



# **manACTco**

**manchester actors company**

**A GUIDE TO OUR  
PROFESSIONAL  
THEATRE PRESENTATIONS  
ON TOUR TO  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS,  
ACADEMIES AND COLLEGES  
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR**

**2025/2026**

**For the 2025/2026 Academic Year we are touring  
With THREE CLASSIC SHOWS for schools,  
To BRING ALIVE the texts you are studying in English**

**TOURING FROM 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 TO 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025:**

## **‘A CHRISTMAS CAROL’**

Charles 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.

**TOURING FROM 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 TO 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2026:**

## **‘MACBETH’**

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

**TOURING FROM 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 TO 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2026:**

## **‘ROMEO & JULIET’**

William Shakespeare’s enduring classic tragic romance contains some of the most beautiful and lyrical love poetry, as this romance is played out against a background of gang warfare and violent street fighting

## **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 an optional Q&A session, lasting a maximum of 30 minutes, which is a face-to-face interactive discussion, guided by our actors, where the 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 students 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 can use either the school hall, school theatre, sports hall or drama studio. 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 students, to help maximise the impact of our performance long after our visit has ended.

# **'A CHRISTMAS CAROL'** - Charles Dickens

**TOURING FROM 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 TO 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

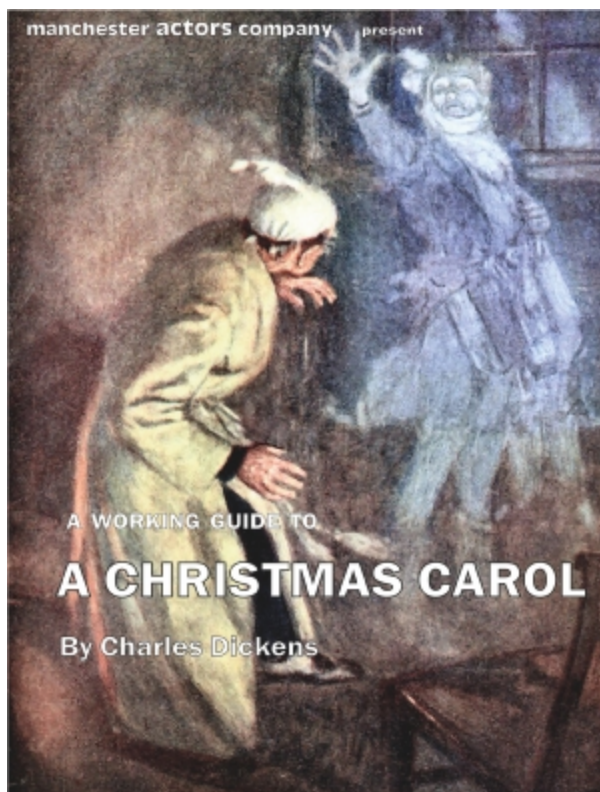
*"....no space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused!"*

In November we start touring with our latest lively 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' we have created a clear, condensed working guide to Dickens' famous novella, aimed particularly at students studying this story as part of their GCSE English course. 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 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.

### **A FEW RECENT TESTIMONIALS:**

*"....Both Year 11 and Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed the performances. The staff said it was simply superb, and we will certainly be using you again. We will, without doubt, highly recommend the company to others. The cast were amazing and so full of energy, their story telling and singing was first class..."* Standish Community High, Wigan

*"...the performance was wonderful as ever and the actors were great. The cohort clearly gained a lot from watching the production and I am sure that we will want to book you again for next year. Thank you again for bringing Christmas joy to the school with your fantastic performance...."*  
Huddersfield Grammar School

*".....The performance was excellent and the actors were really engaging. I feel the students got a lot out of the performance and it really helped prepare them for their assessment by seeing the text live in action. Thank you for a wonderful show...."* Range High School, Formby

*".....I feel that Matt, playing Scrooge, needs a special mention. He absolutely drew the audience into his performance from the first moment. He was totally engaging - that central performance matters so much, and he was funny and sympathetic and they couldn't take their eyes off him. Thank you! And a Merry Christmas to you all.....!"* Broadoak School, Urmston, Manchester

*".....we thoroughly enjoyed the performance and the actors were a highly skilled and professional....Students and staff were fully engaged by the performance and found the adaptation of A Christmas Carol interesting and well executed. During the Q&A our English dept posed some challenging questions, that linked to the literacy GCSE - the actors were able to competently answer these, providing an interesting viewpoint for students to consider for their own exam responses....."*  
St. John Bosco Arts College, Liverpool

