

SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOP at the Globe Theatre

It was a warm and sunny Friday morning when the English LK of Mrs Pullen together with some students from Mr Segin's courses met in front of the Globe Theatre of Neuss. 21 highly motivated students joined for the workshop.

At 10 o'clock after a short "good morning" the workshop started. But to our surprise we did not go into the theatre, but into a dance hall next to the bet hall of the horse races. The place was a little bit bigger and brighter than the Globe Theatre, as it turned out afterwards.

The workshop began with an introduction to Shakespeare's life and the history of the "Globe" given by Dr. Vanessa Schormann, who achieved to catch our attention and to lead us into the unknown and fascinating world of the Elizabethan England.

Afterwards we were introduced to a young man called Paul, who was the director of the Propeller Company from London and who led us through the following part of the workshop.

After a short break Paul explained how to prepare a theatre play and how to develop the performance of your role. We worked on a lot of group exercises which were very funny. For example, we all walked around the room. Two people had been selected secretly to be the killers and they had to blink at the other group members in order to kill them. So, gradually most people were killed and the task for the others was to find out who the killers were.

This was only one of several exercises Paul did with us. For the last task we were separated into groups of five and had to create our own scenic interpretation of the first lines of Hamlet's prologue. All groups did very well. At the end we talked about the meaning of the epilogue of this Shakespearean play and Paul helped us to understand different possible meanings.

At one o'clock the workshop was over and we were guided into the Globe Theatre. Mrs Schormann as well as Paul gave some additional explanations regarding the place and the Shakespeare festival.

In our opinion, it was a fantastic and interesting day. There was even the possibility to see the performance of Propeller the same night.