

Dear Teachers and Administrators,

We are very excited to be continuing regular biennial Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival production offerings for regional secondary schools and home school groups. We realize we are late getting details. There has been much to organize and arrange, but we believe what we have to offer to schools and educators is a great opportunity for students to see live performances of Shakespeare's works.

First, we will have matinee performances for our Mainstage production of *Romeo and Juliet*. We know this is a production title that especially serves secondary schools as it is a title most-frequently read and taught in schools. This fall's production features guest director Patrick Poole and a strong cast of students. Additionally, guest performer Devon Glover, AKA Sonnet Man will be performing in the role of Prince Escalus. For more information about his work, visit his site at <https://sonnetman.com/>

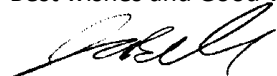
As in past years, we will be mounting three weekday matinee performances at a price of only \$2.50 per ticket. This year's performance begins at 10:00 AM and ends at approximately 12:30 PM, with a 10-minute intermission. We ask schools to arrive between 9AM and 9:30 AM. The Matinee dates this year are **Tuesday, October 8th, Wednesday, October 9th, and Thursday, October 10th..** Unfortunately, we are not able to provide lunches this year, but we are able to provide our regular space as a lunch area. Schools that wish to remain for lunch are welcome to bring lunches with you from your schools. Schools can give us packed up lunches upon arrival, and we will take them to the lunch area for after the performance. Our cast and crew will still join students in the lunch area in our Kirkhof Center building and be able to interact with your students, as in years past. We do not have refrigeration in the lunch area, but schools can bring lunches in coolers if needed. We will provide iced water and a small treat for students to go with their lunch. We will also have a Grand Valley State University Admissions Representative with information about Grand Valley at the lunch area. Any students who are interested in what Grand Valley offers may wish to speak with the Admissions Officer. Additionally, tours of the campus for schools can be arranged.

Second, *Bard to Go*, our touring production that visits West Michigan schools during the fall semester, features an all new production, *Bard to Go: To Thine Own Self Be True*. Like many modern teens, Shakespeare's characters are often striving to discover and define their sense of self. *Bard to Go: To Thine Own Self Be True* explores the ways in which Shakespearean characters gain independence, build their individual identities, and find their places in the world. *Bard to Go* is a 50-minute program of scenes from multiple Shakespearean plays, and includes narration that will give your students context to the scenes and characters. *Bard to Go* is especially relevant to Michigan high school performing arts standards 3, 4, and 5, which set the goals of students describing, analyzing, and evaluating works of art in their historical context, as well as analyzing the connections between the arts and everyday life.

Bard to Go is available to come to your school on October 11, or 18, 25, or November 1. Schedule slots will be available each day in either the morning or the afternoon. *Bard to Go* is flexible in its use of performance spaces, and can adapt to theatres, cafeterias, gyms, or large classroom spaces. The production will require a space approximately 20 feet wide by 25 feet deep, with ceiling clearance of at least 9 feet. We will also need access to electrical outlets and a separate dressing area for the actors. The cost to bring *Bard to Go* to your school is \$250.00.

Registration for either the Grand Valley Allendale Campus performances of *Romeo and Juliet* or for arranging a performance of *Bard to Go* at your school is available online at <https://www.gvsu.edu/shakes/schools-26.htm>. For both productions, schools register now for the date and for *Bard to Go*, for the time of performance. Schools will be contacted for final arrangements. We hope you and your students will join us for our fall festival activities. Please contact me with any questions.

Best wishes and Good Will,



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