# 'MACBETH' - William Shakespeare

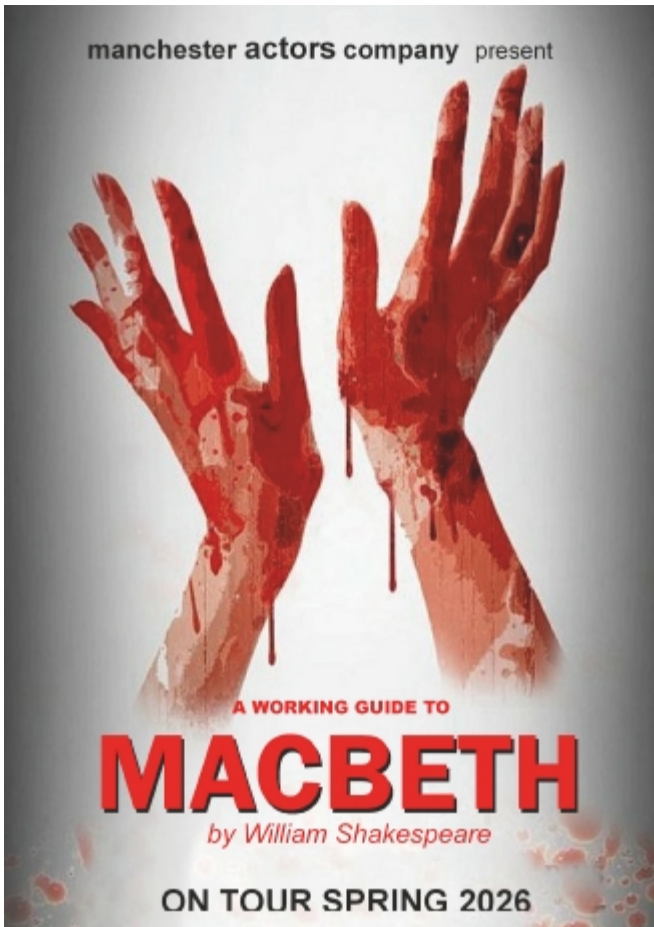
TOURING FROM 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 TO 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2026

*".....Something wicked this way comes...."*

In mid-January 2026 we start touring with a brand new, sparkling 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, aimed particularly at those studying 'MACBETH' as part of their English course. 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 students; 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 experienced, and our production of 'MACBETH' will allow students of this play to have a much greater understanding of this bloodthirsty tale of ambition and murder.

### **A FEW RECENT TESTIMONIALS:**

*"...Our students really enjoyed the performance! They had a much better understanding of 'Macbeth' after they'd seen it staged. ... I'm certain we'll be making a booking again with you next year....!"* Holmfirth High School.

*"....All went really well with 'Macbeth', and the actors were BRILLIANT! Thank you so much for this....."* Woodchurch High School, Wirral

*"..... Our Y10 students absolutely loved the performance of Macbeth! We will definitely be looking to book again for the future....."*  
Moor End Academy, Huddersfield.

*"..... Once again, we really enjoyed having your company in to perform 'Macbeth' at our school. The actors were excellent and the performance was really engaging for everyone, and I know the students got a lot out of it....."*  
St. Augustines's RC High, Clitheroe

*"..... Just wanted to say a huge thank you for your performance of 'Macbeth' today. The actors were stunning; the hour-long length is just perfect, and the key scenes are ideal for the students. Many of them left discussing the play and the different quotations and scenes....."* Mount Carmel RC High, Accrington

*"..... A fantastic presentation of 'Macbeth', full of drama and energy, and a lovely cast! A great Q&A at the end and it was lovely to see our pupils so involved with the presentation. Plenty of really positive feedback from staff and pupils....."*  
St. John Fisher Catholic High, Wigan



# **'ROMEO & JULIET'** - William Shakespeare

**TOURING FROM 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 TO 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2026**

*".....These violent delights have violent ends...."*

In late February 2026 we are returning with our latest presentation of William Shakespeare's enduring classic tragic romance **'ROMEO AND JULIET'**, which contains some of Shakespeare's most beautiful and lyrical love poetry, and some of his best-loved characters. The romance is played out against a background of gang-warfare and street-fighting as the bitter long feud between the Montague and Capulet families disrupts the city of Verona, and causes tragic results for the young lovers, Romeo and Juliet. Revenge, love, and a secret marriage force the young star-crossed lovers to grow up quickly, and fate causes them to commit suicide in despair.

