# National Endowment for the Arts



# SHAKE SPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES



**C** Engagement with great poetry in a dramatic setting is one of the most important learning opportunities we can provide young people in this country. These experiences develop intelligence on many levels and impact students' lives far beyond the English Literature classroom. They not only improve language skills, but also awaken empathy for others, and thus help to define the aesthetic and ethical standards of a culture.

—Tina Packer, artistic director, Shakespeare & Company



The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.



Arts Midwest connects people throughout the Midwest and the world to meaningful arts opportunities, sharing creativity, knowledge, and understanding across boundaries. One of six non-profit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest's history spans more than 25 years.

COVER: The Shakespeare Theatre Company's production of The Tempest. PHOTO BY RICHARD TERMINE

# **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Since 2003 the National Endowment for the Arts has supported the largest government-sponsored theatrical program since the Federal Theatre Project of the WPA era. Shakespeare in American Communities is an initiative that helps fund theater companies to tour new productions of Shakespeare. It started modestly as the biggest tour of Shakespeare in American history—but it has grown.

The NEA Shakespeare program has now involved 77 theater companies from 39 states and the District of Columbia. It has provided work for well over 1,500 actors (not counting all the directors, designers, costumers, and crew). It already has sponsored performances in more than 2,000 municipalities across all 50 states, including small towns, inner-city neighborhoods, and military bases-and the number of cities visited grows every month. Hundreds of presenters have booked the plays, many of them offering a production of serious drama for the first time. Most important, more than one million high school students have now seen a professional production of Shakespeare. For many of these kids this performance marked their first experience with professional spoken theater.

The Shakespeare in American Communities program works like other NEA grant categories. Individual theater companies apply to join the program, and their applications are reviewed by an independent panel of theater professionals. The companies choose the plays they want to tour, make all the artistic decisions from the production concept to the casting, and line up schools for touring performances or to bring students into the theater. The NEA and our partner, Arts Midwest, coordinate the granting process and create collateral materials to support the companies in their activities.

The NEA created free classroom materials, including films, an audio guide, a teacher's guide, and more, to support teaching Shakespeare in high schools. These educational materials have been used by more than 20 million students to enhance their understanding and appreciation for the language and theatricality of Shakespeare's plays.

Our goal with Shakespeare in American Communities, indeed with all of our National Initiatives, is to combine arts presentation with arts education while bringing the best in the arts to the broadest possible audience.

Bua Misia

Dana Gioia Chairman. National Endowment for the Arts



Chairman Gioia at the Shakespeare in American Communities celebration on Capitol Hill. PHOTO BY STEVEN PURCELL

Shakespeare is above all writers...the poet of nature; the poet that holds up to his readers a faithful mirrour of manners and of life. ??

-Samuel Johnson

SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

## ABOUT SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

#### How it Started

It was audacious from the start. Then it just got bigger.

"It" was Shakespeare in American Communities, the largest tour of Shakespeare in American history. First announcing the program on April 23, 2003 (William Shakespeare's 439th birthday), National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia revealed the agency's ambition to "revitalize the longstanding American theatrical tradition of touring-bringing the best of live theater to new audiences." An advisory board of distinguished American authors and artists known as the Players' Guild was formed. This group included such luminaries as critic Harold Bloom, director Julie Taymor, and actors Michael York and James Earl Jones. Topping that impressive roster were Mrs. Laura Bush and then-Motion Picture Association of America President and CEO, the late Jack Valenti. The latter two agreed to serve as honorary chairs for the project.

Once it was launched, there was no reining this program in. Shakespeare in American Communities spread across the country, introducing a new generation of Americans to the greatest writer in the English language. Over the past five years it has brought superb live theater to more than 2,000 towns across all 50 states, reaching new audiences in communities that have little opportunity to experience live, professional theater.

The NEA's Shakespeare program has brought more than one million students to a professional performance of Shakespeare, but has reached many millions more through multimedia



educational toolkits available free to teachers. From inner cities to rural towns to military bases, Shakespeare in American Communities continues to support new productions by hundreds of American theater artists and represents the Arts Endowment's commitment to artistic excellence and public outreach.

#### Reviving an American Tradition

America's love affair with Shakespeare predates its establishment as a nation. Colonists often included volumes of Shakespeare among the few and treasured possessions that they carried with them on their passage to the new world—to the astonishment of European visitors like Alexis de Tocqueville. Throughout the 19th century, Shakespeare remained the most popular author in America. His plays were frequently celebrated in opulent theaters and on makeshift stages in saloons, churches, and hotels across the country.

Throughout most of our history, the majority of Americans from every social class and various ethnic backgrounds knew his most famous speeches by heart. Only in the 20th century did Shakespeare's relationship with the American public begin to change. His plays gradually began to be The Acting Company's production of *Richard III* in Phase I of Shakespeare in American Communities. PHOTO BY RICHARD TERMINE



Alabama Shakespeare Festival's production of *Macbeth* was taken to 13 military installations. PHOTO BY PHIL SCARSBROOK

regarded as high rather than popular culture. The once universally accessible dramatist had become our most sacred dramatist—to whom most audiences were not able to relate.

Although he remains the most widely produced playwright in America, many of our youth have had few opportunities to experience highquality presentations of Shakespeare. Until now.

#### The National Tour-Phase I

The Arts Endowment didn't know it then, but its ambitious year-long tour of six companies through all 50 states eventually would come to be known as "Phase I" because the program would continue to grow. It began in September 2003 with six companies, selected to carry out performances and educational activities in all 50 states through November 2004:

- The Acting Company (New York, NY)—*Richard III*
- Aquila Theatre Company (New York, NY)—*Othello*
- Arkansas Repertory Theatre (Little Rock, AR)—Romeo and Juliet
- Artists Repertory Theatre (Portland, OR)—A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Chicago Shakespeare Theatre (Chicago, IL)—Romeo and Juliet
- Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis, MN)—*Othello*

The six companies eventually visited 172 communities in all 50 states, reaching audiences totaling nearly 200,000. Special attention was paid to reaching small and mid-sized towns with limited access to the performing arts. From Anchorage, Alaska to Boone, North Carolina, performances brought communities together and inspired a renewed interest in the theatrical arts.

