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Cal Shakes Offers “Discovery” Program for Students

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“Although they’re in drama, they may not all have seen live productions. I want them to notice the physicality and how they stay in character,” he emphasized.

Going on a field trip also creates a bond and hearing the words they’ve memorized in class makes the plot less confusing. Read believes the experience contributes to their being a “special drama community” by the end of the year.

On this day in late September, the students unite through the play’s intense physical interactions. There’s nipple twisting between two male characters who wrestle to the ground, fathers hoisting warring sisters to end territorial battles, a slap fest between Katherine and her fiancé, and a costume that draws a question in the post-show Q&A.

“Do you feel weird with your butt hanging out?” one student asked Slate Holmgren, the actor whose minimalist pant leg revealed spandex undies.

“Actually, it’s really freeing,” he laughed, explaining that a different pair of underwear had been used for the student show.

“Did anything happen that was-

n’t according to plan?” another student asked.

Trees falling, wind, and heads rolling, came the answer, followed by the strangest things each actor had experienced in a play.

Cut faces and forgetting to put on a full costume preceded fainting, fire alarms and seeing a ghost, before the actors answered one of students’ most frequent questions: *What made you want to be actors?*

Henrikson had the most uncommon answer, stating that she had composed an opera at the age of two, called *The Tongue*. She declined a request to perform it, especially without adequate rehearsal.

Students also wanted to know if the lovers in the play were actually married to each other in real life, or were drunk when they played inebriated scenes.

“I was *pretending* to be drunk,” Henrikson answered immediately. “I thought it would be good for the scene, but don’t drink. Ever.”

The students left with a new perspective on Shakespeare, acting, and live theater.

Still, one boy, overheard talking to Worsley as his buddies waited,

had one burning question.

“Do the actors have a hard time kissing strangers?” he asked.

Worsley fulfilled his teaching

role, telling the student that by the time they were in performance, the actors weren’t strangers anymore because “they practice kissing a lot.”

With this information, the student, and his friends, may have found what actors the world-over seek: proper motivation.



JM students present “30-second Shakespeare” (a very abbreviated version of *Taming of the Shrew*), directed by Cal Shakes educational staff, before the show. Photo L. Borrowman



My Dad’s Office was the Sky

His crew called him the airplane cowboy, probably because he wore that hat all the time. His job was to keep the plane steady while the camera crew took their shots. They’d photograph roads, mountains and clouds for map makers, archeologists and film directors - anyone who needed a picture of something from way up there.

Times have changed, but Dad still loves adventure. The problem is he shouldn’t be driving. Sometimes he gets confused and lost just walking around the neighborhood.

The early signs of memory loss can be difficult to understand and more difficult to admit.

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