

manACTco

manchester actors company

**A GUIDE TO OUR PROFESSIONAL
THEATRE PRESENTATIONS
ON TOUR TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS,
ACADEMIES AND COLLEGES,
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR
2026/2027**

**For the 2026/2027 Academic Year we are touring
With THREE SPELLBINDING SHOWS for schools,
To BRING ALIVE the texts you are studying in English**

TOURING FROM 10th NOVEMBER 2026 TO 30th APRIL 2027:

‘MACBETH’

- William Shakespeare

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 10th NOVEMBER 2026 TO 5th FEBRUARY 2027:

‘A CHRISTMAS CAROL’

- Charles Dickens

The most famous Christmas story is vividly brought to life, with the tale of a bitter old miser, Scrooge, and his transformation into a gentler, kindlier man after visitations by four ghosts on the night before Christmas.

TOURING FROM 23rd FEBRUARY 2027 TO 30th APRIL 2027:

‘AN INSPECTOR CALLS’

- J.B. Priestley

This is a WORKING GUIDE to Priestley’s tense, haunting drama and given an exciting presentation as this famous play explores the way in which class, age and gender impact on people’s attitudes to prejudice and responsibility.

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PRESENTATION IN SCHOOLS

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

We use an ensemble of 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 30-minute Q&A session: a face-to-face interactive discussion, guided by our actors, where the audience can talk directly to the characters and ask any questions they may have to better understand the story. This is a unique opportunity for students to examine the characters' contrasting personalities and motives, and help to explain/expand/explore the text farther. It also allows 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 examine the choices made for our presentation. This session can be tailored to specifically meet your needs, and we can direct this session into pre-determined specific areas of discussion.

The presentations are staged front-on to the audience. We will use either the school hall, school theatre 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.

manchester actors company present:

THE TRAGEDY OF
MACBETH

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

'MACBETH' - William Shakespeare

TOURING FROM 10th NOVEMBER 2026 TO 30th APRIL 2027

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

We start touring 2026/2027 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 energetic production of 'MACBETH' will allow your students of this play to have a much greater understanding of this bloodthirsty tale of ambition, betrayal, deception, and murder.....

manchester actors company present:

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



CHARLES DICKENS

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' - Charles Dickens

TOURING FROM 10th NOVEMBER 2026 TO 5th FEBRUARY 2027

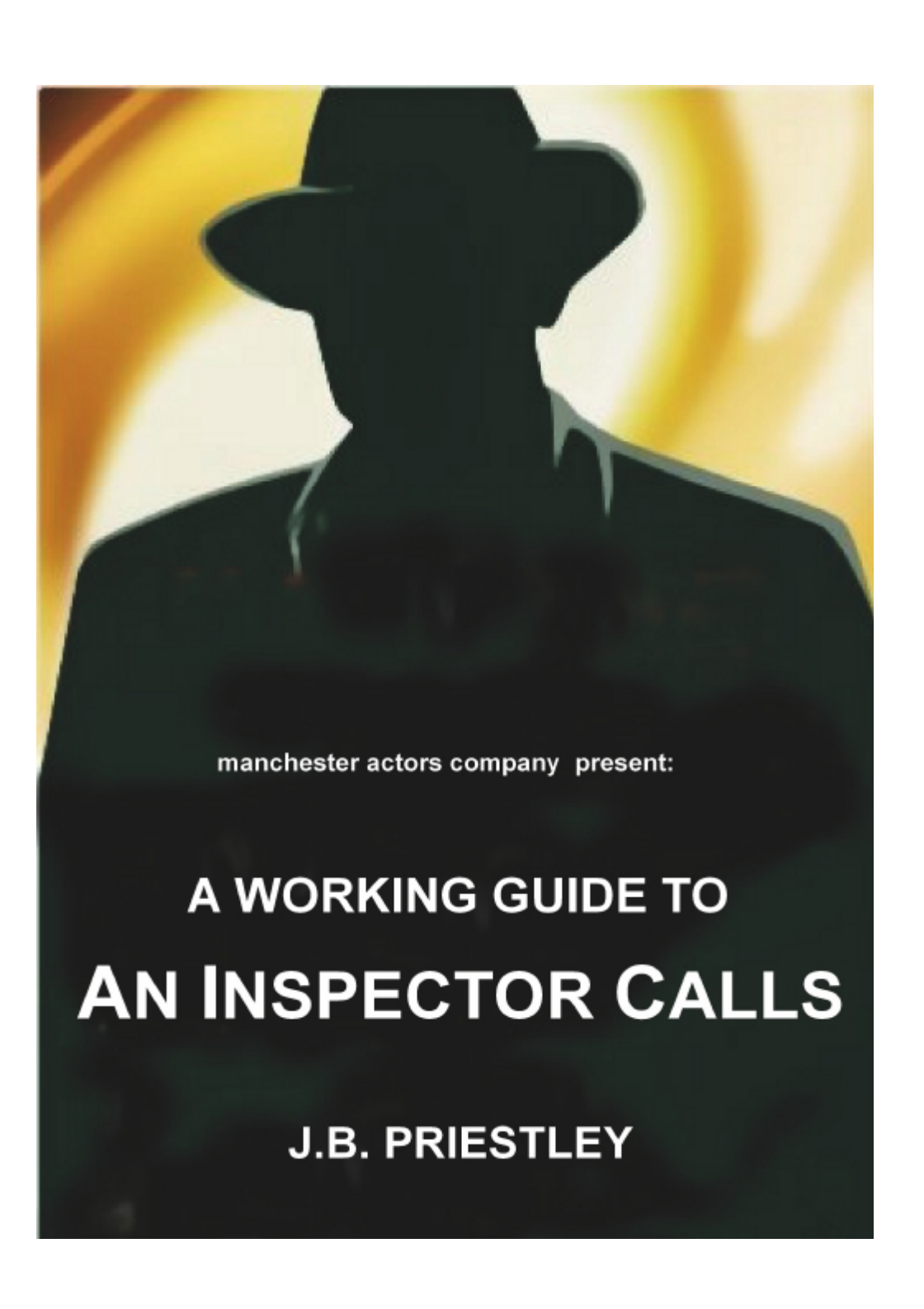
"...no space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused!"

