



Press Release: Monday 3 March, 2008

## **SOCIAL NETWORKING BRINGS STUDENTS IN TOUCH WITH SHAKESPEARE'S CHARACTERS**

'Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank' offers an innovative website and podcast for the learning and teaching of 'Much Ado About Nothing' at KS3.

Key Stage 3 students can explore a social network with key characters from *Much Ado About Nothing* in order to bring an online dimension to their study of the play. Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe has developed the pioneering website, which launches today, to accompany the specially created production of Shakespeare's play for its 'Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank' schools' project.

The website can be accessed through [www.playingshakespeare.org](http://www.playingshakespeare.org). Its structure supports the four main areas of study focused on at KS3. The site has sections on language, character and motivation, themes and issues and text in performance. The character and motivation section is designed as a contained social networking site aiming to demonstrate the relationship between characters. All the text on each character's page comes directly from the play. These pages also feature interviews with the actors as they build their version of a character, a photo gallery documenting their progress and the facility to send a message to an actor.

The language section premieres 'interactive text' versions of the KS3 assessment scenes enabling the student to read the scene supported by a glossary, a key to important literary terms such as iambic pentameter, sound files of actors performing sections of the scene and key images of the scene in performance.

The area exploring the themes and issues of the play contains a discussion board where students can express their thoughts about what the play is about. This is supported by four articles by Globe Education's lecturer, Dr Farah Karim-Cooper and interviews with actors.

The site has been designed for 14 year old students preparing for the National Tests at KS3, however it aims to be a useful resource for students of all ages. It contains supplementary material

for teachers and parents who may want to use the site and guide a student to a deeper understanding of the play.

'Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank' features a professional, full-scale production of 'Much Ado About Nothing' on the Globe Stage from 10-14 March. The project develops creative approaches to teaching Shakespeare in-line with National Curriculum requirements. 10,000 free tickets have been given to students who are studying the play.

People not able to see the performance will have access to an audio podcast of the performance along with interviews with actors and the director. This popular podcast, which received over 15,000 downloads last year is, funded by National Strategies on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families and is available to download free of charge from its website.

Director of Globe Education, Patrick Spottiswoode, said: "*Globe Education continually seeks to push boundaries with its work to engage young people with Shakespeare in performance. Now, at [www.playingshakespeare.org](http://www.playingshakespeare.org), we have not only provided insights into the process of creating a production but have created a social network to help students to learn about the play's characters in a structure within which they are familiar.. It will be an invaluable resource for anyone studying or teaching Key Stage 3 English.*"

## ENDS

Further information from Katharine Grice at Shakespeare's Globe on 020 7902 1468 or email [Katharine@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:Katharine@shakespearesglobe.com).

### Notes to Editors:

- **Globe Education** offers workshops, lectures and evening courses to over 100,000 students of all ages. Globe Education has been delivering courses for teachers since 1996. As one of the country's largest theatre education departments, Globe Education's courses for teachers focus on active, practical approaches to the plays informed and communicated directly by the discoveries made on the Globe stage by actors, directors, designers and teachers.
- **Deutsche Bank** For further information, please contact Louise Pancott, Press & Media Relations, Deutsche Bank, tel. 020 7545 7790, [louise.pancott@db.com](mailto:louise.pancott@db.com)
- In 2006 the DCSF asked Globe Education to train all 260 teaching consultants across the UK providing them with practical approaches to teaching Shakespeare within the English curriculum. Globe Education staff regularly contribute to Qualifications and Curriculum Authority think-tanks on the teaching of Shakespeare at Key Stage 3.
- The Shakespeare Globe Trust is a registered charity No.266916. The Globe receives no public subsidy.