



Dear Educators,

September 17, 2021

With pleasure we announce that our 2021 Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival touring production, *Bard to Go* plans a fall tour to West Michigan secondary schools. *Bard to Go* is part of the educational outreach programs incorporated into the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival. *Bard to Go: What Mighty Magic* takes audiences on a tour of Shakespeare's magical scenes, with fairies, witches, ghosts, sprites, and a statue that comes to life. This production features scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *The Winter's Tale*. *Bard to Go* offers students a lively, fast-paced introduction to Shakespeare's language and stagecraft in a 50-minute program of scenes.

Our tour dates and times are more limited this fall. We will be touring on Fridays, October 22, October 29, and November 5. We know that the last two years have been difficult for schools, and so for this season, we are offering our production at the reduced rate of \$200. Schools that would wish a second performance the same day, may also book the second performance for \$150. We will be scheduling on a first come-first serve basis. To request a booking, please visit the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival website *Bard to Go* online booking at

<http://www.gvsu.edu/shakes/cms-form-edit.htm?formId=8AAFE31F-C618-E96D-EF7FB7A3BE6B94B0>

As we are still battling Covid-19, Grand Valley State University, the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, and *Bard to Go* take Covid-19 protocols serious, especially as guests in schools. Our production consists of 6 performers, a student stage manager, a technical director, and our faculty director and faculty producer. All 10 of us will wear masks at all times indoors. We are able to perform in various settings from auditoriums to cafeteria or gymnasium settings. In any case, we ask that audience members—students and faculty and staff, be seated and remain 15 feet from the performance area. The performers will also remain within the performance area and not engage in direct contact with the audience. We also require that all in attendance remain masked during the performance regardless of your own school policy about wearing and requiring masks indoors. Here are the specific requirements we would need:

- A performance/stage space that is at least 20' by 22' with at least a 9 floor-ceiling clearance.
- Access to electrical outlets for our sound board and speakers.
- Dressing area for actors that is not accessible to the school's students.
- Restrooms for actors, preferably not accessible by the school's students.
- At least 15 feet between the stage area front and any audience members.
- Masked audience.

Please send any questions to Jim Bell, Managing Director of the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival at bellja@gvsu.edu.

Best Wishes,

Jim Bell

Associate Professor of Theatre, Managing Director Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival
Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance, Grand Valley State University
616-331-3066 bellja@gvsu.edu