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 by many, who had condemned him 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.

The image features a dark silhouette of a man wearing a suit jacket, a white shirt, a tie, and a fedora hat. The silhouette is set against a background of soft, glowing yellow and orange light, possibly representing a sunset or a bright light source. The overall mood is mysterious and classic.

manchester actors company present:

**A WORKING GUIDE TO
AN INSPECTOR CALLS**

J.B. PRIESTLEY

'AN INSPECTOR CALLS' - J.B. Priestley

TOURING FROM 23rd FEBRUARY 2027 TO 30th APRIL 2027

"...We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for one another....."

In the Spring of 2027 we will be touring schools with our brand new stage presentation of '**A WORKING GUIDE TO AN INSPECTOR CALLS**', J.B. Priestley's tense, haunting drama which examines the theme of responsibility, exploring the way that class, age and sex impact on people's attitudes to responsibility, and shows how prejudice can prevent people from acting responsibly.

It starts with the Birling family spending a happy, self-satisfied evening celebrating the engagement of Sheila Birling to Gerald Croft - a marriage that will result in the merging of two successful local businesses. Yet, just when everything seems to be going so well, they receive a surprise visit from an Inspector Goole who is investigating the suicide of a young woman, Eva Smith. At first, the family deny any involvement - but gradually they are all implicated in her exploitation, abandonment and social ruin, effectively leading to her death. How? In this unique psychological thriller there are shocking twists and turns for both the characters and the audience - right up to the very final moments!

For this **WORKING GUIDE** to this famous play we have created a much-acclaimed, clear, condensed, working guide to Priestley's play aimed particularly at students reading 'An Inspector Calls' as part of GCSE English course. This is an abridged version of the entire play, concentrating on key scenes, characters and confrontations, and flows seamlessly. This detailed Working Guide is a dramatic overview of the whole play and will create a strong, lasting impact with students; bringing the plot, the characters, and the twin themes of responsibility and class vividly to life. The whole 60 minute performance is crammed with tension, and is extremely tight and compelling, packing quite an emotional punch: accurately capturing the tension that the mysterious Inspector creates with his unexpected questioning of the Birling household.

This is one of the classic plays of mid-20th century English theatre, and a call to action for English society to take more responsibility for working class people. Performed by our talented ensemble of professional actors, this production will have a strong and lasting impact on anyone studying this acclaimed play, and will bring the text remarkably to life for the audience.....

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.

