



## Manga Shakespeare series goes into 4th reprint with global recognition, and SelfMadeHero's UK Young Publisher of the Year award.

The Manga Shakespeare series goes into its 4th reprint this month, with */Hamlet/* and */Romeo and Juliet/*. The series has achieved global recognition since its launch only 14 months ago. Sales are strong in the US, Australia, New Zealand, India, Malaysia and Ireland as well as the UK. Rights have been sold in Europe, South America and Korea as well as the US; there have been awards from the American Library Association, the New York Public Library, and commendations from the Globe Theatre. The publication of *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Tempest* means that these critically acclaimed books will now be available to meet the needs of the 2008/9 school SATS tests. Other titles in SelfMadeHero's list include *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Richard III*, *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which are either part of the rolling programme for SATS or are due to be included by 2011.

SelfMadeHero's pioneering role in education was recognised when Director Emma Hayley received the 2008 UK Young Publisher of the Year Award in April. The judging panel said: 'Emma is a decisive, creative, and brave publisher. She is hugely innovative, a natural risk-taker and displays an outstanding openness and sensitivity. The judges were impressed by her ability to challenge the status quo without being inhibited by the need to subscribe to orthodoxies and by her ability to present classics to new audiences, acknowledging the importance of education.'

Manga Shakespeare books are supported by an exciting calendar of events and an innovative educational programme. Actor-led workshops are now taking place in schools with an enthusiastic response from participants. Artist-led workshops have already attracted praise – and taken place at different locations in the UK, Singapore, Malaysia, India and Japan. A Manga Shakespeare Cosplay\*\* competition will be announced shortly.

Reactions from teachers and arts education organisations have been very enthusiastic – internationally. 'SelfMadeHero

has been breaking ground in literature education, making Shakespeare more accessible in the classroom and showing teachers how to use visual literacy to aid their pupils understanding, said Sunitha Janamohan, British Council Arts Manager in Malaysia. Anne Walker of Allerton High School in Leeds said: 'Watch out! Self Made Hero's Manga Shakespeare books are seriously good. Students are reading them for pleasure!' and 'The Manga Shakespeare workshop was stimulating and original – a marvellous way to bring Shakespeare's *Tempest* to life for Year 9 students. Manga artist Paul Duffield was inspirational!'

SelfMadeHero published its first book only 14 months ago, but already its founder Emma Hayley has made a huge impact. She is widely considered one of the most innovative publishers in the UK. She said 'We have been working closely with senior decision makers responsible for curriculum development in schools, as well as library services. We are delighted with the reactions to our books. The Manga Shakespeare series provides access to the original language of Shakespeare in a format that excites young people'.

\*\* Cosplay stands for "Costume Play", originating in Japan, this is becoming increasingly popular in the UK.

**Manga Shakespeare books available in 2008** are: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *The Tempest*, *Richard III*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Othello\** and *As You Like It\** [\*available November 2008].

**Titles due out in 2009** are *King Lear*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Henry VIII*.

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