



Festival 36

**Celebrating Shakespeare's First Folio in Solihull,
part of the Everything to Everybody project.**



**EVERYTHING
TO EVERYBODY**
Using Birmingham's forgotten past to inspire our future:
Unlocking the world's first great people's Shakespeare Library for all

THE CORE

**Culture
Solihull** 

 **Solihull**
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Welcome to Festival 36

Festival 36 is part of the 'Everything to Everybody' Project, an ambitious three-year celebration of one of the UK's most important cultural assets: the vast Shakespeare Memorial Library housed within the Library of Birmingham. Everything to Everybody will give the city's uniquely democratic Shakespeare heritage back to the people, and is a collaboration between the University of Birmingham and Birmingham City Council, with funding also contributed by National Lottery Heritage Fund & History West Midlands.



Festival 36 is a series of exciting events taking place across the Solihull Borough to celebrate the Birmingham copy of the First Folio coming to The Core Theatre on Sunday 2 July. From books to Bards and from sonnets to screenings, you'll find it all in Solihull this Summer!

The Solihull Sonnets

Discover your inner Shakespeare, and sign up for a poetry workshop! Work with professional writer Rachel Sambrooks to write your very own Shakespearean style sonnet on the theme of Solihull. 36 new sonnets for the Borough will be published in a limited-edition book and launched on Sun 2 July. You don't have to take part in a workshop to submit a sonnet - simply email your piece to culture@solihull.gov.uk for consideration.

Workshops will take place at the following libraries:

Mon 22 May 10am - 12noon, **The Core (Byron Room)**
Mon 22 May 2pm - 4pm, **Olton Library (1st floor)**
Wed 24 May 2pm - 4pm, **Chelmsley Wood Library (Den)**
Thu 25 May 10am - 12noon, **Knowle Library (1st floor)**
Thu 1 June 2pm - 4pm, **Dickens Heath Library (1st floor)**

FREE | Book a place at www.solihull.gov.uk/Libraries/Library-events-activities



All the world's a Library...

Libraries across Solihull will be celebrating different plays from Shakespeare's First Folio. Will your local library be in a spin about 'Much Ado About Nothing', stirring up a 'Tempest' in the shelves or settling down for 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. There will also be a range of activities including pin the tail on Bottom's bottom, Shakespeare themed story times, and workshops making fairy garlands, paper crowns and swords. Libraries will be celebrating from **Saturday 17 June onwards**.

The Core will be alive with 'sounds and sweet air' on **Sunday 2 July** as we celebrate all things Shakespeare. Not only will our Bards be performing across the building, there will be poetry readings in the Dwell, craft activities, a bookmaking session, trails and quizzes for children & families, alongside activities from the Everything to Everybody team.

FREE | Book activities at www.solihull.gov.uk/Libraries/Library-events-activities



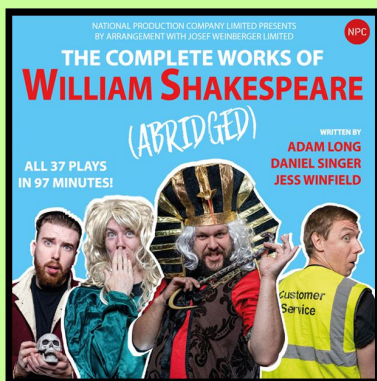
36 Bards' Performances

Thu 29 June - Sun 2 July, various times and locations

We will welcome Bards across the Solihull Borough to perform a series of short monologues from a variety of Shakespeare plays. On **29 & 30 June**, they will visit Solihull schools so students can enjoy a short performance, perhaps a monologue from Richard III in Chemistry or a snippet of A Midsummer Night's Dream in assembly!

On **Sat 1 July**, catch the Bards performing at locations across the Solihull Borough including Balsall Common, Chelmsley Wood, Knowle, Meriden, Shirley, and more. On **Sun 2 July**, they will be roaming Solihull town centre, entertaining passers-by all the way from John Lewis to Malvern Park and everywhere in between!

FREE | Details of the Bards' public performances will be available at www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk

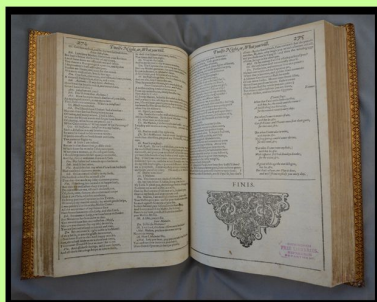


The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged!)

Sat 1 July 7.30pm, The Core Theatre Solihull

Presented by the National Production Company, this critically acclaimed play is an irreverent fast-paced romp through the Bard's 37 plays! Join three madcap performers in tights as they weave their way through each of Shakespeare's comedies, histories and tragedies in 97 minutes. They'll take audiences on a wild ride that will leave you breathless and helpless with laughter. Recommended age: 12 to 112!

Tickets £20 | Visit www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk or call Box Office on 0121 704 6962 to book.



The First Folio visits Solihull

Sun 2 July 11.20am - 4.20pm, The Core Theatre Solihull

In collaboration with the 'Everything to Everybody' Project, Shakespeare's First Folio will be available to view at The Core, Solihull on Sunday 2 July. Usually archived in the Shakespeare Memorial Library, part of a collection founded by preacher and lecturer, George Dawson (1821-1876), the Folio will be touring boroughs around the City of Birmingham to celebrate its 400th anniversary.

Shakespeare's first folio is such an important text, as without it, 18 of Shakespeare's plays might never have survived - including Twelfth Night, Macbeth, and Julius Caesar!

Bookable viewing slots are available to view Shakespeare's First Folio at The Core throughout the day on Sun 2 July, starting at 11.20am.

FREE, but must be booked - please do not book a space if you think you may be unable to attend. Visit www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk or call Box Office on 0121 704 6962 to book.

Alongside The Core Theatre's showcase of The First Folio, there will be a free accompanying exhibition in The Courtyard Gallery at The Core for visitors to enjoy. The exhibition celebrates the work of George Dawson, who was passionate in his belief that Birmingham should be home to the greatest collection of Shakespeare writings in the world. The gallery exhibition will give an insight into his collection with digitised artefacts from the Shakespeare Memorial Library archives, including images from plays, books, playbills, director's notebooks and posters.



Photograph by Ben Gregory-Ring

National Theatre Live – Shakespeare Screenings

In collaboration with National Theatre Live, enjoy two Shakespearean screenings on the big screen at The Core Theatre Solihull on Sunday 2 July.



Much Ado About Nothing, Sun 2 July 1pm

Escape to the Italian Riviera with a cast including Katherine Parkinson (The IT Crowd, Home I'm Darling) and John Heffernan (Dracula). The legendary family-run Hotel Messina is the setting for this tale of love, romance, and deception.



Othello, Sun 2 July 5pm

Giles Terera and Rosy McEwan star in Clint Dyer's production of Othello, Shakespeare's most enduring tragedy. When Othello, a refugee of slavery, secretly marries Desdemona, the daughter of a Senator, will their love survive the forces that conspire against them?

Tickets £15 (£10 stu.) | Visit www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk or call Box Office on 0121 704 6962 to book.

For further information on Festival 36 events, visit www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk and for further information on the Everything to Everyone project, visit www.everythingtoeverybody.bham.ac.uk/



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Part of the **Everything to Everybody** project

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