

"ARTS EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR BUILDING INNOVATIVE THINKERS WHO WILL BE OUR NATION'S LEADERS OF TOMORROW." – Michelle Obama

## STET EDUCATION EVALUATION

### A YEAR IN REVIEW

#### Introduction

Plans in 2020 had to be reinvented as a whole. It was a radically different year which we hadn't expected. Yet, looking back, with all its ups and downs it was a year to be grateful for.

We had big plans for 2020: one was to realize our first university tour of an international show called *Woke of Apphia Campbell* (US). Luckily the whole tour finished just before the first COVID lockdown and it was a great success. This is a huge step and we are working towards offering more for universities. Imagine how exciting it would be to have regular performances at campuses with debates and after-show talks!

We adapted fast to the COVID restraints and designed versatile, online theatre workshops that could be enjoyed in a classroom setting or streamed directly into the homes of students. You can read about the specific projects on the next pages.

You will notice that we included the projects that had to be cancelled as a result of restrictions. We did this to show a more comprehensive picture of the year. There are still many projects that have only been dreamt about, because of the worldwide pandemic. We are grateful that STET Education still has a future. Thank you, teachers, for all your efforts! You (and your students) are our heroes.



Zoe van Pexels



## **Free Magical Storytelling sessions**

Sunday 2 February - Feel at Home Fair, The Hague

STET Education offered half-hour storytelling performances for 4 - 11 year-olds who visited the fair. Our storyteller, Caja van der Poel selects on the spot the story she is going to tell from her ever growing repertoire. She likes to feel the energy of the group and then surprises her audience with stories that fit their age and interests.

She talks about princes and princesses far, far away, who are somehow very much like us, the listeners. At the fair the children immersed themselves in the fun so much that at the end of the sessions they didn't want to leave. Even parents stayed to listen.



## **Storytelling Workshop**

3 February - Amity International School, Amsterdam

February kicked off with a fun, improvisation-based storytelling workshop for primary school students of the Amity International School. The school approached STET Education to help with their project theme: "Storytelling, telling your OWN story and HOW to make it unique." Alexander Baggett visited the school for the third time. He helped this intimate group to tap into their imagination, explore the story they wanted to tell and not to fear what the reactions might be. We have the power to create and as adults we too often give up out of fear of reactions, before we have even started. It's never too early to learn to be bold!



## Woke University Tour

3 March - Cultureel Studentencentrum Usva,  
Groningen

5 March - Erasmus University, Rotterdam

6 March - ISS, The Hague

We couldn't be more proud to have organized our first university tour in three cities. The story spoke deeply to students and lead to an interesting debate.

In *Woke*, two women who are 42 years apart in age become involved in the struggle for civil rights. One, a notorious Black Panther member, Assata Shakur; the other, a present-day university student, who enrolls at the start of the Ferguson riots. Both challenge the American justice system, become criminalized through political activism, and ultimately face the same choice: stay and fight, or flee?

Feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive. They stayed for a fiery debate after the show.



pictures by Arie Kers

# STET EDUCATION

2020



## ***Behind The Scenes Workshop***

*21 March - Open workshop for adults*

STET Education offers open workshops by professionals to interested amateurs. These workshops are always very popular. STET asked Henry Naylor, a well-known British writer and Louise Skaaning, a Danish theatre director to design a full-day workshop together. Their plan was to encourage participants to write their own stories and then work on adapting their texts to the stage. Participants would have received professional guidance and advice from these amazing, international artists during the creative process. Unfortunately the project had to be postponed to April 2021.



## ***Understanding Shakespeare Workshop***

*8 April - De Nassau, Breda*

The international department of De Nassau in Breda unfortunately saw no chance of pursuing this in-person Shakespeare workshop. The workshop details were already fully in place when the lockdown was announced. We cancelled the event, leaving 48 students an experience poorer. The school then booked for the open-air A Midsummer Night's Dream workshop in Wassenaar. This unfortunately also had to be cancelled, since the director of the school thought it best that his students didn't risk travelling to Wassenaar in such tricky times. We agreed: Safety first!

# STET EDUCATION

2020



## **American Tales Untold II. Performance**

9 April - Over Betuwe College, Bommel

*American Tales Untold II* is a show featuring two gripping stories about discrimination and mistrust in the troubled history of black America.

The performance had to be cancelled due to the insecurities surrounding the Covid situation.



## **The Deaf Workshop**

15 April - Rijnlands Lyceum, Wassenaar

Unfortunately the theatre company Mr and Mrs Clark couldn't travel to the Netherlands because of the lockdown. The whole performance and the workshop were cancelled.

