



## President's Report: November 2022

This year, the Society has supported a number of exciting projects, publications and events. Our partnerships with the Shakespeare Schools Festival (SSF-SA) and the Tsikinya-Chaka Centre (TCC) at the University of the Witwatersrand played a significant role in helping SSOSA to fulfil its mandate among school teachers and learners, university academics and students, theatre- and film-makers, and members of the general public.

In April, the Makhanda branch hosted the annual Shakespeare Birthday Lecture, which was delivered by Dan Wylie. The lecture is available on YouTube and can be accessed via Shakespeare ZA (<http://shakespeare.org.za/news/2022/4/21/shakespeare-in-zimbabwean-poetry>).

In May, Robin Malan's *A Sillie Shakspur Quizze* was published by Junkets with modest support from SSOSA. Also in May, SSOSA co-sponsored a performance of *Macbeth* at the Drama Factory in Somerset West by the Educasons ensemble for an enthusiastic audience of learners from nearby schools, as well as a workshop for the cast run by Clayton Stromberger of the University of Texas at Austin.

In July, the Johannesburg Awakening Minds (JAM) ensemble's short film *A Midsummer Ice Cream* – a multilingual adaptation of the “Mechanicals” scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – was launched. Shot and edited by Keaton Ditchfield and produced by the TCC and How Now Brown Cow productions, the film was supported financially and logistically by SSOSA. See: <https://youtu.be/hj2UfKGZ5Zs> (The same arrangement had previously resulted in the “JAM at the Windybrow” series of monologues and sonnets, which appeared shortly after my previous report in November 2021. See: <https://www.tsikinya-chaka.org/news-events-and-features/jam-at-the-windybrow>)

The SSOSA-TCC translation digitisation project continues, with an additional six titles added this year. A beta (testing) version of the Sol Plaatje Archive of Shakespeare in African Languages was launched in July as part of the Programme for African Digital Humanities (Afridig) on Omeka: <https://afridig.omeka.net/s/sol-plaatje-archive-shakespeare-africa/>

SSOSA has also supported the print and electronic publication of Deryck Uys' Afrikaans Shakespeare translations by TCC Press. The first title officially published, in October 2022, was *Koning Richard III*. This will be followed in November by *Macbeth* and, in December, *Koning Lear*. Additional Uys translations will be published in 2023, starting with *Romeo en Juliet*.

At the time of writing, *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* volume 35 is about to go to press (see separate report on *SiSA*). In my previous SSOSA report, it was noted that a selection of papers presented at the 2019 triennial congress and conference were developed into research articles and published in *SiSA* volume 33 (2020). Other papers were adapted for publication in a special issue of *Shakespeare Bulletin* (39.4) that appeared at the end of 2021, co-edited by Sandra Young and David Sterling Brown: “Shakespeare and Social Justice in Contemporary Performance”. A further ten delegates from the 2019 conference have since expanded their papers into essays for a volume that will be published early in 2023, edited by Sandra Young and Chris Thurman, under the title *Global Shakespeare and Social Injustice: Towards a Transformative Encounter* (Arden / Bloomsbury).

The main focus of SSOSA’s activities in 2023 will be the next triennial congress (deferred from 2022), which will take place at Spier Wine Farm from 24-27 May. An academic conference, co-hosted by SSOSA and the TCC and co-convened by Chris Thurman and Sandra Young, will be held under the theme: “Shakespeare Towards an End”. The keynote speakers will be Ruben Espinosa and Jyotsna G. Singh.

**Chris Thurman**