RISK ASSESSMENT & SAFEGUARDING

SAFER RECRUITMENT:

We can confirm that MANACTCO complies fully with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) code of practice and safer recruitment requirements, along with additional expectations to include a satisfactory Enhanced DBS check; Identity check; 'Right To Work in the UK' check;; and further checks on individuals who have lived or worked abroad. MANACTCO strictly adhere to a policy and procedure on vetting of performers, which ensures that all persons working with children or vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted.

GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT:

The performers will bring with them bags containing soft costumes and small props, but we do NOT use scenery, lighting rigs, or any equipment whatsoever. During set-up we have requested that we have the performance space to ourselves for preparation, therefore no children should be in the performance hall whilst we are setting up. It is important that this is adhered to. By the time we are ready to allow the audience into the performance space all the preparations will be complete without any risk to the children. Please note that MANACTCO (Manchester Actors Company) is NOT responsible for the supervision of your children at any time; therefore your school must ensure that there is sufficient supervision throughout the performance, and that the performance hall is clear of children before and after the session.

SAFEGUARDING:

It is extremely important that both your children and our performers are safeguarded during our visit to your school, and to this end it is important that at all times our performers have as little direct contact as possible with your children. Any such contact should AT ALL TIMES be supervised by a school member of staff. Children must not be allowed to be left unattended with our performers. Once our group have arrived at school and signed in at reception, they should be escorted to the performance area as quickly as possible, and not left unattended in your school reception area for any length of time. During the setting up period we request that we have the performance space to ourselves for preparation, and that NO children, and a minimum of staff, should be in the performance hall whilst we are setting up. We request that school staff are responsible for ensuring that the audience is seated correctly, and that our performers will not be involved in seating the audience at any time. For health and safety reasons our performers will keep their distance from the audience throughout the performance and the Q&A session that follows. Once the presentation is complete, children often like to have a quick chat with the performers, but this can only be allowed if closely supervised by a school staff member.

Once the performance hall has been cleared of all children, then our performers will start to pack away costumes and props, and prepare to leave the school premises. We request that a member of the school staff remains behind to safely escort our group back to the school reception and off the school premises.

RECENT TESTIMONIALS

".....Our students really enjoyed this performance and thought it was a great experience. The QA session was also really purposeful with the actors giving pupils key tips on how to remember the lines! We only wished it was longer- but a perfect experience. Many thanks for the actors, who were lovely. We're really looking forward to Macbeth in the Spring!....."

Katie Woolston, Head of English, Parkwood Academy, Sheffield

".....I book 'A Christmas Carol' in as a bit of an end of year treat and sometimes I wonder why I bother, but this time it was just a positive and pleasurable experience for all concerned..... Watching your presentation of 'A Christmas Carol' as a performance really lifts it off the page and presents the audience with Scrooge as a three-dimensional character..... The script is carefully adapted to maximise the novel's key messages both as a GCSE text and as a comment on society, and presented by three lovely performers. Many thanks for your visit, and I hope all of you have a lovely Christmas...."

Cecelia McConaghie, Head of English, Broadoak School, Urmston, Manchester

".....The students thoroughly enjoyed your visit last week - it was a stripped back, but very creative and effective performance. We appreciated that some parts needed to be condensed, but the key ideas and concepts were well developed. The cast were really lovely and highly engaging; students really enjoyed the question and answer session and it helped to deepen their critical understanding of the text....."

Alan Gresty, Head of English, Abbey Gate College, Chester

".....It was a pleasure to welcome your actors into St Paul's to perform A Christmas Carol. Our Year 11 students really enjoyed it and it was very helpful revision for their English Literature mock exam which took place last week. The students have been discussing the performance in lessons and experiencing the text in this way has had a huge impact on their understanding of the themes and characters. The actors were professional and engaging and students enjoyed the Q & A session following the performances. Many of our students hope to pursue drama related careers and courses following Year 11 so this was a valuable insight into the world of acting for them. We look forward to welcoming you back in Spring and in future academic years....."

Christopher Wallbank, St. Paul's Catholic High, Wythenshawe, Manchester

"..... many thanks for your performance of 'ACC', we all loved it very much, and was so close to the novella, and to the spirit of the story. Pass on our huge thanks to your lovely group of actors.... they were excellent....."

Nicola Elvin, Head of English, De Warenne Academy, Doncaster.

"..... we all loved your presentation of 'Macbeth'. We were really impressed with 'A Christmas Carol' in late December, and now again, with Macbeth. Both groups of actors were lovely and kind and delivered an absolutely cracking performance.....

