

CAN YOU ONLY PERFORM THE SAME PLAY ON THE SAME DAY?

No. We can perform any of our plays on the same day. If you want more than one performance to take advantage of our discount you can either have the same play more than once or any of our four plays if you want.

HOW LONG DO YOUR PLAYS LAST?

The plays are prepared to last approximately 50 minutes to one hour. The exact running time depends upon the audience. As we involve them directly in our plays their contribution obviously affects the final length of the performance.

HOW MANY STUDENTS CAN ATTEND ONE OF YOUR PERFORMANCES?

It depends. We can perform before as few as 50 students if you wish or as many as 300 (if the venue is suitable). Our typical audience size is between 120 and 220 students.

WHAT IS A SUITABLE VENUE FOR YOUR PERFORMANCE?

We do not need a theatre to perform. Our plays are designed to be adaptable to any venue. All we require is an acting area in a space that is adequate to the size of the audience where they can be seated comfortably and see and hear the actors. Our typical venue is the school hall/theatre/multi-purpose room. Frequently schools arrange a local theatre or cinema for our performances. Usually the local town hall will give a space free to the school. However, to repeat, we are extremely adaptable. It is not the place that makes a good performance, it is the actors and the audience. If you have any doubts, just ask us.

WHAT TECHNICAL NEEDS DO WE HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR THE PERFORMANCE?

Apart from an electrical socket for our music system, that is all our basic needs.

The acting area needs to be lit, obviously - although we do not need special theatre lighting.

YOU SAY YOUR PLAYS ARE INTERACTIVE. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Our plays are designed so the audience as a whole is involved in the reactions and decisions that the various characters have to make. They are carefully encouraged to join in with the choices that characters make. Their opinion is sought. This is so to the extent that we, in ETC,

regard the audience as the fourth actor (there are three professional actors in each group) and from the rehearsal stage onwards we work with the audience in mind. Obviously the type of involvement we seek from the audience depends upon the play which depends upon the age and English language ability of the target audience.

YOU HAVE FOUR DIFFERENT PLAYS FOR DIFFERENT AGES. HOW DO YOU WORK THAT OUT?

Okay, this is our thinking and our pedagogical philosophy (worked out pragmatically over the years through close liaison with teachers from many a different country): -We start from our audience – from the very beginning of an idea for a new play. We don't put together a play and then try and find an audience that fits. We think of the audience's age and language level and put something together especially for them. We write plays always with the audience in mind. How old are they? What do kids that age like? What don't they like? What do they see? Do? Think? Basically we focus on what interests them, what is relevant to them (and of course, what isn't). This thought process creates the themes of the plays, the plot and the style (different ages have not only different expectations and likes but also different needs). Then, of course, there is the English language competence of the chosen audience - which dictates the script. So, first there is the age, and then there is the language level.

If you have any doubts, just phone us. We do try to perform at the level of each of our audiences and we will always listen to your specific requests.

HOW DO WE BOOK YOU?

We organise our tour dates around the countries and regions in Europe where we work based on the stated preferences of teachers. We always ask them. All you have to do is let us know your preferred dates within our tour schedule and any dates that are impossible for you. We put together our finalised tour based on the preferences of the teachers and any obvious logistic details we have to take into account.

Simply get in touch with us on:

info@englishtheatrecompany.com