## **ONLINE History Alive (theme Egypt) and ONLINE Understanding Shakespeare Workshops**

15, 17, 19 April - Lely Lyceum, Amsterdam

When the Lely Lyceum booked the *History Alive* and *Understanding Shakespeare* workshops, they expected to have something similar as the previous year. Instead, they got something totally different. The first Corona lockdown stopped us in our steps during the planning phase. However, we found solutions: the teachers were brave enough to say yes to an online version involving all of the students originally planned.

Their first-year students *lived* ancient Egypt for a few days. Through Zoom they got a selection of historical pictures and used their creativity to portray how these characters would move, act and interact with others in real life. Through a variety of theatre games, they worked on creating their own Egyptian story and characters. They performed in breakout rooms, using everything they could find in their rooms as props and costumes. Their performances were both endearing to watch and very funny!

The second-grade students had a chance to be vocal and silly whilst exploring Shakespeare's eternal sonnets. As a final task, they performed their choice of sonnets for each other.

Bettina Merten's (Coordinator Bilingual Education and Internationalization) feedback tells it all:

"Thank you again! Working with your company was a great pleasure and very important for our pupils to work on these beautiful workshops, especially in these unusual times.

Your actors Becky and Alexander had a good connection with our kids and they managed to inspire them and work with them very well!"





## ***My Father Held a Gun Performance***

16 April - Erasmus University, Rotterdam

160 students and their teachers had to cancel their plans to attend plays at their own campus theatre space.

The performance was initially cancelled but then after some discussions with the organizers of the student association we came up with the idea to offer small and intimate Storytelling and Identity workshops at the same location later this year. Read about the success of these workshops later in this document!



## ***Improvisation and Storytelling Workshop***

2 September - Schoonhoven College, Schoonhoven

An English teacher at the Schoonhoven College reached out to our education department to organize something fun for her class to look forward to in the new school year. She wanted her students to enjoy themselves after months of not seeing each other, the constant changes, insecurity about regulations and difficulties of homeschooling. The workshop delivered exactly that joy! It was a huge success as reiterated by the teacher:

"I spoke to my students and asked whether they liked it, and a shy boy just shouted 'het was GEWELDIG!!' - they all really, really enjoyed the workshop. Thank you and Alex so much!!!"



## ***How to Use Theatre in The Classroom?***

29 September - Jacob-Roelandslyceum, Boxtel

All of the 12 English teachers at the Jacob-Roelandslyceum took part in an inspiring 90-minute drama workshop to spice up their lessons with some physical theatre exercises. They got ready-to-use short dialogues and role play scripts for their students to let them discover the power of language, timing and interaction. They practiced voice exercises, articulation and bringing their message across in a playful and interesting way.

They received a handout to keep, for use any time they want to add some colour to their lessons.



## ***The Power of YOU Workshop***

1 October - Jacob-Roelandslyceum, Boxtel

The Power of You Workshop is a new item in our programme. We are lucky to have Joanna Lucas, our new workshop leader, join our educators team! The workshop focuses on using drama and theatre techniques *as tools* for building inner confidence. Joanna Lucas worked with 4 groups of students on their presence in a room, voice, communication skills and exploring how to show their personality within given scenarios and limitations.

The workshops were both ridiculously fun and taught them valuable skills that will (hopefully) stay with them for life.



## ***American Tales Untold Performance***

13 October - Jacob-Roelandslyceum, Boxtel

104 students of the Jacob-Roelandslyceum enjoyed the one-man show of Jeremiah Fleming on a rainy October day. They prepared for the event by reading the previously provided script in English lessons, building vocabulary and talking about the weighty topics of racism and mistrust in history, but also in the students' present context. The students wrote questions to the performer to start talking about the topic right after the performance. It got the cogs turning! They had a great discussion with critical thinking and valid points made.



Photo by Carmen Morlon

## ***Storytelling and Identity Workshop***

16 November - Erasmus University, Rotterdam

The stage of the Erasmus Pavilion was transformed by two storytellers who are great friends despite the fact that their origin countries are enemies (Iran and Israel). The participants were really touched by the workshop: the personal approach was very inspiring. This was such a great opportunity to share stories and do something together, especially since they hadn't seen each other much anymore. They were touched by the personal nature of each other's stories produced in such a short time. The atmosphere created by this workshop gave them room to do so and they appreciated it very much.



## ***Night Travel & Magical Storytelling Performances*** ***- On-going cooperation with Cultuurschakel -***

5 Primary Schools of The Hague (see excel)

Since the start of the cooperation between STET and Cultuurschakel in 2018 an increasing amount of children in The Hague are seeing high-quality English language theatre in their own schools. This year, 228 primary school aged children in The Hague watched one or the other of the two performances.