The program also has received enthusiastic recognition in hundreds of

publications, including articles in *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The New York Times, Reader's Digest, The New Criterion, and American Theatre magazine.* 

Theater companies participating in the national tour made a special effort to visit schools, supplementing their performances with workshops, lectures, and other activities in each community. The Arts Endowment supported this goal with the creation of the Shakespeare in American Communities teacher toolkit, a multimedia educational resource distributed free to teachers nationwide. Educational efforts were also supplemented by The Sallie Mae Fund, which supported 50 free tickets for students at each performance while also underwriting other Shakespeare in American Communities activities.

By the end of the first phase, the program had reached many unlikely places, including Helena, Montana, where Artists Repertory Theatre performed a bilingual production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. That production featured actors from the Central Dramatic Company of Vietnam. Chicago Shakespeare Theater performed *Romeo and Juliet* in small-town Waycross, Georgia, where the community promoted it as "Shakespeare in the Swamp."

#### NEA Meets DOD: An Historic Partnership

In an unprecedented effort to make the National Endowment for the Arts truly national, the NEA decided to create the first program in its history dedicated to reaching military personnel and their families. Needless to say, that plan turned some heads and spawned some doubters. Shakespeare was about to join the ranks of Bob Hope and the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders as entertainment for the troops. And the bard more than held his own. Professional Shakespeare productions were presented at bases in 14 states for military personnel and their families. According to Chairman Gioia, "We currently have the best educated military in the history of the United States. If we are truly going to fulfill our charge of bringing art of indisputable excellence to all Americans, we have to reach into communities where we've never gone before."

To the surprise of both the arts and political worlds, the NEA sought and achieved a successful partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD). In September 2004, with a \$1 million appropriation from DoD, the Arts Endowment visited 18 military bases with professional, fully staged performances of Shakespeare, along with related educational activities for military families.

Alabama Shakespeare Festival was selected to tour its production of *Macbeth* to 13 military installations (the other five bases were visited by the Aquila Theatre Company, The Acting Company, and Artists Repertory Theatre). Performances were accompanied by educational workshops for base youth whenever possible. As most bases did not have a conventional theater, performances were presented in movie theaters, auditoriums, and in one case, an airplane hangar shared with fighter jets.

The tour was enthusiastically received by military audiences. Movie theater venues offered popcorn and sodas, and the crowd was vocal in its appreciation. Military personnel brought their families; young couples made it a date night. The action-packed soldier's tale of *Macbeth*—a story of power, scheming, and ambition—held audiences spellbound.

As one military spouse at Holloman Air Force Base stated,

"Tonight for the first time in many years, I have had the pure joy of being a part of a theatrical journey into another time and place, and I was able to share it with my two young daughters.... At intermission, my nine-year-old daughter said happily, 'Mommie, I get it! It's Shakespeare and I get it!' She and my five-yearold, who not only sat still for (my main concern!) but also enjoyed the performance will remember this when they are my age. Thank you all so much for bringing this fantastic production to a small community in southern New Mexico that otherwise would never be exposed to such quality. You have genuinely touched our family."

# Shakespeare for a New Generation—Phase II

After nearly a year of touring, it became clear that there was a vast and eager audience for what Shakespeare in American Communities was providing. So why not keep going? Why not zero in even more on a new generation of theatergoers? Why not hook them on a lifelong engagement with the power of live theater, the wonders of the English language, and the masterpieces of William Shakespeare? The summer of 2004 saw the launch of the next phase of Shakespeare in American Communities: **Shakespeare for a New Generation**.

The program grew from the initial national tour of six companies to an annual affair many times that original size, with at least 35 companies involved each year. Selected companies receive grants of approximately \$25,000 to support performances and related educational activities designed to deepen the appreciation and understanding of Shakespeare for participating students.

Through the first five years, Shakespeare for a New Generation



As part of California Shakespeare Theater's Student Discovery program, students participate in a post-show discussion with the cast of *As You Like It*. PHOTO BY JAY YAMADA

has awarded 168 competitive grants, supporting the work of more than 75 theater companies, employing more than 1,500 actors, directors, and crew, in bringing Shakespeare to life for almost one million students.

Shakespeare for a New Generation has enabled theater companies to offer more performances to schools for free or for radically reduced rates. It has expanded the geographic reach of their touring programs and provided improved access to the arts for underserved schools. Models for teacher training and the design of study materials have been established or improved upon, and the artistic output among the most competitive theater companies who apply has been further enhanced.

Shakespeare for a New Generation will help build future audiences by educating and inspiring students to become informed theatergoers, and perhaps even active participants within the arts and civic organizations that bring distinction to their communities.

The prestige of a Shakespeare for a New Generation grant has allowed theater companies to leverage new connections with funders as well as teachers, school boards, and local arts agencies. A prime example of this success has been the Atlanta Shakespeare Company, which as a direct result of its grant now works with every high school in the city of Atlanta. According to the theater company, "The City of Atlanta's Bureau of Cultural Affairs and the Atlanta Public Schools are now citing this program as an example of what they would like to do with every grade level in the Atlanta Public Schools system. Thanks to Shakespeare for a New Generation we had the opportunity to form partnerships with the leadership, administration, and board of Atlanta Public Schools while deepening our relationship with the City of Atlanta's Bureau of Cultural Affairs."

