

OPEN THE MAGIC DOOR

Shedman is writer and poet John Davies who's inspired by all kinds of sheds. With a highly proactive approach, he creates a magnetic visitor attraction, enthralling workshops and lively events using sheds as the focus for a uniquely poetic interaction with people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds. Everyone has a shed story!

 **ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY**

 **ENERGISE COMMUNITY**

 **STIMULATE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

 **EXCITING ATTRACTOR**

 **ENGAGE THE PUBLIC**

 **SHARE SHED EXPERIENCE**

 **EASY TO INSTALL**

“... a sunny and totally professional presence ...

On the evening before Shedman's arrival we found a group of young people cycling around the shed like wolves round a caribou, kicking the door in and/or hiding inside, spoiling for a fight. By the end of the week, these same young people were avid Shedman fans, writing their own poetry and trying to raise funds to buy the shed as a permanent fixture. That, to me, exemplified his patience, people skills and passion for poetry: an advocate for our times.”

Sue Stewart, Organiser, Daventry Festival (Olympiad)

ASK SHEDMAN TO BE THE HEART OF YOUR EVENT

For fees and availability, contact Shedman on 01273 242850, email shedman@shedman.net or follow Shedman on Facebook or Twitter.

🏠 SHEDMAN – THE ORIGINAL POET IN A SHED

The authentic master of the small space literary interaction, Shedman has spawned dozens of emulators and triggered a complete category of site specific micro-venue installations.

🏠 SHEDMAN IN THE MEDIA

Shedman is a PR dream, getting attention for your project, event or festival. The national press and TV as well as many local radio stations and newspapers have covered Shedman's activities.

🏠 SHED LOCATION

Usually provided by a local sponsor and raffled in aid of charity, Shedman's shed works best where there are lots of passers-by – in a shopping area, school library, hospital reception or near a venue.

🏠 SHED INTERACTION

People just love the fact that Shedman enjoys listening to people, hearing about their sheds and their shed memories.

🏠 THE SHED AS WORKSHOP

Shedman runs impromptu poetry and creative writing workshops, encouraging everyone to have a go. People put their contributions on the shed, and they can be published in print or online.

🏠 THE SHED AS A MICRO-VENUE

As well as presenting his own work, Shedman provides a venue for local poets and performers as well as any professional artists, writers and musicians who care to drop by.

🏠 THE SHED AS WORKSTATION

Shedman likes to write poems and stories as part of his residency, as well as blogging about his day-to-day experiences.

🏠 SHED OUTPUTS AND ARCHIVE

Shedman records many of his explorations, encounters and interactions on video (he's an award winning video director too).

SHED THEMES

A theme, or set of themes, often emerges during the project, perhaps catching a local mood, spirit of place or burning concern. Shedman is also happy to adapt his activities to fit a particular event or festival theme.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Shedman loves to run workshops in local schools, colleges, care homes or hospitals. He has special experience working in healthcare and has recently co-authored *Our Storeys – Art and Poetry in Healthcare* with artist Sue Ridge.

SHED PLANKS

Shedman has a number of planks in his platform, from impromptu workshops to special performances, from explorations of the best sheds in the local neighbourhood to artistic shed installations. No one has more experience of sheds!

SHED ASSEMBLY DAY (SAD)

If you've seen the film *Witness* you'll know what a community-building activity raising a shed can be! Come and witness a grown man go through every emotion known to humanity and a few more besides as he tries to put up his self-assembly shed. Laugh till your knotholes pop! Then give him a hand! All assistance welcome!

SAS DAYS

Be part of the Shed Appreciation Society (motto: Who dares, grins!) Bring reminiscences, stories, photos, pictures, poems, postcards and anything else connected with sheds to create an evolving installation.

SHED QUESTS

Look out for Shedman on his Shed Quest to find and explore amazing and unusual sheds. Send suggestions via Twitter @Shedman

SHED SHOW

Shedman can give a finale presentation – giving a flavour of some of the stories he's heard and people he's met, and reading and performing his own work including any poems he may have written during his stay.

GET IN TOUCH

If your project needs lifting out of the ordinary, email shedman@shedman.net. Thanks for your interest!

SHEDMAN RECOMMENDATIONS

“Shedman was the outstanding hit of the Festival; both the focal point of the street entertainment and a tangible manifestation of the festival's aims of connecting with all ages and all sections of the community ... He is also a PR dream – there isn't a Press Release in the world that can't be improved by adding ‘and a poet in a shed’ at the end!”

Lucy Flannery, Havant Literary Festival

“The workshops were fantastic - I never imagined that anyone would get them writing poetry as enthusiastically as you did. It really did make a huge difference with the project ... you had them eating out of your hand!”

Rachel Merrington Cambridge Regional College

“... His enthusiasm and engagement with audiences of all ages ensured that the event was a great success - one we hope to repeat with Shedman in the lead.”

Alison Baxter, Head of Creative Enterprise, West Dean College

‘A memorable mixed media installation with a very human face. He brought new visitors to the museum and struck a chord with people from many different backgrounds...His residency was a motivating and energising process for all involved... I can recommend him unhesitatingly to other organisations seeking a different approach to the integration of community, arts and cultural activities.’

John Cooper, Booth Museum of Natural History, Brighton

“I invited Shedman to come to the little town of Herzele, where we organise every year the literary festival 'Lezen in de Lente' (Reading in Spring). Shedman made an intervention in English on the stage that surprised a lot of people. Afterwords, he interacted with the public and stimulated them to write their own poetry. That is the essential drive of Lezen in de Lente: quality and erudition, but close to the people.”

Filip De Bodt, vzw 't Uilekot, Herzele, Belgium.