

BELL SHAKESPEARE – A HISTORY

- 1990** John Bell founds Bell Shakespeare.
- 1991** Seasons at Sydney Showground, Canberra Agricultural Centre and the Athenaeum Theatre Melbourne: *Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice*.
Launches Actors At Work education programme, performing to 10,000 students.
- 1992** Seasons in Brisbane, Newcastle, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra: *Richard III, Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice*.
Launches disadvantaged student workshops.
Launches corporate communication workshops.
- 1993** Seasons in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide: *Hamlet, Richard III, Romeo And Juliet*.
Company produces Corporate Video Training Packages.
Receives funding from Playing Australia (Federal Government).
- 1994** Seasons in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Newcastle and Perth: *Macbeth, The Taming Of The Shrew*.
Commences student matinees, student and teacher workshops.
John Bell performs in Shanghai, Guang Zhou, Tokyo and Hong Kong.
- 1995** Seasons in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Adelaide and Monash: *Pericles, Twelfth Night*.
Launches publishing activities with Science Press.
Company is included in a group of national companies funded through MOB (Major Organisations Board).
- 1996** Seasons in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and regional centres in QLD and NSW: *Much Ado About Nothing, Coriolanus* (directed by Steven Berkoff), *Storm Boy*.
Performs at Sydney Opera House, Playhouse for the first time.
Recordings of *Twelfth Night* and *Pericles* released through ABC shops.
Launches Primary School production programme.
Launches Bell series of debates.
- 1997** Seasons in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide: *The Winter's Tale, The Tempest*.
Launches national tour to QLD, NT, NSW, VIC and SA: *Macbeth*.
Primary school production programme tours throughout NSW, ACT and QLD: *Sadako And The Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr.
- 1998** Seasons in Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Monash and Perth: *Henry 4, King Lear*.
Company introduces lunch time forums.
Pioneers policy of discounted tickets to mainstage productions for patrons under the age of 27.
- 1999** Seasons in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Gold Coast, Hobart, Geelong, Orange and Perth: *The Merchant Of Venice, Henry 5*.
National tour to regional centres in NSW, SA, VIC, TAS, QLD and NT: *Romeo And Juliet*.
Presents co-production with Queensland Theatre Company in Brisbane and Melbourne: *Long Day's Journey Into Night* by Eugene O'Neill.
Introduces new programme for 6 – 12 year olds touring in NSW, ACT and QLD, performing to over 25,000 school children: *The Listmaker* by Robyn Klein.
Receives funding from NSW State Government (NSW Ministry for the Arts).

- 2000** Seasons in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Launceston, Geelong, the Gold Coast and Perth: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Troilus + Cressida*.
National tour throughout VIC, NSW, QLD, WA and NT: *Much Ado About Nothing*.
Presents co-production with the State Theatre Company of South Australia, touring Adelaide, Japan, and Canberra: *Dance of Death* by August Strindberg.
Seasons in NSW, TAS and VIC: *Sadako And The Thousand Paper Cranes*.
Website launched.
Company joins AMPAG (Australian Major Performing Arts Group).
- 2001** Seasons in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Orange, Wagga Wagga, Newcastle, Wollongong, Parramatta, Geelong, Hobart and Perth: *Julius Caesar, Antony And Cleopatra*.
Performs at Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne for the first time.
Season in Sydney: *Shakespeare's R&J*.
Introduces teacher training workshops.
- 2002** Seasons in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, Wagga Wagga and Newcastle of a co-production with Queensland Theatre Company: *Richard 3*.
John Bell wins Helpmann Award for Best Male Actor in a Drama for his role in *Richard 3*.
Season in Sydney: *Hippolytus* by David Malouf.
National tour to 21 capital cities and regional centres throughout Australia: *The Taming Of The Shrew*.
National tour to NSW, ACT, VIC, SA, WA and QLD: *The Soldier's Tale* by Stravinsky, in collaboration with the Australian Chamber Orchestra.
Seasons in SA and VIC: *My Girragundji*.
Education programme tours to Singapore.
Launches Bell Leadership Initiative.
Launches Regional Student Performance Scholarship.
Launches Capital Campaign fundraising appeal.
- 2003** Seasons in NSW, ACT, VIC and TAS: *Hamlet*.
Seasons in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Wollongong and Newcastle: *As You Like It*.
National tour across all states and territories: *The Servant Of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni.
Education programme tours to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.
Launches Shakespeare In Action outreach programme for disadvantaged schools.
John Bell receives Cultural Leader of the Year award from Prime Minister John Howard and Dame Elisabeth Murdoch.
- 2004** Seasons in all capital cities: *The Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni.
National tour across NSW, VIC, ACT, TAS and NT: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
Seasons in Hobart, Newcastle, Brisbane, Wagga Wagga, Perth and Adelaide: *The Comedy Of Errors*.
Seasons in Melbourne, Canberra, Wollongong, Sydney and Orange: *Twelfth Night*.
Actors At Work reaches students in remote locations using the Interactive Distance Learning Centre in NT via the Optus Satellite.
First Actors At Work Far West tour to remote areas of NSW.
Optus/Bell Shakespeare Make A Scene competition launched.
Receives three-year funding for education programme from NSW Government.
- 2005** Seasons in all capital cities: *Wars Of The Roses, Measure For Measure, The Two Gentlemen Of Verona, The Servant Of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni.
Establishes rehearsal spaces in the Argyle Stores, The Rocks, with the support of the NSW Government.

- 2006** Seasons in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Orange, Wagga Wagga and Geelong: *Romeo And Juliet*
Seasons in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney: *The Tempest*.
Receives funding from the Victorian Government (Arts Victoria).
Number of students participating in education programmes grows to over 80,000.
Tours *The Comedy Of Errors* to the UK.
Launches Hearts In A Row fundraising initiative in Sydney.
- 2007** Seasons in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney and Orange: *Othello* starring Wayne Blair, the first indigenous Australian to play the title role in a major national touring production. First production directed by newly appointed Associate Director, Marion Potts.
Seasons in Canberra, Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney: *The Government Inspector* by Nikolai Gogol.
Tours nationally to 32 venues: *Macbeth*.
Launches Regional Teacher Scholarship.
Commonwealth Government grants \$1 million three-year funding for education programme.
Establishes Young Artists Endowment in support of new and emerging directors of Shakespeare.
- 2008** Presents co-production with Queensland Theatre Company in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne: *Anatomy Titus Fall Of Rome: A Shakespeare Commentary* by Heiner Müller, with an all-male cast.
Seasons in Sydney and Melbourne: *Hamlet*.
Seasons in Melbourne and Sydney: *Just Macbeth!*, a collaboration with children's author, Andy Griffith.
Tours nationally to 35 venues: *As You Like It*.
Inaugural Mind's Eye production with Malthouse Melbourne: *Venus & Adonis*.
- 2009** Presents co-production with Queensland Theatre Company in Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Perth: *The Alchemist* by Ben Jonson.
Presents collaboration with TaikOz in Sydney and Melbourne: *Pericles*.
Tours nationally to 35 venues: *The Taming Of The Shrew*, with an all-female cast.
Seasons in Sydney and New Zealand (Auckland Festival): *Venus & Adonis*.
Launches Hearts In A Row fundraising initiative in Canberra.