April 15, 2016

Dear West Michigan Teachers,

Greetings from the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival! Preparations are now underway for our 23rd annual mainstage production, this year featuring Shakespeare’s dark, emotional comedy, *Measure for Measure*.

In the play, the Duke of Vienna goes undercover to see how his city gets along without him. The corruption he finds in the authority he leaves behind puts a very modern face on the struggle for justice, in one of the most dramatic and relevant stories among all of Shakespeare’s plays. Even the happy ending is called into question when Isabella, the heroine who wishes to become a nun, is invited to marry and live happily ever after—but she does not respond. Every production—perhaps even every audience member—has to decide what Isabella’s silence means for the play’s finale.

GVSU Theatre Professor, Director Roger Ellis directs the play this year with a company of talented students, creative faculty and staff, and amazing professional guest artists collaborating to create another high-quality performance that brings Shakespeare to life at a remarkably affordable rate for our school audiences.

As in past years, we will be mounting three matinee performances for schools, which begin at 10:00 AM and include a free lunch with every ticket purchased for the low price of $2.50. The dates this year are Monday, October 3rd, Tuesday, October 4th, and Thursday, October 6th.

Starting May 1st, we invite you to register your group in advance for a matinee performance in the fall. The online registration site is at gvsu.edu/shakes. If you prefer not to register online, there is a registration form at our website that can be used to email, fax, or mail in registration. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your registration in person, you can reach me best by email: millerj@gvsu.edu. If you would like a call back, don’t hesitate to leave your phone number and a time that is best to reach you, and someone will get in touch with you to make sure your group can reserve a spot for what is sure to be another great event.

I look forward to seeing you in the fall!

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