and heard, and felt, and our production of 'MACBETH' will allow Keystage 2 pupils to have a much greater understanding of this bloodthirsty tale of ambition and murder.

TOURING FROM 7th NOVEMBER 2024 TO 28th MARCH 2025



A WORKING GUIDE TO
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
for Keystage 2
By Charles Dickens

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' for Keystage 2

- Charles Dickens

TOURING FROM 7th NOVEMBER 2024 TO 28th MARCH 2025

"...no space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused!"

In November we start touring with our lively Keystage 2 presentation of Charles Dickens' most famous novella '**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**' which will vividly bring to life the stream of larger-than-life characters, ghostly apparitions, and incredible incidents that makes this atmospheric ghostly tale at Christmas so compelling to watch, and such a wonderful theatrical experience for your students to enjoy....

It's a bitterly cold, bleak, Christmas Eve and the old miser Scrooge is in his counting house, hard at work, untouched by the Christmas spirit out on the streets. Scrooge hates Christmas ('Humbug!' He calls it). "Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!" It was observed. Condemned forever to be seen as hard and sharp as flint.... Yet here starts the story of this bitter old miser and his spiritual transformation into a gentler, kindlier man after visitations on the night before Christmas of the ghost of his former business partner, Jacob Marley, and also the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Yet to Come. There is high drama, great sadness, despair and regret, but also some comedy, warmth and, ultimately, great joy, as Scrooge endures his epiphany. The parade of ghosts brutally show him the error of his ways, just in time for his joyous redemption on Christmas Day.

For our latest production of 'A Christmas Carol for Keystage 2' we have created a clear, condensed working guide to Dickens' famous novella, aimed particularly at Keystage 2 pupils. This is an abridged version of the entire story, and includes all of the key scenes, characters, confrontations and original dialogue, and flows seamlessly, creating a strong, lasting impact with the audience. Beautifully drawn Dickensian characters are brought vividly to life by our professional actors, and this fantastic ghostly tale unfolds out of the gothic gloom in a way that will delight everyone who watches. The plot and characters are lifted off the page, and so too the themes of the need for charity, the Christian concept of redemption, and the requirement for personal moral conscience.

Our performance is very tight and compelling, and packs quite an emotional punch for the young audience: accurately capturing the tense drama of Dickens' original novella, which was created primarily to shock the public into positive action against Want and Ignorance.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who are these shows suitable for?

These presentations are devised specifically for Keystage 2 pupils at Primary School, and are suitable for all school children in years 3,4,5 and 6.

Do you have a limit to the numbers in the audience?

We have an upper limit of 200 to the number in the audience. Experience has shown that with any more in attendance then the presentation loses its impact for everyone watching.

What space and equipment do you need the school to provide?

We will perform in the School Hall. The performances are presented front-on to the audience. If there is a stage available then we will use that as a preference; otherwise we will perform on the floor and we will arrange the audience to be sat on 3 sides of the performance area. We DO NOT need the school to provide any special lighting or sound equipment, and we will bring everything we need with us. There is no set nor lighting equipment to erect. Set up time is approx. 25 minutes and, for safeguarding reasons, we would need the space to ourselves for this preparation.

What are the timings of our visit?

We can perform either a morning or afternoon session. Our morning presentations usually start at 9.15am (finishing at 10.45am), and our afternoon shows usually start at 1.30pm (finishing at 3.00pm). Our actors will aim to arrive with you no later than 35 minutes before the agreed start time, leaving them time to sign in at reception and then set up ready for the presentation, which will last a maximum of 90 minutes. Once completed, our group will take an average of 15 minutes to pack up and leave the premises.

What can we expect from the presentation?

Each presentation lasts a maximum of **90 MINUTES**. The performance is a **WORKING GUIDE** to the text and lasts (approx) **60 MINUTES**, and is a concise, abridged version of the entire story, performed by our ensemble of talented, professional actors. Concentrating on key scenes, characters and confrontations, each play flows seamlessly, and our detailed dramatic overview of these compelling stories is constructed to create a strong, lasting impact with pupils, to bring the plot, characters, and themes vividly to life. Each performance is designed to capture the high drama and tension of the original text. We are well known for our energetic, vigorous, physical theatre performances where close attention is paid to the language, bringing the performance **ALIVE** as a dynamic, well-spoken display of theatre.

Each performance will have a strong and lasting impact on anyone studying these stories, and will vividly bring the text to life, lifting the words from the page, and giving a voice to the sparkling dialogue. Immediately following the performance there is an **INTERACTIVE Q&A SESSION** (lasting a maximum of 30 minutes). The whole presentation will last a full 90 minutes.

What can we expect from the Q&A session?

The Q&A session is a discussion guided by our actors, where the audience are encouraged to talk directly to the fascinating CHARACTERS in the play by 'hot-seating' them, and asking any questions they may have. This is a unique opportunity for pupils to examine the characters' personalities and motives, and helps to explain/expand and explore the text much farther. This allows the audience to better understand the motives of the main characters, and to clarify any parts of the story that they may otherwise not fully understand. The session will also allow Keystage 2 pupils the opportunity to discuss with the actors how the drama is created and also the impact and meaning of the different ways of performing and staging drama, and to examine the choices made by the actors and director for our presentation.

Are your actors all DBS checked?

Yes, they are all recently DBS checked to ENHANCED LEVEL, and are instructed to have their DBS certificates and some form of Photo-ID with them for inspection when they visit you.

Do you provide resource material to accompany the presentation?

In advance of our visit to you we will Email you with access to a 'PERFORMANCE INFORMATION PACK' for you to print. This pack maximises the impact of our visit: containing interesting background information to the play; a full list of the scenes included in our performance on the day; individual character profiles; a detailed analysis of the story; and some suggested follow-on activities for teachers and pupils to use after our visit has ended. This pack adds real value to our visit on the day, and has proven to be very popular with teachers.

How does this presentation help our audiences?

A live performance of a printed text has a great impact on learning, and stays in the pupils' minds long after we have left the school. Our show is designed to concisely lift the words off the written page and bring the text vividly to life, giving voice, context, substance and character to the words, making it easier to understand the plot, characters, themes, language and style of the stories, whilst the Q&A workshop after the performance allows the audience the chance to unlock the story even more by quizzing the characters and examining their motives.



CONTACT US

We are taking bookings NOW for ALL of our 2024/2025 presentations. If you would like to make a booking, receive a price quote, or get more information about any of our shows, then please contact us as early as you can, before all the dates have been taken.

EMAIL us on:

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OR

TELEPHONE us on:

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and speak to BRIAN

