Funding confirmed for Bell Shakespeare's Learning Programme

On May 26 the Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, Minister for the Arts, confirmed $1.28 million in continued funding to Bell Shakespeare's renowned education programme.

Bell Shakespeare's learning programme, which started in 1990 with Actors at Work performing works in classrooms for students who often had limited access to the arts, has since enabled more than a million children Australia-wide to see a production. For many, it's the first engagement with the arts, leading to becoming a life-long performing arts audience member.

Since 2008, in addition to the support of many trusts, foundations and donors, we have received Federal Government funding to take theatre to students and teachers across Australia. Our programmes include regional scholarships, in-schools and in-theatre performances, masterclasses, artist residencies in regional schools and taking highly skilled arts educators to communities that rarely have the opportunity to engage with artists.

John Bell, Co-Artistic Director of Bell Shakespeare said, "Sharing Shakespeare has been at the centre of our vision, and this funding will enable Bell Shakespeare to continue this work for the next four years. We thank the Government for recommitting funding to our education programme in my final year with Bell Shakespeare."

Gill Perkins, General Manager of Bell Shakespeare said, "The Federal Government has been supporting our education programme since 2008 and we are delighted we'll be able to continue to provide programmes that touch students' lives – from the busiest cities to the most regional communities. Without this funding we wouldn't be able to reach almost 80,000 students a year, provide teacher professional development activity and reach some of Australia's most isolated schools."

For more information about Bell Shakespeare Learning:
https://www.bellshakespeare.com.au/learning/

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