#### Investing in Live Theater— Companies, Actors, Audiences

"To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow" —*Macbeth* 

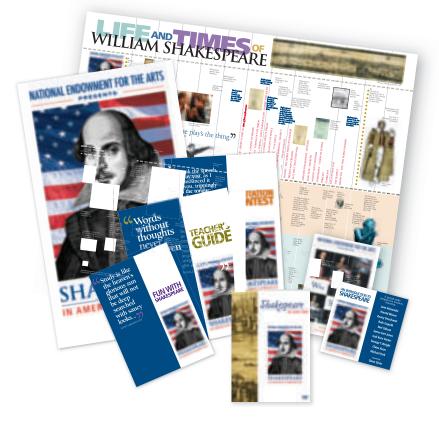
As it grows, the Shakespeare program continues to reach across the whole eco-system of American theater. "It provides high-quality employment for actors," remarked Chairman Gioia, "as well as support for theater companies, superb performances for new audiences, and—best of all—a chance for students to see the play they are studying in school." For most of these students, the NEA-sponsored Shakespeare performance will be their first experience of live, professional theater, a perfect gateway to a lifetime of enjoying the performing arts.

# SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES TEACHER TOOLKIT

The NEA has created a kit with everything a teacher might need to bring Shakespeare alive in middle- and high-school classrooms. The box set contains, among other things, an audio CD, two award-winning films, recitation contest, and posters, especially created as a coherent curriculum. These items were designed as a fresh, enlivened, relevant series of lessons-after all, you can't teach theater without a little showbiz. Free to any teacher, and with almost 55,000 copies requested to date (reaching more than 20 million students), this toolkit has proven an important part of the American high school curriculum.

#### Highlights

- An Introduction to Shakespeare (Audio-guide). This compact disc features the voices of James Earl Jones, Harold Bloom, Mel Gibson, Vaclav Havel, Michael York, Jane Alexander, and Zooey Deschanel, immersing students in Elizabethan language and theater. A highlight is a segment exploring of the possibilities of performance, in which Jones, York, and Gibson each take a turn (with very different results!) at Hamlet's famous "To be or not to be" soliloquy.
- Shakespeare in Our Time (DVD). This award-winning film by Hillman & Carr proves the relevance of Shakespeare today through the creative weaving of more than 50 clips from feature films, stage and television performances of Shakespeare's plays, and from such related movies as Shakespeare in Love, Elizabeth, and 10 Things I Hate About You. Hosted and narrated by two



talented actors from Washington, DC's Shakespeare Theatre Company, the video fashions these clips into an exploration of Shakespeare's life, Elizabethan society, theater in Shakespeare's day, the stories that inspired the plays, Shakespeare's characters, the beauty of his language, and the influence his work has had in the United States and around the world.

Why Shakespeare? (DVD). This award-winning film by Larry Bridges is a fascinating look at how becoming involved in theater can transform kids' lives. Focusing on Shakespeare Festival/LA's program for at-risk kids in East Los Angeles, Why Shakespeare? also features recitations and commentary by Tom Hanks, William Shatner, Martin Sheen, Bill Pullman, Julie Taymor, Christina Applegate, and Chiwetel Ejiofor. The film is funny, insightful, and deeply moving. Why Shakespeare? answers the title's question, showing students the best reasons to study Shakespeare.

"As a teacher, I have been especially grateful for the curricular materials. The posters adorn my classroom, and I have gotten great use out of the films and CD in my elective class. My students just recently memorized and presented the Recitation Contest monologues in class; what an exciting experience!"

—Teacher, Capitolia, CA

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

More than 75 professional theater companies have participated in Shakespeare in American Communities. While they share a common ground in the work of William Shakespeare, each has reached out to their audiences in unique and exciting ways. Following is a sampling of the many success stories.

# AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE (SPRING GREEN, WI)

Each year, American Players Theatre brings as many as 16,000 students from Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota into their Spring Green, Wisconsin, theater to experience a matinee performance of a mainstage Shakespeare production. One production also is re-mounted to tour to seven Wisconsin communities, reaching an additional 7,500 students, many of whom are from rural or urban areas. Performances are accompanied by workshops that introduce students to themes of the plays and explore various techniques used to make the story, language, characters, and themes vivid and accessible to students.

# It is truly rewarding to watch as even the most reluctant student becomes swept up in the language of the play, making connections between what they read in class, what they see on stage, and what they experience in life.

-American Players Theatre

American Players Theatre's production of *Twelfth Night*. PHOTO BY ZANE WILLIAMS



## AQUILA THEATRE COMPANY (NEW YORK, NY)

On September 20, 2003, Aquila Theatre Company kicked off the national tour of Shakespeare in American Communities with a performance of *Othello* for audiences in New London, Connecticut, before moving on to another 59 cities as part of the tour. As a participant also in Shakespeare for a New Generation, Aquila's long tradition of national touring has enabled the company to bring Shakespeare in American Communities performances to thousands of students in underserved communities across the United States.

SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Students enjoyed the Aquila Theatre's production of Othello after reading and discussing the play. It drew them back to the text for a lively discussion of character traits, motivations, and choices. ??

—Teacher, Orono, ME

Aquila Theatre Company's production of *Othello*. PHOTO BY A. VINCENT SCARANO

## INDIANA REPERTORY THEATRE (INDIANAPOLIS, IN)

Designated by the Indiana State Assembly as the state's Theatre Laureate, Indiana Repertory Theatre is committed to broad educational reach. Students from more than 130 schools will attend performances at their Upperstage Theatre this year, participating also in post-show discussions and optional workshops back in their own classrooms. Since 2004, Shakespeare for a New Generation has supported IRT productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream, King Lear, Twelfth Night, Hamlet,* and *Macbeth*.

Indiana Repertory Theatre's production of *King Lear*. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INDIANA REPERTORY THEATRE



**6** How else would my rural students be exposed to great performances? The value this opportunity gave to my students is really immeasurable.

