

Dear Teachers and Administrators,

We are looking ahead to an exciting fall Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, our Silver Anniversary 25th Season. A big part of our festival is our educational programs. As you finish the 2017-18 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 the well-known favorite, *King Lear*, 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 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: The Twelfth Night* is a condensed version of the popular comedy. It will be a fun and entertaining production. Please see the attached *Bard to Go* letter with more information from *Bard to Go* producer Katherine Mayberry. There is the opportunity to request a date with early registration.

Finally, we are also holding our biannual Shakespeare Performance and Pedagogy conference. It will be a little different this fall in that it will be Thursday and Friday and all at our Allendale facilities. The Keynote Speaker is Michael LoMonico who works with educational programming at the Folger Library in Washington DC. He will also be conducting a workshop on Thursday. He is really fantastic and worth the attendance just to work with him. The conference will also feature the opening night performance of *King Lear* as well as an "original practices" performance of *Henry VI (conflation)* by Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company. There will also be performances from *Bard to Go* and our festival Greenshow. We are offering special discounts for the conference to area teachers. Please check our website for that opportunity.

Our theatre major program at Grand Valley opened new facilities last fall, including a new Black box Theatre, new rehearsal and classroom spaces, a new costume shop and costume and design classroom space, and new green room and dressing room facilities. For any students interested in pursuing theatre in college or just seeing these facilities, we will be offering tours and we are happy to discuss further our program and facilities. We also always have an admissions counselor available to talk with interested students or schools, and we can also help arrange tours of the campus.

We hope you and your students will join us for our fall festival activities.

Best wishes and Good Will



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Grand Valley

Shakespeare Festival