

Call for Directors

The Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival seeks a director who is an alumnus of GVSU Theatre (either a major or a minor), to direct a production of *Defy the Stars*, a new play by alumnus playwright Scott Watson, which will be presented as part of the 2018, 25th Anniversary Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival. Pending a grant application for production funds, the play will either be fully produced, or performed as a staged reading in the brand new Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box theatre, with a cast of alumni actors. The director should be prepared to correspond with festival personnel and the playwright beginning in April, participate in auditioning actors by video in June, and be on-site for the festival beginning on September 17, staying through performances that end on October 7. This position will receive a paid contract fee, as well as home-stay housing arranged by the festival for a director from outside of the immediate West Michigan area. The final figure for the contract fee will be determined by whether the production receives grant funding and which type of production the festival undertakes.

Defy the Stars follows a group of internees at the Westerbork Transit Camp in the Netherlands in July 1942. In order to save themselves and others from deportation to Auschwitz, these actors stage a production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The play uses Shakespeare as a means to explore historical events, and to examine the theme of shared humanity and the function of the arts in society.

To apply, please send a directing resume and cover letter detailing your interest in the project and your background with the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival to Katherine Mayberry at maybekat@gvsu.edu. We will begin reviewing applications on March 11, with a final submission deadline of March 31, and we may contact you to participate in an interview by phone or Skype. Please direct any questions to Katherine at the above email address.