One happy teacher said, "Caja was professional, passionate and considerate of our children. She really made the effort to include them all and reach them on some level. She was fantastic and we would love to see her again in the future!"

(Anonymous teacher from HSV, 1 October)



Photo by Carmen Morlon

## ***What Makes Someone a Stranger OPEN Workshop***

22 November 14:00-17:00 - Zaal 3 The Hague

This workshop targeted all interested amateurs, who wanted to learn about writing their own stories and learning some basic techniques of storytelling.

The theme of the workshop was, 'strangers and what it means to be strangers to each other'. It explored how you describe a stranger and why appearance is so important in the way you view and treat somebody you don't know. Through various theatre exercises the participants learnt about themselves, each other and the invisible string that binds us all.



## ***Magical Christmas Storytelling***

11 December - United World College, Maastricht

Caja surprised the primary school children of UWC on their last day of school before the Christmas holidays. After a year of insecurities caused by the pandemic, the teachers decided to gift their students a great experience: a storyteller who took them into a wonderland of fairies and snowy hill tops. The children started with a lovely Christmas brunch and then settled in sitting on the floor to listen to the tales and be amazed by the magical world.



Photo by Paul Mattens

## ***A Christmas Carol Performance***

14 December - Krimpenerwaard College, Capelle a/d IJssel

17 Dec - Melanchton, Bergschenhoek (visiting the Muiderslot) Cancelled

For an incredible 15th year Ashley Ramsden, Master Storyteller, returned to the Netherlands to perform *A Christmas Carol* in theatres and secondary schools. Until 15 December, when unfortunately further bookings had to be cancelled as shows were halted by the lockdown. Krimpenerwaard College students were the only lucky ones who got to see Ashley live. The Melanchton class planning to attend Ashley's public performance in the grand Muiderslot castle rescheduled for December 2021.

