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PRESS RELEASE

FREE SHAKESPEARE FOR CEREDIGION SCHOOLS

Information begins....

Aberystwyth Arts Centre is offering secondary schools in Ceredigion the chance to experience Shakespeare performed live on stage – and all for free! The venue has booked the award winning Shakespeare exponents Propeller Theatre Company to perform a Shakespearean double bill, with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Merchant of Venice* being performed on alternate nights at the start of February, and are offering 250 free tickets for schools in Ceredigion to see the productions.

This offer has been made possible through funding awarded to the venue as part of the Arts Council of Wales' 'Beacon' awards, which are national awards made in recognition of companies and organisations which consistently present and create work of high quality and achieve high levels of excellence. The Arts Centre's director, Alan Hewson said:

'Being awarded Beacon status was a real seal of approval for the Arts Centre in that it recognised the quality and range of work that we are able to present to audiences. We work hard to build up good relationships with schools to help give young people an opportunity to experience the arts in all its many forms. Ceredigion's schools have been so supportive of our work over the years, and so we wanted to use some of the grant we received as part of the Beacon award to say thank you to them – but also to enable students in the county to see Shakespeare performed live by one of the best companies currently touring in the UK.'

The performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Merchant of Venice* can be seen at the Arts Centre from Tues 3 – Sat 7 February. Schools interested in booking tickets for their students to attend should contact the Arts Centre's

Performing Arts Officer Gill Ogden on 01970 621512 / ggo@aber.ac.uk or phone the ticket office direct on 01970 62 32 32. Tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis, so don't leave it too late!

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Notes to editors:

Award winning Aberystwyth Arts Centre is Wales' largest Arts Centre. A department of the Aberystwyth University, it offers a mix of arts programming, contemporary exhibitions and events unmatched in the nation. Through its education and community arts programme in the visual and performing arts, it provides an important resource for the local community and the region.

Aberystwyth Arts Centre is the only venue in Wales for Propeller's current tour.

For more information, contact Louise Amery, 01970 622889 lila@aber.ac.uk