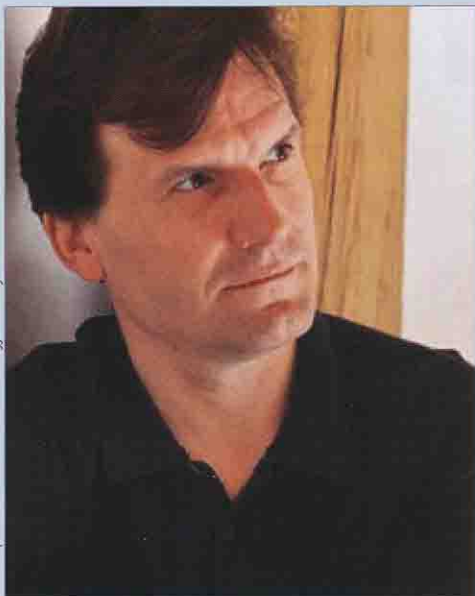


Globe Education

**Hermann Olberding spoke to
Patrick Spottiswoode, Director of *Globe Education***



Patrick Spottiswoode © Globe Press Office/Andy Bradshaw

? *The Shakespeare Globe Centre seems to be full of students all year round. I understand that more than 15 000 school students from Germany come to the Globe every year for lectures and workshops. That's an incredible number. How has this come about?*

: It could only have come about because Shakespeare is taught so widely in German schools and universities and because education lies at the heart of the *Globe*. However that does not really explain why we get more students at the *Globe* from Germany than any other country apart from our own. In 1990, seven years before the *Globe* opened, I was giving a talk to a group of *Leistungskurs* students in a small museum which was the base for *Globe Education* until the *Globe Theatre* opened in 1997. A man came up to me at the end of the lecture and asked if I would be interested in coming to Germany to visit schools and if I would be prepared to talk to more groups of students in London. The man's name was Heinz Abeling and he had just started up S-E-T, an educational tour company in Bremen that specialised in bringing school groups to England from Germany.

As the *Globe* receives no government funding, we have always needed a mixture of income streams to support our work: we have to charge fees for some of our work, we seek sponsorship for particular projects and we are commissioned by some government agencies to support particular initiatives.

He offered to contribute to the *Globe* by promoting *Globe Education* to schools in Germany and by organising German class trips to the *Globe*. He refused commission or a fee. It was a very generous gift in kind and was invaluable in the early years when few

people came to Southwark. However, I doubt that Heinz Abeling ever realized that one day his office would be organising visits for as many as 15 000 students!

? *Do you find the Germans' interest in Shakespeare surprising?*

: Shakespeare is on the German curriculum, I suppose, because there has been a strong love of Shakespeare in Germany amongst actors, scholars and writers since the late 18th century. Goethe wrote brilliantly about Shakespeare and the translations of August Wilhelm Schlegel and Ludwig and Dorothea Tieck in the 19th century led Germans to call him *Unser Shakespeare*. There are probably more professional productions of Shakespeare's plays in German theatres than in England every year! Shakespeare's verse translates much better into German than it does, say, into French.

German publishers such as Cornelsen also help to promote and support the teaching and learning of Shakespeare in Germany. The links between Germany and the *Globe* are strong, too.

It was the *Bremer Shakespeare Company* with the great actor, Norbert Kentrup, who first played on the *Globe* site in 1993 – before the *Globe* was completed. Today, as well as support from S-E-T we receive major funding from Deutsche Bank for an annual professional Shakespeare production that is created for young people. I am thus rather pleased that Germans refer to William as *Unser Shakespeare*!

? *How has the programme for German students evolved over the years?*

: S-E-T shares *Globe Education*'s ethos of creating tours/workshops that are student-centred. We began in 1991 by offering an inter-active talk for *Leistungskurs* students on Shakespeare and the *Globe* and we still run those talks today – called *Unser Shakespeare*. These talks are followed by a tour of the *Globe*.

However, while these talks suited *Oberstufe* students they were not right for *Mittelfstufe* students. So Heinz Abeling commissioned a workshop that would offer younger students an introduction to a Shakespeare play while also developing their confidence in speaking and listening to English.

At first I was fairly sceptical but we gathered together some of our *Globe Education* practitioners (most of them are actors) and created a special workshop for those students called *Unser Globe*. Our practitioners work with over 80 000 students every year, but these are mainly native speakers. At first they found the workshops quite challenging (one Practitioner described them as 'riding a penny farthing bicycle with one leg') but they quickly grew to understand the background and language level of the German students and now these workshops are as popular with our Practitioners as they are with the students.

