

Portrait Productions present

# Shakespeare's Kings and Clowns

Written and performed by Michael McEvoy

Directed by Jennifer McEvoy



Shakespeare's kings are at their wisest when they remember that they are merely flesh and blood; his clowns are at their most foolish when they aspire to higher status; and his fools - his professional fools - at their best when they are commenting on the folly of all. Michael McEvoy takes a closer look at the world shared by these seemingly diverse characters.

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*Shakespeare's Kings and Clowns* had its first performance in November 2007 at the International Performing Arts Festival in Lahore, Pakistan.

"*Shakespeare's Kings and Clowns* was performed before a keen audience by Michael McEvoy from the UK. The

audience's reaction varied from pin-drop silence for his depiction of King Claudius's prayer in *Hamlet* to laughter at his Sir John Falstaff in *Henry IV* and Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*. On occasion he stepped down to interact with the audience. A spectator commented, 'McEvoy has been coming here for years now, and each year's performance is better than the last.' Another member of the audience called it 'a real treat for connoisseurs of literature.'" *Lahore Daily Times*.

Michael has also written solo shows on the lives of William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, George Orwell, Vincent van Gogh and Niccolo Machiavelli which have been seen both in the UK and around the world.

Aside from these solo productions, Michael's theatre includes *Beckett and the Philosophers* with the Godot Company at the Cockpit Theatre, *Breaking the Code* for Antares B Productions and *Black Comedy* at the Half Moon, Herne Hill. During the 2010 election campaign Michael appeared as Rupert Murdoch in *The New Prime Minister* at the Cochrane Theatre, London. He recently played Creon in Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus* at the Teatro Technis, London.

Michael is a founder member of the touring company, the Globe Players, with whom he has played many classical roles.

Television includes *Chambers*, *The Bill*, *Who Cared for Billy Jo?* and *Watching the Detectives*.

Most recent film: *The Tell-tale Heart* (Peer Productions USA); *The Wanderer* (Prouvost & Sons).

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