-Teacher, Muncie, IN



Montana Shakespeare in the Park's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. PHOTO BY WINSLOW STUDIO & GALLERY

## MONTANA SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS (BOZEMAN, MT)

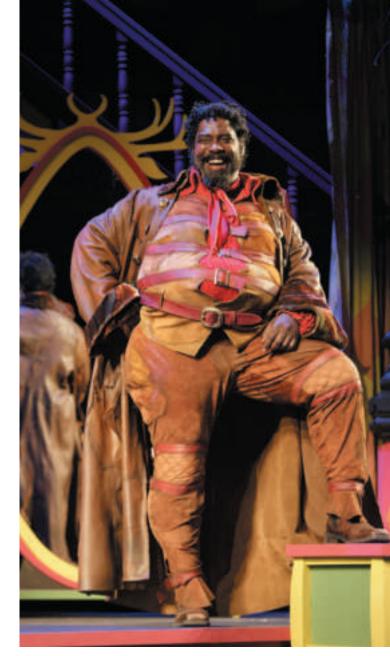
For more than 30 years, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks has brought performances to audiences in some of the most rural communities of Montana and northern Wyoming. The summer tour of free performances regularly achieves the unexpected: it lures



audiences hundreds of miles away to a small-town Shakespeare performance. The educational program, Shakespeare in the Schools, reaches as many as 15,000 students each year with performances and educational workshops.

When you witness students in grades K-12 focus their full attention on a program such as we had yesterday, you understand and appreciate the value of what they are seeing and more important how they are adding to their bank of experiences and knowledge.

––Superintendent, Geraldine Public Schools, Geraldine, MT



# OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL (ASHLAND, OR)

Nationally recognized for its artistic excellence, Oregon Shakespeare Festival's commitment to arts learning can be seen in the sheer quantity of youth reached every year through its many educational programs. In 2007 alone, more than 65,000 students attended productions and events at Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The touring School Visit Program reached another 75,000 students in 13 states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. PHOTO BY T. CHARLES ERICKSON

Listening to [students'] reactions after the performances and the workshops I had a profound sense that I was participating in something that could be life changing, something that had the power to shape opinions and open up avenues for these kids. ??

-Teacher, Hermiston, OR

## PERSEVERANCE THEATRE (JUNEAU, AK)

Over the course of three weeks in 2004, cast and crew members from Perseverance Theatre toured *Macbeth* to six communities spread out over 2,000 miles—twice the size of Texas moving from the seaside towns of Southeast Alaska to the Arctic Circle, from small, isolated villages to the state's largest urban center. Some communities were so remote that cast, crew, and set arrived by plane or boat. Performed by a cast of 13 Alaska Native actors, Perseverance's performance of *Macbeth* reflected Alaska's unique character by setting the play in the context of Southeast Alaska's indigenous Tlingit culture, fusing Shakespeare's language with the drumming, dancing, and visual design of the Tlingit people.

66 Being involved in this initiative has given students a broader perspective of the world and their part in it. Having the parts played by Native individuals allowed students to see their future different from before. Families were brought together to enjoy this enriching experience which isn't often available in Hoonah.

—Teacher, Hoonah, AK



Perseverance Theatre's all-Alaska Native production of *Macbeth* was reprised for Washington, DC, audiences in March 2007 at the National Museum of the American Indian as part of the Shakespeare in Washington festival. PHOTO BY ERIC TORGERSON

Idaho, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington.

Performances for students are supplemented by numerous opportunities for hands-on workshops, post-show discussions with cast members, pre-show discussions with technicians and stage managers, and in-depth explorations of stagecraft.

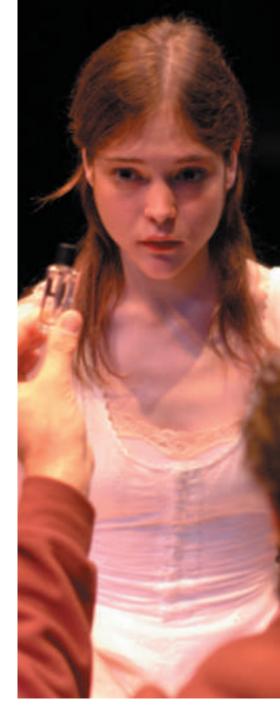
# SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY (LENOX, MA)

Shakespeare & Company's multifaceted educational programs have long served as a model for other Shakespeare programs nationwide. One component, their New England Tour of Shakespeare, addresses the growing need for arts experiences for students in underserved areas in New England and for children at risk in inner-city and rural areas. With the support of Shakespeare in American Communities, Shakespeare & Company is able to bring these performances into schools that have not been previously exposed to the program, expanding its geographic reach and serving more than 25,000 students annually.

> Shakespeare & Company's production of *Hamlet*. PHOTO BY KEVIN SPRAQUE

Virtually all of the students and faculty at the school had eagerly anticipated our stay with them and embraced us wholeheartedly. After the performance and the two workshops, students literally tried to prevent us from leaving, climbing into our truck and trying to lock the doors. It was an incredible experience.

-Shakespeare & Company



## THE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL AT TULANE (NEW ORLEANS, LA)

In April 2006, seven months after the disaster of Hurricane Katrina, The Shakespeare Festival at Tulane overcame challenges including closed schools, absent students, bus driver shortages, reduced budgets, and actors living in FEMA trailers to offer *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to 750 delighted students.

**CC** I want to thank you for giving me the show of my life. I would like to see it again. Every night I fall to sleep thinking about your play, and every night I dream that I am in the play. **??** 

—New Orleans student



The Shakespeare Festival at Tulane's production of Romeo and Juliet. PHOTO BY BRAD ROBBERT

## UTAH **SHAKESPEAREAN FESTIVAL** (CEDAR CITY, UT)

Founded in 1961, the Utah Shakespearean Festival is known for its expansive reach and innovative education programs. Their ambitious annual touring programs serve the festival's mission to "entertain, enrich, and educate audiences," including those who live in the many underserved communities of the Intermountain West.