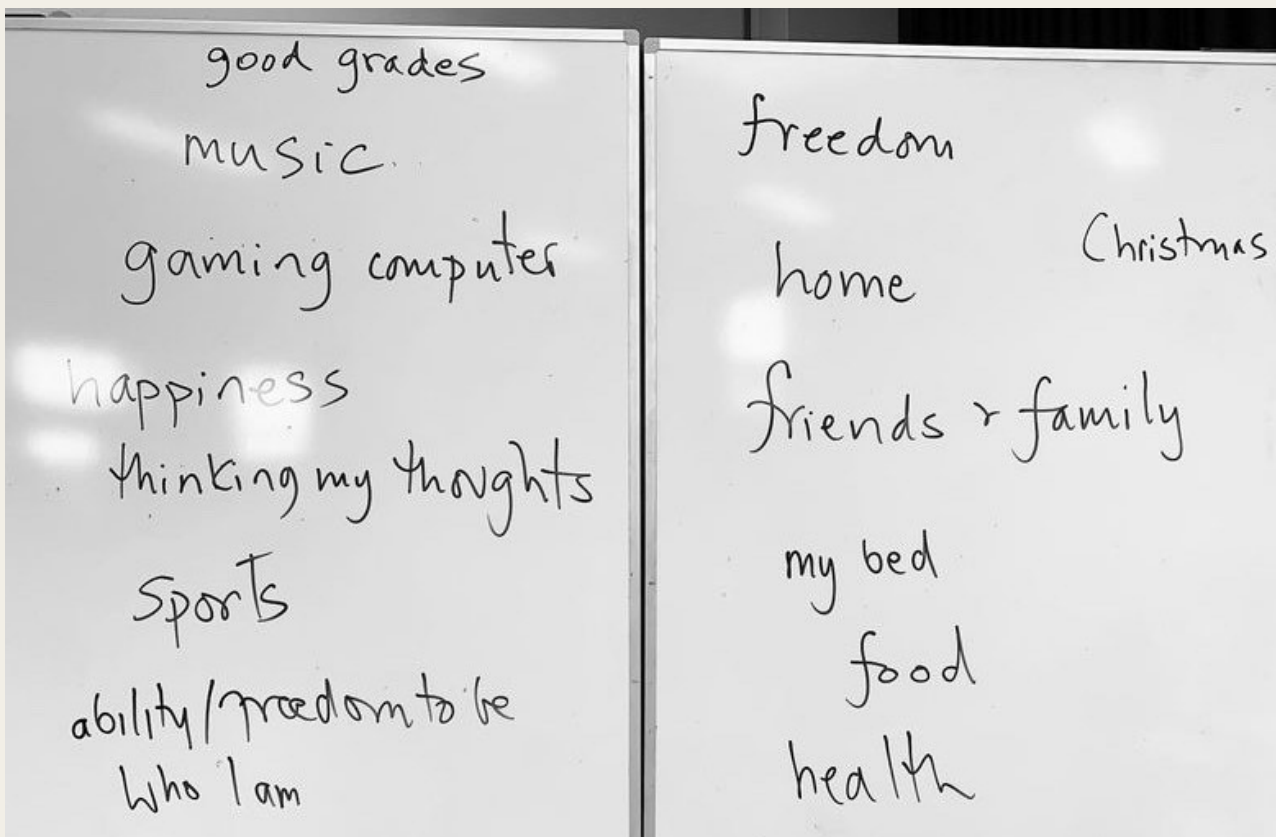


## ***Stories at Christmas Time -***

### ***Stories that Keep Us Human Workshop***

15 December - Dalton Den Haag

Ashley Ramsden, Master Storyteller, invited the Dalton Den Haag students to think about the true, authentic Christmas they all wish for. One in which they have a real connection with each other, warmth in all sense and meaningful togetherness. They were asked to come up with things/experiences they would be very upset about losing. See their answers below - very powerful! In times where we are restricted in so many ways, knowing what matters to us and intentionally choosing how we tell our stories makes a big difference. An uplifting workshop right before Christmas; we all left with full hearts!



## STATISTICS OF THE STET EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

### STET Education student statistics (A - Z)

Activity	Name School	Location	School Type/Group Type	No. of unique activities	No. of students
A Christmas Carol Performance	Krimpenerwaard College	Capelle aan den IJssel	Secondary	2	60
American Tales Untold	Jacob-Roelandslyceum	Boxtel	Secondary	2	104
How to Use Theatre in the Classroom Workshop	Jacob-Roelandslyceum	Boxtel	Adults/Teachers	1	9
Improvisation and Storytelling Workshop	Schoonhoven College	Schoonhoven	Secondary	1	20
Magical Christmas Storytelling Performance	United Word College	Maastricht	Primary	1	90
ONLINE History Alive and Understanding Shakespeare Workshops	Lely Lyceum	Amsterdam	Secondary	12	91
Stories at Christmas Time Workshop	Dalton Den Haag	The Hague	Secondary	1	22
Storytelling And Identity Workshop	Erasmus University	Rotterdam	University	2	14
Tailor-made Storytelling Workshop	Amity International School	Amsterdam	Primary	1	16
The Power of YOU Workshop	Jacob-Roelandslyceum	Boxtel	Secondary	4	85
WOKE PERFORMANCE (University Tour)	Cultureel Studentencentrum	Groningen	University	1	40
WOKE PERFORMANCE (University Tour)	Erasmus University	Rotterdam	University	1	160
WOKE PERFORMANCE (University Tour)	International Institute of Social Studies	The Hague	University	1	42
				30	753

## STET Education student statistics (only Cultuurschakel)

Activity	Name School	Location	School Type	No. of Unique Activities	No. of Students
Magical Storytelling Performance	HSV VHS	The Hague	Primary	1	16
Night Travel Performance	HSV KSS	the Hague	Primary	1	40
Night Travel Performance	KC Wondersteboven	The Hague	Primary	1	64
Magical Storytelling Performance	Het Startpunt	The Hague	Primary	2	30
				5	150

## STET Education student statistics (Cancelled due to Corona!)

Activity	Name School	Location	School Type	No. of unique activities	No. of Students
A Christmas Carol School visit at Muiderslot	Melanchthon	Muiden	Secondary	1	26
Understanding Shakespeare Workshop	De Nassau	Breda	Secondary	2	48
American Tales Untold II Performance	Over Betuwe College	Bemmel	Secondary	1	82
Deaf Workshop	Rijlands Lyceum	Wassenaar	Secondary	1	12
My Father Held a Gun Performance	Erasmus University	Rotterdam	Secondary	1	160
Behind The Scenes Workshop	Open Workshop	The Hague	Adults	1	12
				7	340

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT STUDENT REACH

Did you know, that...

- In 2018 STET Education welcomed more than 2000 students.
- In 2019 more than 2400 students from all over the Netherlands participated in our programmes.
- **In 2020 28% of all students booked for activities couldn't take part in our programmes because of Corona cancellations.** There were numerous projects that remained only to be dreamed about as teachers struggled to manage in the pandemic. If all of our projects had gone on, we would have had 1231 students, which is 50% less than a year before.
- The bookings for 2021 started out very promising with several planned engagements, but most of the activities from January to March had to be rescheduled for later in the year.

## DIAGRAM

STET Education 2020 by ages

