

March 21, 2018

Dear West Michigan Teachers,

Greetings from the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival! Preparations are now underway for our special 25<sup>th</sup>-year anniversary celebration! We are excited to bring you our mainstage play this year—Shakespeare’s masterpiece, *King Lear*.

Theatre Professor Karen Libman directs *King Lear* with her amazing talent for storytelling and empathy. In the role of Lear, Brian Webb Russell joins our company of talented students, creative faculty and staff, and professional guest artists collaborating to bring Shakespeare to life. Russell was last seen on our stage in the role of Paroles in Libman’s 2015 *All’s Well That Ends Well*. He has played many memorable parts with our Festival, such as *Richard III* in our 2012 production, and Oberon in our Bollywood-style version of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in 2008.

As in past years, we will be mounting three weekday matinee performances at a remarkably affordable rate for our school audiences. This year’s performance begins at 10:00 AM and ends at approximately 12:45 PM (*note that this play runs about 15 minutes longer than our usual performances*). As usual, we will include a free lunch with every ticket purchased for the low price of \$2.50. The dates this year are: **Monday, October 1st, Tuesday, October 2nd, and Thursday, October 3rd.**

Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, we invite you to register your group in advance for a matinee performance in the fall. The online registration site is at [www.gvsu.edu/shakes](http://www.gvsu.edu/shakes). If you have any questions about the play or the performance, you can reach me best by email: [millerj@gvsu.edu](mailto:millerj@gvsu.edu). If you would like to discuss your registration in person or need a call back, please contact our box office Director, Jack Lane, at: [lanejack@gvsu.edu](mailto:lanejack@gvsu.edu). 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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