

**Darren Lay**  
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**Language/Performing Arts**  
**Shakespeare/Humanities**

**Residencies Offered:**

*ACTING SHAKESPEARE: 'A GRACIOUS AND BEWITCHING KIND OF ACTION':* Combined with on your feet exercises and games, a selection of 400 year-old source texts serves as the framework for learning how actors of Shakespeare's day thought about their work and how those concepts are still key for the actor of today. Works well for Language Arts, Humanities, or Theatre and can be joined to any of the residencies below. *FENCING: RAPIER & DAGGER* can be included with this or sonnet workshop.

*SONNETS WORKSHOP:* Begin to unravel Shakespeare's most complex and mysterious tiny works. Ideally blossoms into a performance of individual sonnets by participants, (but doesn't have to).

*LANGUAGE ARTS RESIDENCIES FOR SPECIFIC SHAKESPEARE PLAYS:* Residencies have taken many forms and shapes from short and simple to complex and elaborate, ranging from one or two-day workshops to month long residencies concluding with performances of speeches and scenes or even a mock trial with text presented as part of forensic argument. All centered round a particular play. Previous Language Arts residency plays include *Othello, Romeo & Juliet, Twelfth Night, and King Lear.*

*PRODUCTION OF A PLAY:* Producing a play is the most involving of all residencies and the most rewarding. Some projects have been adjunct and assisting, others have been leading the project as a director. Some have combined in-class and after-school work and rehearsal periods. Previous residency produced plays include, *King John, The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet, Romeo & Juliet, King Lear, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, Comedy of Errors, The Queen of Corsica, Tamburlaine the Great, Arauco domado, The Real Inspector Hound, The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds.*

**Preferred Grade Level:** Grades 6-12

**Supplies Equipment, Space and Time Considerations:** Copies of texts, cleared space for acting.

**Teaching Experience:**

Darren Lay is the artistic director of Young Shakespeare Workshop, receiving the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award in 2011 in an East Room ceremony at the White House. The award is the nation's highest honor for such programs. Darren also worked many years as a teaching artist for Arts Corps and Seattle Children's Theatre. He has acted professionally at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Tacoma Actor's Guild and the Empty Space. As a Shakespeare scholar his work has been published in the London Times Literary Supplement. Darren has over thirty years of teaching and directing experience and has led many workshops/residencies at high schools and middle schools both in Seattle and on Vashon. For the last five years, he has led a semester long Performing Shakespeare class at Cleveland H.S. in Seattle.

**Artist Statement:**

I love teaching and directing and especially getting the opportunity to work with many different teachers and students and sharing all of our ideas and inspiration. I live in constant amazement to see what each individual brings to the interpretation of Shakespeare's text, which only that person can uniquely express.