? *Shakespeare's language is very difficult even for native speakers, let alone for foreign students. How do you/your teachers/how does *Globe Education* deal with this problem?*

: By working with the language as playfully as Shakespeare intended. Students are on their feet throughout the workshop and



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taste the language in an active way. It is difficult for teachers and students to meet Shakespeare in rectangular classrooms with students sitting at rectangular desks staring at lifeless words on rectangular pages. The students and the words want to get up and play. Students respond really well to active, playful approaches to learning.

? *So what do you think students from Germany get out of these workshops and lectures?*

: Well, many of the students write that the Shakespeare workshop at the *Globe* was their favourite activity of the week in London or England! I think they leave realizing that Shakespeare is not a statue in a town square

from the distant past that has no real connection with their lives but a living breathing energy that they can engage with. *Oberstufe* students leave understanding more about the playhouse and playing conditions Shakespeare wrote for and *Mittelstufe* students leave, I hope, looking forward to beginning their study of Shakespeare at school.

? *What is Globe Education's relationship to the Globe Theatre?*

: *Globe Education* is the education arm of the *Shakespeare Globe Trust*. Shakespeare's *Globe* is an educational charity founded by the American actor and director Sam Wanamaker. He was passionate that the *Globe* should be a centre for education and perfor-

mance. *Globe Education* was therefore established eight years before the *Globe Theatre* opened. 2009 will be our 20th anniversary. Sadly, Sam never lived to see the *Globe*. He worked for no money for 23 years of his life on this project but died four years before the theatre opened. He was a remarkable man and I had the privilege to work for him for my first seven years at the *Globe*.

? *Do you have any further plans for German schools?*

: Yes! We are developing a new workshop for *Leistungskurs* students to support the *Zentralabitur* which we will begin to offer in 2009. We are also devising workshops for teachers in London and in Germany. We will offer a one-day workshop for teachers at the beautiful Theater in Lübeck in 2009 and two weekend workshops for teachers as part of the *Cornelsen Akademie* in Germany in 2010. These will offer teachers practical approaches to teaching Shakespeare in the classroom.

? *How are you going to cope with an ever increasing number of German students at the Globe?*

: We are almost at capacity now, but the good news is that we have just embarked on a fund-raising campaign of £20 million for three major building projects. The first is a new *Globe Education Centre* that will provide us with four workshop studios and a rehearsal studio added to the spaces we already have on the *Globe* site. The second is a library and the third is an indoor theatre based on 17th century designs. Would anyone like to help?!

Globe Education

Auf der Website des *Globe* www.shakespeare-globe.org/globeeducation/schools/ heißt es: *Every day hundreds of students come to the Globe to take part in our Lively Action workshops, lectures and theatre tours. Our programmes are designed to stimulate and inspire students through active engagement with Shakespeare's words.*

Anders als an vielen Theatern spielt das Thema *education* am *Globe Theatre* eine ganz herausragende Rolle. Hier werden nationale und vor allem auch sehr viele internationale Besucher auf recht unkonventionelle Art und Weise an das Theater herangeführt. 23 festangestellte Mitarbeiter des Theaters und ca. 60 sogenannte *freelancers* arbeiten

als *practioners* mit den Schülerinnen und Schülern in verschiedenen gestalteten Workshops. Patrick Spottiswoode, Direktor von *Globe Education* in einem Gespräch: *Workshop leaders are trained to work with 15-year-old German students. They have to keep in mind the language barrier, which is a new challenge for them. So they kind of diagnose the group first.* Die wesentliche Motivation und Absicht von *Globe Education* in Zusammenarbeit mit deutschen Schülerreisen-Anbietern ist es laut Patrick Spottiswoode, *to create a student experience, a learning experience rather than just a travel experience for students who have come to London.*

Auf der Website des *Globe Theatre* heißt es weiter: *Words do not lie lifeless on the*

page in Globe Education workshops. Playful and play-filled approaches are shared year-round with over 70 000 students and teachers at the Globe. Here they can experience the relationship between play and playground for themselves as they take to the Globe stage.

Darum nutzen wir gerne die Angebote von *Globe Education*, die man von Deutschland aus allerdings nur über S-E-T, einen Anbieter für Schüler-Studienreisen buchen kann. Wir arbeiten bereits seit sechs Jahren sehr gut mit dieser von einem „gelernten“ Englischlehrer geleiteten Firma zusammen. Seit nunmehr 18 Jahren pflegt man dort partnerschaftliche Kontakte mit dem *Globe Theatre*. Es gibt sowohl für die Mittel- als auch für die Oberstufe maßgeschneiderte Angebote.