**Report on Celebrating 400 years of literary culture: Shakespeare and Cervantes**

Final title of the event

**Tilting at Windmills: Cervantes ‘meets’ Shakespeare 400 years on**

The event took place on Friday 22nd April 2016 at 70 Oxford Street, Manchester Metropolitan University, as planned in the original proposal. It brought together staff and students from the Languages Department and the School of Theatre. Both sides acknowledged the benefits they had derived from the experience of working together.

Three Spanish undergraduates, one from each year and following voice and performance coaching, recited 3 extracts from *Don Quijote* in Spanish. A translation in English was provided for those in the audience who did not understand Spanish. Four 2nd Year Theatre students performed scenes from two Shakespeare’s plays, a comedy and a tragedy. Dressed in period costume hired specially for the event, two Final Year students enacted an imaginary meeting between Cervantes and Shakespeare. Staff provided some contextualisation of the respective legacies of Cervantes and Shakespeare. The programme was as follows:

5.00 Welcome and Introduction: Karl McLaughlin

5.15 Cervantes: *Don Quijote*’s legacy (speaker: Idoya Puig)

5.30 Student Readings of Extracts from *Don Quijote* (in Spanish): 25 minutes

Nina Birley (presenter), Phoebe Lee, Joshua Ellis, Rosie Bloxham

5.55 Introduction to Shakespeare (speaker: Simon Gilman)

Performances by School of Theatre (40 minutes)

*Richard III*, Act 1 Scene ii –

Gloucester (Richard): Jacob Kendall

Lady Anne: Sarah Smith.

*As You like It* Act 3 Scene ii –

Orlando: Matthew Johnson

Rosalind: Jasmine Perkin

6.35 Cervantes and Shakespeare Face to Face: A ‘Visionary’ Dialogue.

Jerome Dowling (Cervantes) and Lewis Frazer (Shakespeare) (20 minutes)

7.00 Close remarks by Dean Sharon Handley and Drinks Reception

The event was advertised across the two universities and Manchester with the production of a leaflet. The Humanities in the Public team at MMU included our event in their termly programme, which was advertised in this term’s printed brochure, website, Twitter, the student newspaper, The Northern Quota, and other social media outlets. A feature will appear in the MMU magazine ManMetLife and the student press platform Humanity Hallows. A professional photographer took pictures of the event, which will be uploaded in the MMU Humanities in the Public website. The Instituto Cervantes in Manchester tweeted the event and sent a representative on the day. Staff from the University of Manchester were also present. There were approximately 90 people in attendance on the evening.

The event ran smoothly and was well-received. A sizeable number of people stayed for the reception and were very positive with their comments, highlighting the entertaining character of the event and the balance of academic and performing material. Students were highly praised for their performances. All in all, it was an enjoyable and fitting celebration of the 400th anniversary of the death of Cervantes and Shakespeare which was being commemorated across Spain and UK.

While we were preparing the event, the Neighbourhoods Service of the Central Library contacted us and requested a repeat performance in the library on Saturday 23rd April at 2.00 pm, to assis their formal commemoration of World Book Day. The event was advertised in their website. The same programme was followed, except for the drinks reception at the end. A further 40 people attended.

We are grateful for the support provided by JMCE, which has made the event possible and has opened up a number of collaborations for the future.

Leaflet attached

Some photos attached

Link to website:

<http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/hip/world/tilting-at-windmills-cervantes-meets-shakespeare-400-years-on/>

Link to The Northern Quota:

<http://thenorthernquota.org/features/cervantes-and-shakespeare-appear-man-met>

25-4-16

Idoya Puig/Karl McLaughlin

Manchester Metropolitan University