Each year, the Utah Shakespearean Festival brings its Shakespeare-inthe-Schools tour to more than 60 schools and communities throughout Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and Idaho. In addition to performances, the program provides interactive acting workshops taught by theater professionals, empowering rural students to both observe and participate in a live theatrical performance at their school.

A member of the Utah Shakespearean Festival conducts a workshop for students.

PHOTO BY SUSAN PIERCE



**66** The Utah Shakespearean Festival gave my students a perfect opportunity to explore the world and open themselves to learning not just about Shakespeare, but also about themselves. **99** 

> ---High School Principal, Logan, UT

> > Utah Shakespearean Festival's production of The Taming of the Shrew. PHOTO BY KARL HUGH

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As the New Orleans school district rebuilds, the active engagement of The Shakespeare Festival at Tulane plays a pivotal role in reminding the city of the importance of arts education in the curriculum.

> SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COM 13

# PARTICIPATING THEATER COMPANIES

Students perform a scene from *Pericles* as part of the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Text Alive! program. PHOTO BY JOE MCCARY

#### ALABAMA

Alabama Shakespeare Festival Montgomery, AL Year 1 (Macbeth), Year 4 (Henry VI, Parts I and II, Richard III), Year 6 (Othello, The Comedy of Errors)

#### ALASKA

Alaska Theatre of Youth, Cyrano's Theatre Company (formerly Eccentric Theatre Company), and Edgeware Anchorage, AK Year 2 (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Year 5 (*Othello*)

#### Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre

Fairbanks, AK Year 3 (educational program: Barda-Thon)

**Perseverance Theatre** Douglas, AK Year 2 (*Macbeth*), Year 4 (*Macbeth*)

#### ARIZONA

Arizona Theatre Company Tucson, AZ Year 4 (Twelfth Night)

#### ARKANSAS

Arkansas Repertory Theatre Little Rock, AR Year 1 (Romeo and Juliet), Year 3 (The Comedy of Errors)

#### CALIFORNIA

A Noise Within Glendale, CA Year 3 (Othello, The Tempest), Year 4 (As You Like It), Year 6 (Hamlet, The Taming of the Shrew)

African-American Shakespeare San Francisco, CA

Year 6 (*Macbeth*)

#### California Shakespeare Theater

Berkeley, CA Year 4 (As You Like It, The Merry Wives of Windsor), Year 5 (King Lear), Year 6 (Twelfth Night)

#### **East LA Classic Theatre** Los Angeles, CA

Year 6 (Much Ado About Nothing, Romeo and Juliet)

#### The Old Globe

San Diego, CA Year 3 (The Comedy of Errors, Macbeth, The Winter's Tale, Richard III)

**San Diego Repertory Theatre** San Diego, CA

Year 2 (King Lear)

### San Francisco Shakespeare Festival

San Francisco, CA Year 3 (The Two Gentlemen of Verona), Year 4 (The Comedy of Errors)

#### Shakespeare Festival/LA

Los Angeles, CA Year 1 (Shakespeare Comes to LA festival), Year 3 (educational program: youth production of *As You Like It*)

#### Shakespeare Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz, CA Year 2 (The Winter's Tale), Year 3 (As You Like It), Year 4 (The Tempest), Year 5 (Romeo and Juliet), Year 6 (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

#### The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum

Topanga, CA Year 2 (A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Winter's Tale), Year 3 (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 4 (Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night), Year 5 (The Tempest, A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 6 (Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet)

#### **COLORADO**

Denver Center for the Performing Arts Denver, CO Year 6 (*Richard III*)

#### CONNECTICUT

Hartford Stage Company Hartford, CT Year 2 (Othello)

Long Wharf Theatre New Haven, CT Year 3 (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

Yale Repertory Theatre New Haven, CT Year 2 (The Comedy of Errors), Year 3 (All's Well That Ends Well)

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Shakespeare Theatre Company Washington, DC Year 2 (Macbeth, Pericles, The Tempest), Year 5 (Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra, The Taming of the Shrew), Year 6 (Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, King Lear)

#### **FLORIDA**

Asolo Theatre Sarasota, FL Year 2 (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

#### Orlando Shakespeare Theater

Orlando, FL Year 4 (King Lear, The Merry Wives of Windsor), Year 5 (All's Well That Ends Well, The Comedy of Errors, Cymbeline, Richard II), Year 6 (The Taming of the Shrew, The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing)

#### **Teatro Avante**

Miami, FL Year 3 (The Tempest (Una Tempestad))

#### **GEORGIA**

Atlanta Shakespeare Company Atlanta, GA Year 2 (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 3 (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 4 (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth)

#### Georgia Shakespeare Festival

Atlanta, GA Year 3 (Macbeth), Year 5 (Romeo and Juliet), Year 6 (Julius Caesar, As You Like It)

#### HAWAII

Honolulu Theatre for Youth Honolulu, HI Year 6 (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

#### **IDAHO**

Idaho Shakespeare Festival Boise, ID Year 2 (The Taming of the Shrew), Year 3 (The Tempest), Year 4 (Much Ado About Nothing), Year 5 (Hamlet). Year 6 (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

#### **ILLINOIS**

Chicago Shakespeare Theater Chicago, IL Year 1 (Romeo and Juliet)