The students gained a lot from the performance, and it was really lovely to see just how engaged with the question and answer portion they were. Typically, our students are quite shy here but this could have gone on for an hour! Your actors gave lovely answers and were really engaging. Thanks again, and we'll certainly be booking you in again."

Roxanne Sweeney-Hirst, Head of English, Honley High School, Holmfirth.

"....The performance of 'Macbeth' went down a storm. The students were quick to settle into the performance and many said that it was beneficial for them to see the play in front of them as a live production. Also, the condensed version seems to have brought out a better understanding of what the play is really about for some of our students who have struggled to grasp it, which is great....."

Phil O'Connor, Head of English, the Blue Coat School, Oldham

"..... The 'Macbeth' performance was genuinely amazing. The feedback from staff was that they thought the production quality was exceptional and that the performance captured what they felt were all the key moments really well, with one of the English team raving about the witches scenes and prophecies. The students had a real buzz about it afterwards. They were talking about "the bit where 'X' happened..." for a good half an hour. We would absolutely love to have you guys back again. The actors were so professional, talented and polite, please pass on my thanks....."

Ben Tyrie, English Lead, Sir John Thursby Community College, Burnley

".....Thank you for another incredible performance of Macbeth from your actors. The students were captivated throughout and rated it highly.....If touring Macbeth again next year, we would certainly like to book that again....."

Mrs. Sophie Srephenson, Head of English, The Derby School, Bury

"....As always, we absolutely loved the performance and it has been received very well amongst our students. We would absolutely love to have you back again next year! The length of the performance was just right and it was engaging too. Please pass on our warmest thanks once again to your actors - they were great!....."

Carolyn Wood, Head of English, St. Josephs RC High School, Horwich, Bolton

".....As always, we were really pleased with our visit from MANACTCO, and really super impressed how engaged our students with the cast members, especially in the Q&A that followed. It continues to prove hugely beneficial to our students in the run up to their final mock exams before their GCSEs in May/June. Thank you all, and please pass on our thanks to the cast who were truly excellent....."

Callum Jackson, English Dept. All Hallows RC High School, Salford

"... the performance of 'An Inspector Calls' was hugely enjoyable for us, and our students really started to understand the dynamic of the Birling family once they had viewed this performance. They had already completed a cold read of the play, but I always find seeing the play performed helps cement their understanding of the characters and Priestley's overall intention in creating them the way he did. Students thought the actors were engaging and really liked how they were able to multi role without losing the authenticity of each of the characters. They also enjoyed the Q and A session and learning more about the actors and how they developed their own versions of the characters they portrayed...."

Sarah Langley, Laurence Calvert Academy, Leeds

"...Thank you – our students and staff absolutely loved the actors and their interpretation of 'An Inspector Calls'. It is one of the best in-school productions and Q&A sessions that we have seen....."

Lisa Cunningham, .2nd in English Dept., Holly Lodge Girls School, Liverpool

"...Thank you for your recent visit. It was a great performance as always and really beneficial for the learners. The actors were great - we particularly liked the hot seating they did during the Q&A at the end. Please pass on our thanks!...."

Lucy Hirst, Head of English, Bradford Academy

"... First of all, thank you so much. We all really enjoyed the performance and it was such an incredible revision tool for the students. The Year 11 students especially enjoyed the performance and I actually heard some of them muttering the key quotations, which was nice. The actors were all so lovely and a really nice presence within the school. They were consummate professionals and the performance delivered was brilliant. We really are over the moon with the experience....."

Kim Osbaldiston, Head of English, Glossopdale School, Glossop

"...The performances of 'An Inspector Calls' at Cockburn High School and also Cockburn John Charles Academy were absolutely fantastic! The actors were all brilliant in their various roles. Both schools really REALLY loved it. ..."

Ellie Cunningham, Head of English, Cockburn High School, Leeds.

"...Thanks for everything you and the team have done to organise the performances of 'Macbeth' and 'An Inspector Calls' for us here at Oasis Academy Oldham. The vast majority of students I have spoken to were very enthusiastic about the opportunity to see the two plays live, particularly 'An Inspector Calls', and felt more confident in their knowledge of the texts having had the experience....."

Rachael Blackband, Head of English, Oasis Academy, Oldham

CONTACT US

We are taking bookings NOW for ALL of our 2026/2027 presentations. If you would like to make a booking, get a price quote, or receive more information about any of our shows, then please contact us as early as you can, before all the dates have been taken.

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