



EDUCATION ABROAD CENTER
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Dear Parents,

I have taught Shakespeare in London (Shakespeare Live!) since 2000. It has been the best course I have ever taught, and I have been teaching for a lot of years. I say it is the best course because students learn the most, and they learn the most easily. I remember being at one Shakespeare play with my students and when I left, many of them stayed behind, talking about the play. "My work here is done," I thought, for they were teaching each other.

My explicit goal for the course is that students will end up wanting to see Shakespeare plays for the rest of their lives. I think I have succeeded, as I have found myself going to Shakespeare plays with various students years after their summer in London was done. This year, we will see *Hamlet* (with Jude Law), *As You Like It* (two different productions), *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Troilus and Cressida*. The night of the final exam we will celebrate with dinner at Regent's Park and a production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

We see plays, talk about them, talk with actors and directors, have dinner parties, go to Stratford Upon Avon to tour Shakespeare's birthplace and see a Royal Shakespeare Company play, watch selected videos, and generally immerse ourselves in the experience of Shakespeare in London.

And besides Shakespeare, there is London. As Samuel Johnson said, "If you are bored with London, you are bored with life." It is the second greenest large city in the world (first is Stockholm), full of free museums, amazing theatre, and warm and witty people. It is also safer than any American city I have been in.

I am a father of three (all adults now), and my wife (who will be coming near the end of the program) and I view ourselves in parental roles, offering lozenges when the students have sore throats and support when they have problems. Since the course is taught in affiliation with The Foundation House for International Education, the students have a large support staff that they can rely upon for help.

I have taught at UC Davis since 1981, and the only former students I regularly stay in contact with are my Shakespeare in London students. We end up "bonded," because we have such a pleasurable and entertaining time together. Let me know if you have any questions.

Cheers,

John Boe
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