May 4, 2016

Dear Teachers and Administrators,

We are looking ahead to an exciting fall Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, our 22nd Season. A big part of our festival is our educational programs. As you finish the 2015-16 Academic Year, we want to inform you about some of our fall plans and give you an opportunity to secure a place to attend and be involved with our events.

First, as usual, we will have matinee performances for our Mainstage production. Enclosed is a letter from our Festival Schools Liaison, Dr. Jo Miller about our Mainstage production of Measure for Measure and the special school matinees. We encourage you to consider our early reservation as these performances do fill up. You can register online or find a form at our website to fax, mail, or email to us. The online registration does not require advanced payment.

Second, Bard to Go, features a brand new production and approach for this fall. Bard to Go is a touring production that visits West Michigan schools during the fall semester. This year's program, Bard to Go: Macbeth is a 45 minute condensed version of a single Shakespeare play. Where it is Macbeth, a play that students typically read, we believe it is a great opportunity for students to see this performed version of what they are or have read. Please see the attached Bard to Go letter with more information.

Lastly, and perhaps even most exciting, this fall is a conference year for us, and the Festival is sponsoring the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival Conference on Performance and Pedagogy. Please see the enclosed conference materials for more information and watch our conference site at http://www.gvsu.edu/shakesconference/ for more details for teachers including some initiatives to help with costs for urban schools and for schools with multiple teachers attending. This is an opportunity to attend a conference devoted to using Shakespeare in the classroom and offers Continuing Education Credits for teachers.

We hope you and your students will join us for our fall festival activities. For any seniors in your program, we will be holding scholarship auditions in late spring 2017 and will be unveiling new and renovated performance and rehearsal spaces in Fall 2017. It will be a very exciting time to be part of theatre at Grand Valley. Scholarship information is on the Festival website. Please feel free to email me at bellja@gvsu.edu if you have questions or contact Dr. Alli Metz at metza@gvsu.edu if you have conference questions.

Best wishes and Good Will,

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