

**IMPACT REPORT**

# Tom Ryalls Masterclass

**Should we ban Shakespeare?**

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**St Mary's University Twickenham  
Writing&Talking Saturday Club**

January 2023



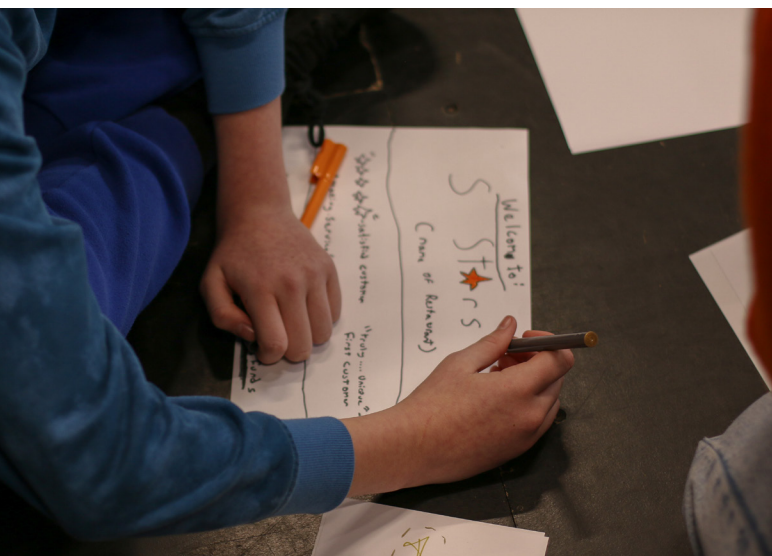
National Saturday Club Masterclasses connect Clubs with an extensive national network of industry experts and professional practitioners. Each Masterclass is bespoke, giving Club members and tutors rare access to some of the UK's most creative minds and showcasing how skills developed at the Saturday Club's weekly classes can be applied in the real world.

## Tom Ryalls × St. Mary's University Twickenham

In a Masterclass with Tom Ryalls, a.k.a. BAPI, Writing&Talking Club members from St Mary's University Twickenham explored what it means to disrupt the 'conventional' rules of theatre. Tom introduced Club members to formally 'wild' scripts, including Anne Washburn's 'Mr. Burns' and Athol Fugard's 'The Island'.

Thinking about theatre in the age of Shakespeare and how to re-write traditional expectations, Club members devised their own rule-breaking pieces about topics of their choosing. Together they explored confrontation, coming-of-age, and headlines including the cost-of-living crisis.

Throughout the Masterclass, Tom encouraged Club members to consider what there is to be learned from traditional forms, sparking debate on whether or not Shakespeare should be at the centre of school syllabuses. The Club members formed a 'Theatre Government' to share their opinions on the future of theatre and the expectations surrounding audience etiquette.



**“It was very fun to make our own plays where we broke the rules of theatre.”**

Club member

**“When getting ideas and making the piece together it was so much fun.”**

Club member

**“I most valued the idea of scrapping theatre roles and rules because it is freeing.”**

Club member

**“I enjoyed the self-realisation I went through when wanting to break the rules.”**

Club member



### Impact on the young people



enjoyed the Masterclass and found meeting industry professionals inspiring



learnt something new during the Masterclass



gained a better understanding of job roles and career possibilities



gained a better understanding of how their new skills can be transferred into the future world of work

### From the Club members

Thankyou, i learnt alot

Thank you so much for spending time with us

Great Masterclass!

It was very exciting and useful! Thank you!

[Download photographs from the Masterclass](#)

Image credit: Shots by Lasagne/Anya Ellis