ROMEO AND JULIET is probably Shakespeare's most famous play, set against a long history of family feuding between the Montagues and the

Capulets, and when Romeo Montague falls hopelessly in love with Juliet Capulet, from the very beginning fate has decided that the two of them are doomed.... The couple have a feeling that things will go badly for them: Romeo thinks something is 'hanging in the stars', whilst Juliet says a 'faint cold fear thrills through my veins'. They believe their love can conquer their families' hate, but it is proven to be too fragile, and because of their ill-fated star-crossed love a series of events, both comic and tragic, unfolds in a very short space of time as true love leads to tragedy. The play explores love either as spiritual friendships, or the romantic love between the main characters, but





entwined within the love is death, conflict, loyalty, and fate.... for fate has badly treated the lovers and their brief affair.

For our presentation we focus throughout on the two main protagonists, concentrating on key scenes, characters and confrontations, and flows seamlessly. This dramatic overview of the text will create a strong, lasting impact with students; and brings the plot, the characters, and the themes of love, fate and death vividly to life. The presentation packs an emotional punch: accurately capturing the tense drama of the play, which explores the effect that fate plays in all our lives. Our version will have a strong and lasting impact on anyone studying this great play, and will bring the text vividly to life. After the performance, the audience will have the opportunity to 'hotseat' any of the fascinating characters in our performance, and ask any questions they may have to expand their awareness of the motives of the characters, and to have a greater understanding of this classic story of intense, ill-fated teenage love.

### **A FEW RECENT TESTIMONIALS:**

*".....Both performances of 'R&J' were fantastic. The students thought it was a really good performance and they have been discussing why certain sections of the play were not used or just talked about as well as what was used. They loved the comic element of the nurse and thought that that added some light relief to quite a heavy play. The actors were really lovely and brought the play to life....."*  
Crofton Academy, Wakefield

*".....Our Y8s loved 'Romeo & Juliet'. They were so engaged throughout and had the confidence to ask loads of questions in the Q&A that we squeezed in. We have had lots of positive feedback from the students and staff who watched it....."*  
Co-op Failsworth Academy, Manchester

*"... Romeo & Juliet was fantastic. Certainly something we would book again next year for Y8. The students thoroughly enjoyed it. Well done to everyone!.."*  
Droylsden Academy, Manchester

*"..... The pupils thoroughly enjoyed both performances of 'Romeo & Juliet' and they asked lots of questions! Year 7 were particularly engrossed and greatly enjoyed the QandA. Ofsted arrived unexpectedly that morning and caught part of the performance, so it was great to be able to show the fantastic experiences that we offer our pupils....."* Pensby High School, Heswall

*".....We were very impressed by the performance of R&J, and the professionalism of the actors, bringing the play to life, and adding a touch of comedy with the nurse. The pupils' very much enjoyed the performance and even though they were reluctant to ask questions, the performers really impressed me with their ideas and interaction with the pupils, helping them to think and open up a bit more.... A lovely presentation of R&J..."* Dean Trust, Wigan.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Who are these shows suitable for?**

All of our presentations are extremely useful for those studying the texts as part of their English Literature course, but ALL students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11 at Keystage 3 or Keystage 4 will find these presentations extremely helpful. They are also suitable for 'A' level English, 'A' level Theatre Studies, and Performing Arts students.

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

We have an upper limit of 280 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 can use either the School Hall, School Theatre, Drama Studio or Sports Hall. All performances are presented front-on to the audience. If there is a stage then we will use that as a preference; otherwise we will perform on the floor and - if the seating is not fixed - we will arrange the seating to be on 3 sides of the performance area whenever possible. 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 can start at any time from 8.45am through to 9.30am (latest), and our afternoon shows can start at any time from 1.15pm through to 2.00pm (latest). Our actors will aim to arrive with you no later than 45 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 students, 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 optional **INTERACTIVE Q&A SESSION** (lasting a maximum of 30 minutes) where the audience can discuss the performance with the actors to enhance their understanding of the text. The whole presentation can last a maximum of 90 minutes.

### **What can we expect from the Q&A session?**

The optional 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 students to examine the characters' contrasting personalities and motives, and helps to explain/expand and explore the text much farther. This allows students 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 students 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 a confirmation of timings, and will also include 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 students 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 both teachers and students.

### **How does this presentation help our audiences?**

A live performance of a printed text has a great impact on learning, and stays in the students' minds long after we have left the school. Our presentation 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 session 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 2025/2026 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:**

**[brian@manactco.org.uk](mailto:brian@manactco.org.uk)**

**OR**

**TELEPHONE us on:**

**0161 445 8477**

**and speak to BRIAN**