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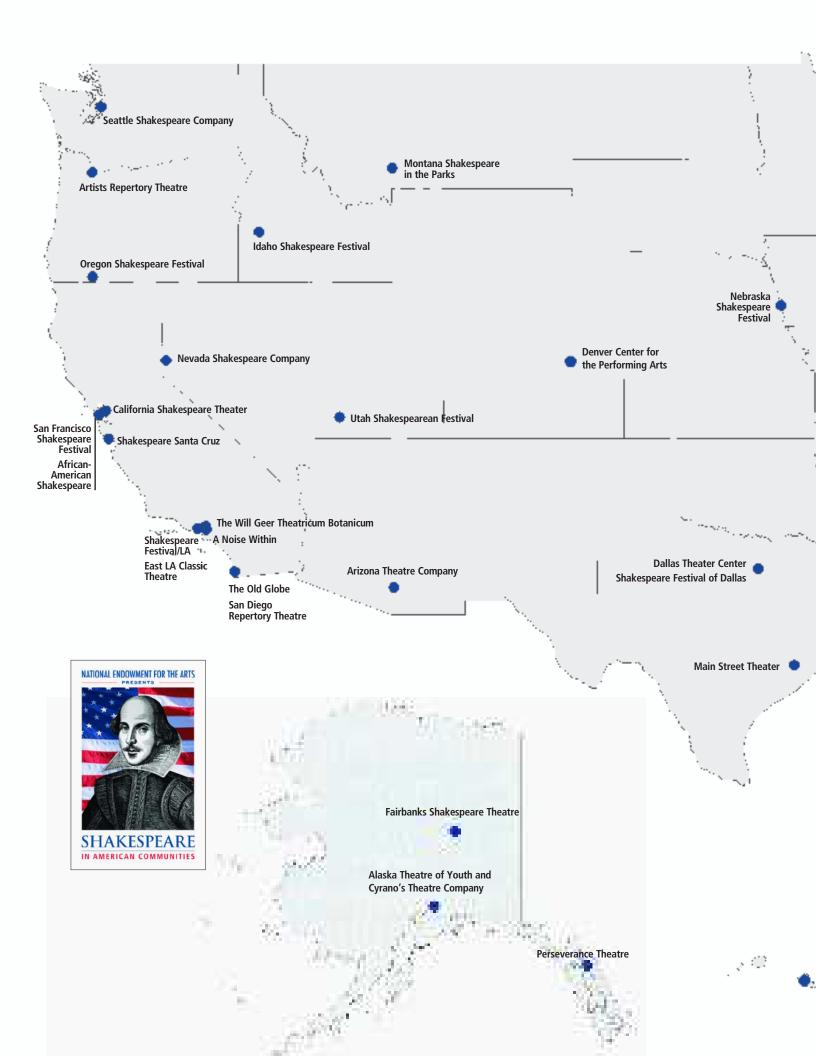
"Students have returned to **The Shakespeare Theatre** to enjoy productions with their families and, most importantly, are eager to learn more about classical theatre in the classroom. Theatre is an invaluable tool in education as it draws people into the world of the characters and, in so doing, engages all the faculties and the senses. The students live through the experience."

-Teacher, Washington, DC

The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

PHOTO BY IAN FLANDERS







 Toolkits reached more than 20 million students



Shakespeare Santa Cruz's production of *As You Like It.* PHOTO BY STEVE DIBARTOLOMEO

#### **INDIANA**

Indiana Repertory Theatre Indianapolis, IN Year 2 (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 3 (King Lear), Year 4 (Twelfth Night), Year 5 (Hamlet), Year 6 (Macbeth)

#### **KENTUCKY**

Actors Theatre of Louisville Louisville, KY Year 3 (Twelfth Night)

Kentucky Shakespeare Festival Louisville, KY Year 5 (Julius Caesar), Year 6 (Macbeth)

Stage One: The Louisville Children's Theatre Louisville, KY Year 4 (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

#### LOUISIANA

**Contemporary Arts Center with Dog** & Pony Theatre Company New Orleans, LA Year 5 (The Taming of the Shrew)

#### The Shakespeare Festival at Tulane New Orleans, LA

Year 2 (Macbeth), Year 3 (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 4 (Romeo and Juliet), Year 5 (Hamlet or The Taming of the Shrew), Year 6 (As You Like It)

#### MAINE

**Portland Stage Company** Portland, ME Year 6 (Julius Caesar)

#### The Theater at Monmouth

Monmouth, ME Year 2 (The Meny Wives of Windsor), Year 3 (Henry V), Year 4 (Romeo and Juliet), Year 5 (Macbeth)

#### MARYLAND

**Baltimore Shakespeare Festival** Baltimore, MD Year 5 (*The Winter's Tale*)

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Actors' Shakespeare Project Cambridge, MA Year 6 (The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing)

#### Shakespeare & Company

Lenox, MA Year 2 (Julius Caesar), Year 3 (Hamlet), Year 4 (Macbeth), Year 5 (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 6 (Romeo and Juliet)

#### **MINNESOTA**

**The Children's Theatre Company** Minneapolis, MN Year 6 (*Romeo and Juliet*)

**Guthrie Theater** Minneapolis, MN Year 1 (*Othello*), Year 3 (*Hamlet*), Year 4 (*The Merchant of Venice*)

#### **MISSISSIPPI**

**New Stage Theatre** Jackson, MS Year 5 (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

#### **MISSOURI**

Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis Saint Louis, MO Year 3 (Julius Caesar, Romeo and Juliet), Year 4 (Julius Caesar, Much Ado About Nothing)

#### St. Louis Black Repertory Company

St. Louis, MO Year 5 (*Othello*)

#### MONTANA

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Bozeman, MT Year 2 (Romeo and Juliet), Year 3 (The Merchant of Venice), Year 4 (The Comedy of Errors), Year 5 (Othello), Year 6 (Much Ado About Nothing)

#### **NEBRASKA**

**Nebraska Shakespeare Festival** Omaha, NE Year 4 (*The Taming of the Shrew*), Year 5 (*Romeo and Juliet*)

#### **NEVADA**

Nevada Shakespeare Company Reno, NV Year 3 (Richard III, Hamlet)

#### **NEW JERSEY**

# The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey

Madison, NJ Year 2 (Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth, Henry V), Year 3 (Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 4 (Julius Caesar, A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 5 (Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 6 (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth)

#### **NEW YORK**

**The Acting Company** New York, NY Year 1 (*Richard III*), Year 3 (*Macbeth*), Year 5 (*The Tempest*), Year 6 (*Henry V*)

