

THE 2026 MASTERCLASS WORKSHOPS

SUMMARY

Masterclasses:	Two 2-day workshops on Shakespeare (acting, singing), with collaboration
Tutors:	Mike McCormack and Graeme Du Fresne, both previous LEATSS Course Directors
Dates:	Friday 31st July to Saturday 1st August 2026 inclusive
Venue:	The Clairefontaine <i>Centre d'Accueil</i> on the Belgian-Luxembourg border
Fees:	From €300 to €400 (depending on accommodation)
Applications:	On-line applications at www.leadss.lu from 07.00 on 1st March 2026 , or by email to admin@leadss.lu

MASTERCLASSES

Overview

Two 2-day Masterclasses on Shakespeare, one for actors and the other for singers, with a collaboration between classes. The workshops do not require previous knowledge or experience of Shakespeare.

The Masterclasses take place at the summer school venue, at the same time as the summer school. They will start on Friday morning and end on Saturday evening. The timetable will follow that of the Summer School so that breaks and mealtimes coincide. Accommodation is provided for the two days of the workshop, either at Clairefontaine (multi-bed room only) or an hotel in Arlon (single or shared ensuite).

Prospective students should note that they may participate in the Summer School **or** a Masterclass **but not both**. Combining Summer School and Masterclass is not possible.

The Masterclasses are particularly suited to amateurs – experienced or otherwise – who wish to develop and improve their practical skills, knowledge, understanding and capabilities.

We provide expert professional tuition within a friendly and fully supportive environment and a high tutor-to-participant ratio (about 1:8). Because the emphasis is on **process above product** (we focus on the experience of creativity, rather than rehearse for a performance), we encompass a wide range of age, experience and skill. LEATSS is an adult school for participants from age 16 up (although exceptions are possible).

The Masterclasses

Topic: **The Late William Shakespeare**

Text and Scenes: *Acting*, tutor MIKE MCCORMACK (director, actor, lecturer)

Songs and Music: *Singing*, tutor GRAEME DU FRESNE (musical director, actor, teacher)

All details are posted on the LEATSS website.

The Timetable

The Workshop has a total of 14 hours of class, with 7 on each day:

from 09:30 until 21:00 with breaks for tea/coffee, lunch and supper.

Students are encouraged to attend the summer school warm-up on both mornings at 9.00.

Cost

Fees cover tuition, 2 nights' accommodation, all meals, tea and coffee.

Prices vary depending on the type of accommodation:

- 300 € (shared in a multi-bed room)
- 390 € (shared in a double room with bathroom – hotel in Arlon)
- 400 € (single room with bathroom – hotel in Arlon)
- 300 € (day student, including all meals)

As all single and twin rooms at the Clairefontaine venue will be occupied by summer school participants, a number of hotel rooms have been booked in nearby Arlon (10 minutes by car/taxi).

1 scholarship is available for a prospective participant who could otherwise not afford to attend. The fee is 150 € (multi-bed shared accommodation).

COURSE DETAILS

THE LATE WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Towards the end of his theatrical career, Shakespeare's company, The King's Men, moved indoors to the Blackfriars Theatre. The new intimacy of around seven hundred spectators, rather than 3,000 or so at the Globe, allowed various changes in the style of writing and performance. In particular, lighting and special effects became possible, while music and song became more intimate and complex along with sophisticated ideas for scene construction.

The course will have two groups, which come together on occasion to share discoveries and work.

MIKE MCCORMACK **Text and Scenes**

We will concentrate on two of the late plays: The Tempest and The Winter's Tale, both with exciting elements of the fantastical expressed in playtext and song as well as exploring themes of romance and comedy. While The Tempest exploits the new possibilities of the venue's opportunities for Prospero's and Ariel's magic, The Winter's Tale offers a highly complex plot, with Leontes struggling to come to terms with his own lethal actions.

We will explore some of the wonderfully dramatic moments in these plays as well as look at how to come to grips with the inherent tensions in some of the 'difficult' scenes.

We will join the singing group on occasion to share our discoveries and work.

About the tutor: Mike was a creative and inventive tutor and Course Director of the Summer School, and later, Senior lecturer in Drama at John Moores University in Liverpool. He knows well how to integrate concepts and processes into a practical and enjoyable course geared to students with a range of theatrical abilities. LEATSS is pleased to have secured the return of this high calibre tutor who will give students the benefit of his extensive experience and skills.

GRAEME DU FRESNE **Songs and Music**

Music and song appear throughout Shakespeare's plays. Very little of the original music exists, either because it wasn't written down or manuscripts failed to survive for later generations to discover. However, we do have some written music for songs from the first productions of *The Tempest* and *The Winter's Tale* composed by **Robert Johnson** (c. 1583–1633), a lutenist and composer who worked for the King's Men.

The workshop will focus on singing technique, using exercises and singing rounds of the period. We will sing arrangements of songs for the ensemble, offer solo opportunities, and explore methods of storytelling through song.

We will join the acting group on occasion to share our discoveries and work.

About the tutor: Graeme was a longstanding and highly popular tutor and Course Director of Summer School. He was Head of Music at Italia Conti, teaches at LAMDA, and knows well how to give an engaging and enjoyable course geared to students with a range of singing abilities. LEATSS is very pleased to welcome back this excellent tutor who will give students the benefit of his wide-ranging experience and skills.