The 2014 Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival:
Beginning Our Third Decade of “Good Will”!

Our 2014 21st season began with Will Power—the Shakespeare Camp for Kids. Children ages 6-12 explored the magic of the theatre through acting, creative movement, improvisation, stage combat, singing, dancing and more, all focused on the most dramatic of all storytellers, William Shakespeare!

Fall Festival offerings kicked off with the biannual Pedagogy and Performance Conference. Keynote speaker and scholar-in-residence Tony Simotes’s public address, “Shakespeare’s Physical Text: Violence and Comedy for the Stage,” made for interesting discussion on the nature of stage violence and Shakespearean text. Local, national, and international teachers, graduate students, and scholars presented at and attended the conference, which also featured a command performance of Macbeth.

The Greenshow Production of “Pyramus and Thisbee” from A Midsummer Night’s Dream, directed by alumnus Kyle Walker, performed on campus during the Annual Renaissance Faire. And Grand Valley students had a chance to feature their scholarly and creative work during the annual Shakespeare Student Competition. Winners in Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and graduate and undergraduate Literary Arts categories shared their winning pieces at the Closing Ceremony in November, which also featured a final public performance of Bard to Go.

The Wild West proved a hilarious setting for mainstage feature The Comedy of Errors. Equity Actor and GV Shakespeare Festival regular Paul Riopelle played the Sherriff and composed original music. Other guest artists included actor-alumnus Kyle Westmaas, stage manager Amelia Crist, and choreographer-alumnus Christian Vigrass. An alumni-sponsored Reception, organized by Morgan Springsteen and Molly Gaddie Walker, capped off opening night, and the run went on for eleven performances, including three performances attended by 1500 area secondary school students.
2014 Pedagogy & Performance Conference

Over 50 students, professors, teachers, artists, and administrators from across GVSU, the United States and abroad participated in the third biannual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival's Pedagogy and Performance Conference held Sept. 26-27. During the first day attendees enjoyed a lively conference-wide round table forum focused on teaching topics, a Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company workshop, and a performance by the festival’s Greenshow. Afternoon sessions were capped off with an engaging and heartfelt keynote speech with the festival scholar, Tony Simotes. Simotes shared anecdotes and wisdom from his several decades of professional acting, university teaching, stage fight choreographing, and artistic management of the long running Shakespeare & Company. Later on, an informance by Dr. Jo Miller and a performance of The Comedy of Errors completed the opening day. Saturday included eight concurrent sessions ranging in topics from presentations about pop culture in Shakespearean performance to workshops about the importance of breath for vocal training. Pat Quigley, former Director of Education for the Stratford Festival, offered valuable insights about the impact of education during the all-conference plenary session before the conference concluded with a production of Macbeth.

Bard To Go

Our touring production, Bard to Go took to the road with an all-new 50 minute production titled Lights, Camera, Action! For the first time, the GV Shakespeare Festival was a feature during Grand Rapids’ ArtPrize and voters got to taste Shakespeare--BTG style! Six middle and high schools, including Comstock Park and Grand Rapids Central High, hosted performances. Actors also visited the American Shakespeare Center in Virginia, and performed on the indoor Blackfriars stage.
2015 Mainstage Performance
All’s Well That Ends Well

All's Well That Ends Well, our mainstage production for 2015, will keep you guessing right up until the final curtain about the love story it tells of bittersweet longing and sexual misconduct. Helena, one of Shakespeare's most remarkable heroines, performs miracles and undertakes a perilous journey to win the love of Bertram. But Bertram is a young man yearning for freedom; he would rather go to war than marry the woman who has chosen him. This is a play that charms and frustrates audiences by turns as it spins out its fairytale plot of a low-born woman who achieves greatness through sheer courage and the power of imagination.

Director Karen Libman brings her inimitable storytelling style to this feminist folktale with a company of students, faculty/staff, and professional guest artists collaborating to create another performance that brings Shakespeare to life for West Michigan audiences.

Rehearsals begin August 17th, with students and staff returning to campus early to get a jump on Fall Semester preparations for the Shakespeare Festival.

Performances of All's Well include 3 mid-week matinees for 1400+ high school students. Public evening and matinee performances run from October 2-11, 2015 in Louis Armstrong Theatre.

Find out more at www.gvsu.edu/shakes

New Scholarship Announced!

The Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival is pleased to announce that Honorary Board Members Dr. Gilbert and Patricia Davis have established an Endowed Scholarship to assist and encourage talented Theatre students at GVSU. The Gilbert R. and Patricia K. Davis Endowed Theatre Scholarship: Remembering Shakespeare will be awarded for the first time in 2015 to a meritorious Michigan-residing student who is pursuing an undergraduate theatre degree. The GV Shakespeare Festival salutes the Davises and thanks them for their support of Shakespeare and arts education.
PLAY it UP!

Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival’s WILL POWER SUMMER CAMP is a FUN, IMAGINATIVE, SAFE, and EXCITING place for school-aged kids to discover the art of theatre and the works of William Shakespeare. Each week-long camp is held in the Performing Arts Center on Grand Valley State University's Allendale Campus.

2015 Dates

SESSION 1: JULY 13-17
Buckingham Group (entering grades 1-3) 9 a.m.-noon
Westminster Group (entering grades 4-6) 1-4 p.m.

SESSION 2: JULY 20-JULY 24
Buckingham Group (entering grades 1-3) 9 a.m.-noon
Westminster Group (entering grades 4-6) 1-4 p.m.

REGISTER TODAY!
Visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes or call (616) 331-2300
SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

Cost includes class fees, workbook and a t-shirt!