

## **SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL – PRESS RELEASE** **(Andy Mulligan)**

The British School Manila Shakespeare Festival took place over three evenings, from 3-5<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2009. It was a collaboration between primary and senior schools, and involved more than one hundred children – not to mention the army of technicians, set-builders and behind-the-scenes costumiers, prop-shifters etc etc.

### Why so many?

Because the public were offered a real Shakespearean banquet! – the starter was the primary school's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', lovingly performed amongst green trees and fairy lights. The second course was a remarkable performance of 'Romeo and Juliet', obeying the real Elizabethan conventions: outdoor stage in flickering torch light, and a cast of boys only!

Dessert was that most horrific of thrillers – 'Macbeth', performed amongst a coven of snarling witches in a nest of evil. Blood was shed about ten minutes into the show when the king had his throat cut, and it didn't stop flowing until the curtain came down. The school's head of drama described the evening as '*a genuine Shakespeare feast – three shows, in such different styles, but all connected by the children's energy and commitment*' – a triumph!

March 16<sup>th</sup> 09



The British School Manila is an international school in the Philippines providing excellent standards of British education in academic, sporting and social education. The school prides itself on excellent result – (in National Curriculum tests and GCSE results, the school far exceeds UK averages)

At present 700+ students are on roll and 45 nationalities are represented. British children make up 24%, Filipino 20%. Americans 10% and Australians 8% of the total students.