#### Aquila Theatre Company

New York, NY Year 1 (Othello), Year 3 (Hamlet), Year 4 (Romeo and Juliet), Year 5 (Julius Caesar, Much Ado About Nothing), Year 6 (The Comedy of Errors)

Classic Stage Company New York, NY Year 6 (Romeo and Juliet)

**Theatre for a New Audience** New York, NY Year 4 (*The Merchant of Venice*), Year 5 (*Antony and Cleopatra*)

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

North Carolina Stage Company Asheville, NC Year 4 (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

**PlayMakers Repertory Company** Chapel Hill, NC Year 6 (*Pericles*)

Walltown Children's Theatre Durham, NC Year 5 (Romeo and Juliet), Year 6 (Romeo and Juliet)

#### OHIO

**Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park** Cincinnati, OH Year 2 (*Twelfth Night*)

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company Cincinnati, OH

Year 4 (Macbeth, Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, As You Like It, The Tempest), Year 5 (The Taming of the Shrew, Julius Caesar), Year 6 (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth)



Baltimore Shakespeare Festival's production of *The Winter's Tale.* PHOTO BY JAMES KINSTLE

#### OREGON

Artists Repertory Theatre Portland, OR Year 1 (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

#### Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Ashland, OR Year 3 (Richard III, Twelfth Night, Love's Labor's Lost, The Winter's Tale), Year 4 (The Two Gentlemen of Verona, King John, The Merry Wives of Windsor, As You Like It), Year 5 (Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, The Taming of the Shrew, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Othello), Year 6 (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Othello, The Comedy of Errors, Macbeth)

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Lantern Theater Company Philadelphia, PA Year 5 (*Othello*), Year 6 (*Hamlet*)

A Noise Within's production of *The Tempest*. PHOTO BY CRAIG SCHWARTZ



#### The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival at DeSales University

Center Valley, PA Year 3 (Romeo and Juliet), Year 5 (The Winter's Tale, The Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth), Year 6 (Much Ado About Nothing, Twelfth Night, King Lear)

#### The People's Light & Theatre Company

Malvern, PA Year 2 (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 4 (Twelfth Night)

# The Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival

Philadelphia, PA Year 4 (Othello, The Taming of the Shrew, Hamlet)

#### **RHODE ISLAND**

**Trinity Repertory Company** Providence, RI Year 3 (*Hamlet*), Year 5 (*Richard III*)

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

The Warehouse Theatre Greenville, SC Year 3 (The Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth), Year 4 (Julius Caesar), Year 5 (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet)

#### TENNESSEE

Nashville Shakespeare Festival Nashville, TN Year 4 (*Macbeth*), Year 6 (*Richard III*)

#### TEXAS

**Dallas Theater Center** Dallas, TX Year 4 (*The Taming of the Shrew*)

Main Street Theater Houston, TX Year 4 (The Taming of the Shrew), Year 5 (The Merchant of Venice), Year 6 (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

**Shakespeare Festival of Dallas** Dallas, TX Year 3 (*Twelfth Night*)

#### UTAH

Utah Shakespearean Festival Cedar City, UT Year 2 (The Taming of the Shrew), Year 3 (Macbeth), Year 4 (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Year 5 (Romeo and Juliet), Year 6 (Twelfth Night)

#### VERMONT

Weston Playhouse Theatre Company Weston, VT Year 6 (As You Like It)

#### VIRGINIA

American Shakespeare Center Staunton, VA Year 3 (Much Ado About Nothing), Year 5 (The Taming of the Shrew), Year 6 (Hamlet, The Comedy of Errors)

#### **Barter Theatre**

Abingdon, VA Year 6 (Much Ado About Nothing, Othello)

#### WASHINGTON

Seattle Shakespeare Company Seattle, WA Year 3 (Romeo and Juliet, Richard III, Much Ado About Nothing), Year 4 (Macbeth), Year 5 (Macbeth), Year 6 (Othello)

#### WISCONSIN

#### American Players Theatre

Spring Green, WI Year 2 (Twelfth Night, Othello), Year 3 (Macbeth, The Merry Wives of Windsor), Year 4 (Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar, Measure for Measure), Year 5 (The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing), Year 6 (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Henry IV, Parts I and II)

#### Milwaukee Shakespeare

Milwaukee, WI Year 4 (Much Ado About Nothing, Macbeth, Henry IV, Part I), Year 5 (Henry IV, Part II, Hamlet), Year 6 (Love's Labour's Lost, Henry V, Othello)



Nebraska Shakespeare Festival's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. PHOTO BY GERRY PAHNEUF

A Midsummer Night's Dream All's Well That Ends Well Antony and Cleopatra As You Like It The Comedy of Errors Cymbeline Hamlet Henry IV, Part I Henry IV, Part II Henry V Henry VI, Part I Henry VI, Part II Julius Caesar King John **King Lear** Love's Labor's Lost Macbeth Measure for Measure The Merchant of Venice The Merry Wives of Windsor Much Ado About Nothing Othello Pericles **Richard II** Richard III Romeo and Juliet The Taming of the Shrew The Tempest **Twelfth Night** The Two Gentlemen of Verona The Winter's Tale

**Plays Performed** 

# CITIES SERVED BY NEA'S SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

More than 75 professional theater companies have brought Shakespeare's plays to all 50 states and the District of Columbia, reaching more than 3,200 schools in more than 2,000 cities. In addition to the performances, the companies also held educational workshops for middle and high schools, enhancing the experience of the play for participating students.

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Oakland, CA, high school student letter to California Shakespeare Theater thanking them for their performance of *As You Like It.* 

#### "I took the entire football team! My students came away from the play liking William Shakespeare and wanting to attend another play!"

