

2022 Macbeth Initiative Final Report

As of 12/9/22

Partner Schools

School	Sessions	Students	Performances
1. Fayette Academy	5	75	1
2. Soulsville Charter School	5	88	1
3. Hope Academy	2	12	1
4. Jail East	3	8	1
5. Bartlett HS	22	575	2
6. Avon Lenox HS	0	80	1
7. East HS	3	129	1
8. Arlington HS	15	333	2
9. Harding Academy	3	42	1
10. Concord Academy	1	72	1
11. Memphis Delta Prep	0	215	1
12. Kirby HS	0	111	1
13. Cordova HS	0	403	1
14. Germantown HS	0	230	1
15. Overton HS	0	400	1

Student Matinees

School	Students	Performances
1. First Assembly Christian School	46	
2. Mid-South Gifted Academy	14	
3. MS Homeschool Life	28	
4. Growing in Grace Cottage School	12	
5. Tipton-Rosemark Academy	23	
6. Classical Conversations	18	
7. Anchor Point Academy	13	
8. Homeschool	14	2 Total Student Matinees

TOTALS

OF SCHOOLS SERVED.....23
OF MACBETH PLAYSHOPS TAUGHT.....59
OF PERFORMANCES.....19
OF UNIQUE STUDENTS SERVED.....2,941
OF POINTS OF CONTACT.....4,275
OF EDUCATORS TRAINED THROUGH WORKSHOPS..... 11

What TSC Teaching-Artists Say:

We begin our teaching sessions, more often than not, with trepidation and even unwillingness from students. When we are finished, it's wonderful to hear students say "that was actually really fun." - Nic Picou

Seeing our students watch their peers perform during The Macbeth Initiative is unparalleled. The support they give each other is astounding. If our students feel freed from the pressures of high school for even sixty seconds, while they morph into a witch or a soldier, and embrace all of the joy of that physical and vocal transformation, then this program is worthwhile. - Kellan Oelkers

This playshop provided students an opportunity to wrestle with complex issues. One class delved into a near 10-minute discussion about consequences to actions within the framework of destiny/fate versus our own agency/responsibility. To see and hear these students communicate their own beliefs, listen to an opposing perspective, and articulate their commonalities and differences with such empathy and conviction demonstrates to me just how evocative Shakespeare still is. - Lauren Gunn

What Students Say:

Student Survey Results (443 Total Responses)

93% of students found themselves more engaged in the study of *Macbeth* due to participating in TSC's playshop.

91% of students felt more academically prepared to continue their study of *Macbeth* due to TSC's Playshop.

91% of students were able to see Shakespeare as more relevant than before due to the *Macbeth* Initiative.

Student Survey Results (253 Total Responses)

89% of students rarely or never see any live theatre performances.

96% of students rarely or never see Shakespeare performances.

91% of students said their *Macbeth* experience was more enjoyable due to TSC's classroom playshop and performance.

Student Responses to the following prompt: Please share one thing you learned from the Macbeth Initiative.

- I learned how Shakespeare's plays, although seeming outdated, can be interpreted in many different ways for many different people. *Macbeth* is a lesson of ambition, power, and greed, and the Playshop helped me learn that the story is for everyone.

- I learned how important visual performances are to strengthen your knowledge of the play.
- I learned how well the lessons and characters of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* apply to the modern era.
- The Macbeth Initiative was extremely well put together, and executed perfectly so my attention was hooked from the start.
- I learned how clever Shakespeare is with his writing, and how it's okay to be loud and take up space.
- I learned that Shakespeare is more applicable to our everyday life than I thought before. The themes in his plays still play a role in our lives.
- I should watch more plays. They help in understanding stories and the interaction they can have with the audience helps to stay engaged.
- Performances are meaningful.
- I learned that Shakespeare is amazing.
- Shakespeare plays are actually funny at times and reading them makes them seem less interesting than watching them.
- Shakespeare is a lot more fun when it's performed.
- I learned that you shouldn't step on others to get into higher positions. I learned that even when bad things happen, people can come together to make things right.
- I was able to see how strong the emotions in *Macbeth* were due to the incredible performance I observed. Raw emotion was displayed and the actors took their roles very seriously, which allowed me to be able to understand the theatrical work better!! Truly such a wonderful work of art and I was very moved by the performance.

What Educators Say:

This is one of the most amazing, talented group of performers that we have ever had at Concord. Thank you for making this experience possible for students and schools that would normally not be able to participate and afford this Initiative. We are truly appreciative. Our students look forward to your plays every year! - Kimberly Krosch, Concord Academy

I believe experiences like this are vital to our young people. Not only in academics but in an appreciation of the performing arts. - Leslie Steele, Bartlett HS

I found the Macbeth Initiative extremely valuable to my student's learning and experience of the play *Macbeth*. The Playshop offered students an introduction to the actor's side of the play, and the performance, for many students, was their first live-stage experience. It was meaningful and extremely impactful. - Michelle Perrigin, Arlington HS

This was a fantastic experience that provided our students with an engaging performance that enhanced their learning. It's one thing for students to read Shakespeare or even watch a film adaptation, but the live performance allowed our students to experience the play as it was intended. - John Whitehead, Germantown HS

Bringing Shakespeare to life for students has a huge impact on student's understanding of the text, as well as their enjoyment/appreciation of Shakespeare's works. - Rene Curley, Cordova HS

The students truly enjoyed the playshop and the performance. They were able to connect to the play at a deeper level. In class, we are reading the play as literature, but the playshop and the performance presented the play as it was meant to be experienced. This allowed the students to engage with the material on a deeper level and added more meaning to the words and action represented in the script. Seeing the play in action enhances their reading comprehension.
- Arlington HS Educator

Attending Tennessee Shakespeare Company's performance of *Macbeth*, a play that is an integral part of Memphis-Shelby County Schools' English IV curriculum, was such a rewarding experience, both professionally and personally. - LaTonia Perkins, Shelby County Schools High School Literacy Advisor

Out of 8 Respondents, all 8 said that their students were more engaged in their study of *Macbeth* as a result of TSC's Playshop and Performance and all 8 said they would like to participate in the Initiative again next year.