—Teacher, Oakland, CA

"I saw your performance of Macbeth at Scott **Air Force Base last** evening. With a minimal amount of costuming. scenery and special effects, the ASF created a vivid, exciting, and ves. even frightening ambience for Shakespeare's drama. I was totally caught up in the performance and I believe that says a lot about the quality of the production. Thank you for bringing this wonderful performance to Scott Air Force Base — I really appreciated it! "

—Librarian, Scott Air Force Base

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Ames Andrew Bettendorf Clinton Council Bluffs Dubuque Epworth Iowa City Peosta Sioux City Storm Lake Waukon

#### **KANSAS**

Fort Leavenworth Army Base Fort Riley Army Base Lawrence Manhattan Pittsburg Seattle Shakespeare Company's production of *Much Ado About Nothing.* PHOTO BY JOHN ULMAN

"The students can SEE the plays and truly learn them. This is an AMAZING program. Students were actually excited about Shakespeare."

—Teacher, Atlanta, GA



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Teachers and students in Middleton, ID, take part in an Idaho Shakespeare Festival "Shakespearience" movement workshop. PHOTO BY TROY MABEN

Latonia Lebanon Leitchfield Lexington Louisville Morganfield Mt. Washington Paducah Pewee Valley Philpot Radcliff Shepherdsville Taylor Mill Taylorsville Union Villa Hills

Inez

# SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES 26

Methuen Millis Natick Newton Newton Center North Adams North Andover North Dartmouth North Eastham Northborough Northfield Norwell Norwich Oak Bluffs Orleans Osterville Peabody Pittsfield Plymouth Randolph Ravnham Revere Richmond Rockland Roxbury Sagamore Beach Sandwich Seekonk Sheffield Somerset South Deerfield Southampton Springfield Stoneham Topsfield Townsend Wakefield Walpole Warren Wellesley West Barnstable West Roxbury Westfield Weston Whitman Wilbraham Williamstown Woods Hole Worcester

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Boulder City Carson City Elko Ely Fallon Gerlach "Your educator's guide and the materials provided by the National Endowment for the Arts are incredibly professional and useful in the classroom, preparing the students well for what they will see on stage."

—High School Humanities Curriculum Coordinator, Holden, MA



Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of *King John.* PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM Hadlev Hawthorne Henderson Incline Village Indian Springs Las Vegas McDermitt Mesquite Minden Nixon North Las Vegas Overton Pahrump Pleasant Valley Pyramid Lake Reno Schurz Smith Valley Spanish Springs Tonopah Virginia City Washoe Valley Winnemucca Yerington

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A staff member at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs promotes Alabama Shakespeare Festival's performance. PHOTO COURTESY OF PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE

"An initiative like Shakespeare for a **New Generation can** make a difference. It provides us with resources to serve schools regardless of their ability to pay the fee. It also allows us to expand our work, produce theater that is more sophisticated. and serve schools in a variety of communities from the inner-city to rural counties."

—Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park

"Through Shakespeare for a New Generation this season, Milwaukee Shakespeare has been able to tap an entirely new population of community students by expanding its subsidies for student matinee tickets and transportation."

—Milwaukee Shakespeare

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Bluemounds Bonduel Boscobel Brookfield Burlington Cambria Cambridge Campbellsport Cashton Cassville Cazenovia Cedarburg Chilton Colby Columbus Crandon Cross Plains Cuba City Darlington Deerfield DeForest Delafield Delavan DePere Dodgeville Eagle Eagle River East Troy Eau Claire Edgerton Elcho Elkhart Lake Elroy Evansville

Cyrano's Theatre Company and Edgeware Productions put an Alaskan spin on *Othello*, centering on an Aleut man with his new Russian bride in the 1800s.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CYRANO'S THEATRE COMPANY AND EDGEWARE PRODUCTIONS



American Players Theatre's production of *The Merchant of Venice*. PHOTO BY ZANE WILLIAMS

Fennimore Fitchburg Fond Du Lac Fontana Fort Atkinson Franklin Freedom Friendship Galena Galesville Germantown Gilman Glendale Grafton Green Bay Greendale Greenfield Greenwood Hammond Hartland Hazel Green Helenville Highland Hilbert Hillsboro Holmen Horicon Hortonville Iola Ithaca Jackson Janesville Jefferson Johnson Creek Kaukauna Kenosha Kewaskum Kimberly LaCrosse LaFarge Lake Geneva Lake Mills Lancaster Laona Little Chute Livingston Lodi Lomira Madison Manitowoc Marshall Marshfield Mauston Mazomanie

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# Stratford-Upon-Main Street: Shakespeare to tour, thanks to NEA

— New York Times, April 2003

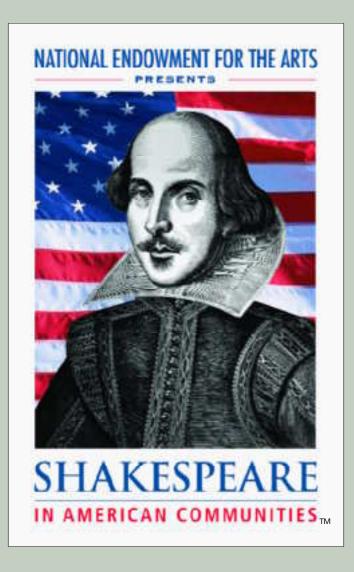
It's not the sort of thing that happens in Waycross. Not in this hardscrabble rural community in southeast Georgia, snuggled against the Okefenokee Swamp. But last October, in the auditorium at Ware Middle School, the curtain rose on a world-class performance of *Romeo and Juliet.* Onstage were actors from one of America's premier artistic companies, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Almost no one in the audience had ever seen live professional theater or expected to have the chance, and to Dana Gioia, that was the beauty of it all.

- Reader's Digest, "America's 100 Best" issue, May 2004

It is a mammoth undertaking and the most ambitious in NEA history... the project gives grants to companies around the country to take Shakespeare productions into communities that otherwise wouldn't be able to afford such an enterprise. It offers children artistic experiences that are both emotionally stirring and intellectually stimulating.

— Christian Science Monitor, April 2005

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